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XAAZ 29516

JUL 9 1953

TO : The Secretary of State
Attention: Mr. Charles McCrell
FROM : Deputy Director, Plans
SUBJECT: German Nationals in Egypt

The following information supplements our OSDs 0-45 (see paragraph 3) dated 3 June 1953, which was a reply to your C-8, dated 15 May 1953.

1. The real purpose of Otto Skorzeny's trip to Egypt from 13 to 27 January, 1953 is not known, but a number of reports from usually reliable sources indicate that Skorzeny went to Egypt on a business mission and tried while there to secure a position with the Egyptian government as an expert in partisan warfare.

2. Most reports bearing on Skorzeny's business mission to Egypt indicate that he was interested in selling weapons and munitions, although Skorzeny publicly denied he was dealing in arms. It is not known whether Skorzeny successfully concluded any business arrangements.

3. As noted above, a number of reports stated that Skorzeny had offered his services to the Egyptian government as an expert on partisan warfare. Usually reliable sources confirm that Skorzeny actually did make such an offer and that some Egyptian military officials seriously considered his proposition. Other reliable sources report that Egyptian police officials regarded Skorzeny as an "American Agent", wanted him expelled from the country, and wanted other government departments against collaborating with him. The final outcome of Skorzeny's reported offer of service is not known. A British report that he actually did give advice on partisan warfare is probably true. Skorzeny is reputed to be an expert on partisan and small group warfare, and has repeatedly expressed interest in creating groups in Europe to hold back any Red Army push toward the Atlantic.

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4. Skorzeny's present backers and connections are not positively known. He is not, as far as this agency knows, an agent or regular informant of any U. S. organization, although he has from time to time been in contact with U. S. intelligence and military representatives, whom he has tried to interest in his schemes for a European partisan force. It is believed that his presence and business in Egypt was in no way sponsored or guided by any U. S. agency, directly or indirectly. Shortly after his escape from a German internment camp in 1947, Skorzeny reportedly took up contact with the French Intelligence Service, moved secretly to Paris and lived there under official protection for several years, until the press discovered him and publicity forced him to move to Spain, where he has since made his residence. Skorzeny has repeatedly told friends that he has severed all connection with French authorities.

5. A source of unknown reliability has stated that while Skorzeny was in Egypt in January he attempted to establish cordial liaison with German military advisers to the Egyptian Government. He was reportedly rebuffed by the senior German military experts and did not succeed in getting help from the military delegation.

6. According to press and radio reports, Skorzeny was again in Egypt on 12 June 1953. He reportedly had an interview with Lt. General Gamal Abd al Nasser, now vice premier. No further details are known.

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