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FROM : **Embassy, Tel Aviv** 118
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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. July 31, 1953

REF :

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REF: AUG 6
SUBJECT: **Transmittal of Newspaper Article Concerning Dissension Among Germans in Middle East.**

The full text of an article entitled "German Rift in M.E." which appeared in the Jerusalem Post on July 24 is transmitted as of possible interest to the Department. The author of this article, Mr. Heiman, apparently found the substance of his material in the German press and has presented it in a manner designed to appeal to the Israel public.

"GERMAN RIFT IN M.E."

By Leo Heiman

"A serious rift between the Nazis in the Middle East was revealed last week by Lieutenant Robert Brandenburg, formerly of the Wehrmacht's 16th Infantry Division and now of Jordan's Arab Legion, who came home to Osnabruck, Germany, on four weeks leave.

"Brandenburg, a prisoner in a British P.O.W. camp in Egypt when the Arabs attacked Israel in 1948, was smuggled out by an underground Nazi organization and brought to Beirut. The underground organization's Beirut office, calling itself German Prisoners' Committee, was run by Count von Hardenberg and recruited Nazi officers for service with the Arab armies.

"Later on, the Beirut branch was taken over by the Damascus Nazi office, run by former Gestapo officers and SS men. Count von Hardenberg was forced to leave the Lebanon and in 1949 set up a rival German Committee in Amman to recruit Nazi officers and technicians for the Hashemite armies of Transjordan and Iraq. The Central Committee of Germans in the Middle East in Cairo (now under SS-General Otto Remer) naturally took exception to Hardenberg's step and issued an ultimatum to disband the rival Amman Committee. Von Hardenberg refused, and in July, 1949, two notorious Nazi war criminals arrived from Syria in Amman. The criminals were SS-Colonel Rauff, former chief of the Gestapo in Milan and wanted for the murder of at least 3,000 Jews and Italians, and Waffen-SS Major Kriebel.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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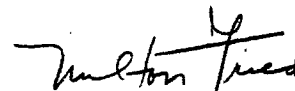
They kidnapped von Hardenberg and brought him to Alexandria where he was murdered. Brandenburg was also repeatedly threatened, but he hopes that by disclosing the threats in the German press, he will be left alone.

"According to Brandenburg, the rift among the Germans in the M.E. has now assumed serious proportions. The Germans serving with Transjordan and Iraqi forces try to present themselves as professional soldiers with no interest in politics. They also try to disassociate themselves from the Gestapo-run German missions to Cairo and Damascus, which are led by such notorious war criminals as Remer and Skorzeny in Egypt and Rauff and Sauvart in Syria.

"Skorzeny, now in charge of the German Mission to Egypt, has insulted General Farnbacher, formerly the nominal Chief of Mission. Farnbacher complained to Nagib, but Nagib took Skorzeny's side and General Farnbacher is leaving shortly for Germany, together with Generals von Munzel and von Ravenstein.

"In their place, Skorzeny and Remer have recruited SS-Colonel Ernst Wilhelm Springer and Colonel Ernst Zolling. Zolling was chief of intelligence and security branches in Rommel's Afrika Korps. He is now Nagib's personal adviser on intelligence and security matters. Adenauer's Federal Government is also purposely helping to widen the growing rift among the Nazis in the Middle East, by announcing that all former Wehrmacht generals and colonels will be eligible for pensions, bonuses and posts in the new German Army if they return to Germany before December 31, 1953."

FOR THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, a.i.:


Milton Fried
Attache

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