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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. STIA-1107

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, SE
FROM : []
SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational
SPECIFIC— [] Liaison with German IS

DATE: 26 December 1955

INFO: []
*Disseminate
Case Eval
2/6/61
3 Jan 61*

REF: STIA-910, 28 September 1955 (gen. Intel Act. Turkey)

Headquarters Action Requested: Traces on Heinrich BITZER

1. In early December 1955, [] received two short reports from Dean KOCH, the Istanbul representative of Radio Free Europe, on conversations the latter had had with Heinrich BITZER (see German Primer and paragraph 4 below), on the subject of the expansion of the German intelligence effort in Turkey. KOCH reports that BITZER has been acting as liaison between the local chief of the German intelligence (NU) and [] The purpose in this preliminary liaison is to establish agreement on the form that an expanded German intelligence effort will take, i.e., whether its personnel should operate under attache cover, under some other consulate cover or completely covertly. [] allegedly has stated that he does not care what form it takes as long as he is kept informed. BITZER stated that he had been asked to make suggestions on this subject, based on his long experience in Turkey and his knowledge of the Turks. However, BITZER feels that it is not up to him to make any suggestions, claiming that he is no longer active in the intelligence field.
2. BITZER further stated that the visit to Turkey of Theodor BLANK*, West German Minister of Defense, was at the initiative of the German Intelligence Service and had the following purposes:
 - a. To offer an exchange of military experience and weapons, primarily to flatter the Turks;
 - b. To arrange for the establishment of military observers in Turkey, some of whom would not necessarily be attaches, but would have civilian status;
 - c. To induce Turkey to support the assignment of German officers to NATO;
 - d. Primarily to establish a base for intelligence operations into southeastern Europe and the USSR.

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* BLANK arrived in Turkey by special plane from Bonn on 24 October 1955, accompanied by ~~Adolf BITZER~~, Eberhard ~~BEHPACK~~, Carl ~~LEBEROCK~~, Heinrich ~~BECK~~ and Hans ~~BEHROCK~~ (name spellings as appearing on the Turkish travel lists). The group departed for Frankfurt on 4 November via Air France.

3. BITZER's reasoning behind the above is based on the fact that the Ministry of Defense, and therefore the Abwehr, has cabinet rank, which, for instance, ZIPPER does not have. For this reason an all-German effort in an official organization can only develop through BLANK's office. The Turks, furthermore feel that ZIPPER is too penetrated by Americans and want no part of a Germano-American organization. They are friendly with the Germans, have a long tradition of military cooperation, and are willing to work closely once more with the German intelligence, not caring that the Americans know the fact of the cooperation, but unwilling that they know the extent and type of the cooperation. BITZER feels that Turkey is in a strategic area in which the Germans have a chance to develop an independent intelligence service free from Allied interference.

4. BITZER, whose mother was Jewish and father German, is the nephew of Heinrich KRANZFELD, a prominent local business man of German-Jewish extraction. BITZER is at present the director of the Ernest Fasting Company dealing in insurance and shipping and is also the local representative of the Deutsche-Levant Line. (According to [redacted], Schenker and Company, a stronghold of German intelligence in Istanbul during World War II, has been re-organized under the name of Fasting, although the former still appears in the Istanbul telephone directory under ~~SENER~~.) [redacted] says that BITZER is a man of great intelligence, but of low moral character and has a great weakness for women other than his attractive wife. He says that BITZER grew rich during the early part of World War II in Istanbul where he operated as a protege of Admiral ~~SALANIS~~. He left for Germany in 1943 where he later "had dealings with the Americans,"* and returned to Turkey in 1950 where he has since had dealings with [redacted], the nature of which are unknown to [redacted]. Until recently BITZER had a secretary/mistress named Beatrice ~~HEIDENWOLF~~, born approximately in 1920. Miss HEIDENWOLF resigned as BITZER's secretary in the fall of 1954 and assumed Turkish citizenship. She is currently known as Beatrice ~~UHOFFAK~~.

* If this statement is true, it can be assumed that other members of [redacted] know about it, making it peculiar that they accept BITZER as a liaison man between themselves and the German IS.

5. [redacted] states that for the last year and one-half, the Ernest Fasting Company has handled no commercial dealings whatever between West Germany

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and Turkey, owing to the latter's economical difficulties. In spite of this
Wasting appears to be thriving, leading us to believe that it is partly, if
not wholly, supported by the West German government.

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23 December 1955

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