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OMV-19

## OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE Date: August 2, 1956

FROM: Ambassador, Madrid

SUBJECT: VIASAS: Request for Advisory Opinion; Case of Mr. Otto SKORZENY

REF: -

The former German SS Colonel Otto SKORZENY, alias Rolf STEINBAUER, has applied for a non-immigrant visa to visit Canada. The Canadian Embassy in Madrid has queried the Foreign Minister in Ottawa for an advisory opinion regarding his case. Mr. Skorzeny desires also to visit the United States en route or after arrival in Canada, and may make application for tourist visa either in Madrid or at a consular post in Canada. Preliminary informal approach has already been made at this Embassy. Mr. Skorzeny stated verbally that he does not desire to make a formal application for visa if he is to be refused.

In advance of a possible application for visa, the Embassy considers it advisable to submit the case for advisory opinion under Paragraph 2-a, CA-1233, August 19, 1954. In accordance with instructions contained in CA-1233, the following available information is submitted:

- a. Name: Otto SKORZENY, aka Rolf STEINBAUER.
- b. Type of visa: Tourist (B-2).
- c. Place of birth: Vienna, Austria.
- d. Date of birth: June 12, 1903.
- e. Occupation: Retired soldier, businessman.
- f. Nationality: Originally Austrian, then German. Reported in 1951 traveling on Spanish passport issued under name of Rolf Steinbauer as a stateless person.
- g. Identifying data: Unknown.
- h. Places of residence: Present: 70 Lopez de Hoyos, Madrid. Previous: Germany and Austria.
- i. Affiliations: Joined Austrian Nazi Party in 1932, and SS in 1934. Rumored associations in post-war period with various neo-Nazi organizations throughout the world.
- j. Names of parents: Father-Anton Skorzeny, an engineer in Vienna. Mother's name not known.
- k. Family status: Allegedly married to a Countess Ilse von Finkelstein. Former wife Anna Skorzeny, nee Linhart, resided in 1952 in Salzburg, Austria.
- l. Destination: Specific intention unknown.
- m. References: None.

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- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(c)
- (2) (A) Privacy
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- n. Accompanying persons: None stated; possibly, Ilma von Finkelstein, who has previously held U.S. visa.
- o. Remarks: Information available here reveals a large amount of historical reference to Mr. Skorzeny's activities during World War II and unconfirmed reports regarding his recent and present activities are on file. These latter activities reportedly involve him in intelligence peddling, Spanish arms sales to Egypt, formation of neo-Nazi groups designed to seize power in Germany through a coup d'etat, and other business activities of varying degrees of legality. He is reportedly associated with the following business enterprises: the Otto Wolf Steel Trust; Placencia Arms Company, Placencia, Spain; Dramil Plastics Company, San Sebastian, Spain; Sociedad Española de Construcción Naval; and others. He has high level connections in the Spanish Government and is closely associated with many Germans such as Otto Strasser, Hans Ulrich Rudel, Willie Messerschmidt, and General Baland. He also allegedly made a visit in 1951 to one Lothar Rafael in Vienna, Austria, who was known to the U.S. Army intelligence sources as an Austrian businessman on the sales force of the Upravlenie Sovetskoi Industrii v Austria (Administration of Soviet Industry in Austria). The Canadian Embassy has revealed that Mr. Skorzeny's present trip is in conjunction with a business venture being organized by a Mr. Hugo Stinnes, the nature of which is not known here.

The Embassy withholds recommendation on this case and requests that the Department render an advisory opinion based on the more complete files available in Washington. It is suggested that Ottawa and appropriate consular posts in Canada be informed of the decision.

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L. E. Dubocansky:sds

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