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Subject: Controversy between  
Otto SKORZENY and  
General Hans DOERR

Report No: WSM-543

Date of Information: March 1951

Place Acquired: Spain, Madrid

Date Acquired: 27 March 1951

Evaluation: C-2

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Source: C D

The source of the following report has been in contact with SKORZENY.

1. Otto SKORZENY, who is now in Madrid, is involved at present in a bitter controversy with General Hans DOERR, the former German military attache in Madrid, and now a close collaborator of the Alto Estado Mayor and the American military authorities.

2. DOERR, who is SPEIDEL's representative in Madrid, and who was involved in the 20th of July 1944 attempt, makes disparaging remarks about SKORZENY to the effect that the latter was not the real liberator of MUSSOLINI, but merely a part of the machinery of the operation, which was completely planned and directed by General STUDENT. (STUDENT, who needs to win favor with SPEIDEL and his group, has claimed that he was the author of the MUSSOLINI liberation, and that SKORZENY's role was that of a "young boy with lots of courage and lots of initiative".)

3. SKORZENY's reaction to DOERR's remarks was a desire to fight a duel. The Spanish authorities, however, would never allow this, and SKORZENY is also preparing a documentary denunciation of DOERR, SPEIDEL (whom SKORZENY calls a traitor), and STUDENT. The news of the controversy has reached Germany, and all of the generals who were involved in the 20th of July attempt have sided with DOERR. SKORZENY's partisans are Generals GUDEKIAN, MANTEUFFEL, and HEUSSER, and the famous aviator RUDEL.

4. Source believes that the motive behind DOERR's attack on SKORZENY was mainly jealousy inspired by the warm welcome accorded SKORZENY by the Spanish. In source's opinion DOERR, full of Prussian caste pride, is afraid that the young and vigorous SKORZENY, with his legendary reputation may diminish his (DOERR's) prestige.

Classification

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

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