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AIR

MURK-

20 November 1951

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Attn: []

Chief, FDM

Operational

Alleged RIS Net

HACKER

References: MOFA-5209, FRAN 3053, PULL 2888, [] 828, 840, WLA-8540

1. References indicate quite clearly the existence of a group of ex-SS and SD officers in North Germany who are engaged in collecting information which would be marketable to several intelligence services. It would appear that Skorsky has been engaged as a middleman-salesman by this group.

2. The questions to be resolved are:

a. Has this group actually achieved a penetration of the Bonn government and/or the High Commissions?

b. Is this group actually marketing its information to the RIS or some other non-USA service?

The second question is of interest regardless of the answer to the first; the particular reports which we have been able to obtain have been of poor quality and have offered no proof that the group has actually established a penetration that can furnish secret intelligence. Nevertheless, if these reports are being sold to the RIS, they may have some influence on Russian policy, and thus become a logical target for us.

3. It appears that this group is operating in the British Zone of Germany. This fact alone would render it wise to coordinate our investigation of it with the British. In addition, the British have supplied information which indicates they have already penetrated parts of the operation. We would recommend that an approach be made to the British on the basis of the report they gave us (MOFA-5209) and that a joint effort be made to clear up this operation. It may be pointed out that Zipper, by sending an officer to Hamburg to investigate the Mebius story (PULL 2888), may well have run afoul of the British operation. The need to protect Zipper is therefore another reason for liaison with the British on this case.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

(2)(A) Privacy

(2)(B) Methods/Sources

(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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4. On the basis of the reports we have been able to see and on the basis of the character of the persons involved, we may make a preliminary estimate that the group is producing fabrications and overt information. Further investigation will be necessary to reach a final evaluation. Final disposition of the case will depend on coordination with the British. At this stage it appears that repressive action through the means offered by recent Bundesrepublik laws would be the best solution.

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