

2 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: 16 May 1962 Contact with S. VASILEVSKIS.

1. Stanislaus VASILEVSKIS, a Latvian national, an astronomer at the Lick Observatory at Mt Hamilton, California, [ ] [ ] [ ] (true name) has had several sessions with V who was described as a cooperative individual. In view of this, before contacting V, the undersigned spoke to Chief, OO/Contacts, San Francisco, and to [ ] [ ] on 14 and 15 May 1962. [ ] then phoned VASILEVSKIS and scheduled a meeting for the undersigned, who was identified as [ ] [ ] of the Agency, for 16 May 1962.

2. Mt Lick is located some 19 torturous and twisting hairpin-curve miles from San Jose or approximately 60 miles from San Francisco; there exists no public transportation to Mt Lick from San Jose.

3. Undersigned called on V at his office at the Mt Lick observatory at about 1320 hours on 16 May 1962. The meeting with V lasted until about 1810 hours when V broke it off to prepare himself for a night of observing the stars. The session with V was interrupted some 5-6 times by V's associates, apparently all subordinate, who briefly consulted with V on various matters and whom treated respectfully but tutorially. V proved to be an interesting conversationalist who spoke logically, intelligently, in detail, and patiently (though he had repeated portions of his story some 3 times—he said—and though some of the story dates back to 1957 and is therefore somewhat outdated. He made an excellent impression, seemed very much the expert in his field, was polite and fatherly in his behaviour toward the undersigned, and appeared to speak candidly and without hesitation or mental reservations. Undersigned identified himself as [ ] [ ] and used his Agency credentials. V initially suggested that Russian be used but he then shifted back to English after his Russian proved to be somewhat less fluent than his English.

4. The information recorded below summarizes that provided by V to the undersigned. (NOTE: No attempt will be made to duplicate that information already provided in OO-B-3,178,391, dated 10 February 1961, and in OO-B-3,196,675, dated 2 October 1961.)

a. VASILEVSKIS' special field of interest in astronomy is astrometry (not astrometry as is indicated in the cited OO Reports). More specifically, he is interested in photographic astrometry. Even more specifically, within photographic astrometry, V is interested in "Proper Motions and Parallaxes of Stars". In brief, his field of research deals with the following: In ancient times it had been assumed that stars do not move which has now been proved false; the study of stellar motions therefore is now accomplished with respect to distant galaxies which, for all practical purposes, are considered fixed. In the field of photographic astrometry, V, answering my question, opined that he is one of the leading astrometrists, if not the most qualified and experienced in the USA.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

- EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)  
(2)(A) Privacy   
(2)(B) Methods/Sources   
(2)(G) Foreign Relations

Sub [ ] [ ] [ ]  
Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2005

or by #11

b. According to V, the Soviets are doing considerable work in proper motions but little or none in parallaxes. The difference between the US and the Soviet programs in this field is that a special instrument has been developed in the USA which photographs over 1000 galaxies per plate whereas the Soviets have no such instrument. The Soviets use normal astrographs and therefore get poor results of galaxies. V's efforts in this field, as a result of the scientific papers which he has written on this topic, have created a clash of sorts between the US and the Soviet Union—see below. V's paper on "The Use of Galaxies and Astrographs for Absolute Proper Motions", attached herewith, underscores the nature of the differences between the USA and the USSR astrometrists on this topic.

c. Soviet efforts in astrometry can be judged from the fact that the USA has held a total of two astrometric conferences to date whereas the USSR, in 1955, already had held 12 such conferences. One astrometric conference in the USSR, which occurred some 8/9 years ago in conjunction with the dedication of the rebuilding of the Pulkovo Observatory, had been attended by Brewer, director of the Yale Observatory. Dr Herbig of Lick Observatory attended another astrometric conference in the USSR at the Byurakan Observatory several years ago.

d. V's exposure to Soviet astronomers dates back to 1957 when four Soviet astronomers, enroute to Cambridge, Mass., to attend a symposium on aerodynamics, visited Mt Lick after first visiting the Wilson Observatory at Mt Palomar. The four Soviets, who were guests of Dr Deutsch of the Wilson Observatory, were:

1) Mrs (fnu) MASEVICH, born circa 1920, Great Russian national, whom V describes as being "very brilliant", as good looking, ~~xxxxx~~ and as being a good astronomer. She is now a member of the Astronomical Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences. She works in the Sternberg Astronomical Observatory at Moscow and is the most traveled Soviet astronomer.

2) S.B. PIKELNER, born about 1915, Great Russian, stems from Crimea, now associated with constructing the large telescope in the USSR, is with the Sternberg Observatory in Moscow.

3) Prof. Dr. V.A. AMBARSUMIAN, born about 1905, Armenian, one of the top Soviet scientists in Astronomy, is president of the Academy of Sciences in the Armenian SSR and a member of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. His wife is a Great Russian national. A picture of AMBARSUMIAN, in the company of Premier KHRUSHCHEV, appears on Page 5 of the Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences bulletin of 1961, entitled, "Soobshcheniya Byurakanskoi Observatorii".

4) (fnu) SEDOV, born about 1905, a Great Russian, is a physicist who specializes in hydrodynamics (he gave V a reprint of one of his works on this topic). Unlike the other aforementioned three Soviets, whose names are well-known to Western astronomers and whose names appear in Volume A of the "Transactions of the International Astronomical Union", held in Moscow in 1958, SEDOV was an unknown quantity.

e. Inasmuch as V speaks Russian, the then Director Shane of the Lick Observatory assigned V to the Soviets as their guide, interpreter, etc.

Also, two of these Soviets were to have lived in V's home (there are no hotels or other such facilities at Mt Hamilton); however, V begged off in order not to embarrass the Soviets (he is an "enemy of the State"). During the first several days and evenings, including the two dinners which Director Shane gave in honor of the Soviets, V's relationship with the four Soviets was quite formal and professional and he had no opportunity to make small talk or to discuss politics with them. The four Soviets, without asking any questions, seemed to know everything about V and his background and asked him no questions. Mrs MASEVICH was obviously in charge and the top Communist in the group. SEDOV, who claimed not to speak any English, was the first to ask for English language newspapers each morning (V was also in charge of the Lick Library). V recalls that this was the period of the periodic purges (changes) in the government of the USSR and SEDOV seemed most intent in following all developments; V therefore concluded that SEDOV either held an important post or was acquainted with influential Soviet politicians. SEDOV, of the four Soviets, spoke most often with V. On the last evening, SEDOV approached V to state that he wished to see San Francisco on the following day instead of listening once again to one of AMBARSUMIAN's lectures which was being delivered to the American astronomers at Lick. Director Shane approved this and even suggested a program to be followed in seeing San Francisco. On the following morning, SEDOV and PIKELNER accompanied V to San Francisco. As soon as SEDOV had V to himself, he began to debrief V about Shane's plans for the future (SEDOV could not believe that such a young man as SHANE was about to retire), about pensions for people retiring in the USA (pointing out that many old people worked in the USSR because pensions were grossly inadequate), about the many cars by the Ford Assembly plant past which they drove (SEDOV refused to believe that the cars belonged to the workers and that special parking lots had been built for the workers), about wishing to photograph the double deck Oakland Bay bridge (PIKELNER then apologized for his brash request but, when permitted to do so by V, expressed amazement at being able to take photographs without being controlled), et cetera. Upon arriving in SF, V suggested that they first go to lunch but PIKELNER and SEDOV suggested that they buy sausages and bread (!) and eat this in the car in order to have some time to shop. In short order V gathered that the two Soviets wanted to shop rather than to follow Shane's program in seeing San Francisco (museums, art galleries, University, et cetera); as a result, he took the two Soviets on a shopping spree (predicted in advance by V's wife that this would happen). The Soviets were amazed that V's car was whisked away at the modern Union garage—without the benefit of filling out any forms whatever—and expressed concern over getting the car back. According to V, after commencing their shopping at the Emporium (medium class store), he was embarrassed to see these two distinguished Soviet scientists change into little children who wanted to buy up everything that they saw. They bought hats for their wives, paying no attention to sizes, several yards of the stiff netting which is used for women's hats, et cetera. This continued in several other stores until they wound up at Woolworth's where the Soviets purchased all imaginable items including plastic bags for clothes, small bags of flower and vegetable seeds, et cetera. V was under pressure to get the two Soviets to an R/V near the airport where Dr Herbick, who was responsible

for the other two Soviets, was to meet them. SEDOV and PIKELNER, who still had money left over and who wished to buy more things, finally decided to use the remainder of the money in Sweden before returning to the USSR because of the time limitations. They expressed their gratitude to V, who also took them on walks through various streets to permit the Soviets to glimpse "American life", by purchasing flowers for V's wife. Enroute back V stopped in a new hamburger stand near Palo Alto and the two Soviets did not stop wondering at the low prices for food. In general, both SEDOV and PIKELNER debriefed V on all imaginable facets of American life.

f. MASEVICH, who mixes easily and who likes to dance, was quite cool to V and to V's wife; she kept her distance much more than did the other three Soviets. There was never any question but that she was in charge. MASEVICH's participation in the 1961 IAU conference in Berkeley strengthens V's views even more in this regard. Also, sometime after the Soviets returned to the USSR, MASEVICH authored an article in the "Astronomicheskiy Tsirkulyar" of the Academy of Sciences in which she had nothing but high praise for American efforts in astronomy and for the excellent organizational abilities of the astronomical efforts which she had observed at the Lick Observatory; she concluded by saying that the Soviets could afford to learn a thing or two from the Americans. V feels that only a highly-placed Soviet would have dared to publish something as bold as this.

g. According to V, he was not asked why he had left Latvia. No political discussions were broached with the Soviets; V feels that the Soviets were genuine scientists who were pursuing purely scientific goals (except for the shopping spree). V had set out to show these Soviets the "American life" and was happy to shun political discussions. MASEVICH sent V greetings on the New Years following her visit to the Lick Observatory. PIKELNER sent V several books on Latvia. SEDOV, before leaving, had given V and wife several packs of Russian papiracy (cigarettes).

h. V states that, sometime after the launching of the first Soviet Sputnik, he saw a photograph of SEDOV and PIKELNER in one of the Soviet scientific publications which discussed the launching of the Sputnik. This embarrassed him inasmuch as he had seen how these distinguished scientists had behaved themselves during more informal moments while shopping in SF.

i. V decided not to attend the 1958 IAU conference in Moscow even though he is an American citizen and even though he would have been an official US delegate to the conference. The list of Americans who attended the 1958 Moscow Conference can be found in Volume X of the "Transactions of the International Astronomical Union", printed in Moscow. During the IAU Conference in Berkeley in 1961, MASEVICH and other prominent Soviet astronomers asked V why he had not attended. V explained his reasons to the undersigned as follows:

1) Though relatively level-headed and mentally stable in general, V ~~was~~ opined that he probably would not have been able to keep his temper under control once in the USSR.

2) He is not certain how safe he would have been in the USSR though he is aware that various refugees, who have been permitted to visit the USSR, have returned safely.

3) If he were to visit the USSR, V, psychologically, would not ~~have~~ have been prepared to leave the USSR without first visiting his relatives in Latvia; however, he feels that such a visit to them might be dangerous or harmful to them.

j. V's next encounter with Soviet astronomers occurred in May 1969 during the 2nd Astrometric Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. (NOTE: This is written up in the Astronomical Journal, Volume 85, #4, 1960 May - No 1279.) No Soviet delegates attended the 1st Astrometric Conference several years earlier at Evanston. The following two Soviets were in attendance at Cincinnati:

1) A.A. NEMIRO, born about 1910, of Mongol or Tartar extraction with small slanted eyes, is from the Pulkovo Observatory. V does not trust NEMIRO.

2) Mitrofan Stepanovich ZVEREV, also born about 1910, a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory, a good professional pianist, is also from Pulkovo. ZVEREV, whom V came to know better later--see below, is a "very typical, good-natured, intelligent Russian" whom V characterizes as a good scientist who has a very pleasant personality but who is somewhat on the shy side.

k. NEMIRO and ZVEREV, because of visa problems, were delayed in arriving in Cincinnati and arrived only after the Conference was already in session. In the bustle, ZVEREV forgot his camera on the airplane on which he had arrived; local astronomers from Cincinnati immediately got in touch with the airlines and the camera, to the surprise of the Soviets, came back on the next plane (instead of being stolen).

l. NEMIRO speaks English but ZVEREV does not. Again, V, together with a Dr VYSOTSKY of the University of Virginia (now retired), was assigned as an interpreter, this time to ZVEREV. V suggested that the Agency also consult with Dr Peter MUSEN, born about 1915, now with NASA who was then a professor at Cincinnati University and in attendance at the Conference, who was invited by the Soviets to deliver a lecture in the ~~USSR~~ USSR, and who associated considerably with the Soviets at IAU in Berkeley in 1961. MUSEN, a specialist in "celestial mechanics", whose father fled to Yugoslavia from Russia after WW I and whom V met in Munich, consulted with V as to whether he should visit the USSR (he decided not to go).

m. No political discussions were held between V and the Soviets at Cincinnati. The relationship between them was warm and friendly until the last day of the conference when there occurred a clash between the Soviets and the American astronomers. V, who had been relatively critical of the Soviet efforts prior to this and who was in charge of the "Lick Proper Motion Program", took strenuous objection when the Soviets insisted that a Conference resolution, sponsored by Yale and Harvard to extend the Proper Motion Program into the Southern Hemisphere, be renamed from the "Lick Proper Motion Program" into the "Lick and Soviet Proper Motion Program". V then rendered a lecture to point out that the Soviet program was similar in name only and that Soviet principles differed entirely. This clash disrupted the entire conference and Professor ORT of Holland, then the

IAU president, had to step in to mediate. Ultimately, GRT was sharper with the Soviets than V had been. After considerable heckling on the point—the Soviets did not wish to give in for political reasons, V feels—the resolution was passed only when another sentence was added to the resolution making mention of the Soviet program, but leaving the original phraseology as originally introduced.

n. The entire purpose of the 2nd Astrometrical Conference was to activate an astrometrical program in the Southern Hemisphere. According to V, there are many observatories and astronomers in the S. Hemisphere but nothing of significance is being produced there. Many representatives from Latin American observatories were invited to Cincinnati and an attempt was made to establish closer cooperation between the astronomers of the Northern and the Southern Hemispheres. In this conjunction, the Soviets offered to send a Soviet expedition from Pulkovo to an existing observatory in the Southern Hemisphere to set up the program. Argentina ultimately declined the Soviet expedition but Chile accepted—see the OO/Contacts reports for additional details. Various details are still being ironed out at this time in this conjunction.

o. V's next encounter with a Soviet astronomer occurred on 7/8 November 1960 at the La Plata meeting in Argentina. Two Soviets, NEMIRO and ZVEREV—who had attended the Conference in Cincinnati, had been scheduled to participate at the La Plata "International Meeting on Problems of Astrometry and Celestial Mechanics"; however, the Argentine government refused to grant a visa to NEMIRO who was suspected of being KGB. As a result, only ZVEREV attended at La Plata in behalf of the Soviets. (NOTE: For additional details concerning the conference, see the attached pamphlet.) V suggested that the Agency also consult with Director CLEMENTS of the US Naval Observatory and with SCOTT, also of the Naval Observatory, both of whom attended the first and the second astrometric conferences plus the La Plata meeting.

p. At La Plata ZVEREV was a very unhappy individual; he seemed out of place and entirely lost without NEMIRO. ZVEREV was escorted to and from the conference by a member of the Soviet Embassy in Buenos Aires, where the astronomers were housed while attending the La Plata conference, who seemed to function as ZVEREV's shadow. V was again designated to be ZVEREV's official interpreter. ZVEREV was friendly toward V who conducted himself as before without broaching politics. After the two day conference at La Plata, the attending astronomers flew to Rio Gallegos (phonetically), the capital of Santa Cruz, a small and primitive town near the Magellan Straits, for the dedication of a new observatory there. Because of inadequate billeting facilities, and probably because V was ZVEREV's interpreter, V and ZVEREV were placed together in one small hotel room on arrival at Rio Gallegos. V feels that such intimate contact with a Western astronomer may have damaged

ZVEREV's professional career inasmuch as, though he had anticipated attending at Berkeley, ZVEREV did not show up at Berkely in 1961. V considers ZVEREV's absence at Berkely to have been unusual as an astronomer of ZVEREV's stature should have participated. At the conclusion of the dedication ceremonies and while awaiting an airplane for Buenos Aires, ZVEREV was again embarrassed when Brower of Yale commented about the great changes which had occurred in the USSR between his two visits to that country (one during Stalin's regime

and the other after Stalin's death). ZVEREV went to considerable lengths to deny that any such changes had occurred and lectured, defensively, the Western astronomers on dreaming up stories about the USSR. V's childhood friend and colleague and now an astronomer at La Plata, a Latvian national,

Sergius SLAUCITAJIS  
born 1902 in Latvia,

also related a similar incident about ZVEREV which leads V to believe that ZVEREV recognizes the difference between life in the USSR and in the West. From Argentina ZVEREV flew on to Chile where he joined NEMIRO (V also went to Chile from La Plata but saw neither ZVEREV nor NEMIRO there).

q. V's last and most recent contact with Soviet astronomers occurred at Berkeley during the IAU Conference in August 1961. V was asked by American members of IAU to be the official US host for the Soviet astronomers. Soviet astronomers attending were:

1) MASEVICH—reported above—who acted as official interpreter for the Soviet group (she speaks fluent German and English). In interpreting during the discussion concerning expelling Fermosa from IAU, MASEVICH was less than literal and spoke extemporaneously giving only the essence of the entire discussion. This again led V to conclude that MASEVICH is quite highly placed and responsible to no one.

2) Boris KUKARIN, an old Communist, who was the official "political commissar" for the entire Soviet delegation though Professor OPPIK, V's colleague—see below, feels that MASEVICH ranked above KUKARIN.

3) AMBARSUMIAN—see above—who was elected president of IAU at Berkeley.

4) A.A. MIKHAILOV, director of the Pulkovo Observatory.

r. The foregoing Soviet astronomers arrived in advance of the remaining Soviet delegates, some with their wives, and were permitted to come and go as they wished. They had arrived earlier in order to participate in the various symposiums which were scheduled in conjunction with the IAU Conference—see below. The second group arrived later and were herded about by an overseer, one TATISHCHEV, who was not an astronomer. (NOTE: See the 2 October 1961 OO/Contacts report on the IAU Conference in Berkeley which provides considerable detail of which V is the source; in view of this no attempt was made to debrief him on the same information during the undersigned's interview. According to V, in relating details about the IAU Conference to the undersigned, he was now doing so for the third time—once to the FBI and twice to the Agency. Nonetheless, though the undersigned covered only the high points, V related the story concerning the IAU Conference in Berkeley without objections.)

s. V met Alexander Nikolayevich DEUTSCH, the Soviet astronomer who is responsible for the Soviet "Proper Motion" program, when DEUTSCH paid a visit to the Lick Observatory together with other Soviets, members of the second group of Soviet astronomers. V describes DEUTSCH to be about 65-70 years of age and as an old Russian gentleman who was a man of culture. DEUTSCH was very pleasant and very cordial in his discussions with V. After

listening to a lecture presented by V, DEUTSCH sought out V to praise him, to commend him, and, in general, was very laudatory about V's efforts at Lick. As has been reported in the OO/Report, DEUTSCH thereafter avoided V on several occasions (when alone) but joined V in full view of the other Soviets. DEUTSCH works at the Pulkovo Observatory.

t. Concerning the Eastman Kodak emulsion spectroscopic plates which V furnished to a Soviet female astronomer, V did so only after obtaining authorization from Director SHANE inasmuch as these plates are banned from the export list to the USSR.

u. At Lick V also met MASEVICH again during the course of the IAU Conference at Berkeley; however, MASEVICH, as before, was cool and reserved in associating with V. Also at Lick, V met, for the first time, A.A. MIKHAILOV, the director of the Pulkovo Observatory, who spoke to V about the special automatic measuring engine which V had been instrumental in designing (for which NSF has granted \$350,000.00) and a model of which was on display at Lick and concerning which DEUTSCH had spoken to V about. MIKHAILOV made cautious inquiries about purchasing such an engine, making mention of the fact that DEUTSCH had suggested that this be acquired for Pulkovo.

v. V suggested that the Agency also consult Prof. NEEMAN and Prof SCOTT of the Statistical Laboratory at Berkeley since both had had extensive contacts with MIKHAILOV, AMBARSUMIAN, and possibly also with MASEVICH during the IAU conference. Also, V commented that Dr. D.H. SADDLER of the Greenwich Observatory in GB, who had been secretary of the IAU Conference at Berkeley, would have a complete list of the names of the Soviet astronomers who attended at Berkeley. The minutes of the conference have not yet been printed but will in the near future.

w. At Berkeley V met an old friend, Professor J. WITKOWSKI, director of the Poznan Observatory, whom he had first met in 1929 in Riga. WITKOWSKI, a member of the second Soviet group of astronomers—none of whom had been permitted to bring their wives along, spoke contemptuously and disparagingly about the Soviets and pointedly commented that Poland was doing only that which Moscow dictated. In V's opinion, WITKOWSKI was unusually frank and outspoken.

x. V himself did not meet either of the two Soviet Estonian astronomers who attended; they were A.J. KIPPER, director of the Estonian Institute for Physics and Astronomy of the Tartu Academy of Sciences, and (fnu) KARES. V suggested that the Agency consult with the brilliant Estonian emigre astronomer, (fnu) OPPIK who associated with both KARES and KIPPER; V characterized OPPIK as being very anti-Soviet. According to V, he did not meet and never established whether the Soviet Latvian astronomer, (fnu) IKAUNIEKS, attended or not (his name had originally been on the list but the list was altered so frequently that the list was without significance. V has known that IKAUNIEKS has been a pro-Communist since some time prior to WWII; V has never been on cordial terms with IKAUNIEKS.

y. During the course of the IAU General Assembly sessions at Berkeley, various symposiums, the results of which are published separately,

were held in various countries. One such was on "double stars". One symposium was held at Santa Barbara, California, on 8-9 August 1961, on the "Instability of Systems of Galaxies". This symposium at Santa Barbara was attended by Soviets.

a. AMBARSUMIAN was elected to the chairmanship (presidency) of the IAU which post he will now hold for three years. Aside from the fact that this may have been accomplished in the desire to create a genuine atmosphere of cooperation between the East and the West, AMBARSUMIAN, in V's opinion, is an outstanding astronomer who could well stand on the basis of his own qualifications. During the IAU Conference, V himself was elected to the Commission on "Proper Motion Parallax" of which DEUTSCH of the USSR (the other DEUTSCH at Palomar is unrelated to the Soviet DEUTSCH) is the vice president and concerning which DEUTSCH has recently written to V about in order to solicit V's views and ideas for the activities which the Commission should undertake in the next several years.

aa. The next IAU General Assembly has been scheduled for 1962 to take place at Hamburg, Germany (they are normally scheduled each 3 years). V feels that the Hamburg General Assembly of the IAU may be the last because they are difficult to handle and are not considered to be the most productive for that reason. Rather, the trend now is to call smaller conferences (with 35-40 scientists attending) on more specialized topics at more frequent intervals. V reports that, to his knowledge, no astronomical conferences are currently scheduled; however, he feels that something will develop as some conference or session on astronomical topics occurs each year in one country or another. Inasmuch as the specialized conferences are attended by invitation only, it is not possible, as a general rule, to attend conferences outside of one's specialized field of activities. V suggested that the National Science Foundation, through the person of the director of programs for astronomy, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science might provide the Agency more specifics concerning scheduled astronomical conferences on a world-wide basis. According to V, he has attended a variety of other astronomical conferences during the period under discussion but none were attended by the Soviets (other than those enumerated above).

bb. The undersigned spoke briefly to V concerning his views about Soviet capabilities. V stated that Baltic, including Latvian, astronomers were better than the Soviets. The Soviets, in comparison with the astronomers of the free world, are far behind in the opinion of V. The Soviets are strong in astrometry and in celestial mechanics (which helps them put up the Sputniks) but they are weaker in astro-physics and even more so in the theoretical fields of astro-physics. V feels that the Communistic ideology and philosophy conflicts with the needed freedom of thought for developing theory. As a rule, however, in other fields the Soviets are usually much stronger in theory than they are in the practical field (their ability to apply the theory is weak). The Soviets are also handicapped by a lack of funds. As a result, there are more top astronomers in the West than there are in the USSR. MASEVICH, for example, openly admired the American ability to work, as at Palomar, without getting organized into formal departments where each astronomer is free to do as he chooses and is guided or propelled by his own imagination. V feels that this freedom of choosing topics to work on favors Western astronomers in the long haul.

ce. V intends to attend the 1964 conference at Hamburg and whichever other conference or symposium is scheduled in his field in the intervening period.

5. Miscellaneous:

a. V's wife no longer works, lives with him at Mt Hamilton (and is therefore divorced from everything except what V himself engages in), and is in poorer health than before. She attends no international conferences, except as V's wife.

b. V's son, Janis, will receive his PhD in chemistry in September 1962. He has received a doctor's fellowship from CalTech at Pasadena for one year. He is a graduate of Berkeley. To date he has attended only one international conference, that for "Coordination Chemistry" at Ann Arbor in December 1961. Though Soviets had been scheduled ~~to attend~~ to attend, none showed up (because of the Soviet defection in Canada which occurred shortly prior thereto). However, V does not feel that his son will be attending any additional international conferences for the foreseeable future.

c. In reply to my query, V reported that he does not correspond with any Soviet astronomers or scientists. As was indicated above, he received a letter from DEUTSCH, which was actually more a greeting than a personal letter, she asked for V's advice and suggestions concerning future activities ~~for~~ of the Commission. However, V did not see fit to reply. V knows that the Soviet astronomers cannot correspond except through the Soviet Academy of Science, and since their professional views, if noteworthy, are published, V feels that not much can be gained by ~~engaging~~ engaging in correspondence with them. Moreover, V feels that some Soviets might be running personal risks to receive ~~such~~ letters or to correspond with someone in the West.

d. Sometime after Stalin's death, V and his wife received their first letter from Riga from his wife's mother. She had obtained V's address through some professional publication (which carry the addresses of the authors). Her letters were very depressing and she asked for medicine. V wrote only whenever she wrote. He did send various medicines and food packages to her. She has since died. At the present time, V's wife is corresponding with her sister in Riga; her name is Olga SENBERGS.

e. V established contact with the FBI some six years ago after he began to receive letters and publications from the Homeland Committee which were addressed, erroneously, to 2805 Parker Street in Berkeley (rather than 2508). Thereafter, he periodically turned over these letters to the FBI which some time ago indicated that it was no longer interested. (V gave two such unopened letters to the undersigned which were opened in V's presence—the letters contained nothing but the usual newspapers in Latvian.) In view of the foregoing, V dropped all association with Latvian emigre organizations inasmuch as the Homeland Committee had picked up his address from one of the emigre publications which had misprinted his address. The Homeland Committee, however, now has his correct address at Lick.

f. V indicated that he had been active in and had been president of the Latvian Lutheran Congregation for six years. He stated that he is now really too busy at Lick to engage in any Latvian emigre activities.

g. In reply to my query, V suggested that the most knowledgeable person on local Latvian affairs would be

Arnold ERNSTSONS (201)  
pastor of the Latvian Lutheran Church,  
San Francisco,

whom V considers to be a very patriotic Latvian, probably somewhat unobjective because of his ~~extremely~~ violent anti-Soviet position. ERNSTSONS, whom V considers to be entirely trustworthy, has come under frequent attack by the Soviets, having been accused of everything including murdering his Latvian parishoners with his case (he does not use one).

h. V's current mailing address is Lick Observatory, Mt Hamilton, California, where he now lives with his wife.

i. V was queried concerning the April 1962 delegation of Soviets which visited SF and Sacramento. He had heard nothing about this, did not recognize the VINEDAE name nor could he identify her from the photograph, and could not suggest anyone who might be knowledgeable on the topic.

j. V's photograph appears on Page 15 of the attached bulletin on Lick Observatory.

k. When on trips to Washington DC, V stays with Prof. SPECKE, a close personal friend.

3. Latvian Emigre Scientists: V provided the following in reply to my query in this conjunction:

a. Valfrids OSWALDS  
born 1914 in Latvia

is employed at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. He is not a US citizen because, as a result of "super-patriotism", he wishes to return to Latvia as a Latvian citizen. He was V's student at Riga during the German occupation; he did not complete his thesis at that time as he had been drafted into the German army. He received a degree from Hamburg University and then attended Berkeley. According to V, OSWALDS has had less contacts with Soviets than he has with Latvians.

b. Prof Martinš STRAUMANIS  
born 1907 in Latvia,

is head of the Institute of Metallurgy (or Chemistry) at the University of Missouri at Rolla. He has traveled extensively in Europe and has met most of the significant Latvian scientists. Together with JIRGENSENS—see below—he authored a chemistry textbook which is now the official chemistry textbook at the University of California.

c. Bruno JIRGENSENS  
born 1905 in Latvia,

is a chemistry teacher at the University of Texas.

d. (Pnu) ZANS  
born 1900 in Latvia,

who recently died, lived in Jamaica where he was the Director of Geological Survey for Jamaica.

e. Leonids SLAUCITAJIS  
born about 1898 in Latvia,

younger brother of Sergius SLAUCITAJIS—see ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ above, is presently at the University of Sydney (or Melbourne) but is on leave from La Plata. He is a specialist in Geo-Physics and participated in the IGY. He has traveled in Poland, Australia, Japan, and elsewhere in his field of activities.

f. Janis SKULPINS  
born in Latvia,

is still a student at Berkeley. He had close contact with the Soviet Latvian exchange students who recently attended Berkeley.

7. Operational:

a. VASILEVSKIS provided the necessary biographic data on himself for the PRQ-1, see Attachment.

b. V assigned the attached Secrecy Agreement—and simultaneously confessed that he had already violated it by telling his wife of his scheduled appointment with the undersigned.

c. V provided the undersigned with the attached list of his publications; he asked that this be returned to him.

d. After I explained to V that the Agency wished his help and cooperation in entering into contact with and cultivating Soviet, including Latvian, astronomers and scientists, V affirmed his willingness to do so and went ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ahead to point out that Soviets like DEUTSCH, ZVEREV, and WITKOWSKI were, in his opinion, vulnerable. He indicated that he easily could cultivate them more than he has done to date; in a number of cases he can do so almost immediately, if we wished, by simply writing to them, e.g. to DEUTSCH. However, V feels, as is indicated above, that little is to be gained by corresponding with them. In this conjunction also, V volunteered to develop a contact, if the Agency wished, with

Ilga DAUBE nee KURZEMNICE  
born 1914 in Riga,

who had worked on her thesis under V in Riga and who, V believes, is extremely patriotic, courageous, and anti-Communist. V recalls that, at her request, he furnished her a small Browning pistol just before the Soviets re-occupied Latvia in 1944. V feels that her views have not changed much since then. V has seen DAUBE's name appearing in Soviet Latvian publications on astronomy. She works and lives in Riga but is associated with the Sternberg Observatory of Moscow. Though he does not wish to harm her, he volunteered to write to her in Riga to inquire about her activities.

e. When told that the Agency might be able to cover costs of travel associated with various trips to international conferences, V did not reject this and indicated that he would be willing to accept such financial support—if, he pointed out, this was not already paid for him and if he could obtain an invitation.

f. During the concluding discussion, V underscored that, while willing to help the Agency—  he did not wish

to be considered an "agent". The undersigned assured him that the Agency was interested in his "voluntary cooperation and assistance".

g. V was furnished the   accommodation address and was asked to communicate significant developments, within the context of the foregoing discussion, to this address. V reminded that he was in contact with a local Agency representative and wondered how he should distinguish between their and our interests. In view of this, he was told that he should remain in contact with the local Agency representative who would, if asked to do so, call our attention in DC to whatever V had reported. V was assured that there would develop no conflict on interests.

h. In his letters to the   address, V will identify himself simply as "Stan".

8. The undersigned thanked V for his assistance and cooperation and took his leave of V who had already been phoned by his wife to come home for supper and ~~meals~~ who had been reminded by several colleagues that, after a brief nap, they would be observing tonight.

Case Officer