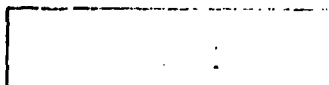


# OFFICIAL DISPATCH

AIR

088W-4613



FEB 57 11 31 z

Chief, SR thru Chief, WR

Operational/REDWOOD

Alleged Communications Channel into the Latvian SSR

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Establish Contact with Identity 1 upon Receipt of PCA

1. Enclosed herewith as attachment A is a translation of a letter written by Identity 1 to Identity 2. It was obtained through the services of a Headquarters covert contact who is in close association with Identity 2. Identity 2's only interest in this affair apparently is merely to bring the matter to the attention of the proper OSYOKI representatives.

2. Attachment B is a translation of the second letter from Identity 1 to Identity 2.

3. Attachment C is a translation of a note from Identity 8 to Identity 1 which was enclosed in the letter of paragraph 2 above.

4. Attachment D is a letter from Identity 2 to Identity 1 which can be utilized to establish bona fides with the latter. The carbon copy of this letter has already been mailed to Identity 1.

5. As will be evident upon perusal of attachment A, three separate opportunities for exploitation exist, namely:

- a. The positive and operational intelligence in the possession of Identity 1's mother.
- b. The "code" channel established by Identity 1 between himself and his friend in Latvia.
- c. The agreement by the sea captain to establish a group to gather intelligence in Latvia on Identity 5's behalf.

6. PCA has been requested on Identity 1 and you will be notified by cable upon its receipt. At that time it is requested that Identity 1 be contacted - utilizing attachment D - and be debriefed regarding

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CLASSIFICATION

FORM NO 51-29  
104 1960

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE'S METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2005

ALLEGED COMMUNICATIONS CHANNEL INTO THE LATVIAN SSR

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paragraph 5 b above, in order to determine the operational potential existing here. Once contact has been established with Identity 1, he can also be used to facilitate the debriefing of his mother and of Identity 5 if you feel it advisable to interview the latter at this time. It is felt that a local Latvian, besides revealing his AIS connections, would also not be able to secure the required degree of full confidence and cooperation and therefore it is further requested that a staff member undertake to establish the foregoing contact or contacts if at all practicable.

7. In view of the relationship apparently existing between Identity 1 and Identity 5 it is suggested that it might be advisable to query the appropriate local OSYMA officials prior to effecting the foregoing contact with Identity 1.

Attachments (Herewith)

- A. Translation of 1st letter
- B. Translation of 2nd letter
- C. Translation of note
- D. Letter and translation

[ ] [ ]

Attachment (Under Separate Cover)

- E. Identities

16-14 ad 2 - BT (1/4)  
30 January 1957

[ ] [ ]

Distribution:

- 2 - [ ] (w/atts A,B,C,D)  
          (w/att E wsg) (copy to [ ] - [ ])
- 1 - RI (w/atts A,B,C,D,E)
- 2 - SR/2 (w/atts A,E,C,D,E)
- 2 - WE/1 (w/atts A,B,C,D,E)

SR/2/E [ ] rdy  
See ad. loc. [ ]

WE/FI [ ] [ ] SR/COF/PI [ ] [ ] WE/1 [ ] [ ]

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ADDENDUM

It will be apparent to the Station that there are a number of very subtle aspects to this entire procedure. For example, is there an EIS procedure being held all over? The tale of the ship appears to really be very, very subtle. Identify it. Does he represent, possibly, the TITANIC, or is he from some U. S. Intelligence command outside Boston - BOSTON, for example? These questions, as we say, will be as evident to you as they are to us - perhaps more so, since some Station officers are going to have to select his next act. Will it be to investigate this situation. Actually, there seems to be little or no risk involved in simply attempting to determine the facts, and that is what we're after at this stage. It may well be that we shall never be able to clarify the picture sufficiently to know that we want to try to capitalize on this alleged channel into the USSR. The situation, as we know it, does seem to warrant - and, indeed, requires - further investigation. We do not feel   is the person to continue with this order.



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Introduction From Let. No.

Today I received your letter as well as this strange note from the  
silly, old man. I would like to ask for your advice again, as I do not  
understand it myself. The situation is more than unpleasant for me, as  
I have achieved quite a lot but there was still much more that could have  
been done. As you could see from my last letter, I was able with the help  
of the captain to organize a completely reliable and effective mode of  
communication, as it is now possible for me to correspond through a regular  
mail channel. I have told my friend about our interests and have indicated  
to him where to look for leads (prospective recruits). I also told him  
I would like to correspond by air (radio). In other words, I have started  
a rather complicated mechanism which cannot be stopped as easily as the  
old man imagines. Besides, I would not even dare stop the whole thing, as  
otherwise the people over there would think of me as a fool, or they might  
think I consider them to be fools.

After all, this is not a child's play. If there should actually be  
some important reasons for discontinuing everything that has been started,  
it should certainly be made known to me in such a way and form that there  
would be no misunderstandings. When we met last time, I explained to the  
old man that my friend is not working anywhere, but is recovering from  
TB which he contracted in Siberia. I asked if I could send him medicine  
and packages, so he could exist on that without working, and instead do  
some work for us. This was approved by the old man and he promised to  
cover the expenses. Therefore I informed my friend that he should be in  
no hurry to look for a job and that support would be provided. Now I  
feel that I have let my friend down. I am unable to send the promised  
money from my own earnings. Money is necessary not only for living, but  
also for traveling around so that it would be possible to collect some  
information and organize something. Now in the event I should receive  
word some day that everything is in order for radio communications and  
the only thing left is to listen to each other, I would be like a fish on  
dry land, as I have no equipment and cannot obtain it here. All in all  
you can see that this is like "playing with thread" and I am in no way  
be satisfied with it. First of all, I would like things to be clear,  
since I am ideologically devoted to this cause and one cannot stop me like  
some machine. Also I would like to tell you that if things go on like  
this, I have means at my disposal whereby I could develop interest in my  
work in another place, closer to where I am. My mother has brought with  
her some information which I could make good use of as it is very important

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to the islanders (British) and they would be very grateful to us for this information, as it concerns the fate of one of their employees. With the help of this case, I could establish contact and they have people for whom other matters are much more important than the investigation of "biographic data". This has been demonstrated many times.

Now I would like to have your ideas on this subject briefly and clearly. Would it be possible for you to determine the reasons for such actions? If he (Identity 8) should actually have some reasons for not coming and he really is obliged to go away for several months, then I feel he should at least have left behind some replacement whom I could contact when necessary. And such a necessity may arise in the very near future. In other words, looking at it from my viewpoint, I and my friends are being treated like "trash", without consideration of the fact that all this is connected with a great deal of risk.

I can have my friend establish contact with those persons about whom you wrote, without any risk. If he sends greetings from you, trust and understanding can surely be gained. I am so upset and have written you so much that there is no more space left to write about mother's stories. It is clear that the people over there are working with great enthusiasm and faith and I would certainly be very much ashamed if they should become disillusioned due to their contact with me.

I am awaiting your answer soon.

/signed: (Identity 1)/

Stockholm, 14 Jan 1957

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Translation from Latvian

Stockholm, 1 January 1957

Radio, 2000 hrs

All of us wish you and your family a Happy New Year. As you know, my mother arrived (from the Latvian SSR) on December 8th. In spite of her age she is very alert and surprises me with her good memory. She has been telling me a lot and has had a lot of experiences, so that one could write a whole book from what she told us. I shall write you more details some other time, but in general I can say that Communism has reached its ideal of equality, since no one has anything any more. The people are very well informed on world events, both through listening to the radio and by reading between the lines in their own newspapers. Everyone hopes and waits for a change. The people's attitude or state of mind is like a sensitive seismograph, which records all the minute changes and disturbances in the world situation. As I said before, I shall write you more in detail soon and also (Identity 3) has asked for a meeting on behalf of your organization.

Now I have another very complicated matter on which I have to request your immediate advice and help. Some time ago I was able to collect some interesting information. There was a captain here (from the Latvian SSR) who had to pick up a new fishing vessel from (Identity 4's) wharfyard. This captain had formerly been in some connection with (Identity 5) and it was established that he was a completely reliable man to deal with. So (Identity 4) also became acquainted with this man through (Identity 5) and I sent a code to my friend (in Latvia) through him, so that we can communicate. So far everything would be in order. This evening (Identity 4) told me that according to (Identity 5) an Estonian from the other side has just been in Stockholm, and had gone on to London with some delegation. This Estonian had told (Identity 5) that he was in contact with the above mentioned captain and it turned out that this was really so. Furthermore (Identity 5) told (Identity 4) that he had talked to this captain before, and that there were several reliable men at home who would collect detailed information on conditions in Latvia, etc., and when that had been done one of them, who has a chance to get onto some fishing boat, would try to leave the boat at the coast of Sweden or Norway and at the same time carry out the collected information. In order to promote this undertaking, (Identity 5) is said to require 2,000 kronor in U.S. Dollars, which he is to give the Estonian on Thursday, 10 January, when he will be here on his way back (to Estonia) from London. When (Identity 4) asked (Identity 5) what he intended to do with the collected information, the latter replied that he would try to get in touch with the American Legation. (Identity 4) thereupon replied that the Americans would simply not take his word, and

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that he should get in touch with you in this matter, as it is quite natural that you have been interested in such matters simply from the point of view of the Latvian central organisations. (Identity 5) replied that it might really be the best thing to get in touch with you. I have tried to have this matter switched in your direction, as I personally have not become involved in anything here so as not to cause the unnecessary impression among wider circles that I am doing anything (operational). So far everything would be all right, if only (Identity 5) did not have several other persons involved who shared this information: (Identity 6) and a very active man here called (Identity 7). It is my idea that (Identity 4) should first of all convince (Identity 5) that this information should go to you alone and that the other two persons (Identities 6 and 7) should somehow be cut out of the picture. I suggested to (Identity 4) that he should make (Identity 5) understand in a roundabout way that it would not be difficult to get the necessary funds from you or from my old man (Identity 8), as I would get everything I could use from all of this (sic) and the old man would have to pay for it. For the time being, (Identity 5) will try to borrow the money by Thursday, so he would have something to give the Estonian. I shall meet the "old man" on 19 January, then I will try to explain the situation to him, but whether he will accept it is a different question; I suppose that in view of his cautiousness and stinginess he will first want to investigate the whole "family tree", which I am unable to give him at this time. I do not know if you have any funds at your disposal and whether you would be able to help in such a short time. I would like you to be informed on this whole matter, in case (Identity 5) should write to you. You should not write to him yourself, but (Identity 4) will try to influence him in such a way that he will write to you. If there is anything else you might have to discuss with (Identity 5), you could write without mentioning a word of this whole matter, but just try to draw his attention to you by some other question and create confidence. I hope that I have expressed myself sufficiently clearly and you will not misunderstand me.

In general I am satisfied with the results of my work so far and am awaiting current information from my friend in the near future. The only thing is that it is difficult to come to an agreement with the "old man", as he is not interested in anything but the "family tree" (sic; probably means B I Asta). It is too bad one has to work with such a "criddle". I tried to impress on him that one of the two persons who arrived here last summer - the other one went back - had gone to England immediately after being released. I emphasized that the British know their job.

My mother told me that a (Identity 9) was planning to go to Sweden last fall; he had returned from Siberia a year ago and was active in the underground. So far he has not been seen yet around here, but it might

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be possible to get on his trail in Latvia. That would be quite an achievement if he would "come to the surface" again.

My mother also mentioned somebody by the name of (Identity 10) and (Identity 11) in a similar connection. Do you have any new names or addresses, so I could give my friend the necessary leads. What about (Identity 12), is he still at Mairavulka? - I want to establish radio communications at all cost. The "old man" has promised to give the radio set if there should be someone on the other side who could transmit. Let me hear from you soon. All the best

Signed: (Identity 11)

All parenthesis by translator.

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