

DTC-9471

From
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
To

May 17, 1951

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2400 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Attention: Major General W. G. Wyman
Office of Special Operations

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereto
communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

*A. BAGATIS #
pg #1 and
through out
JOHN BAGATIS no 2*

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several weeks before returning to sea. According to BACATAIS, he occasionally re-entered the United States as a seaman after that. In July, 1942, BACATAIS registered with Local Board 18, New York City. He also had in his possession Alien Registration Certificate No. 9552400 which was issued on June 3, 1942, at Charleston, South Carolina.

At the time of this interview BACATAIS advised that while he was in New York, he intended to stay at one of the local hotels for a few days, after which he would proceed to visit his sister, Mrs. ALEXANDRIA BHERVO, 3225 West Philadelphia Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Selective Service records at New York City reflect that BACATAIS had registered on June 30, 1942, at Local Board 18 giving his address as 70 Seventh Avenue, New York City. His registration card reflected that he was born in Riga, Latvia, on April 11, 1922. The person who would always know his whereabouts was listed as M. E. POLIS of 70 Seventh Avenue, New York City, and his employer was given as HARRY L. HARRIS of 2 Stone Street, New York City, who employed BACATAIS as a seaman. BACATAIS subsequently changed his New York address to 309 West 14th Street and his employer to the National Maritime Union, 346 West 17th Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that ARNOLD BACATAIS held 1944 Communist Political Association Membership No. S-7086.

The Communist Political Association has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The records of the Identification Division of the FBI reflect that ARNOLD BACATAIS has FBI No. 4587345. BACATAIS' identification record reflects one arrest on August 4, 1943, by the police department at New London, Connecticut, on a charge of "breach of peace." No disposition is listed for this charge.

On April 5, 1948, information was received from Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, that

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that service then had an investigation under way to determine whether or not ARNOLD BAGATAIS, also known as ARNOLD BAGAST, was deportable under the Act of October 16, 1918, as amended.

Inquiry at Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, reflected that in a hearing held by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on December 6, 1946, BAGATAIS had admitted that he was taken up to the Communist Party club at 25th Street and Eighth Avenue, New York City, and given a little card but he claimed that he had left the Communist Political Association some time prior to the hearing because he did not agree with its principles. According to BAGATAIS, this took place some time in the latter part of 1943.

Also at this hearing he stated that he had paid dues of 15 or 20 cents twice and had on one occasion given a few dollars when a request for funds was made. He stated that he was given some assessment stamps in return. BAGATAIS also advised Immigration and Naturalization Service authorities that he had joined the Communist Party because he thought it was a social group but that he had taken no active part in it.

There is no further information in the files of the New York Office which indicates current Communist activity on the part of ARNOLD or CATHERINE BAGATAIS.

As previously reported, Pastor ARTURS PHEBAIGS when interviewed in Germany suggested that a Pastor VILLE, first name unknown, of New York City might be able to substantiate the allegations that POBIAINS was pro-Soviet and an active Communist in Latvia during 1940.

Pastor FELIX TRUUS, 27 Kirkwood Road, Port Washington, Long Island, New York, was interviewed by SA WILLIAM F. HERRBY and advised that the only Latvian pastor he ever knew with the name of VILLE was the late EDGAR VILLE. He said the latter died in August, 1945, and was buried at Gauting, Germany, which is near Munich. He said that the latter's widow is now living in Esslingen, Germany, exact location there unknown. He said he feels certain that there was only one pastor named VILLE ever in Latvia. He advised that EDGAR VILLE became a pastor in September, 1911, and remained as such in the Latvian Church until 1921 when he became a director of a college in Riga, Latvia.