

Doc. # 1

File # 1686-sa/2

CUKURS Herberts

He was born on May 17, 1900 in Liopaja as a son of Janis CUKURS, an artisan; his mother's name is Anna nee SKULRA. Herberts Cukurs is married, his wife's name is Milda nee BERZUPE; he has two children (the age and number not certain). He participated in the Liberation Wars of Latvia 1918/1920, commissioned due to valor, attended Aviation school (military) and served in the Latvian Air Force as officer, last rank known a captain (among Latvians known as "kapteinis Cukurs"). Worked on plane construction, known as good mechanic, drove "hot rods". Quit the Air Force in 'thirties, acquired his own plane, made famous flights in 1933/34 to Africa to the former Latvian colony Gambia, crossed the desert of Sahara; earned his living by publishing his experiences and became famous because popularized the ancient Latvian history by visiting the former colonies; wanted to visit also Tobago (another former Latvian colony in the 17th century), but was refused permission by British. Visited by plane also several European states and was a person known to every kid in Latvia. How did he manage to escape during the first Soviet occupation is not known, it might be learned from former captain of Latvian air force fru BLAUS who is in US (address might be obtained from Mr. Aleksandrs UDRIS, employee of the Library of Congress), and from Juris BENJAMINS at 218 Young Ave., Toronto, Ont., Canada, who associated with H.C.

During the German occupation H.C. was with the Gerjan SD, in the ill-fated BRAJS group, believed to have participated in the persecution of Jews. After the war fled to Sweden and eventually settled down in Brasil, presumably Sao Paulo. During the time when the bulk of the former Latvian Legion was in the POW Camp Zedelghem, Belgium (under British administration), the British intelligence looked for H.C. and detained a second lieutenant fru CUKURS; the latter was able to prove that he is not identic with H.C. by showing the picture of H.C. in the book "My flight to Gambia"; also the a/m capt. BLAUS was able to state that H.C. is in Sweden because there appeared an ad in the Latvian newspaper in Sweden, inviting a woman and two kids to join father in Sweden, and though only the christian names were mentioned in the ad, Blaus identified the woman and kids as the wife and children of H.C. (names used were the ones used by H.C. in his family, not the real names, ~~former aliases~~). Due to this investigation it was indicated that H.C. was caught because of his activities under the German occupator, his superior, major BRAJS, was arrested in the a/m POW Camp where he had hidden himself under a false name ABLE). Later it became known that H.C. is in Brasil where he operates a boat-for-rent station at a lake; he had difficulties because the local Jewish population tried to achieve his expulsion from Brasil and even destroyed his enterprise; H.C. wrote a letter to the Latvian Veterans' Organization "Daugavas Vanagi" in Germany ab. 1950 asking for assistance in his struggle against the Brazilian Jews, viz. he wanted a letter of recommendation showing that he has not committed any atrocities during the German occupation; such a certificate was refused. Recently there was an article in a Latvian newspaper describing Cukurs' present life in Brasil, so it seems he has overcome the opposition against him and probably is running his enterprise in same place. He can be described as a very venturesome person with a touch of adventurer and good businessman with little scruples. (B)

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8. Herberts CUKURS. Well-known Latvian flyer who allegedly commanded a punitive formation in the German Army, later escaped to the West.

There are numerous references to Herberts CUKURS aka ZUKURS. In March 1945 one Captain CUKURS of the Latvian Army was reported to have been a member of the Latvian Nazi Organization Perkonkrusts. He was said to have belonged to a notorious execution command and to have been very active in killing Jews. Imponas, a Communist daily newspaper in Rio de Janeiro published an article on 19 July 1950 stating that Herbert CUKURS was supposedly number 17 on the Nuremberg list of war criminals and was living in Rio de Janeiro. A usually reliable source reported that during the German occupation of Latvia, Herberts CUKURS allegedly belonged to the ill-famed Arajs group who were said to have participated in the persecution of Jews. After the war he fled to Sweden and eventually settled in Brazil where he operated a boats-for-rent station. The Jewish population allegedly tried to have him expelled from Brazil. According to an article in a local Latvian newspaper, CUKURS apparently was able to overcome the opposition against him in Brazil. He was described as being a very venturesome person and a good businessman with few scruples.

9. Artur FREIBERG. Well-known opera singer who has been to Canada. Casual acquaintance of AMENOCLE who met him in Riga in 1955.

a) CGO-130, dated 9 April 1954: Visas were requested for six Soviet musicians to tour Canada in response to an invitation from the Canadian-Soviet Friendship Society. One of the six was Arthur P. FREIBERG, singer with the Latvian State Theater.

b) CGO-7017 dated 8 June 1954: Artur FREIBERG, born 1916, Latvian, Passport # 50512. Applied for french visa early May 1954. Soviet ~~against returning to USSR.~~

10. Major General NOVIK. Minister of State Security. Met AMENOCLE on street July 1957 and told him had been cleared for trip to USA.

See DIR 38661 dated October 1957 re (Major General) Ilfens Andreevich NOVIK, born 1908, Latvia. MB Minister Latvian SSR March 1951 - March 1953.

11. Hans OZOLINS. Father of AMENOCLE's friend Viktor OZOLINS. Address: Brauhausstieg 54 Wandsbek, Hamburg. AMENOCLE inquired about his father through the OZOLINS.

1954 Hamburg telephone directory lists Hans W. OZOLIN, same address, owner of Hans OZOLIN KG, liquor store.

12. Genadiy Petrovich STOLEGV. Head of Personnel Department, CP, Riga, 1947. Party Secretary of the Moscow area of Riga and a member of the Latvian Party Central Committee.

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