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Subject: Colonel Walter RAUF

Report No: RSD-323

Date of information: 14-31 August 1949

Place Acquired: Damascus, Syria

Date Acquired: 31 August 1949

Evaluation: F-2

Date of Report: 2 September 1949

Source: [ ]

RAUF, WALTER (COL)

1. Colonel RAUF, German SS officer formerly employed as advisor to the Syrian Deuxieme Bureau, was arrested on the day of the coup and, along with Ibrahim HUSAYNI, Chief of the MPs, and Abd-il-Ilah/RASLAN, of the Deuxieme Bureau, was charged with "terrorism". It was RAUF, according to his accusers, who had set up the torture devices which had been used on the persons suspected of being connected with the Jewish bombing incident. The idea of trying RAUF was pushed on by the fact that, as one of ZA'IM's foreign friends whom ZA'IM trusted more than his own Syrian officer supporters, he was very unpopular with the Army.
2. After RAUF convinced the military authorities that he, as a mere hired advisor, had no command responsibilities and had simply given his advice to HUSAYNI when he asked for it, he was released and told to leave the country. Accordingly, he is proceeding this week to Egypt where, he told source, he hopes to get a job as advisor to the Egyptian services. If he has no luck there he hopes to go to Italy.
3. He is to be accompanied by one Otto GRUBER, a young German who had been employed by the Deuxieme Bureau as "Soviet and Communist expert." There was no charge against GRUBER. He was fired simply because the new Deuxieme Bureau does not think it worth while to pay a "Communist expert".

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