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ABSTRACT OF DOCUMENT BEING CROSS FILED			CROSS FILED BY
FILE NO. Not Classified	SOURCE JX 4556	DATE OF DOCUMENT 22 January 1954	ANALYST
SUBJECT Background Information on German Military Experts in Syria			DATE 23 February 54

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Place Acquired Cairo, Egypt
Source: A tested source who is an ex-German Abwehr I officer in Cairo (B).
Appraisal of Content: 2.

CS-28021

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

40. 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 reorganization 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 Homsi or Hamsi. A usually reliable source reported in February 1950 that Tabbarah had furnished Walter Rauff false documents uner the name of Dr. Homsi when Rauff came to Rome in 1947. Hence, according to these reports, both Tabbarah and Rauff have used the alias Homsi.

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FILE THIS FORM IN FILE NO.

FORM NO. 1 DEC 1952 (35)

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Date: 2001, 2005