

DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
S E C R E T

PROCESSING ACTION

MARKED FOR INDEXING

To

X

NO INDEXING REQUIRED

INFO.

ONLY QUALIFIED DESK
CAN JUDGE INDEXING

FROM

Chief, Africa Division

MICROFILM

SUBJECT

O Dr. Friedrich Wilhelm REISSNER

ACTION REQUIRED - REFERENCES

ATTA-5103

1. Attached are traces on Subject which were compiled in 1958. Shortly thereafter CATIDE responded to KURARK's request for information on Subject by admitting "loose contact" with him in Egypt but disclaiming control or direction. CATIDE reported that REISSNER was suspected of French I. S. connections, was deeply involved in weapons trading in the Arab world, was presumed to have a close connection with the Egyptian I. S. although proof was lacking. As of 1960 REISSNER and his wife planned to leave Cairo and settle in Tunis, where they stopped over en route to Munich. They arrived in Munich in October of 1960 and two days later as REISSNER got into his newly purchased car and drove off, there was an explosion which injured him seriously and required amputation of a leg. Police speculated that the OAS Main Rouge had rigged the explosion. As of 1961 Subject had recovered from the accident, and intercepted correspondence revealed that he was heavily engaged in business activity, and planned to move to Tunis in May. A letter from one Cherif in Tunis discussed possible business ventures with Maarek and Mondheur. The REISSNERS (according to intercepted correspondence) had apparently left Cairo under a cloud of some sort, were black-listed, could not return there, and were obliged to dispose of their personal belongings as best they could with the help of friends.

2. There is nothing in the 201 which specifically gives reason to believe that he is working for the Bloc, although this cannot be excluded. Like numerous other former Nazi intelligence personalities, he is apparently an opportunist who still maintains intelligence connections, and CHRISTMANN was probably not wrong in saying that REISSNER would do anything for money.

Attachment - As stated, herewith

Distribution:

Original & 1 - Addressee, w/attachment

Attachment

17 FEB 1966

CROSS REFERENCE TO CS 6024	DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER ATTN-1567	DATE 14 February 1966
	CLASSIFICATION S E C R E T	HQS FILE NUMBER C 3
OFFICE AF/1/CI	TYPIST [] [] []	EXT. 7184
OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE	OFFICER'S NAME
OFFICE SYMBOL C/AF	DATE 2/16	RELEASING OFFICER'S SIGNATURE [] []

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 252B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2601 2006
AF/1/CI

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DISPATCH

CONTINUATION OF DISPATCH

CLASSIFICATION
SECRET

DISPATCH SYMBOL AND NUMBER
AFSA - 3505

3. In case reporting to be able to get current copies traces on messages which will be sent to you if available.

4. Refer the attached document and advise anyone who is in contact with the source and is probable they will be able to get current copies of the message. The source and a copy of the message will be sent to you if available. About 100 copies of the message will be sent to you if available.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

3. The following are traces on Willi BEISSNER:

a) One Wilhelm BEISSNER was Gestapo chief in Lodz, Poland and Zagreb, Croatia during World War II. One of the most cruel Gestapo officials, responsible for the deaths of a great many Jews in Poland, as well as a number of other victims in districts where he had been stationed. age 35, height 1 meter 80 centimeters; dark hair parted on left side; bad teeth; speaks with slight lisp; has very noticeable white spots on one of his hands due to some acid having spilled on it. Prior to World War II was an advisor in the Foreign Politics Section of the German Foreign Office, of which ROSENBERG was the head. Subject was a specialist in the Balkan states and had much to do with the Ir on Guard putsch in Rumania. At the same time he was an SS Hauptsturmfuehrer in Heinrich HIMMLER's headquarters. At the outbreak of World War II he went to Poland and was made Chief of the Gestapo in Lodz. After three or four months he returned to Germany, was promoted to Sturmbannfuehrer, and became an advisor for the Near East in the RSHA, which was the SS security organization. He made several trips to Near East countries in 1939 and 1950. Early in 1941 he went to Yugoslavia, and became Gestapo chief in Bagreb. He was recalled from there to Berlin due to differences with the German Ambassador, KASCHE. Toward the end of 1941 he was again in the RSHA with a roving assignment which included travels to Greece and, later, to North Africa. In 1942 he was in North Africa with ROMMEL on a special mission for the Gestapo with another Gestapo man named WECKE (fnu). In late 1943 or early 1944 he returned to Berlin and was promoted to Obersturmbannfuehrer, and was named the "referent" or expert, for Switzerland. He traveled much and directed his work in Switzerland from outside that country. The informant for this report last saw him late in December 1944 and early 1945, in Milan. Subject is married; has one child; is separated from his wife. (Report No. B-2461, KUTWIN, Bern, dated 12 April 1945, from a German official who deserted to Switzerland in February 1945).

b) In November 1943 Subject was in Amt VI C, RSHA, and directing the build-up of a Near East espionage network, operating from Italy.

c) Subject was an SD official in Tunis during World War II, and had liaison with the Grand Mufti. After the war he escaped an American prison camp in Italy, probably with French help, and went to the French Zone of Austria. Now living in Munich. (Vienne ODCPAL report P/01435 of 9 May 1950).

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d) Major BEISSNER was Chief of the City Security Office of the Gestapo in Tunis during World War II. Was an SS Reputationsbannfuhrer. Dark brown hair; high forehead; scar on left cheek from ear to mouth; large white mark on left hand. (KUTWIN report of 15 November 1943 based on PW interrogations in Tunis).

e) Willy BEISSNER, alias Dr. JAEGER, former assistant to Obergruppenfuhrer WOLFF in Italy, is now living in Munich. (MAVA-7237, 8 December 1950).

f) A German walk-in at the ODYOKE Consulate in Cairo, 10 June 1954, described himself as a tourist traveling around the world, stated he was anti-communist, and went on to say that in June 1954 he had met in Cairo Maj. Gen. Otto Ernst ROEMER, or REMER, and that ROEMER had told him he had been approached by Dr. Willi BEISSNER, alias JAEGER, a German businessman in Egypt who is trying to persuade ROEMER to accept a position in East Germany as a police advisor. The informant said BEISSNER has close connections in East Germany but did not otherwise elaborate. (NECA-1891, 11 June 1954).

g) Subject, formerly associated with J.G.A. BEISSNER in business in Cairo, had an office at 2 Sharif Risha St., Apt. 97, Cairo. The name of the business was the Egyptian Continental Trading Company. (NEA Telecommunications Watch-List Memorandum of 31 September 1954).

h) Dr. Wilhelm BEISSNER, born 18 August 1911, is active with a group of German military experts in Egypt. Introduced SKORZNY in Cairo. (FRAN-6239 of 14 February 1957).

i) ODACID, Cairo, reports BEISSNER's business firm's reputation is bad; they are not recommended as agents and they should be avoided in business matters. At one time they were representing themselves as acting on behalf of the Bonn government, trying to foster Egypt-German trade, although they had no right to. They are blacklisted with the German Embassy in Cairo and by the Egypt-German Chamber of Commerce in Cairo. Apparently they dispose of no means. (NECA-1153 of 27 November 1953, reporting the Egyptian Continental Trading Company).

j) Subject, German, age about 35, height six feet, slim, broad nose, speaks excellent French. Was in North Africa in 1943 and Syria in 1944. Was engaged in IS work in Syria for the Middle East Section of the RSHA in World War II. The following Syrians were allegedly agents of BEISSNER's:

RECEIVED
MAY 1954

1) Faysal SHAYKH-al-ARD, recruiting agent for the RSHA in Germany and personal friend of BEISSNER's; his family in Syria cooperated with the Germans.

2) Babjat SHAYKH-al-ARD, Faysal's father; a doctor; in 1945 lived in Mohajeria Damascus.

3) Majid SHAKH-al-ARD, Coordinated Arab activities in Germany during World War II. Was interrogated by the British in 1945 when he returned to Aleppo. Is connected with the Grand Mufti.

4) Shawkat SAKATI, friend of Faysal SHAYKH-al-ARD's. Studied in Germany and was extremely pro-German. His address was Rue Mouhadden, Damascus, but in 1944 he was reported as the municipal doctor of Maaret en-Namaane, near Istakia. (RLEW-453, 2 November 1948, from traces no longer identifiable).

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Att. 1: AHW-1567

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