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Office of the Attaché
American Embassy
Madrid, Spain

AG-6-53/

13 January 1953

MEMORANDUM TO

SUBJECT: Comments on Report Given by Gunther Buhn Regarding Otto Skorzeny

1. To my knowledge this is the first report I have had of the individual named Buhn. Skorzeny has never mentioned his name to me previously. It is entirely possible Skorzeny is being very successful in palming himself off as an ostensible friend of the West and yet at the same time working for a communist movement. However, I consider the latter extremely doubtful.

2. The following are my comments on those made by Buhn:

a. Skorzeny is not in the tractor business nor has he ever mentioned tractors. It is known by myself, and I am sure by your office likewise, he is representing several German steel firms, locomotive builders, and contract construction firms.

b. It is true there is a safe in Skorzeny's office. This "safe" is a small, 2-drawer file cabinet with an ordinary plunge-type lock. It does not appear to be a fire-resistant safe. However, it is the only one in Skorzeny's office and the outer reception room.

c. I am sure Skorzeny uses some type of a code with which he carries on his mass of communications with people outside of Spain. I am sure you would be surprised to learn of the enormous correspondence this man carries on.

d. Comments on Frau Walter, Skorzeny's secretary, would lead me to believe Buhn has seen her only during fleeting interviews. Skorzeny informs me she is extremely intelligent, and I myself have heard her speak fluent English, French, German, and Spanish. What's more, she takes dictation in all languages mentioned before. Skorzeny has mentioned numerous times the great faith he places in his secretary.

e. Comments Buhn has made regarding the Baroness Finkenstein (name should be Finkelstein alias Lisa Steinbauer), I seriously doubt that Skorzeny deposits the alleged 60,000 pesetas each month to his wife, mistress, etc. Lisa has complained frequently to Mary Jean that Skorzeny allows her very little money with which she is expected to keep up her wardrobe in a manner that Skorzeny would like while she represents his business interests in Germany, France, and Switzerland. Also, there is

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

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Memo to [] AC-6-53, fr OIRA Madrid, cont'd

still some doubt in my mind but what she is legal and lawful wife. I feel if the woman were a mistress she could very easily shake a person like Skorzeny for better connections elsewhere.

f. I believe I have heard Skorzeny mention Herr Carl Brucker, whom Euhn claims is Skorzeny's righthand man. I have learned this morning that Skorzeny left for Cairo yesterday 12 January, and he may have been in company with this man.

g. I have never heard of the Srta. Iria Par-Americano, nor of one Mali Barero, the dancer who hangs out in sail bars; and I can assure you that this point has drawn my interest and I will have men to report on same in near future.

Malala Schacht
h. Schact (in all probability Maj. Schacht, former German finance minister). I am sure you know this man is Ilsa's uncle. He has passed through here on several occasions, and from what Skorzeny and Ilsa have told me he is violently anti-Russian and I would seriously doubt that he has received money from any communist.

i. Could you find out where Euhn and Skorzeny met on Christmas night? Christmas day Skorzeny stopped in my house at 12 noon to bid me Merry Christmas in the company of his wife before departing immediately for Malaga. I saw him to his car, which was packed with luggage, and subsequently he informed me he spent the night in Valencia.

RFB
ROBERT R. RIECK
Major, USAF
Acting Air Attache