

ADDRESS OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

RECEIVED FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT
THROUGH THE DAWSON CHANNEL

9-13-47

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON



In reply refer to
FC 859A.00/6-1247

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.

(✓) Release () Excise () Deny (✓) Declassify

Date 12-01-04 Exemption September 5, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

To: J. Edgar Hoover, Esquire,
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From: Jack D. Neal,
Chief, Division of
Foreign Activity Correlation.

Subject: Halldor Kiljan LAXNESS

The subject named above is a prominent Icelandic author living in Reykjavik, who is also a leading member of the Communist Party in Iceland. We have been informed that Mr. Laxness' book, "Independent People," was a Book of the Month Club selection for 1946. The book is reported to have sold some 428,000 copies from which Laxness obviously received a considerable amount of income.

Our legation in Iceland has requested us to inform them of the average monthly remittances Mr. Laxness has received in 1946 and thus far in 1947 from the sale of his book in the United States through the Book of the Month Club. This information would be extremely useful in order to find out how much support is being given to the Communist Party in Iceland from funds originating in the United States.

For your further information, Mr. Laxness was granted a State Artists Award for the current year and has stated that he would in turn give away this award as a prize for the best essay on "The Surrender of Sovereign Rights in the Fall of 1946." The competition for this prize will close December 31, 1947. Entries are to be submitted to the Reverend Sigurbjorn Einarsson, Chairman of the Landvorn (Society for the Defense of our Nation) and fellow traveller lecturer on theology at the University of Iceland. Landvorn is an organization founded under Communist auspices at the time of the United States-Icelandic negotiations concerning our use of air bases in Iceland, and the obvious purpose of the essay contest is to produce further propaganda to the effect that Iceland has surrendered its sovereign rights in permitting the United States to use air bases there.

COPIES DESTROYED
85 1 OCT 5 1962

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORDED
INDEXED

1/00- 352780

15 SEP 25 1947

SE 9
EX-67

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

We should appreciate very much your obtaining for us in a discreet manner information as to the amount of money Laxness has received from the sale of his book in this country. If we obtain further information on Mr. Laxness, we shall forward it to you.

CONFIDENTIAL

W28