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Federal Bureau of Investigation

FBI

Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

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DATE 2008

9471

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

FILE NO. **100-37161** **EPK**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 12/21/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/20, 21/51	REPORT MADE BY THOMAS F. MITCHELL
TITLE VICTOR LORRANIS, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R LA	
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: T-1 advised subject received correspondence from "BAGATAIS, 1861 Lex Avenue, New York, New York," on 12/21/50. Background information on ARNOLD and CATHERINE BAGATAIS, 1861 Lexington Avenue, NYC, set out. ARNOLD BAGATAIS issued CP membership book No. 31504 on 4/22/44. No evidence recent CP activity on part of BAGATAIS. Investigation NYC reflects only Latvian named VILIS died in Germany in August, 1945.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>DOC. MICROFILMED JAN 10 1952 MICROFILMED</p> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>MICROFILMED MAR 12 1963 DOC. MICRO. SER.</p> </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p>DETAILS: Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that the subject received correspondence on December 21, 1950, from "BAGATAIS, 1861 Lex Avenue, New York, New York."</p> <p>The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York reflect that ARNOLD and CATHERINE BAGATAIS reside in Apartment 1 at 1861 Lexington Avenue, New York City. They formerly resided at 209 West 20th Street, Apartment 50, New York City. According to the Credit Bureau records, CATHERINE BAGATAIS is in her late 30's and has been employed as a clerk by the New York Telephone Company, 140 West Street, New York City, since May 27, 1946.</p>			
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[Handwritten initials]

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Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that ARNOLD BAGATAIS of 3225 West Philadelphia Street, Detroit, Michigan, had applied for membership in the Communist Party, USA, some time in April, 1944. According to T-2, BAGATAIS was issued Communist Party 1944 Membership Book No. 31594 on April 22, 1944. He was admitted to the Waterfront Section of the Communist Party on that date. BAGATAIS' membership book reflects that he is of Latvian-American origin, that he was 22 years old at the time of his admission to the Communist Party and that he was a recruit in the Party.

It is to be noted that the Communist Party has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that BAGATAIS, under the name of ARNOLD BAGATAU, was one of the seamen of the Waterfront Section of the Communist Party whose name was listed in the "Daily Worker" issue of January 13, 1944, as persons who were extending their congratulations to the "Daily Worker" on the occasion of its anniversary.

The "Daily Worker" is an East Coast Communist newspaper.

On January 15, 1943, BAGATAIS was interviewed by SA RICHARD M. BELMONT at New York City on the occasion of his arrival at New York aboard a British ship as a survivor from the sinking of the United States Navy auxiliary ship USS SCAPA FLOW. It was determined from this interview that BAGATAIS was born on April 11, 1922, at Riga, Latvia, and he was then a Latvian citizen. His relatives were listed as follows: JOHN BAGATAIS, father; ANNA BAGATAIS, mother; three sisters and two brothers, one sister then living in the United States and the remainder then residing in Riga, Latvia. BAGATAIS advised during this interview that he had left home in 1937, at which time his family was residing in Ikskile, Latvia.

During this interview it was also determined that BAGATAIS first arrived in the United States in November, 1939. At that time he was a member of the crew aboard a Latvian ship which had arrived in Boston and which had remained there for

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several weeks before returning to sea. According to BAGATAIS, he occasionally re-entered the United States as a seaman after that. In July, 1942, BAGATAIS registered with Local Board 18, New York City. He also had in his possession Alien Registration Certificate No. 9552400 which was issued on June 3, 1942, at Charleston, South Carolina.

At the time of this interview BAGATAIS advised that while he was in New York, he intended to stay at one of the local hotels for a few days, after which he would proceed to visit his sister, Mrs. ALEXANDRIA GREENO, 3225 West Philadelphia Street, Detroit, Michigan.

Selective Service records at New York City reflect that BAGATAIS had registered on June 30, 1942, at Local Board 18 giving his address as 70 Seventh Avenue, New York City. His registration card reflected that he was born in Rica, Latvia, on April 11, 1922. The person who would always know his whereabouts was listed as M. H. COLLIN of 70 Seventh Avenue, New York City, and his employer was given as HARRY L. HARRIS of 2 Stone Street, New York City, who employed BAGATAIS as a seaman. BAGATAIS subsequently changed his New York address to 309 West 14th Street and his employer to the National Maritime Union, 346 West 17th Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that ARNOLD BAGATAIS held 1944 Communist Political Association Membership No. C-7086.

The Communist Political Association has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The records of the Identification Division of the FBI reflect that ARNOLD BAGATAIS has FBI No. 3587345. BAGATAIS' identification record reflects one arrest on August 4, 1943, by the police department at New London, Connecticut, on a charge of "breach of peace." No disposition is listed for this charge.

On April 5, 1948, information was received from Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, that

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that service then had an investigation under way to determine whether or not ARNOLD BAGATAIS, also known as ARNOLD BAGAT, was deportable under the Act of October 16, 1918, as amended.

Inquiry at Immigration and Naturalization Service, New York City, reflected that in a hearing held by the Immigration and Naturalization Service on December 6, 1946, BAGATAIS had admitted that he was taken up to the Communist Party club at 25th Street and Eighth Avenue, New York City, and given a little card but he claimed that he had left the Communist Political Association some time prior to the hearing because he did not agree with its principles. According to BAGATAIS, this took place some time in the latter part of 1943.

Also at this hearing he stated that he had paid dues of 15 or 20 cents twice and had on one occasion given a few dollars when a request for funds was made. He stated that he was given some assessment stamps in return. BAGATAIS also advised Immigration and Naturalization Service authorities that he had joined the Communist Party because he thought it was a social group but that he had taken no active part in it.

There is no further information in the files of the New York Office which indicates current Communist activity on the part of ARNOLD or CATHERINE BAGATAIS.

As previously reported, Pastor MARTIN NIEBALES when interviewed in Germany suggested that a Pastor WILLE, first name unknown, of New York City might be able to substantiate the allegations that FORMANIC was pro-Soviet and an active Communist in Latvia during 1940.

Pastor FELIX TREUS, 27 Kirkwood Road, Port Washington, Long Island, New York, was interviewed by SA WILLIAM F. HERSHEY and advised that the only Latvian pastor he ever knew with the name of WILLE was the late EDGAR WILLE. He said the latter died in August, 1945, and was buried at Gauting, Germany, which is near Munich. He said that the latter's widow is now living in Esslingen, Germany, exact location there unknown. He said he feels certain that there was only one pastor named WILLE ever in Latvia. He advised that EDGAR WILLE became a pastor in September, 1911, and remained as such in the Latvian Church until 1921 when he became a director of a college in Riga, Latvia.

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