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No Foreign Dissemination

20 FEB 1967

TO: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Security
Department of State

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: SKORZENY, Otto
aka: [STEINBAUER, Rolf O. F.
STEINER, Rolf
STEINBAUER, Otto
SKORZENY, Otto Von]

1. Reference is made to request dated 31 January 1967 concerning Subject. The files of this office contain the following information.

2. Subject is the World War II colonel in the Schutz Staffel, which was the elite guard of the Nazi Party. He was the liberator of MUSSOLINI from imprisonment in 1943 at the time of the Italian Government's capitulation to the Allies. The following is a brief sketch of his life prior to the end of the war:

- a. 1932-joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP).
- b. 1934-joined the Schutz Staffel (SS).
- c. 1940-joined the Waffen SS, which was the permanently embodied and militarised units of the SS.
- d. 1943-SS Obersturmfuehrer (Lieutenant) with the SS division "Das Reich" in France, the Balkans, and the Soviet Union.
- e. 1943-alleged to have led the commando unit

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EXEMPTIONS Section 5(b):
(2)(A) Privacy
(2)(B) Methods/Sources
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
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that liberated MUSSOLINI; received a decoration and promotion to major for it.

- f. 1944-appointed head of Militarisches Amt, which was a department of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, which was the headquarters of the Security Service and Security Police.
- g. 1944-Commandant of special Waffen SS training camp at Oranienberg for parachute training.
- h. May 1945-captured by the United States Army.

3. Reports concerning Subject's activities have been received from all over the world. These reports are dated from the end of World War II to the present and consist of contradictory allegations. A brief indication of Subject's alleged activities since World War II is outlined as follows:

- a. January 1951-According to an usually reliable source, Subject was supposedly organizing a group of old Nazis to fight Communism from Spain if war should break out; this was allegedly done with FRANCO's blessing.
- b. January 1953-According to a reliable source, sub-source reliability unknown, Subject was reported to be in Egypt to sell arms to NASSAR.
- c. January 1953-According to the same source as in "b" above, Subject was allegedly commissioned by the Egyptian government to train commando units to fight the British in the Suez canal zone.
- d. April 1955-According to a fairly reliable source, Subject was allegedly engaged by the Egyptians to reorganize their intelligence service.
- e. November 1956-According to an usually reliable source, Subject was rumored to have gone to Cairo, where he was to run NASSAR's anti-semitic program.

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- f. January 1961-According to a newspaper report of unknown reliability, Subject was allegedly training a group of Katangan commandos in Spain.
- g. March 1961-According to a source of unknown reliability, Subject was allegedly involved in a plot to kidnap CASTRO.

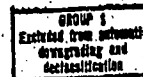
4. In a report dated 17 August 1961 a staff officer of this office, who is personally acquainted with Subject, was of the opinion that Subject was not heavily involved in intelligence activities. In this activity Subject gave the impression of a "bull in a china shop." The staff officer went on to state that Subject talked too much and too vociferously in any group, regardless of privacy. When Subject was contacted and asked what he had to say about the many allegations made concerning his involvement in intelligence activity and arms deals, he stated that this was probably because of his great many contacts in the intelligence world. He explained this as being a result of his friends made during the Second World War while he was actively involved in intelligence.

5. According to a report dated January 1960 from a former Polish Security Service (UB) staff officer who is described as very reliable, Subject was believed to have been recruited as a collaborator by one ABAKUMOV of the Committee of State Security (KGB). In 1944 this recruitment was reportedly accomplished in the course of Soviet efforts to capture and utilize to their own ends a long term Nazi spy behind network. To what extent the Soviets succeeded in this plan is unknown.

6. According to a report dated 8 April 1963 from a former KGB staff officer who is described as a reliable source, Subject was a target of the KGB. Source stated that Subject had been the target of the KGB both during the Second World War and afterwards. But to his knowledge the KGB had not succeeded in recruiting Subject as late as 1953.

7. This memorandum is a summary of previous disseminations sent out concerning Subject, and represents the content of available

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information. However, despite the availability of extensive data it does not appear feasible to draw valid conclusions concerning the real purpose of Subject's activities or the nature of his loyalties.

CSCI-316/00816-67

Encl. 1 name check

RID/CE: JMA/JLC/bcs

BASED ON: Para. 2
German Primer
Para. 3
C 3 -5100
31 August 1961
Para. 4
OSMA-11259
17 August 1960
Para. 5
C 3 INFO
January 1960
Para. 6
C 3 INFO
8 April 1963

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