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17 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SB

SUBJECT : Freds LAUNAGS' Apparent Steps to
Leave for Latvia.

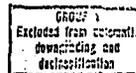
1. On 17 June 1966 [] reported that he had heard from his New York friend, Bruno SMITS, that subject is in Montreal, apparently ready to leave for Riga, Latvia. SMITS is one of the persons with whom subject is on friendly terms and whose aid [] had enlisted in trying to monitor subject's activities. SMITS had tried to reach [] during the evening of 16 June 1966, but [] had not been at home.

2. SMITS reported the following information:

a. On 30 May 1966 he had found a "good-bye" note from subject, who had attached it to SMITS' automobile. In the note subject said that he "is going north on foot". Because of the peculiar and incoherent style in which subject has been writing recently, SMITS assumed that subject had not been able to find him at home and that this was his way of saying that he had been there and that he was leaving town. SMITS assumed that "north" meant Connecticut where subject was going to one of several Latvian summer camps, just as he had done last year.

b. One week later, i. e. on 9 or 10 June 1966, subject telephoned SMITS from Montreal, Canada (collect), and explained that sometime ago he had stayed a few days in the New York apartment house of a Latvian, OSINS, a superintendent of a large apartment house. Subject explained further that upon leaving there, he had left some personal things with OSINS,

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including his U.S. naturalization certificate, and he asked SMITS to get the certificate and mail it to him. He specified that SMITS mail the certificate to the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, room 1658, addressed to Lins LAUKS. Subject said that he was registered in that name.

c. SMITS went to OSINS apartment and found no naturalization certificate among the old photographs and various other trivia and papers which subject had left there. He did not notify subject that he had been able to find the certificate. In reply to [] question as to why SMITS had not notified him, SMITS replied that he had not believed it to be very important and that up to that point he had not seen anything sinister in the matter.

d. In the evening of 16 June 1966, subject again called SMITS collect from Montreal. He said that he is on his way to Riga, but being penniless, he needed money. He asked if SMITS could telegraph five to ten dollars to him. When SMITS told him that he could hardly travel to Riga on ten dollars, subject said that "my friends will take care of that." He added that he had gotten into some difficulty with the police and needed the money in that connection. SMITS attempted to dissuade subject from returning to Latvia, but subject said among other things, that there was hardly any sense in remaining on this side of the ocean, because he had no friends here. At one point subject indicated that he intended to travel via Zurich and Geneva and that in the latter city he hoped to visit Arnolds SKREBERS pre-war Latvian diplomatic representative who has remained there, but is not recognized officially. At another point in the conversation about leaving for Riga, subject said, however: "They have not given me an answer yet, but I expect it on Monday" i.e. 20 June 1966. When SMITS asked him to explain the term "they", subject said: "The authorities." Generally, SMITS was unable to get concrete details from subject; but knowing subject's manner-ising, SMITS does not ascribe any great significance to this point. Subject, according to SMITS, usually speaks in a guarded manner and never reveals details. In response to

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a direct question from [] SMITS said that he did not in the least gain the impression that subject was mouthing instructions or speaking by direction. In conclusion, subject asked that SMITS telegraph the money to him in his own name at the Airport Hilton Hotel in Montreal.

e. Also on 16 June 1966, SMITS' wife received a post card from subject asking for money (i. e. five to ten dollars). The card was mailed from Montreal and was addressed to her at her place of employment. Feeling sorry for subject she put a five dollar bill in an envelope and mailed it to him addressed to the Airport Hilton on her way to work in the morning of 17 June 1966.

3. This above information has been conveyed verbally to [] of your division upon receipt in the morning of 17 June 1966. At his suggestion, [] attempted to reach subject telephonically in Montreal, in order to obtain additional details. Subject was not registered at either hotel in his true name or in his alias.

DES []
Chief, CI/R&A

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