

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

SOURCE 500B-35718 (Enc)

## MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: ROBEZGRUNTNIKS, Eriks

1. The files of OSO-GIA reflect the following information pertaining to Eriks ROBEZGRUNTNIKS, which was obtained from the interrogation of Subject in December 1946 and January 1947.

2. ROBEZGRUNTNIKS stated that he was born 15 September 1916, at Aukums, Latvia; his parent's names were given as Mary STAMUR and Maximilian ROBEGRUNTNIKS. Subject attended public schools in Riga, Latvia, and was graduated from college in 1936, after which he entered military service. He became a student at the War College in Riga in 1937 and in 1939 he took the officer's examination. At the close of his military training he served with the 6th Infantry Regiment in Riga until 1941. He returned to his father's farm in Riga when the Russians occupied Latvia. Subject stated that he joined the Latvian partisans in order to avoid the possibility of Russian deportation to Siberia. After the Germans arrived in Latvia, he was unemployed for approximately a month; he then obtained employment as an inspector for the railroad and continued this work until the Russians returned to Latvia in October 1944. He then left for Kurland where he worked as a hired man on the neighborhood farms. During this time, Subject claimed, he was a member of the underground movement. Because of his former military experience and his belief that the Russians knew of his partisan activities, he remained in hiding in the Latvia woods until October 1945 when he fled to Sweden. In January 1946 he obtained employment at Bultfabriken in Hallstahammar, Sweden.

3. ROBEZGRUNTNIKS made his escape to Sweden as a member of the LUKINS Group, a partisan organization headed by one Janos LUKINS, whose purpose was to escape to Sweden where an endeavor would be made to maintain contact with members of partisan groups in Latvia and possibly to evacuate relatives of the group to Latvia. Subject stated that he turned over his savings from his position at Bultfabriken to another member of the group, one Elmars SKOBE. SKOBE reportedly purchased a boat and radio and other equipment for the proposed expedition to Latvia, and in December 1946, six members of the LUKINS Group, including Subject and SKOBE, sailed from Sweden for Latvia. The group encountered navigational difficulties shortly after leaving Sweden and was forced to put into port on the island of Gotland. There they were seized by customs authorities, which resulted in a complete search of the boat and crew. The group was returned to Stockholm for interrogation by the Swedish police. After

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100-2-9

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their interrogation the group was released and their operation was considered by Swedish authorities to have been for the purpose of evacuating members of their families and not for any intelligence purpose. However, surveillance of the group was maintained. In July 1947 the Swedish government ascertained that another operation was planned for the immediate future and on 21 and 22 July, eight members of the group were arrested by the police and charged with illegal intelligence activity. It was not known whether Subject was one of these eight persons but it was presumed that those individuals connected with the boat operation were included in this number. A second interrogation was to be conducted; however, the results of this are not known to this Agency.

4. According to the Swedish Foreign Section all persons who participated in this expedition were considered to be Latvian citizens possessing Swedish visitor passes. ROBEZGRUNTNIKES' legal stay in Sweden was valid until 5/3/1947; however, it was decided on 2 November 1945 by the Swedish Government that Subject would eventually be sent out of the country after a temporary delay. This action apparently was not enforced as Subject was still in Sweden as late as July 1947.