

State

RETURN OF CONFIDENTIAL-SECURITY INFORMATION
SECURITY NAME CHECK

JUN 30 1953

DEPARTMENT OF STATE ONV 529

June 18, 1953

(X) ~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

VISAS Request for Department's Security Advisory Opinion

Section 194(a) Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and
of Visa Circular 225, April 18, 1951. *17-P-13-378*

- 1. Name: Vilis JANUMS (Non-indigent)
- 2. Birthplace: Lettschke, Lettland (E.Z.)
- 3. Occupation: Businessman
- 4. Nationality: Latvian
- 5. Identifying data: Blond, blue eyes, 5'7" tall, weight 150 lbs.
- 6. Past residence: 1894-1914 Gem. Code, Lettland (E.Z.); 1914-1917 Lettschke, Lettland (E.Z.); 1917-1919 Gem. Code, Lettland (E.Z.); 1919-1928 Lettschke, Lettland (E.Z.); 1928-1930 Lettschke, Lettland (E.Z.); 1930-1941 Riga, Lettland (E.Z.); 1941-1942 Rosenthal, Germany (E.Z.); 1942-1943 Riga, Lettland (E.Z.); 1943-1945 Lettschke, Lettland (E.Z.); April-August 1945, Godesberg, Germany; 1945-1946 Godelghem, Belgium; 1946-1949 Detmold, Germany; 1949-1951 Detmold, Germany; 1951-present Augsburg, Germany.

- 7. Affiliations: See under "Remarks".
- 8. Name of parents: Anna Viksna and Hermanis Janums
- 9. Name of spouse: None
- 10. Destination: National Committee for a Free Europe, 110 East 57th Street, New York City
- 11. References: Central Committee (of which he is secretary), 21a Auguststr., near Detmold, Camp 11
- 12. Accompanied by: Mr. Herberts Jagers (his secretary), who is subject of Deansalder's ONV-529 dated June 18, 1953.

REMARKS: Mr. Janums has applied at this office for a nonimmigrant visa to the United States for approximately six months for business discussions. He plans to visit the Latvian Consultative Panel, 45 East 70th Street, New York and to discuss the problems of the Latvian refugees with this organization and also with mentioned under No. 12 above. Mr. JANUMS states he has never been affiliated with the Communist Party in any way and has been working in direct opposition to it since 1949 when he commenced his work. He, himself, is a Displaced Person and lives in a DP Camp.

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE'S METHODSEXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

June 18, 1953

by which Mr. Janums is employed works closely with the National Committee for a Free Europe and is of great assistance in the furtherance of their common aims.

A short report on Mr. Janums from a controlled source states that he had at one time an executive connection with the Dangava Vanagi, an unauthorized Latvian veteran's organization (unevaluated).

With the evidence available at this time, the Consulate General does not regard the report from the controlled source mentioned above as derogatory since it is "unevaluated" and Mr. Janums has stated in his questionnaire that he also wishes to visit the relief organization "Dangava Vanagi", located at 31-43 Steinway Street, Long Island City 3, New York.

The Berlin Document Center furnished the following information:

Occupation: Officer

Latvian Legion since March 8, 1943, detailed to:
Latvian volunteers, under command of the
Waffen-SS in its 15th SS Grenadiers Division
and SS Panzer (tanks) Division
Grenadier School in Kienschlag Sept. 16 to Oct. 8, 1944
Regiment Fuehrer-Lehrgang in Doberitz Oct. 9 to
Nov. 25, 1944.

Military Service:

Russian Army: Oct. 4, 1914-May 30, 1919, Rank: Lt.
Latvian Army: June 1, 1919-Oct. 21, 1940
Detailed to the War Academy in Czechoslovakia from
1928-1930

Last Rank: Colonel in Nov. 11, 1939

Nationality: Latvian

Photo showing him in Waffen-SS uniform and personal
history statement written on July 29, 1945 and
signed by him (SS Officers' File).

Mr. Janums was a career officer in the Latvian military service. He stated that the Latvian Legion was taken under the control of the Waffen-SS. In Kienschlag he had advanced training and in Doberitz he had officers' training. He reminded the interviewing officer that when he was in military service from 1914-1919 it was in the Tsar Army. He added that in Latvia between 1919 and 1940 he engaged in "liberty fights". From April to August 1945 Mr. Janums was an American prisoner in Esselheim, Germany, and then moved to Codelghen, Belgium from August to March 1946 where he was a prisoner of war under the Americans and later British. Since that time he has lived in DP camps in Germany.

211 - JANUMS, Vilis
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CONFIDENTIAL--SECURITY INFORMATION

OMV 529

-3-

June 18, 1953

The record of Mr. Janums' activities clearly show that he made the military service his career and during World War II was taken into the German Service. With his background, coupled with his own DP status and activity in relief work, it may be stated that his visit to the United States would be in the best interests of Western Europe and the United States. If the Department's records contain no additional derogatory information concerning Mr. Janums, its favorable decision is recommended.

RESEARCH DIVISION		INITIALS
Date	1 Oct 53	
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