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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN FILE NO. 86-196J

REPORT MADE AT <u>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>11/24/47</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>9/22, 10/8, 10, 21, 23/47</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>MAURINE W. STEWART</u>
TITLE <u>VICTOR J. KAMIS, with aliases: Victor Korman, Victor Kurvit</u>		CHARACTER OF CASE <u>INTERNAL SECURITY - R</u>	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject, a Latvian refugee immigrant, voluntarily appeared at the Detroit Office offering services as a Communist informant within Latvian and Lithuanian groups in Michigan. Information received from Bureau source alleging that Subject and father were members of the Communist Executive Committee in Riga, Latvia, and that Subject later was identified with the German occupation forces in Latvia. Immigration records of Subject and wife set forth. Extensive interview of Subject and wife reflect denial of any Communist Party, Russian, or German connections in Latvia on part of Subject or family. Subject alleges that he worked with Latvian secret police prior to World War II investigating Communists. Alleges that Germans arrested him as a Communist when they occupied Riga during 1941 and confined him for six weeks before being cleared. Names of Latvians who were acquainted with Subject in native country set forth.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- - -</p> <p>REFERENCE: (105-10016) Bureau letter, August 15, 1947. New York letter to Detroit, November 1, 1947.</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

(EX 66-1460)

DETAILS: On May 12, 1947, VIKTOR FORMAN appeared at the Detroit Office and volunteered his services as an informant on Communist matters, particularly in Latvian and Lithuanian groups, in the Michigan area.

FORMAN stated that he had recently arrived in this country on February 18, 1947, as a Latvian refugee, immigrating from a displaced persons camp maintained at Esslingen, Germany, which was composed entirely of Latvian displaced persons. At the time of the original interview, FORMAN related that during the period of 1939 and early 1940 while a student at the University of Riga in Latvia, he had been employed as a member of the Latvian secret police furnishing information on Communist infiltration in a factory in the city of Riga. FORMAN related that because of this background, he was desirous of rendering all assistance that he might be in a position to give to this country concerning the investigation of Communism.

During the course of the original interview, FORMAN reported that he is using the name of VIKTOR FORMAN and that he had also used the alias of VICTOR SUNTIT. FORMAN related that the alias of FORVIT had been assumed by him during the course of an interview with a newspaper reporter of the newspaper "Detroit Times" in which FORVIT had furnished information concerning the activities of the Russians and the Communist Party in Latvia during the period of Russian occupation of that country. FORMAN related that because of the small colony of Latvians in the Detroit area and due to his recent arrival in this country, he felt that information given by him on such a topic would be easily traced to him unless an alias was used.

Under date of August 15, 1947, the Detroit Office was advised that the State Department had advised the Bureau that Subject and his wife GAILA FORMANIS were issued immigration visas in December 1946 under the Russian quota and that they had sailed from the Port of Bremerhaven on February 7, 1947. At the time the visas were issued, no derogatory information was contained in the State Department files. Subsequently, information was obtained from one JONAS... a Latvian displaced person, as follows:

In February 1941 when Riga, Latvia, was occupied by the Russians the father of the Subject was a member of the Communist Executive Committee of Riga, and Subject himself was on the editorial staff of the Communist newspaper "Cinija." Later Subject also became a member of the Executive Committee. Shortly after the occupation of Riga by the Germans, Subject was seen wearing the swastika armband and acting in the capacity of

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a guard in front of the German headquarters. He was subsequently arrested by the Latvian secret police and charged with treason, but was released due to pressure of high German officials. It was also alleged that Subject, just prior to his departure (apparently for the United States), attended a party in Esslingen Quart, Germany, at which time he jokingly showed a certificate stating that he was a persecuted person and spoke of having huge sums of money. Other witnesses to this story named by John Kalis are VIKTORIJS KAULIS, Gerestrised, Munich, Baltic C. I. Camp and AUREL KORIGONS, 59 Bayridge Parkway, Brooklyn, New York.

Under date of September 19, 1947, the Philadelphia Division reported the results of a check of the files of Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, on the Subject and his wife. The following is the result of this check:

The files of the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, reveal that VITOLDS PORVANIS filed application for Immigration Visa #899 at the American Foreign Service at Stuttgart, Germany, on October 22, 1946, stating he was born February 4, 1919, at Rihinsk, Russia, and is of the Latvian race.

He stated he was a law student and was married, his wife's name being SAICA PORVANIS, who was born in Riga, Latvia. His parents, MARTIN and ALMA PORVANIS, are believed living, but whereabouts are unknown.

The Subject resided in Riga, Latvia, from 1933 to August 1944; in Bruck a d Mur, Austria, from August 1944 to April 1945; in Salzburg, Austria in June 1945; and in Esslingen, Germany, from June 1945 to date of application.

Upon entering the United States he intended joining a friend, RICHARD M. JACOBSON, 19449 Faust Road, Detroit, Michigan.

PORVANIS was issued Certificate of Identity in lieu of passport, #24452, by the American Consul at Stuttgart on October 22, 1946, valid until April 10, 1947, and was then issued Russian Quota Immigration Visa #1380 on December 11, 1946. It was certified that he entered the United States at New York City on February 18, 1947, aboard the SS ERNIE PYLE.

PORVANIS was registered as an alien on October 22, 1946, by the American Consul at Stuttgart, receiving AR#A6575278. This form indicated that he would be a law student in the United States. For five years previous to this, he stated he was a forced laborer in labor camps.

(DS 62-1760)

Attached to Subject's visa was an affidavit of support executed by AUGUST H. JACOBSON, who stated he was residing at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. CHRISTIAN JACOBSON at 19449 Paust Road, Detroit, Michigan, who are willing to share their home with PAUL ERIC JACOBSON stated that FORMANIS is his first cousin's husband. JACOBSON indicated that he was born in St. Louis, Missouri, and is now steadily employed as a cost accountant in the process development plant of the Fisher Body Division of General Motors Corporation, 6051 Hastings Street, Detroit.

There is set out below the contents of a confidential report from the American Consulate at Stuttgart, Germany, dated April 1, 1947, which is contained in the files of the Central Office, 108, Philadelphia, and which reflects a specific allegation against the Subject.

"I have the honor to refer to the immigration case of VINOLIS FORMANIS and this Consulate's restricted despatch to the Department dated March 17, 1947. To supplement information contained in this despatch, the following is quoted from a Confidential Censorship Extract dated January 23, 1947, from the U. S. Civil Censorship Division, USFZT:

"The sender of the letter from which extracts were taken is Mr. JOHANN KUEHLIS, Esslingen a/Neckar (14a), Marktplatz 251, Wuerttemberg, Germany. The recipient was Miss ANNA GRIGANS, c/o Mrs. T. GRANTS, 59 Bay Ridge Way, Brooklyn, 9, New York.

" You know the history of the mysteryfull Mr. V. FORMANIS as a member of the Communist's Party during the occupation of Latvia by the Reds in 1940-1941, and also his whereabouts after the German Forces entered Riga in 1941; his meeting...at the 'TSHERKA-HOUSE' with a 'Hakenkreuzband' (Ex: Swastika armband) on his left arm's sleeve and also his liberation by higher German authorities when he was arrested by the Latvian Counterinvestigators being charged for treason played upon several young Latvian officers; his boastfull walking around without any work or occupation in 1944 in Riga, and two years later here his doubtful acting on the part of a persecuted person freed from some German concentration camp in Esslingen at a certain high-staged homeparty to which you happened to be present unexpectedly...."

" As for my opinion, there are only a few Communists amongst the U.S.'s here, but if the same can afford to get over to America, they will spoil a lot for the poor people that are

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"bound to stay here and are tortured by screenings and for rescreenings to be finally canceled from the list of persons to be supported. No one can feel safe of it, because all depends on his ability to answer the set questions...."

"There is established in Munich an Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees with a representative also for Canada - Mrs. KUCNEROFF had called at that place and told us today, its being all over-crowded with Jews and the employees too were Hebrews. I suspected its being some kind of a private enterprise handling matters for all American lands in a very doubtful way....."

By letter dated September 27, 1947, the New York Division reported the results of an interview with Miss AURORA GRIGONS who was alleged in the confidential report previously mentioned as having knowledge of Subject's background.

Miss AURORA GRIGONS was interviewed on September 12, 1947. It is noted that her address has changed and she now resides in a rooming house at 19 East 76th Street, New York City. Miss GRIGONS furnished the following information:

She was born on June 29, 1922 in Riga, Latvia, and was attending junior college in Riga when she fled to Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1944. In Pilsen, Czechoslovakia she worked in the office of a dairy company until April 1945 when she went to a Displaced Persons Camp, UNRRA Number 57, at Heidelberg, Germany. Later she went to a D. P. Camp at Esslingen, Germany, which is near Stuttgart.

One day in January or February, 1946, while she was at this camp she met a former classmate by chance who had attended junior college with her in Riga, Latvia. She could not remember this individual's full name, but remembered only that his first name was "INANTE." "INANTE" told her of a party that was to take place and invited her to attend. She accepted and later learned that the party was at the home of the Subject's sister. The party was just a social gathering of approximately ten persons, but she did remember that the Subject made a speech relating for the most part his past experiences. She stated that politics did not enter into the speech or into subsequent discussions.

At the time of this party Miss GRIGONS was living with Mr. JOHN KULIS and his wife. Mr. KULIS, she stated, is a man of about 60 years of age whom she had met in Czechoslovakia. He had previously been an engineer in a factory in Latvia and is now a close friend of Miss GRIGONS.

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When she returned to the KULIS home after the above-mentioned party and mentioned that the Subject had been present and had made a speech at the party, KULIS explained to her that the Subject had been in the Communist Party underground in Latvia before the Russians came to Latvia and he had also been a strong Communist after the Russians had taken over. Also, according to KULIS, the Subject had gained favor with the Nazi Regime after the Germans entered Latvia. KULIS also had a son who had been a Latvian Army officer and who was allegedly deported to Siberia after having been identified by the Subject. Miss GRIGONS further stated that according to Mr. and Mrs. PUSARONIS, Heistassen 5, Esalingen a/Keckar, Germany, they also had a son who was a Latvian Army officer and who had also been deported after being identified by the Subject.

Miss GRIGONS stated that this was the only time that she had met the Subject and that all she knew about him was what Mr. KULIS and others in Esalingen had told her after she had met the Subject at the above-mentioned party. Miss GRIGONS was asked whether or not KULIS had written her anything further concerning the Subject. She stated that she receives letters at regular intervals from KULIS, but that he had never written anything regarding the Subject.

According to Miss GRIGONS, the Subject left the D. P. Camp at Esalingen before she did and she has not seen nor heard of him since. She also advised that she has not heard from her own family since the Russians came to Latvia in 1944, with the exception of a sister, MILIA WORNAN, who is presently in a D. P. Camp in Augsburg, Germany. Miss GRIGONS left Esalingen for Heidheim, Germany, in March 1946; left there for the U. S., and arrived in the U. S. on May 7, 1946.

It is noted that Miss GRIGONS is comparatively young, being twenty-five years of age, and she did not appear to have much interest or knowledge of political events. She stated that she is presently employed as a file clerk with the American Photograph Company, 307 - 7th Avenue, New York City.

Under date of November 1, 1947, the New York Division advised that Mrs. ILGA GULBIS, 89 Silver Lane Road, Staten Island, New York, telephone Gibraltar 7-7027R, had recently arrived in New York and had previously been in a Displaced Persons Camp in Esalingen, Germany, and quite possibly might have information concerning Subject and his wife.

The records of the Detroit INS Office were checked and found to be identical with information furnished by the Central Office of the INS at Philadelphia.

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On October 21, 1947, the back files of the newspaper of the "Detroit Times" were checked concerning articles contributed by the Subject to determine the type of information POWMAN had made available to that paper. This review reflected that on March 23, 24 and 25 which is approximately one month after Subject's arrival in Detroit, Michigan, POWMAN contacted JACK PICKERING of the "Detroit Times" and volunteered to furnish information concerning the activities of the Russians during the period of occupation by them from June 1940 to May 1941.

It is noted that these articles as published in the "Times" are written in the first person and give the definite impression that the person being interviewed personally experienced the circumstances that are described.

The March 23 issue describes the Subject as VICTOR PURVIT "a victim who spent three months in the torture cells of the NKVD or secret police in Riga, Latvia." The article went on to state that PURVIT had first seen how the NKVD operated in June 1940 when the Russians occupied Latvia. PURVIT related that he ran afoul of the NKVD early in October 1940 after a group of students had published their forbidden paper criticizing the Communists.

The article thereafter goes into a vivid description of the punishment and torture cells used by the NKVD and their questioning of political prisoners. For example, PURVIT describes a special room approximately two feet wide and three feet high with a ceiling that operates on an elevator principle with a 1,000 watt light bulb suspended from the ceiling and that political prisoners are placed in this room. PURVIT also described special electrical shock treatments and a special fingernail puller, the latter torture, according to PURVIT, was not suffered by him. Also described was a metal whip used to punish the prisoners.

The following is quoted from the article:

"The day the Germans came the NKVD had all gone. I went to the cellars; three prisoners were there, all dead and two with the nails gone. I found graves later, one hundred men to two hundred men to a grave, some with their nails pulled out, some with their eyes gouged, some with hands tied with barbed wire behind their backs."

The article of March 24, 1947, contained general comment by PURVIT on the economic status of Latvia and the general disbelief of the

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Russians when they occupied Latvia and realized how better off the people of that country were than the citizens of Russia.

Contained in this article was another quoted part by FURMIT to the effect "When the time will come you will have another Pearl Harbor some day. The Third Internationale still believes in World-wide Communism."

Under date of March 25, 1947, the newspaper article contained a description of general NEVE operations with comment by FURMIT to the effect that he still has notes and letters from the Latvian underground. FURMIT related that he still had one letter from a man in an important place in the Latvian ministry which tells of the food restrictions in that country.

On October 6, 1947, VICTOR FORNAN and his wife SAIRA were interviewed in the Detroit Office from 5:15 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with SAs MAHLON P. SCHLER and EUGENE H. THORNTON interviewing Subject and SA IRVING G. SOXIE interviewing Subject's wife. Both of these interviews were conducted simultaneously and are set forth hereafter with the details of Subject's interview set forth first.

Subject related that he was born on February 4, 1919, at Ribilnak, Russia, which is approximately 120 miles from Moscow. His parents were MARTIN FORNANIS and ALMA GORNOV. Both parents were born in counties which are now considered part of Latvia although at the time of their birth it was considered Russian territory. MARTIN FORNANIS was born in Raugzais County and ALMA GORNOV was born in Pshakste County. FORNAN related that there was one other child, a sister MELITAFORNAN now twenty-four years of age, and at the time of the interview, a resident of the Latvian Displaced Persons Camp at Stuttgart, Germany.

FORNAN related that at the time of his birth, his father was an engineer employed in Ribilnak but that in 1921, approximately two years after VICTOR's birth, the family migrated back to Riga where they continued to live from then on. FORNAN related that his father had been employed in various miscellaneous capacities during the period of 1921 to 1925 and that his earliest recollection of his father's employment was the period of 1925 to 1926 during which time he was employed in the Welfare Department of the existing government in Riga. From 1926 to 1933 MARTIN FORNANIS was employed as a secretary in an organization handling a hospital insurance plan. From 1933 to 1940 FORNAN described his father as being employed in a department of the Latvian government comparable to the position auditor or comptroller in a municipal government in this country.

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Subject related that his mother was a practicing physician from 1931 until the present time and that she had studied at the University of Riga and is well known in that city as a general practitioner.

POREMAN described his father as being active in politics during the period of 1928 to 1932 as a councilman and stated that he was a member of the political party known as the Social Democrats, which party he left in 1932 because of dissension, the details of which Subject was unaware. Subject related that to his knowledge and belief his father had not been active in any form of politics since 1932; that he had never been associated with any political party, particularly the Communist Party, and that from 1940 until the present time his father has been in retirement at their residence in Riga which was described as 86A, Apartment 1, Patisa. POREMAN related that his mother has never been active in politics at any time.

Subject furnished the following details concerning his life in Riga:

He related that he had attended grammar school and high school until 1937 at which time he entered the University of Riga, majoring in the study of law. He related that while in the University he joined a society known as Letonia which he described as a national student society which had approximately 125 active members in the University and which he described as being a "Rightist Club." He related that while in this society during the period October 1939 to June 17, 1940, he had been approached by one EPALIS whom he described as a student and whose father-in-law held a high position in the Latvian government. This approach was in connection with securing the services of POREMAN to serve as an informant for the Latvian secret police. He stated that he attended special classes conducted by the Political Department of the Ministry of the Interior in which the students were trained to secure information concerning activities of Communists in Latvia.

He related that during the period of October 1939 until June 17, 1940, his particular assignment had been securing information concerning activities of Communists at a factory in Riga known as Vef, which he described as a general machine shop, and that during this period of approximately six months which included training and actual assignment he had been paid money on two occasions by EPALIS and submitted reports of his findings to this individual.

POREMAN related that he secured employment as a reporter on the newspaper "Cina" during May 1940 with his assignment being the reporting

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of general industrial achievements within factories in Riga. FORBANK related that the Russians occupied Riga on June 17, 1940; that he continued his employment on this paper unhampered until March 1941. He related that his assignment had been of the same type and he was required to report on achievements of factory workers within the various industries in Latvia, glorifying the output of labor and generally furnishing an incentive to factory employees.

He related that on March 13, 1941, he was summarily dismissed from the newspaper staff, it being alleged that he had failed to declare to the authorities his previous affiliation with the National Student Society Letonia.

FORBANK related that upon being dismissed, within a period of a week thereafter, he left Riga and secreted himself on a farm approximately 120 miles from Riga in the county of Talsi. He related that he did not inform his parents of his whereabouts during this period and that the reason for this trip was that he felt that he would be the victim of a purge and sent to Siberia or some other punishment at the hands of the Russians because of the described episode.

At this point Subject also related that his father retired from his position in the government during the period of Russian occupation because of the liquidation of his job by the Russians and that he had retired to their residence in the suburbs of Riga and had not worked henceforth. He stated that this was possible due to the fact that his parents were considered in fairly good circumstances inasmuch as both had been employed as professionals and due to the fact that his mother continued her medical practice which was quite lucrative.

FORBANK related that he returned to Riga just prior to June 21, 1941, which was the approximate date of the evacuation of Latvia by the Russians and the occupation by the German forces. He related that approximately ten days after the Germans arrived, he was arrested by the Gestapo and accused of being a Communist and held for a period of six weeks by the Germans. He stated that he was never able to determine the exact reasons behind his being held other than the fact that he had been employed on the newspaper "Cina" during the period that the Russians occupied Riga and therefore it was assumed that he must be a Communist.

At this point FORBANK furnished the names of five students whom he believed might possibly have turned him in to the Gestapo as being a Communist Party member: BREKINS, ALINS, AC BANG, CAULITIS, DIKMAN.

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FORBES related that he was aware of certain stories that were being circulated about him at that time, particularly while he held his newspaper job, the rumors being to the effect that he must be a Communist in order to hold his position on the newspaper. FORBES related that at no time had he ever been approached to join the Party and that until the date of discharge he had had no indication that he was under investigation by the Russians.

FORBES related that after his release by the Gestapo, which was during August 1941, he re-entered the University of Riga and continued as a student at that University until the spring of 1944 when he graduated with his degree in law. He related that during this period of time he met his wife GAICA MARKOVIC and that they were married on July 18, 1944, at Riga just prior to his being placed in the labor battalion by the German occupation forces and he was subsequently sent to Germany.

FORBES related that while at school he had been active as a track athlete in the 100 and 200 meters events but that during this school period he had not been active in any form of politics nor associated with any activity other than pursuing his law course.

FORBES related that he and his then fiancée, upon learning of the conscription of Subject in a labor battalion, were married so that she would be able to accompany him. He related that he had been employed as a post clerk for a period of nine months from July 1944 at the forced labor battalion camp at Bruck-on-Mur, Austria. From April 1945 until February 1947 he had been in a displaced persons camp composed entirely of Latvians in Eselingen, Germany, until he was able to qualify on a Russian quota for immigration to the United States. He related that it was through his wife that they were able to make connections with relatives in this country and eventually permitted to enter the United States.

While Subject was in the displaced persons camp of Eselingen he related that he had been able to obtain several broken-down trucks and stated that he started a minor business within the camp in which he handled miscellaneous transportation jobs and had free access to the area around Eselingen. Subject volunteered that while at the camp he was aware of a certain amount of feeling which he described as jealousy towards both him and his wife and heard the same type of rumors that he had previously heard when in Latvia concerning his Communist connections, all of which were without basis in fact.

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In October 8, 1947, Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed by SA [REDACTED] at which time she furnished the following information:

Her name is [REDACTED], Latvian spelling [REDACTED], and her maiden name was [REDACTED]. She was born February 26, 1921, in Riga, Latvia. Her father, [REDACTED], has been employed in the capacity of an expediter in the Latvian Government currency printing establishment for approximately thirty years. Her mother, [REDACTED], worked as a milliner.

Mrs. [REDACTED] last heard from her mother and father in 1945. At this time they were still residing in Riga at an address given by Mrs. [REDACTED] as "Mazkavas Iela, 12/13-3." This was in the form of correspondence while Mrs. [REDACTED] was still detained in a Nazi work camp.

Mrs. [REDACTED]'s father was born in Latvia in 1881 while her mother was born in 1888, also in Latvia. Subsequent to the immigration of the [REDACTED] to the United States this year, Mrs. [REDACTED]'s aunt, Mrs. J. [REDACTED], attempted to locate Mrs. [REDACTED]'s parents by correspondence but received no answer. Mrs. [REDACTED]'s father was still with the Latvian Government in the same capacity at the time he corresponded with her in 1945. Mrs. [REDACTED] was of the opinion that her father had retained his position under the Russian regime due to the fact that he was an experienced and skilled employee and was able to speak good Russian.

In 1939 Mrs. [REDACTED] began attending the University of Riga. She stated that she also taught physical education in high school, acting as a swimming instructor.

According to Mrs. [REDACTED], the Russians entered Latvia on June 17, 1940. She did not meet her husband until Christmas 1942. At this time both were studying law. Herhus and subsequently graduated from law school in 1944 whereas she studied for five years but did not obtain a degree. In July 18, 1944, they were married in Riga.

With regard to her husband's background, Mr. [REDACTED] stated that her mother-in-law was a physician whereas she did not recall the most recent occupation of her father-in-law, other than that he was an art collector.

Mrs. [REDACTED] stated that due to the fact that she had not met her husband when the Russians entered Latvia she had no first-hand

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knowledge of his arrest and confinement by the Russians. She stated that the story as related to her was that prior to the coming of the Russians her husband had been a member of a students' organization known as Lottonia and had also worked for a Latvian publication by the name of "Dinga" (translated "Attie").

She stated that the Lottonia organization was one which advocated Latvian independence and to her knowledge was not in sympathy with the Communists. Mrs. MITCHELL at first stated that the paper "Dinga" was non-Communist but later admitted that the paper was sympathetic to the Communists.

She was told that her husband was arrested in the winter-time by the Russian Cheka. She was not aware of the details of his arrest or the charge. Russians kept her husband in jail three months.

Mrs. MITCHELL insisted that although her husband had been employed on a Communist paper he still had not been a Communist himself or at any time in sympathy with the Communist movement. She stated further that neither she nor her husband nor any members of their respective families had ever had anything to do with the Communist Party.

She had heard of the Russian youth group, the Komsomols, which she stated had an organization in Latvia; but she stated that they had at no time been affiliated with this group. Mrs. MITCHELL expressed antagonism towards the Russians and stated that from what she had seen of their activities there was no distinction in fact between the Communists and the Nazis.

The Germans entered Latvia on June 23, 1941, according to Mrs. MITCHELL. Although carefully questioned on the point, she was unable to recollect that MITCHELL, her husband, had been in prison upon the Germans' arrival. Subsequently in 1944 the Russians came back into Latvia when the Germans retreated following their defeat at Stalingrad. When the Germans realized it would be necessary to fall back they forced the younger persons in Latvia to enter work camps in German occupation territory.

Accordingly, on July 22, 1944, Mrs. MITCHELL and her husband were forced by the Germans to go to the Nazi work camp at Weichsbahn-lager, Bruck a.d. Har, where their address was Hieslescher Str. 47. She exhibited an identification card issued to her August 23, 1944, bearing her photograph, attesting to the fact that she was a worker on the German railroad.

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She stated that she first knew one E. Fitcher on this job but that later both she and her husband became interpreters.

Subsequently, Mrs. J. J. Smith's sister became very ill and so she accompanied her to Lornbim, Wehrkreis, Germany, where she remained with her sister-in-law from May until October 1949. Upon the arrival of the French troops, Mrs. J. J. Smith and her husband went to Stuttgart and from there to the displaced persons camp in Esslingen where they arrived October 20, 1949.

During the period they were in Austria and Germany, her husband had acted as a driver and also as an interpreter. While in the work camp Mrs. J. J. Smith was paid twenty marks per week while her husband received thirty-five marks per week.

Mrs. J. J. Smith denied that her husband had ever been in contact with German authorities or had acted as either a Nazi or Russian agent. She stated that he has never worn a swastika armband. She likewise denies that he had ever received from the Germans any large amount of money for services and in this connection stated that at the time of their immigration to the United States her aunt in America had furnished the money for their passage.

She recalled a party which was held at the displaced persons camp just before she and her husband departed and that among those who attended this affair were the following: ~~WILHELM REBER, ERNA REBER, ANTONIA REBER, VALERIE REBER, VICTOR REBER, FRANTZ REBER.~~

Mrs. J. J. Smith and her husband proceeded directly to Bremerhaven from Esslingen and then to the United States where they arrived in February 1947. Mrs. J. J. Smith's aunt, Mrs. J. J. Smith, as previously stated, furnished the money for their passage to the United States.

Mrs. J. J. Smith stated that her uncle is a shoemaker and that he operates a shop at Schoolcraft and Meyers, Detroit. She and her husband live with the J. J. Smiths at 1949 Faust, Detroit. The only other relatives in this country with whom Mrs. J. J. Smith is acquainted are JOHN and ELLA Smith, 328 Farmer, Wyandoch, Michigan. She stated these were distant relatives and that ELLA is also a shoemaker.

Mrs. J. J. Smith presently is employed by the Leroy Millinery Company at 215 Grand River, Detroit. She is studying English in evening classes given at the International Institute on East Grand Boulevard, Detroit.

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She stated her husband was employed as a checker in the Parts Department of the Ye Low Fab Division of the General Motors Corporation located at Vernor and Alexanderine, Detroit, Michigan.

In connection with the discrepancy noted in Subject's wife's interview concerning Subject's confinement by the Russians, it is noted that both Subject and his wife were again interviewed concerning this at which time FORBEN related that he had never confided in his wife concerning the treatment that he had received at the hands of the Germans during his period of confinement although she knew that he had been in confinement at one time. He related that he had never discussed with her anything of a political nature and related that she was ignorant of most of his life prior to their acquaintance in 1942.

Mrs. FORBEN related that she had assumed that Subject's confinement had been at the hands of the Russians from a reading of the newspaper articles that had been published in the "Detroit Times" at the time of Subject's arrival in this country inasmuch as everything in those articles described the activities of the Russians and the fact that they were told in the first person led her to believe that they were her husband's experiences.

FORBEN related that he had purposely furnished these articles in the first person to the "Detroit Times" and led the reporter to believe that they had actually occurred to him in order to more vividly present his story, also stating that because of his newspaper background he felt that they would receive more publicity as they were highly dramatized. FORBEN related that the material that he had furnished the newspaper had been gained by him over a period of years from stories that he had heard in the displaced persons camp as well as stories which were told in general circles in Latvia.

During the course of the interview, FORBEN denied any affiliation with the Communist Party as well as acting in any capacity on behalf of the German occupational forces.

On October 31, 1947, Subject was recontacted at which time he furnished the magazine "Victoria" the issue of July-August 1947, No. 121-122, published in Buenos Aires in the Latvian language which is being furnished to the Bureau as an enclosure.

SMITH pointed out an article appearing on page 13 beginning with the last paragraph on that page and continuing to the first three lines on page 14 which contain an item concerning a Latvian which he translated as follows:

"Recently in Detroit, Mich., a former member of the Communist Party in Riga, Comrade VILKIS KRIVANIS, has arrived. Through him in 1941 many a Latvian youngster were deported to Russia. The smart comrade has gotten in some way a certificate showing that he was a German political prisoner. Now he is living like a bourgeois and is managing a transport business."

It is noted that Subject and his wife are living with the uncle and aunt of the Subject's wife DAVID SMITH, Sr. and Mrs. CHARLES JACKSON, who have advised that the magazine referred to has been mailed to them periodically over the past year.

SMITH stated that his first reaction to this article was to write a letter protesting and demanding a retraction but related that he was not taking any action in view of his apparent investigation by this Bureau.

Subject furnished the names of several individuals who are currently in this country who, he stated, could furnish background information concerning both he and his family and who has been at the displaced persons camp at the same time and were also acquainted with him when he lived in Riga.

FRANK THORNTON, 32 years of age, wife MARY, residing at the Rollins School, Lenox, Massachusetts. He is described by Subject as an auto mechanic who arrived in the United States approximately one month later and is well acquainted with the Subject and his wife. THORNTON is described as married with one child and living at the Lenox School which he described as some sort of a temporary arrangement.

JAMES O'NEILL, 33 years of age, wife MARY, one child. Subject stated that O'NEILL was also at the same camp and was imprisoned at the same time as the Subject by the Gestapo. He related that this individual could also be reached at the same address as THORNTON.

Doctor THOMAS W. SMITH, 54 to 55 years of age, a well known physician in Riga who was very well acquainted with Subject's



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- PENDING -

TO THE BOARD
one copy of the negative records, July-August, 1947,
NO. 100-1000.

NOTES

other and who in response to be in the United States. It is noted
that doctor [redacted] was a physician in California, believed to be in San Francisco,
but that he had been recently that this might not be in New York City.

(K 0-100)

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