

SECRET

No. 33757

14 APR 1966

MEMORANDUM TO: Herrn Castrop
FROM : 801
SUBJECT : CHRISTMANN-RECHENBERG Case

1. The attached material came from the interrogation of Mr. CHRISTMANN. Part of it is in a question and answer form and other parts are in narrative form. In the question and answer section, we have used "Q" for the questioner, that is, the EOS case officer, "C" for CHRISTMANN, and "C-1" for Mrs. CHRISTMANN, who was present during some of the conversations.

2. We have not included some portions of Mr. CHRISTMANN's remarks having to do with the security of our embassy in Algeria because these are of no particular interest or value to you.

3. EOS would be interested in the results of your discussions with RECHENBERG which relate to our known interests. We particularly refer to his activities in Algeria, the security situation there and his contacts with CHRISTMANN and Miss WUESTEFELD.

4. CHRISTMANN was most cooperative in giving us all information of possible interest or concern to us in regard to the security of our embassy in Algiers. We should like to emphasize that at no time did our interrogation give CHRISTMANN any information about GAMMA nor did he at any time attempt to provoke CHRISTMANN by posing leading questions about GAMMA. The fact of the matter is that without being asked, CHRISTMANN volunteered the information that he had been a GAMMA employee from 1956 to 1961. You will note that he spoke freely about his past and that a good deal of what he said went into the record.

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- 2 -

5. CHRISTMANN is presently in Tunis, checking with his former business associates, and has agreed to meet with the EOS case officer upon his return after Easter. We shall be pleased to make available to you whatever information is obtained from CHRISTMANN on his trip to Tunisia.

6. We very much appreciate your deferring GAMMA interest in CHRISTMANN until EOS had the opportunity to clarify its priority interests. The opportunity to interrogate CHRISTMANN has been of real value to us in evaluating the security of our embassy in Algeria.

801

Attachment

HANDCARRY

Distribution:

Orig & 2 - Addressee w/att
1 - X/CHRISTMANN file w/att
1 - [redacted]
1 - 801 memo chrono w/att
1 - 829, 831 w/att

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S E C R E T

Attachment to Blue Memo No. 33757

One of the conversations with CHRISTMANN began with a short discussion of the relationship between the CHRISTMANNs and a U.S. Embassy family in Algiers. The conversation then turned to the matter of CHRISTMANN's arrest and expulsion from Algeria:

Q: Let's discuss your arrest. You say you concluded from the interrogation by the Algerians that they were after some sort of connection to the Israelis. Do you recall any events, facts or do you have any conjectures why the accusations about Israeli connections were directed against you?

C: The first interrogation began 0800 and ended 2000 on 27 November. It was general in nature and covered my past history in great detail--where I went to school, etc. After they learned about my work for Canaris and about the American and British exonerations in Paris in 1947, they left me alone for an hour. Then the interrogator returned and said to me: "Mr. Christmann, here is a pad and a pen. We'll put you in an office down-stairs and you are to write us a plan on how we can establish an Abwehr organization in Algeria."

I told him he was asking too much of me--in the Canaris days we had three separate sections, one for enemy espionage, one for sabotage and one for counter-espionage. I was active only in Section 3F which was a small group. My main job was to train agents, send them out on missions and evaluate their work. I told him I couldn't build him an Abwehr. The interrogator then said to me I had done it once before, in Tunis. I told him that was incorrect.

I told him I had been asked to undertake a task by a Tunisian friend whom I had met in French internment. This friend had been the Arab announcer for the German radio station in Athens. His name is Bechir M. Habebi and he is presently Tunisian Ambassador to Lebanon. M'Habebi, together with the publisher of JEUNNE AFRIQUE; Batari, the director of the Tunisian State Bank--these three asked me to help Bourgiba in building up a special secret service which would work only for Bourgiba (1956). I told them I could not do that--I could only give advice on security practices and procedures.

Before I got to the point of training young Tunisians in security practices, I learned that Bourgiba's objective was to knock out Ben Salla (phon) who was at that time chief of the Labor Unions. I knew Ben Salla personally. Upon learning this, I told my three friends I would not mix into the internal affairs of Tunisia. I had thought they wanted a cadre trained in counter-espionage--at that time particularly against French espionage. At that time, October-November 1956, I told them the matter was closed and nothing more would be said about it. Besides, I respected Ben Salla--he was in the States at that time. While he was in the States, an attempt was made to depose him. But since the charges were flimsy and transparent, they couldn't keep Ben Salla down. All of this I told the Algerian interrogator.

The Algerian interrogator then asked me about secret codes. I told him how various codes are set up and also called attention to the fact my experience in codes was twenty years old. He pressed me to write him his plan, but after an hour he saw I wasn't about to. I was returned to my cell. The following day, Sunday, I was left alone. On Monday at 0800 I was brought to the same interrogator; he said, "I'm to interrogate you, but where shall we begin?" I said there must be some charge against me to

S E C R E T

warrant holding me like this. The interrogator said, "That's it, I don't really know." Then he left me sitting there with the guard for two hours.

During this time, other officers stepped by, curious to see who was being held. One of them said to me, "We know that you are an agent of the UN." I said the UN is neither a government nor a state. He said, "No, no, a NATO agent." I said NATO isn't a state; he would have to name a state within NATO that allegedly recruited me. He went away and the original interrogator returned. He asked me about my connections with Jews. I denied I had any connections with Jews since there are hardly any left in Algeria.

Interrogator: "How can you state that when you have close connections to M. Lemann of selectiones internationale in Tunis? Is Lemann a contact man to introduce you into Algeria and why in Tunis did you take a Jew as partner?" I told him that the S.I. firm was the only firm with trained personnel to service my customers. For the complicated instruments and apparatus I sell, I need a fully-trained and competent servicing organization. The interrogator didn't react to this one way or the other.

I do recall something which may have had a bearing on my arrest. In Algeria competitive bidding was opened for 16 hospitals and 53 dispensaries. I was of course very interested in this from a sales point of view but there was no one in Algeria to provide the large capital outlay. M. Lemann asked whether I would cooperate with friends of his in Algeria on the bidding. I said I was agreeable to this, so that the firms I represent get some business in Algeria. M. Lemann put me in touch with M. Angererre (phon), director of the banking consortium Credit Francais d'Algerie et de Tunis (CFAT). This man's nephew, Promotelle (phon) worked as a trainee in a bank in Algiers. This nephew put me in touch with the firm Galec-Afrique (phon), a non-Jewish firm. Promotelle (phon) was the intermediary between the banking consortium, myself and Galec-Afrique. The whole project collapsed because meanwhile Minister of Health Nekkache had been deposed and arrested. Thus the Algerian service knew about the project and that the firms I represented were in contact with Algerian bankers through me. So I told the Algerian interrogator I hadn't known that Lemann had been involved.

The interrogator asked me about my relations with a certain M. Silvera (phon). This Silvera was the former partner of Lemann in Tunis--they separated after Silvera had cheated Lemann. Silvera disappeared from Tunis. I met Silvera in a hotel in Algiers. At first I didn't want to recognize him because I know he is corrupt. But it was unavoidable and I greeted him as though I knew nothing about the past. He told me he had an office in Algiers and Casablanca. I learned from him he was representing Zeiss, Jena (SBZ). Zeiss, Jena provided him with microscopes and air sampling instruments. Silvera got himself a straw man, (fnu) Boutemenne (phon) and with him established a company, Scintifix, in Algiers.

I told the Algerian interrogator that if he were looking for Algerian straw men for Tunesian Jews, I knew nothing about it. I viewed Silvera as my competitor, because I represented the West German Zeiss firm. Then the interrogator wanted to know who was behind the firm Comtoir Nord Afrique de Photographie. This was a man by the name of (fnu) Ottmann. Ottmann works with Tunesian Jews who want to export capital to Algeria. I knew Ottmann and his firm from my Tunis days. They too were competitors for me. Since I knew all these Tunesian Jews that were trying to establish businesses in Algiers as competition for me, the Algerian interrogator obviously assumed I was trying to help the Tunesian Jews get established in Algiers.

Q: What kind of contacts did you have to Algerian officials?

C: A long-time friend, Dr. Nakkache. His son visited us here in Germany. Dr. Nakkache was really my friend and still is.

C1: Lemann knew my husband had good contacts in Algeria and he tried to exploit that.

C: Through me, Lemann wanted to do business in Algeria. I never prepared the way for any of Lemann's deals--only once the matter with the banks. I also know the present Minister of Agriculture, Ali Mahsa (phon). For three years I supported him while he was in Germany. I sent him DM 200 every month. Other people I knew were Lawyer Bel Ousim (phon), Dr. Ochareff, head of all Algerian dentistry, and A.M. Santas.

Q: Your contact and friendship with these people, how did they come about?

C: I got to know Dr. Nakkache in 1956 in Tunis. They were all in Tunis, during the Algerian war. I helped these people a lot. I got them large shipments of medicines from Germany. I got them surgical instruments. I translated manuals for instruments and machinery for them or found someone to do it for them.

For me, Tunis was only a temporary stay. I was waiting for the war to end so I could go to Algeria. As evidence for how good my connections to the Algerians were, while they were rebels, is the following: On 17 April 1962 there was a reception in Tunis for Ben Bella given by the Algerian army. My wife and I were the only Germans who were invited and we stood behind Ben Bella on the Dais. The newspapers photos of that day show that amongst the East Bloc delegates, my wife and I were the only Germans present. At the subsequent dinner, Nakkache introduced me to Ben Bella.

After Algerian independence, I was held in high esteem in Algeria. I was known as "Algeria's helper." I have two hypotheses as to what happened. First, to the group of Jewish businessmen in Tunis, I was a thorn in their side. I cut out middlemen and saved the Tunesian Government forty percent. And with an annual volume of four hundred million francs, this was a great saving. Former Minister Ben Salla said as much to me. These Jews in Tunisia seek to do business in Algeria through straw men. They knew I was in Algeria. They knew my best friend Dr. Nakkache was deposed; and they probably thought the time was ripe to eliminate Christmann and remove an uncomfortable competitor.

The question then arises: How did these Tunesian Jews contact Algerian authorities in order to denigrate me? It could be they got to Colonel Chabou (phon), chief of the General Staff. His wife is German and years ago, in 1958, in Tunis, I had a run-in with her. The German Ambassador had put her in my office as secretary. She was incompetent and also had no Tunesian work permit nor was she registered with the police. And on top of it, her husband was a French deserter, an Algerian rebel. Since I wanted no trouble with the French, I could not allow this. The office was called Deutsches Buero der Deutschen Industrie and had a reputation to uphold. And the German Ambassador, Gregor, took this opportunity to blacken my reputation vis-a-vis the Algerians in Tunis. I insisted the matter be investigated.

Bel Kacem Krim sent me his legal advisor and I gave him all the facts and correspondence. Three months later I got a handwritten letter from the legal advisor stating I had acted correctly.

and that the case was considered closed. But I can't imagine that the chief of the General Staff could be that small a man to wreak vengeance on me for this old incident. But I do suspect that in one way or other Rechenberg is behind it. He has looked me up three times here in Frankfurt. He was here on 6 December but I was out. He left a message to call him. The next day I was going to Bonn to report in to the Foreign Office and so I called Rechenberg from the train. He wanted to know what had happened in Algeria. I told him I couldn't talk about it on the phone. He agreed and said I would be hearing from him soon. Before Christmas he appeared again, stating he was going to Bad Toelz to his family. We spoke only shortly. He came again a week ago.

Q: What do you conclude is behind Rechenberg's visits and questions?

C: Initially he just wanted to make contact and find out what I'm doing.

Cl: I think he wanted to find out who had helped us in Algeria, who our friends are.

C: All we said was we had friends in the diplomatic community without mentioning names. Of course he could conclude that it could only have been the Denekes, since Rechenberg had been at the Denekes.

Q: How about that time he asked all those peculiar questions, about working for the French, about your marriage?

C: OK. A week ago and again today, I'll take the two visits together, Rechenberg said: "I've had a lot of trouble because of you. I've been accused of bringing you to Algeria. And also it is being rumored that you are a Frenchman and have a French passport." Rechenberg refused to identify the person or persons that are spreading this. Rechenberg further said I was a long-time agent of an intelligence service. I asked him to name the service. He hedged, saying he couldn't and wouldn't reveal this. Rechenberg stated that my wife had recruited me in an airplane flight to Geneva. I told him this was all a bunch of malarkey, since I have copy of the order under which the French expelled me from France. I told Rechenberg I had copies of newspaper articles about my post war arrest in France. The articles state I was formerly a French Foreign Legionnaire. But that information comes out of police dossiers, because during the war, in a CE case, I played the role of a Legionnaire in order to get into the resistance. I showed Rechenberg the copies of the French expulsion order and the copy of the newspaper articles, showing that I am a German. Rechenberg continued on with these fantasies and said I had been recognized in Algiers as the man who had been in South France as Mayor of Cannes. Rechenberg refused to identify the person who had "recognized" me.

Q: Who is Rechenberg working for?

C: The Algerians, that's 100 percent sure. Maybe for someone else too.

Cl: And Rechenberg asked my husband for a Lebenslauf.

C: Yes, Rechenberg said he wanted a written Lebenslauf so that when he returns to Algeria he will be able to defend me. I told

Rechenberg there was no need for a Lebenslauf since the Algerians interrogated me for days. I told him the Algerians have my Lebenslauf and there is where it is to be had. Rechenberg said, "Yes, I'll have to try there...oh, no, how could I possibly get access." I interpret this as a slip on Rechenberg's part and an admission he is working for the Algerians.

Q: Mrs. Christmann, how did you return to Germany?

C1: By plane to Paris and then immediate transfer to a plane to Frankfurt.

Q: And you, Mr. Christmann, how did you return to Germany? Via Paris? How long did you stay in Paris?

C: By plane to Paris. I stayed overnight in Paris. The following happened. Upon my release in Algiers I called the Palomba (phon) residence in Paris. M. Palomba is director of a brewery in Tunis and a good friend of mine. I wanted to ask him to bring some money to the Paris airport since I didn't have a cent and knew I would have to stay overnight. The lady that answered stated Palombo was in Morocco but was expected back that night. She promised to tell him should he return as expected. When I landed at Orly I was apprehensive about going through the police controls because, in France, I am an "undesirable person." At that moment I was paged and informed that Palomba was waiting for me. He got me through without having to show my passport. He put me up at the airport hotel and gave me money. The next morning I took the first plane to Frankfurt. That was on 4 December 1965.

Q: Between 4 December and the present date, which offices, persons, officials have you contacted?

C: On 7 December I went to Bonn and contacted S.P.D. MdB Karl Herold of Kulmbach whom I had gotten to know in Tunisia and who is my friend. He put me in contact with the Legal Aid Office (Rechtsschutzstelle) of the Foreign Office. This office had no authority in my case and from there I was driven in a F.O. car to Referat V/3, headed by Legationsrat First Class Dr. von Pirsch. He called in a secretary and I dictated what had happened to me. Von Pirsch stated it was unbelievable that the Swiss had not concerned themselves with me. He stated an investigation would be undertaken. After leaving von Pirsch I tried to call a war-time friend, Wilhelm Bodens, but he was not in. Subsequently I reached him. He said he would speak in my behalf with the Scheel Ministry so that my claim for damage can be credited to the Federal Aid to Algeria. Upon my return from Bonn I contacted a representative of Der Spiegel magazine. My wife and I talked to him, explained my situation and suggested that it might be worth an article in Der Spiegel. I told him I could not authorize publication right away but if the magazine were interested they could have all details. The Spiegel representative's name was Thiele and he is in the Frankfurt office of that magazine. Later I got a letter from the Spiegel in which they said they were not interested at this time. I really don't wish to rush into print yet; I don't wish to shock the Algerians. But if President Boumedienne doesn't answer my letter of 28 December 1965--a copy went to the Algerian Ambassador in Bern and a copy went to the Algerian Foreign Office, Consular and Legal Affairs Section; I also sent a copy to the Algerian attorney general--if none of these persons or offices answer by the end of January, Algeria is finished for me and I'll mount a sharp campaign against them.

Q: Since your return to Germany, have you left the country?

C: Yes, on 28 December I went to Bern to see the Algerian Ambassador and deliver to him the letter to Boumedienne. I didn't dare send it through the mails. I remained in Bern only two hours and returned immediately to Germany.

Q: Who introduced Wuestefeld to the Denekes?

C1: I did.

Q: If it was known or assumed that Wuestefeld worked for the Algerians, why was the introduction made?

C1: But I did not know that at the time. I'll tell you exactly what happened. It was while my husband was incarcerated. We knew of Miss Wuestefeld through Rechenberg. She is his secretary. So on 28 November, the day after my husband's arrest, I started calling up everybody. I called Rechenberg--was not in--Wuestefeld answered the phone and I told her about my husband's arrest. So around noon on Sunday, Wuestefeld came with her Algerian boy friend. She told him to pick her up around 1700 and then sent him away.

Q: Do you remember the name of the Algerian boy friend?

C: We know only his first name, Raschid, steward on board the Algerian airlines run Algiers-Zuerich.

Q: If I understand you correctly, you had no relationship to Wuestefeld.

C1: Not at all. She is quite boring. On that day, Sunday, she enthused about the Americans in general and described an American love affair. So, since she enthused so much about the Americans I asked her whether she wanted to come along with me to the Denekes. So we both went over to the Denekes. And that was the introduction I think you are referring to.

Q: Mr. Christmann, when did you first get to know Rechenberg?

C: In July 1965 I decided to move to Algiers--it was two or three months prior to this that I made his acquaintance. At the earliest it was May 1965 or latest, June 1965.

Q: You told me that between 1956 and 1961 you worked for GAMMA. Did you know Rechenberg during this period?

C: No, I did not.

Q: It has come to my attention that Wuestefeld tried to introduce an East German girl to an American in Algiers. What do the Christmann's know about an East German girl in Algiers?

C1: I don't know her name. Wuestefeld spoke about a girl friend but never mentioned her name or introduced her.

C: I don't know anything about any East German girl friend of Wuestefeld.

Q: Mr. Christmann, did you see military service?

C: Only in the Abwehr.

Q: When did you join the Abwehr? What was your first assignment? Where?

C: March 1939. I was sent to Holland to seek contact with the British service. This failed.

Q: Who was your superior at that time?

C: Captain Giskes who later became Major and then Lt. Col. He was my boss throughout.

Q: That's the Giskes of Operation North Pole?

C: Exactly. I was the initiator of Operation North Pole. The connection with North Pole stems from the year I let myself be trained by the F. I. S., they not knowing, of course, I had been sent by Canaris.

Q: Did you see Giskes after the war?

C: Through Giskes I joined GAMMA.

Q: During the Abwehr days, did you have an assignment to penetrate communist resistance groups?

C: No, I did not.

Q: Aside from communist groups, did you have contact to the French resistance?

C: Yes. With Pierre Le Foucheu (phon) who was later director of the Renault Works. His wife was president of the French Red Cross. She contacted me through Dr. Ivanovic (phon) a French naturalized Yugoslav, to seek help for her husband. Her husband, using the name of Gildas (phon) had been arrested by the S. D. We, the Abwehr, determined that Gildas was too important a person to leave in the hands of the S. D. I was able to influence S. D. chief Oberg to remove Gildas from the list of 40 hostages and that he be put into category one, for deportation, instead of category three. Gildas' wife subsequently recontacted me, wanting her husband removed from category one and released. She offered to "deliver" the new General Staff of the Secret French Army, the resistance, in exchange for the release of her husband. This offer was so fantastic that it seemed incredible. She supplied information on a General Cardiac (phon), whom we later identified under the name of Revers (phon). Since it was getting late in the war, it was already August 1944, the matter was not followed through. This incident became known after the war and the French interrogated me in great detail. I was forced to swear under oath in front of a judge that I had made a mistake (mich in der Person geirrt) in order to get out from under that one.

Q: Mr. Christmann, where were you at the end of the war?

C: Under false name and false papers in southern France, in Cannes. I had the name Shollet (phon). I had a textile business. On 13 May 1946 I was recognized, arrested and kept in security arrest. On 8 June 1946, my arrest hit the newspapers. The articles

on my arrest carried the story that I had been a Legionnaire. The same malarkey that Rechenberg tried to sell me.

Q: How long were you incarcerated?

C: Until 19 February 1949.

Q: During your French internment, were attempts made to recruit you?

C: Yes. Vibot (phon) tried to. He was the director of the D. S. T. He had me summoned to his office without guards and asked if I wanted to work for the French. He said many of my comrades had accepted already. He stated that if I accepted, my trial would be sped up and that I would get off. I said to him, "Look, I'll be pleased to speak for the record, I'll even speak into the tape recorder you just turned on." That made him mad. Then I said, "For the benefit of the tape recorder, I state clearly that I will not work for you under the condition that you promise to help me. Instead you let me go through all my examinations and trials and then when I'm a free man, I'll tell you whether or not I want to work for you. I do not want to have a threat constantly hanging over me. Speed up my trial and in four weeks everything will be settled and out of the way, and then I'll give you my answer." With that I was taken downstairs, stripped, hung by the arms and whipped.

Q: You returned to Germany in 1949. What did you undertake?

C: First I sold hot dogs in the Hamburg railroad station, washed American cars at Opel, did translation work and then got a job as building supervisor for Cartier Francais, in a building the French had been loaned by the Americans. This was located here in Frankfurt, am Dornbusch. Then the French found out I was a "war criminal" and wanted to evict me from my quarters. Housing was scarce so I went to the Americans, showed them a paper I had from American military hq. in which it is stated I was not on any wanted list and had been cleared by a military court in Paris. The Americans said the buildings belonged to them and that I could stay. Then there was a dispute between the French and the Americans. The result was the French had to find me other quarters. Then friends in Bonn asked me to work with them on Saar propaganda. I then built up the propaganda apparatus in the Saar which worked against Hoffmann, the Minister-President at that time. I worked in the Saar with Dr. Heinrich Schneider, with Herr Konrad of the S. P. D. and with Dr. Ney of the C. D. U. They were my contact men and they received the propaganda material from my organization, all this without the knowledge of Dr. Adenauer. Only the Kaiser Ministry was clued in. Two officials knew of my activities, State Secretary Thediek in the Kaiser Ministry and Dr. Thierfelder in the Foreign Office.

Q: In this period, did you know Wilhelm Bodens?

C: Yes. As I mentioned before, he's a war-time buddy of mine, the man who would get me access to the Scheel Ministry. In Scheel's Ministry there's another war-time comrade, the former Col. Marwede. He knows me personally and he will help me. During the Saar affair, Bodens was my contact man to the Kaiser Ministry. I wasn't supposed to be seen in the Ministry and so Bodens met me outside of Bonn. My headquarters was in Bad Kreuznach, in the Deutsche Saar Zeitung.

Q: When and for what reasons did you go to Tunisia?

C: In 1955 I was visited by a Tunisian friend whom I had gotten to know during the French internment. He is no longer my friend. His name is Bechir M'Habebi and is Tunisian Ambassador to Lebanon. He was later part of the negotiating commission for Tunisian independence. So in 1955 he came to visit me in Germany and asked what I was doing. I told him I was working against the French just as he was. He didn't stay long. In the meanwhile my role in the Saar affair had come to the attention of the French and, because the Saar Plebescite was soon coming my work was finished and I had to think of what to do next. I got a letter from M'Habebi in Tunis in which he said his country needed men like me to help Tunisia get out from under French domination. Could I come to Tunisia and undertake studies on how French influence could be reduced or removed. I decided to go to Tunisia. My wife left two months before me because she was pregnant and I couldn't leave the Kaiser Ministry as soon as I wanted. M'Habebi put my wife up with one of the first families of Tunis and she was treated like a princess. When I arrived in Tunis in July 1956, I found that all the ministries were filled with Frenchmen. The first analysis I made had to do with sovereignty rights and the national flag -- sovereignty on the seas and in the air. I determined that exhorbitant freight rates were being charged because the French had the shipping monopoly. I also determined that 4.5 billion Francs were leaving the country because of the incomplete sovereignty. I determined that insurance companies collected high amounts of premiums in Tunisia and sent them all to France. My analyses created a furor, all the Frenchmen in the ministries were up in arms against me. It became intolerable. I received no pay and actually had no contract and so I decided to dissolve my relations with the Tunisian government.

Q: During the Tunisian period, were you involved in any way in arms deals or arms shipments?

C: No, never. Once I was asked by a State Secretary in the Tunisian Defense Ministry who knew I travelled to Germany, whether I could get ammunition for some of the old weapons the Tunisians had. I answered, "If you know of someone you can send to me in Germany I'll try to help." So a meeting was set up in the Frankfurter Hof. The man whom I met was a representative of some service. I smelled a rat and said this is not for me and dropped the matter.

Q: Were you ever involved in O. A. S. or counter O. A. S. activities?

C: Definitely not.

Q: During the Tunisian period, what former S. D. or S. S. people did you have knowledge of or contact with?

C: Of this type I only got to know a certain Dr. Beissner. When he arrived there I assisted him in getting contact with Tunisian officials. I felt sorry for the man because he had lost a leg.

Q: Was that the French red hand?

C: That's what he claims. It was an Egyptian. I also determined that Beissner was not of the moral caliber suitable to me or my wife and I slowly distanced myself from him. Since then we haven't seen him again.

Q: And then concerning your relationship to GAMMA?

C: That happened almost automatically. The Saar affair was finished and friend Bodens knew I was going to Tunisia and then my former boss, Giskes, appeared on the scene and I was in.

Q: Did you ever know or have contact with an Oskar Reile?

C: Yes, Reile was Giskes' chief.

Q: Did you know him personally?

C: I wouldn't say that. He chaired the morning staff conferences which I attended during the war. Reile headed the Grossreferat and Giskes headed the more important Section Three F. I never reported to Reile and had no relations with him.

Q: After the war, did Reile turn up or contact you?

C: No, never. He must be pretty old now.

Q: In the Tunisian period, who were some of your contacts?

C: I had good contacts to practically all ministries and ministers. I had very good relations with Ben Salla (phon); Chief Engineer Ahtia (phon); Ben H'Ama (phon).

Q: In the Tunisian period, how often did you or with your wife go to Algeria?

C: Before 1962, never. After Algerian independence, practically every month.

Q: The purpose of these trips?

C: Business and also a personal purpose. Nakkache, who had become Minister of Health asked me to start a program to get German doctors to Algeria; then another time to get teachers for technical schools.

Q: What was the basic reason you transferred from Tunisia to Algeria?

C: In Tunisia, since the beginning of 1965, there was no money to be made. The budget allowed no more import contracts, the type that interested me. And Algeria was the coming country and I thought that the years I supported the Algerian rebels would now pay off for me. So I wanted to establish myself in Algeria and do business and exploit my good contacts.

Q: Why did Mrs. Christmann give an Algerian address in 1964 when she applied for customs plates for a car?

C: At that time I couldn't import another car duty free since I had already imported two before. So we put the car in my wife's name and Minister Nakkache allowed us to use, as an Algerian address, the Algerian Ministry of Health, namely 28 Rue Hassiba Bualli, Algiers. That's the address of the Algerian Ministry of Health.

Q: I would like you to discuss Serge Michel and Louise Mimoun. And also try to retrieve Rechenberg's Frankfurt telephone number, the one you called from the T. E. E. train early in December. But first some personal questions: Mr. Christmann, you were married before?

C: Yes, twice and divorced. The first time in December 1933 with Andrea Gillet (phon) in Paris. I divorced her twice. Once she divorced me and I divorced her in 1939. Both divorce decrees became effective after the war. During the war I married a Frenchwoman, an agent of mine. Since she was pregnant, the Abwehr regulations required that I marry her. This I did and therefore also had to leave France. I was transferred to Holland in 1941. During my post-war detention, this woman forged my name and made off with the small fortune I had cached in France under an alias, Shollet (phon). I divorced her upon release from detention.

Q: Children?

C: Two from the first marriage. One son was killed in Indo-China. I have never seen or heard from the elder son. A son and a daughter from the second marriage. The daughter is married, I don't even know her family name. The son was in Germany for a spell to learn German but I had no contact, the family is against me.

Q: When did you marry your present wife?

Cl(cooly): Don't tell that -- we met in 1949, and married later.

Q: And your DOB? POB?

Cl: 17 January 1930 in Grosskumzendorf, now part of the CSR.

Q: You have one child? Or more?

Cl: One child. She was born in Tunis on 13 August 1956.

At the close of one meeting with the Christmanns we asked him to get us Rechenberg's telephone number, a Frankfurt number that Christmann had called from the T. E. E. train on 7 December 1965. In addition, we tasked both Christmann and wife to recall anything and everything pertaining to Serge Michel and Louise Mimoun.

In response to these requests Christmann read from a handwritten paper on which he had listed the Frankfurt number at which he had reached Rechenberg in December, 701688. In addition, Christmann had called the postal authorities to find out who the subscriber was for this number. He stated he had been refused the name of the subscriber but learned that it was listed for Schlosstrasse 129.

With the Rechenberg telephone matter out of the way, Christmann moved on and volunteered the following: / His name was Kassi or Kaci, an A. L. N. Major and Commandant of the Tunis Base. Christmann said Kassi, or Kaci, was under the strong influence of lawyer (fnu) Bouzida, a Berber and convinced communist. We pressed Christmann for something more concrete on who headed the Algerian I. S. He had nothing more concrete than his recollections of both the Tunis and Algeria days and said he was certain this was the man.

At this point Christmann began to discuss the Serge Michel--Louise Mimoun complex. (When replying to questions as to the activities of Serge Michel, a longtime RIS suspect, Mr. Christmann referred to a sheaf of notes. He implied that these notes stemmed from the time of his tour in Tunis for GAMMA. Since the EOS officer

He had come to the conclusion that he had identified the Chief of the Algerian I. S.

felt this was ancient history and not particularly germane to the essential EOS priority, he made no further inquiries as to the nature and extent of these 1956 - 1961 notes. Christmann related the following, often reading directly from these notes.)

C: I knew a White Russian who had a Nansen passport and was known by first name as "Serge". He articulated pronouncedly pro-communist theses. He claimed to have been incarcerated in several countries, including Germany -- 1942 in Rostock. Serge worked closely with a certain Boualem (phon). His assignment, among others, was to interrogate Foreign Legion deserters. He told me that amongst these Foreign Legion deserters he had discovered two German communists. These had been sent back to Germany via Tripoli and were instructed to report to M. Ali in Darmstadt. This Monsieur Ali formerly served in the Arab Legion in Germany between 1941 - 1945. He remained in Germany after the war and married a Darmstadt woman.

Serge Michel had a Swiss passport as well as a French passport. He was a veteran communist dating back to the '30's. He appeared in Pommerania with a Soviet unit in 1945. Serge was then sent to Italy where he claimed to have been liaison contact between American and Soviet missions. Serge was in Algeria a couple of years and in Tunis. In late summer 1959 he travelled often to Algeria and in August '59 returned from there with a report. I later was able to determine that Serge had lied. He hadn't been to Algeria, he had obtained the report from an Algerian in Tunis.

A press agency called "Maghreb" was to be founded with Serge Michel as chief. King Idris was said to approve, Idris being of Algerian extraction. This press agency was to be staffed with the leading journalists of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Egypt and proposed to publish Maghrebian problems to counter the previous domination of the French press agency, AFP. This press agency, based in Tunis, was to publish a weekly "Bulletin de Press". A supplement, "Bulletin Supplement", was to feature interviews with Maghrebian politicians. The desirable German partner for the "Bulletin" I had thought would be Hermann Kresse of Saarbruecken, with whom I had worked closely during the Saar affair. I wrote Kresse, but after four weeks he declined, probably because he sought the approval of a German authority. The project collapsed. The press agency never got established because Morocco presented demands which the Algerians would not meet.

Two friends of Serge Michel were brought to Mitueville (phon) to act as hostesses. They were held up at the Tunisian-Algerian border because they could show no reason for being in the area. One of these hostesses was the daughter of French Colonel Bajard or Dayard or Dagered. Colonel Bajard was an intimate friend of La Coste, who was then serving in Algeria. The girl came from Paris where she was a registered member of the C. P. F. in the 17th Section. Her friend came from the same C. P. F. Section, together with Rene Vauthier, who worked together with Serge Michel in Algeria. The Bajard daughter had the assignment to elicit information. Rene Vauthier was formerly in Tunisia where he produced two films with communist themes.

In November, 1957 I learned that attempts were being made to exclude (sic) communist influence within the A. L. N. and F. L. N. Help from this quarter was welcome, but the war of liberation was to be purely Algerian. In this connection, it was interesting that the spokesman at the press conference about "Melusa" was Dr. Fanon, formerly chief doctor at the psychiatric

clinic in Blida who was to become press chief of the F. L. N. Fanon was suspected of communist tendencies. Fanon was born in Martinique. Serge Michel was a guest of Bourghiba for two days at about this period. He got around.

In December, 1957 I found out that a meeting of communist functionaries took place in Tunis. The following communist chiefs met:

Tunisia -- Muhamed Harnel
 Kemahis El Kaabi
 Algeria -- Larbi Bouhali
 Raschid Dalibay
 Morocco -- Ali Yata
 Hedi Lassouaka

After their conference they were to be received by Tunis-based F. L. N. leaders.

At this point Christmann was asked to tell how he ascertained that on such and such a date at such and such a place the named people met. Christmann's response was - Main source for indications of this sort was a Commissar Divisionnaire in the Algerian Police, Section Reseignment Generaux, Monsieur Ali Mrad, who had a French wife. Christmann helped him in getting European currency for travels -- got his section fifty miniphones -- got his section the small Japanese minolta cameras -- he was beholden. He may have assumed Christmann was working for GAMMA. In any event, Christmann said he needed this information for a book about the Algerian war of liberation. Mrad delivered the indications Christmann had to find a man to follow up. But since Christmann's "indications" he could pose as one of them and they didn't hesitate to disclose information to "one of them". And that is how he got the information.

After this interlude, Christmann launched forth again:

C: In December, 1957 I determined that Bechir M'Habebi was relieved as Chief of the Tunisian Radio and, prior to his dismissal managed to get an important position for Serge Michel. Serge Michel affirmed this in conversation with me. This was important since we knew the other activities of Serge Michel. Even the Algerians intervened on behalf of Serge Michel. The new chiefs of Serge Michel came from Tunisian labor union circles. This indicated increasing influence of Tunisian labor unions. Serge Michel was the man that created the Du Bois scandal in Switzerland, or so he claimed. He stated he was in the wings in this affair but was asked by the Swiss Foreign Police to disappear. Du Bois was involved in the interception of Egyptian telephone conversations.

In January, 1958 I found out that Serge Michel Posnanski's mistress or "wife" was Claudine Etienne-Sarrisson.

(We asked both Mr. Christmann and his wife as to their knowledge of a Louise Mimoun. Both emphatically claimed never to have heard the name before. Christmann, however, speculated that Louise Mimoun may well be the above-mentioned Claudine Etienne-Sarrisson. He had no other information or conjecture on this score.)

Christmann returned to his recollections as follows -

As of about February, 1958 Karl Breier (phon), born in Holland, later acquired German nationality, because he served in the Waffen SS, was a buddy of Serge Michel. Serge Michel took care of Breier a while in Tunisia. Breier got special Algerian permission to cross the T-A border and make photographs in the battle zone. Breier returned from Algeria without reporting in to the Algerian base in Tunis and disappeared. The Algerians wanted to arrest Breier at the airport, they came too late. Serge Michel was agitated -- how could this man escape?? Breier then sold his film for one million Francs to Paris Match which produced a big spread.

At about the same time Dr. Nakkache told me that Serge Michel articulated Soviet positions within the F. L. N. He was called the Eye of Moscow. Proof is lacking but Michel prepared the disposal of Fanon, but only because Fanon was too much Gualist inclined. And this Moscow did not favor.

During this same month, February, 1958 I supported Mahsas (phon), Algerian Minister of Agriculture, in Germany with 200 DM per month. His cover address was Bonn, Hotel Eschweiler, Borngasse 7.

GAMMA, in February, 1958 asked me to identify a certain (fau) Pfannstiel (phon), who writes in a French paper Le Bled. I reported that the paper Le Bled exists neither in France nor in North Africa. It was, however, the paper for French troops in Algeria. It was not sold in public. The paper was financed by La Coste's office -- military advisor was General Salan. The paper published articles against the French government, but not too sharply. The French government approved so that the paper gained in credibility.

C. This Pfannstiel was a French agent provocateur in the internment camp and denounced many Germans. Pfannstiel knows Serge Michel from after the war. Serge Michel claims Pfannstiel worked for French counter intelligence.

Q: Did Serge Michel appear in the time you moved from Tunis to Algeria??

C: Immediately. Michel was introduced to Lumumba by Colonel Kaci, whom I consider to be Chief of the Algerian IS. Lumumba liked Serge and took him to Leopoldville as press advisor. He departed so suddenly that he left his wife behind without any money. In order that I could contact him upon his return from the Congo, I supported his wife and children. During a visit to Serge's wife, I learned he was Jewish. His wife had gotten agitated because Serge had wanted to have their three-year old son circumcised. Serge had said to his wife that as future Algerians, circumcision would not be unusual. In this way I learned that Serge Michel is Jewish. Then on 18 January 1961, Le Canard in Paris brought an article entitled "Faux Barbouze Usage de Faux". This was an attack against me, describing me as the Abwehr agent in Tunis. Serge Michel inspired this article.

In 1962, I heard for the first time that Serge Michel was the chief editor of the F. L. N. paper El Moujahid (The Fighter). I looked him up once in his office to get a reading on him. He refused to see me but I recognized his profile through the translucent glass door to his office. Perhaps for identification purposes, it may be important that Serge Michel resembles Charles Aznavour, the singer. So, he refused to see me. Through Ben Bella's physician, Monsieur La Cour, I learned that Serge Michel at every opportunity was inciting the Algerians against me. I reported this to my friend Dr. Nakkache, who saw to it that Serge Michel lost his job as editor. Serge Michel then found refuge with the paper Le Republicain, which later went broke. He also worked for Algiers Ce Soir, a paper with pronounced communist tendencies.

In every edition of this paper, there was always at least one diatribe against Germany. I protested, telling the Algerians the Algerian-German relations could never be good if such a paper continued. In the course of the following year the paper was suppressed. Serge Michel was allegedly compromised in the communist plot which was uncovered in Algeria some months ago. Involved was a Dr. Maro (phon), who has disappeared. Rechenberg told me on 16 January 1966 that Serge Michel had fled from Algeria. Where Rechenberg got this information, I don't know. In the Tunis days, Serge Michel was very close to Kaci (phon). He also had contact to Chabou, Chief of the General Staff.

Q: It seems curious that it should be the Algerians that are trying to penetrate our Embassy. You, as an old pro, know as well as I do that the first hand evident may well not be the terminal one. And so I ask, what do you suspect is behind Rechenberg's harassment and particularly that he offered this bit about Serge Michel fleeing Algeria? Did you ask about him or did Rechenberg volunteer it?

C: No, I asked and his answer popped out spontaneously. I had the impression against his will. I later told my wife that Rechenberg is probably trying to divert me so that I won't ask further about Serge Michel. Unusual also, was a talk I had with Rechenberg in his office in Algiers in May-June 1965. Rechenberg asked me at that time whom I knew in Algiers who was not particularly favourably inclined toward Germany. Said he had already made Michel's acquaintance. Miss Wurstefeld knows Serge Michel quite well. I consider it remarkable that a German Economic Advisor to Algeria is acquainted with such people. It is too coincidental that whenever Soviet influence becomes apparent, Serge Michel pops up. Think of the Congo.

Q: Without exaggerating, what are your conclusions after Rechenberg's visits to you?

C: Rechenberg wants to elicit from me what my intentions are. I did not tell him, for example, that I have contacted my good friend Bodens in Bonn. And I didn't tell him which MdB's I have contacted. I did mention that I had an old war-time buddy in the Scheel Ministry, former Col. Marwede. On Saturday morning 15 January 1966, Rechenberg mentioned that he had telephoned Marwede in my case. I asked him why, I hadn't asked him to do this. Rechenberg claimed he was trying to be helpful. I have the impression that Rechenberg is posing as a friend and helper in order to suppress suspicion that he is really against me.

Q: When Rechenberg showed up here with all those rumors, we asked him to cite persons who were spreading them. He was quite embarrassed and would not identify them.

Q: I recall you have said to me you suspected that Rechenberg is working for GAMMA.

C: And I said also, not only for GAMMA. It's clear he's working for the Algerians. The fact that after Ben Bella's downfall, a Ben Bella-hired Economic Advisor remains in office, proves that he is too important to the Algerians of whatever stripe. I recall in 1962 I was asked my Minister Nakkache to find out in Bonn if the Federal Republic could send two or three ranking police officials to Algeria or to accept and train

a batch of Algerians in criminal police methods. I mentioned this request in Bonn but got no answer at all. Subsequently I learned that three German police officials spent some time in Algeria in training the locals and they lodged with Rechenberg during this period.

Q: Look, let's return to my previous statement about the first evident hand not being necessarily the terminal one. In this context, have you at any time known or heard of a Mr. Felfe.

C: Felfen?

Q: Felfe. F-E-L-F-E.

C: No, never heard the name. Has the name come up in our conversations?? No?? Felfer???

Q: You may not have seen it down in Tunis, but in 1961 or thereabouts the Spiegel carried a big article about this man who was accused, or at least suspected, of being a Soviet penetration of GAMMA.

C: Word of honor. I didn't know that. Ah, ah, yes, then it's quite possible that Serge Michel learned from Felfe -- the Soviets -- that Serge Michel knew what role I played in North Africa -- for only a man in the GAMMA organization could know about me. Well, well -- and that's how Serge Michel was informed about me. For he couldn't possibly know it otherwise. And Serge Michel specifically mentioned me in his newspaper articles as an Abwehr agent.

Q: One could be tempted to suspect that Serge Michel had the assignment to identify you, denigrate you and finish you off.

C: If I recall correctly, Rechenberg's information that Serge Michel disappeared from Algiers cannot be correct. A man like Serge Michel who has outlived everything, is a close friend of Kaci in Tunis and subsequently in Algiers -- how else could he have gotten to be editor in chief of newspapers there despite the fact that he is a Jew? Therefore he must have connections to the chief of the Algiers spy service.

Q: Let's return to your contact with the Spiegel in December 1965.

C: But the Spiegel wrote me they weren't interested in putting out an article on my case -- and if I know the Spiegel, they probably asked GAMMA and GAMMA probably said, Lord, no, he worked for us. And that's why Spiegel said it wasn't interested. I assume this.

Q: But now let's talk a bit more about Dr. Friederich Wilhelm Beissner. When did you get to know him?

C: In 1958, in the Deutsches Buero at this time I was dealing with a certain Gause (phon) on Japanese cameras. These Japanese cameras were to be handled with one of the firms I knew, Eickoff and Co. in Hamburg and Gause was to pay the bill to his principals. I then had a fight with Gause and wrote Eickoff and Co. and told them the business arrangement with Gause was out. I got a letter back from Eickoff and Co. which informed me that Eickoff had been called by a certain Mr. Klein, an acquaintance of Gause. Klein belongs to the firm of Kurtz, Klein and Reihhold, which in 1959-1960 had some shady deals going in Lybia. One of this group was Swiss, another

a German and the other English. This crew was befriended with Beissner. Eickoff wrote me that Klein had denigrated me and that he, Dr. Eickoff, in order to stop these rumors had recommended me to Dr. Beissner in Cairo, in 1958. I never heard anything further in the matter. Then when Beissner appeared in Tunis, after 1962, I didn't recall his name. Only later did I remember that Eickoff had recommended me to Beissner. But he always claimed he did not know me. That Beissner has abused my name is a fact and the fact that, today, Beissner is a close friend of Chabou, especially Madam Chabou, indicates he had received Klein's slanders against me.

Q: In the period after your move to Algeria, did you see Beissner?

C: Oh yes. He traveled frequently to Algeria, with his wife, too, and one day the following happened. I was living in the Hotel Albert Prennier and the porter said to me, "Oh, you're flying back to Tunis, here is a letter for Dr. Beissner, it arrived shortly after he departed -- would you take it along to Tunis?" I took the letter, opened it later. It was from a certain Kirchfeldt (phon) in Duesseldorf. The contents were really innocuous credit proposals. I took the letter along and mailed it in Tunis to Beissner's address. Two weeks later I got a telegram from the Albert Prennier Hotel saying I should return the letter immediately if not delivered. I cabled back the letter had been delivered. Some time later I met Mrs. Beissner at the airport in Tunis and she asked me what had happened to the letter. I told her I had sent it on. She said they had never received it. And that was the last conversation with the Beissners. Since then I saw him a couple of times but did not speak with him.