

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

WASHINGTON

17 November, 1941.

Subject: *Activities of National Maritime Union.*

Reference:

Summary of Information:

The Latvian SS *KEGUMS* arrived at the Kansas City Southern coke dock, Port Arthur, Texas, on 6 November, 1941. Within an hour of her arrival and shortly after receiving permission from the Immigration authorities for shore liberty, Red Hawks, reported organizer of the National Maritime Union said to be working at Port Arthur, Texas, took three members of the engineers force of this vessel to the National Maritime Union (C.I.O.) Hall on Houston Street. A short time later these men presented themselves to the Inspector in Charge of the Immigration office and requested they be paid off from the *KEGUMS* and allowed to go to New York City and seek employment on some other vessel. The request was denied but it is noted with great interest that these men repeatedly asserted that they had the backing of the National Maritime Union (C.I.O.) in case they so desired. A member of the Coast Guard accompanied the Immigration Agent to see that they were returned to the ship.

Upon arrival at the gangway of the *KEGUMS* it was noted that Red Hawks was on board arguing with the master. Investigation has disclosed that he disregarded the master's request that he leave the vessel and remarked that unless the master and company met his demands for better quarters, better food and a better grade of blankets and numerous other trivial things he (Red Hawks) would organize the entire ship and cause plenty of trouble.

Also on board the *KEGUMS* was a member of the crew, Alberts Ciss, Latvian, age 44, a fireman, who is known to be a member of the National Maritime Union (C.I.O.), a member in good standing at Mobile, Alabama, who is acting as a representative aboard this vessel. At the instigation of the Coast Guard representative at Port Arthur, Texas, and the British Vice Consul a detention order was issued on Ciss in order to

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keep him from conferring ashore with Red Hawks. The Sheriff's office has furnished reliable deputies to stand continuous watch on the gangway of the KEGUMS in an attempt to keep the National Maritime Union (C.I.O.) organizers off the vessel.

It is understood that the Latvian Consul and ship's owners have issued strict orders to keep this type of organizer off their vessels but before he could be apprehended Hawks had bullied his way past the inexperienced guards and caused considerable trouble on board. The action of Red Hawks in this case is considered extremely un-American and considerable apprehension is felt by all federal departments of this locality regarding further trouble aboard this ship.

The men who presented themselves to the Immigration Inspector requesting transfer were as follows:

- GEORGINO SILVA, Brazilian, 29 years of age, serves as fireman aboard the KEGUMS.
- MARIU RAMULESCO, Romanian, 40 years of age, also a fireman.
- ALFREDO ADOLFIS, Latvian, 28 years of age, also a fireman.

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Source: Reliable

Information: Reliable