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COUNTRY Syria/Germany  
SUBJECT German Officers in Syria

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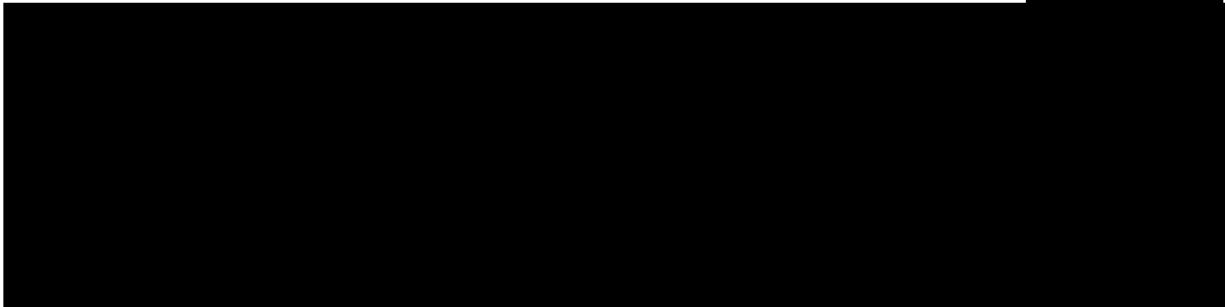
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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 1



1. Two hundred and thirty-five German officers had arrived in Syria as of the end of October 1948. Thirty-five of these officers were experts in civilian work, such as the manufacturing of textiles, factory management, etc., and were sent to the factories in Damascus. The rest of these Germans have been attached to the Syrian Army, and each of them was given an officer's rank by Syrian Army Headquarters.
2. About one-half of these officers came from prison camps in Egypt. They were sent to Syria by the Arab League after the League had investigated them. The remainder of the Germans were recruited by Syrians in Rome, Italy, and by a man named John Homsy who had been in Germany and who knew a number of these German officers personally. 25X1A2g  
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 Comment. In source with good contacts in the Syrian Army reported that Akram Tabarah, under the alias of Holmi, had been recruiting Germans and Yugoslavs.
3. Some of these Germans carried identity cards which had been signed by Fawzi Qawuqji when he was in Germany. These men were all investigated by Lieutenant Rada Istambuli, Assistant to the Commanding Officer of the G-2 section of the Syrian Army. Istambuli had at one time served with the Gestapo in Germany, source states.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.  
Next Review Date: 2008

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NO CHANGE in class.   
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