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MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant, Intelligence
Department of State

Attention: Mr. Charles Lockett

FROM: Frank G. Wison
Deputy Director, Plans

SUBJECT: German Nationals in Egypt

The following information is forwarded with reference to your request number GIB-2914, dated 18 May 1953:

1. Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich VOSS, born 1 July 1896 in Kestock, Germany, prominent German industrialist now in Egypt, was, during the period from 1938 until 1945, director general of Reichswerke AG fuer Waffen- und Maschinenbau Hermann Goering, president and chairman of the board of directors of AG Stahl Werke Pilsen, deputy chairman of the board of directors of Rheinmetall-Borsig AG, managing director of the Brunner Waffenfabrik in Czechoslovakia and head of the Central Armaments Office of the Hitler regime. Our files indicate that VOSS was a member of the "Stahlhelm" until 1934 when he joined the SS organization in which he subsequently achieved the rank of Lt. Colonel. VOSS joined the National Socialist Party in 1937. His first wife and children died in Czechoslovakia towards the end of the war. It is reported that he has since remarried a widow who has six daughters.

2. Some time after the end of hostilities in Germany, VOSS settled in Detmold or Tegernsee in Bavaria. Early in 1951 at the invitation of the Egyptian Government he went to Cairo as the head of a group of former Rheinmetall-Borsig and Krupp engineers and technicians to organize Egypt's armaments industry. During the past two years VOSS has been described by a variety of sources as the chief technical planner of the Egyptian Ministry of War, "Franking" German advisor to the Egyptian authorities. VOSS' role in Egypt has also been the subject of several articles in the U. S. and German press. In recent months, it

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has been reported in Cairo that the German officers in Egypt feel that VOGEL is rather than the German Ambassador, Günther Henkel, is the real representative of West German interests in Cairo. They believe VOGEL has been trying to obtain diplomatic status from the Home Department.

It is noted that the establishment of a Hellenic bank in London during summer in Beirut, Syria, which will be financed by Egyptian, Syrian and other Hellenic East European interests and operated for the benefit of Arab nations which have already purchased Hellenic orders. According to this report, which has not been confirmed, VOGEL will be the firm's director. The management and financial operations will be handled by his Greek colleagues.

It is noted also received reports from a fairly reliable source that VOGEL contacted with leading officials of the German Federal Republic, among them Chancellor Adenauer, in last Friday January and February 1953. At this time he tried to recruit former German officers and consular staff from various West German cities for work in Egypt. A reliable source reporting on this subject states that VOGEL also tried to arrange a working relationship between his group and the Swedish Bank Offices. VOGEL's proposals were rejected allegedly because of his strong ill health and his reputation as an unscrupulous businessman, who is widely discredited in international circles. In April 1953, VOGEL made a second trip to Germany. On this occasion a reliable source reported that VOGEL tried to persuade West German Ambassador, probably Ernst BIRNER, and other former German consular officers, to transfer to Cairo German-Egyptian Ambassadorial properties. At this time, VOGEL's activities were of some concern to German Federal Office officials, who favored his previous right being demonstrated to the Federal Republic. Sources alleged that the National League Security Agencies were concerned that VOGEL had financial connections with Hellenic firms in Egypt and that the Federal Office had proposed the Egyptian authorities not to hire the latter.

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SECRET
450

SECRET

6. Colonel Kurt JUNGEL (17001), former assistant infantry officer and chief of staff of the German 54th Corps, born circa 1909, has been an advisor on infantry matters to the Egyptian Government since the summer of 1953 according to reports from reliable observers. It is possible that he is identical with a Colonel JUNGEL, who has been described by a source of unknown reliability as deputy to General Wilhelm WILHELMSSON, chief of the unofficial German Military Mission in Egypt and ranking military adviser to General Mohamed MATHI. This same source has alleged that WILHELMSSON drafted the plan by which the Egyptian Army returned order in Cairo following the 23 January 1954 riots.

7. Major Gerhard GERTJ MEYER (10721), wartime commander of the 4th Company, 1st Engineer Regiment, Division of the German Army in Syria and commander of "special parachute missions", is reported to have been a member of the unofficial German Military Mission in Egypt since the summer of 1953. MEYER is said to be working in Egyptian parachute unit. A source of unknown reliability alleges that MEYER assisted the former German Consul Otto MANN in entering Egypt and that the latter in his turn set up four AF Salves, Munich-Palace Courier in Cairo and thus during March or April 1953.

8. In answer to your request for a complete account of Otto MANN's activities in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Palestine, a report prepared and will be forwarded in a separate memorandum.

CG 100-6043

12/10/53 [redacted] by
2 June 1953

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