

S E C R E T

VIA AIR

DISPATCH NO. EGFA-15192

TO: Chief, SR

March 8, 1957

FROM: Chief of Base, Frankfurt

INFO: EE
COS

SUBJECT: General - REDWOOD AEMARSH

Specific - Transmittal of Report

1. Attached under separate cover for your information is an unedited copy of a report written by AEMARSH 1, describing his interview with a person who repatriated from Riga, Latvia, to West Germany on 21 January 1957.

2. Although the subject spoke with AEMARSH 1 very reluctantly (he appears to fear Soviet reprisals for revealing information concerning the USSR), he agreed to meet AEMARSH 1 once more at the end of March 1957.

3. Any intelligence obtained during this next meeting, as well as the bits of military intelligence obtained in the first meeting described in the attachment, will be forwarded to Headquarters in the MO reports series. (It is interesting to note that subject has knowledge of and has already furnished some information concerning the Riga military activity requirements contained in DIR 1,3115).

APPROVED: []

ATTACHMENT: USC

DISTRIBUTION:

- ✓ 3-SR w/att USC a/s (DIRECT) (2 copies of attachment)
- 2-EE w/o att (DIRECT)
- 2-COS w/att USC a/s

NHC

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S E C R E T

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USSC OBT EGFA-15192

March 7, 1957

On 5 March 1957 I visited Mr. Emil WISSMANN in Wiesbaden, Sonnenbergerstr. 31. After introducing myself to him as a Latvian and a person from Latvian Central Committee, I invited him for a drink in a restaurant. Already on the way to the city I saw that Mr. WISSMANN is very afraid to talk about the conditions in Latvia. Only after the lunch and some drinks he began to speak a little freelier. At the same time I saw that he has no syphaties to Allies (the Brittish and Americans). On my question whether he has been questioned by any German or American officials, Mr. WISSMANN told that in Camp Friedland only some American agents has tryed to question him, but he has refused to give any information. As I said, perhaps the Russians have forbidden him to speak here freely, he confessed that he had to give his signature that he would not tell here anything of importance. Then I told him that I, myself, am a former Latvian officer who has fought with the 19th Division of Latvian Legion, that the former Latvian soldiers have here in exil their own organization "Daugavas Vanagi", and he would understand that we have a great interest directly about political and military information. So during our conversation I could find out the following information:

Mr. Emil WISSMAN has born on 11.7.1924 in Taurogin/Lithuania. Nationality - German. Occupation - locksmith-mechanic (engeneer). 1940 his family has repatriated to Germany, where they have lived in Rostok. His military service he has done with the German Waffen-SS as a member of the ambulance corps. Since 1942 in Latvia. 1945 his SS and Police unit was in Kurzeme/Latvia, where after the capitulation in May he has got POW by Russians, at Priekule. From here he was sent to Tels ai in Lithuania and after a short time to Riga, where he was in different POW camps - Sarkandaugava, Meza parks, Milgravis, Daugavgriva. 1949 he was discharged. He could stay in Riga and he got a room too, but he had to work in a pointed working place. He could not also earn more than 800 Rb. in a month. After some troubles he has got also a stateless pasport (the militia told him that he is a Lithuanian and wanted to give him a Russian pasport). Only since 1955 it was allowed for him to search for a job freely. Then he has done this and has earned in a month 1300 Rb. plus 400 Rb. bonus. (He has been a kind of stachanov worker). During all this time he has worked in different factories in Riga.

Although it was forbidden for him to leave Riga without permission, he went to the German Embassy in Moskow and on 7, August 1956 he got the German pasport. On the same day in Moskow he got also the transit visas from DDR and Poland. The Russian visa, respectively the permission to leave Russia he got only on January 1957. On 21 January he left Riga and on 29, January 1957 he arrived in West-Germany.

In Riga he has lived together with a Latvian girl. He wanted to marry her but this was forbidden for him, because he was stateless. His last address in Riga was Meza parks, Ezermalas iela. Last working place - Electric-bulb factory in Milgravis.

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