

# DISPATCH

TO: CHIEF OF MISSION, AMEMB (1000)

INFO:

FROM:

CHL: TEL: 212

SUBJECT: ARX005/Inter/CI

26 APR 1960

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Johannes von LEERS

ACTION REQUIRED

For Information

REFERENCES

ARX-1084, 4 March 1950

Headquarters files reveal voluminous traces on Johannes von LEERS, aka Umar Amin von LEERS, Hans A. LILKER, THUBERT, Frau. SCHWARZENBORN, Frau. The following is a summary of this information which may be passed to HINARDOCK:

1. ARX-10,934, 19 March 1950: Johannes von LEERS (born 25 January 1902, Viet-Lubbe bei Guben/Mecklenburg) presently resides in Cairo, Hadji 321, Rue U. Von LEERS went to the Gymnasium and studied law in Kiel, Rostock and Berlin. He chose the career of diplomat and belonged to the German Foreign Office until 1928. Then he switched to journalism and devoted himself to intelligence propaganda. In 1926 he became a member of the KSMV, and of the SA in 1932; in 1938 he became a member of the National Literary Chamber (RSK) and the National Press Chamber (RKN). He was appointed SS-Sturmabfuhrer in 1935 and in the meantime was chief editor of the NS-publication "Wille und Macht". He was also professor of Oriental Studies at the University in Jena. After the war he succeeded in escaping both Russian and American imprisonment. He stayed in Germany until circa 1950 and then emigrated to Argentina with his family. (Headquarters comment: It was here that he was reported as Hans A. LILKER and SCHWARZENBORN, Frau.) He was employed there by the publishers of the magazine "Der Weg" (The Way), which appeared monthly in Buenos Aires, and in 1954 he published "Reichsvergifter", a work which concerned the illegal activities of the German resistance before and after the second World War. Since early 1956 von LEERS has remained in Egypt. His main activity is that of Professor of German at the Cairo University Fund al-Amwar. He also holds an important position with an Egyptian radio program, "Stimme der Araber" and since 1956 has been engaged by the Egyptian Ministry of Information to translate and instruct a language course at a government school. He is occasionally entrusted with propaganda tasks by the Ministry of Information; Von LEERS has become a Mohammedan and has taken the first name of "Amin".

2. ARX-3634, 12 March 1959: C-3 Headquarters comment repeats the above information and adds the following: In the first half of 1956, he moved to Cairo, with his family, at the invitation of the UAR Government which desired to use his anti-Semitic background and experience to organize and strengthen its anti-Israeli propaganda program. His official position of von LEERS in the UAR Government was that of political and propaganda advisor in the Information Department of the Ministry of National Guidance. To cover these activities and to avoid embarrassment to itself, the UAR Government in 1956 arranged an appointment for von LEERS as a professor of language in Cairo University. He is also active in the Arab League and in 1956 was known as the "current Arab League representative for Germany in Cairo" and "Arab League Advisor on German matters". He writes articles for the propaganda department of the League for publication in German newspapers. Von LEERS is said to be a personality in the "European Popular Movement", an anti-American and anti-Soviet Fascist organization. He continues to write for the German neo-Nazi magazine "Der Weg", published monthly in Buenos Aires. The relations of German-born Dr. Johannes (UMAR Amin) von LEERS with the UAR Government, as advisor to the government

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an anti-Israeli propaganda, have improved since 1957. Since moving to Egypt in 1956 he has become widely known and is apparently considered the first-ranking German there in terms of confidence. He is persona grata with Ali SADEI, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Amr SADEI, president of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Council, Mohamed Abd-el-Khalik HASSANA Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economy and Commerce (Egyptian Region). The Algerian resistance movement is also of interest to von LIESS, and he advises ABD-el-KHALIK of information he receives relating to it. He helped German journalist Erich KUNZE to compile material for his book "Algeria in Flames". Von LIESS is writing a book, tentatively entitled, "The Fight for Freedom of the Peoples Oppressed by Colonialism". Von LIESS' interest of the West German Government and its policies is increasing. He is constantly pressing for the West German nationalist opposition to come to an agreement with the Soviet Union, on the theory that the Soviets should be brought in to clean up the West.

15 April 1960

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