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MEMORANDUM

January 10, 1953

TO: Mr. John W. Jones  
FROM: Robert D. Smith  
SUBJECT: REPORT BY GUNTHER BUHN ON OTTO SKORZENI, ALIAS  
STEINHAUER, AND GERMAN COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES IN SPAIN

A man who called himself GUNTHER BUHN (German, formerly Polish) called at the Embassy today and said he wanted to report German Communist activity in Spain. He furnished the following information on his own biography:

Former SS man; served under OTTO SKORZENI.  
Spent seven years in French prisons following the War; recently escaped from one near Bordeaux.  
Came to Spain four months ago and contacted Skorzeni.  
Two months ago, was jailed in Salamanca for a period of two months for lack of proper documents.  
Now carries a temporary visa issued by the Director General de Seguridad, Salamanca.  
Plans on leaving Madrid tomorrow or Monday, returning to Germany through Bilbao.  
Did considerable espionage work during the War in Paris, Rome, and other parts of Europe.  
Formerly employed as Mining Engineer; plans on working at the mines in Essen; does not know as yet with which company he will be affiliated.  
Still professed Fascist; carries picture of Hitler in wallet.  
Former address in Poland: Schneidemuhl Gartenstral 11.

He furnished the following information:

OTTO SKORZENI, alias STEINHAUER, local German in the tractor (?) business, is head of the pro-Russian faction of a secret Spanish society comprised of former SS members here. He receives money from Russia and wanted Buhn to go to Teheran to work for the party, saying that the United States wanted to keep Germany divided, but that Russia was trying to unite it.

In Skorzeni's office, there is a safe (?) containing a mass of communications in code on his activities. (Buhn described the two types of code used).

Skorzeni is playing a double game with the FALANGISTS and maintains a position of prestige among them, because of his rescue of MUSSOLINI.

NOTE: (?) indicates the word was not thoroughly understood.

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DB. 14851

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy   
(2)(B) Methods/Sources   
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

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FRAU WALTER, age 42, is employed as Secretary to Skorzeni, receiving a salary of Pts 3,500 monthly, and resides at Madrazas 18, Madrid. She is a devout Catholic and told Buhn about the papers in code. Buhn recently spent two nights at her home. He does not know the reason for the papers in code and does not think she knows that Skorzeni is a Communist. She has no political convictions and is not (according to Buhn) too intelligent. She was formally married to a Spanish millionaire and is now separated.

HERR HAMFLER - Barcelona head of the movement.

VOLKERT, HUFFER, HANNINGER, former SS men now in Madrid and members of the pro-Russian group.

FRAU EBERT, head of the group in Portugal, daughter of VICTOR ABETZ, German Ambassador to Paris 1942-44.

BARONESS FINKENSTEIN, Phone No. 33 78 50, mistress of Skorzeni. Buhn said he saw a bank (?) book, showing that Skorzeni deposits Pts 60,000 each month to her name.

HERR TIEDORN, Via Catalana, Rome, former German general, who heads the group in Rome.

HERR LAATSMAN, German agent of the group, who recently left for Teheran.

HERR BAYER - Tangier contact, Courier (?).

HERR KARL EGDEKER, Madrid Phone No. 26 68 68, righthand man of Skorzeni, leaving next Wednesday or Thursday for Teheran by boat and maybe through Italy.

ERIKA BAR AMERICANO, popular gathering place.

EDELWEISS BAR, popular gathering place.

HORCHER RESTAURANT, den of Hamfler, Barcelona head, who works here as a waiter.

MILLI (?) BARBERO, dancer at the Erika Bar, close friend of the group. Her father (?) has been a political prisoner (?) here some thirty (?) years. She knows Walter, secretary to Skorzeni; leads fast life and always needs money.

HERR SCHACT, former German Minister and prominent member of the movement; very pro-Russian, receiving money from West German Communists; recently (?) toasted Russia.

Buhn expressed and displayed bitter anger with Skorzeni, because the

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latter refused to help him while he was in prison for two months at Salamanca. He claims Skorzeni's influence could have effected his release in two weeks. Skorzeni also refused him money Christmas night.

While repeatedly describing his lack of funds, Buhn did not actually ask me for money.

Four months ago, Skorzeni suggested to Buhn that he work for him in Teheran; that, if he decided to go, he would do so by way of Barcelona, Genoa, Palermo ——— In each place, there would be contacts.

Other points made by Buhn:

His interest in helping Americans, he said, stems from his desire for his country to be united again and is due to the fact that the Communists had shot off his thumb and had shot his parents and wife. He cannot return to Poland, because all Germans there must be Communist.

He described Skorzeni's group as having very strong connections in Teheran. Its purpose there is to foment trouble. Oil Specialists are being sent in.

He told Skorzeni last night in the latter's home that he was returning to Germany. Skorzeni advised him to think this over.

He would like to fight in Korea with the Americans.

He said he could not understand why the Americans were not wise to Skorzeni.

He said that Skorzeni was among those in the Battle of the Bulge who dressed in American uniforms and spoke English.

He seemed to think that the papers in Skorzeni's safe (?) were extremely important. He suggested first that the office be broken into and then said that that would not do. The best way to secure the papers, he said, would be through the secretary, Fran Walter.

Attached is a sketch Buhn made of the code system used for papers to be found in the safe (?).

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