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FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIONFOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

Copy to:

Report of: RALPH F. MILLER
Date: 10-1-51

Office: New York, New York

Field Office File No.: 105-51542

Bureau File No.: 105-103336

Title: ROBERTS ANCANS

2A-6456

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis:

NY T-1 furnished information from NY T-2 that subject, prior to World War II, was convicted for Communist activity while student in high school in Latvia, but later released because of age. Two sisters also reportedly arrested in Latvia for Communist activities before World War II. After Soviet domination of Latvia, one of subject's brothers became member of Latvian puppet parliament in 1940. Subject one of founders of Disabled Latvian War Veterans, allegedly founded to split existing Latvian war veteran organization Daugavas Vanagi. NY T-1 stated subject, since being in US, has been instrumental in trying to create discord in recent national meetings of American Latvian Association and has tried to belittle anti-Soviet activity on part of organization. Subject residing with wife, two children and mother-in-law at 103-33 115th St., Richmond Hill, Long Island. Employed as draftsman, Otis Elevator Company, NYC. Subject born 11/11/19, Tilzas, Latvia, and entered the US 12/16/55. Information re bank account set out. NY T-4 advised subject serving in Latvian Army when Russia took over Latvia in 1940, and was mobilized into Red Army. Subsequently he became a lieutenant in the Latvian Legion and served as officer until end of war. NY T-4 stated subject under intelligence observation in Latvian Legion, but no derogatory information obtained. It was NY T-4's recollection subject had worked for a short time for CIA in Germany, before 1951 or 1952.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
☐ (A) Privacy
☒ (2)(B) Methods/Sources
☐ (2)(G) Foreign RelationsDeclassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2003, 2005

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DETAILS:

On September 14 and September 25, 1961, NY T-1 advised that he had received the following information concerning subject through NY T-2:

ROBERTS ANCANS, 103-33 115th Street, Richmond Hill, New York, was born in a province of Latvia closest in geographic location and sympathies to the Soviet Union. He is approximately 45 years of age and he came to the United States in 1955 or 1956. His occupation is unknown. ANCANS is considered somewhat of a national Latvian hero, inasmuch as he received one of the highest decorations possible when he fought with the Latvian Battalion on the Eastern Front during World War II.

The subject, before World War II, while Latvia was still free, was convicted in Latvia for Communist activity while a student in high school. He was released shortly after his arrest because it was felt his activities were motivated by his immaturity and the misinformation sometimes prevalent in students of his age.

During active military service in the Latvian Army, the subject was under constant observation by the Security Division of the Army and was politically doubtful. However, no positive information was ever received about his pro-Communist activities during this time. NY T-2 personally knew of this constant observation of the subject in the Army.

Two of the subject's sisters were arrested in Latvia for Communist activities before World War II.

After the Soviet domination of Latvia, one of subject's brothers became a member of the Latvian puppet parliament in the early stages of Soviet occupation, right after the annexation of Latvia by the Soviet Union in 1940.

After World War II, in Latvia, the subject was one of the founders of a disabled Latvian war veterans organization entitled, "Latviesu Kara Invalidu Apvieniba". This organization was founded to split up the already existing Latvian war veteran organization entitled "Daugavas Vanagi", and to

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weaken its activity. This latter organization had information that the first mentioned organization had within its ranks planted Communist reporters or observers dedicated to the discrediting of organizations striving for a free Latvia. However, no names or confirming information was ever specifically obtained.

NY T-1 stated they have no specific information that the subject is an espionage agent. However, since he has been in this country he has been instrumental in trying to create discord in recent national meetings of the American Latvian Association and is trying to belittle anti-Soviet activity on the part of this organization. NY T-1 stated therefore, because of his activities and background, ~~subject~~ ~~has come under suspicion by some Latvian leaders in this country as a tool of the Soviet Union.~~

The June 27, 1961 Queens Address Telephone Directory lists ROBERTS ANCANS with telephone number VI 3-6527 at 103-33 115th Street. Also listed at this address was HAROLD P. WILHELM, telephone VI 5-7606.

The 1958-1959 Queens Address Telephone Directory lists ANCANS with the same telephone number at 104-41 104th Street, Ozone Park.

The indices of the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) contain no record on HAROLD P. WILHELM.

The records of the Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as furnished by PAULINE DE FIORE to IC JOHN T. DOWNEY on October 17, 1961, contained a report dated July 11, 1961, reflecting that ROBERTS ANCANS had been living at 103-33 115th Street, Richmond Hill, Long Island, for 3½ years. He was 43 years of age, married, with two children. His wife's name was given as ILGA BIRUTA. He was a draftsman with the Otis Elevator Company, 260 11th Avenue, New York City, and had a special checking account with the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company, 475 West 23rd Street, New York City. There was no derogatory information concerning the subject.

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Records of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, New York City, as furnished by K. ROBERTSON to IC JOHN J. CAREY on November 1, 1961, reflect that 1961 registration QX7916, was registered for a 1955 green and white Chrysler sedan serial number WE55-61994, under the name of ROBERTS ANCANS, 103-33 115th Street, Richmond Hill, New York. His date of birth was given as November 11, 1919, and his business as the Otis Elevator Company, Bld., 260 - 11th Avenue, New York City. There was no current driving license listed to date for ANCANS.

On October 19, 1961, Mrs. EDITH WHITING, Personnel Office, 6th floor, Otis Elevator Company, 260 11th Avenue, New York City, advised that ROBERTS ANCANS, 103-33 115th Street, Richmond Hill, Long Island, was presently employed as a "Draftsman A", and his employment was satisfactory. She stated there was nothing derogatory in his file. He entered employment with Otis Elevator Company on June 20, 1957, as a "Draftsman B".

An application dated June 19, 1957, reflected ANCANS was then residing at 104-41 104th Street, Richmond Hill, Long Island, telephone VI 3-6527. He was born November 11, 1919. He attended Riga High School for five years and the University of Riga for two years, taking a course in mechanical engineering. He was admitted to the United States on December 16, 1955, and held AER #10233846. He was married, had four dependents, and rented his present dwelling. He listed his height as 5' 10" and his weight as 194 pounds. He listed languages spoken as Latvian and German.

As dependents living with him, ANCANS listed his wife IIGA, 29; daughter, RITA, six years; son, GVIDO, 5 years; mother-in-law, MARTA LUTUMS, 52. Subject listed the following references:

JURIS UPESLESA - Designer
JANIS CILDERMANS - Engineer
IVARS LANS - Designer

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He listed previous employment as follows:

Air Research Associates
136 Liberty, New York City
Draftsman
March, 1957 - June 17, 1957
\$80.00 per week

Constr. Co
Pastors/Niedr.
272 Brover Street
Rockville Centre,
New York
Carpenter from
February, 1956 to November, 1956 -
no more jobs

M.A.N. (Maschinen fabr. Augsburg - Nw,)
Augsburg, Germany, as a mechanical
draftsman from May, 1953 to
November, 1955

The indices of the New York Office of the FBI
contain no record of JURIS LPESLESA, JANIS CILDERMANS and
IVARS LANS, and subject's mother-in-law, MARTA LUTUMS.

On October 30, 1961, FRANK INCORVAIA, Bookkeeper,
Air Research Associates, 22 East 42nd Street, New York City,
advised that ROBERTS ANCANS, 104-41 104th Street, Ozone Park,
New York, telephone VI 3-6527, was employed by that company
from March 25, 1957 to June 7, 1957, at \$70.00 per week.
His Social Security number was 129-30-2534. He was born
November 11, 1919, and had five dependents. It was
indicated he had no Blue Cross.

INCORVAIA advised that F. M. NOLAN, Senior Engineer,
was the only employee around who actually remembered ANCANS.
NOLAN advised INCORVAIA that ANCANS was not much of a
draftsman and was released soon after he had been hired.

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NOLAN further advised that no employment applications were filled out at that time, but the Social Security number and the age of a prospective employee were all that were required.

On October 19, 1961, NY T-3 advised that in addition to special account number 014-500566, ROBERTS ANCANS had a savings account number 14-7407, at the Chemical Bank New York Trust Company, 23rd Street and 10th Avenue, New York City. He opened this account October 6, 1958, with a deposit of \$2000. The only other deposit in the account was for \$170.00 on October 1, 1959. The remaining entries are withdrawals, generally in low three-figure amounts. The balance in the account now is \$5.28, which was reached on October 28, 1960.

The signature card dated October 6, 1958, for ROBERTS ANCANS reflects that he was a draftsman residing at 104-41 104th Street, Richmond Hill, Queens, New York. He was born November 11, 1919, in Latvia. He listed his father as ANTON, his mother as ZELCS, and his wife as ILGA.

In an application dated October 6, 1958, for a special checking account, he stated that he had been employed with the Otis Elevator Company, 260 11th Avenue, New York City, for two years. He listed his telephone number as CH 4-8000, Extension 697.

On November 2, 1961, NY T-3 furnished the following information concerning checks drawn on ROBERTS ANCANS special checking account number 014-500566:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
376	October 10, 1961	Otis Elevator Company	\$ 15.00
377	October 13, 1961	Mr. J. BOLE	10.00

This check was endorsed JANIS BOLE and contained a stamp of the National Bank of Windham, Windham, New York, dated October 19, 1961

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<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Amount</u>
378	October 13, 1961	Mr. J. OZOLINS	\$ 6.00
This check was endorsed JANIS OZOLINS			
379	October 13, 1961	Otis Elevator Company	75.00
380	October 13, 1961	Consolidated Edison Company	15.92
381	October 13, 1961	Mr. V. JANSONS, M.D.	6.00
This check contained on the back a stamp of the Chase Manhattan Bank.			
382	October 18, 1961	Otis Elevator Company	50.00
383	October 22, 1961	Mr. A. E. LAURIS	6.50
This check contained on the back a stamp of the Conestoga National Bank, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.			
384	October 23, 1961	Humble Oil and Refining Company	34.26
385	October 26, 1961	Otis Elevator Company	35.00

The foregoing information furnished by NY T-3 is not to be made public except in a usual proceeding following the issuance of a subpoena duces tecum.

The indices of the New York Office of the FBI contain no record of subject's parents, listed above, or of JANIS BOLE and A. E. LAURIS.

On September 8, 1961, SIDNEY A. DAVIS, Assistant Chief, Records Administration and Information Section, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), 20 West Broadway, New York City, made available to SA WILLIAM F. MARTIN the INS file number A10233856, on ROBERTS ANCAN, which reflects the following information:

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An application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration I-1072440, reflects ANCANS, who stated he was born November 11, 1919, Tilzas, Latvia, stated he was also known as POLIS WELLINGTON. His last permanent residence was 55 Vogesenstr., Augsburg, Germany. He was destined to HEINRICHS BAGATAIS, 410 East 163rd Street, Bronx 56, New York. He was described as 5' 8"; 205 pounds; dark blond hair; grey blue eyes; fair complexion; stateless Latvian; scars on forehead and left cheek; occupation, professional army officer, now painter and driver. He spoke Latvian, German, Russian and some English. ANCANS listed previous residences at Tilza - 1938; Riga - 1939; Army service and P.O.W. in Latvia, Russia and Germany - 1946; Bad Woerishofen - 1948; Neuburg - 1950; Augsburg/Hochfeld, Germany, to date.

Subject listed his relatives as follows:

Wife	ILGA ANCANS
Daughter	RITA ANCANS
Son	GVIDO ANCANS
Father	ANTONS ANCANS, deceased
Mother	MARIJA, nee ZELCS, "Address Unknown"

ANCANS filed an Affidavit in Lieu of a Birth Certificate, a marriage certificate, an Affidavit in Lieu of Discharge Certificate, police record, Certificate of Readmission and verified Assurance Number 38657, approved June 29, 1955. He claimed to be a non-quota immigrant eligible as an escapee, and stated that in 1949, he had applied for an immigrant visa at the IRO Office, Neuburg/Do., Germany, and in 1952, applied again at the United States (US) Consulate in Munich, Germany.

He was granted an immigrant visa number 59438 on November 10, 1955, as a stateless Latvian by G. MICHAEL BACHE at Munich. He held Reiseausweis number 0020306 dated November 10, 1953, at Augsburg, Germany, expiring November 10, 1956.

It was certified that subject had arrived at the

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Port of New York December 16, 1955, on the USNS General W. G. Langfit.

By card dated February 8, 1956, ANCANS advised that he was living with his family at 124 10th Street, West Babylon, New York, and his last address was 506 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn 25, New York. He was employed by the Niedritis Construction Company, Incorporated, Bellamore, New York.

On June 16, 1956, ANCANS stated that he was now residing at 104-41 104th Street, Ozone Park, New York, and was employed by Eriks Niedritis, Construction Company, 35 Seaman Street, Rockville Centre, New York. His last address was 124 10th Street, West Babylon, New York.

An affidavit dated April 29, 1955, by LILIJA ABOLTINS, 180 Washington Park, Brooklyn 5, New York, sponsored ROBERTS ANCANS and his wife, Mrs. MILDA ANCANS, born January 6, 1929, Riga, Latvia, and their children, RITA ANCANS, daughter, born August 7, 1951, Augsburg, Germany, and GVIDO IMANTS ANCANS, son, born March 8, 1952, Augsburg. Subject was to be a laborer to be trained to assist a carpenter in framing construction of new buildings at the Niedritis Construction Company, Incorporated, 1146 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. He was to reside with HEINRICHS BAGATAIS, 410 East 163rd Street, Bronx, New York. LILIJA ABOLTINS was born in Riga, Latvia, February 2, 1912, and her daughters, BEATRICE and BAIBA ABOLTINS, were born March 25, 1938 and December 22, 1939, respectively. This affidavit was made before the Director of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 150 5th Avenue, New York, New York.

The indices of the New York Office contained no record concerning POLIS WELLINGTON, HEINRICHS BAGATAIS, MARIJA ANCANS, MILDA ANCANS, LILIJA, BEATRICE and BAIBA ABOLTINS or ERIKS NIEDRITIS.

On October 30, 1961, NY T-4 advised that he first knew ROBERTS ANCANS in Germany, possibly in the spring of 1947. ANCANS lived in Augsburg, which was in the American sector. ANCANS was on the Central Board of Daugavas Vanagi in Germany until about 1954, when the Congress elected a

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new member and he was out. With his friends in Hamburg, Germany, in 1955, subject formed the Disabled Latvian War Veterans, of which he was elected Chairman. The organization is still active, and it is located in New York.

ANCANS was serving in the Latvian Army when Russia took over Latvia in 1940. The Latvian Army was mobilized into the Red Army and ANCANS was accordingly mobilized with it. He left the Army as a corporal or sergeant. Subsequently, ANCANS became a lieutenant in the Latvian Legion and served as an officer in the Legion to the end of the war.

NIKOLAI LECMANIS, now working for the newspaper "Latvia" in Germany, served as an intelligence officer with the Latvian Legion. ANCANS was under observation by LECMANIS, but LECMANIS never obtained any derogatory information against ANCANS.

NY T-4 stated that there were two rumors against ANCANS in Germany. One was that one or two of his sisters was arrested as a Communist and sentenced to prison. The second rumor was that a brother of ANCANS was elected to parliament when it was first organized in cooperation with the Communists, after the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) took over Latvia. ANCANS came from a big family. NY T-4 stated he did not know if there was any substance to these stories at all. However, it was his opinion that ANCANS was "somewhat stupid", and was not intelligent enough to be active as a Soviet agent.

It was NY T-4's recollection that ANCANS had worked a very short time for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in Germany before 1951 or 1952, and he believed this information came to him through VITIS JANUMS, who is still in Germany.

On June 3, 1960, IC THOMAS G. CLEARY received a telephone call from an anonymous female complainant who stated that she was a German Jew, and that her husband, a household service man, had been doing some work in the home of ROBERT ANCANS at 103-33 115th Street, Richmond Hill, Queens, and he noticed that one of the subject's walls was almost entirely covered with a mural or photo of himself in a German storm trooper uniform.

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In connection with the foregoing, NY T-4 advised that the uniform of the Latvian Legion was similar in all respects to the German Army uniform with the exception of the collar tabs which contained a different insignia.