

GENOUD, Francois

LSZ 5-3

- ① GENOUD, Francois (S)
- ② BREGUET, Bruno (S)
- ③ L'Espresso FID

TERRORISM

*Switzerland*

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SWISS BANKER'S TIES TO BREGUET, NEC-NAZIS, ARABS SEEN

Paris LE MONDE in French 7-8 Mar 82 p 16

[Article by Jean-Claude Buhner]

[Text] Berne--The recent arrest in Paris of Bruno Breguet and Magdalena Knupp raises once again the question of the ties of certain terrorist groups to the neo-Nazis. In Switzerland, one name comes up with unusual consistency every time the press wonders aloud about such "connections": the name of the Lausanne banker Francois Genoud. It so happens that for a number of years already, Genoud has reportedly been in contact with Bruno Breguet.

At the time the young Swiss was arrested in June 1970 as he was disembarking in the port of Haifa with 2 kilograms of explosives in his baggage, Genoud reportedly used his influence to get him out of trouble. Genoud himself said he had financed Bruno Breguet's defense and the organization of committees in favor of Breguet's release. Sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Israeli courts, the young Swiss was pardoned after he had served 7 years, and on his return went to Lausanne to thank Genoud. Several months ago the Vaudois banker indicated to an Italian journalist that Bruno Breguet was still involved in networks of support for the PLO.

Just as Bruno Breguet--who at the time of his trial in Israel admitted that he had been assigned a mission by the FPLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine]--Francois Genoud was also in communication with the organization of Georges Habache. In 1969, moreover, he had been present--as attorney for the defense--at the Winterthur trial of three members of the FPLP who had carried out an attack in Zurich against an aircraft of the Israeli El Al company.

On various occasions the Lausanne banker has served as intermediary between former Nazis and certain Arab circles. A friend of the Geneva fascist Georges Ultramaré during the Hitler era, Genoud had been a member of the National Union and other Swiss anti-Semitic movements of the far right. Recruited by the Abwehr at the outset of the war, he worked for the German intelligence services. Since the collapse of the Third Reich he has been considered to be one of the principal promoters of nazism at the international level.

Dusseldorf and Paris against the publishers of a version of Hitler's "Libres propos sur la guerre et la paix" [Independent Observations on War and Peace] that had not been submitted to him. His own version derived directly from the files of Martin Bormann (see LE MONDE, 2 July 1952). In 1956 a court in Cologne confirmed his rights as sole legatee of Goebbels' posthumous works.

His friendship with the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem (himself a fervent admirer of Hitler) had opened doors to him in the Arab world. He was associated with the former SS generals Wolff and Ramke and also had regular contacts with Schacht, Hitler's former finance minister, and with Hans Reichenberg, a former SS commander. Using Arab capital, he founded the Arab Commercial Bank in Geneva.

After Algeria gained its independence he became general manager of the People's Bank of Algeria; but the day after the story of the Khider scandal broke in 1964 he was arrested for fraudulent management by the Ben Bella government, which suspected him of having arranged for transfers of funds to the account of the former secretary of the FLN [National Liberation Front]. After his release at the behest of the Swiss authorities, Francois Genoud resumed his activities as representative of the Arab Commercial Bank, where the "war treasury of the FLN" had been deposited (it was subsequently returned to Algeria, in 1979). At the age of 66, Genoud is today pursuing his publishing activities; he is preparing to publish, in Hamburg, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Hitler's seizure of power, the "Notes politiques" [Political Notes] which Hitler dictated to Bormann.

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