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ROUGH SUMMARY OF CIA OPERATIONAL INVOLVEMENT WITH EDGARS LAIPENIEKS

June 57 - 201 file opened. Traces requested from Germany (FROB BRAN MUNI STUT) and [] Also, OA requested. Overt information indicated that L, as coach of the Chilean track and field team, would be accompanying the team to Moscow for the Youth Sports Festival taking place in July-August 1957. It was proposed [] to use him as a REDSKIN agent. [] trace reply did not have any derog, but noted that [] [] knew him casually. A later dispatch from [] [] told Hqs. that L had told [] that he (L) would under no circumstances consider going with the Chilean athletes to the Moscow Youth Festival, and that he was trying to discourage the athletes from going.

August 57 - Cable came in from Stuttgart (STUT 4331). Following is complete text: "INFO MAY 46 INDICATES EDGARS LAIPENIEKS FORMERLY RIGA LATVIA DOB CIRCA 13, MAY MAY NOT BE IDEN IS DESCRIBED AS INTERROGATOR GESTAPO JAIL RIGA. SUBJ ALLEGEDLY SEEN KILLING FOUR PERSONS AT JAIL DURING INTERROGATIONS AND KNOWN TO BE A MOST CRUEL AND MEAN CHARACTER AND FOR MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS (UNEVAL)."

March 58 - [] CI/OA sends "Cancellation of Request for OA" notice to SR/2 because of "failure by the Division to comply with Regulations and to show any further interest in Subject". Evidently this sparked SR/2 to write a memo to CI/OA requesting further processing of a POA and OA, citing as reason the fact that Soviet athletic teams were going to represent the USSR in Chile in the near future. The memo also cites the derogatory trace reply from Stuttgart. At the end of the month [] CI/OA granted a POA for "contact, assessment and polygraphing (if possible in area) only", and stating:

"Possible derogatory information on Subject in Stuttgart and [] Holabörd traces are to be resolved by whatever means are available to the Field prior to the granting a full OA." The [] Holabörd [sic]

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traces mentioned by [CI/OA] are from a [September 57 report of investigation written by the Office of Security, stating that Fort Holabird files contained a "Summary of Information" from the CIC, Munich Sub-Regional Office, dated 21 May 1946, to the effect that one Edgars LAIPENIEKS was "allegedly an interrogator at the Gestapo jail in Riga, Latvia. He was actually seen killing four persons at said jail during interrogations. He was known to have been a most cruel and mean character, known for his mistreatment of prisoners. One Albert GESKE, residing at the Displaced Persons Camp, Neustadt, near Holstein, was a witness to the aforementioned information."]

July 1958 - SR/2 requested that L's POA be cancelled.

February 1962 - SR/2 requested a PCSA for L "who will be interviewed regarding his contacts with Soviet athletes." As far as is known, no CIA officer had met L up to this time, with the exception of [] who knew him casually and non-operationally. [] []

[] At this time, both father and son were living in Denver (father had status of resident alien) and father was coaching at the Univ. of Denver. The file does not record when CIA first met L personally but they were in touch by letter and phone as of ^{early summer} [] 62.

July 1962 - A memo for the AD/DDP explains SR/2's interest in L. The memo requests approval for the "following planned operations [] against Soviet citizens who are participating in the international track meet at Stanford University in California, 21 and 22 July 1962.... The [] Soviet-Latvian athlete []

[] has in the past indicated some dissatisfaction with the Soviet regime.... We are sending an American alien coach who was in good contact with [] [] during the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 to recontact [] [] and further assess him with the view of recruitment of this individual as an internal reporting source...."]

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July 1962 - L signed a Secrecy Agreement, a PCSA was granted, and a cryptonym (AESIDECAR/2) was assigned. []

[L did indeed talk with [] at some length in Los Angeles.

According to the case officer's memo dated 27 July, L "...again approached target, further built rapport with him, and after discovering that the target was anti-Soviet, intensely nationalistic, and anti-Russian the target was asked whether he would be willing to cooperate with Western (later refined to American) security forces for 'the benefit of all mankind' and 'for the greater glory' of the target's minority nationality. The target agreed to cooperation and was briefed on general requirements and specifics of reporting."

There was no direct contact between any CIA officer and []

L was the only person who talked to him.]

September 1962 - At Hqs. request, L visited Washington DC, to talk

over [] During his visit, L was evaluated by

[OTR] by [BAB], by a graphologist and by his case officers. Also he

was polygraphed. L made a distinctly bad impression on at least

one of the case officers, and the [OTR] assessment calls him cold

and hostile with "somewhat sadistic impulses", while the grapho-

logical analysis characterizes him as an "anti-social and shifty

individual". Furthermore, the polygraph indicated attempted

deception in answering questions relating to his wartime activities.

(During the period of his association with us, L told various

stories about his police activities in Riga during the German

occupation. The biographic summary which he wrote during this trip

to DC states that he worked with the Latvian political police flushing

out Latvian communists, including agents sent from Russia. He said

he was the leader of a special section which worked very closely

with the German Abwehr.) Specifically, the deceptions related to

questions about war atrocities and executing and torturing prisoners.

As a result of all this, it was recommended that the []

[] be continued, if possible, without the further use of L.

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However, unrelated to [C] [D] Hqs. was aware that a Soviet team (including some Latvians) was coming to Denver in November and that L would be in contact with them.

November 1962 A CSA was requested on L, and a Hqs. case officer went to Denver to ask L to gather assessment data and elicit information from the Soviet athletes who were coming there. In fact, L tried to induce one of these (a Latvian named KALNINS) to defect, and wrote him a letter in this vein. The letter eventually surfaced in the Riga media as an example of the perfidious machinations of American intelligence.

April 1963 - As far as can be determined by the file, there was no personal contact with L after the meeting in Denver in November 1962. However, there was some back and forth correspondence. In April 1963 responsibility for the [ABSIDECAR] operation was transferred from SR/10 to SR/9. A memo written at that time noted that L's "inept performance" in November 62 had "seriously compromised his usefulness" and suggested that he be used with "extreme caution".

June 1963 - L was fired from the University of Denver. He resettled in California. A desultory correspondence continued.

July 1964 - L moved to Mexico City and got track coaching jobs there. He may have gone to the Tokyo 64 Olympics but there is no definite information in his file.

Summer 1964 - A Hqs. case officer contacted [C] [D] in Los Angeles.

[C] [D] was accompanying a Soviet track team.) As a result of this personal contact, the case officer came to the conclusion that [C] [D] had been under KGB control all the time.

January 1967 - L sent his Hqs. contact copies of two letters [from [C] [D] suggesting he visit L in Mexico to attend olympic track clinics. L asked CIA to pay the cost of [C] [D] travel. Hqs. declined.]

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October 1967 - L walked in to the US Embassy in Mexico City saying he had useful information on Soviet athletes: [] []

[] [] L. said he had [another letter from [] [] who said he hoped to attend the 68 Olympics in Mexico. L was told that we had decided not to continue the relationship with [] [] that we strongly suspected provocation, but even if this was not the case, we could not justify his continuing to risk his life. L. should regard his relationship with [] [] as a purely private one, and answer [] [] letter any way he wished.] At the same time, L was again thanked for having contacted us and was told that his services, past and present, were greatly appreciated.

August 1968 - L called [] [] to say [he had had a letter from [] [] who was planning to arrive in Mexico City 10 October with a tourist group.]

October 1968 - [L reported that [] [] had indeed come to Mexico. The two were in contact but, per L, were not able to have a private conversation.]

March 1975 - L wrote a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request to the Agency, stating that I&NS was taking steps for his eventual deportation. He said, in his inimitable English: "That I cooperated with the C.I.A. from 1961 - 67, you likely have still my files, my /?/ etc. I will ask you kindly to check /?/ my files and send something to my defense (1) to the naturalisation service (2) or to me personally to present at the investigation official."

July 1976 - After checking with I&NS, the Agency sent L a letter saying that the I&NS had determined that he was "not amenable to deportation under existing laws". The last sentence reads: "Thank you again for your patience in this instance, and your past assistance to the Agency."

October 1976 - The L case hit the press on the 5th and L called to renew his request for his records under FOIA.

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