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REPORT: JX-4307

COUNTRY: Egypt/Germany

SUBJECT: Otto Skorzeny's Efforts to Supply Arms for Egypt

DATE OF INFO.: January to April 1953

PLACE ACQUIRED: France, Paris

SOURCE: A usually reliable businessman with excellent contacts in governmental circles (B). Appraisal of content: 2.

1. Otto Skorzeny, who operates an "Industrial Office" in Madrid, has made repeated efforts to participate in the arms trade for Egypt. He has made use of his business relations with Mr. Joachim Georg Adolf Herzlett of Bonn. Mr. Herzlett maintains an office in Sherif Pasha Street, Cairo (the same building in which the German-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce is located) which Dr. Beissner, his business partner, manages. Dr. Beissner's wife is the secretary.

2. Dr. Beissner is in close contact with Hadj Mohammed Amin El Hussein, the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and introduced Skorzeny to Hussein in Cairo about 12 January 1953.

a. Herzlett, although he had been in Egypt before, was being refused an entry visa by the Egyptian authorities.

However, on approximately 1 April 1953 Beissner declared

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C. APR. 53

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

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- 2 -

that difficulties had been overcome and that Heraldt was to be again in Cairo shortly. This presumably was brought about by the Mufti's intervention.

b. Beissner, on behalf of the Mufti, arranged the passport and entry formalities for frn. Springer, who arrived in Cairo during the first few days of April 1953.

*Confidential information*  
Springer, 33 years old, was once an SS Hauptsturmführer (Chief Stormleader) in Department VI of Himmler's Reichssicherheitshauptamt (Reich Security Head Office) and later a deputy for the now illegal neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party (SRP). While Otto Ernst Remer, chairman of the SRP was in Italy, he sent Springer to Egypt to prepare asylum for exiled leaders of the SRP. *11.11.53*

c. Beissner has also been seen from time to time in the house of Dr. Wilhelm Voss, head of the German experts' team in Egypt.

3. Skorzeny remained in Egypt until near the end of January; he was unsuccessful from a business point of view. His offers to supply certain types of mortars and ammunition, probably to be obtained from the Esperanza plant, were refused. The Egyptians wanted M742 machine guns, which Skorzeny was not able to supply, although he stated that he would try to find some.

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- 3 -

4. At a later date the Organization Department of the Egyptian army, headed by (Brigadier General) Ritzkalla, invited offers for 3,500 machine guns of a type which could be used both as a light and heavy machine gun. It should have the optical sight and be mounted on a carriage as well as on a tripod.

5. Among the offers received was one from Herzlett to be carried out via Spain. This offer most probably originated with Skorzeny.

6. Late in April Colonel Ferchl, the German infantry expert, told the meeting of the Experts' Board of having learned of the imminent production of arms in Egypt by the Mlar. Engineering Company, although the types were obsolescent and inefficient. H. G. Richert, the German expert on organization, remarked that one had to be careful with such information coming from officials, for the latter would occasionally try to push such production plans for their personal end or gain.

7. The German experts admit the possibility that Skorzeny, after his failure with direct orders, had gained control over an Egyptian official in an attempt to share in the arms trade by supplying parts for a producing factory.

8. Skorzeny was expected to be in Cairo again in May.

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