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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2E
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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29 November 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Maris Krusts, Escapee from Latvia

SOURCE : ██████████

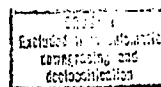
On 19 November 1962 the Swedish newspapers announced that on 18 November a Soviet Latvian sailor had defected from the Soviet tanker, Ogre, in Goteborg. The above mentioned announcement was also repeated in the Latvian newspapers.

The defector turned himself over to the Swedish police and asked for political asylum. After his boat had left the harbor the captain apparently realized that one of the sailors was missing. It appears that for that reason the ship returned to the harbor, and the captain requested permission to meet and to talk to the defector. The Swedish police agreed. The ensuing discussion took place in the presence of a Swedish interpreter. The captain's threats remained without any results for the defector refused to return.

The defector is Maris Krusts, born in 1940 in Valmiera, Latvia. He has a grade school education. He reportedly is well developed and has a strong character. He had planned his escape beforehand. The Swedish police have released him, and he has been transferred to a camp approximately 10 kilometers from Goteborg where he is being interrogated by the military intelligence. In the next few days it is expected that he will be turned over to the Swedish Alien Commission. There is no question that he will be granted political asylum in Sweden and that he will be placed in a job.

In addition to the above, the following has been learned: this last summer Rainis Cedrins, who is the son of the Latvian writer V. Cedrins and poetess Mirdza Cuibe (now the wife of violinist Vestens) went on a Swedish ship to Latvia in order to meet his oldest brother Gundars. The brothers met, and it appears that Rainis was able to present the life in Sweden the way it is. In addition he had mentioned that it is possible to obtain political asylum in Sweden. Now it appears that Maris Krusts was a close friend of Gundars

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Cedrins for Maris asked Mirdza Vestens or her son Rainis to write a letter to Gundars in Latvia in order to notify his (Maris') parents that the latter has reached freedom. It appears that Maris is afraid to write to his parents directly.

The Latvian organizations in Sweden are trying to influence the Swedish Alien Commission so that Maris Krusts would be permitted to live and work in a place where there are more Latvians. It would be best if he were placed in Norkoping, Sweden, where the Vestens family lives; in that case Mrs. Vestens might be able to look after him.

According to the above mentioned information it appears that the escape of Maris Krusts is the direct or indirect result of Rainis Cedrins' visit with his brother in Latvia.

Note: this information was mailed from Sweden on 24 November 1962.

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