

Subject: FRED LAUNAGS
To: Dexter
From: []

report from
[]
June 66

1. On June 22, 1966 no one knew about the whereabouts of FRED. The SMITS told us more about the letter written to Montreal, that she expressed her dissatisfaction of his planned trip to Latvia. She also revealed that during their previous conversations FRED expressed that he is going to Latvia to help ~~XXXX~~ the Latvian people. After being interrogated by the Cheka, he will act as a double agent and will organize some resistance movement there. The SMITS felt that he - FRED made contact with the Soviets, because he was lately very anti American.

The same evening we contacted the superintendant VIKSNA 25 Port Wash.Ave. where FRED left two trunks with his belongings, but with negative results.

2. On June 23 all possible organizations and people were contacted in order to find ^{out} the whereabouts of FRED. Organizations such as Traveler's Aid, Salvation Army and its hotels in Bowery, the Police HQ's and 28 acquaintances were contacted, but no one could give us any leads.

3. The same day we met Uldis GRAVA to ask his permission to use his address as FRED's residence, if we would succeed to commit him in the Brooklyn State Hospital.

4. In the afternoon I went to Dr. [] who told that the Canadian Immigration authorities have telephoned him and he gave them the description of FRED state of mind. We also agreed that he will do his best to talk to him whenever he will feel the need. He was told of the fear from the electric shocks etc. (Dr [] will leave for Europe during the

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of Sept.)

5. On June 24 at 6 AM Lia SMITS called and informed that FRED had called and wished them a happy Johns day. Fred said that he is working and is living with a Latvian family MARTINS DREZINS, 8528 164th Street ~~FREEM~~ in Queens, phone (212) OL-70775. The SMITS asked him to visit them and tell his story. He promised to do so ~~XXX~~ whenever he will get his first day off.

6. At 10:30 I went to above mentioned address. Mrs. DREZINS seemed to be upset and asked if ~~XXX~~ FRED is in somekind of trouble. He had moved in the day before and was not able to pay the rent (\$12.- a week). She took him in reluctantly only because her friend AMANDA LIBERTS had called and asked to ^{do} this favour. ~~XXX~~ MRS DREZINS recognized me and promised to be patient and she was reassured that FRED is not violent. FRED was locked in his room sleeping and before opening the door, inquired who wants to see him. He told ~~his~~ ^{the following} story and it seemed to be true.

After being laid off from his job and not being able to get a new job, he went to the UNO press section and told that he is a Latvian journalist and wants to write about the UNO in various Latvian newspapers. He succeeded to obtain a press card on the name of Lins LAIKS "representing LATVIA" The issuer probably meant the Latvian newspaper called LATVIJA. With this card he now had an access to UNO. Suddenly he thought, since he was last year employed by the World's Fair, he should try to get an employment in Montreal with the "EXPO" ¹⁹⁶⁷. With his last money he had saved he bought a Greyhound ticket. There he registered in the Queen Elizabeth Hotel as a UNO journalist making interviews as a journalist from LATVIJA. He had to sign the checks, but after spending a week in the hotel he once went outside to eat, but there they asked for cash. The police was called and he was brought to

station. The next morning ~~HE~~ he was released and he went to the Airport from where he tried to get a flight to Zuerich and from there to Riga. He explained the Swiss airline clerk that the fare will be paid by the UNO, but he said that the Swiss airlines do not handle things that way. Somehow he managed to slip in the plane leaving for Zuerich, but couple minutes before left off FRED was taken off the plane and placed in the hands of the Canadian Immigration authorities. There he explained that he wants to go to Riga and interview people on behalf of the UNO and then publish the opinion of the Latvian people. Second, he ^{at}ressed that he wants to renounce the US citizenship and obtain Latvian citizenship. Then he was offered a hearing and he talked to a lawyer SHAPIRO who informed that he has ~~two~~ ^{three} possibilities. 1. to be returned to the US; 2. to remain in Canada, and 3. to be deported to the place of his birth. Freds asked SHAPIRO that he would like to choose the third.

7. The Immigration officer Mr. FELL was a very sympathetic man. After FRED was turned loose in Kennedy Airport he walked to the TWA pavillion and asked one of the hostesses there for employment telling that he had just arrived from Canada, ^{AND} penniless. After a moment a man asked him if he wanted to be a night porter on which FRED answered that he is a porter with experience. He was hired on the spot. During the nights he and couple portericans have to clean several dining areas.

8. On June 22nd, after work he proceeded to the UNO to clarify his status. Naturally the person who had issued FRED the press card was very mad. He tore the card and asked Fred not to make a step in the UNO building. So FREDs thought that he cannot

disappoint the Latvian newspapers to whom he had already mailed several articles also from Canada, he called up editor of LAIKS-RABACS and told him that he is going to interview KALNINS a Latvian at the UN Soviet delegation. So he went to the Soviet Mission and asked to speak to someone who is informed about the Baltic States. FRED stated that he is a journalist from LAIKS and wants to make an interview with him. KALNINS did not object but ~~HE~~ asked to go over the interview before printing it. KALNINS remarked that he is giving the interview unwillingly since he does not like the LAIKS newspaper which is not factual, but is printed just to make a royal income for his owner RUDZITIS. FRED started out the interview discussing the incorporation of the Latvia into USSR, that it was done under pressure without the true will of the people. He said that he himself had to vote for only one ticket and that was wrong. So they both argued for some time. In the meantime KALNINS asked to what Latvian group does FRED belong. As a journalist he did not belong to anyone. They agreed that FRED will write the article and bring it to KALNINS the next day. So he did, ~~So he did~~ and went to the Mission on 23 June and went over the manuscript. FRED told that KALNINS' objections to some corrections were objective. For instance FRED had written that KALNINS was impatient (Neiecietigs) they both agreed to correct that and write instead "bussy" (aiznemts) After a while discussing the article, FRED asked that he would like to go to Riga and interview Latvians there on behalf of the UNO. KALNINS objected the idea that the Soviet Govt. had to pay the travel fare and said that the Soviet Govt. is not spending money for such purposes, ~~HE~~ and also did not like the way FRED begged for money. He said that he could go and earn those couple hundreds of dollars and then he could go and see how well the Latvians live nowadays. Thus Kalnins started to inquire why is FRED in such a poor financial state.

FRED blamed the US political system for being divorced. He said that his wife wanted to vote for one party, but he for another and there the differences started, which finally resulted in him loosing his family. He also said that he wants to get rid of his American citizenship ~~SPEKKE~~, but KALNINS asked with what passoprt is he planning to make the trip to Latvia. He explained him the an American Foreign passoprt is the only valid document with which he could travel. This brought KALNINS to ~~REKKEKKE~~ say his feelings about the Latvian Legation and Spekke that such an institution is a nuisance, and that SPEKKE should be ashamed to spent the money which actually belonged to the Latvian people.

Then KALNINS asked what is FRED's profession and how would he think to earn ^{his living} ~~money~~ in Latvia. FRED answered that he is a journalist and thinks to make a living in Latvia. To thas KALNINS objected and said that he is not a good journalist and he should not hope for that. Nowdays journalists in Latvia are specially trained and educated, and from the interview he could tell that this is not going to work. KALNINS asked about his relatives, but after being reassured that there are none ^{IN LATVIA} he concluded the interview by saying that whenever he will have the funds for the trip, he should come back and discuss the matter further.

9. I tried to explain ^TFRED that this was the biggest mistake he had done to approach the Soviets. He as a Latvian patriot had mchanged his skin and all we can do is to turn our backs ~~IN~~ to him. We discussed the issue as a proof that something is wrong with his doings and we discussed the possibility to get a rehabilitation program for him at a hospital to at least that he could start out ^{LOOKING} for better jobs in the future.

I mentined that SMITS would be glad to give him a decent job after his rehabilitation program . I ~~gave~~ gave him also my word that then I also could try to help him with some jobs etc. Then FREDS mentioned that he is very eager to see LIA SMITS because she mentioned in her letter, that they have discussed his case with an old ~~FREDS~~ friend of FRED's Dr. NAGOBADS in Minneapolis who ^{had} said that FRED could be cured with the new drugs in less than 6 months.

I assured him that Dr. [] is still ready to help him with the same new drugs plus he could also make a better rehabilitation results. FRED said that probably he [] is right, but he would not like to see [] win, because he had said in the very beginning that FRED is going to come back to him sooner or later.

We agreed that FREDS is going to continue to work for the time being in order to pay off his debts and think about the program and to discuss the matter with SMITS and []

He promised to write me and inform me about the progress.