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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
**AIRGRAM**

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Encl. No. 1  
to Bonn A-274  
FILE DESIGNATION

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HANDLING INDICATOR CONFIDENTIAL A-1626  
NO.

TO : Department of State  
INFO: Amembassy TEHRAN

FROM : Amembassy BONN DATE: July 26, 1968

SUBJECT : Biographic Report: Georg von LILIENFELD, FRG  
Ambassador-Designate to Iran  
REF : Tehran's A-721 of July 16, 1968

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1. Georg von Lilienfeld, Minister-Counselor of the German Embassy in Washington, who is to replace Dr. Josef Bach as Ambassador in Tehran (see refairgram), is one of the more familiar faces in German-American official circles. Born November 27, 1912 at Riga, Latvia, he was taken after WWI to Bavaria, grew up in Munich and studied at the Universities of Munich and Kiel as well as at the University of Riga. He first visited the US in 1934, as an exchange student at Harvard, then moved to New York City, where he remained until 1938.

2. Later in that year he returned to Germany, where he joined the FonOff and was assigned to the American desk, with a watching brief over US nationals in Germany including specific responsibility for the activities of Americans associated with Nazi propaganda directed abroad. Subsequently he was posted to Stockholm, then transferred to Rome shortly before the Allies liberated the city; he was evacuated along with the Mussolini Government contingents and was later interned in Italy. In May 1947 he was called to Washington to testify in criminal proceedings against some of the American nationals who had engaged in propaganda operations under his supervision. He remained in the US, was married in 1949 to an American citizen and then returned to Germany to resume government service with the newly-established

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Press and Information Office in the Federal Chancellery.

3. In April 1954 von Lilienfeld transferred to the Fonoff and moved into his old slot--or at least its formal counterpart--as officer in charge of North America (US-Canada) affairs. In this capacity he accompanied the late Foreign Minister, Heinrich von Brentano, on official visits to the US in September 1955 and February 1957, and was also a member of the late Chancellor Adenauer's party visiting Washington in the spring of 1956. Earlier (1952) he had been sent to the US on a duty trip and had also represented the Fonoff in 1954 as an observer at the Geneva Conference on Korea.

4. In September 1957 von Lilienfeld departed temporarily from his American specialty, moving to Ankara as Minister-Counselor and remaining there until the fall of 1961, when he returned to Washington to take up his present duties. Departmental officers may wish to comment further or supply additional details on von Lilienfeld's activity during his latest sojourn in Washington.

5. Officers who have been in contact with von Lilienfeld in his various capacities during the post-war period agree that he has been exceedingly friendly and cooperative with US officials, frequently asserting a high regard for the US and for Americans in general. There is, however, some divergence or ambiguity in the recorded impressions of von Lilienfeld's role as a member of the pre-war Fonoff. Von Lilienfeld has asserted, according to one account, that when Hitler declared war on the US he (Lilienfeld) decided that he could not in good conscience continue to supervise Americans in activities that would make them traitors to their own country, and that he urged such individuals under his direction to resign, warning them of the possible consequences if Germany should lose the war. He also asserted, in this version, that he resigned for these reasons from the Foreign Service and joined the armed forces. Subsequently, he claims, he was given credit by FBI interlocutors for refusing to give them any information other than that strictly applicable to the activities of the renegade Americans, and that his attitude was (in his interpretation) rewarded by an offer to remain in the US--which he accepted, as described above.

6. As against the above description of Lilienfeld's attitude, a biographic report prepared in Amembassy Bonn in May 1956 states: "Although removed from the German scene he appears

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to have followed with sympathy the rise of National Socialism in Germany and he has since been criticised for subsequently disavowing expressions of admiration he made at that time for the Nazi regime. On March 1, 1938 while still in the US he became a member of the Nazi Party, giving as his residence his New York address - 518 Fifth Avenue.

7. Von Lilienfeld is a slightly built man of medium height who looks rather older than his 55 years, with a deeply weathered face and a slight stoop; he is reportedly, however, athletically inclined and especially adept at tennis and skiing. He also enjoys horseback riding and hunting. He is said to enjoy exceptionally good rapport with the higher levels of the FonOff. He is fluent in both English and French and his wife, Margaret, also has a good command of German and French as well as her native English. They have five children, three boys and two girls, ranging from 3 to the late teens.

LODGE

*ds*

1938  
MARCH 1  
MEMBER OF THE  
NAZI PARTY  
518 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

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