

INTELLIGENCE 12

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. SO 41673

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

FD 212

COUNTRY Germany (Western Zones)/Italy

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR 27 JUN 50

SUBJECT Escape Route for Former Nazis

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED Italy, Rome

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT DATE 2001 2007

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 1948 - 1950

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE						COLLECTOR'S PRELIMINARY GRADING OF CONTENT					
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SOURCE The following comes from a source in close contact with Italian police circles.

- 1. It is stated that former Nazi and former officer groups in Germany have no organized contacts in foreign countries, but that many individuals have been able to maintain touch with their war-time or pre-war acquaintances among Italian Fascists or Spanish Falangists. Some of them have succeeded in going to Italy or Spain, or in sending friends there, counting on assistance from their foreign contacts in their desire to emigrate. Such journeys via Italy and Spain to other countries have had to be made clandestinely, with a number of support points en route.
- 2. Former members of the SS are said to report to General Felix Steiner, who sends them to Rome by way of the South Tyrol. A former SS lieutenant named Rolf Niemeier, who used to guide such persons from Munich to Italy, was arrested in the fall of 1949 and imprisoned in Salzburg.
- 3. Former members of the Hitler Youth who wish to leave Germany consult Hans Lauterbacher in Munich. He is a brother of Hartmann Lauterbacher (alias Giovanni Bauer), a former Hitler Youth leader who has lived in Rome since the war and was arrested in April 1950 by the Italian police. Hans Lauterbacher is said to be closely associated with General Steiner.
- 4. In 1948 a Syrian officer called Homssi (real name Akram Tabarah) recruited a number of former German officers as advisers to the Syrian Army. A decision was made (allegedly by either General Guderian or Otto Skorzeny) that each group thus recruited for Syria should be composed of four former members of the SS and three former members of the Wehrmacht or the Luftwaffe. Homssi, who served in the German Army during the war, sent the groups to Rome, where two ex-colonels, Rauff and Friede, organized their shipment to Syria. This activity came to an end when Homssi and a group of ex-officers were arrested to Innsbruck late in 1948.
- 5. Certain former diplomats seem to have maintained contacts in Italy through Dr. Gerd Röhle, formerly chief of the Radio Policy Section of the German Foreign Office, who lived with falsified documents in Italy and made frequent trips to Germany. At Rome he was in touch with the former German consul Möllhausen, and in Germany with Dr. Rahn, the last German ambassador to Italy. In northern Italy Röhle had dealings with a Frenchman named Doudelang, who had served with the Germans on the Russian front; source asserts that Röhle was working for the Deuxième Bureau. Röhle committed suicide (or was perhaps murdered) in Innsbruck on 2 July 1949.

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

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency Date: 2-20-1

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No.
No Change in Class.
X Declassified
Class. Change For: 25
Auth: HR 10-2
Date: 13/06/28 By: 029