

INFO: HQRS.

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AIR POUCH

OSSA-4993

Chief of Base, Munich

3 August 1956

INFO: Chief, WE

BYDORIC/QIACTIVE/Operational
Name Trace Results - Bruno KALMERS

REF: WMA-22288, 25 July 1956

Transmitted herewith are extracts [] files
concerning information of a possibly derogatory nature about Subject.

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Attachment: Traces on Bruno KALMERS

1 August 1956

Distribution:
3 - Munich (w/ attachment)
3 - Hqs. (w/ attachment)
2 - [] (w/ attachment)

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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RE: []

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1. Source: [redacted], December 6, 1945.

Who is Bruno KALNINS enjoying the utmost confidence of the Swedish Government on account of his "social-Democratic" merits? He is the son of the "Latvian Branting" Dr. Paul KALNINS, and was a leader of the Latvian Social-Democratic Youth Movement.

Came to Sweden from a German concentration camp. Presents now every week to the Foreign Ministry a Baltic press review. However, he in 1940 obtained the rank of a Political General in the Red Army, and was thus at that time no more a Social Democrat, but a Communist. The press review to Foreign Minister UNDEN is thus being compiled by a Soviet-Latvian Chief Politruk.

2. Source: Memo dated 20 August 1948.

Para 1 b. O/a 20 February 1947, the subject was reported as a soviet agent in Stockholm. He was reported as working under the pretext of being a Latvian patriot. Also reported connected with the club Rive Gauche located in the basement of a building at Regeringsgatan 72, Stockholm. (No confirmation available on this report).

Para 1 d. According to statements of a reliable Balt the subject is, at least on the surface, playing the role as a champion of the Baltic refugees in Sweden and conducting himself as an anti soviet member of the ICC. However, he is still considered a leftist, and one mistrusted and capable of playing a double role.

3. Source: WSS-196, dated 3 November 1948, memo attachment entitled "Latvian resistance movement in foreign countries".

Latvian Central Council - has center in Germany and another in Sweden. Formed in 1943-1944. Bruno KALNINS, son of late Dr. Paul KALNINS, Speaker to the Latvian Parliament, is the acknowledged leader and soul of the group. According to his friends and foes alike, he has "very much approved lately". The remark undoubtedly has reference to Bruno KALNINS earlier extreme political radicalism. Mrs. Bruno KALNINS is a member of the group.

Pub. Sweden
"LATVIJAS ZINAS" is the semi-weekly unofficial mouthpiece of the ICP in Sweden. It is edited by (ex-Foreign Minister) CIELENS and Bruno KALNINS, has an editorial council consisting of CHARSTE, TEFFERS and SCHREIBERS(?), and a circulation of some 2,000 all over the world.

4. Source: WSSA-2279, dated 22 January 1951.

Para 1. Prior to [redacted] departure from Stockholm for his new post he provided [redacted] with letters of introduction to the following persons:

A. * * * * *

B. * * * * *

C. Bruno KALNINS, Kvarnviksvagen 81, Bromma, Stockholm.

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Para 2. As is known to Headquarters, person C is a political leader among the local Estonians and Latvians.

5. Source: MOX-W 9231 dated 4 June 1951.

Para 3. Radical parliamentarian is Bruno KALNINS at present head of the Swedish Socialists. In pre-war Latvia, KALNINS had been elected as a representative of the Social Democrats, was the founder and head of the SSS (Starptautiskā Sports un Sarga - Workers Sport and Protector), and was suspected of pro-communist activities. In 1934 ULMANIS outlawed the SSS and all its leaders. As a result KALNINS was forced to flee Latvia. When the Russian forces occupied Latvia, KALNINS returned as the Political Advisor (Politruk) of the Latvian army (Territorial Corps).

Para 4. Because of this assignment KALNINS is shunned and disliked by the majority of Latvians, both in and out of the homeland. In order to dispel this dislike as well as to discredit his major opponents, KALNINS has engaged in various public attacks against the last regime and its major leaders. Some of these attacks have been manifested in the Latvian newspaper "Latvijas Ziņas" (Latvian News) published in Sweden by Janis GRINS who is under KALNINS domination as it was KALNINS who procured him his present position in the Swedish government and who by the same token can cause his discharge. Although the number of KALNINS followers and supporters is small, it is still a significant group as it uses all means - fair or foul - in its attempt to discredit the opposition.

6. Source: OSSA-3474, dated 19 April 1955.

TINCLAD - Transmittal of photos and description of same:

*Bruno
Kalnins*

Subject was born 7 May 1899 Tukums, Latvia. Studied Law at the University of Peterburgh, Russia, from 1916-1917. Graduated Latvian University in 1927. Founder of Latvian Socialist Youth Society and Chairman of same from 1917-1922. Was arrested on 15th of May 1934 and received a sentence of three years imprisonment for being the traitor of Latvia. Was imprisoned in Riga Central Prison. In 1937 emigrated to Finland where he was working until 1940. In Finland it is said he has worked for the Red Spain and also had contact with the Soviets. Returned to Latvia when the Soviets took over, received back officially his deprived Latvian citizenship which was taken away by ULMANIS. This was illegal. Under the Soviets he accepted the post of Latvian Army Chief Politruk and worked in this office for more than six weeks.

7. Source: OSSA-3738, dated 16 June 1955.

[] Contact with Aleksandrs FLENSNER.

(see next page)

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Obviously some Latvian personalities in Sweden were mentioned by PLESNERS but not in a great deal of detail. The one outstanding fact regarding other Latvians that PLESNERS did mention is that Bruno KALNINS has apparently changed a great deal. In contrast to [redacted] statement that KALNINS having always been a Communist must no doubt still be one, PLESNERS said that he is quite convinced that is not so. He stated that although KALNINS may have been a Communist - and he is fully agreed that for this reason most Latvians despised him - he (PLESNERS) is certain that KALNINS is not a Communist today. Although here again PLESNERS did not elaborate, he did state that KALNINS apparently has a substantial number of followers. This fact was later borne out by Zigurds PLESNERS - a quite objective young man - who stated that a fairly large number of Latvian young men were taken in by local Swedish conditions and had become followers of KALNINS who is quite a personality in Swedish Socialist circles, and being of Latvian origin, heads at least the Latvian faction of the socialist elements in Sweden.

8. Source: OSSA-3883, 4 August 1955.

Subject is chairman of the Social Democratic Party in Latvia in exile, Vice Chairman of the SUCKE. Delegate to Conference of the Socialist Union of Central Europe held in London, July 10-11, 1955.

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