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~~EXPROPRIATION CASE 1984~~
~~CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM~~
~~SECRET~~

AIR

OBBA 3087

Chief, WA 28 15-5
Chief of [redacted]

18 February 1955
18 Feb 1955

Operational

20-4 Report of receipt of basic materials

Refs: [redacted] 5766, 14 Feb 55
[redacted] 151, 17 Feb 55
[redacted] 1716, 18 Feb 55

The report referred to in [redacted] is summarized in the following paragraphs.

Joseph Henri VINCENT was born in Belgium on 21 February 1911. He has of Belgian nationality and resided at rue de Cambin 22, Liège, having established residence in France on 12 August 1942. His wife, Marie Thérèse BIRAN, was born in Wallonia, Belgium, on 15 January 1921. She is a Belgian national. The station [redacted] received the first of the report was prepared from [redacted] and [redacted] in effect a record of at Francis Marcel BIRAN referred to in [redacted] (French original VINCENT, having divorced Jeanne GUYFFLET in [redacted] on 23 August 1946 in Liège, France. BIRAN gave birth to a son, [redacted] on 18 October 1948 (to the date of marriage) and to another, [redacted] on [redacted] 1948.

The first record of VINCENT's participation in business in his registration with the Registre de Commerce in Liège on 1 June 1943 as a businessman engaged in the sale of electrical material. At his home, then located at 107 rue de Famy in Montegnée. After its marriage to BIRAN, VINCENT transferred his business to 81 rue Noyaux, Liège, where he established a shop for optical and chrome plating. On 1 April 1946 he withdrew his commercial registration in Liège. He was declared bankrupt on 1 June 1946. Following a judgment for the separation of the marital community, BIRAN took over her husband's commercial registration on 1 March 1947. The registration at the time was modified to show that BIRAN was engaged in the purchase and sale of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, electrical material, and the assembly of electrical equipment for the [redacted] at present his [redacted] business at Quai St. Lambert, Liège.

Insofar as VINCENT's official [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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- a. Since 1952 he has been suspected by Belgian authorities in Liège of trafficking with iron curtain countries in strategic materials.
 - b. In 1952 he was implicated in an affair involving the theft of nickel in Herstal.
 - c. In 1953 he was suspected by the authorities of having dealt in the smuggling of demonetized pieces of Belgian currency.
 - d. In January 1954 he received a court summons involving a charge by the frauds section of the Parquet de Liège that he was implicated in a fraudulent transaction which concerned a shipment of cast iron instead of ordered nickel to an Advert firm. He was sentenced on this charge by the Correctional Court of Liège on 22 October 1954 to a suspended prison term of four months and a fine of 100 Belgian francs.
 - e. On 23 March 1954 VINCENT was arrested in Luxembourg on the charge of having participated with José Marie HANDEL and Jan HAAGLOREN in the fraudulent exportation of nickel. (Luxembourg ODACID reported in July 1954 that the arrestees were released on bail in June 1954. [CFRA-1759] indicates that HAAGLOREN succeeded in fleeing to Switzerland on 22 15 November 1954. The result of the case so far as VINCENT was concerned has not been reported. [this station])
01 24
5. The [NIGHTINGALE] post in Liège has reported that BARRA is aware of her husband's business activities and approves of them. However, neither VINCENT nor BARRA is known to that post as a member of any extremist organization or as assisting any such group.
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6. It is regretted that the [NIGHTINGALE] report does not permit [this station] to provide a more definitive analysis of the veracity of VIV's original story. We shall, however, report any further information which tends either to confirm or refute his claim. [this station] files, as noted in [BRIN-151], that Luxembourg ODACID, which reported the VIV story originally, should be requested by OPACID to provide an evaluation of VIV and otherwise contribute to determine whether or not the story has any basis in fact.

Paul Y. Bouchard

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