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CLASSIFICATION

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DATE: JUL - 2 1953

FROM : Chief of Base, Bonn *R*

INFO: COM (Seppings)

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational/Intelligence

SUBJECT: SPECIFIC - Activity of German Military Experts in Egypt

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(KAPOK)

1. Attached are two translation copies of the four reports which CAUTKLA claims originated with source described in paragraph 4 of above reference.
2. In addition to your evaluation of these reports and an assessment of the source, we should also appreciate receiving specific questions to be answered by source as a test of his reliability.

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Attachments:

- A. No. *2/1*
- B. No. *2/2*
- C. No. *2/3*
- D. No. *2/4*

30 June 53

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INDEX

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No. Q/1.

12 June 1953

About the activities of the group of German
military experts in Egypt

3P

1. Studies for the Egyptian Operations Department

Although Egyptian authorities seem to be satisfied with the work accomplished by the Germans, at least in certain fields (see 3 below), it is once more apparent that the Egyptians are very distrustful people. It is apparent by two points:

- a. whenever the Germans are requested to work out operation plans and studies, the real problem in mind is not clearly defined. However, the over-all situation indicates (at the end of April 1953) that the Egyptian leaders seriously believe to be able to force the English out of the canal zone. (At the aforementioned moment resumption of guerilla warfare by volunteers has become a foremost topic of discussion)
- b. another indication for distrust on the part of the Egyptians is that the experts are never informed of activities ensuing from their operational studies.

As far as the infantry expert Colonel ^{Kunt} FERCHL is concerned, the Egyptian Operations Department, or at least ALI GAMAL, appreciate him greatly; they believe him to be the best German General Staff expert of operational matters. As a consequence he had been shown the secret material concerning a certain matter of Operations Planning before FAHRMBACHER explained the mission to the experts. It must be mentioned that FERCHL is the only one of those who had been invited by FAHRMBACHER to the meeting who does not belong to the "Interessengruppe FAHRMBACHER" (group concerned with, and backing up, FAHRMBACHER's interests) which is one of the groups which crystallized among the German experts. Also, the aforementioned evaluation of FERCHL is not unanimous; but it seems that this is due to personal reasons.

2. Inspections

According to (General) FAHRMBACHER, it was he who introduced the German inspection system into the Egyptian Army, namely, inspection of recruits, continual training inspection, participation in maneuvers, etc. At the beginning of April 1953, (General) HELMDACH (Training) was instructed to assume control in this matter and to prepare suggestions in writing. However, his suggestions do not meet with the approval of General IBRAHIM, Chief-of-Staff. Colonel HELMDACH has not been able to succeed anyway; however, a more suitable position is being sought for him as he had been employed with General FAHRMBACHER's personal assistance.

3. Egyptian Evaluation of the work accomplished by the Germans

The differences, described elsewhere, between (Dr.) Wilhelm VOSS, chief of the group of German experts, and General Wilhelm FAHRMBACHER, chief of the Tank Force, are even apparent in the reaction

+ 1 to EGNA 2194

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of either person to the evaluation of the German work on the part of the Egyptians. After a visit paid to Dr. VOSS by the Egyptian Liaison Officer (Lt. Col.) MOHIB and by the Egyptian (Major) AHMED ZAKI of the Organisations Department, Dr. VOSS describes the opinion of the Egyptians as follows, adding that this opinion is quite contrary to the impression General FAHRMBACHER had:

The Technical Office of the Quartermaster General is greatly satisfied with BOHMENT and his four assistants, and with the organization of the CIA, Central Inspectorate of Ammunition, e.g., with Dr. SCHULE and his two assistants. They noticed reasonable progress in the Test Combat Brigade in Huckstadt (Huckstep ?), e.g. in the work of Colonel FENCHL and eight other experts. The engineers are good, and the Parachute Section is making progress (one of the assistants there is HEUER). (Colonel) DIERSYER's work concerning mobilization is good (although this expert does not belong to the "Interessengruppe VOSS") according to Major FIKRI's report to Major ZAKI.

signed

But the Egyptians ask themselves what Oberst HEIMDACH (Training), O.G. FRICHERT (Organization) and the former "Abwehr" (counterintelligence) officer Ernst ZOLLING are doing. (These three belong to the FAHRMBACHER group.) He, Dr. VOSS, has been approached twice already by ZAKKANIA, Chief Intelligence Service, on behalf of ZOLLING, because ZOLLING is unable to establish relations, and because he speaks "abominable English", so that he is incapable of explaining his plans. Also, it is doubted whether ZOLLING is the right man for a counterintelligence agency (in contrast to a local or limited part organization). VOSS also thinks that he is not the right man, and that he will have to give him a "boss".

4. Additional fields for German experts

At the end of April 1953, the Egyptian "Liberty Party" has requested General FAHRMBACHER to find more German experts. The request was written on paper bearing the letterhead of the Liberty Party, and was signed by the Minister of Interior SOLIMAN HAFIZ.

The new fields for which experts are requested, are:

- a. organization of a Labor Service
- b. vacation camps for students
- c. organization of the State Youth
- d. guerilla warfare

General FAHRMBACHER, who emphasized that the request was made to him, not to Dr. VOSS, refused to find a guerilla expert, but promised to make an effort in regard to the other experts. He has already contacted the former Reichsarbeitsfuhrer HIE.L. FAHRMBACHER says that although the latter will not come to Egypt himself because of his advanced age and his poor health, but he will suggest suitable applicants. Although the expert who is at present staying in Egypt, Lieutenant SCHAUF (Infantry; during the national-socialist regime he was engaged in mobilizing the civilian population) has a certain experience in handling lower echelons of the MMMM Labor Service, he cannot be used for higher level work.

On the other hand, matters have reached an advanced stage in Egypt. The Liberal Party has asked a German, who maintains good relations with it, for his opinion on concrete matters. The afore-mentioned expert

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3 - Secret - Security Information

SCHAUP also submitted a memorandum, and his wife, who used to work in Reich Labor Service staffs, also works in this field. A good friend of the SCHAUP couple, Frau MANSOUR, must be mentioned who works in the Egyptian Women's Movement. Frau MANSOUR resides in Heliopolis, and is said to exert political influence over the Revolutionary Committee. It will seem to be certain that SCHAUP is trying to exchange his position of purely military expert for work in the politico-military field.

Speaking about additional fields of activities for German experts, the order should be mentioned of which the report on the REMER affair speaks, namely to find a suitable man to set up a general "Sicherheitshauptamt" (Security Agency). This order, given by the Egyptian ZAKARIA, chief of the Egyptian Intelligence Service, is remarkable also insofar as it was not given to General FAHRMBACHER, but to Dr. VOSS before the latter's trip to Germany in April of 1953, thus assigning to him a mission which is completely outside of his duties in the economic field.

The Egyptians want a centralized Security Agency resembling the various separate agencies centralized in Germany in 1944.

The first man about whom Dr. VOSS in Cairo mentioned SPRINGER, REMER's commissioner, was a certain SCHMITZ of the former Reichs-sicherheitshauptamt. After a while, another name was mentioned as a possible applicant, namely the former Oberregierungsrat and SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer in Amt VI of the Reichs-sicherheitshauptamt, (Dr) Theo PAFEREN (or a similar name), who is now employed by an export firm in Aachen.

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3P

REMER, the MUFTI, and the German experts in Egypt.

The efforts made by REMER (chairman of the neo-nazistic Sozialistische Reichspartei, SRP, which party has been declared illegal in the Federal Republic of Germany) to find an asylum in Egypt for himself and for his prominent friends with the assistance of his friends in Egypt, have caused quite a commotion in April among the German military experts in Cairo, and the reaction of the officers as well as their often rather violent clashes with each other were quite revealing. Using several reliable reports, and carefully weighing them, the following crystallizes in chronological order:

After having been imprisoned for a time, the doctors declare REMER physically unfit to stay in prison, for at least four weeks. Then he escaped from Germany with a false passport; at the beginning of April he was staying with a Marquess in the vicinity of Rome. Other important members of the SRP also escaped from Germany.

Then a certain SPRINGER was commissioned by REMER to find an asylum for him and for other SRP leaders for as long as political activities would be denied them in Germany. They also thought of entering diplomatic services in foreign nations. They thought of Egypt in the first place; and so SPRINGER came to Cairo at the beginning of April 1953.

SPRINGER is 35 years old; he was an SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer in Amt VI of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt. Later on he was a deputy in the Lower Saxony Landtag.

When he left Germany, he used a passport which was probably made out with a false date of birth and a false first name. In Rome, SPRINGER was given a letter of recommendation addressed to the MUFTI; and a certain Dr. BEISSNER who maintains very close relations with the MUFTI, arranged for the Egyptian passport formalities to be settled for SPRINGER by order of the MUFTI. Dr. BEISSNER used a go-between to send the passport to SPRINGER. This Dr. BEISSNER is, or at least was, the business partner of HERZLITT in Bonn, and the head of the HERZLITT office in Cairo, Sherif Pasha Street. It was Dr. BEISSNER who at the time introduced SKORZENY in Cairo.

Upon his arrival in Cairo, SPRINGER, by order of REMER, reported to Major Gerhard KERTINS. SPRINGER was the guest of the parachute expert HEUKE during his stay in Cairo. That must have been shortly before the 6th of April.

At about the same time, a certain HEITMANN (VON HEITMANN ?) arrived in Cairo, who spent much time with the MUFTI, stayed in the Hotel Heliopolis, and met SPRINGER several times. However, the simultaneous appearance in Cairo of these two men seems to have been accidental.

HEITMANN became a Mohammedan, assumed the name of HADJ MOHAMMED ABDUL SAHAD, is a great admirer of the MUFTI, and lives in Saudi Arabia (Jidda, P.O.B. 115). He seems to be a friend of King IBN-SAUD, and he declared to collaborate closely with Prince PRISAL. He is a good friend of Dr. MUELLEN, the physician of the royal family.

Upon SPRINGER'S arrival in Cairo, a rumor spread among the group of

att 2 in 297A-2197 Secret - Security Information

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German experts that REMER himself was in town. This rumor assumed such proportions that General FAHRMBACHER or the former "Abwehr" officer Ernst ZOLLING, or possibly both of them (see below), informed the German Embassy of REMER's presence in Kairo, which in turn caused Bonn to be informed. This step aroused extreme indignation among the other experts and caused much personal friction. In retrospect, events occurred as follows:

In the evening of 6 April 1953, HEUKE, together with his guest SPRINGER, paid a visit to ZOBEL, the assistant of the tank force expert Major General Otto MUNZEL, in whose house ZOBEL lives. General MUNZEL joined the party, and SPRINGER delivered his REMER's greetings. (The friendship between those two seems to date from the war times.) Apparently General MUNZEL concluded that REMER was in Egypt himself, and on the following day (7 April) made a confidential remark to that effect to General FAHRMBACHER, who passed this information "sub rosa" on to the Embassy. According to another version, it was ZOLLING who -- it is not clear whether by order of FAHRMBACHER or on his own initiative -- informed the Embassy. At any rate, FAHRMBACHER afterwards protected ZOLLING in this matter.

Dr. Wilhelm VOSS, chief of the group of German experts, must have learned of the matter immediately afterwards. He contacted the Embassy, and then sent his secretary Sepp TILPENBACHER to the MUFTI asking him to propeck REMER and his party friends out of Egypt into another country as the German-Egyptian relations must not be disturbed at this moment.

On 7 April in the evening, Dr. VOSS told some of the German officers approximately what follows: One of the "grosste Schweinerien (of the biggest mischiefs) ever experienced by him has happened. REMER of the SRP is said to be in Egypt, and ZOLLING has informed the German Ambassador of it. He, Dr. VOSS, has had an extremely severe controversy with General FAHRMBACHER who protects ZOLLING saying that the latter merely asked the Embassy whether or not they are aware of REMER's presence in Egypt, but that probably he, ZOLLING, had been wrongly informed. He, Dr. VOSS, of course immediately asked the Ambassador, and learned that ZOLLING had reported REMER's presence in Egypt as a fact. Why on earth does ZOLLING contact the Embassy? He is employed by the Egyptian Government, not by the Embassy.

One of the officers present threw in that REMER apparently was not in Egypt at all, but in Italy. Only a certain Herr SPRINGER had arrived in Kairo in order to make arrangements on behalf of REMER. Dr. VOSS would not believe it and said ZOLLING probably knew what he was saying. Now one of the officers offered to bring SPRINGER. SPRINGER, when this request was made to him in his quarters at HEUKE's, came to Dr. VOSS's house in the company of HEUKE, at approximately 1915 hrs.

In the course of the conversation Dr. VOSS inquired after old friends in the Reichssicherheitshauptamt, for instance after a certain SCHNITZ, whom he wished to get to Kairo to set up a general Egyptian "Security Agency".

Finally, they got down to the main issue, and SPRINGER reported what had happened to REMER and what his own mission was.

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Dr. VOSS explained that Egypt is not the right place for REMER and his party friends. SPRINGER mentioned that the MUFTI had already done much for them, and that the Egyptian Major SAADAT of the Revolutionary Committee had promised his assistance. However, if it was not believed to be the right moment to ask for an asylum in Egypt, then they were thinking of going to Syria. He, SPRINGER, was invited to see the MUFTI at 2030 hrs. that same night (7 April) and a solution would be found there. HEITMANN and Dr. BEIBNER would also be there.

Dr. VOSS then asked SPRINGER to give the MUFTI his best regards, and to keep him (VOSS) informed; at the same time he warned SPRINGER against HEITMANN.

Afterwards it was disclosed that the MUFTI had stated that Egypt was not a suitable place for REMER to stay at present; he suggested to take shelter in Damascus for the time being.

~~At an official meeting~~ in the morning of 8 April, General FAHRMBACHER informed some of the German officers, most of them members of his own "circle", that REMER and SPRINGER, "the former SS liaison officer of Himmler and Model", were in Cairo, and that REMER was even staying with one of the experts. General FAHRMBACHER warned his audience.

When afterwards FAHRMBACHER learned of the real situation, he was disappointed that he had not been informed immediately.

A few of the German experts, and the Egyptian First Lieutenant (Artillery) HAMDI met SPRINGER and HEITMANN in the evening of that same day (8 April). They were in extreme agitation about ZOLLING having informed the German Embassy.

HEITMANN said that "this German Ambassador" (PAWELKE) is a "gans grosses Charakterchwein" (a great big swine). He (PAWELKE) had after the war worked for the French Intelligence Service, and several good Germans had lost their means of existence because of him. (He said that) these affairs have not yet come to an end. First Lieutenant HAMDI, who has connections with the Revolutionary Committee and with the Egyptian Colonel ZAKKARIA, the chief of Intelligence Service, said he would file a complaint with high Egyptian authorities about the fact that the intelligence expert ZOLLING, while in Egyptian service, turned to the German Embassy in the REMER affair. SPRINGER was quite shaken by ZOLLING's attitude "which will not be forgotten".

On 14 April REMER was supposed to pass through Alexandria, travelling from Italy to Damascus by boat (presumably the ESPELIA), and SPRINGER was to join him on the boat in order to proceed together with him on the same day. SPRINGER apparently left for Alexandria for that end.

It is not yet known whether or not Damascus is the final destination of those two, or whether the MUFTI and HEITMANN will offer them an asylum in Saudi-Arabia.

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15 June 1953

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Otto SKORZENY's efforts to do business in Egypt

Otto SKORZENY's efforts to do business in Egypt are due to his business relations with Herr HERZLETT in Bonn. SKORZENY owns an industrial agency in Madrid.

He was in Kairo from 13 to 30 January 1953. He was introduced there by a certain Dr. BEISSNER, the head of HERZLETT's agency in Kairo, Sherif Pasha Street, in the same building where the German-Egyptian Chamber of Commerce is housed. Dr. BEISSNER's wife is a secretary in that office. Dr. BEISSNER keeps in very close contact with the MUFTI.

In April 1953 HERZLETT had, for unknown reasons, been denied an entry visa for Egypt. Suddenly Dr. BEISSNER declared that the difficulties for HERZLETT had been overcome, and that he would soon come to Kairo again. Reliable sources are of the opinion that, if the story is true, only the MUFTI can have arranged for this turn. Incidentally, it was by order of the MUFTI that Dr. BEISSNER -- as has been told somewhere else -- settled the passport formalities for REMER's commissioner, the former SS-Hauptsturmfuehrer SPRINGER, Amt VI of the Reichsicherheitshauptamt. It is also known that Dr. BEISSNER is a frequent guest in the house of Dr. Wilhelm VOSS, chief of the Group of German Experts in Egypt.

SKORZENY's visit to Kairo produced no result at the time, as far as business was concerned. His offer to deliver certain heavy weapons with ammunition, presumably of the firm of EMPERANZA, was rejected. The Egyptians wanted especially a machine gun MG 42, and SKORZENY had to admit that at the moment he was unable to produce it, and promised to get it.

Later on, new offers were requested for 3500 machine guns of certain types. HERZLETT in Bonn also made an offer which was to be sent via Spain, and, therefore, must have come from his business friend Otto SKORZENY.

Toward the end of April the German experts believed it to be possible that SKORZENY might have called in the assistance of a "Referent" after he had failed with his direct offers, in order to be able to do business still by shipping spare parts for the weapons.

At the end of April 1953 it was expected in Kairo that SKORZENY would be there again in the course of May.

att. 3 to EGNA-2194

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Secret - Security Information

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No. 2/4 16 June 1953

The split in the Group of German Experts in Egypt dividing it into "Interessengruppen" (groups interested in certain persons or aims); especially, the relationship between Dr. VOSS and General FAHRMBACHER.

FAHRMBACHER

3P

The group of German experts in Egypt is not as solid as it would seem, considering its mission and outward appearance. In March and April 1953 the group even experienced a real crisis, and at this moment nothing can be reported as to the results. At any rate, "Interessengruppen" have been formed which are mainly grouped around the two leading persons, Dr. VOSS and General FAHRMBACHER.

Dr. Wilhelm VOSS is the chief of the group of experts; he is especially in charge of the economic affairs. He thinks that he is in a very strong position, but in prominent Egyptian quarters there are feelings opposing him which are fed by members of the German group itself. At any rate, Dr. VOSS's contract had not been prolonged by April 1953. Dr. VOSS had been a member of the leading national-socialist groups, and had during the war been the chief of the Skoda plant.

General Wilhelm FAHRMBACHER is the chief of the military staff of the German group, 63 years old; he has been in Egypt for the past 2 1/2 years. For a time he was imprisoned by the French as a war criminal. He was received by the Egyptian militaries with benevolence; he learned to speak Arabian, and his task is not more and not less than to reorganize all branches of service of the Egyptian Army. His staff consists of the following officers, to whom are attached other officers for the individual branches; on the whole there seem to be thirty-seven (not counting those who have been assigned directly to Egyptian units):

- Major General Otto MUNZEL
- General VON RAVENSTEIN
- General VON PRITZWITZ (probably gone by now)
- General WEINBERG
- General MEYDL

Of the afore-mentioned "Interessentruppen", the following persons have openly joined Dr. VOSS:

- Colonel FERGILL (Infantry, Test Combat Brigade)
- Colonel BOENNINGER
- Major Gerhard MEHTING (Air Forces; at the time he was the commander of the Regiment of Parachutists "Grüne Teufel" - Green Devils, which had an important share in the conquest of Crete).

Major NUTLE (artillery) and NUELLEN (Infantry) have also unequivocally joined Dr. VOSS.

In regard to the secretary Sepp TIEFENBACHER, VOSS once complained that he no longer knew his place in the ensuing confusion.

att 4 to EGNA 2194 Secret - Security Information

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The "opposing group", that is General FAHRMBACHER's, was joined by:

- Colonel DIERMEIER, Mobilization
- Colonel HELMDACH, Training
- Major General Otto MUNZEL (Armored Weapons)
- Lt Colonel NEUMANN
- H.O. RICHERT, Organisation
- Krzt ZOLLING, former "Abwehr" officer

The conflict induces Dr. VOSS to make derogatory remarks about General FAHRMBACHER at every occasion; he says, for instance, that the General is no longer equal to his task. He, being the responsible person, would already have arranged for thorough changes were it not that he preferred to avoid the serious outward consequences.

Some of the officers suggested to the German Embassy in March/April 1953 to separate the Task Force from the "Central Planning Board" and to place it under the jurisdiction of the Embassy. VOSS accused especially MUNZEL and DIERMEIER of the FAHRMBACHER group of having intervened in this manner, and said that this was not only great impertinence, but that it also showed immense stupidity; Germany does not have an army yet, and the Embassy has no dealings with the officers in Cairo.

ZOLLING, who had given the German Embassy the false information on REMER's presence in Cairo (see Report Q/2), and who also belongs to the FAHRMBACHER group, was accused by VOSS of acting as if he worked "for Bonn" instead of for the Egyptian State, and as if he has security authority in regard to his colleagues.

The question of separating the Task Force from the "Central Planning Board" has also been the subject of an agitated discussion between VOSS and FAHRMBACH, in which the question came up who, and how many, of the experts are for or against it. According to VOSS the separation is advocated only by a few, while others at the time spoke of almost universal assent. Incidentally, it is interesting that VOSS himself has threatened at one occasion with separation if it should not be possible otherwise to keep strict order among the experts.

General FAHRMBACHER, on the other hand, outwardly always recognized Dr. VOSS and declares to be at one with him. However, in the opinion of an important person among the experts, he is willing to dissolve the organization as it is now, and to do without all experts except those staff officers who cooperate with him.

The opposition among the experts even makes the officers accept the Egyptian evaluation of themselves or of their colleagues without criticism, depending upon the group they belong to. It is only natural that in the course of time relations have been established between the Germans and those Egyptians with whom they have dealings while completing their mission, which relations run approximately parallel to the cliques formed among the Germans.

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Even Dr. VOSS himself fell victim to such subjectivism when he accepted the evaluation of individual experts submitted to him (Report Q/1 point 5) "which is not at all compatible with what General FAHRMACHEN told him", and which was positive for members of his own group and almost completely negative for FAHRMACHEN's followers.

All this bickering makes a strange impression, the more so as the actual plans of the Egyptians are altogether being left out of consideration. According to a well-based information, Egyptian authorities have arrived at the conclusion that subordinate experts well-versed in practical work are more useful than strong personalities. An Egyptian source disclosed that they are inclined not to prolong several of the contracts.

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