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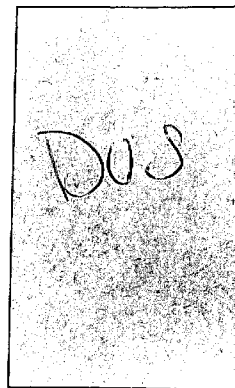
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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT
OBTAINED FROM RECORDS OF OFFICE OF SECURITY,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE (USDS)**

The file of GEORGE DE MOHRENSCHILDT in the Office of Security, USDS, was reviewed on March 5 and 6, 1964.

By letter dated August 16, 1957, Civil Service Commission (CSC) advised the Office of Security, USDS, that the International Cooperation Administration (ICA) had requested CSC to conduct a full field investigation of him under Public Law 298. CSC in turn requested the Office of Security to perform overseas investigation regarding DE MOHRENSCHILDT.

By letter dated October 28, 1957, the Office of Security forwarded to CSC copies of their reports of investigation of DE MOHRENSCHILDT conducted in Belgium, Mexico and Venezuela.

The results of investigation conducted in Belgium appear in the report of ROGER STEINKOLK, Security Office, Bonn, dated September 26, 1957, and covers investigation in Brussels, Belgium, during the period September 9 to 26, 1957. Pertinent details of that report are as follows:

"A check by a controlled American source revealed the following information:

"A usually reliable confidential source -- who has identified subject as GEORGES VON MOHRENSCHILDT, born April 4, 1911 at Mozyrz, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) -- has furnished the following report.

"Baron GEORGES VON MOHRENSCHILDT, a journalist of Polish nationality, lived in Belgium from October 8, 1930 to July 5, 1938. He is the son of SERGE and ALEXANDRA, nee ZAPOLSKI. His last address here before his departure for the United States was 84 chaussee de Malines, Antwerp.

"VON MOHRENSCHILDT was enrolled as a student at the 'Institut Superieur de Commerce d'Etat' at Antwerp, where he is reported to have received a degree in finance and commercial science in 1933. He then did journalistic work for the Polish journal 'Slowo' of Wilno, while attending the Universite de l'Etat at Liege (faculty of commercial science and economics) where he passed his first doctorate examination with distinction in 1935. At the same time he completed his studies at the 'Institut Superieur' of Antwerp, where he is reported to have obtained a degree in 'sciences consulaires'.

"On 4 November 1931 subject was sentenced by the Tribunal Correctional of Antwerp to 8 days in prison on charges of resisting a police officer; 182 francs fine or 8 days imprisonment on charges of drunkenness and use of a false name. Sentence was suspended pending completion of a 3-year probationary period.

"Subject did not engage in politics."

The results of investigation conducted in Mexico appear in the report of KENNETH W. KNAUF, dated October 21, 1957 at Mexico, and covers investigation conducted in September and October, 1957.

Pertinent details of that report are as follows:

"An inquiry at the Secretaria de Gobernacion (Mexican Immigration Service) supplied the following information:

"George Sergius VON MOHRENSCHILDT entered Mexico through the port of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas on June 5, 1941 under a six month visa. His visa and immigration card were No. F-5-14 No. 543125 dated June 5, 1941.

"The record further shows that he is of Polish nationality (1941) and he came to Mexico with the object of photographing scenes for a motion picture depicting the folklore of Mexico. At the time of his entry he presented Secretaria de Gobernacion a re-entry permit to the United

States No. 1327807 and his immigration No. 16057 and listed his Mexican address as Paseo de la Reforma No. 237. He also presented two bank letters, one from Leishman, S.A., Madero No. 17, Mexico, D.F. dated November 25, 1941 which reported that he had a net worth of some 32,000 pesos in Mexican currency. The second letter of worth was issued by the Banco de Comercio, S.A. located on Venustiano Carranza #42, Mexico, D.F. which indicated that he had a check balance as of May 9, 1941 of \$1,214.00. In an official communication to the Secretaria de Gobernacion from the Mexican Consul in Laredo, Texas designated as 'Strictly Confidential' information read as follows:

'George Sergius Von Mohrenschildt has been closely watched by the North American secret police and by the immigration service agents who suspected that his activities are in a certain way related with espionage.

'I have known that in Corpus Christi, Texas he was arrested and questioned for having taken photographs at a naval base near Aransas Pass, Texas.

'A woman by the name of Lidia Pardo Vda. de Larin, a Mexican citizen is his companion with whom he lives as man and wife according to information by the U.S. police.

'Von Mohrenschildt, who represented himself to be born in Mosyr, Russia, on April 17, 1911, carried Polish passport No. 743462 and visa #167 issued by the Mexican Consulate in Laredo, Texas. He is traveling in a Chrysler convertible automobile, gray, with license No. 5N99-37, State of New York.

'According to his declaration he came to Mexico to film typical Mexican scenes under contract with 'Fact Films', a New York organization. He has submitted the names of Lic. Miguel YARZA as a person who will submit references for him. Lic. YARZA has residence on Tiber No. 6, Mexico, D.F.'

"The foregoing letter is signed by one Sr. Javier OSORNIO C., Mexican Consul, Laredo, Texas.

"Another official letter in the files of the Subject at Gobernacion reads as follows:

'The Mexican Embassy in Washington informs Gobernacion that the authorities of the Department of State have not found any derogatory information against Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT and so in this implicit manner the information against this man by our Consul in Laredo, Texas is annullable.'

"The record at Gobernacion further shows that DE MOHRENSCHILDT departed Mexico April 6, 1942, crossing the U.S. border at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. Further, he sent a letter of application to the Secretaria de Gobernacion dated in Washington, D.C. June 17, 1942 requesting permission of the Mexican immigration service to enter Mexico as a resident for one year and stated that his object for this visit was to establish a business organization in collaboration with one Sr. Jose A. HELGUERA. In this application to Gobernacion he stated that he had applied for his first papers for U.S. citizenship and he was exempt from the military service of the United States.

"On July 22, 1942 a Mrs. Lidia PARDO Camargo requested permission of Secretaria de Gobernacion for Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT's entry into Mexico for the purpose of marrying the Subject. The record further shows that on August 14, 1942 the officials at Gobernacion issued a negative answer to Mrs. PARDO Camargo. An entry in that record indicates that as of September 4, 1942 the Subject was in Mexico illegally but departed within one week.

"These Mexican Government records indicated that the Subject was born on April 17, 1911, marital status: single and he listed his profession as a motion picture producer and his native language as Russian. He further indicated that he spoke, English, Spanish and German and his nationality in 1941-1942 was Polish but that he had applied for U.S. naturalization.

"His Mexican references as shown by the Mexican Immigration Service are as follows:

"Lic. Miguel YARZA, Tiber #6 with professional offices at Ave. Madero #16.

"Mr. Arcady BOYTLER, shown as General Manager of Arcadia Cinema, Balderas #39 and residence as Monte Urales #609, Mexico, D.F.

"Sr. Jose A. HELGUERA who resided at Marsella #26 during the years 1941-1942.

"Sra. Lidia PARDO Camargo Vda, de LARIN, residing at Paris #127.

"The following are places of residence of the Subject during his stay in Mexico City in 1941:

"Dinamarca Street #42 (Washington Apartments Hotel)

"Paseo de la Reforma #237

"A representative of the Security Adviser's office interviewed Mr. Miguel YARZA who stated that he had first met the Subject through Mrs. Lidia PARDO during the year 1941. He stated that he was unable to give firm references concerning the Subject because he had met him on two occasions when they had talked about Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT's immigration into Mexico. This informant stated that it had come to his attention through some now unidentifiable person, that Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT was a German spy and he was under the impression that Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT had married Lidia PARDO and that they had lived in Cuernavaca for some time. He stated that on another occasion he had met Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT at a party in New York and at that time Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT was passing himself off to the assembled people as a baron. However, Mr. YARZA stated that he was sure Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT was not engaged in any type of business in Mexico because he was here as a non-immigrant and therefore not eligible to legally engage in business in Mexico.

"An unsuccessful attempt was made to interview Mr. Arcady BOYTLER, General Manager of Arcadia Cinema, but as of the date of this report no information was obtained.

"The third person listed as a reference of the Subject at Gobernacion, Mr. Jose A. HELGUERA, is no longer living at his given address of Marsella #26. However, his brother, Mr. Ignacio HELGUERA, was located at an address at Isabel la Catolica #89, who advised that his brother was now living and working in the United States and was employed at the University of North Carolina, P.O. Box 786, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This source of information stated that Mr. Jose A. HELGUERA has been living in the United States for the past ten years.

"Inquiry was made in the Washington Apartment Hotel which was given by the Subject as one of his addresses in Mexico. One Mr. Ruben GREENE, administrator of the hotel, stated that he had been working in this capacity since 1940 but he does not remember the Subject or Mrs. Lidia PARDO. Mr. GREENE stated that the hotel did not keep records back to 1941 and 1942 and when presented with a picture of the Subject again stated that he did not recall the Subject.

"One Mr. Eduardo ELIZONDO was contacted and stated that he is the owner of the building located at Paseo de la Reforma #237 which was the second of two addresses listed by the Subject at Secretaria de Gobernacion as his residence in Mexico. Mr. ELIZONDO stated that he remembered the Subject very well because he was living with Mrs. Lidia PARDO Vda. de LARIN at Reforma #237. He described Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT as an adventurer who prefers to live on a woman's money and during the time that he resided with her at that address the Subject never worked but traveled around Mexico as tourists. Mr. ELIZONDO also stated that he had heard that Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT was a German spy but was unable to give any basis or verification of this statement. The informant stated that Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT and Sra. Lidia PARDO Vda. de LARIN were living in 'concubinage' and that she supported him and paid all of the bills because he had no income of his own. He stated that since the couple had left the building he had never heard anything more concerning Mr. DE MOHRENSCHILDT but he had known that Mrs. Lidia PARDO Vda. de LARIN had married an additional three men and volunteered the information that she was a woman of some wealth and had very good influence with Mexican Government officials.

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a person working in the oil fields. According to Mr. Segovia, the applicant left the company on good terms, and then went to work on a project in California. Mr. Segovia's knowledge of the applicant was based on both social and business association.

"According to Mr. Segovia, the only other person in Caracas who might possibly remember the applicant was the former president of Pantepec, Mr. Warren Smith of Quinta Los Arcos, Country Club. On September 27, 1957, Mrs. Smith advised that her husband was in the States and could be reached at 447 East 57th Street, Apartment 6B, New York 22, New York.

"Mr. E.H. Adkins, Coordinator, Servicio Industriales, Creole Petroleum Corporation, advised on September 11, 1957 that there was no record of employment of the applicant in the files of Creole Petroleum Corporation.

"In a letter dated September 25, 1957, Seguridad Nacional, national security and law enforcement agency of the Venezuelan Government, stated applicant was not listed in their files."