

*Hold, my copy*

~~TOP SECRET~~

SUBJECT: Velts RUPNERS, et al

1. This memorandum contains information available in the files of this office concerning persons, born in Latvia, who now reside in the United States and are probably naturalized citizens. These individuals are known to have some degree of ties, i.e., blood, marriage, close personal friendships, with residents of the Latvian SSN who, in turn, have been in contact with CIA, are known to have been exposed to, and are considered to be controlled by the KGB. While this office is not aware of any measures having been initiated to utilize these Soviet citizens for counter intelligence operations targeted against the United States, it is felt that such action could conceivably have been employed by the KGB.

2. Velts RUPNERS: Velts RUPNERS was the Subject of an unnumbered Bureau Memorandum, dated 1 June 1960, to our Office of Security. This report stated that a confidential informant of your office had reported that Velts RUPNERS was contacted by telephone in May 1957 by a Mr. RUPNERS from Riga, Latvia, who requested Velts RUPNERS to send her son, Iate, to Moscow and assured her that Iate would be returned unharmed. This she refused to do. Through a confidential source of this office, it has been learned that Velts RUPNERS received a letter in August or September 1960 from an I. RUPNERS in Latvia. It is believed that the Mr. RUPNERS mentioned in your Memorandum to our Office of Security and the I. RUPNERS who was the sender of the letter in August or September 1960 are identical with Iinars RUPNERS, a former agent for CIA in Riga, Latvia, who is considered to be controlled by the KGB.

3. Velts RUPNERS nee: ZARINS, was born 6 October 1914 in Riga, Latvia. In 1937 she married Iinars RUPNERS. Their son, Iate (or Iata), was born 6 May 1941. On 20 December 1950 Velts RUPNERS and her son, Iate, entered the United States as Displaced Persons from Latvia. Velts RUPNERS became a naturalized citizen of the United States on 16 April 1957 in Brooklyn,

New York. She was issued Certificate #7942006. The most current information available in the files of this office reveals that Velta HUPNERS is employed as a teller at the Yorkville Savings and Loan Association, 1640 Second Avenue, New York 28, New York. She and her son Iats were last known to reside at 193-28 39th Avenue, Flushing, New York. The parents of Velta HUPNERS, Peteris and Pauline ZARINS, also were residing at this address. It is believed that they are naturalized citizens of the United States.

- b. In providing biographic information to a contract agent of this office Velta HUPNERS gave as a character reference the name of Orests BERLINGS, 7501 Ridge Blvd., Brooklyn 9, New York. It is believed that this Orests BERLINGS is identical with the Orests BERLINGS who is the subject of Bureau Memorandum, dated 5 May 1960, Bureau File Number 123-7908; CSCI 3/759,173, dated 16 April 1960; and CSCI 3/761,797, dated 7 October 1960.
- c. Ilmars HUPNERS, the husband of Velta HUPNERS, was born 11 May 1914. He lives in Riga, Latvia. In August 1954 Ilmars HUPNERS was contacted and recruited for CIA by Leonids Arturs BROMBERGS, an agent of CIA who had been dispatched into the Latvian SSR in May 1954. BROMBERGS reported to this office that he had provided Ilmars HUPNERS with secret writing materials for HUPNERS' use in writing letters from Latvia. The meeting between HUPNERS and BROMBERGS was subsequently confirmed by HUPNERS who maintained contact with this office, sporadically, until November 1957. At that time, HUPNERS requested that the contact be discontinued until such time as he could provide a new address since he planned to move his place of residence. To date there has been no further communications from him.
- d. In September 1957 the Soviets announced, via radio and press, the capture and arrest of American Intelligence agents, one of whom was Leonids Arturs BROMBERGS. It is interesting to note that the

telephone call that Valta NIPHERS received from a Mr. NIPHERS in Riga, Latvia, was made in May 1957 while the capture of BROGERS was announced by the Soviets in September 1957.

3. Pauls and Lucija NIPHERS: Pauls and Lucija NIPHERS are the parents of Ilmārs NIPHERS. Their last known address was 2902 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, New York, which is where they lived in 1957 when they appeared as witnesses for their daughter-in-law, Valta NIPHERS, at the time she was granted United States citizenship.

4. Albino SIETINSCHS: Albino SIETINSCHS was born 12 September 1908 in Katvari, Latvia. His last known address was 1309 1/2 S. Henry Street, Bay City Michigan. It is known that in 1955 he was in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he was seeking employment. It is not known whether or not he was successful in this effort. Albino SIETINSCHS is probably now a naturalized citizen of the United States. In 1946, he lived in the French Zone of Germany and arrived in the United States as a D.P. in 1941. In May 1953 SIETINSCHS was interviewed by a Staff employee of this office who did not use his true name with SIETINSCHS. The interview, however, was arranged by a Staff employee of another office of CIA who did use his true name and CIA credentials. Consequently, SIETINSCHS was aware of CIA interest. The interview was inspired by the fact that this office had learned that Albino SIETINSCHS carried on a communications channel with citizens of the Latvian SSR. This office was interested in obtaining information on this channel from SIETINSCHS.

a. According to the information provided by Albino SIETINSCHS during the initial interview, his correspondence channel to Latvia dated back to 1946 when he was living in the French Zone of Germany. The correspondence was initiated by an Arturs KRACKINS, Riga, Latvia, in response to SIETINSCHS' efforts to attempt to find out the whereabouts of his and his wife's relatives in Latvia. In the beginning of 1949 this correspondence channel from Latvia was taken over by a person who SIETINSCHS identified to be Janis LINIS. SIETINSCHS characterized Janis LINIS as being skilled in espionage activities. According to SIETINSCHS, both Arturs KRACKINS and Janis LINIS were conscripted into the Latvian Legion which was later integrated into the German Army. Upon the collapse of the German forces in Latvia, many of the Latvian Legion were taken prisoners of war by the Russians.