

File # 204, Doc. # 2

Additional info

Agreement with VALDEMARS about A.A. as a cut-out.

According to VALDEMARS there was a national underground group in Latvia in 1948 which consisted mainly of former soldiers and members of "Pērkonkrusts". Before his flight abroad VALDEMARS had been in contact with this group and he intended to contact it again when returning to Latvia. It was agreed upon this between VALDEMARS and Bruno that the a/m group should try to establish contact with the Americans who could support and direct it.

This group got the code name "STRAUMĒNI" or "STRAUMĒNU ZARS" (branch Straumēni) since for ciphering and deciphering purposes a certain edition of the noted book "Straumēni" by Edvards VIRZA was chosen; a signal plan was prepared by VALDEMARS and Bruno in spring 1949 in order to send it with V. to the a/m group (^{the copy of} this signal plan together with explanations was submitted to ROBERTS in November 1950; previously it had been submitted to the British agent, GEORGE, in summer 1949).

It was also agreed that V. would act in this case only as a courier and would interrupt all contacts with the a/m group in order not to mix up these communications with those already planned by the Swedes. If the Americans or Bruno would send an agent to the a/m group the latter could be found through A.A. - after his return to Latvia VALDEMARS had to instruct the A.A. how he would be approached and how to find the "STRAUMĒNI". The following agreements were made:

1. the person (agent) approaching A.A. should first watch his movements from his apartment on Valdemara Street to his work and back; if no surveillance were observed this person should start a conversation with A.A. in which the pass-word " Would you like to buy some spare parts

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of the BMW (Bayrische Motor Werke) motor-bicycle ?" should be mentioned.

2. When A.A. would show interest in such deal the person should ask where he could meet "TĀLIS" (nickname of the brother of VALDEMARS, i.e. abbreviation of his first name Tāivaldis). A.A. should then advise the agent where and how to meet "Tālis" and thus the task of A.A. would be finished.

Besides, A.A. is very well acquainted with this "Tālis" already from the secondary school and encountered him often after both were back in Latvia from Russia. VALDEMARS intended to get "Tālis" enrolled in the a/m group after his return to Latvia and the interruption of his own contacts with this group. Thus the first member of the "STRAUMĒNI" group who would be encountered by an agent should be "Tālis".

In mid-October 1949 the British agent GEORGE asked for a meeting with Bruno in an urgent matter - GEORGE explained that he is going to send ^{V. Berkus + others} two men to Latvia in the next few days since, as he emphasized, the Swedes are too slow and unqualified to carry out a successful action on their own and the best time in this fall is running out. GEORGE indicated that he has no idea how to establish a contact between these two men and VALDEMARS in Latvia and that it were of the utmost importance to reach V. in order to support him.

Bruno explained that the only way he knows is via A.A. Then GEORGE asked Bruno to write a short letter in his handwriting to A.A. (without any names and special meaning, only to show that the deliverer recently has been in contact with Bruno and should be trusted). This letter was written by Bruno - using a diluted ink, prepared on the spot by GEORGE - in the hotel room of GEORGE (Hotel EGGERT or EGGER in Goteborg at the railroadstation); GEORGE told Bruno that he is going to fly back to Britain next morning.

After a couple month Bruno received a letter from GEORGE or KRAUJA that all is in good order, i.e. this letter has been delivered. In March 1950, when GEORGE visited Bruno again, he told that the a/m two men have found VALDEMARS in their fall mission, (thus it could be assumed that they went via A.A. -Br.);

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besides he asked also whether Bruno has an idea how VALDEMARS could be found now - he explained that the a/w two men had contacted VALDEMARS only once to hand him over some things but that they had strict instructions not to continue to contact him and thus they are not able to find him anew though it is necessary. As far as Bruno remembers he could give no new leads for GEORGE at this time.

A.A. has never indicated in his letters or postcards that he has been approached by the a/w two men or received Bruno's writing.

Besides GEORGE the present address of A.A. could be known also to PETERSONS since he was in charge of the archive of the SC which contained also this address. It might be known also to ANDY since the latter wrote a letter in his handwriting on Bruno's request (text prepared by Bruno) while in Germany on ab. 7 July 1951. This letter was intended to announce the start of the clandestine broadcasts for the "Straumēni" and it was sent to the name and address of OZOLIŅŠ P. (see Doc.# 1, p.2) which is identical with that of A.A.

HERBERTS' instructions in regard of A.A.:

As to the address of A.A. it should be added that HERBERTS got only a half of it and had no idea who is the person living there. As far as Bruno remembers - and this could be checked in his old notes at the Office - HERBERTS got also the first name of A.A. and his description; also a group photo showing A.A. during the time in gymnasium was shown him for identifying purposes. Bruno tried also to make the impression that "Andrejs" and "Jurīša tēvs" (see Doc.# 1, p.5) are two different persons since at this time it was not decided how A.A. should be approached.

Anyway, HERBERTS was instructed during ab. three instructive lessons by Bruno that there exists a "STRAUMĒNI" group which can be traced through "Andrejs" or "Jurīša tēvs". He got also the pass-word for the meeting with A.A. ("BMW spare parts" - see above). Bruno stressed also several times that

HERBERTS should be very careful when approaching A.A. and explained that the latter is a person who could be under the surveillance of the MVD. Bruno prepared also a short letter for A.A. which should be delivered to him by HERBERTS but as this plan in general was dismissed this letter was not given to HERBERTS, only the contents of it were explained to him. As far as Bruno remembers this letter contained a girl's name "IZA" and HERBERTS should be able to explain to A.A. when delivering it that this name means "Izolde" and that she is living in Kuldīga.*

Where?

Additional BI data on A.A.:

(Accol 10)

During his school time he was rather active in the Latvian Boy Scout Organization. As far as Bruno remembers A.A. was a member of the same unit as VALDEMARS.

(Accol 7)

About 1936 or 1937 A.A. participated at the World Jamboree in Netherlands.*

Since his father became a member of the Minister Cabinet during Ulmanis' time and was the Head of the "Little Cabinet" (a working group among the ministers) A.A. had a deep respect for Ulmanis. However, A.A. was not an opportunist and did not join the "4-H Club" (Mazpulki) which was sponsored by the Ulmanis' regime; not doing this he showed an independent attitude.

His mother, Milda Apsītis, played the role of the First Lady during the Ulmanis' time since President Ulmanis was a bachelor and Minister APSĪTIS, as the head of the "Little Cabinet", was considered as the second man in the rank after Ulmanis. Also while in exile, she still was respected by the Swedish officials as well as by the Latvian Minister, ZARIŅŠ Kārlis, in London, Great Britain (the latter tried once in 1946 or 1947 to pay her a pension from the funds of the Latvian State but somehow it was not done). In 1945/46 she lived in Lund, Sweden, and was employed there at a library of some academical institution as a so called "archive worker". In 1947 she attended courses for dental technicians in Lund, graduated from these but did not get a job. 1947/48 she lived with Bruno's family but in summer 1948 went to work as a governess

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with the family of an old acquaintance of her, Dr. IKŠE Jānis, who worked at this time as a dentist on some island near Göteborg. Later on she started to work at a dental supply laboratory A.B. "VIPACO" on Sehlistedsгатan # 9, Göteborg H, as a technician and is still working there.

When in fall 1948 she met VALDEMARS in Bruno's home, Dr. ĢINTERS Valdis was present at this meeting. Thus she, of course, got the impression that some clandestine projects were discussed since Dr. V. Ģ. was known to her as a person involved in such matters. Later on she sometimes asked Bruno how the things are going but showed no unnecessary curiosity. However, she expressed several times her hopes that her son maybe could escape to Sweden with his family; she loves him very much and was rather distressed at the beginning when VALDEMARS told her about her son's marriage with Guna DAMBĪTE. Though she knew this girl very well, she was shocked that her son has married a member of a quasi Communistic family. Later on she got convinced that this might be the only possibility for her son to get out of troubles and to have a niece wife too.

As to the fate of the former minister, Hermanis APSĪTIS, VALDEMARS told ^{in 1948} that he still is in some prison in Russia proper; that A.A. had tried to find out where exactly his father is in order to send him parcels but without success. In this regard it was strange when BRUNAVS Helmuta, a journalist (now in the USA), published an article in "Stockholms Tidningen" in summer 1949 about the Latvians deported to Russia and mentioned that Minister H. APSĪTIS is in a prison in a named city (Astrachan or Kuybishev - as far as Bruno remembers) When Mrs. Apsītis tried to find out the source of this info, H.B. answered evasively. Anyway, no report of VALDEMARS info contained such fact.

VALDEMARS mentioned also that ŽĪGURS Imants, a school-mate of A.A., had helped the latter when he returned from his prisonership to Latvia; this was done regardless the Communistic affiliations of I. Žīgurs and the fact that he knew A.A. very well as a convinced Latvian patriot (^{since ab. 1946} ~~now~~ this I. Žīgurs is the director of the State Puppet Show in Riga; mentioned in "Cīpa").

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Bruno does not remember in what form this help was given.

About 1951/52 there was an article in "Cīpa", according to Mrs. Apsītis, where A.A. has been mentioned as a leading official in some construction enterprise. Bruno has not seen this article but it was told ^{him} that A.A. had used very strong words about the disorder in this enterprise (presumably it is subordinated to the Ministry of Apartments and Civil Constructions; Dzīvokļu un civilās celtniecības ministrija - in Latv. - Bruno).

According to VALDEMARS, A.A. already in 1948 owned a motor-bicycle since his job had to be done all over the Riga town. VALDEMARS told also that sometimes A.A., VALDEMARS and his brother Tālivaldis were sailing in a yacht in Daugava River and in the Gulf of Riga; this yacht was either owned by A.A. or he got it from a yachting club.

* IZA was the nickname of BĒRZIŅŠ Izolde. She attended the 2nd Municipal Gymnasium of Riga at the same time as A.A. - was in a parallel class. At this time A.A. fell in love with her (she was one of his several girl friends). Later on she married to a young Latvian jurist, VĪTOLE fmu. According to VALDEMARS, A.A. visited her now and then, though married with Guna DAMBĪTE, in Kuldīga where she was living after the capitulation.

Bruno remembers that she had some relatives in Kuldīga already during the Ulmanis' time; they were living in the western part of the town on the street which is leading toward Liepāja. She ^s was born 1919; was a beautiful and intelligent girl, the sole child of her parents.

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