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DISPATCH NO. NEAA-371

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, NEA

DATE 11 August 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, [redacted]

SUBJECT: GENERAL Operational, [redacted]
SPECIFIC: "Der Spiegel" Article on Dr. Wilhelm VOSS and the German Advisors

REF: [redacted] 706 (NEA-230)

1. Forwarded as an attachment hereto is a translation (made by [redacted]) of an article appearing in the West German magazine "Der Spiegel," and the magazine itself. In light of the recent dismissals and resignations of a number of the German experts, the article is of considerable interest and, if true, confirms to a large extent what [redacted] has reported about the activities of Dr. VOSS for some time.

2. [redacted] called [redacted] attention to the article and had the following comments to make on its contents: "VOSS's activities brought about the dispute between he and West German Ambassador FANKE. VOSS largely ignored the Ambassador and presented himself as the most important German in Egypt, despite his unofficial status. He undoubtedly had interests other than that of the Advisory Group - he constantly attempted to place German nationals (many of whom are ex-Nazis) in positions in Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries and was usually successful. This was the primary, though unofficial, function of Jaeger FLEISCHER (see NEA-48) who posed as VOSS's secretary and administrative assistant despite the fact that he had no qualifications whatsoever to make him a member of the German Advisory Group. Both he and VOSS were in close contact with a neo-Nazi center in Munich."

3. [redacted] further stated that "VOSS obviously had a greater monthly income than the LE 210 which he was paid by the Egyptians as head of the Advisory Group. He spent much more on himself and for entertainment. He admittedly represented a number of German firms attempting to sell industrial machinery and products to the Egyptian Government. He was unsuccessful in this because through bureaucratic inertia the offers were not acted upon before the Egyptians became suspicious of his motives and activities and those of the other Germans in April/May 1954. Most Germans, whether business men or officials, contacted VOSS when they came through Cairo despite the fact that most of them had no business reason for so doing. VOSS was principally responsible for the presence in Egypt of Colonel Otto SEIBERT (NEA-109) who is known to be active in neo-Nazi circles. The majority of the experts picked

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by VOSS to come to Egypt were either ex-Nazis or technicians who had had good connections in the Third Reich - the few Czechs were added because VOSS did not want the group to have an exclusively German look, he was would believe that Czechs would willingly work with Nazis and his experience with Czech technicians while at SHODA had given him the idea that he would have no opposition from them."

4. [redacted] believes that the "Der Spiegel" article is essentially accurate and that the author was well informed about what went on both here and in Germany. We must, of course, remember that [redacted] as a Czech and during his association has come to dislike VOSS more and more. However, for well over a year he has reported bits and pieces regarding VOSS's extra-curricular activities and much of this would seem to have been confirmed by events. We are forwarding the attachments for what interest they may have to the interested desks.



Enclosures:

1. Magazine, for Headquarters
2. Translation, Headquarters & [redacted]

Distribution:

- 5 - Headquarters, w/encs 1 & 2
- 1 - [redacted] w/enc 2

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Translation from

- DER SPIEGEL

30 June 1952

#27

GERMANY

An expert for Egypt.

Secret, Private Personal

Prof. Walter Hallstein, the secretary of State of the Foreign Office in Bonn will have shortly to answer a serious objection: he is supposed to have collaborated with a man who is not highly esteemed by his own subordinate officials.

At the same time there may be discussed how carelessly outstanding officials of the Foreign Office deal with German - British relations which are far from being well established; moreover: how the friendship between West Germany and Egypt was spoilt by double-barrelled opposition (one against the other).

Dr. Wilhelm Voss, the German technical adviser-in-chief to the Egyptian Government and the leader of the Central Planning Board in Cairo has the confidence of Walter Hallstein to an extent which not even all German Ambassadors can claim; nevertheless it is a fact that Walter Hallstein is one of the highest officials of Western Germany and Wilhelm Voss was an outstanding leader of war-economy during the Nazi regime.

1. Footnote: According to Who's Who: "Who leads? The men in economy and in the connected administration" published 1941/42. Wilhelm Voss had the following positions in the Third Reich: President of the Management of the Reichswerke A.G. für Waffen- und Maschinenbau, "German Cowing," Berlin; President of the Supervisory Committee and of the Work Commission of the Siemens - Gess. - Paster A.G. für Maschinen-, Kessel- und Waggonbau, Wien; Steyr - Daimler - Puch A.G., Steyr; President of the Supervisory Committee of Omipal Sandale- A.G., Wien; Deputy President of the Supervisory Committee of the Rheinmetall-Borsig A.G., Berlin; A member of the supervisory committee of the Veltacher Magnet Werke A.G., Wien; President of the administrative committee of the Omipal S.A., Milano; President of the administrative committee and head of the Executive Committee A.G., previously Skoda in Pilsen and Prague; of the Eisenerzwerke Pechelone, Bratislava; a member of the administrative committee and the head of the Executive committee of the Explosiv, Explosivstoff - A.G., Prague; of the Synthesa, Chemische Werke A.G., Prague; of the Maschinenwerke Brunn, A.G., Brunn; Head of the administrative Council of the Avia A.G. für Flugzeugindustrie, Prague; of the Brunner Maschinenfabrik Gesellschaft, Brunn; of the Omipal A.G., Prague; President of the German - Slovakian Society in Berlin.

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The Egyptian career of Dr. Wilhelm Voss started with a "Confirmation about the urgency of exit visas" dated February 22, 1951 and signed by the Secretary of State of the German Ministry for Economy, Dr. Schalfjew. It goes as follows:

"Herr Dr. Wilhelm Voss, Rottach - Egern, Furstenstrasse 116 intends to travel to Egypt with a staff of his collaborators and their families. He leaves the country in the urgent economic interest of Western Germany. I ask you to take into account the importance of this journey in preparing the passports."

With such support started Dr. Wilhelm Voss at his job as chief of the exports in Egypt. He became an influential adviser of Gen. Maguib.

However, he did not neglect his relations with the highest personalities in Bonn because of this new function. He was fully supported in doing this by Helmut Allardt who was at that time chief Legation Councillor, and who was recently appointed German Ambassador in Indonesia. This man was with Voss after the end of the war in the same internment camp.

It is well known in Cairo that Dr. Voss and his closest associates boasted about their intimate relations with the highest officials in Bonn. In Cairo it was learned that the chief of the Political Department of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Herbert Blankenhorn, asked Dr. Wilhelm Voss in a letter to drop in the Palais Schenberg when he visited Germany next time.

Subordinate officials of the Foreign Office warned - according to a report from Cairo - German industrial managers and officers to collaborate with Dr. Wilhelm Voss; they did it on their own not suspecting that their own Secretary of State Walter Hallstein cooperated closely with Dr. Voss.

On the Nile it is known that this German employee of the Egyptian Government and thus a servant of a foreign power, Wilhelm Voss for many months had access to all letters and telegrams written in a code between the Foreign Office and the German Embassy in Cairo (in so far as he was interested in them). When there was a stoppage by mistake in delivering him these messages, Dr. Voss "looked for" certain documents.

Dr. Wilhelm Voss also built his relations after a try years activity in another direction.

Dated "Cairo 11.3. 1953" and marked as "top-secret" wrote Dr. Voss to "Lt. Col. Kamal Abd El Hamid, Min. of War and Marine, Cairo" who was dismissed in the meantime; the letter was in English. "Sir ... when I was in January of this year in Germany I entered in relation with the High Command of the new German Army. The purpose and the aim was on both sides to prepare, if possible an agreement for future cooperation and to get for our work here especially the new service regulations, instructions and ideas, etc. concerning organization, armament, tactics, etc."

"Owing to the fact that I know personally very well some competent officers in Bonn I was able to make a private agreement with them to prepare step by step an agreement of mutual cooperation and for delivery of service regulations, instructions etc. to us. It is naturally obvious that this fact has to be

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handled as a top secret and that it will be handled only in a private, personal and confidential way between the officers in Bonn and me, or my personal envoys, respectively."

In connection with this matter I asked Col. Ferchl who made a trip to Germany sometime ago, to visit my friends in Bonn and to get documents, service regulations etc. He did it and he got a lot of very important material, that is very useful to our work and for the Egyptian Army. I have not ordered compilation of this material without delay in order to make it accessible to all experts concerned; we want to let the Egyptian Army benefit from it together with our special proposition."

"Owing to the fact that these service regulations etc. are of the greatest importance to the Egyptian Army, I ask you to pay the travel expenses of Col. Ferchl from the funds of the Egyptian Government, i.e. the air ticket to Germany and back and normal expenses for 7 days."

Now the question arises whether Secretary of State Hallstein was right to trust Dr. Voss more than his own Ambassador. While Voss had good relations to the Nagib's people it was obvious that Lt. Col. Wassek likes the German Ambassador better. After Wassek took over the power, Dr. Voss' influence shrunk to a minimum. The new man in power dismissed numerous officers of the group of German experts which had till that time about 60 members.

Last month they were house-searches and personal-searches by the Egyptian police among the Marine experts in Alexandria serving under Captain von Bechtelshain; and the Prime Minister Lt. Col. Wassek said - as the rumour goes in industrial circles - literally, about Dr. Voss: "He is a liar and you may quote me."

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