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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

DST-2661



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URGENT

To: Deputy Director, Plans
Central Intelligence Agency
Attention: Mr. Frank J. Wisner
Subject: Request for information from CIA's files

The Department would appreciate your Agency's providing on an urgent basis all the information available on the following-named individuals:

1. Dr. Wilhelm Voss, German, born July 1, 1896, at Zostock, Germany. During the Nazi period Voss became one of Germany's most powerful industrialists. He served at various times as President of the Reichswerke AG fuer Waffen- und Maschinenbau Hermann Goering, as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of AG Skoda Werke Pilsen, Prague, and as Deputy Chairman of the Board of Directors of Rheinmetall Borsig AG. At present Voss is reportedly serving as an advisor to the Egyptian Government.

2. Joachim Georg Adol. Hartslet, German, born April 15, 1913, in Berlin-Steglitz, Germany (in addition to SO-DS-60841a, dated January 27, 1953). Hartslet and the men named below are associated with Dr. Voss in Egypt.

3. Kurt Ferchel (or Ferchl), German, born June 15, 1906. Former lieutenant-colonel or colonel in the German Army. Served for a period as a member of the German General Staff. In 1944 he was reported missing on the Eastern Front.

4. Gerhard Mertins, German, 32 years of age. Former major in the German paratroops.

5. Also, it would be appreciated if your Agency would provide all available information concerning Otto Skorzeny's activities in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. Skorzeny is the former German lieutenant colonel who was placed in charge of a "special missions" military detail and who is popularly remembered as the officer responsible for the kidnapping of Benito Mussolini from the hands of Italian partisans after Mussolini's fall from power.

INDIA

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