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Sami SOLH arranged that RAHN should meet some important Syrian and Lebanese leaders on the following day. (RAHN claims that he does not remember the names of parties represented or individuals present, but believes that the name of the DAMASCUS representative was CHUEKRUE KOUATLI. A representative of the Grand Mufti of JERUSALEM, who happened to be on his way to Turkey, was also present) At this gathering RAHN voiced the same requests he had already made to SOLH, and it was agreed that the demonstrations should come to an end, a promise which was kept at least during the two months RAHN spent in Syria.

RAHN was kept in Syria longer than he anticipated for the following reason: in June 1941 he received a note from Fritz GROBBA, German Minister to Iraq, informing him that a Bedouin tribal leader by the name of FAUZI KAOUKCHI, who had until then been fighting with the Iraqi army against the British, was now prepared to join the French-Lebanese army. RAHN took the matter up with General DENTZ, who immediately sent a French Officer to the Syrian-Iraq border to escort FAUZI and his 500 - 600 Bedouins into Syria. FAUZI was under a death sentence by the French for his many previous acts of rioting, but DENTZ was ready to give him amnesty in return for FAUZI's solemn pledge to limit his activities solely to fighting for the French.

As FAUZI entered Syria, a British advance detail had already penetrated that section, and in a short battle FAUZI was seriously wounded. His troops, now without a leader, approached RAKKA. DENTZ was notified of the situation, and fearing that this Bedouin group might resort to rash acts and even assault the handful of French soldiers garrisoned at RAKKA, he begged RAHN to fly at once to RAKKA, in order to forestall any unwelcome trouble. Although RAHN had reached an agreement with the Bedouins, and they had promised to work together with the French, they broke their promises when they withdrew to ALEPPO to begin a systematic looting campaign. RAHN flew to ALEPPO. He found the Arabs unwilling to serve under French officers, and it was arranged that Foreign Legion officers of German descent should maintain discipline among them, under the command of a Palestinian Arab named ARIP.* RAHN states, that - fearing a British offensive - the entire group later escaped to Turkey, where they were disarmed and interned.

RAHN was interrogated upon his knowledge to the following questions, but claims ignorance on all points:-

Question #(15) Personalities and details of co-operation with the Vichy French Intelligence Service. Extent of German knowledge of Ollion post-occupational W/T espionage network.

Question #(16) Names of German agents and details of German post-occupational organizations, if any.

Question #(17) Names of Italian agents and details of Italian post-occupation organizations, if any.

Question #(18) Names of all Arabs who left for Germany with the Axis commissions, and details of their later work for the GIS particularly the identity of the elusive "YARMOUTH".

* The Aleppo Rifai Group mentioned in question # 13 be related or identical with the above Bedouin group

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Question #(19) Details of RAHN's expedition to North Africa in October and November 1942.

Answer: - RAHN was appointed Minister to TUNIS in November 1942, and remained in this capacity until May 1943. He states that in October 1942 he was in PARIS with the German Embassy.

5. CONCLUSIONS

None.

6. COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The questioning of Dr Rudolph RAHN, who has already been extensively interrogated by US and British Agencies, was conducted along the lines and limited to the briefs received from SSU, WARREC, LONDON, file USF 234, dated 15 Aug 46 and 17 Sep 46.

In the interrogator's opinion RAHN has answered all questions freely. His release had been approved prior to his transfer to this Center, as per Internee Release Order No 100, Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse, dated 27 Aug 46.

In compliance with the above order it is recommended to release RAHN in his own custody.

LF/EMK/jrb

For the Commanding Officer:

John Heinig
JOHN HEINIG
Capt AUS
Chief CI Section

Distribution: Special

-14-

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CI-FIR/126
31 Oct 46

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APO 757

ANNEX

INFORMATION ON ASTACHOFF

Dr Rudolph RAHN, former German Ambassador to Italy, claims that a certain ASTACHOFF was and is now being used by the Soviet as a trouble-shooter.

ASTACHOFF (fnu) is an expert on Central-European, Scandinavian and Balkan questions and stands high in the Soviet Foreign Office, wielding great power, but keeping in the background.

In 1931 ASTACHOFF was with the Soviet Embassy in Turkey with Ambassador SURITZ, and in 1934-1935 both were stationed in BERLIN. It was known in diplomatic circles that ASTACHOFF's mission was to improve the strained relations between Germany and Russia.

It was ASTACHOFF who in 1944 carried on negotiations with one of RIBBENTROP's emissaries in Sweden for a separate peace between Germany and the USSR.

Count SCHULENBURG, former Ambassador to Soviet Russia, told RAHN to watch this man very carefully, because wherever he appears there is reason to believe that some important Soviet move is in the making. SCHULENBURG himself considers the man as one of the ablest diplomats of modern times.

-15-

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July - December 1918 - Military Service

1919 - University of TUEBINGEN, studying Music, History of Art and Political Science.

1920 - University of BERLIN, studying Political Science and Philosophy.

1921 - 1923 - University of HEIDELBERG, studying Political Science, History of Literature, Philosophy and Sociology.

December 1923 - Received his Ph D.

1924 - Clerical work for the firm Bamag-Meguin until December: applied for Foreign Office employment

1925 - 1927 - Language studies in GENEVA, Switzerland.

October 1927 - Became Secretary of the Information Section, League of Nations.

May 1928 - Obtained position as Attaché in the Foreign Office, BERLIN.

March 1931-May 1934 - Attaché in the German Embassy, ANKARA, Turkey.

June 1934-December 1937 - Secretary of Legation in BERLIN.

January 1938 - February 1939 - Embassy Adviser in LISBON, Portugal.

March 1939-July 1940 - Councillor of Legation in the Foreign Office, BERLIN

August 1940 - April 1941 - Executive Councillor of Legation in the PARIS Embassy.

May - July 1941 - Sent to Syria on Foreign Office mission.

July 1941 - October 1942 - Executive Councillor of Legation in the PARIS Embassy

November 1942 - April 1943 - Appointed Minister to TUNIS.

May 1943 - Returned to his family in UHINGEN.

August 1943 - Ambassador to Italy until apprehended by American troops in May 1945

b. Answers to Brief From SSU, WARREC, File USA 234, dated 15 Aug 46

Question # (1) RALN should explain fully the motives and background for his speech on 27 - 28 Sep 43 in BRUSSELS at the burial of Professor KRIEGBAUM.

Answer - Rudolph KRIEGBAUM was ...

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 BY ANKARA Date 2/27/2015
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1. REFERENCES

SSU, WARREC, File USF 234, dtd 15 Aug 46 and 17 Sep 46

2. PERSONAL DATA

- a. SURNAME: RAHN
- b. CHRISTIAN NAME(S): Rudolph
- c. ALIASES: Robert RENOARD
- d. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 16 March 1900, ULM, Germany
- e. NATIONALITY CLAIMED: German
- f. OCCUPATION: career diplomat
- g. RELIGION: Protestant
- h. DISCIPTION:
 - (1) HEIGHT: 1.83 m
 - (2) WEIGHT: 175 lbs
 - (3) BUILD: normal
 - (4) FACE: oval
 - (5) HAIR: grayish, balding
 - (6) PHYSICAL PECULIARITIES or DISTINGUISHING FEATURES: bushy eyebrows
- i. LAST PERMANENT ADDRESS: German Embassy, FASANO, Italy
- j. LANGUAGES: German, French, some English
- k. FATHER: Ernst RAHN (deceased)
- l. MOTHER: Emma RAHN, nee BECK (deceased)
- m. BROTHERS: Fritz RAHN; Ernst RAHN
- n. SISTERS: Emma RAHN
- o. WIFE: Martha RAHN, nee GERHARDY
- p. CHILDREN: son Andreas (4); daughter Sybille (8)
- q. IDENTITY DOCUMENTS: diplomatic passport.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

- a. SOURCE OF PRISONER, INCLUDING ARRESTING AGENCY: CIE #91, DARMSTADT
- b. ACCIPIED ON RECOMMENDATION OR REQUEST OF: G-2 (CIB) USFET
- c. DATE OF ARRIVAL: 27 August 1946
- d. RESUME OF ANY REPORTS AND/OR DOCUMENTS SENT IN WITH PRISONER: diplomatic passport; arrest report.
- e. RESULTS OF NAME CHECK AGAINST PERSONALITY CARD INDEX: Buff Card No 6046
- f. BRIEFS UPON WHICH PRISONER WAS INTERROGATED: SSU WARREC, LONDON, file USF 234, questionnaires, dated 15 Aug 46
- g. NAMES AND UNIT OF INTERROGATORS: Louis FISCHER, civ WD interrogator
- h. PRISONER'S ATTITUDE AND REACTIONS: Co-operative throughout interrogation
- i. EVALUATION OF PRISONER'S RELIABILITY: It is believed that RAHN's answers are reliable to the best of his knowledge.
- j. DATE, PLACE AND AUTHORITY FOR DISPOSITION OF PRISONER: Released by and sent to 6850 Internal Security Department, WASHINGTON, D.C. WFO 124

4. INTERROGATION SUMMARY

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European...
death on 27 Sep 45...
that it would be a... gesture...
RAHM states that this speech was purely an enumeration of Professor
KRIFGBAUM's voluminous contributions to the world of art and in no
way political.

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CI FINAL INTERROGATION REPORT (CI-FIR) No 126

Prisoner: Dr Rudolph RAHN Position: German Ambassador to Italy

Dr Rudolph RAHN is a career diplomat and was German Ambassador to Italy from August 1943 until May 1945.

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Rahn / 1943

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Result of Interrogations carried out during March 1946 at Internment Camp 76 - Asperg/Stuttgart on Germans repatriated from Italy.

SAFTA

Source of information:
The German ex-Ambassador
to the Mussolini Government
Dr. Rahn

The firm SAFTA was originally a subsidiary of Otto Wolff and was managed by Dr. Gierschcow but after the war broke out business came practically to a standstill.

With permission of Otto Wolff SAFTA was taken over by Kesselring and Rahn to operate at first, two Soldatenkaufhaeuser (one in Rome, one in Naples), where German soldiers could buy presents for their families at a reduced rate.

SAFTA also interested itself in buying general supplies from the Italians and re-selling them to the German Army.

At the end of 1943 SAFTA's headquarters removed to Milan and large transport contracts were undertaken. Two officers were put in by Kesselring at the outset to control SAFTA, which was still being managed by Dr. Gierschcow: the first called Bolk (?) stayed permanently at SAFTA'S headquarters and the second Kriegsverwaltungsrat Seiffert did a great deal of travelling.

Considerably more than 1 Milliarde (1 000 millions) Lira were paid into the company by Rahn out of the Kriegslastenfond.

Gesandtschaftsrat

Bock

Bock is fairly certain that Rahn's protege Generalkonsul Eitel Friedrich Moellhausen and Dr. Eugen Kaas, both of the Embassy, were also mixed up in SAFTA.

KRIEGLASTENFOND

Gesandtschaftsrat

Bock

The agreement between the Germans and the Mussolini Government, concluded towards the end of 1943, was carried through mainly as the result of the unaided efforts of Rahn.

Under this agreement the Mussolini Government formed the Kriegslastenfond in the Banco d'Italia, Milan, paying in at first the sum of 7 Milliarden Lira per month.

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C O P Y

This figure was revised until final payments of 12 Milliarden Lira per month were made. The total amount paid into this fund by the Italians was about 170 Milliarden Lira.

Under this agreement the Germans had no liabilities whatsoever except to support the Mussolini Government.

Ex-Ambassador
Dr. Rahn

The above details were all confirmed and Rahn added that the book-keeping of the fund had been carried out by Dr. Schmidt, whereas the banking side was taken over by Bernauer sent especially by the Reichsbank, Berlin, for this purpose.

When the final crash came, the various bank accounts into which the Banco d'Italia, Milan, had transferred Kriegslastenfonds were taken over by the Allied Authorities.

In cash a balance remained of 1 Milliarde Lira in the Fortress at Fortezza, north of Bolzano, which was handed over by Rahn to SS Obergruppenführer, Bevollmächtigter General der Wehrmacht Karl Wolff.

Of this money Wolff returned to Rahn between 20 - 30 million Lira for him to hand over to the local hospitals. This Rahn did but is not certain whether he got any receipts for it.

Rahn puts the total paid through the Kriegslastenfond as 170 Milliarden Lira.

GEHEIMFOND

Landtschaftsrat
Bock

Until the collapse in September 1943 in South Italy the German Embassy had received 101,000.-RM a year for a Geheimfond, to be run by the ambassador.

When Rahn moved the Embassy northwards at a moment's notice, there was not time to collect the 120,000.-RM which now constituted the balance on this fund from the bank at which it was deposited.

After receiving orders from Berlin to send back to Rome an Embassy rear echelon, Rahn gave Moellhausen the task of returning and setting up a skeleton staff there.

-2-

C O P Y

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C O P Y

Nothing further was heard of the Geheimfond.

SONDERKONTO BRESCIA

Gesandtschaftsrat
Bock

When Kahn went northwards and set up the Kriegslastenfond he arranged the transfer monthly of 50 million Lira from the Banco d'Italia, Milan, to a secret fund in Brescia, known as Sonderkonto Brescia.

He was later ordered to reduce this figure to about 17 million Lira but whether in fact he did so or not is questionable.

Kahn himself disposed of these moneys without any form of statements to Berlin and a rough sort of book-keeping system was run by his secretary Fraulein Neugebauer.

1. Neugebauer,
ex-employee at the Koenigin Bar, Berlin,
transferred from there to become Kahn's
private secretary.

Neugebauer maintained the total of about 500 million Lira were transferred from the Banco d'Italia, Milan, to this account at the Credito Italiano at Brescia, firstly by an initial payment of 350 million Lira, followed by several small transfers.

The main recipient was Karl Wolff, SS Oberguppenfuhrer, Bevollmachtigter General der Wehrmacht, who received 100 million Lira.

When the final collapse came the balance of 500 million Lira was transferred to Bolzano.

Ambassador
Dr. Kahn

On this subject Kahn appeared very unwilling to be helpful and suffered extraordinary lapses of memory. He forgot:

- 1) the name of the account
- 2) the bank at which it was kept
- 3) the amount received
- 4) the amounts paid out
- 5) the balance at the end
- 6) what happened to the final balance.

On being pressed concerning 4) above, he finally managed to remember the following:

- a) about 100 million Lira had been paid to Karl Wolff, SS Oberguppenfuhrer, Bevollmachtigter General der Wehrmacht, for the purpose of buying from the various bands, partisans, guerrillas, resistance groups etc. their weapons, and thus rendering them incapable of further fighting.
- b) about 10 million Lira had been paid to the Embassy for

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general expenses.

- c) a further 100 million Lira to Karl Wolff for buying through blackmarket sources such things as cloth for the Volkssturm.

GOLD

Gesandtschaftsrat
Dr. Bock

Before the Embassy left Rome they had still a balance of the gold retrieved from Tunisia, and when the Embassy left by special train, the sleeping cars were reserved for Rahn, his wife, his secretary, Moellhausen and Haas, there being room for nobody else as "Valuables" were being carried with the sleeping car passengers.

No gold was seen later.

Fri. Neugebauer

knew nothing of any gold.

ex-Ambassador
Dr. Rahn

Said there was no gold.

G.M. Robbins
Special Financial Investigator
British Civilian

- 4 -

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