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APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

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COUNTRY Spain	REPORT NO. IR-54-51	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT (SS Colonel) Otto SKORZENY, Alias Rolf Steinbauer		
DATE OF REPORT 28 June 51	DATE OF INFORMATION Current	EVALUATION Cannot be judged
PREPARED BY (Signature) Robert B. Black, Major, USAF	SOURCE Series of conversations by rptg officer.	
REFERENCES (Control number, director, previous report, etc., as applicable) IR-52-51		

SUMMARY: (Use concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)

Former SS Colonel Otto SKORZENY, alias Rolf STEINBAUER, has been living in Spain with full knowledge of the Spanish authorities. His primary interest appears to be to find some kind of position for himself relative to the only trade he knows well -- soldiering. He champions the cause of those nationals of other countries who fought with the German allies against the Russians and who are now held in prison, and plunks for some sort of military bilateral agreement between the United States and Spain and toward the creation of the nucleus of a German Commando Cadre in Spain about which could be formed a new German army to combat the Russians. He claims the Spanish government itself is greatly desirous of forming some kind of a military alliance with the U.S., but appears unwilling to make their wants known.

APPROVED:
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1. SS Colonel Otto SKORZENY, alias Rolf STEINBAUER, has been living in Spain with full knowledge of Spanish authorities. He lives in a small apartment, No. 70, Lopez de Hollar, telephone No. 33-78-50.

2. Skorzeny appears to be very friendly and affable with the reporting officer. Customary greeting is not unlike being welcomed by a huge bear or engulfed by a huge Saint Bernard dog. Skorzeny loves to talk about the war - doesn't seem to be bragging, but he has a rather high opinion of his prowess. His alleged wife, the Countess Ilsa von FIBELSTEIN, a very pretty and extremely well educated woman (but with very little sense of humor), appears to be the business head of the house. He seems to follow her advice in most matters, even to the point of stopping at her bidding at any point which she feels should not be discussed. Undoubtedly, Skorzeny would talk even more freely if his wife were not around. He likes good Scotch whiskey and mixes only a little plain water with it. Skorzeny is very gentlemanly, in fact, almost Victorian in his chivalry. He doesn't seem to be nearly as bitter over the war as his wife. He would no doubt give anything to have some kind of a command in another war. He seems more interested in shock-type soldiering, i.e., commando troops, rather than an overall or strategic concept of warfare. As a matter of fact, he doesn't seem to well informed on strategic matters. Skorzeny speaks very good English with a heavy British accent. His wife speaks excellent English but with a British accent.

3. Skorzeny has stated on several occasions he would actually like to work openly with U.S. but he fears a loss of face in his followers who purport to be violently anti-U.S. He claims we should organize a "Maquis system" in Russia, however, he doubts that such a program could be successfully carried out these days. He has reiterated over and over again that the Americans don't realize the difficulty in setting up spy ring in Russia. Security is fabulous. Skorzeny frankly volunteered information that he feared German personnel in central Germany cannot be trusted. He feels the Germans are swaying to the Commie line; that the allies should get out of Germany and the country could thereby be united once again. Skorzeny has frequently reminded the reporting officer that Germany once had a tremendous Communist party before the war and could easily fall prey once again.

4. The subject has only contempt for the U.S. CIC and CID. (He proved ridiculously ill-informed on their respective functions.) He stated that even today in Germany, their ranks are filled with Commie sympathizers. He had very good comments on the FBI and considered J. Edgar Hoover a very capable man. Subject didn't elaborate on how he formed the latter opinion.

5. On several occasions, Skorzeny has stated that the Spanish High General Staff is nearly desperate in their desire to enter into a bilateral agreement for a mutual defense with the U.S. He claims the chief difficulty at this time lies in the fact that the Spanish are too proud to ask for the measure themselves and wish that the matter could be breached by a third party to the United States. Spain is, however, adamant in her desire to remain out of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. She wants no part of such an agreement and would prefer to remain by herself rather than be a part of a "plan doomed to failure." Skorzeny has also mentioned that the Spanish wonder why the United States themselves have not appeared before the Spanish Defense Department to ask for Spanish participation in some kind of a pact.

6. Subject claims Spain would definitely fight anywhere in Europe, given the proper equipment, a chance to train at least a year with said equipment, and the opportunity to observe the probable capabilities of her would-be allies; i.e., France, Belgium, and Holland. Skorzeny, although he hates the British, feels that they are the only good ally at present ("they can fight like Hell!"). Even so, he doubts they would send another expedition to Europe in the event the Continent was lost.

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AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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7. It seems possible that Skorseny actually has close connections with high ranking officers in the Spanish High General Staff. He mentions that he frequently sees Lt. General Juan VIGOR Susro Diaz, Chief of the High General Staff, Lt. General Agustin MUNOZ GRANDES, Captain General, First Region (it is interesting to note that General MUNOZ GRANDES is the ex-Commander of the Spanish "Blue Division" which fought in Russia), and Major General Arsenio MARTINEZ de CAMPOS, Deputy Chief of Staff, High General Staff. Skorseny is also believed to be on very good terms with Major General Eduardo GALLARZA-Gonzalez Irragori, Minister of Air. (u)

8. Skorseny continually changes his mind about his future plans. Several times he has related his desire to go to ANGOLA, and he reported he has actually made contact with a land owner in Angola who wished to sell him a large farm for \$40,000. Subject is apparently unable to raise that amount of money. He recently returned from a ten days' trip to Lisbon where he had his enthusiasm fired anew relative to acquiring property in Angola. He related there is at present a German National (a friend) who is currently making a fortune in Luana, Angola, selling hemp. Skorseny referred to this man as the "Sisle King", name not given.

9. Skorseny, although he is able to travel quite frequently, appears to be pushed for money. He is especially bitter over the loss in Revenue from the sale of his book (Skorseny's Secret Missions) in the States. The United States Department of Treasury has advised him that all profits from the book are going to the U.S., inasmuch as all German assets are frozen by law. Commenting on this particular point, his wife displayed her rare appearing sense of humor: "Good God, do you realize that by our money going to the U.S. Treasury, Rolf is actually paying for re-arming the French". As stated before, subject has only recently returned from a ten day trip in Lisbon (16 Jun 51). Just whom he saw and what he did are not altogether known, but he did acknowledge that the Spanish First Secretary, Spanish Embassy, Lisbon, did give a cocktail in his honor. Skorseny has been to Germany twice since November 1950. He maintains he has a valid passport in the name of Skorseny. He is a bit irked that the French no longer permit him to cross the frontier of France. He claims this measure was pressured by the Communists in the French Government. His wife is apparently free to travel as she chooses. Skorseny frequently speaks of a scheme authored by German General Heinz GUDERIAN and offered to the Spanish High General Staff last August, which consisted of training a Cadre of commandos composed of 5,000 troops of any nationality, who wanted to fight against the "common enemy." The High General Staff thought the idea was good but they could not give their O.K. inasmuch as they did not know what the Americans would say. They did suggest, however, that some third party could perhaps present the idea to the Americans and attempt to sound them out. Subject would naturally play a leading part in the forming and training of such a commando unit. (Note: It is not known by the reporting officer whether Skorseny was subtly laying a feeler at this time or not.) Subject has expressed concern relative to various Dutch, Belgian and French who fought with the Germans against the Russians on the Eastern front. Skorseny claims there are over 8,000 prisoners (Belgian nationals) still held by the Belgian Government; their only crime being they fought against the Russians." He mentioned one Leon DEGRALLE, one-time leader of the Belgian unit in Russia, who has suffered greatly. Skorseny did not and would not say where Degralle is at this time, but gave the idea he was living "in the black" somewhere, waiting for the day when he could be vindicated in some manner. Subject more or less implied he has seen Degralle recently. Skorseny has again and again stated that all these prisoners would be glad to fight the Russians again if given the chance. He emphatically declares these personnel were not collaborators with the Germans; "they only saw their duty to fight Communism." Referring to Degralle again, he claims he could not even speak German and he is definitely not a collaborator.

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10. He implied that while in Lisbon he had seen Hans Ulrich RUDER (ex-Colonel) and outstanding air ace of the (German Luftwaffe). He claims Rudel is now living in Argentina and from time to time sends service regarding air matters to the Argentine Air Force in company with General GALAND (ex-Luftwaffe). Rudel is very bitter with the way the Allies are treating him. Inasmuch as he was tried as a war criminal and convicted, he cannot legally return to Germany. Even so, Skorszeny claims Rudel has returned several times to Germany "in the black" and has made the trip only recently. Rudel is anxious to be on the side of the United States if given the opportunity.

11. Skorszeny obviously has only contempt for (General) Hans SPEIDEL, former Chief of Staff under ROMMEL in Normandy. He refers to Speidel as a "weak sister" and certainly no asset to the German Army. Statement that Speidel's keen mind obstructed the Gestapo's desire to liquidate him for a rumored part in the Hitler plot drew laughs from Skorszeny. (Reference Speidel's book, "Invasion, 1944"). Subject constantly reiterates General Heins Guderian's prowess in comparison with Speidel.

12. When Willie MESSERSCHMIDT visited Spain in March 1951 (IR-52-51), it was Skorszeny who volunteered the information Messerschmidt had come at personal invitation offered by Franco. Messerschmidt and Skorszeny have been old friends and during the former's visit in Madrid, the two were seen together frequently.

13. At the last conversation, 20 June, Skorszeny revealed that a friend had just arrived from Germany, who stated that great consternation has developed in the offices of HICOG and Mr. Conrad Adenauer, relative to his whereabouts. He said that his friend claimed Mr. McCloy's offices have been alerted by a tip from a prominent American Jew (name not given) who claimed that Skorszeny had asked for and received a visa to the U.S. (Note: Skorszeny has never expressed the desire to go to the United States at any time. He does not have a visa.) As a result, Mr. McCloy has asked where Skorszeny is located at this time and has ordered the Intelligence Service to find him. Skorszeny's friend (?) claimed Adenauer has decided that he (Skorszeny) is obviously fostering a revolution in Germany made up of personnel who have become malcontents with the present German Government.

14. COMMENTS of Preparing Officer:

a. Inasmuch as Skorszeny appears to have close connections with and to see the pertinent ranking members of the Spanish High General Staff, it is indeed feasible that he does reflect their thoughts relative to a means and/or manner of Spain's participation in a military alliance with the United States.

b. Perhaps even more interesting is the ability of Skorszeny to remain in contact with large numbers of prominent members of the old Nazi "Old Guard" of whom a great many undoubtedly reside in Spain. It is entirely possible that Skorszeny can lead to the whereabouts of many "wanted" Germans who have faded away from Germany via clandestine means in an effort to lose their former identities.

c. The reporting officer sees Skorszeny frequently and has succeeded in winning his confidence completely, but it is felt that this source has scarcely been scratched when one considers the wealth of information he possesses. Skorszeny will continue to be watched and pertinent information forwarded when available.

Robert B. Bieck
ROBERT B. BIECK
Major, USAF
Assistant Air Attache

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