

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Belgium

DATE DISTR. 5 Jan 1949

SUBJECT Belgian Communist Deputies

NO. OF PAGES 7

25X1A2g

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

Following is biographical information on Communist deputies in the Belgian Parliament for the 1947-1948 season.

1. Edgard Lalmand, deputy from Brussels, elected in 1946:

- a. Edgard Lalmand, was born at Berchem on 20 August 1894. He is a grain broker living at 26 rue Fik Guidon, Molenbeek. His first wife, from whom he is divorced, was Signe nee Borgen. On 29 September 1948 he was married to Jeanne Mullier.
- b. Subject was elected Communist deputy for Brussels in 1946. He is a veteran of World War I. In 1932 he joined the Communist Party and became a member of the Central Committee in 1935, a position he still holds. In 1936 he became a member of the Political Bureau and the next year took over as political director of the Voix du Peuple, serving in this capacity until the end of 1939. He was arrested in 1940 as "dangerous" and evacuated to the south of France where he spent three months at Saint Cyprien. On his return from France at the beginning of the occupation, Lalmand was appointed delegate for the Liege region by the Communist Party directorate. In July 1945 he became Secretary-General of the Party and continues to hold this position. Since 1958 he has been Communal Counselor for Molenbeek-St-Jean.
- c. Immediately after the liberation of Belgium Lalmand threw himself into journalism, writing for the Drapeau Rouge. He glorified the heroic resistance of the Communist Party and appealed to the people and to his resistance comrades to continue the fight beside the Allies. He, at the same time, attacked the policy of the Pierlot government in London. At the end of January 1945 Subject was one of the Communist Party members who went to Paris to meet Soviet delegates. During the conversations Lalmand solicited prompt aid from the Russian Communists for delivery of propaganda material and arms.

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By: on

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- d. As Minister of Food, he called the attention of the Soviets in 1946 to the great moral and political advantages the Belgian Communist Party would gain if the presence of a Communist in the Ministry could coincide with a bettering of food conditions. He is said to have requested the leaders in the USSR to ask the Anglo-Saxons for alimentary aid. In September 1944 Lalmand spoke at all large Communist meetings. From the time that he took over the Ministry of Food, the Communist Party tried to form cells within that Ministry. Communists were especially placed in the service of Food Inspection, replacing reactionaries. At the end of January 1946, Lalmand, who headed the Communist list for Brussels because he was a member of the Chamber of Representatives, took an active part in the electoral campaign. He also presided at meetings of "responsables" of the various Communist groups, spoke at meetings of the Central Committee and to the "cadres" of the Brussels and Liege Federations.
- e. On 7 November 1945 he attended a conference in commemoration of the October Revolution. He goes to many of the fetes held under the auspices of the Amities Belgo-Sovietiques or given by the Friends of Republican Spain and speaks at meetings of Communist Women and other Party functions. At the 8th Congress of the Communist Party Lalmand read the catechism of the Communist Party which was later printed under the title To Build a New Belgium. Lalmand belongs to the Honor Committee of "Notre Solidarite" and is affiliated with the Charleroi group of the "Front de l'Independance". He is said to be one of the champions of "Italia Libera," an organization with leftist tendencies, and a director of the leftist group, "The Friends of New Poland." Subject made a trip to Prague in June 1946.
- f. He is described as an impossible person, autocratic, drunk with power, playing the role of dictator in the Party. He is extremely active and holds under his yoke most of the members of the Political Bureau.

2. Samuel Herzsens, deputy from Brussels, elected in 1946:

- a. Subject was born at Brussels on 8 March 1906. He lives at 52 Avenue Chasal, Schaerbeek, and is married to Lucienne nee Lesaint. Communist deputy since September 1945, he replaced Xavier Relecom who resigned. Herzsens was elected deputy for Brussels in 1946. He is a member of the Central Committee of the Party, in charge of Central and Regional Schools.
- b. He joined the workers' movement at the age of eighteen and became a member of the Communist Party in 1925. He is a former manager of the Drapeau Rouge. A member of the Brussels Federal Committee and Administrative Secretary of the Party, he was elected Provincial Counselor for Brabant in the last elections held before the war (1938). He was arrested 10 May 1940 and sent to the camp at Bernet, returning to Brussels three months later. During the occupation Herzsens was Secretary of the Charleroi Federation where he organized the demonstration of 10 May 1942. He worked in the regions of Liege and Huy and was arrested in July 1943 by the Germans and was detained at the concentration camps of Breendonk and Buchenwald, then returned to Belgium in April 1945.
- c. In October 1945 the ex-political prisoners of Buchenwald sent a complaint through the Anderlecht Section to the Central Committee of the Brussels Federation, outlining various charges against Subject's behavior in the camp at Buchenwald. He was accused of having personally directed a labor unit at Buchenwald, of being responsible for certain measures taken by the SS with regard to prisoners and responsible for the transfer of certain prisoners from Buchenwald to the disciplinary barracks. At Buchenwald Subject was in contact with Jean Marie Possier, now chief editor of the Communist paper, Liberte, in Lille.

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- d. Herrensens is a member of the Initiative Committee which backed the O.D.D.I.B. ("Organisme pour la Defense des Droits des Immigres en Belgique"). He was reelected to the Central Committee at the 8th Congress of the Belgian Communist Party. In 1946 Subject gave a series of courses at Rixensart for syndicate delegates. In December 1946 he was Vice-president of the High Council of Middle Classes, which functions within the Ministry of Economic Affairs. Subject was instructed to organize the national demonstration which took place in June 1947 against "inciviques" and which was sponsored by the National Committee of the "Front de l'Independence - Partisans Armes" and the Central Committee of the Communist Party.
- e. On 12 June 1947 Herrensens and other directors of the Central Committee met to discuss the formation of a new international socialism. There was also question of collecting funds and recruiting men for Greece. At an extraordinary general meeting of the Schaerbeek Section of the Belgian Communist Party, Subject described the parliamentary activities of the Party. He was opposed to Fascist methods camouflaged by the Spak Government "which is going to the right", and he called for the unblocking of salaries. As Communist delegate he attended a meeting on 13 September 1947 held under the auspices of Jewish associations. At a meeting of protest against the fate of immigrants on the "Exodus", Subject criticized the existence of camps in Germany. He recalled that the Communists and the Jews were the first victims of concentration camps and promised that the Party would use all its political influence to aid those who wish to live in a renovated and democratic Belgium. During a meeting held at Schaerbeek in October 1947, he violently attacked the United States, the trusts and American capitalists. On another occasion he criticized America's attitude in sending troops, materiel and arms to Greece.
- f. Subject is always very active and frequently speaks at meetings. He was arrested in the street and thrown into the communal jail at the time of the demonstration held by the Amities Belgo-Sovietiques against the film, "The Iron Curtain".

3. Julien Victor Lahaut, Communist Deputy, elected in 1937:

- a. Lahaut was born at Seraing on 6 September 1884. He is a metallurgist, living at 4 rue de la Colline, Seraing, and is married to Gerardine nee Noel. He has been a Communist deputy since 1937 and is president of the Central Committee and communal counselor of Seraing.
- b. Subject is the son of the founder and president of the first syndicate of workers at the Cockerill mills. He began work at the age of fourteen in the Renory factory, then was employed by the Cockerill mills where he was active in a strike organized to demand universal suffrage. He was dismissed in 1908. In 1906 he founded the syndicate "Releve Toi" with Joseph Bondas, in order to avenge his father, whose syndicate had been destroyed in 1891 by pressure from the employers. In 1914 Lahaut volunteered and fought in Russia until 1918, returning to Belgium completely won over by the ideals of the October Revolution. From that time he made clear his affiliation with the third International. He succeeded in winning an eight-hour day for the workers at Cockerill. During the big strike at Ougre-Marihaye which lasted six months, Subject was expelled from his syndicate by certain delegates. He then organized the syndicate of "Les Chevalliers du Travail" in 1921.
- c. Lahaut joined the Communist Party in 1923 and, from the beginning, was a member of the Politbure. In 1925 he led an anti-Fascist demonstration in Liege, for which he was imprisoned for six months. Using his talents as a leader of men, Subject was the leader of the large-scale strikes in 1932. He was sent to prison for six months in 1935 for denouncing the aggression against Ethiopia. After a set-to with the Rexists in parliament, he was sentenced to six months imprisonment in 1936. He became a member of the Communist Party secretariat in that year.

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- d. After the capitulation of France in June 1940, Subject issued an appeal in the Belgian press, demanding the French and Belgian authorities, civil as well as military, to facilitate the return of young Belgians and refugees who were living in unoccupied France because the German High Command was demanding the economic recovery of Belgium. He went to Paris to assist in the repatriation of Belgians in the Liege area and made use the authorization and support of the Germans and was in disagreement with the repatriation services of the Belgian Embassy in Paris. Lahaut worked closely with the Germans during 1940 - 1941. Arrested by the Germans in September 1941, he was interned at Neuengam camp from which he returned in May 1945. He spent about three weeks at the Hospital St. Pierre in Brussels, but soon resumed his political activities.
- e. Subject was named president of the Belgian Communist Party on 11 August 1945 during a meeting of the Greater Executive Central Committee. In November 1946 he was removed from the vice-presidency of the Chamber. Lahaut is very active and often takes the floor at meetings. He presided at the Party's Central Committee meeting and the 8th Congress.
4. Ernest Louis Burnelle, Communist Deputy from Liege, elected in 1946:
- a. Subject was born on 12 July 1908 at Liege. He is a bachelor, living at 11 rue du Calvaire, Liege, and is a professor at the high school. He was elected Communist deputy and communal counselor for Liege in 1946.
- b. Burnelle is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chief of "agitprop" for the Liege Federation. He also belongs to the Brigade Jacquemotte. Formerly chief editor of the Drapeau Rouge, he is now its political director and continues to serve as communal counselor for Liege.
5. Jean Alfred Terfve, Communist deputy from Mons, elected in 1946:
- a. Terfve was born at Liege on 28 January 1907. He is a lawyer, living at 550 Chaussee de Waterloo, Ixelles, and is married to Andree nee Legros. Subject, one of the principal heads of the Belgian Communist Party, received a Catholic education but renounced this religion when a young boy. He became a lawyer and is a member of the bar at Liege. He belonged to the "Jeunes Gardes Socialistes" when a student. For two years he was secretary of the Federation of Belgian Public Secondary Schools and later a collaborator of the liberal senator Buisseret. In 1934 Terfve became secretary of the C.V.I.A. (Comite de Vigilance des Intellectuels Anti-Fascistes) which was organized in Liege and is similar to the French organization of the same name. This group includes some fifteen thousand members. He led a series of extremely active campaigns against the Rexists and was the artist of the pamphlet "Why We Are Fighting Rex".
- b. In 1935 Terfve joined the Communist Party. He claims to be one of the leaders for the fight in favor of Republican Spain. In 1940 he did not renounce anti-Nazism, as did most of the Communists but directed a clandestine paper L'Espoir. The day after the invasion of the USSR, he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned in the Citadel at Huy. He managed to escape on 25 August 1941 with Lahaut who had also fallen into the hands of the Germans. Terfve went underground at Mons and the Borinage area. He was charged with agitation and propaganda in the Borinage and later with the organization of the "Front de l'Independance" in Wallonia. He was at the head of the Armee des Partisans in July 1943 and named Communist delegate to the "Front de l'Independance" in March 1944.
- c. Elected Communist deputy for Mons in 1946, he became Minister of Reconstruction in April of that year but only remained in this job for a few months. On 17 February 1945 Terfve was elected National Secretary at the "Front de l'Independance" Congress held at Brussels. At this time he was very active and often took the floor at meetings and demonstrations.

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When Terfve assumed his position at the Ministry of Reconstruction, most of the personnel was replaced by Communist Party members. When the Ministry was taken over by Deman, it was reported that several cars belonging to the Ministry had disappeared. An indictment was issued against Terfve, charging him with misappropriation of five hundred million francs.

- d. Subject is a member of the Communist Party's Central Committee and political editor for the Drapeau Rouge. He is also a member of the Administrative Council of the French Alliance in Belgium. He belongs to the National Confederation of Political Prisoners of Belgium and in this capacity has made trips to Poland and Yugoslavia. In June 1947 there was a strong dislike between Subject and the Communist leaders. A disagreement between Terfve and Lalmand was based on the following motives: (1) the question of the use of certain funds in an affair to which they were not appointed - apparently in the amount of millions, and (2) disagreement on the subject of Dr. Lepage, ex-senator of the Communist Party. In April 1948 Terfve and other Party leaders went to the Soviet Embassy on several occasions and made contact with the delegates of the Secret Committee of the Union of Soviet Patriots (UPS). Subject is reported to be a delegate of the Western Cominform.

6. Raoul Baligand, Communist deputy from Charleroi, elected in 1946a

- a. Raoul Baligand, a mechanic by profession, was elected Communist deputy for Charleroi and Communal Counselor for Gilly in 1946. He has belonged to the Communist Party since 1932. Born at Roux on 4 January 1913, he lives at 6 rue de Lodelinsart, Gilly, and is married to Bertha nee Verkerk.
- b. Subject is in charge of local "cadres" and is a very active member of the Communist Youth movement. He is ex-assistant national commander of the Partisans Armes and president of the National committee of the International Brigades, in which he fought with the rank of captain. In 1939, when liaison between Spanish veterans in Belgium who had been called to the colors and directors of the Society of Veterans of Spain was ended, Subject tried to reestablish the contact and published a paper called Espagne. Due to world events, this sheet only appeared once, and the attempt to reorganize was abandoned. In 1941 Subject joined the Armee Belge des Partisans and became one of the leaders and founders at Charleroi. He participated in the liberation of Liege and that area.
- c. He was elected to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in 1945. In 1945 he carried arms voluntarily and was given a citation of second/lieutenant in the reserves. Intelligent, determined and very active, Baligand is suspected of being concerned with the Communist militia and of engaging in well-organized and intense recruiting within the Belgian army. This activity has come to the attention of the Ministry of National Defense. In 1945 Subject was elected to the Central Committee and in 1946 to the Central Control Commission of the Communist Party.
- d. In his capacity as Deputy, he presided at a meeting in March 1946 which was organized by the Charleroi Federation of the Communist Party to warn democratic people against Franco's activities and to inform them of Belgian policy. At the close of the meeting a vote was taken on the proposition of requesting the Government to break off relations with Fascist Spain. Baligand attends many meetings - those held by resistance members, meetings of "Belgian Friends of Republican Spain" and Communist meetings where he always makes a speech glorifying the resistance, commemorating the battles in Spain and denouncing the reaction groups. He spoke at the 8th Congress of the Communist Party in May 1946, praising a "democratic" army. According to Subject, the Belgian High Command is made up almost

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entirely of reactionary elements. Officers are recruited under conditions which make it practically impossible for the "cadres" to reach the level of the people. Shortly after this congress Baligand reportedly submitted a project to the Party for preparatory military service. Early in August 1946 Subject presided at the greater National Congress of the Spanish International Brigades, at which he was elected president of the National Executive Committee.

- e. Subject is still very active and is often in conflict with the police. His wife who was born at Antwerp on 13 February 1906, is a Communist Party member in the Brussels Federation.

7. Victor Joseph Briol, Communist deputy from Namur, elected in 1946:

- a. Subject was born at Montleban on 28 May 1905. He is a widower and lives at 9 rue du Ham, Jemeppe-sur-Sambre. Since 1945 Subject has been Political Secretary of the Communist Party's Namur Federation and was elected deputy for Namur in 1946.
- b. Briol was Communist representative, as member of the "Front de l'Independance", in the Committee of Vigilance for Namur. He attended the 6th Congress of the Communist Party and has been elected member of the Central Committee. He is also President of the Party's Federal Committee.
- c. Subject is one of eight children. He began working as a woodcutter at the age of twelve. He later worked in the metal industry and then as lock-keeper on the canal.

8. Willy Jean Frere, Communist deputy from Thuin, elected in 1946:

- a. Subject, born at Solre-sur-Sambre on 4 May 1916, is married to Lilians, nee Mupin and they live at 14 rue Theo Massart, Fayt-lez-Manage. He is an accountant. Frere was elected Communist deputy for Thuin in 1946. He joined the Communist Party in 1936 and soon became Political Secretary for Erquelines, then Secretary for Organization of the Thudinie Federation.
- b. During the occupation Frere was Assistant National Commander of the Armee Belge des Partisans, military "responsable" for the Borinage Federation and finally Assistant National Commander of the Partisans. He returned to the Party after the liberation and became Political Secretary of the Soignies Federation and, at the same time, Political Secretary of the Liege Federation. He is a member of the Executive Central Committee. As official Communist delegate he attended a meeting to form the Committee of the Centre area for the "Friends of Republican Spain". In his capacity of "responsable" for economic and social affairs, Frere belongs to the group of Walloons represented in parliament.

9. Henri Barthemely Reul, Communist deputy from Verviers, elected in 1946:

- a. Subject was born at Dison on 15 November 1900. He is a foreman in a textile mill and is married to Marie Elie nee Tessen. He lives at 247 rue de Verviers, Andrimont. Reul was elected Communist deputy for Verviers and communal counselor for Andrimont in 1946. In 1945 he was Political Secretary of the Verviers Federation and member of the Rural Committee. He is a member of the greater Executive Committee of the Communist Party.
- b. Deputy and communal counselor, local and federal Party Secretary. Subject is an active element and will blindly obey orders. He is said capable of provoking and even encouraging violence. Subject reportedly took part in the strike of 1934, despite his job as foreman, and was member of the Central Committee for Strikes. He next became Secretary of the "Secours Rouge International" in 1934, and in April of the same year he went to Berlin with the delegation to demand the release of the Communist leader Thaelman. He was sent to the USSR in October 1934. Reul is in charge of propaganda for the

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10. Theodore Joseph Dejace, Communist deputy from Liege, elected in 1946:

- a. Subject, a communal instructor, was born at Liege 7 March 1906. His domicile is listed at 41 rue Dieudonne Salme, Liege, but he lives in Brussels at 17 rue de Poincon. His divorced wife is Elisabeth nee Gilles. Dejace, commonly called "Theo", was elected Communist deputy for Liege in 1946. As early as 1925 he already showed certain tendencies towards Communism. In 1928 he was expelled from the Association for Metal Workers because of his propaganda work to set up Communist cells. Since before the war he has carried on an active campaign among communal employees of the city of Liege.
- b. Because he was sought by the Germans at the beginning of the occupation, he gave up his job of instructor and went into hiding. His conduct during the war was above reproach. Dejace is reported as Secretary General of the Confederation Belge des Syndicats Uniques. When he was elected deputy in 1946, he resigned his post as National Secretary of the Federation Generale des Travailleurs de Belgique (FGTB). He is delegate of the Centrale Generale des Services Publics, designated Federal Political Secretary for the regional Communist Federation and National Secretary of the Syndicats Uniques.

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