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2/7/69

SAC, IC

MURKIN

THREE PAGE HISTORY OF ODESSA ATTACHED. HEINZ MANGER IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO APPROXIMATELY SAME TIME AS RAY. - P -

FBI

Date: 2/7/69

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P  
 MURKIN  
 OO ME

Re Kansas City airtel to Director, 1/30/69  
 On 2/6/69

\_\_\_\_\_, Kansas City, Mo. furnished three page history of an organization called Odessa. Xerox copies are attached. \_\_\_\_\_ advised that he is furnishing the Bureau this information because of the coincidence of a member of Odessa, a \_\_\_\_\_ being in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico at approximately the same time as JAMES EARL RAY. Also RAY was in Lisbon Portugal where one of the headquarters of Odessa is reportedly located. \_\_\_\_\_ stated that he is a student of Post World War II German history and corresponds with people in Germany re Odessa. He again stated that a painting given to \_\_\_\_\_ Leawood, Ks. by \_\_\_\_\_ when they were in Puerto Vallarta was signed by \_\_\_\_\_ stated that \_\_\_\_\_ did not do this painting he bought it from a street vendor, however he signed it for the \_\_\_\_\_ advised that he bought the painting from the \_\_\_\_\_ made photographic copies of the signature thereon and sent them to the Ministry of Justice in West Germany and also to the CIA in order to verify the fact that \_\_\_\_\_ is the same individual that was a former SS General.

- ③ - Bureau (RM)
  - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
  - 1 - Kansas City
- RBH:as  
(6)

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25 FEB 10 1969

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

*Handwritten:* DIV-5  
 OIP/ME

*Handwritten:* Copy of  
 TEL  
 Del  
 2/10/69

KC 44-760

The Kansas City Office has been attempting to interview [redacted] Leawood, Kansas, however they have recently moved from their address at [redacted] and a new address is not as yet known. He has an office at [redacted] Kansas City, Missouri, which is closed at this time and the neighbors feel he may be away on vacation, but could furnish no additional information.

Kansas City will continue efforts to locate and interview the [redacted] to determine the exact date they were in Puerto Vallarta, any additional information they may have re [redacted] Odessa or JAMES EARL RAY.

Any other leads in this matter being left to the discretion of the OO, or Bureau.

ODESSA - Organisation der SS-Angehörigen (Organization of SS Members)

The Organization: formed in 1947, initially to provide escape facilities and monies for former SS men fleeing prosecution in Germany. It established escape routes which converged at Memmingen in the Allgäu (Bavaria), a secluded, heavily wooded area adjacent to the borders of Austria and Switzerland. At Memmingen routes branched off in two (2) directions, one to Lindau on Lake Constance; the other to Innsbruck and across the Brenner Pass to Italy. In 1947 an "export-import" company was set up in Lindau with representatives in Cairo and Damascus. Much of this early activity with escapees was managed by a German traveling on a Syrian passport and calling himself Haddad Said. His actual identity is (former) Hapsturnführer Franz Röstel, one of ODESSA's main organizers. Röstel now commutes between a German settlement in Uruguay and Spain's Costa Brava where many former SS leaders have vacation homes. ODESSA maintains valuable connections with and, in most cases, officials within certain South American governments as well as Spain, Egypt, Syria, Portugal.

Funding: A secret meeting was held 10 August 1944 at the Hotel Maison Rouge in Strasbourg and among those in attendance were: Emil Kirdorf, coal industrialist, Kurt von Schroeder, Köln (Cologne) banker, Fritz Thyssen, steel industrialist, Georg von Schnitzler, I. G. Farben complex, and Krupp von Bohlen of Krupp Works. These industrialists, all of whom had heavily supported Hitler, were convinced by this point (Aug., 1944) that Hitler would ultimately be defeated. Their interest was in making long range plans for safeguarding assets from Allied confiscation. At this point large-scale transfers of looted property and funds were made to neutral and non-belligerent countries. A U.S. Treasury Department report in 1946 reported that 750 companies had already been set up by Germans, with German money, in the following distribution: 112 in Spain, 58 in Portugal, 35 in Turkey, 98 in Argentina, 214 in Switzerland, and 233 in various other countries. The list is far from complete.

Purpose: According to Simon Wiesenthal, the world's foremost expert on ODESSA activity has said, "...before the war ended the Nazis set up large, hidden funds for the building of a Fourth Reich." Papers from the organizational meeting in Strasbourg now in U. S. Army hands, the following statement was recorded in the minutes: "Germany has already lost ... From now on Germany's industry must prepare for the economic postwar campaign. Every industrialist must seek contacts with firms abroad, each for himself, without creating attention. And that is not all. We must be ready to finance the Nazi Party, which will be forced to go underground for some time."

Activities: (among others) financing Nazi escapees and families of SS men, (2) financing prominent lawyers to defend men accused of SS crimes whereas

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most of these defendants have no apparent source of income, (3) organization of a massive legal-aid effort for German war criminals released to Germany by Russia in 1955. After their arrival from the Soviet Union at Camp Friedland, near Göttingen, they received the names and addresses of West German lawyers and were ordered to report to them, (4) finances certain German publishers who prepare massive printings of neo-Nazi propaganda literature, (5) finances meetings of former Nazis throughout the world. One took place in 1966 in Milan. The participants arrived from all over the world with their travel and hotel expenses paid, (6) financing of subversive activities of neo-Nazi groups in several countries.

Example of ODESSA Wealth: While this is only one example of ODESSA's treasure, it is significant. In the village of Altaussee (Austria) centered in what Hitler called the Alpenfestung (Alpine Fortress), where a last heroic stand against invading Allies had been planned, Gestapo Chief Ernst Kaltenbrunner moved at Christmas-time, 1944. Some hospitals were built in the area and transportation of Reich treasures was begun, these deliveries being made to the hospitals (which had no patients) in the Altaussee region by Red Cross ambulance. After March, 1945, the SS began a methodical listing of assets transported to Altaussee. One list fell into Allied hands concerning the shipments made by Kaltenbrunner from Berlin to Altaussee. The following items are listed:

- 50 kilograms of gold bars
- 50 cases of gold coins and gold articles, each case weighing 100 pounds
- 2 million American dollars
- 150 million pounds in English banknotes
- 2 million Swiss francs
- 5 cases, 100 lb. each, filled with diamonds and precious stones
- 1 stamp collection, valued at 5 million gold marks

This and hundreds of other shipments were buried around Altaussee or thrown in Töplitzsee, a nearby lake. Adolf Eichmann lived in Altaussee before fleeing to Brazil. It is known that he took 8 cases of treasure with him. As late as 1963 diving operations were observed at Töplitzsee. The Austrian government finally (in 1963) conducted its own investigation into the lake and found several cases of English banknotes. Experts estimate the total initial wealth of ODESSA at between \$750 million and \$1 billion.

Examples of Movement by Better-Known ODESSA Personnel: Heinz Mengele, research physician at Auschwitz, who specialized in experiments with children's eyes, attempting to change eye-colors to blue by injection of special dyes. Charged with murdering hundreds of children personally and in most painful ways. In 1954 Mengele was discovered (details on request) in Argentina where he was practicing medicine in Buenos Aires. Mengele was informed by his family in Freiburg (Germany) that a warrant for his arrest had been issued. He fled to Paraguay and was immediately granted Paraguayan citizenship (27 Nov. 1959 by

governmental decree #809, using the name Jose Mengele). After a brief return to Argentina he went to Bariloche on the Chilean frontier. He then went to Alexandria, Egypt where (former) Obersturmbannführer Schwarz, who manages the ODESSA affairs in Egypt, rented a yacht and took Mengele to the Greek island of Kythnos, near Crete. He then was taken to Barcelona, made a visit back to Günzburg in Germany, took up residence in 1962 at Fulgencio Morena 507 in Asuncion, Paraguay, and finally moved to the estate of Alban Krug near Encarnacion, Paraguay, near the Brazilian border. Today he lives in the restricted military zone between Puerto San Vicente on the Asuncion-Sao Paulo highway; between the highway and the fortress of Carlos Antonio Lopez on the Parana River. He is not far away from the residence of the world's most wanted war criminal, Martin Bormann, who lives in an impregnable fortress at Colonia Waldner 555, Parana, Brazil.

Some Observations: ODESSA is the sort of organization which, because of the political philosophy of its members, would see profit in chaos and confusion in democratic countries. Its members still dream, however imprudently, of a return of German superiority in world affairs. This is best accomplished when it appears that democratic institutions lack the internal controls to survive, i. e., civil disobedience, riots, race wars, etc. But most importantly, it has the resources to finance most any undertaking. An organization which offered \$100,000. to anyone who would murder Simon Wiesenthal, the man who tracked down Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, is capable of at least equally unfortunate interventions in other situations.

About the Africa Question: The Nazis and the Arabs have always gotten along well. Today, in the Nigeria/Biafra War, Egyptian military personnel, particularly pilots, are participating in the Nigerian Army's battle with the secessionist Biafrans. ODESSA members are known to have been in Addis Abbaba, Ethiopia. They are throughout Egypt and the Arab countries of the Middle East. They might very well find a profitable gain in influence and, perhaps, territory by financing intrigues and insurrections in sub-Saharan Africa. Their presence is very much felt in the Republic of South Africa where many government officials are former SS men. Certainly an expansion of South Africa's and Rhodesia's apartheid racial policy would be in the interests of men dedicated in mind and money to the creation of totalitarian states.

[REDACTED]

Dale L. Pollock