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PERTINENT INFORMATION

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The Strachwitz Period

11. Husni Za'im, the new Syrian dictator, gave his support and confidence to Graf Strachwitz and appointed Colonel Walter Rauff as commissioner of security with the special task of reorganizing Syrian intelligence. Rauff is a former SS-Standartenfuehrer and had taken an active part in Za'im's putsch.

12. Graf Strachwitz, Rauff, and nearly all other members of the German group were dismissed after Sami al-Hinnawi seized power in August 1949. In September 1949 there remained only 16 German officers, six of whom were pilots.

Personalities

10. Colonel Walter Rauff (listed as RAPP in some instances), was an SS-Standartenfuehrer, served during World War II in Tunis, and as an active Gestapo man commanded the SS at Milan. He played a leading role in the German experts group in Syria prior to and during Za'im's regime, was appointed commissioner of security, and charged with re-organization of Syrian intelligence. He was dismissed after Za'im's fall and is reported to be in Ecuador.

Correction CS-28021 Dated 29 January 1954

2. Washington Comment. Tabbarah has been reported at various times to be using the alias Homsî or Hamsî. A usually reliable source reported in February 1950 that Tabbarah had furnished Walter Rauff false documents under the name of Dr. Homsî when Rauff came to Rome in 1947. Hence, according to these reports, both Tabbarah and Rauff have used the alias Homsî.

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