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IR-247-36

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

Further Information Concerning Activities of Egyptian Military Attache in Argentina

From: *[illegible]* Cairo, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Date: 1 October 1956 26 September 1956

Subject: General R. May, Asst. Air Attache *[illegible]* personal contact

Classification: *[illegible]*

Reference is transmitted further information concerning the Egyptian military attache to Argentina, General Hassan Fahmy Khalil's anti-Jewish activities, his connection with Dr. JOSEPH VAN DEN HART, and propaganda work in Argentina and is currently in Egypt in connection with the Suez Canal campaign.

[Signature]
Major General
USAF
Acting Air Attache

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Caira, Buenos Aires, Argentina IR-247-56

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1. Information from a local newspaper states:

JOHANN VON LEERS, well-known Nazi propagandist who later worked for Hitler, is presently collaborating in a 'hate' campaign of Egypt against Israel, according to information received today (27 August) from a Canadian correspondent in Cairo. In a dispatch from Cairo which caused his dismissal, WILLIAM STEVENSON, reporter for the Toronto 'Daily Star', said that he interviewed VON LEERS in the Egyptian capital. Following is an extract from his dispatch: 'Germans who have set Hitler's racial theories out of their heads, Germans dominated by Hitler, Jews, Germans who continue to fight ROSSINI's battle in the desert under the guidance of advisors to General MASSER are found in all parts of Egypt today. I did not meet one of them today, an ex-colleague of Dr. GOEBBELS, who later fled to Argentina, offered his services to the dictator of that country. It was JOHANN VON LEERS, Doctor of Philosophy and Professor of History in an East German University, with a long Nazi background. Professor VON LEERS speaks on his favorite topic, in which he specializes as a propagandist paid by MASSER. I quote here a statement of VON LEERS: "Israel is abnormal. It is not large enough nor fertile enough to support its Jewish population. It must disappear. It will cause problems. You ask why MASSER spends money and money allying Arabs outside of Egypt against Israel when there is so much trouble here, well, here is Israel. The Zionists are responsible for ninety per cent of the world press attack on MASSER and Egypt". VON LEERS, who occupies an official position that of the "chief of propaganda against Israel" told STEVENSON that he is a "traitor".

2. Information available to this office indicates that Dr. J. VON LEERS arrived in Argentina in 1950 and that he lived here under very bad circumstances. Supposedly from 1950 to 1954, he was occupied in giving lectures in ancient history and in French and German by private lessons. From 1954 to 1955 it was reported that he did a number of translations for the press secretary of the presidency and in this way was instrumental in participating somewhat in public information campaigns against the Jews in Argentina. Information available indicates that at the same time he was for the PERON government, he also was attempting to create problems for ANTONIO LEZAMA, former minister of Interior, who was a Jew and believed to be a Communist.

3. During 1954-1955 Dr. VON LEERS made contact with the Egyptian Embassy where he was hired by General HASSAN FAYOUZI with instructions to establish and conduct a Jewish campaign in Argentina. This campaign was such a success in the mind of General FAYOUZI that he offered VON LEERS a job reportedly at a very good salary in Egypt. He, therefore, left Argentina in February 1956 to take up residence in Cairo. General FAYOUZI stated that upon the publication of the above information concerning VON LEERS' activities in Egypt that he was very pleased with his selecting of this man and if the Western press could give so much play to this subject, he was not at all a valuable man. Approximately two weeks ago the family of Dr. VON LEERS departed Argentina for Egypt where they will join the doctor.

4. Information from contact who was acquainted with Dr. VON LEERS states that in Germany he had the reputation of being a very good historian but his activities in the Nazi propaganda field were very limited and he was used more in an advisory capacity than in an operational one.

Comments of Preparing Officer:

5. This information supports the facts given in the report that the activities in Argentina are of a anti-semitic nature. It is suggested that the information be watermarked at this time but it is known that General FAYOUZI has the reputation of being all of the attaches assigned to Argentina and also the Argentine military personnel due to his anti-semitic attitudes and his friendliness with the Russians.

J. M. ...
 Assistant ...

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