

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

Subject: Otto SKORZENY

Report No: NSM-522

Date of Information: February 1951

Place Acquired: Spain, Madrid

Date Acquired: February 1951

Evaluation: B-2

Date of Report: 16 February 1951

Source: Capt. Whittington

1. According to a reliable source, Otto SKORZENY, the famous rescuer of Mussolini, has been in Madrid since about August, 1950. He is living under the name of Rolf STEINBAUER at 70 Calle Lopez de Hoyos, Madrid, with a Bavarian Countess who is now reportedly his wife. The Countess' name is Ilse FINKELSTEIN. SKORZENY is allegedly employed as an industrial engineer by the firm Empresas Reunidas Comercio Exterior, with offices at Alcala 29.
2. Although SKORZENY pretends to be fully occupied as an industrial engineer, both he and his wife are much more enthusiastic about a plan that SKORZENY has to bring to Spain Germany's best troops in order to train them here and return them to Germany for use against the Russians (should there be time to accomplish all this before the outbreak of war.) According to our source, it is likely that SKORZENY has travelled to Germany frequently with the purpose of activating his plan, rather than to do business as an industrial engineer. SKORZENY informed the source that he had told "the French" of his plan. However, our source has mentioned the fact that SKORZENY is allied with one MESSERSCHMIDT (fnu) in the physical transplanting of German industry to Spain. According to source, MESSERSCHMIDT and SKORZENY have in their possession a plant, or plants, which they will move to Spain once permission is granted by the appropriate German authorities. (It should be repeated here that our source has impressed us with the fact that SKORZENY is infinitely more interested in the training of German soldiers than he is in the moving of industrial plants.)
3. We have not been able to determine that SKORZENY's plan is backed by Spanish officials in any way. In fact, from the meager information available to us it appears that SKORZENY does not have extensive official Spanish contacts. Source stated that SKORZENY has mentioned his friendship with "head of the Police", at other times in speaking of the same friend he referred to him as a "Minister". It appears not unlikely that SKORZENY is speaking of MARTINEZ CAMPOS. It does not appear that SKORZENY is a member of any organized intelligence group, but it does appear likely that he is a member of a small group of German Army officers who keep each other only occasionally informed of their respective activities.
4. SKORZENY does not appear to be affluent, and yet it is quite obvious that he is not needy. He is at present pressing a civil suit in France in order to increase the flow of royalties from his recent book. He does not entertain a great deal, but apparently has many visitors.

Classification

SECRET

FORM NO. 81-88
FEB 1948

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(G) Foreign Relations

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency

Date: 2001, 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SECRET

NSM-522

-2-

5. It is reliably reported that SKORZENY and his wife are presently in Germany. During July and August 1950 SKORZENY repeatedly travelled extensively through Germany with the purpose of seeking to implement his plan. While in Germany he hopes to talk with McCLOY.

6. General Information:

- a) SKORZENY states he was a "Colonel" on the Russian front and served in the Moscow sector. He believes that war is imminent and that the Russians will be hard to beat. It is his opinion that the Russian is tougher than the German Soldier.
- b) SKORZENY has informed source that he is committed from helping U.S. by a mutual pledge he and one GUERDIAN (fm), according to source a famed tank expert, took some years ago. SKORZENY is doubtful now, however, that he is still bound by the pledge as GUERDIAN is now reportedly in the U.S. (presumably assisting the U.S. army in some respect.)
- c) SKORZENY's closest friend in Madrid is reportedly Otto BURCHER, owner of a very popular Madrid restaurant named BURCHER.
- d) SKORZENY expressed himself vehemently over the trial of PFELPFER (German officer who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the Malmady massacre. It appeared that PFELPFER would be sentenced to death, and it was this possibility that greatly concerned SKORZENY.)
- e) Physical Description of Countess FINKELSTEIN.

Name: Lisa FINKELSTEIN SKORZENY & Countess FINKELSTEIN.
Age: 35 (Approximately)
Complexion: Light
Build: Medium
Height: 5 ft 7 1/2 inches (approximately)
Eyes: Blue-grey
Hair: Blond, straight, combed over ears, knotted at neck.
Marital status: Reported married previously and divorced.
Language: Excellent German, English, little Spanish.
Habits: Smokes moderately. Does not like all of the social life of Madrid. Complains her husband is invited to many places primarily due to peoples curiosity to see him.

COMMENTS:

It is interesting to note that the Source (Captain Whittington, attached to the Office of the Army Attache for Language Study) who is a young and intelligent person, characterizes SKORZENY as "child-like in many ways."

SECRET