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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
2000

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TEXT
TAGS: CVIS, (BESCH, KLAUS)
SUBJECT: 212 (A) (33) CASE

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 9828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

REF: A) VICTARS 080045 B) MUNICH 2348 C) USBERLIN 1404

1. FOR BDC: PLEASE SEND COPIES OF BDC FILES ON KLAUS BESCH, DPOB APRIL 9, 1911, BERLIN. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY ELABORATION BDC MAYBE ABLE TO MAKE CONCERNING BESCH'S INVOLVEMENT WITH INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS, AND CONCERNING HIS TWO TRIPS TO FRANCE.
2. FOR MUNICH: MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EXCELLENT CABLE RE BESCH. THERE ARE SEVERAL INCONSISTENCIES WHICH NEED TO BE CLARIFIED BEFORE A DECISION CAN BE RENDERED IN HIS CASE. PLEASE RE-INTERVIEW MR. BESCH IN LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING.
3. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT BESCH WAS AN EARLY AND COMMITTED NAZI. HE JOINED THE PARTY IN 1930, AND THE ALLGEMEINE SS IN THE SAME YEAR. IN 1933 HE ENROLLED IN THE HILFSPOLIZEI, WHICH WAS A NOTORIOUS GROUP OF SA AND SS MEN WHO WERE OSTENSIBLY INTENDED TO ASSIST THE REGULAR UNIFORMED POLICE IN RESTORING LAW AND ORDER.

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THEY ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT ALL THE BRUTAL AND ILLEGAL TASKS WHICH THE NEW REGIME FELT THE REGULAR POLICE COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO PERFORM. THIS INCLUDED THE ARREST AND PERSECUTION OF OPPOSITION MEMBERS, JEWS, CLERGY AND THE SUPPRESSION OF ALL DISSENT.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY HE JOINED THE POLITISCHE BEREITSCHAFT, A SORT OF POLITICAL HIT SQUAD ATTACHED TO THE SS. IN JANUARY, 1935, HE CLAIMS TO HAVE JOINED THE "INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT" OF THE SS. HE MUST CLARIFY EXACTLY WHAT ORGANIZATION FOR WHICH HE WORKED. WAS HE A MEMBER OF THE SICHERHEITSDIENST UNDER HEYDRICH? WHAT WERE THE EXACT DESIGNATIONS OF THE OFFICES/UNITS IN WHICH HE WORKED? WHO WERE HIS SUPERIOR OFFICERS AND COLLEAGUES? WHAT WAS THE PRECISE NATURE OF HIS ASSIGNMENTS THERE? IT WILL APPEAR FROM INFORMATION BELOW THAT BESCH FITS THE PROFILE OF A GERMAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WORKING ABROAD.

5. BESCH'S TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN IS HISTORICALLY VERIFIABLE. HOWEVER, HIS CONTENTION THAT HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY SENT TO RUMANIA TO FORM A FIRE-FIGHTING BRIGADE IS PROBABLY A COVER STORY. PLEASE ASK BESCH WHETHER HE WAS, IN FACT, A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF GERMAN ARMY AND SD MEN WHO WERE SENT TO THE RUMANIAN OIL FIELDS TO GUARD THEM AGAINST SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS BY THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE. AN EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF THIS OPERATION IS GIVEN IN THE BOOK "AGAINST THE WIND" BY GEOFFREY HOUSEHOLD, ONE OF THE BRITISH AGENTS ASSIGNED TO DESTROY THE OIL WELLS. BESCH WAS PROBABLY ASSIGNED TO OTTO ALBRECHT VON BOLSCHWING, THE SD STATION CHIEF IN RUMANIA, WHO WAS UNDER COVER IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY AS POLICE ATTACHE. MR. BESCH SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT INTELLIGENCE WORK, PER SE, IS NOT GROUNDS FOR INELIGIBILITY UNDER 212 (A) (33). THIS GROUP, IT SHOULD BE NOTED, WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN FRUSTRATING BRITISH SABOTAGE ATTEMPTS, BOTH AGAINST THE OIL FIELDS THEMSELVES, AND AGAINST THE OIL BARGES WHICH WENT UP THE DANUBE RIVER TO THE RHINE AND INTO GERMANY.

6. IN ANY EVENT, BESCH MUST PROVIDE THE NAMES OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND SUPERIORS AND OF EACH UNIT TO WHICH HE WAS ASSIGNED WHILE IN RUMANIA. IN ADDITION TO THE ARMY/SD UNIT MENTIONED ABOVE, THERE WAS ALSO A UNIT OF GERMAN MILITARY INTELLIGENCE (ABWEHR) ASSIGNED TO RUMANIA AT THE TIME. THERE WAS ALSO A SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT COMPRISED OF MEMBERS OF THE SS MANNSCHAFTSHAUSER, A UNIVERSITY FRATERNITY CONSISTING OF

SS MEMBERS. TO DEPTOFF'S KNOWLEGE, SIX MANNSCHAFTSHAUS MEMBERS WERE ASSIGNED TO RUMANIA DURING THIS PERIOD: HANS WERNER ROEPKE, WERNER SCHRIEVER, RUDOLF JEEP, WERNER KOELLN, DIETER RADBRUCH, AND AN SS LIETENANT NAMED WOLFF, FIRST NAME UNKNOWN. BESCH COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THIS GROUP.

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7. ACCORDING TO BOTH HIS NARRATIVE AND THE BDC SUMMARY, HE WAS THEN ASSIGNED AS ADJUTANT TO KURT DALEUGE, HEAD OF THE ORDNUNGSPOLIZEI AS OF JANUARY 1, 1940. AT THE SAME TIME HE IS GIVEN THE MISSION TO RUMANIAN OIL FIELDS MENTIONED ABOVE, AND THEN ON APRIL 28, 1940, IS DETAILED (NOT TRANSFERRED) TO THE 4TH SS DIVISION (POLIZEI) AS PART OF ITS STAFF. IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER BESCH'S ASSIGNMENT AS ADJUTANT WAS REAL OR IN NAME ONLY, SERVING AS A COVER FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES. HE MUST CLARIFY THIS POINT, AND EXPLAIN IN DETAIL HIS TWO TRIPS TO FRANCE. HIS DENIAL THAT HE MADE THESE TRIPS IS SPURIOUS.

8. BESCH MUST ALSO DETAIL TO PRECISELY WHICH COMPANY HE WAS ATTACHED WHILE IN NORTHERN ITALY IN 1943. WAS IT THE SAME UNIT AS THAT IN WHICH HE SERVED IN APRIL OF 1942? THE LEIBSTANDARTE ADOLF HITLER, WHILE DETAILED THERE, MASSACRED THE TOWN OF BOVES, KILLING MORE THAN 600 MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN AN ANTI-PARTISAN CAMPAIGN. SIMILARLY, THE EXACT UNIT(S) IN WHICH HE SERVED DURING THE ARDENNES OFFENSIVE ARE NECESSARY, SINCE ELEMENTS OF THE SS PANZER ARMY WHICH SPEARHEADED THAT OFFENSIVE MASSACRED SOME 150 AMERICAN SOLDIERS AT MALMEDY, BELGIUM ON DECEMBER 17, 1944.

9. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AND PLEASE SLUG REPLY FOR CA/VO/L/C FRED SMITH. EAGLEBURGER

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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