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23 February 1945

To: SAINT, Washington

From: SAINT, London (German Section) 93-055-0

Subject: Excerpts from an article in "Die Deutsche Polizei" regarding SKORZENY's rescue of Mussolini.

1. Attached hereto are two (2) copies of a translation of excerpts from an article by SS-War Reporter Robert KROETZ in "Die Deutsche Polizei" concerning an interview with Otto SKORZENY and the rescue of Mussolini.

2. The comment regarding the capture of Austrian President MIKLAS in 1938 is of particular interest.

Encl. 2 copies of translation

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WASH. REG. INT. 1939
XX-5441

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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APRIL 45



Otto SKORZENY

Encl To - XX - 5625
7 March 45

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29 February 5

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The liberation of the Duce, the external story of which has meanwhile become known to the public, draws our attention to a type of audacious, resolute men who, on a silent front, in ruthless carrying out of a task, are doing immeasurable things. Beyond the incident itself, which in its political effects is undoubtedly equal in value to winning a battle, the coup of 30-31 January 1943, who was promoted on 12 January to 41-Stabschef, offers a welcome occasion to sketch the picture of those who, in closest comradeship with the secretists, performed a deed that may be regarded as the standard for brave and loyal co-spirit.

Stabschef d. R. S. STUBER (is 35 years old.... He was a Diploms-Ingenieur by civil occupation; even in early years he found his center of gravity in the struggle for existence of his tortured country, and later as a member of the Waffen-SS went into the great test of the second world war. The fruits for his work is the SSV. His closest collaborators, trained by him theoretically and practically, are recruited from the Waffen-SS and the SS. They all have together with the secretists a true argument for a new type of warrior, a warrior that more fearfully than ever will present to the eyes of the public the total, the political soldier.

About the time of the imprisonment of the Duce, when the indications of later betrayal were already beginning to show themselves, Stabschef STUBER went to Rome with a little Kommando and erected in various, camouflaged work the bases for his later task, at that time still unknown. Matters that were picked up, bold scouting, patrols, and the close cooperation with the German and Italian intelligence offices existing there, brought to light the track of the Duce, which was lost again and again as the days passed, because the nervous guards unexpectedly transferred their prisoner fourteen times.

In this reconnaissance activity as Italian spy agent Stabuf particularly distinguished himself. Disguised, drinking with Italian sailors, he found about 24 hours before the surrender (of Italy) the place where the Duce was staying, a villa on a little island. On the day of the betrayal, when the task of being informed about the place of the Duce's captivity turned into the political requirement of snatching him away from the traitors, STUBER went in a speed-boat to the island, to procure the liberation. He found an empty nest. At dawn the Duce had been trucked off by hydroplane to a new hiding-place.

The search, pressed by the threat of events that rushed on each others heels, began again. This time faint traces pointed to a mountain hotel in the Gran-masso-Massivo. Again patrols were sent out, using people who knew nothing of their real task, because they could not yet be allowed to know about it. They came back with the report that the lower station of the mountain railway that led to the presumed hiding-place of the Duce, had been barred, and was guarded by a rather large detachment of Carabinieri.

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Thereupon KENNEDY, at very great height, flew over the terrain of action, in a reconnaissance plane that General STUBERT of the paratroopers had placed at his disposal (here the narrator--KENNEDY--inserted that the co-operation of the General had been of decisive importance for his work.) The picture showed that a landing in the area near the hotel would be mortally dangerous.....

Fifteen men of the SS Staffel-11, actively supported by a fairly strong squadron of paratroopers, were to carry out the coup. It was impossible to give preference to volunteers, because everybody applied.....

.....The question remains to be cleared up, how it happened that the much stronger guard did not fire a shot, and bowed to the German orders! Probably the element of surprise was decisive. The planes dived down through the cloud-blanket....So it was possible that, when the door had been closed, and the Kommando was withdrawing, the commander of the guards came running up with a glass of red wine, took his position before KENNEDY, and offered him the drink with the words: "To the victor!"

.....What today can be said for them all (the liberators of KENNEDY), goes far beyond their happy undertaking. At the time of the betrayal, the men of the Unterkommando stood side by side with the soldiers of the Wehrmacht and the Luftwaffe, and in bold individual sallies captured batteries that were firing, brought up columns of trucks, and carried messages. In every way they testified to their fitness for the greater task before them, of which no one knew more than that it would be dangerous....KENNEDY flew in an airplane to Corsica, to seek out a few more men. On the way both motors gave out, because of sabotage. The plane plunged down. The crew was able to free itself as if by a miracle from the cushion plane, was picked up by an Italian ship, and put ashore in Sardinia. From there KENNEDY flew on through to Corsica, sought out his people, and returned safely with them to the mainland.

.....All his life he has been politician and soldier, as a student in secondary school belonged to a German (nationalist) league, which decided in 1922 in favor of the black-white-red (old German Empire) flag; as a student was trained in the Styrian Free Corps, and as a young member of a Burschenschaft, became a Nazi, without realizing yet that here was a movement for which life had but him out. From the Free Corps he joined the SS later, and performed as his journeyman's task, so to speak, for his most recent masterpiece (i.e. qualifying him as a master), the capture of the Austrian President (SCHUSCHNER) in 1938 from the strict guard of a company of the Guards.

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