

SR/2/B-61-110

22 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/2

SUBJECT : Contact Report - AEKIL0/2

On 8 March 1961 at approximately 2000 hours, Case Officer [redacted] known as [redacted] telephoned AEKIL0/2 to arrange a meeting for 1700 hours 14 March 1961. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Latvian matters of interest to the desk and to provide guidance on his contacts with recent Baltic immigrants.

2. The Case Officer met AEKIL0/2 as scheduled in the lobby of the Park Sheraton Hotel, 55th Street and Seventh Avenue, New York at 1700 hours. A meeting was held in Room 604 of the Hotel Victoria, 51st Street and Seventh Avenue. AEKIL0/2 submitted the following materials:

a. "A Survey of Recent Developments in Nine Captive Countries" March 1960 - October 1960, published by ACEN Secretariat, 29 W. 57th Street, New York 19, N.Y. This document devotes some 14 pages to a discussion of Latvia written in part by AEKIL0/2. This material will be reviewed as to its value for briefings and CA activities. (Attachment A)

b. A copy of ACEN News, No. 70-71, January-February 1961. (Attachment B)

c. A copy of the magazine, Daugevas Vanagi, No. 1, 1961 (Attachment C) which is the official publication of the Latvian Veterans Association, Daugevas Vanagi.

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d. "The U.S. - Soviet Russian Power Contest in Europe: Means to Win", published by: Study Group of Citizens for Positive Foreign Policy, New York, 1960. This document has been compiled principally by Vilis (Vilnis, Ernests (?)) SVEICS, DOB: c. 1925; POB: Latvia; Residence: New York, N.Y. (Attachment D)

e. A list of the current leaders of the Bureau of Latvian SSR Writers. (Attachment E)

f. A list of former Latvian Army officers belonging to Daugavas Vanagi who live in Adelaide, Australia (Attachment F).

g. An announcement from NYMAN & SCHULTZ, a travel agency in Stockholm, which appeared in Londonas Avize, No. 764, 17 February 1961, regarding Soviet boat travel between Stockholm and Riga beginning May 1961. (Attachment G)

h. A report on an immigrant, K. LACGALVIS, in Montreal, Canada, who for three years has been trying to repatriate to the Latvian SSR. K. LACGALVIS; DOB: 1890; POB: Latvia. Appears very sympathetic towards the Latvian regime in the USSR where his daughter lives. (Attachment H)

i. A report on a recent winter training operation by the members of the 320th Special Forces Detachment (USAR) was submitted. The source of this information, Priit FARMING, an Estonian, lives at 473 Luhmann Drive, New Milford, New Jersey, COLfax 2-0773. FARMING, who is a sergeant in the unit, was the source of previous information on Estonian guerrilla operations during World War II. While any Baltic members of the Detachment are probably known to the Soviets, it is possible that FARMING might be a suitable general spotting type for the Estonian desk. This item will be brought to the attention of C/O []. (Attachment I)

j. AEKIL0/2, during his recent trip to Toronto, Canada, 4-5 March 1961, met with [] (See SR/2-B-60-11, 9 May 1960), a member of the Latvian Information Service (LDI) and an employee of the Canadian police service (RCMP). [] keeps a file on suspicious Latvians, i.e.; Communists. From [] he learned that Edgars ALBERINGS aka Peteris KARLOVSKIS,

153 Rose Avenue, Toronto 5, Ontario, WA 2-0190 or c/o Box 154,
Station "E", Toronto 4, Ontario, is suspected of being a
communist agent. The information supplied by [] will be
translated and disseminated to WE/6. (Attachment J)

*Let's discuss
this one.*

k. The name of the representative of Latvians living in
Austria and head of Daugavas Vanagi: Janis ZENZARS, Salzburg,
Seb. Stollner St. 12, Austria. (Attachment K)

l. A copy of Latvijas Brivibai, published by the Free
Europe Committee in New York, February 1961, in which a
reference is made to [] (Attachment L)

m. A published report on the activities of various members
of the congregations of the New York Latvian Evangelical
Lutheran Church. (Attachment M)

n. A report on Events in the Homeland for February 1961.
(Attachment N) This material which AEKIL0/2 began furnishing
last month is an excellent digest of the Latvian press and
will be suitable for briefing REDSKIN travelers.

o. In reply to a request from [] known as
[] regarding the Latvian elements of the Free Europe
complex AEKIL0/2 furnished a comprehensive survey of the
overall organizational structure. (This report in itself is
testimony to the excellent spirit of cooperation and production
which AEKIL0/2 has manifested in his desire to serve KUBARK
and FBPRIME interests in the Baltic cause.) (Attachment O)

p. Copies of DZIMTENES BALSS, Return to the Homeland
publication, were received for July, August and December
1960 and January 1961.

q. Post-cards printed as propaganda on behalf of stirring
up recognition of Soviet colonialism. (Attachment P)

3. Having received the materials cited above and thanked
AEKIL0/2 for his contributions the undersigned then proceeded to
discuss several items of current interest to the Latvian desk, as
follows:

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a. Recently EE/G, via [redacted], has been inquiring about the possible presence of a Soviet penetrated NAZI element in the ranks of Daugavas Vanagi. Allegedly there is some concern about a Soviet effort to penetrate the DV organization through some former pro-Nazi Latvian legionnaires who may have sought membership therein. Quite naturally the Latvian Desk is duly concerned about any such effort by reason of AEKIL0/2 being Vice Chairman of the Board of DV and the fact that the desk is in contact with other DV members such as AECANOE/3 from time to time. The genesis of this NAZI element probably goes back to the "PeaKonkrusts" (Swastika League) which up to 1934 was an overt Nazi organization in Latvia. AEKIL0/2, when questioned about the influence of any of these former members in DV denied that they had any cohesive group within DV or were even members for that matter. He cited the Latvian National Center whose Chairman is Janis VINTERS, 104-75 114th St., Richmond Hill, L.I., N.Y., as being the Latvian organization most closely identified with extreme right wing ideology which might attract former "PeaKonkrusts" members. He likened the National Center to the John Birch Society in the United States which is an extreme right wing organization in its philosophy. The Latvian Desk will keep close contact with EE/G to see what, if any, truth there might be in the allegations about possible Soviet penetration of DV. Moreover, it appears that a recent Polish defector has stated that the founder of DV, AECANOE/3, was a KGB agent. This allegation sounds like a provocation by the RIS which aims to destroy AECANOE/3's position and to sow doubts in DV. It is recalled that the recent [redacted] operation in Germany was in part designed to destroy the reputation of the head of the Latvian Red Cross in Germany, [redacted].

Let's take up this matter with me re EE/G contacts

b. Regarding AEKIL0/2's trip to Chicago for DV matters and his journey to Rock Falls, Illinois, to interview Janis RAKOVICS [redacted] a recent Soviet-Latvian immigrant from the Omsk Oblast, the C/O cautioned AEKIL0/2 that RAKOVICS is a rather nervous person and no questions about wanting to see his documents should be raised unless RAKOVICS brings up the matter. Although [redacted] has already undertaken one debriefing of RAKOVICS under Army cover, it is felt that AEKIL0/2 might turn up some more information. AEKIL0/2 is witting to [redacted]'s visit so he will be careful to confine his interview to matters relating to normal interests as a member of several Latvian organizations. Some inkling as to how well [redacted] conducted his debriefing will be achieved.

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c. An assessment of Juris SLESERS was made by AEKIL0/2. The former was described as a sincere Latvian patriot but a rather ineffectual leader in making the Latvian Youth organization an effective organ in promoting the idea of a Free Latvia. Apparently SLESERS is more a scholarly type than a good organizer. (C/O Comment: Based on an assessment of SLESERS at the Buffalo Conference of the Latvian Youth Association on 11-12 March 1961 AEKIL0/2's remarks may be in order. C/O will meet SLESERS shortly and see for himself.)

4. AEKIL0/2 was reimbursed in the amount of \$7.00 for operational expenses incurred in visiting recent Soviet-Latvian immigrants. A receipt is on file.

5. AEKIL0/2 will attend a meeting of DV in Indianapolis on 15-16 April 1961. He will be in Washington for the American Latvian Association gathering at the Shoreham Hotel c. 28-29 April 1961.

6. The meeting concluded following a meal at the Hotel Taft, 51st Street and Seventh Avenue at approximately 1930 hours. C/O accompanied Subject to a nearby Subway station. No surveillance was observed. The next meeting will be held on call by the undersigned.

[]

SR/2/Baltic/Latvia

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