

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA ROUTE)

SECURITY INFORMATION

DISPATCH NO. MEMA-09030

SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, SR
Chief, EE

FROM : Chief, of Station, Frankfurt

DATE: 3 April 1952

SUBJECT: GENERAL - REDSOX/AECOB

SPECIFIC - Biographical Data on Adolf's SILDE.

1. Attached are biographical data concerning Adolf's SILDE. These data were elicited from Subject by [] whose family is an old friend of Subject's family. The information was collected during March 1952. [] has no operational connection or conversation with Subject.

2. On 2 April 1952, [] reported that Subject will soon be added to the editorial staff of LATVIJA, the principal Latvian emigre newspaper in Germany. This will increase the staff to three editors (M. CULTIS, V. [], and Subject) plus one unofficial and part-time editor (P. KOVALEVSKIS). Subject has been promised that when CULTIS emigrates to Canada in the near future, Subject will replace him as chief editor.

3. [] and [] agree that the addition of Subject to the staff should revitalize the spirit of LATVIJA, which has been a good factual newspaper but somewhat listless as a driving force.

Approved:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

Distribution:

2 SR w/Att. (direct)
1 EE w/Att. (direct)
2 COS w/Att.
2 MOB w/Att.

FORM NO. 51-28A
MAR. 1949

DVR/taf

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION

~~74-873-1905~~

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA ON ADOLF SILDE:

1929-1933: Member and General Secretary in the League of National Latvian Youth. Was active in several Latvian anti-alcohol organizations and national leagues (e.g., "Perkonkrusts" and A. Berge's party, "Latvian National Union".

Since 1948, member of the Chief Administration of the Latvian Red Cross and member of the Council for Social Hygiene.

Since 1949, member of the Latvian Central Council in Germany (LCP-V), and since August 1951 the chairman of it.

Since Summer, 1950: Member of the Latvian National Council (INP)

Since Summer 1951: Member of the Delegation of the Latvian Central Council (LCP) in Germany.

Vice-Chairman of the Latvian Sector of the European Movement (Chairman is Minister O. Grosvalds in Paris).

Political Conviction: national-democratic

Language Ability: (on scale of good, fair, and poor)

<u>Language</u>	<u>Speak</u>	<u>Read</u>	<u>Write</u>	<u>Understand</u>
Latvian	good	good	good	good
German	good	good	good	good
English	fair	good	fair	fair (US-poor)
Russian	fair	good	poor	good

(Remark): Knows typewriting.

Arrests, Convictions:

Arrested on the order of the Ulmanis regime, after the coup, in June 1934. Sentenced by Military Tribunal to 1 1/2 years in "House of Correction"—without loss of civil rights.

In May 1937, six weeks in investigative custody.

Sought by the MVD after the Bolshevik invasion of Latvia 5 June 1940, with the intention of arresting him; later hunted in all of Latvia (over 600 arrest circulars were issued against him).

References:

1. (Bishop) J. Bancans, Grand Rapids, Mich., USA
2. A. Melodnieks (former Minister-President), New York, USA
3. Archbishop T. Grinbergs, Esslingen a/N., Germany
4. (Mrs.) Frida Glava, Berchtesgaden, Lager "Insula", Germany
5. (Professor) A. Svabe, Stockholm, Sweden

Remarks: (of [])

As far as is known to me, Silde dropped out of the organization "Perkonkrusts" in 1942, because of a difference of opinion with G. Celmins, the leader of the organization. Silde is known to the left as well as the right wing of the Latvian emigration as an impartial, honorable man with a great capacity for work. He is striving for a unification of the many-factioned Latvian emigration, where he advocates the point of view that Latvian Democracy can only be based on the political parties. He has dislike for the former authoritarian regime of Ulmanis and for the attempt among the emigration to restore that regime after the liberation of Latvia. Is also a principal opponent of socialism.

(Silde was advised by a friend on LAIKS that if he could wait until fall, he might be able to find employment with RFE—presumably when Baltic broadcasts start.)