

Latvian emigre, facing deportation, flees N.Y.

From Inquirer Wire Services

WASHINGTON — A Latvian emigre, facing deportation to the Soviet Union on charges that he committed Nazi atrocities in Latvia, has secretly left his Long Island home and is believed to be in West Germany, government sources said yesterday.

Boleslavs Maikovskis, 84, who has lived in Mineola, N.Y., since 1951, was chief of a Nazi-created police force in Latvia during World War II. He was ordered deported in 1984 after he admitted to the Justice Department that men acting on his orders had arrested the residents of a Latvian village and then burned the town. The 200 villagers later were killed.

He had been awaiting deportation since 1986, when the U.S. Supreme Court denied his petition for a review of the case.

Neal M. Sher, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, said yesterday that "at some point he got himself abroad and it is clear he must have gotten himself there by fraudulent means. He had no passport. He obviously realized that waiting in the cards for him was deportation to the Soviet Union."

The special-investigations office learned "a day or so ago" that he had left the country, Sher said.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Maikovskis was in West Germany.

The Inquirer reported last month that Maikovskis had served on the advisory board of the Latvian-American section of the 1972 Heritage Groups for the Re-Election of the President, a national ethnic coalition in the Nixon-Agnew re-election campaign.

Karl V. Balodis of Merrick, N.Y., who served as executive director of the Latvian-American section in 1972, said last night that he telephoned Maikovskis "about a week ago." Balodis, 72, who lives about 15 miles from Maikovskis' home, said Maikovskis did not tell him he was leaving the country.

Maikovskis' departure came to light yesterday when the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith issued a press release calling on Attorney General Dick Thornburgh to launch an "immediate investigation into Maikovskis' whereabouts and prompt action to bring him to justice."

National director Abraham H. Foxman said the league confirmed on Thursday that Maikovskis was missing and called the Justice Department to report it.

"They said in confidence they know that he's missing and they know where he is," Foxman said from New York. "So we said, 'Why don't you tell the American people?' They said they can't do that."

Sher suggested that the league deal with the German authorities.

Maikovskis asked to be deported to Switzerland but was rejected by the government there, Sher said. A Justice Department designation of West Germany as the deportation destination was rejected by that country.

On Oct. 7, the Justice Department petitioned the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals to deport Maikovskis to Moscow, Sher said.

Inquirer staff writer David Lee Preston contributed to this article.

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Thu, Jan 28, 2021