

30 January 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Walter Rauff

1. At the close of World War II, Rauff was head of the German /SS/ in Milan, Italy. Although DO files contain considerable material on Rauff, the information is fragmented and contains several unconfirmed allegations. For instance, there is a statement in the file that alleges Rauff was an allied double agent in 1943/44.

2. Rauff surrendered to American officers on 30 April 1945 in Italy. At that time, he stated that arrangements for the surrender were made on 27 April 1945 with a U.S. Army Captain, and that this could be confirmed by a Professor Hussman and one Mr. Dulles (presumably Allen Dulles), who were described as allied agents in Switzerland.

3. Rauff was then turned over to the CSDIC, 15th Army Group for interrogation. He escaped in 1947 and went into hiding. The circumstances of his escape are unknown. He apparently left for Syria in November 1948 and became an advisor to the Syrian Government. He was arrested in a Syrian coup in March 1949 and charged with terrorism, specifically setting up torture devices to be used against Jews. He was released and went to Beirut where he was allegedly in the employ of British Intelligence.

4. Travelling on an International Red Cross passport, he made his way back to Italy (he was also reported to be in Germany during this post March 1949 period). While in Rome, spotty, unconfirmed reports indicate he had contact with Israeli Intelligence, presumably for his use as an agent in the Arab world. He departed for South America in December 1949, the trip allegedly paid for by British Intelligence. A CIC report dated May 1950 stated that Rauff had settled in Quito, Ecuador. A 1953 report placed him in Buenos Aires where he was labeled as one leader of an anti-communist group.

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy
- (2)(B) Methods/Sources
- (2)(C) Foreign Relations

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5. In 1958, Rauff migrated to Chile. He was arrested in Punta Arenas, Chile on 19 December 1962 for possible extradition to Germany. This request was denied by the Chilean Government. A 1974 report described Rauff as a serious, responsible citizen, and a highly respected member of the community who was living out his old age, quietly concentrating on business activities.

6. Rauff emerged on the international scene in 1974 when he was identified in a "Le Monde" article as being appointed head of Chilean security (DINA). He was also identified in April 1976 by a Chilean resistance movement as working with the Chilean Ministry of Interior. Both of these allegations appear to be speculation, and one source labeled the 1974 accusation as untrue.

6. In 1977, the Agency received a report from the German BND concerning a possible attempt on the life of President Carter. Rauff was suspected, for a number of reasons, for being the source of this report.

7. As far as determining if Rauff had any past official contact with the Chilean Government, it appears there is nothing in our files to substantiate this. However, a 1977 memo written by [redacted] of <sup>AP/PC</sup>PCS, suggests Rauff may have worked as an unofficial advisor to the Chilean Government. With the possible exception of Rauff's reference to Mr. Dulles in our predecessor days, our files contain no information to indicate any Agency involvement with Rauff.

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