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1 Aug 66

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Case 32254 (Fred Z. Launags)

1. At the request of the Soviet Bloc Division, specifically [] Chief, SB/O/AC, this office was urged to establish contact with Fred Z. Launags, a former SR Latvian operative, who had been terminated and turned over to DCS/Alien Staff for resettlement during 1960. The reasons behind the current DD/P concern for Fred Z. Launags were outlined in previous memoranda prepared by [] office.

2. [] DCS/AS was dispatched to New York in an attempt to accomplish the SB request. At 0700 hours on 21 July 1966 [] drove to the vicinity of Fred Launags present residence at 85-27 168th Street, Jamaica, Queens, and parked nearby in hopes of making a discreet contact with Launags instead of making a direct approach into his residence. [] watched the premises until 1100 hours but Launags did not appear. [] then telephoned to the residence listed under the name of Arnold Zards (RE 9 2930) and asked to speak to Mr. Launags. [] was informed Launags was not at home so a message to telephone "Mr. George" at TU 1 1567 was left for him. [] waited the remainder of the morning for Launags call but received none. At about 1400 hours [] returned to Launags residence and this time made a direct inquiry to Mrs. Zards and her daughter, who happened to be in the front yard. [] identified himself as Mr. George, a friend of Fred Launags and also as the person who had earlier called for Launags. Mrs. Zards said that she had given Launags the message but that Launags had said he didn't remember a "Mr. George from Philadelphia". (In the telephone conversation with Mrs. Zards, she asked [] if he was from Philadelphia, to which [] responded in the affirmative rather than mention Washington which might have stirred her imagination.) [] assured her that he was a friend and while in New York wanted to see Launags. Mrs. Zards said that Launags had gone out to Kennedy International Airport to check on job possibilities, and she had no idea when he would return home.

3. A message was left for Launags to telephone [] during the evening hours. Launags finally called [] during the latter part of the evening and as soon as he heard "Mr. George from Washington" he immediately remembered who [] was and agreed to meet with [] the next morning. Launags stated that he had a job inter-

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view with Stouffers Chemical Laboratory at Dobbs Ferry in Westchester County but that he was free anytime after that. [] told Launags to call as soon as he was finished with the interview and [] would meet him. On Friday 22 July 1966 Launags called at 1100 hours and a meeting was set up for a site in front of Alexander's Department Store at the corner of West Fordham Road and the Grand Central Concourse in the Bronx.

4. Launags immediately spotted [] more readily than [] recognized Launags, and it was obvious that he was happy and pleased to see []. [] invited Launags to lunch which he accepted with pleasure. During the luncheon, Launags reviewed the past 5-6 years by summing it up as having "many ups and downs". Launags spoke of his wife in rather endearing terms and expressed regret that they were divorced. However, Launags claims that he has never received any correspondence confirming his alleged "divorce". Launags recalled that he took a trip to Texas for what he thought were divorce proceedings but claims he has not received anything in writing. Launags would consider a reconciliation with his former wife but feels quite certain that she would not. Launags has seen his daughter (21 years old) recently in New York--she came to pay him a visit while on vacation from college, which she attends in Pennsylvania.

5. [] asked Launags to explain why he has been fired from all of his jobs. Launags could give no clear explanation but admitted he was probably as much to blame as his superiors were because he was very stubborn and inflexible in his ways and attitudes. In further discussions it was quite apparent that Launags' personally led fight against Communism and the hopes of eventually liberating his homeland was uppermost in his mind. [] praised him for his Anti-Communist stand and attitude but at the same time brought to Launags' attention the fact that he, Launags, could not afford to over do it. [] told Launags he had to rearrange his priorities in life and that holding a job to provide himself with "bread and butter" would have to be first on his list--and after he worked 8 hours a day for any firm he was free to do whatever he felt he ought to do with his remaining 16 hours each day. Launags agreed but retorted by saying that the only reason he left Latvia was so he could help in its' eventual liberation from the Communist yoke. In other words this is his whole motivation in life.

6. When asked about his Canadian escapade, Launags gave somewhat the same account as had been previously received. He stressed the fact that he had not changed his mind towards Communism and that the only reason behind wanting to go to Latvia was to see what has happened

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there since he left it. Iamags volunteered his contact with the UN Latvian representative as being his way of "getting even with them". Iamags stated that he has had several discussions with Kalninsh, who is the UN Latvian Representative, and who, Iamags stated behaved like a gentleman in their meetings but who, also became irked with Iamags on occasion when he, Iamags, refused to accept Kalninsh's propaganda talk. Iamags asked that the United Nations send him to Latvia to see for himself, and that if what Kalninsh claimed is true, Iamags would be the first to admit it. Kalninsh insisted that the UN could not finance Iamags trip but that if Iamags could pay his way over--to the tune of \$6-700--Kalninsh would arrange for a visa. Iamags thought he could outsmart them all by going to Canada--using a UN "temporary passport"--requesting a visa there and have the Secretary General of the UN, Thant pay for his trip. According to Iamags--"this is what the United Nations is for--they have enough money, why not spend it on me!!" Iamags does not feel that he did anything wrong and he claims "it almost, if I wouldn't have been taken off Swissair line in Montreal." Iamags passed off the incident of staying at the Canadian hotel under an assumed name and not being able to pay his bill, as sort of a sideline to his more important mission of visiting Latvia. After relating the Canadian episode, Iamags asked whether we thought it disloyal of him to want to go to Latvia. Would he be doing something wrong? [] tried to point out to him that if he were successful in getting to Latvia in some way or another, he would be used as a tool of the Communists--that distorted statements would be attributed to him, etc. Iamags didn't seem to think "that this could happen to me". Iamags said that Kalninsh made him feel remorseful for having left Latvia, when the country was in deep need of its people. Kalninsh made Iamags feel guilty for having deserted his country. [] tried hard to explain that it was the Soviet domination in Latvia which made Iamags leave Latvia and that if it weren't for people like Kalninsh and other "quislings", Iamags and the thousands of other Latvians would have never left the country. It was obvious that Kalninsh's statement had made a definite impression on Iamags and stirred up his "love for Latvia".

7. In reviewing some of the jobs he previously held, Iamags stated that he enjoyed one job in particular and that was as a salesman of building materials to a building contractor. He claimed that it gave him somewhat of a challenge, and he came in contact with some very fine people. He also had an argument--probably over Latvian politics--with one of the builders and as a result he was fired. Iamags regretted this very much because he was happy with the work. In fact the firm had assisted him in buying an automobile to use in his work and when he left the employ he was forced to give up

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the car and the boss claimed it caused him a \$500.00 loss. Launags mentioned that there were about six Latvian countrymen of his working in this enterprise. Launags hoped he could someday work again for this firm. The firm is General Builders 75 Cedar Street, Babylon, Long Island, New York.

8. In an attempt to determine Launags immediate needs, [] asked him how much he earned in his recent job--at TWA Flight Center at Kennedy International Airport--(not Pan Am as was reported). Launags had been laid off because of the recent airline strike--was not fired. Launags stated that he had some personal outstanding debts which he was hoping to eventually pay off as soon as he was able to find a permanent job. He claimed that he owed about \$500.00 in all and if he paid off he would be square with the world. Launags broke it down as follows: \$180.00 to Esso on a gasoline credit card (1963-1964) which he had used while working for General Builders; \$200.00 to his former boss, who claimed a loss of \$500.00 but Launags feels the loss was closer to \$200.00; \$33.00 for rent to a former landlord; and about \$75.00 miscellaneous debts to friends who assisted him while out of work. Launags expressed great concern about eventually wanting to repay these debts. However, at no time nor in anyway did he hint or suggest that he be given this money but rather he implied that as soon he was employed again he hoped to pay the debts off.

9. Another small obligation seemed to be giving Launags a great deal of concern. During the recent visit of his daughter, Launags said she asked him to send her \$20.00 a month for her personal use--if at all possible. Launags feels this obligation must be met and he is willing to do most anything to carry it out.

10. After several hours of discussion over a most delicious "lobster luncheon" and a few drinks, Launags said he began to feel like a man again. Launags claimed that on his birthday three years ago he had had a lobster as well but it was not as good as the one on this day. The meal and conversation seemed to do much for Launags. However, it must be said that Launags was not at all depressed nor "down in the dumps"--even though he only had the remainder of a weeks salary in his pocket which stood between him and starvation--and no job in sight. Even before having a few drinks--imported beer--(he claims he has not taken to hard liquor yet) his spirits were high and he was fairly optimistic. [] fully expected to find Launags in a dejected, depressed mood but was very pleasantly surprised with his attitude and outlook.

11. The session ended about 1500 hours and it was agreed to meet again in the evening to continue the discussion. Launags was anxious

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to go to Manhattan where he wanted to check on some job possibilities. The evening meeting was more or less a repetition of the afternoon session but it also did much for Launags' morale. However, prior to the conclusion of the latter meeting, [] told Launags that "his former friends" were concerned about him and that this was the reason for contacting him. Also, [] was prepared to offer him some financial assistance hoping that it would not offend him. To this Launags said "I need money too badly to be offended." [] gave him \$60.00 and told him frankly that we would not give him a large sum of money because he might use it to pay for a ticket to Latvia. Launags got quite a laugh out of this remark. Launags was very grateful for the handout, and without making any firm commitments to Launags, [] told him that we would like him to keep in touch with us and we would see what additional assistance we could offer him. Launags was given our post office box address to which he was instructed to write and notify us of any changes in his status or change of address. Launags promised to keep in touch and the meeting broke up.

12. While in New York, [] consulted with the DCS office [] and outlined the problem to the Chief, [] [] The DCS office is willing to lend whatever support necessary to this case. However the consensus of opinion is that if all possible this case ought to be handled through [] organization, which is in constant contact with the DCS office [] [] is well acquainted with [] organization and feels Launags could be monitored and funded through it without any difficulty.

13. Upon return to Washington, [] consulted with [] [] of the [] office, on military leave in town, as the person indicated by [] of the [] DCS office to handle the Launags case. [] was briefed on the details of this case and promised to assist in any way to implement the recommendations made in the Launags case.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. [] to maintain contact with Launags by mail until [] [] returns from his vacation, probably at the end of August.
- B. Soviet Bloc provide and furnish DCS funds of \$3000.00 for next year to be expended in this case, if necessary.
- C. DCS [] Office to establish channel through [] [] to dole out \$50.00 weekly to Launags for the next year. If possible, [] organization could obtain employment for Launags.
- D. Launags to be given an extra \$20.00 a month to send to his daughter.

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E. [] to monitor launags through [] organization.

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