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SUBJECT	Father Simonsen, General Heusinger, and Spanish Connections	DATE DISC.	
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE:

1. Conrad Simonsen, born in Hamburg about 1911, joined the Capuchin Order in 1934. He is now a Capuchin Father, and lives at the Capuchin Monastery, Himmelsasse 18, Mainz.
2. After being ordained, Simonsen went to Spain where he took part in the Spanish Civil War, serving as a Chaplain with the Spanish Nationalist forces. In recognition for his services, he was awarded several decorations by General Francisco Franco, and won the personal confidence of Franco. Simonsen served as a Chaplain with the Blue Division on the Russian Front during World War II, and was awarded Spanish, German, and other decorations.
3. After the war, Simonsen returned to Spain, joined the Capuchin chapter in Madrid, established German schools and organized religious instruction in them. Simonsen established contact with Otto Skorzeny in Madrid, and still maintains this contact. Skorzeny is at present in West Germany and intends to visit Werner Naumann and Hjalmar Schacht before he returns to Madrid.
4. In 1951, Simonsen organized the Madrid chapter of the German Veterans' Association (Verband deutscher Soldaten).
5. In the spring of 1955, Simonsen traveled to Germany from Spain. While in Germany, he spoke with General Adolf Heusinger on the need for universal military training. Simonsen believes that West German rearmament will lead to increased armament in East Germany and thereby heighten the possibility that the East and West German military leaders can unite against Russia. Simonsen believes that the West German armament industry should concentrate on the production of the most modern type of weapons. Simonsen also believes that German interest in defense matters, now at a low ebb, should be stimulated. Finally, Simonsen stated that the participants in the 20 July 1944 plot against Hitler should not be regarded as heroes.
6. According to Simonsen, Heusinger, in commenting on the foregoing statements, indicated that he did not take an active part in the 20 July plot because

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X", field distribution by "P")

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the-plotters could not give him satisfactory proof that the Allies would guarantee the freedom and unity of Germany after the death of Hitler. Heusinger stated that as a result of this situation, the Military Selection Board did not judge him to be suitable for the post of Commander-in-Chief of the newly formed West German Army, and it was only through the personal intervention of West German Minister of Defense Theodor Blank that Heusinger was permitted to remain in the Army.

7. Simonsen states that Heusinger indicated that contact with the leaders of the East German army already existed, and that he (Heusinger) and his associates were discussing the possibility of cooperation at an appropriate time.
8. Heusinger placed Simonsen in contact with the leaders of the Cooperative Association of Democratic Groups (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der demokratischen Kreise) and the Verband deutscher Soldaten. Simonsen gave a number of lectures on behalf of these organizations in various West German cities. During these talks, he criticized sharply those who participated in the 20 July plot. As a result, former General von Bock requested that the two groups cease their contact with Simonsen. When this occurred, Simonsen returned to Madrid.
9. In Madrid in 1955, Simonsen served as German interpreter for General Franco. Among those who visited Franco was former Reich Chancellor Franz von Papen. Franco has frequently hinted to appropriate offices in Bonn that he would welcome von Papen as West German Ambassador to Spain. However, due to differences between Adenauer and von Papen, the latter has not been chosen for this post. Spanish government circles have little respect for Adalbert Prinz von Bayern, the present West German Ambassador to Spain.¹
10. Simonsen returned to Germany in May 1956 and plans to remain in Germany. He intends to visit General Heusinger again and discuss with him the possibilities of starting a lecture tour.

1. Headquarters Comments: Prince Adalbert retired recently.