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25 January 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT : Otto SKORZENY

REFERENCE  9937 (IN 16562), copy attached

1. The following background regarding Otto SKORZENY is forwarded in response to reference which indicated that  would seek advice from COPS regarding SKORZENY.

2. The complex international business and political activity of SKORZENY has been the subject of intermittent inquiries over the past 15 years. At present SKORZENY, who resides in Madrid, is handled as a low priority CE case and, in effect, is in a state of operational quarantine so far as contact with Station personnel is concerned. Aside from recent unconfirmed reports on SKORZENY's involvement with sundry ultra-rightist groups and personalities, including Katanga's Moise TSHOMBE, and insistent reports on his hand in international arms traffic, these specific confirmed activities of SKORZENY are cited as typical:

a. In the period January-May 1960 SKORZENY unsuccessfully sought support in Madrid from CIA on behalf of the anti-De Gaulle French ultras. At that time he claimed that he had contact with persons among the French ultras who knew of a secret agreement between De Gaulle and Khrushchev. CI/ICG prepared a paper which concluded that SKORZENY, witting or unwitting, was probably being used as a channel for black propaganda designed to weaken De Gaulle and encourage official American distrust of the French Government.

b. SKORZENY in 1960 was in contact with the Austrian terrorist groups operating in the Tyrol through Dr. Norbert Burger, an Austrian right-wing leader with alleged contact with the French ultras.

c. SKORZENY still travels to Germany and still has numerous contacts within the Socialist Reich Party (SRP) a neo-Nazi organization.

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

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3. Since SKORZENY's alleged assets and overtures in the past have failed often to check out or to prove of more worth than trouble, and since SKORZENY's desire for a visa to the U.S. injects itself in any contact, it is recommended that no effort be made to assist SKORZENY to the U.S. or to establish any further CIA contact with him. It is our best estimate that he is not now engaged in intelligence activities of interest to us.

Chief  
Western Europe Division

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