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File COMMO # 003, Doc.# 12

From: Bruno Peters

To: []

Subject: ŠKENDERS Jānis (mentioned in the letters of RIPA).

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

RIPA mentions him for the first time in his letter of 9 June 1953 (see Doc.# 9):

" I am visited also now and then by the girl friend of Erika, Jana Senders, who
got married and is very busy at her work."

*Note that in
given correspondence
wife = MVD
book, 13 Feb. 1960.*

According to SIETINŠONS Albins, SENDERS Jana stands for ŠKENDERS Jānis and Erika
for KRAUZE Eriks (see Doc.# 11).

SIETINŠONS Albins gives the following data about ŠKENDERS Jānis:

Studied mechanics at the University of Latvia; was senior (filistrs) of the fraterni-
ty "Talavia" (supposedly got enrolled at the same time as URKIS Heinrichs - see
card 1942). Was drafted into the Latvian Legion as Sergeant or Officer's Candidate
(virsnieka vietnieks) . On 8 May 1945 he tried together with others to reach
Sweden in a boat but was captured by the Soviets while in sea and returned to
Latvia.

In his letter of 24 Sep.1955, SIETINŠONS A. promises to write to URKIS Heinrichs
in Great Britain and ask him for more info about ŠKENDERS J. At the same time
SIETINŠONS A. suggests to contact architect CELTNIEKS Edgars (see card 4150)
in Washington, D.C., who formerly was an active member of the fraternity "Talavia"
and could remember ŠKENDERS J. better than SIETINŠONS A.

On 9 Oct.1955 Bruno encountered by chance the a/m CELTNIEKS (was introduced to
him by SINGER during the Latvian theatre show here) and asked him about ŠKENDERS J.
CELTNIEKS was not surprised about such question, showed no unnecessary curiosity,
but made the following statement:

ŠKENDERS Jānis, born ab.1913, single, was member of the fraternity "Talavia" -
could be enrolled into it at ab. the same time as MEIEROVICS Helmut. J. was

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known among the fellow members as a man with orderly habits - did not drink in excess, had not too much love affairs. CELTNIIEKS is wondering why he remained in Latvia since J.Š. was known as a good Latvian patriot. In CELTNIIEKS opinion J.Š. did not join the Latvian Legion. According to CELTNIIEKS, J.Š. is in no relationship to ŠKENDERS Bruno (see card 4241) and he does not know any relatives of J.Š. abroad.

Second time RIPA mentions Jānis ŠKENDERS in his letter of February 1955:

Card 51?
"... Gunars as well as Eriks and Jānis are sending greetings to you."

When Bruno asked SIETINSONS A. about the a/m persons, i.e. friends of RIPA, SIETINSONS expressed his belief that Jānis stands for ŠKENDERS Jānis (see File 907, Doc. 12).