

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS FORM COMPLETES AN INVESTIGATION AT WASHINGTON FIELD

Form No.

REPORT MADE AT <b>WASHINGTON, D. C.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/16; 2/8, 11, 13, 14/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>CLYDE D. NICOLL CDR/EC</b>
TITLE <b>VITOLDOS PORMANIS, was. Vitold Pormashis, Victor Porman, Victor Purvit</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R and LA</b>

### SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

### INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY REPORT

Subject offered services as Informant on Communist matters in May, 1947. Subject and wife, Latvian citizens, arrived in U. S. February, 1947. Informants advise subject and father Communists in Latvia. Subject also identified with German occupation forces in Latvia. Subject alleged to have worked with Latvian Secret Police and denied Russian and German connections, and alleged imprisoned for six weeks by Germans in 1941. Subject residing Washington, D. C., since June, 1951. Remarried February, 1952. Present wife, HAYDA PORMAN, now residing New York City.

### DETAILS AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On May 12, 1947, an individual who identified himself as VITOLD PORMANIS resided at 19449 Fabos, Detroit.

Bureau (105-10016) New York (100-87161) Detroit (66-1969) Washington Field (105-682)	SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET
---	-------------------------------

Michigan, offered his services as an informant on Communist matters, particularly in the Latvian and Lithuanian groups. PORMAN stated he was born February 4, 1919, at Rabinisk, Russia. His parents MARTIN and ALMA FORMANIS were Latvian citizens. The family moved from Rabinisk, Russia, to Riga, Latvia, in 1922, and the subject obtained his education in Riga. The education consisted of a high school diploma and a law degree which he received at the University of Riga in May, 1944. Subject stated from a period in 1939 until June, 1940, he had been employed as an informant on Communist matters for the Political Police of Latvia. This employment was in a factory in Riga. He further stated that he was a student in the University of Riga from June, 1940, to May, 1944. After the Russians had withdrawn from Latvia and the Germans subsequently occupied that country in July, 1944, subject was sent to a German labor camp in Bruck-on-Mur, Austria. Following his release from the labor camp and beginning about April, 1945, subject stated he was in a Displaced Persons Camp composed of Latvians and located at Eschlaggen, Germany, until he was able to qualify on a Russian quota for migration to the U. S., which was in February, 1947. Subject displayed a Certificate of Identification (in lieu of passport) which reflected that on October 22, 1946, he had qualified for immigration to the U. S. and entered the U. S. at New York City on February 18, 1947. He proceeded directly to Detroit, Michigan, arriving in that city on February 20, 1947, and took up residence with Mr. and Mrs. CHRISTIAN JACOBSON. Mrs. JACOBSON (ANN) is the aunt of GAIDA FORMANIS, subject's wife, and is the person who guaranteed their support while in the U. S. GAIDA FORMANIS accompanied her husband in all his travels subsequent to their marriage in July, 1944.

Subject stated that he had already filed his first papers for citizenship in the U. S. and having read of the publicity concerning Communist activities in this country felt that because of his previous background as a Communist informant that he could be of the same service to this country within the Latvian and Lithuanian groups.

The records of the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, reflect that VITOLDS PORMANIS application for Immigration Visa #59 at the American Consulate, Stuttgart, Germany, on October 22, 1946, stating that he was born February 4, 1919, at Rabinisk, Russia. His wife, GAIDA FORMANIS, was born in Riga, Latvia. Subject was issued Certificate of Identification Number 24452 at the American Consulate, Stuttgart, Germany, on October 22, 1946, and Russian quota Immigration Visa Number 1380 on December 11, 1946. His

entered the U. S. at New York City on February 18, 1947, aboard the SS Ernie Pyle.

Information furnished by the State Department in 1947 reflects that the subject and his wife, SAIDA FORMANIS, were issued Immigration Visa Numbers 1379 and 1380 in December, 1946 under the Russian quota. They sailed from the Port of Bremerhaven on February 7, 1947. Subsequently information was received by the Department of State from Confidential Informant T-1, a Latvian Displaced Person of unknown reliability 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, "Cinjs." 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 arm band and acting in the capacity of 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 Württ, Germany, at which time he jokingly showed a certificate stating that he was a persecuted person and spoke of having huge sums of money.

Confidential Informant T-2, of unknown reliability, who was identified by T-1 as an acquaintance of the subject, advised that in January or February, 1946, while she was a member of the Displaced Persons Camp at Esslingen, Germany, she attended a party where the subject was also present. T-2 advised this was a social gathering and that during the progress of the party the subject made a speech relating for the most part to his past experiences. She stated that politics did not enter into the speech or to subsequent discussions. T-2 advised that she was residing with the individual described in this report as T-1 and after returning home after the above-mentioned party T-1 explained to her that subject had been in the Communist underground in Latvia before the Russians came to Latvia and that he had also been a strong Communist after the Russians had taken over. Furthermore subject gained favor with the Nazi regime after the Germans entered Latvia. T-1 had a son who had been a Latvian Army officer and who was allegedly deported to Siberia after having been identified by the subject. T-2 advised that she knew of one other family who also had a son who was a Latvian Army officer and who had also been deported after having been

identified by the subject. T-2 advised that subject left the Displaced Persons Camp before she did and that she had not seen or heard of him since.

The subject and his wife were interviewed on October 6, 1947, at Detroit, and the following information was furnished by the subject:

His father, MARTIN PORMANIS, was described as a former councilman in Riga but retired since 1940, and his mother was described as a general practitioner physician. Subject stated he had a sister MELITA PORMANIS, age 24, who at that time was a resident of the Latvian Displaced Persons Camp at Stuttgart, Germany. Subject stated he was engaged as an informant for the Latvian Secret Police and in that capacity worked in a factory in Latvia from October, 1939, to June 17, 1940. From May, 1940, to March, 1941, he was employed as a Reporter on the Latvian newspaper "Cina." From March to June, 1941, he secreted himself on a farm 120 miles from Riga, returning to that city prior to June 21, 1941, which was the approximate date the Russians evacuated Latvia and the occupation of that country by the Germans. Subject stated he was arrested by the Germans as a suspected Communist and confined for six weeks. He was released when the Germans were unable to prove his activities as a Communist. He resumed his studies at the University of Latvia in 1941, and received his law degree in May, 1944. In July, 1944, he was placed in a German labor camp at Bruck-on-Mur, Austria, and remained there until April, 1945. From April, 1945, to February, 1947, he and his wife were in the Latvian Displaced Persons Camp at Esslinger, Germany. Through his wife's efforts they were able to obtain visas to the U. S. with Mr. and Mrs. CHRISTIAN JACOBSON acting as sponsors. Mrs. JACOBSON is an aunt of the subject's wife and resided at 1942 Faust, Detroit, Michigan. Subject stated that rumors persisted in the Displaced Persons Camp concerning his Communist connections and described these rumors as being without basis in fact.

Subject stated that his father had been active in politics from 1928 to 1932 as a councilman in Riga and was a member of the Social Democrat Party. Subject stated that to his knowledge his father had never been associated with the Communist Party and that his mother had never been active in politics.

The subject's wife in the course of the interview denied any knowledge of her husband's activities prior to their

WFO 105-682

marriage on July 16, 1944, and stated that she was not aware of his arrest by the Nazis. GAIDA POHMAN stated that she had been told that her husband had previously been a member of a national student fraternity known as "Lattonia" at the University of Riga, and that he had worked for the Latvian newspaper "Cina." She did admit that the newspaper "Cina" was probably Communist dominated. GAIDA POHMAN stated that she and her husband upon arrival in New York City from Bremerhaven proceeded directly to the home of her aunt, ANN JACKSON, in Detroit, Michigan.

Confidential Informant T-3, another Government agency engaged in security investigations, reported in July, 1949, that the subject had been expelled in July or August, 1940, from the fraternity "Lattonia" for collaboration with the Russians and that he wrote pro-Communist articles for the Communist sponsored newspaper "Cina."

Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE PERKONS, Rollins Musical School, Lenox, Massachusetts, advised in February, 1948, that they were acquainted with the subject and his wife for about one year while all were in the Displaced Persons Camp in Germany. Mrs. PERKONS stated that she also knew of the subject's family in Latvia and that there were no Communist Party, Russian, or German connections with the POHMANIS family. Mr. PERKONS stated that he knew subject worked for the newspaper "Cina" and that it was the only paper in Latvia, and there was no question but what it was controlled by the Communists. Mr. PERKONS stated that he had many times heard the subject express a dislike for both the Germans and Russians.

Mr. JOHN GZOLINS, brother-in-law of GEORGE PERKONS, stated at Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in February, 1948, that he was sure from his knowledge of the subject that he had never worked with either the Germans or Russians and that he had a terrible dislike for the Russians and the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-4, of unknown reliability, who was a displaced Latvian and acquainted with the subject, furnished the following information in January, 1950. T-4 stated that in 1940 or 1941 the subject while in Riga, Latvia, admitted in her presence at her residence that he was writing for the newspaper "Cina" which paper was, to her knowledge, the organ of the Latvian Communist Party. T-4 stated that on or about June 24 or 25, 1941, which was the first or second day of the German occupation of Riga, while enroute to her home from the central prison of Riga, where she had gone endeavoring to find the body of her husband, she saw the subject in front

of the former headquarters of the State located at the corner of Taylor and Franklin Streets in Riga. T-4 stated that at this time the subject was wearing civilian clothes, a sweater and pants and wearing a tie and was patrolling in front of the former headquarters. T-4 advised that she spoke with the subject on this occasion and that to the best of her recollection she cannot understand or believe his past Communist Party activities and indicated that his father was at this time in disfavor with the Russian authorities.

Confidential Informant T-5, of unknown reliability, who is a Latvian displaced person, advised in January, 1950, that on or about May 3, 1941, following her son's arrest by the Russian military authorities, she went to see Dr. FORMANIS, the subject's mother. T-5 stated that to the best of her recollection the subject resided in a section of Riga near the central prison. T-5 stated that she informed Dr. FORMANIS that her son, an acquaintance of the subject, had been arrested. T-5 stated that Dr. FORMANIS took her by the hand and led her out into the hallway of the FORMANIS residence and advised her that she was unable to talk to her within the confines of their living quarters inasmuch as there were microphones secreted in the house. T-5 stated she advised Dr. FORMANIS that the purpose of her call was to ascertain if VITOLDS FORMANIS was in a position as a Communist to ascertain the present location of the Informant's son. T-5 stated that Dr. FORMANIS stated that her husband and son, VITOLDS, were in no position to assist her and informed the Informant, "It is the tradition of my family that both my husband and son are Communists."

Confidential Informant T-11, of known reliability, who is a Latvian displaced person and a former government official in Riga, advised he is not acquainted with the subject but the subject's parents are known to him. T-11 stated subject's father several years ago was a member of the Social Democratic Party. Within this party he was considered to belong to the "liberal" or "leftist" group, which though not Communist, often voted with the Communists on political issues.

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, advised that on December 21, 1950, subject received correspondence from "BAGATAIS, 1861 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York. The records of the Credit Bureau of greater New York reflect that ARNOLD and CATHERINE BAGATAIS reside in Apartment 1 at 1861 Lexington Avenue, New York City. Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised one ARNOLD BAGATAIS whose residence was indicated as 3225 West Philadelphia Street, Detroit, Michigan,

had applied for membership in the Communist Party, U.S.A. sometime in April, 1944. He was issued Communist Party U.S.A. Membership Book Number 31994 on April 27, 1944, and was admitted to the Water Front Section of the Communist Party on that date. The membership book reflects that he is of Latvian-American origin; that he was 22 years old at the time of his admission to the Party and that he was a resident in the Party.

The Communist Party has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, advised that one ARNOLD BAGATAIS, under the name of ARNOLD BAGATAIS, was one of the seamen of the Water Front Section of the Communist Party, whose name appeared in the "Daily Worker" issue of January 13, 1944, in a list of persons who were extending congratulations to the "Daily Worker" on the occasion of its anniversary.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper.

On January 15, 1943, one ARNOLD BAGATAIS was interviewed at New York City on the occasion of his arrival at New York aboard a British ship as a survivor from the sinking of the United States Naval Auxiliary Ship SS Scapa Flow. BAGATAIS stated that he was born on April 11, 1922, at Riga, Latvia, and was then a Latvian citizen. He stated that he had previously been in the U. S. on several occasions as a seaman and met his sister, Mrs. ALEXANDRIA BRERVO resided at 3225 West Philadelphia Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Selective Service records at New York City reflect that one ARNOLD BAGATAIS had registered on June 30, 1943, at Local Board 16, giving his address as 70 Seventh Avenue, New York City. He subsequently changed his address to 109 West 11th Street and his employer was indicated as the National Maritime Union, 346 West 17th Street, New York City.

#### EMPLOYMENT

WILLIAM A. MORIANITI, Warehouse Manager, Truck and Coach Division, Parts Department, General Motors Corporation, 1925 Vermont, Detroit, Michigan, advised that subject was hired by that firm on June 3, 1947, as a stock handler and was later employed as a Salesman in the Parts Department. This employment at General Motors Corporation was terminated on June 2, 1951, by resignation, the subject indicating that he was going to Washington, D. C., to seek employment with the Department of State.

100-295-682

A check of the pertinent personnel records of the Department of State fails to disclose any record of an application for employment on the part of the subject.

Confidential Informant T-6, another Government agency which conducts intelligence investigations, advised on January 30, 1951, that the subject as VITOLD FURMINIS enlisted in the Military Intelligence Reserve Corps of the U. S. Army on December 4, 1950, for a period of three years, the enlistment taking place at Ft. Wayne, Detroit, Michigan. Subject is rated as a recruit and holds Army Serial Number EH 10319509. The subject was assigned to the Russian Language Team, Military Intelligence, U. S. Army Reserve. The military forms completed by the subject in connection with his enlistment reflected his marital status as single. T-6 advised on July 31, 1951, that the subject was currently residing at 4607 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Apartment 609, Washington, D. C.

Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, advised that subject has been employed in the office of King Merritt Company, Incorporated, Room 203, Union Trust Company Building, since June 11, 1951, in the capacity of Mutual Fund Securities Salesman. T-10 advised that subject was residing at 4607 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Apartment 609. In his application for employment with the King Merritt Company, subject furnished the following background information:

Social Security Number: 385-28-0930

Employment: September, 1939, to June, 1944 - General Motors Corporation, Overseas Division, Riga, Latvia, and Stockholm, Sweden;  
June, 1945, to June, 1951, GMC Truck and Coach Division, Assistant Parts Manager, Detroit, Michigan.

Previous residences: 13237 Mark Twain, Detroit 27, Michigan

References: Dr. HALPH H. BIRD (Eye Specialist), David Whitney Building, Detroit, Michigan;  
Mrs. LILLIAN BARRON, Associate, "Felix Rhymes, Inc.", 7201 W. Fort Drive, Detroit, Michigan;  
Mrs. EDWARD JACOBSON, 5325 Bowick, Detroit, Michigan;  
Mr. THEODORE MATECCORIA, Chief Engineer, Bendix Corporation, 13189 Terry, Detroit, Michigan;  
Commonwealth Bank, Detroit, Michigan.

Parents: MARTIN PORMAN, Councilman, Riga, Latvia, and

## ALMA FORMAN, Physician, Riga, Latvia.

Subject further indicated in a letter dated April 20, 1950, in connection with his seeking employment in Washington that he is a naturalized American citizen having been born in Denmark. Subject indicated that he spent his boyhood in the U. S. returning to Europe where he completed his education, according to the wishes of his parents, and graduated from the University of Riga receiving a degree in International Law. Subject further indicated that he had attended Wayne University in Detroit for two years, no dates were given. Subject described himself as single, 32 years of age, and indicated that he came to Washington for strictly personal reasons.

MISCELLANEOUS

T-10 further advised that subject and wife were separated and subject expected divorce to be obtained about December 1, 1951, at Detroit. Subject went to Detroit about December 1, 1951, and returned about December 8 or 9, 1951, bringing his fiancée to whom he was supposedly married. T-10 advised subject, upon his return to Washington, took up residence at 1801 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Apartment 208. Subject and his fiancée were married in Washington, D. C., on February 2, 1952, and are residing at the above address. According to T-10, subject is still employed as Securities Salesman with the King Merritt Company.

DONALD H. MILES, 206 McKercher Building, Detroit, Michigan, advised on December 9, 1951, that the subject's divorce had become final on that date but that he had no information regarding intentions on the part of the subject to re-marry.

Confidential Informant T-11, of known reliability, advised that subject in August, 1951, received correspondence from GAIDA FORMAN of 100 West 55th Street, Apartment 9, New York City. An inquiry at New York City disclosed GAIDA FORMAN has been employed since June, 1951, in the Foreign Department of the Radio City Branch of the Chase National Bank.

The following physical description of the subject was reflected in the records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service:

HEIGHT: 5 feet 8 inches  
WEIGHT: 140 pounds

WFO 105-682

HAIR: Black  
EYES: Hazel  
COMPLEXION: Dark

The following physical description of GAILA PORMAN  
was derived from the same source:

HEIGHT: 5 feet 4 inches  
WEIGHT: 122 pounds  
HAIR: Blond  
EYES: Blue  
COMPLEXION: Fair

PENDING

From  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
To

DFB-1717  
10 APR 52

April 10, 1952

CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, Northwest  
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. Lyman B. Kirkpatrick  
Assistant Director for Special Operations

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am attaching hereto  
communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*A. BACARIS*  
*on pg # 6 + # 7*