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Chief, Contact Division

28 March 1963

Chief, [] Office

Case 32254 - Fred Launags' Plans to Write a Book
(Please use Phila #16895 for CO-A/S) - 3256915

REFN : Memo from Alien Branch [] dated 12 March 63

1. Fred Launags was interviewed on the evening of 18 March 63 upon his return from a hurried trip to New York City. He was questioned about the book he plans to write. It appears that there are two manuscripts involved with a possible third at a future date.

a. The Latvian Boy Scouts During the Occupation 1940-41

A General Coppers was the founder of the Latvian Boy Scouts. He was seized by the Soviets following the invasion of Latvia and shot. His son lives in Stockholm, Sweden, and is the nominal head of the General Coppers Foundation which has its headquarters in New York City. We were unable to secure any address or the names of others connected with the Foundation. The Foundation has offered a prize for the best five stories on the Latvian Boy Scouts. Fred has written an article on the Boy Scouts during the Soviet occupation - June 1940 to July 1941, when the Germans took over. Fred claims he took his manuscript to New York, turned it over to a friend, who in turn was submitting it to the Foundation. A pseudonym was used which has no connection with any of Fred's work with the Agency. Only one copy of the manuscript was made and this was submitted to the Foundation. All material in the manuscript covers the period June 1940 to July 1941.

b. The Second Manuscript of which only an outline has been made covers the German occupation of Latvia from July 1941 to 1945 when the Soviets returned. The tentative title of the book is "A True Story of a Latvian During the Last World War, 1941 to 1945". It will have the following chapters:

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Case 32254 - Fred Launaga' Book

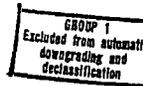
2

- I. Again one army enters, the other leaves Latvia, but we stay (July 1941 - August 1941);
- II. Futile efforts to have our own government (August 1941 - October 1941);
- III. Necessity to collaborate in order to survive (October 1941 - February 1942);
- IV. In underground again but fighting on two fronts (February 1942 - December 1942);
- V. Decision: fight the nearest enemy (December 1942 - March 1943);
- VI. Some go to war, some to jail (March 1943 - December 1943);
- VII. The end is in sight and it is terrible (January 1944 - July 1944);
- VIII. Split of our country and people; who is who? (August 1944 - May 1945);
- IX. Forests are large and so is our luck (May 1945 - October 1945);
- X. Sea and freedom: October 30-31, 1945.

2. Fred is very cognizant of his debriefing upon the termination of his work with the Agency. He still harbors a desire to return to work for us and will do nothing that will jeopardize such a chance. He pointed out that the period covered (1941 to 1945) is long before he went to work for the Agency so that he would be disclosing nothing. He wants to make some strong statements against the German occupation and this worries him as he is afraid that these statements might antagonize the present German government. This in turn might embarrass CIA's operations in Germany today.

3. Effort was made to discourage him from writing any kind of a book, i.e. lack of public interest, research, accuracy, finding a publisher, etc. He states that this is not a book to make money, but one for the historians and the future generations of Latvians to know what the occupation was like. We doubt that the manuscript will ever be completed, let alone get into printed form; however, Fred wants the Agency's permission to go ahead, with the understanding that he will submit his manuscript to us before any attempt is made to publish it. He is waiting to hear from us before proceeding with any writing. Do you have any objections?

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Case 32254 - Fred Launags' Book

3

4. To give you additional reasons to reach for your
Bromo, Fred tells us that on 15 March 63 he received a pink
slip from his employer, the General Cigar Company, Lancaster,
notifying him that his employment with them will be termina-
ted at the end of March (1963). He is planning to apply
for a job as a guide for the UN. He states that he is
beginning to like New York very much. We have suspected that
things at home have not been too compatible. Mrs. Launags
has done a splendid job with her dentistry and now has her
own office in Lancaster.

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