

● PSF

Safe: Hohenlohe

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General

Lock Box

October 28, 1941

MEMORANDUM

RE: PRINCESS STEFANIE VON HOHENLOHE
WALDENBURG, with aliases

Princess Hohenlohe has been a very close confidante of Fritz Wiedemann, the former German Consul General at San Francisco, and over a period of time has been suspected by the French, British and American authorities of being an international spy for the German Government. She is known to have very close connections with high officials of the Third Reich, is described as being extremely intelligent, dangerous and clever, as an espionage agent to be "worse than ten thousand men", to reputedly be immoral, and capable of resorting to any means, even to bribery, to gain her ends.

As Stephanie Richter, Princess Hohenlohe was born in Hungary in 1891. Her father is described by some to have been a small town dentist, by others an insignificant lawyer in Vienna, Austria. Her mother is reportedly a Jewish woman of very low birth.

Princess Hohenlohe entered the Ballet School of the Imperial Opera at Vienna around 1906 but did not continue this career after having met men who supplied her with a means of living. At the early age of seventeen she was very well known in the circle of wealthier men and extended her field of action to Berlin and Paris. She became the lady friend of Archduke Leopold Salvator, through whom she gained access to military circles during the World War and many of her "connections" date from those days. She reportedly forced Prince Hohenlohe Schillingfurst to marry her upon the claim that she was pregnant by him and thus obtained the title of "Princess", which she still uses. Doubt exists in the Hohenlohe family that her son, Prince Franz, is in fact a Hohenlohe. The Almanach de Gotha, 1939 Edition of Justus Perthes, verifies this information to the extent that it reflects the marriage of Stephanie Julianne Richter to Francois, Prince of Hohenlohe Waldenburg, in London, England, on May 12, 1914, and the birth of her son in Vienna, Austria, on December 5, 1914. She obtained a divorce in Budapest, Hungary, on July 29, 1920.

Following her divorce Princess Hohenlohe entered the field of international intrigue and, following her reputation as a "gold digger", endeavored to marry John Warden of the original Standard Oil family, and later became the mistress of Donald Malcolm, an international banker.

A photograph of Princess Hohenlohe, known to be in her possession, shows her in a group including Hitler, Goebbels and Fritz Wiedemann. She possesses an autographed photograph of Adolf Hitler inscribed "To my dear Stephanie", and by her own admissions has been an intimate friend of Hitler. She gave a tea for him on one occasion at Baden-Baden, and although she is reputedly Jewish, she is reported to have been serving as an emissary of Hitler on this occasion. In March of 1940 she was reported by a well informed and reliable source to be an important worker under Dr. Goebbels on German propaganda and to have been for some time prior to the war concentrating her energies through a society known as the Anglo-German Fellowship; and to have always enjoyed the close friendship of Fritz Wiedemann.

Princess Hohenlohe is reported on good authority to have been exiled from France in 1932 because of espionage activities, at which time she proceeded to London where she cultivated her old friendships and soon offered her services to the Nazi chieftains who realized the tremendous value of her connections to the Third Reich. She acted as intermediary between the Nazi leaders in Germany and the society circles in England, introducing Fritz Wiedemann to her "high class" friends in London in 1938 and acting as hostess to Henlein in London during the same year.

She appears to have played some role in arranging meetings between Lord Runciman and the Sudetan Nazis during the summer of 1938 and toward the end of 1938 was reported to have been in Syria with Wilhelm Fluegge, on which occasion they were both suspected of being Nazi agents. On the same trip she later went to Istanbul and was seen in the company of the son of Marshal Badoglio. Princess Hohenlohe is also known to be a personal friend of Goering.

Prior to her coming to the United States in 1939 Princess Hohenlohe was involved in a lawsuit against Lord Rothermere, in which she contended that Lord Rothermere had agreed to pay her \$12,000 a year for life. Lord Rothermere testified that he had paid her "around \$250,000 for less than six years' service", and her activities in behalf of Lord Rothermere involved her close associations with high Nazi officials and Lord Rothermere's interest in re-establishing a monarchy in Hungary with German assistance. The court reportedly termed a portion of the Princess' testimony in this litigation as "nebulous" and "unreliable", and judgment was entered in favor of Lord Rothermere.

A confidential source has reported that Princess Hohenlohe has in her possession a longhand notation on a scrap of paper, believed to be in Rothermere's own handwriting, reading, "I believe the Black

Shirts will rule Britain within three years", as well as communications between Hitler and Rothermere, transmitted through Princess Hohenlohe, in which Rothermere expresses his high esteem for Hitler and his interest in Hitler's success. Princess Hohenlohe claims to have conferred with Hitler in Rothermere's behalf on at least fifty different occasions.

It is rumored that Hitler gave to Princess Hohenlohe the Leopoldskron Castle in Salzburg, which had been confiscated from the German theater director Max Reinhardt, where lavish parties were held and where it is reported that the fate of Czechoslovakia was finally sealed; that Princess Hohenlohe joined in celebrating the fall of Czechoslovakia at this castle. Other sources, however, report that this castle was rented by Princess Hohenlohe as a residence with financial assistance from Lord Rothermere.

During the time the Baron Louis Rothschild was being held by the Hitler regime in Vienna, Austria, the Rothschild family, then in exile in Paris, was approached by a Swiss who claimed he was representing Princess Hohenlohe and that for sufficient monetary consideration she could effect the release of the Baron. This offer, however, was not accepted.

Immigration records reflect that Princess Hohenlohe first visited the United States in 1931. She returned to the United States on November 25, 1937, on the same boat as Fritz Wiedemann. On this occasion Princess Hohenlohe was present when Wiedemann was interviewed by representatives of the press at the time the ship docked, and she told him what to say in his statements to the press on that occasion. She last arrived in the United States on December 22, 1939, from London, England, on a non-immigrant visa to visit her son and indicated that she would remain for five months and intended to return to England. As late as October 1, 1940, it was learned through a confidential source that Princess Hohenlohe was undoubtedly in personal communication with individuals in Germany.

On May 29, 1940, Princess Hohenlohe met Fritz Wiedemann at Fresno, California, and they spent that night together in a cabin in Sequoia National Park as "Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winter" of San Francisco, California. From the Park they proceeded to San Francisco where Princess Hohenlohe resided at the residence of Fritz Wiedemann as his house guest. A confidential source reported that on July 19, 1940, Princess Hohenlohe mentioned to Wiedemann that she had received two letters from "Number 34 and Number 35" and requested instructions as to what Wiedemann wished to be done in the matter. She continued to reside at Wiedemann's house even though he moved his residence from Hillsborough, California, into the city of San Francisco.

Through manipulations of Princess Hohenlohe, conversations were arranged at San Francisco, California, between Fritz Wiedemann and Sir William Wiseman on October 1 and November 27, 1940, concerning a possible peace move between Germany and Britain. These conversations met with no success. It is interesting to note, however, that both conferences were dominated by Princess Hohenlohe and that in fact she proposed that she could approach Hitler as one possible solution toward effecting the proposed peace treaty. Wiseman, in reporting the conversations on November 27, 1940, mentioned that Princess Hohenlohe had referred to one Volkers, who was working for a bureau in Berlin headed by one Canaris. Canaris is reputedly one of the chiefs of the German intelligence service.

On September 3, 1940, Princess Hohenlohe, as Mrs. H. Warden, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, registered at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco. She checked out of the hotel on the same date and an immediate inspection of the room which she had occupied reflected that intimate relations had existed during the time that the room was occupied by "Mrs. Warden".

During early December of 1940 Princess Hohenlohe was endeavoring to obtain an extension on her visa. She secured an extension to January 11, 1941, apparently through the Hungarian Legation in Washington since Wiedemann is reported to have claimed he could do nothing for her as she was an Hungarian and not a German subject. Fritz Wiedemann advised her that she should submit a sailing date as to her contemplated departure since this would satisfy the Immigration authorities and she accordingly evidenced her intention to sail for Lisbon on January 11, 1941. On December 23, 1940, she began evidencing signs of nervousness and subsequently suffered from a "nervous breakdown" due, in part, to excessive self-administered sedatives. She apparently broke with Wiedemann and finally left his residence on December 30, 1940, taking an apartment in Palo Alto, California, under the care of Mrs. Velma Owler-Smith, an individual of pro-Nazi tendencies and a distributor of pro-Nazi literature, who was closely associated with Fritz Wiedemann.

On January 13, 1941, a deportation warrant was served on Princess Hohenlohe and \$25,000 bond was furnished by Mrs. Owler-Smith. Delay in her deportation was sought on the ground that she could find no country of refuge that would receive her and that her native land was dominated by the Nazis. On March 8, 1941, she was taken into custody by the Immigration authorities and on March 10, 1941, she was released in custody of Mr. I. F. Wixon, the District Director of the United States

Immigration and Naturalization Service at San Francisco. Wiedemann expressed the opinion in June of 1941 that reports to the effect that Princess Hohenlohe had revealed information harmful to him were merely a "blind" to effect her release.

Princess Hohenlohe left San Francisco, California, about July 1, 1941. As a result of reservations previously made by Major Lemuel B. Schofield, Director of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, United States Department of Justice, for "friends", Princess Hohenlohe took up residence in the Raleigh Hotel in Washington, D. C., on July 4, 1941, where she remained until July 28, 1941. It was reported that Major Schofield had succumbed to the tears of Princess Hohenlohe and become very soft hearted and that Princess Hohenlohe had remonstrated with him over the fact that he had not lived up to his promises.

Major Schofield makes his residence in the Raleigh Hotel and it has been reported through confidential reliable sources that on the occasions when Schofield would be in the hotel at the time the Princess stayed there, he spent all of his time with Princess Hohenlohe either in her room or in his own and on one or two occasions it was apparent that Princess Hohenlohe spent the entire night with Major Schofield since she was found in his room as late at 8:30 or 9:00 o'clock in the morning. Major Schofield and Princess Hohenlohe, according to the confidential sources, indulged in a great deal of drinking on these occasions.

About September 1, 1941, Princess Hohenlohe, together with her mother and son, rented a house at 612 Beverly Drive in the Beverly Hills section of Alexandria, Virginia, on which occasion the Princess used the name of Nancy White. As Nancy White the Princess was occupying this address as late as October 27, 1941.

Articles have appeared in the press to the effect that Princess Hohenlohe has furnished the Government with "some very interesting information". It is reported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has attempted for a considerable period of time to obtain a copy of the statement that Princess Hohenlohe allegedly made to Major Schofield, which reportedly justified allowing the Princess to remain in the United States. When a copy of this statement was finally furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a review thereof failed to indicate or reveal any information of an intelligence nature in any way justifying withholding the deportation of this woman.