

SECRET

1 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/10

SUBJECT : Contact Report

AESIDECAR/2

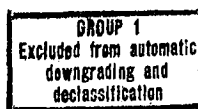
1. This report concerns a meeting with AESIDECAR/2 and [] on 20 November 1962 in Denver, Colorado, regarding the Soviet Men's and Women's Basketball Teams scheduled to play locally during the inclusive period 22-26 November. Both individuals were briefed on the participating Soviet-Latvian players and how best to contact and elicit from them. They were advised to look closely for vulnerabilities and desires to defect. A detailed report has been received from AESIDECAR/2 and is attached. (Attachment A) Questions based on the report itself have been addressed to AESIDECAR/2 for further clarification.

2. Upon arrival in Denver in the afternoon of 20 November the undersigned telephoned AESIDECAR/2 at 1600 hours at his residence, 2010 S. Gaylord Way, Denver, Code 303 Spring 7-3377. The C/O asked AESIDECAR/2 and [] to meet him in the lobby of the Brown Palace Hotel in downtown Denver at 1900 hours but advised them that if he were delayed beyond the scheduled meeting time to remain until the C/O arrived.

3. The undersigned arrived at 1930 hours and met both parties. They were escorted to Room 408. Dinner was ordered at once and the discussions commenced. The conversation was directed principally to AESIDECAR/2 while [] was rather silent. The undersigned indicated that the presence of the Soviet teams in Denver for the longest single stop during their tour of the United States might afford an opportunity to talk at some length with the Soviet Latvians. Moreover, it was desirable to try to invite them to Latvian homes, if possible. It was pointed out that heretofore whenever someone sought to invite the Soviets to their home, the stock answer had been: "If we had only known sooner, we would have been glad to come." Once and for all the sincerity of this statement might be judged during the 5-day stay in

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

SECRET



[]

SECRET

-2-

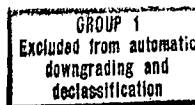
Denver and especially if an invitation were delivered at the earliest moment. (AESIDECAR/2) seconded by [] indicated that he would be very willing to invite the Soviet Latvians to his home for a meal and fellowship. However, he was under no illusions that the Soviet Latvians would be able to accept.

4. With respect to Valdis MUIZNIEKS [] whom (AESIDECAR/2) has met previously in Australia at the Olympics in 1956 and in Chile the same year the C/O asked (AESIDECAR/2) to take a close look at this individual to see whether or not MUIZNIEKS might be a potential freedom fighter for his people or merely an opportunist who enjoys the publicity and prestige which surrounds his playing for the USSR. (AESIDECAR/2) felt that he would have no difficulty talking with MUIZNIEKS but stated that in his opinion MUIZNIEKS didn't have what it takes to strike a blow for freedom. (AESIDECAR/2) pictured MUIZNIEKS as the opportunist who enjoys life and is not about to jeopardize his position. Nonetheless the C/O told (AESIDECAR/2) to try to get MUIZNIEKS away from the other players and to see whether he could lay it on the line, Latvian to Latvian, as to MUIZNIEKS' willingness to work on behalf of his people against the Russian occupiers.

5. Regarding the other Soviet Latvian male athletes: Alvilis GULBIS and Juris KALNINS, the undersigned told (AESIDECAR/2) that these were unknowns. However, KALNINS had made a superficially good impression on other Latvian Americans with whom he came in contact and for this reason seemed to be a likely person about whom more should be learned for the future. With respect to the female athletes Skaidrite SMILDZINA and Dzidra KARAMISHEVA, the undersigned opined that SMILDZINA by reason of her age, lesser intelligence, and reputed close association with the Russians seemed a most unlikely person to want to do anything for her people. On the other hand, KARAMISHEVA who allegedly because of her age was making her first and only trip to the United States appeared to be a pleasing person and might if properly approached talk somewhat candidly. (AESIDECAR/2) and [] agreed to do what they could.

6. The C/O inquired as to whether (AESIDECAR/2) were acquainted with Mr. Willard GRIEM, 1120 South Gaylord Street

SECRET



SECRET

-3-

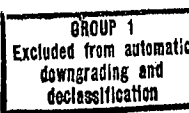
in Denver. (AESIDECAR/2) assured the C/O that he was well acquainted with GRIEM who at one time was president of the World Basketball Association and currently had something to do with the Denver municipal parks. (Attachment B) (AESIDECAR/2) frequently had to see GRIEM in order to obtain permission to use the parks for training his cross country athletes. The undersigned advised both men that GRIEM would probably be in charge of arrangements for the Soviet teams locally and thus could provide information as to the local schedule of activities. (AESIDECAR/2) expressed confidence that he could learn this from GRIEM if necessary by citing his interest in wanting to meet the Soviet Latvian visitors. () supplied the information that the Soviet teams would be staying at the Hotel Continental in Denver.

7. In the event that any of the Soviet Latvian players were met singly and under conditions controlled by (AESIDECAR/2) an effort should be made to elicit information from them. (AESIDECAR/2) was given a list of suggested topics for conversation which might be pursued under favorable circumstances. The C/O cautioned both men to be subtle and to inject their questions in a casual fashion to avoid the Soviets clamming up. (See Attachment C)

8. Following dinner in the hotel room () excused himself c. 2130 to study for an examination the following day. (AESIDECAR/2) remained. He expressed concern that his future employment at Denver University might terminate at the end of the 62-63 academic year. He asked the C/O to put in a good word for him, if possible. The undersigned was non-committal except to state that opportunities in the Peace Corps might be rewarding. (AESIDECAR/2) further mentioned that he had had a visit from Horace ASHENFELTER, an FBI friend of Fred WILT. (AESIDECAR/2) was invited to participate in a program to train athletes from South America. (Since the above meeting the American press has carried information that this program is being activated and Denver University is one of the participating U.S. schools. (AESIDECAR/2)'s reputation as a track coach has probably had considerable influence on Denver being selected.) (AESIDECAR/2) gave the C/O a copy of his forthcoming track schedule. (Attachment D)

9. Rather reluctantly (AESIDECAR/2) raised the issue of a financial advance to meet expenses in preparation for

SECRET



SECRET

-4-

the visit of the Soviets i.e. cost of tickets to the games, gasoline for sightseeing, and extra food for entertaining them. The undersigned gave (AESIDECAR/2) the sum of \$25 and requested him to sign a receipt which he did.

10. With respect to material elicited from (AESIDECAR/2) during his debriefing at Headquarters in September 1962 the C/O inquired whether (AESIDECAR/2) could yet recall the name of the individual in New York to whom he mailed the movie film received from [] in Australia. He stated that he could not recall the name but he feels that the surname of the individual begins with a K []. (The recipient of the films has relatives in Augenskalna and in the area of Videmze north of Riga. The surname is not pure Latvian. The individual is possibly associated with the theater in New York. (AESIDECAR/2) promised to contact Mrs. Austra ANDERSONS in Los Angeles. She helped him send the film. (Mrs. ANDERSONS has since replied to (AESIDECAR/2)'s query. She could only recall that the film was posted from the Sierra Madre post office in Pasadena.)

11. (AESIDECAR/2) was instructed to telephone Code 202 ME 8-6912 (sterile phone) if any particular event or highlight occurred during the course of the Soviets visit. The undersigned stated that he would be present at the above number on Sunday 25 November, between the hours of 1200 and 1700, to receive a telephone call. (AESIDECAR/2) departed from the hotel at 2330 hours. The C/O left Denver at 0230 hours by air for Headquarters on 21 November.

12. At 1440 hours on 25 November (AESIDECAR/2) telephoned Headquarters. He stated: "Something's cooking. I may have an answer by tonight at 9 p.m. Yesterday I saw KALNINS for approximately one hour in the evening at the ice hockey game. He seems to want to stay here. I told him [] to call me at my home between 7 - 9 p.m. If I do not hear from him I will call him at his hotel between 9 - 10 p.m."

At 1450 hours the C/O called [] CSR/10/B, at his residence to advise him of the above conversation. [] underscored the fact that defections were not encouraged and if (AESIDECAR/2) entertained any such ideas they would have to be purely on a private citizen basis.

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SECRET

-5-

The undersigned called (AESIDECAR/2) at approximately 1540 hours. (AESIDECAR/2) further reported that he had had an approximately 3-minute conversation with KALNINS that morning on the telephone. (AESIDECAR/2) sent () to contact KALNINS at the practice session (at the Coliseum). The C/O stressed the point that our interest was not in a defection and therefore (AESIDECAR/2) should approach the matter only as a private citizen. (AESIDECAR/2) remarked that he was convinced that KALNINS wanted to defect (to leave) but that he had a family to consider. (KALNINS is unmarried, hence reference to a parent(s).)

A subsequent call was made to (). He advised that (AESIDECAR/2) be instructed to call the FBI in Denver soonest. () stated that he would alert () of the OS. At 1550 hours the C/O once more talked with (AESIDECAR/2) who advised that () had just returned from the practice session where he had talked with KALNINS. () related that at the practice session the Soviet players were under close security. No one could leave the premises.

At 2320 hours Washington time (2120 hours - Denver) the undersigned telephoned (AESIDECAR/2) once more to see what new developments had arisen. (AESIDECAR/2) had nothing new to report except to say that he had called the Denver FBI office and told them of the possibility of a defection.

13. On Monday, 26 November the undersigned telephoned (AESIDECAR/2) at his home to learn of subsequent developments. (AESIDECAR/2) stated that late Sunday c. 2315 hours he had talked on the telephone with KALNINS at the Hotel Continental. KALNINS had expressed the desire to see (AESIDECAR/2) ~~the~~ c. 1600 hours the following day (26 November). (AESIDECAR/2), wary of a provocation, told KALNINS that he was busy with his work at the University and could not meet him at the Hotel but would call him at that time. (AESIDECAR/2) opined that KALNINS seemed too naive to attempt a provocation but he rated the odds as 50-50. Also (AESIDECAR/2) added that KALNINS was living with the Estonian player (Yan LIPSO). (AESIDECAR/2) planned to send his son to see KALNINS c. 1600 hours.

14. The undersigned called (AESIDECAR/2) at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 27 November to learn what had transpired the

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SECRET

-6-

previous day. (AESIDECAR/2) stated that he had sent his youngest son, Maris, to the Hotel Continental at 1500 hours. Maris telephoned (AESIDECAR/2) to say that he had not made contact. The Soviet players had gone to eat at 1530 hours. However, KALNINS had come out on his balcony and looked around nervously before going to eat. Maris believed that KALNINS had observed him sitting in his car. Around 1600 hours (AESIDECAR/2) drove to the vicinity of the Hotel and spotted Maris in his car. He chatted with him for about two minutes. Not long afterwards (AESIDECAR/2) drove by the Hotel once more and this time saw Maris talking with KALNINS who was standing on the balcony. Maris spent some 10 minutes conversing with him. KALNINS told Maris that he couldn't say the final word right now. After the game he would decide. Maris should talk with him then. From what Maris said (AESIDECAR/2) gathered that KALNINS seemed depressed and that the matter of such an important decision weighted heavily upon him.

15. (AESIDECAR/2) and Maris attended the game on 26 November. During the girls' game Maris once more approached KALNINS. Quite a few teenagers were pressing around the players. Maris asked KALNINS: "What is your answer?" KALNINS looked around nervously and replied: "It is not too easy a decision to make." He was friendly with Maris during the entire time. Regardless of any real or feigned intention to defect KALNINS later played very well. Maris responded: "However you decide, I'll be there (at the hotel) at 12 o'clock (midnight)." Maris drove to the Hotel at 11:30 p.m. Later at 12:15 a.m. (AESIDECAR/2) drove to the vicinity of the Hotel. The Soviet team went to a banquet with the American team. Both Maris and (AESIDECAR/2) remained in the vicinity until about 1:00 a.m. Finally by 1:30 a.m. when KALNINS did not put in an appearance both men went home. In subsequent conversation with Maris, (AESIDECAR/2) learned that security was tight and the rooms of the Soviet players were carefully checked by members of the Soviet group. (AESIDECAR/2) further opined that KALNINS was a very scared person and had no experience to attempt to defect. He still believes him to be a good and sincere Latvian. The undersigned thanked (AESIDECAR/2) for the efforts put forth. He was requested to forward soonest a report on the events as they transpired. In reply to (AESIDECAR/2)'s request to write in Latvian the C/O approved same. The final report (See Attachment A) was received at Headquarters o/a 3 December

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

SECRET

-7-

1962. For further clarification of (AESIDECAR/2)'s report and information regarding KALNINS, (AESIDECAR/2) was requested by mail to review the entire matter [] and to provide additional information. These subsequent remarks have been appended to (AESIDECAR/2)'s final report.

16. The names of individuals named in (AESIDECAR/2)'s report not previously traced have been carded. The sum of \$50 was sent to (AESIDECAR/2) as payment for the information which he provided and as a further incentive to hold his interest. A receipt has been received for accounting purposes.

SR/10/B/Latvia

SECRET

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification