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RE: Egypt/Germany
SUBJECT: Dr. Wilhelm Voss, Chief of the German Experts' Group in Egypt
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PLACE ACQUIRED: Egypt, Cairo
SOURCE: A tested source who is an ex-German Abwehr I officer in Cairo (B). Appraisal of content: 2

Biographical Background

1. Dr. Wilhelm Voss, chief of the German experts' group in Egypt, was born in Rostock on 1 July 1896. His business experience is in trade and industry, particularly the armament industry, and he maintains many German and international relations. Among the latter are the Swiss Verlixon firm and Fritz Mandel of the Argentine.

2. During the Hitler regime Dr. Voss associated unequivocally with the Nazi Party and must be considered, in a wide sense, to have belonged to the leading circle. He was looked upon as a friend of Goering.

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He held the rank of SS Brigadier (SS Brigadefuehrer) and the title of Leader of the Economy of Defense (Wehrwirtschaftsfuehrer).

3. He was originally employed with the Deutsch-Revisions- und Treuhandgesellschaft. From this he advanced to key positions in German industry, among them deputy chairman of the board of the Hermann Goering Works, Salzgitter; Director of Skoda in the "Protectorate"; Chairman of the German-Slovak Association; Board member of the Donau Dampfschiffahrts-Gesellschaft, Vienna; deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Jicyr-Dal-ler-Puch A.G., Vienna, and member of the Board of Rheinmetall Borsig A.G.

4. In 1944 he resigned all his positions, allegedly because his misuse of funds in the Protectorate had been revealed. He is reported to have been entrusted by Nazi leaders with illegal transfers of money near the end of the war, and this is often given as the reason why no charges of misuse of funds were placed against him.

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From the end of the war to 1949, Dr. Voss lived in Berlin.
In 1949, he is reported to have been in Mexico under a German-issued
passport.

Formation of the German Experts' Group in Egypt

6. Dr. Voss visited Egypt for the first time in early 1949, at
which time he ^{officially} contacted the Egyptian Government and proposed to
engage German experts to establish an armaments industry in Egypt
and to reorganize the Egyptian army. The intermediary between
Voss and the Egyptian Government was a man who had arranged
wireless communication during World War II between King Farouk
and Hitler via Fehera, and who was excellently informed during the
post-war period about the various coups in the Arab states, for
instance, Syria (-).

7. Voss returned to Germany to enlist experts, and his
first three choices were: Heinrich von Bechtold (former ~~German~~ ^{German} ~~Colonel~~ ^{Colonel}),
a navy captain; a certain Finnenlin; and a Czech engineer whose
acquaintance with Dr. Voss probably dated back to the Protectorate.

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8. Voss returned to Egypt with these three men in April 1954. They all stayed together in a hotel for the first week, and then they went to their respective assignments. Voss was paid his salary regularly and punctually. He paid his family allowances to the other three men. Kinnorlin was not satisfied with the terms of the contract and returned to Germany after a few weeks.

9. Voss was employed as chief adviser to the Farouk Government for matters of armament production and supply, and the specialist group was gradually built up to its current state.

Voss's Personal Position in Egypt

10. Although Voss was employed by the Farouk Government, he maintained and even improved his contacts with the new regime. He has personal contact with Sa'ad, with Sa'ad's brother (Sa'ad's reputation in the revolutionary committee), and other leading personalities. Nevertheless, his position is not so secure as he would have his associates believe. He has no more authoritative voice in the military than the other members.

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11. In addition to his duty as general manager of the expert group, Voss has the responsibility for all economic, commercial, and industrial problems concerning the expert group. In April 1953 he was entrusted with, or at least active in, finding a suitable candidate in Germany for the organization of an overall security authority.

12. In April 1953 Voss's monthly salary was, by his own words, £L 250. He has labeled as unfounded rumors that his salary was £L 500 per month - in addition to various commission fees he collected - and that his contract had been extended for another five years. He stated emphatically that he had never engaged in and never would engage in extra transactions. Voss stated on this same occasion that he would carry on independent cooperation in the future instead of signing another contract. This probably represents an attempt by Voss to save face in light of the non-renewal of his contract.

13. On 26 May 1953 Voss lodged a complaint with the Legation Consul General in Frankfurt against G. Gajal, a responsible officer

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at the consulate. He complained that the Consul General
offended Voss and his family by asserting that Voss always
act unselfishly on project and purchase missions. On 13
3 June the Consul General replied that he regretted the matter and
that nothing dishonest about Voss had come to his personal knowledge.
Galal is a member of the circle of Abdul Karim, a newspaper publisher
who is Voss's adversary and who was in Germany at the same time
as Voss.

14. Voss and Suhaib al-Dorai, the previous Consul
General in Baghdad, had been good friends before the latter's re-
call and retirement, at which time a complete break of relations
between the two occurred. In April 1953 Voss made efforts at re-
conciliation and was successful. It was considered a tactical move
that Voss, after his return from Germany in May 1953, allowed him-
self to be seen in Dorai's company.

Certain Activities of Voss in Trade and Industry

15. Voss's trips to Germany to negotiate projects to be
carried out in Iraq and to purchase German products for Iraq are important

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part of his duties. He took his latest trip to Germany in April 1953. On his January trip Voss was accompanied by Colonel Muhammad Wahab al-Ahaffar, Egyptian military officer. These trips are excellently arranged from Cairo and in January 1953 representatives of the most important German industrial works called immediately at the Consulate General in Frankfurt in arrangements with Voss.

16. Voss makes wide use of Joachim Herzog, a German, as his agent for transactions with German industrial firms and the German firms do likewise. Herzog operates a business office for foreign trade and currency at Wilhelmstrasse 25, Berlin (near Bondi) and maintains a branch office at Sherif El-Ashraf Street, Cairo. Herzog resides at Kula Jekher Street 75, where Breitbachon the phone. He used to appear from time to time in Cairo, but he was suddenly refused a renewal of his Egyptian visa, allegedly because of having sold outdated arms from Spain to the Egyptians during the Israeli-Arab war. His alleged partner in this transaction was Prince Abbas

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Halt. Voss, in view of his position, felt it would be inadvisable to
his direct contacts with Hertalet, but the latter's representative in
Cairo, Dr. Messner, continued to maintain contact with Voss for
business discussions.

17. On 6 January 1953 Voss, while in Cairo, intervened
personally in behalf of Hertalet, whose application for renewal of
his visa had just again been refused. A conversation took place
between the Consul General and Galal. Although the results are not
known, Voss has subsequently invited Hertalet to many business
meetings and has treated him as his trustee.

18. Among the industrial firms with which Voss wishes to deal
is Mannastahl, Dueseldorf, whose Cairo agents are Messrs. L. Zert
of Kasr el Nil No. 13. The latter in turn are associated with
certain Dr. Osterlitz who has become a close associate, although he is re-
puted to be of Jewish descent. The German circle around Voss regarded
his acceptance of a private invitation to visit Osterlitz as merely a
tactical move, since practically there were always only Jews present.

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Voss's Relations with the German Embassy

19. Voss ignores the Cairo embassy of the German Democratic Republic. Whenever a member of the expert's group finds it appropriate to consult the embassy, Voss emphasizes the expert's duties to Egypt against his duties to the embassy. This practice has caused Ambassador ^{Günther} Pawelke to complain to Bonn against Voss's arrogance and his consistent ignoring of the embassy.

Voss's Czech Assistants

20. Dr. Voss employs in his office three Czechs, who are all in probability collaborators from the time of his activities in the Protectorate. They cannot return to Czechoslovakia, and their provisional passports have expired and have not been renewed. Their fate depends solely upon Voss's future position.

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