

TO BE RETURNED TO PB

SECRET

TO : SR/2

11 September 1962

ATTN :

FROM : Interrogation Research Division

SUBJECT: LAI PENIEKS, Edgars

IRD# 48581

IDENTIFYING DATA

Subject is a 49-year-old married citizen of Chile. His file reflects that he was connected with "Abwehr II", or counter intelligence of the German High Command during World War II in Latvia. He was afforded a technical interview in the German language at a covert site in Washington, D. C. on 7 September 1962. Subject is being considered for a CSA clearance.

PURPOSE OF THE TEST

Subject was afforded a technical interrogation to determine whether he has been truthful to us about his activities in World War II, vital statistics, lack of other intelligence contacts, and in his reporting of the recruitment at Palo Alto, California, by Subject of a Soviet track star. Only relevant questions requested by the case officer, , SR/2, were asked during technical interrogation.

RESULTS

Upon conclusion of technical interrogation, it is felt that Subject was still attempting deception to the following questions:

Have you ever committed war atrocities? No.

Have you ever executed a prisoner? No.

Have you ever tortured a prisoner during an interrogation? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us any mission which you have accomplished on behalf of the Abwehr? No.

Did you work together with "OKW/Abwehr II" during the second World War? No.

(Note: Subject claims, in contradiction to information in file, that he does not know what numerical sub-division of German counter intelligence he was connected with during World War II.) The writer does not believe Subject was even connected with the Abwehr.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2004 2005

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SECRET

Did you work together with the Abwehr during the second World War? Yes.

It is not felt that Subject attempted deliberate deception to the other relevant questions asked during technical interrogation. Please see below for listing of questions.

DETAILS

1. Subject stated that he was present during an interrogation in World War II conducted by his colleague, first name unknown, SALUS, of a Communist. Subject added that the Communist who was being interrogated realized Subject and SALUS knew everything and for this reason alone jumped through a closed fourth or fifth floor window to his death. Subject claimed that this unknown Communist had not been beaten at all prior to his jump.
2. During interrogation Subject admitted to the writer that Subject occasionally during interrogations would beat prisoners with his hands. Subject denied ever hitting a prisoner with any object other than his hands, although Subject did admit being present when Subject's colleague hit a prisoner with a sort of blackjack in an effort to make him talk. Subject admitted to the writer that he himself a few times hit "NKVD detachment leader for Riga", name unknown, during interrogation. Subject added that this man did not talk and later was "probably shot to death," although Subject claimed to lack specific knowledge of such.
3. Subject admitted that when he went out to surveil and sometimes arrest Communist "pidgeons", he "usually" carried a 7.62 mm. Walther pistol and a Belgian FN pistol which was of a larger calibre and had a longer barrel than the Walther. Subject added that sometimes he personally also carried a third pistol. Subject stated that he himself was sometimes allowed to decide when during surveillance to arrest the Communists whom he was surveilling. Subject added that he could pick up and interrogate them without any warrant of arrest.
4. Subject claimed that his superior was a former Latvian secret policeman named Herberts TEDEMANNES whom Subject said would now be about 55 years old, 187-188 centimeters tall. For further data on TEDEMANNES, please see file. Subject added that from the spring or summer of 1942 until the summer of 1943, Subject often worked directly under an unknown "Abwehr Colonel" who gave Subject orders concerning Communists to surveil, etc. Subject claimed that he accomplished at least 10 or 15 tasks for this "Colonel" whose superior Subject said was "probably Canaris." Subject claimed that this Colonel always contacted Subject, but never vice versa and Subject further claimed that this person was from Abwehr's headquarters in Berlin.
5. Subject stated that in approximately 1952, TEDEMANNES wrote to Subject in Chile and asked Subject to help him compile information concerning World War II cases they had run, etc. Subject claims he never answered this letter

2

SECRET

SECRET

and was never contacted again by TEDEMANNES. Subject stated that TEDEMANNES got his address from the newspaper, "latvia" which was at that time published in West Germany. Subject "presumes" that TEDEMANNES is now connected with the West German intelligence service.

6. Data in file indicates that Subject told us shortly before technical interrogation that he has a 200 acre farm or ranch in Chile which will be fully paid for in another three years or so. Subject told the writer that he sold this property in March 1960 when he came to the United States with his family. Subject said he received between two and three thousand dollars for it but added that after he had paid his debts, airplane fares for the six members of his family, etc., he had barely one thousand dollars left when he arrived in the United States and this sum was soon spent for beds, cooking utensils, etc. Subject stated that he now has no farm, no ranch, no apartment, no house, and no bank account in Chile. Subject added that he does not pay any taxes now to Chile.

7. Data in file indicates that Subject received a salary of approximately eight thousand dollars for being track coach at a university in Colorado during the school year 1960-62. Subject said his salary as track coach during this period was six thousand dollars and that he earned approximately two thousand dollars more by working nights (2300 - 0700 in a green house in Denver during the period from November 1960 to March 1962). Subject said his salary from the university will be increased to \$7000 for the 1962-63 school year.

8. The following additional relevant questions (please see results above for questions to which deception is apparent) were asked during technical interrogation.

Is your true name Edgars LAIPENIEKS? Yes.

Are you deliberately hiding from us any cover name which you have utilized? No.

Were you born in Ruscava in Latvia? Yes.

Were you born on the 25th of June 1913? Yes.

Are you deliberately hiding from us the name of any Abwehr official? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us the name of any Abwehr co-worker? No. (Subject claims he has written out for us perhaps 20 names of such already this week.)

Are you deliberately hiding from us now the name of anyone who is in contact with the West German intelligence service? No.

SECRET

SECRET

Were you ever a secret informant of the French intelligence service? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us any names of French security officials? No.

Have you ever received from French intelligence any sum of money or other compensation? No.

Have you ever received an offer from the Soviet intelligence service? No.

Have you ever received a sum of money or other compensation from the Soviet intelligence service? No.

Were you ever a member of any Communist organization? No.

Were you ever a member of the Soviet secret intelligence service? No.

Have you ever betrayed any person to the Soviets? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us any names of your Soviet opponents in Latvia? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us any names of your Latvian co-workers in Latvia? No.

Have you ever received an offer from security officials in Chile? No.

Have you ever accepted an offer from security officials in Chile? No.

Are you deliberately hiding from us the name of the officials in Chile to whom you reported the person from Latvia? No.

(See file re [redacted] who turned Subject over to his superior.)

Are you now in contact with any other Western intelligence service? No.

Are you now in contact with any Communist intelligence service? No.

Are you telling us the full and complete truth about the affairs which took place in Palo Alto? Yes.

OS/IRD/JRS:aak

SECRET