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SECRET

DB 24-76

28 January 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Alien Affairs Officer

VIA : Freedom of Information Office  
Attention: [ ]

SUBJECT : Edgars LAIPENIEKS

1962

1. Edgars LAIPENIEKS, born 25 June 1913 in Rucava, Latvia, has applied for U.S. naturalization. Following his application, he was accused (by persons unknown) of having committed war crimes during World War II and thus he is under investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for possible deportation proceedings. Presumably due to his former association with the Agency, roughly from 1958 to 1967, he asked, in effect, that the Agency help him to disprove these allegations and, if possible, to intercede with I&NS in support of his claim that the accusations are untrue. His request is contained in a letter addressed to the Freedom of Information office which was forwarded to the undersigned for action. (Copies of his correspondence and replies are attached hereto.)

2. After a brief review of Subject's operational file [ ] we discussed the case with the Alien Affairs Officer. It was agreed that before the AAO approached I&NS with a request for a status report of the case he should have all relevant information available to the Agency. Thus we are forwarding as attachments to this memorandum a Biographic Summary Sheet containing basic background on Subject (most of which came from various debriefings of Subject while he was associated with us), the results of a name trace from Stuttgart, Germany files (which pertains to an individual with the same name as Subject who may or may not be identical); and the results of a Technical Interview of Subject (which cannot be passed outside of the Agency). Although the results of the interview indicate some questions as to the truthfulness of Subject's answers re his past, they are not conclusive and should not be used as evidence against him.

3. The results of our file search neither prove nor disprove the allegations against Subject. However, we suggest that the Alien Affairs Officer approach I&NS for a status report of the case and pass the results to the Freedom of Information office for further action. We will continue to hold Subject's file until this matter is resolved.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2004 2005

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[ ] [ ]  
C/SE/DB

EX-2 IMPDET CL BY [ ]

Fol.

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BIOGRAPHIC SUMMARY SHEET

SUBJECT : Edgars LAIPENIEKS  
FILE NUMBER : [redacted]  
CRYPTONYM : AESIDECAR/2  
DPOB : 25 June 1913, Rucava, Latvia  
CITIZENSHIP : Chilean  
ETHNIC ORIGIN : Latvian  
LANGUAGES : German, Russian, Latvian, English, Spanish  
FAMILY : Wife - Tamara MATISONS - Married 1939, Divorced 1972  
Sons - Juris [redacted]  
Maris [redacted]  
Daughters 2 - Names Unknown

NATURALIZATION

STATUS : I&NS is processing his case for deportation for alleged war crimes committed during World War II.

BIOGRAPHY

Subject majored in Phys Ed at Univ of Riga. He then taught Phys Ed at Riga High School, was Director of Phys Ed for 26 elementary schools in Riga, was assistant track coach at Riga Univ.

41-42: Volunteered to work for Latvian Police Force on Special Project exhuming and identifying bodies of Latvian athletes killed by Soviets. After project completed continued to work for police in prison section. Claims he was chastized for being "soft" on occasion while in that job.

42-43: Worked in counter-espionage for military for OKW/Abwehr II/Latvian Political "Abteilung"/Investigation Group. (See detailed statement by Subject re 1941-43 period).

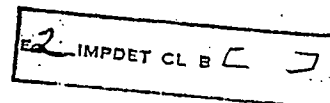
Aug 43: Obtained release from job to work in bakery (considered defense industry by army).

July 44: He and family fled to Rucava, then to Klaipeda, and thence to East Prussia. Worked in tank factory. Obtained "TDY" pass to Intersburg (he altered doc to read Innsbruck) and then took family to Austria. Worked in soap factory, obtained DP status and authorization to remain in Austria. Obtained job in air force hospital as physical therapist.

After French entered Tyrol he was arrested as collaborator of Germans. Was sent to Paris to be head coach for French Army Bi-Athlon.

While in Switzerland during athletic meet requested immigration visa at Chilean Embassy. IRO arranged for transportation to Chile via ship from Le Havre. Before sailing was detained by French Security Police. Subject believes Soviets had issued complaint against him accusing him of being former "Chief of GESTAPO in Riga" and of having "committed heinous crimes." He convinced French he was innocent, was released and departed for Chile in Dec 47.

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Chile: Became head coach for track and field during Melbourne Olympiad.

U. S.: 24 Oct 56 obtained non-immigrant visa for U.S.

Mar 60

1957 entered U.S. with film made during Melbourne Olympics. Toured U.S. Obtained job at Denver Univ. His son obtained scholarship there. Presumably returned to Chile.

1959: Arrived back in U.S. for job at Denver.

1960: Possibly accompanied son to Rome Olympics.

17 July 1964: Went to Mexico as tourist; stayed on as athletic trainer and then as Director of Phys Ed for State of Vera Cruz. Status was "no immigrante" in Mexico.

Ca. dec 64: Returned to U.S. for Christmas with family.

1966: Family joined him in Mexico.

1967: Became Technical Director for Track and Field portions of Pre-Olympic Games.

1968: Returned to Southern California following the Olympic Games.

PERSONALITY, CHARACTER, HABITS

Reported by case officer to be very intelligent, competent, charming, somewhat cold and unemotional. Very secretive about his personal life; changes subject when does not want to discuss past. Thus, many facets about past life are unknown.

COMMITMENTS

During association with Agency, no monetary commitments made. He was reimbursed for expenses and time lost from regular job. He "confessed" to one case officer that he had neglected to mention his WWII wartime activities with Germans during application for visa to U.S. Case officer told Subject that he could not advise him on this matter, that he would have to face his conscience alone, that the Agency would not compromise him to I&NS.

Summer 62 - main ops involvement

OPERATIONAL UTILIZATION

1958-59: Subject originally was recruited to spot, assess and recruit promising Soviet/Latvian athletes. Made preliminary recruitment of [ ] in Melbourne.

Nov

1963: While in California Subject tried to induce defection of Soviet athlete -- on his own. Received adverse press play and was "put on ice" by case officer.

Colorado Melbourne Olympics took place in 1956!

1967: He contacted case officer in Sept with info that [ ] had written him (via two Sov athletes at Pre-Olympics in Mexico) with request

04X

04X

*Out*

*no!*

for contact.   feared provocation and told Subject to cut contact with Soviets. No further contact by Agency with Subject.

COMMENT

File contains Sept 73 "special" trace request from I&NS. Reason for request indicated "for deportation". Was handled as routine by IP trace unit. "No derogatory" reply sent to I&NS.

*Contact unit  
end 9/25/73*

Detailed Statement by Subject re 1941-43 Period: 4 Sept 62 Debriefing

1. In regard to his background Subj had the following to say. After finishing the Univ., having majored in Phys. Ed., Subj became a teacher at the Riga High School and was at the same time the Physical Director of 26 elementary education schools as well as the Asst' track coach for the Univ. Directly after the Germans took over Latvia there had been a radio announcement, asking for volunteers to exhume and identify the bodies of the victims of Soviet atrocities. In view of the fact that many of Subj's athletes had been unceremoniously shot by the Soviets, Subj volunteered for this job. He states that thousands of bodies were exhumed, from among which Subj identified some 20 friends and athletes. This work of exhuming and identifying bodies continued for approx. 2 months, after which the volunteers were asked to continue on the Govt payroll working for the Latvian Police Force. Subj agreed to this and continued in the police force activity from the summer of 41 to the summer of 42. Basically his police work involved the investigating of Communists. In the summer of 42 Subj was nominated for the "highest job" of discovering and fighting of Russian paratroopers and underground agents. Subj states he had under him about 15 to 29 men whom he said he had picked himself. Basically, the job was counter-espionage for the military and when asked to identify his unit directly Subj agreed that he worked for the OKW/Abwehr II/Latvian Political "Abteilung"/Investigation Group. Subj did not remember his superior officer, but stated that this individual had been a Latvian Colonel. When asked whether this was Gestapo or the military, Subj insisted it was military counter-intelligence. When asked about his rank, Subj stated that he had no rank but that he was a civilian. In discussing this period of his working for the "investigation group" from the summer of 1942 until August 1943 Subj talked with great animation and pride about his accomplishments. Among others, he stated that he had good sources of information and was, from time to time, able to intercept parachuted agents into Latvia. One of these had been a fairly high level Communist who knew a great number of espionage schools in the Soviet Union and whom Subj broke very easily and got information on Latvian operations which was extremely thought of by the German military. It was quite obvious from the way Subj comported himself during this discussion that he was very proud of the work he had done in counter-intelligence. It was further obvious that the operation involving [AES/1] was an extremely interesting prospect for Subj into which he plunged with the greatest of gusto.

2.. Subj states that in Aug 43 he asked for release from the investigation group which he had been heading in order to take over his father-in-law's bakery. He states that in 1943 properties which had been held by Germans were returned to the owners and in view of the fact that his father-in-law was (either dead or deported to the Sov Union) and because the bakery was fairly large, Subj's wife would not be able to take care of it alone, and he therefore had to take a hand in the management of this enterprise. Subj states that he had all sorts of troubles when he asked for his release, that he was investigated by the Gestapo and was for a short period arrested. In view of the fact, however, that baking was an enterprise which supported the German armies (among others) and was by the same token a "defense industry", Subj was finally released to manage the business.

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