

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

AIR

MEMO-

30 November 1951

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Chief, FIM

Operational

Alleged Penetration of RIS Net

REF: KARL 4027

1. The analysis of the "Skorzany-RIS Net" complex in KARL 4027 appears to be quite sound. The outstanding fact at present is the rate at which evidence is being offered to all interested agencies - Zipper, VS, U. S. authorities. It therefore appears that we can afford to delay any active steps until all the interested agencies have been able to compare notes and to analyze the "reports" offered. Up to now, at least, there has been no proof that the net has actually succeeded in obtaining any classified information; on the contrary the reports to date appear to contain only the sort of information and surmises that a reasonably competent journalist could get and make.

2. Since the net seems to be operating in the British zone, the necessity for close cooperation with the British is clear. The latter may well be able to establish through surveillance and technical coverage whether the net has in fact passed information to the RIS.

CTA — 3. The conclusion that Skorzany is playing only a peripheral role is justified. In reply to your question, there is general, not specific, interest on a high level in ZACABAL in this man as a result of his several daring exploits. This fact has no connection with past surmises that he might be in ZACACTUS — OPC employ. The fact that the interest exists does not mean that you are required to direct your attention toward any particular goal for him. On the contrary, we are only concerned with obtaining objective information on Skorzany's capabilities which will allow an accurate decision on his usefulness. The mass of opinion to the effect that Skorzany is overrated, uncontrollable, etc. is quite probably correct, but we would be justly criticized if we neglected this opportunity to get objective data on a figure of such notoriety.

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

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

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