

SECRET

11 MAR 1966

TO: Director of Intelligence and Research  
Department of State

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Freds Z. LAUNAGS - Potential Defector

1. Reference is made to your memorandum dated 18 February 1966, Subject as above, and to our CSCI 316/00195-66, dated 21 January 1966, addressed to the attention of Miss Frances G. Knight.

2. In the event of Freds Z. LAUNAGS' return to Latvia, it is a certainty that he would reveal all that he now remembers about his association with this Agency and his participation in certain of this Agency's intelligence activities. Such revelation would represent a substantial loss to U.S. intelligence interests, both with respect to disclosure of modus operandi and to reporting on individuals currently engaged in U.S. intelligence operations. Further, certain information which Subject would provide could be used by the Soviets as part of their current propaganda program of exposing and discrediting U.S. cold war operations, and we believe that attacks based on LAUNAGS' revelations would be embarrassing. Additionally, LAUNAGS could be used by the Soviets in internal and external USSR propaganda to allege that United States intelligence exploits Baltic and other emigres and discards them when their usefulness has ended, thus discouraging future potential collaborators and defectors.

3. In view of the foregoing, we believe that LAUNAGS' return to Latvia at this time would not be in the best interests of the United States.

CSCI 316/01066-66

CC: Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of State  
Attention: Miss Frances G. Knight  
Director, Passport Office  
United States Secret Service

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

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SR/O/AC: [ ] ka x4205 4 March 66

**Distribution:**

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- 1 - FBI
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- 1 - SR/CI/P/AP
- 1 - SR/O/AC-Chrono
- 1 - SR/O/AC-Comeback
- 1 - RID/AN, please classify LAUNAGS, [ ]

Based on: DST-14029, 18 Feb 66

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