



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York  
September 18, 1964

SECRET

54/838

② Alfreds Berzins also known as

NY T-1, another Government agency which conducts security type investigations, by communication dated June 17, 1964, advised that a source, whose reliability is unknown, stated that Alfreds Berzins, a former Latvian Minister, resides in New York City where he works for the "Committee for Free Europe". The source indicated that the Latvian KGB (Committee of State Security) has issued orders not to attack Berzins in the Soviet Latvian press. Source could not explain why this order was given.

Immigration and Naturalization  
Service (INS) Records

On September 16, 1964, Sidney A. Davis, Assistant Chief, Records Administration and Information Section, INS, 20 West Broadway, New York City, New York, made available to Special Agent William F. Martin the INS record of Alfreds Berzins, Alien Registration Number A7845451, which contained the following information:

Alfreds Berzins entered the United States at New York, New York, on August 29, 1950 on the SSNS General Haan.

Berzins' Application for Immigration Visa and Alien Registration, dated July 28, 1950, contained the following information:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

FOR COORDINATION WITH FBI

S E C R E T

Alfreds Berzins also known as

Occupation	Minister of State
Last Permanent Address	Displaced Persons Camp Zoo, Hamburg, Germany
Born	October 21, 1899, in Jeri, Latvia
Father's Name	Jekabs Berzins
Mother's Name	Karline nee Peterens, both parents deceased
Previous Residences	1913 - 1918, Karki, Latvia  1918 - 1921, at different places in Latvia  1921 - 1940, Riga, Latvia  1940, Tallinn, Estonia; Helsingfors, Finland; Stockholm, Sweden and Geneva, Switzerland  1941, Rome, Italy  1941 - 1943, Berlin and Sachsenhausen, Germany  1943 - 1947, Berlin, Nausnitz, Luebeck, Brunninghausen, and Hamlen, Germany  1947 - 1948, Hamlen, Germany  1948 - 1950, Blomberg and Hamburg, Germany

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Berzins' wife's name was listed as Aline Berzins nee Saberts, who was born in Auce, Latvia, and whose present residence was unknown. His daughter's name was listed as Maija, who was born December 13, 1933, at Riga, Latvia, and whose present residence was unknown.

The records reflect that Berzins speaks Latvian, Russian, German and some English.

His port of embarkation was Bremerhaven and his passage to the United States was paid by the International Refugee Organization of Geneva, Switzerland.

The INS report also contained a report of the investigation conducted by the United States Displaced Persons Commission, British Zone, Hamburg, Germany, which reflects in part that a thorough investigation was conducted as to the character, history and eligibility of Berzins, and it was established to the satisfaction of the Commission that he is of good character and behavior, that he has never been a member of the Communist, Nazi, or Fascist parties, and does not adhere to or advocate any political or economic system or philosophy directed toward the destruction of free enterprise or the revolutionary overthrow of representative governments. This report also contains a history of Berzins which is set forth as follows:

He was born on October 21, 1899, at Jeri, Latvia. He married Aline Saberts at Riga, Latvia, on November 6, 1932. In December, 1941, he received a letter from his wife's mother that his wife and daughter had been deported to Russia and he has not received any further news from them.

Berzins attended elementary school from 1908 to 1911, at Karki, Latvia; Commercial school 1911 to 1915 at Rujiena, Latvia; the Gymnasium, 1915 to 1918, at Valka, Latvia; and military academy, 1918 to 1920 at Riga, Latvia. He was Minister of the Interior of Latvia when the country was occupied by the Communists in 1940, and he remained at Riga for one month after his removal from office. During July, 1940, he fled via Estonia

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and Finland to Sweden. He stayed in Stockholm, Sweden from July to December, 1940. In the summer of 1940, Berzins went to Switzerland, where he attended a Latvian conference in Geneva, and from there he went to Rome, Italy, where he attended a Baltic Diplomatic Conference until February, 1941. While en route from Rome to Stockholm, in February, 1941, he was arrested by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Berlin, Germany, until July, 1941.

From July, 1941 until November, 1943, he was confined at the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, Germany, and while there was released to work under police supervision as a clerk for the Building Trade Workers Welfare Association at Berlin. In February, 1945, he fled to Nausnitz, Germany and because of Russian occupation, he fled in July, 1945, to Lubeck, where he entered a Displaced Persons Camp.

Since July, 1945, he resided continuously in Displaced Persons Camps at Lubeck, Brunninghausen, Hamlen, Blomberg and Hamburg, Germany, (where he has been in the "Zoo" Camp since April, 1950 and has been a journalist for Latvian newspapers).

On December 1, 1954, Alfreds Berzins was granted an Application for Permit to Re-Enter the United States. He indicated that he would depart from the United States on December 2, 1954, via Pan American World Airways for one week to visit a sick relative residing at 87 Eton Place, London, England. Berzins was readmitted to the United States at New York City, New York, on December 8, 1954.

On July 2, 1964, Berzins was granted an Application for Permit to Re-Enter the United States. Berzins indicated that he was departing from the United States on August 22, 1964, for one month, to visit Australia as a tourist for the purpose of visiting relatives.

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His mailing address would be in care of Mr. Delins, 38 Longstaff Street, East Ivanhoe, Victoria, Australia.

The following description was noted for the subject in records of INS:

Name	Alfreds Berzins
Date of Birth	October 21, 1899
Place of Birth	Valmiera, Jeri, Latvia
Sex	Male
Race	White
Height	5' 8"
Weight	180 pounds
Eyes	Green
Hair	Gray
Current Residence	219 West 81st Street, New York City, New York
Occupation	Senior Editor, Radio Free Europe, 2 Park Avenue, New York, New York

Marriage Records

On May 28, 1964, Investigative Clerk (IC) William J. Paul checked the records of the Marriage Bureau, New York City, and obtained the following information:

Marriage Record Number 30083 reflects that Alfreds Berzins and Kira Birzgalis Adams obtained a marriage license on December 27, 1961 and were married on December 28, 1961, in New York City, by Thomas A. Lenane, Deputy Clerk.

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Records reflect that Alfreds Berzins was born October 21, 1899, Valmiera, Latvia. His father was listed as Jekabs Berzins, born in Latvia, and his mother's maiden name was shown as Karlina Peterers, who was also born in Latvia.

Berzins' residence was shown to be 121 West 92nd Street, New York City. His employment was listed as that of a Senior Editor. Records reflect this is the second marriage for Berzins. His first marriage was listed as being to Aline Suberts, and he was divorced on January 29, 1951, in Germany, the divorce being in his favor.

Information concerning Berzins' second wife reflects that she was born October 31, 1917, in Russia. Her father was listed as Eugene Adams, born in Latvia, and her mother's maiden name was shown to be Emily Dumbars, born in Latvia. Records also show that Kira Adams is employed as a dental surgeon and resides at 219 West 81st Street, New York City, New York. This is also a second marriage for Adams and she was divorced from Evald Birzgals on December 5, 1949, in Germany on grounds of desertion.

On August 5, 1964, at the Central Office, INS, Investigative Clerk John D. Bonaccorsy reviewed the file of Kira Berzgalis Adams which revealed that she was born October 31, 1917, in Ossz, Russia and was a national of Latvia. She went to elementary school, high school and a university in Riga, Latvia between 1926 and 1943. In September, 1944, she entered Germany and lived in Moorane, Plauen, and Boosslau practicing dentistry part of the time. In August of 1945, she worked as a dentist for the United States Army and for the International movement office. This necessitated a good deal of travel throughout Germany. She has been in Esslingen, Boeblingen, Bamberg and Cohn, Germany.

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She first entered the United States on August 18, 1947, as a member of the crew of the "U.S.A.T. General St. Heintzmelman" and made several trips to and from the United States between 1947-1949, in this capacity.

She entered the United States for permanent residence on November 9, 1949, at New York City aboard "U.S.A.T. General M.R. Stewart". She was in possession of Immigration Visa #2056/55 issued by the American Foreign Service at Stuttgart, Germany on October 4, 1949, passport requirement waived by Secretary of State under date of September 28, 1948. She filed Petition for Naturalization #661212 in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, at New York City, on May 4, 1955, with witnesses to Petition being Beruta Grunwald, 42-20 Haight Place, Flushing, New York, (1955) and Velta Haas, 3173 Mark Alan Drive, Wantagh, New York (1955). She was naturalized in the same court on June 6, 1955, under Certificate of Naturalization Number 7 506 415 as Kira Berzgalis Adams.

The file also contained the following pertinent data:

Relatives:

Mother:	Emiliya Adams nee Dumbers, Eslingen, Germany (1950)
Father:	Eizens Adams (deceased)
Husband:	Evalds Berzgalis, born April 4, 1916, in Russia; married October 25, 1941, Riga, Latvia; divorced in 1949. (Husband had never entered United States as of 1955)

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Alfreds Berzins also known as

Acquaintance:

Emma Sneider  
2902 Cortelyou Road,  
Brooklyn, New York

Addresses:  
(prior to 1949)

Hotel Pierpont,  
Brooklyn, New York;  
Latvian Legation,  
Washington, D. C.

Addresses:  
(subsequent to 1949)

6643 Bergen Place,  
Brooklyn, New York (1949);  
101 West 52nd Street,  
New York, New York  
(1949 - 1955)

Employments:

Guggenheim Dental Clinic  
422 East 72nd Street,  
New York City (1949 -1951)

Jewish Memorial Hospital,  
Broadway and 196th Street,  
New York City (1951)

Dr. C. C. Jones and  
Dr. L. Bluestone (1951-  
1953), Brooklyn, New York  
(address partially  
illegible)

Organizations:

Association of Women  
Dentists Sorority  
"Imesia"

The file contained no further pertinent or  
derogatory information.

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On January 12, 1951, Alfreds Berzins was interviewed by a Special Agent of the FBI. At that time, he stated that he had arrived in the United States as a displaced person on August 29, 1950, and was residing with Mr. Edward Grantskains at 157 Fairmount Avenue, Chatham, New Jersey. He said he was unemployed at the present time but received monthly subsistence payments from the Latvian Legation. He had no relatives in the United States and his only known living relative was his sister, Milda Anschmitz residing in Surrey, England. He stated that he had applied for his first papers for United States citizenship.

Berzins advised that he was born August 21, 1899, in Latvia. Since high school days, he was active in political organizations and he was an organizer of the Latvian National Guard (Aizsari) and promoted various sports organizations. He became a member of Parliament in Latvia in the Farms Union List. His Cabinet posts included that of Undersecretary of the Interior and from 1934 until the Russian invasion, in 1940, he was Minister of Public Affairs under President Ulmanis. He acted frequently for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and has been a Delegate to the International Labor Conference at Geneva. Following the Russian occupation of Latvia in 1940, Berzins escaped to Sweden and Switzerland but was seized in Germany and placed in a concentration camp at Sachsenhausen where he spent thirty-three months.

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Acquaintances

The following listed individuals, who were interviewed during 1951, by Special Agents of the FBI, all of whom have known the subject for more than 20 years, indicated that Berzins had been Minister of the Interior of the Latvian Government from approximately 1935 to 1940, and that he had also held other positions in the Latvian Government. Berzins had been known to be a strong Latvian nationalist who was deeply opposed to Russia and Communism. They stated that when the Russians took over Latvia in 1940, Berzins fled the country and went to Germany, where he was interned by the German Government. Berzins' family was seized by the Russians and reportedly were deported to Russia. All of those individuals considered the subject to be a person of good character, who would be loyal to the United States and a leader in the fight against Communism.

Mr. Raphael Feldhuhn  
267 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Reverend Edward Stukels  
323 West 23rd Street  
New York, New York

Bishop Joseph Rancans  
357 Madison, Southeast,  
Detroit, Michigan

Jules Feldmans  
Minister Plenipotentiary,  
Charge d'Affairs of Latvia,  
Latvian Legation,  
Washington, D. C.

Anatol Dinbergs  
First Secretary of the Latvian Legation  
Washington, D. C.

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Jacob James Brahma  
Owner of the Olmstead Restaurant  
1336 G Street Northwest  
Washington, D. C.

Peter Lejins  
Professor of Sociology  
University of Maryland  
and former Professor of Law in Latvia

Mrs. Leo Flachte  
1020 19th Street, Northwest,  
Apartment 308,  
Washington, D. C., formerly  
Mrs. Ludwig Ekis, whose husband was  
a Minister of Finance in Latvia from 1934 to 1938.

Hugo Bergs,  
Box 207A, Route 3,  
Petaluma, California

Mr. Edward Grantskalns  
167 Fairmount Avenue  
Chatham, New Jersey

Mr. and Mrs. Janis Slasports  
1 Noll Place  
Newark, New Jersey

Mrs. Mirdza Seya Liepins, 4248 23rd Street,  
San Francisco, California, advised that her father,  
Charles Louis Seya was the former Latvian Minister to  
Kaunas, Lithuania. She stated that she had no personal  
acquaintance with Berzins but that she had heard during  
the time that she was in Latvia up until 1940, that  
Berzins was considered to be an opportunist who had supported  
whatever government was in power in Latvia.

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During August, 1951, Mrs. Wilhelmine Kusse, 44 East 92nd Street, New York City, New York, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that she is presently employed as a monitor for the North Europe Section of the Voice of America, New York City, and that it has recently come to her attention that Alfreds Berzins was being used as a writer for the Latvian Section of the Voice of America. Mrs. Kusse described Berzins as a "neo-Fascist" who was the main political power in the overthrow of the Latvian Government in 1934. She does not feel that Berzins is a suitable employee to represent the United States Government in its broadcasts to foreign countries.

Mrs. Kusse is not personally acquainted with Berzins but said that because of his importance in the dictatorial government in Latvia between 1934 and 1940, his activities are well-known to her.

Mrs. Kusse further stated that Berzins is definitely anti-Communist but said this is only because he, himself, is a fascist. In 1940, when the Russians first invaded Latvia, Berzins was forced to flee for his life. He reportedly first went to Sweden and later entered Germany, at a time when the Nazis were still in power. She further stated that although Berzins was an ardent fascist, he was not used by the Nazi Party in Germany since Hitler had already placed a national hero as the puppet ruler of Latvia.

Mrs. Kusse furnished a signed statement concerning her allegations against Berzins:

"I, Wilhelmine Kusse, wish to make the following statement to Special Agent Robert W. Knight concerning Alfreds Berzins, who I understand is the subject of an official inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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"Latvia gained her independence with Anglo-American aid after World War I. On November 18, 1918, Latvia was proclaimed a free and independent nation with a democratic system of government. After 16 years of democratic ruling a selfimposed leader, Karlis Ulmanis, with the military help of 'Aizsargs', a political military organization, and top army men overthrew the government. On May 15, 1934, a free nation ceased to exist. A form of dictatorship was imposed upon the country and nation. Free elections were never held. This dictatorship lasted until spring 1940 when Soviet Union occupied the Baltic States.

"During the six years of totalitarian system, Mr. Alfreds Berzins, was the Head of 'Aizsargs' and the Latvian Propoganda Minister ruling out and oppressing freedom of press, freedom of speech and information.

"It has now come to my attention that Dr. Alfreds Berzins is employed by the State Department, 'Voice of America'. It is hard to see how a man, who opposed with iron rule the very freedoms the Voice of America carries to the whole world could serve the Government of the United States where the principles of free information, speech and press are basic in the structure of this Government and nation.

"I have never known Mr. Alfreds Berzins personally. For a detailed and thorough information regarding the political activities of Mr. Berzins I would like to refer to Mr. Haralds Liepins.

" /s/ Wilhelmine Kusse

"New York  
August 6, 1951"

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Alfreds Berzins also known as

During 1951, Mr. Harold Liepens, 2950 Bainbridge Avenue, Bronx, New York, a night hallman for the apartment house located at 1175 Park Avenue, New York City, advised a Special Agent of the FBI that he was formerly Manager for Social Security and Social Medicine in the Ministry of People's Welfare in the democratic government of Latvia prior to 1934, and Manager of Mutual Help Fund in the Labor Camera during the dictatorship between 1934 and 1940.

Mr. Liepens said that he has known Berzins for over thirty years, both during their school days and later as members of the Latvian Government, and said he considers Berzins to be the most dangerous Fascist in the United States today. He related that prior to 1934, Berzins was a member of Parliament in the constitutionally formed government of Latvia, but that by virtue of his leadership in the Aizsargi, which is the Latvian National Guard, he was able, along with others, to overthrow the democratic regime in Latvia.

Mr. Liepens said the overthrow occurred on May 15, 1934, and members of Parliament of the democratic government were arrested and deposed. He said that Berzins, in the new dictatorship, became Propaganda Minister with the title of Minister of Internal Affairs and Social Affairs, and held that position in the dictatorship until June 14, 1940, at which time he was forced to flee to Sweden because of the Soviet invasion.

Mr. Liepens said that Berzins' brother-in-law, Janis Anshmidts, was Chief of the Latvian Police Force and that by virtue of their joint control of the National Guard and the Police Force, they actually controlled the forces necessary for domination of the government under the dictatorship, although Karlis Ulmanis was technically the Fuehrer of Latvia.

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Mr. Liepens said that Berzins remained in Sweden for only a short time and went directly to Germany where he was imprisoned by the Germans for a short time. Mr. Liepens said that, although Berzins could generally be described as a Fascist, he was specifically a Nationalist Fascist rather than a Fascist of the German type, which believed in the overall superiority of the Arian race. He explained that Berzins was interested in maintaining a dictatorship in Latvia and in promoting a strong nationalistic spirit, and, therefore, was not at first considered as an ally by the German Fascists. He said that since Hitler had no particular need for Berzins, he was imprisoned for a short time, but later was permitted to work in a bank in Berlin, Germany under the Nazi rule.

Mr. Liepens continued that after the allied victory in Europe, Berzins became a refugee in the British Zone of Germany. He recalled that sometime between the Autumn of 1945 and the Spring of 1946, Berzins was arrested by British Intelligence Officers and held for approximately one month. Mr. Liepens said he does not know the reason for this arrest and has received no further information concerning it.

As an example of the prominence of Berzins in Latvian politics, Liepens related a phrase used by the Latvians to describe the origin and growth of Fascism. He said the phrase was "Mussolini took the picture; Hitler developed it; and Berzins enlarged it." Mr. Liepens said that Berzins should have been offended by such a statement, but that he actually was proud of the fact that he had been capable of enlarging upon the Fascist activities of Mussolini and Hitler.

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Mr. Liepens said that Berzins is presently acting in a number of Latvian organizations here in the United States, and said that a segment of the Latvian population here in New York City is, therefore, under his influence. He said that Berzins urges the Latvians to consider their stay in the United States as only temporary, and urges them to retain their nationalistic spirit and to speak the Latvian language. He discourages them from becoming United States citizens and urges that the ultimate goal of Latvians in America should be that of restoring the Nationalistic-Fascist government in Latvia. He said that Berzins also urges the Latvians to send their children to the parish school in Brooklyn whereby they will learn the Latvian language and retain some Latvian nationalistic spirit, and discourages parents from sending their children to public schools.

Mr. Liepens said that, in view of the above, he does not believe that Berzins is suitable to be a representative of the United States Government in its broadcasts to Latvia, and said he fears that the people in Latvia will thus be given the erroneous impression that the United States supports and sanctions dictatorships. He said he feels certain that the Russians will use Berzins' appearances on the Voice of America for propaganda purposes among the North European countries.

During 1961, NY T-2, who was evaluated by another Government agency which conducts security and personnel investigations, as a person who is fairly reliable and whose information may possibly be true, stated that he was in Riga, Latvia, from April, 1939 to August, 1940. He advised that he is not personally acquainted with Alfreds Berzins but that he had seen him a number of times while in Latvia and it was his opinion that Berzins was Minister of Social Affairs in the Latvian Government of Dr. Karlis Ulmanis.

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NY T-2 informed that Berzins was one of the least-liked persons in the Ulmanis government and was particularly unpopular with the Latvian university students who were very chauvinistically inclined. He said he did not know the exact reasons for Berzins' unpopularity, but pointed out that among other things, Berzins was head of the Aizsargi, which was an elite, armed force or civil guard, and one of the organizations largely responsible for putting the Ulmanis government in power and sustaining it. In this connection, he said that when this government went into power, they jailed some two hundred people, and perhaps some of the persons he heard directing criticism against Berzins had been personally affected at that time. He said that Aizsargi itself was composed of only those Latvians who were proven patriots and was originally founded in 1918. He stated, however, that organizations of this type were common in the Baltic countries at that time and similar organizations existed in Finland, Lithuania, and Estonia, and are necessary in a political state which cannot always trust its army. He said he did not know just what connection Berzins had with the Aizsargi prior to the time the Ulmanis government came into power, but would suppose he was very influential since he was placed in control of it during the Ulmanis regime. He also informed that the propaganda agencies were under the control of Berzins.

NY T-2 said that all of these factors naturally made Berzins subject to criticism and he had heard some of the students with whom he came in contact make accusations that Berzins was fascistic. He said that criticism of this nature was heightened and Berzins became more unpopular with the students because of his fleeing the country when all of the other officials, including Ulmanis, remained and "went down with the government". He added that the fact that Berzins was retained in Nazi hands rather than being released to the Soviets after his escape also apparently caused some people to believe he had powerful connections with the fascists.

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NY T-2 said, however, that he has nothing of his own knowledge to cause him to believe Berzins was definitely fascist or sympathetic to the Nazis. In this respect, he pointed out that the Ulmanis government was a dictatorship which had the "fascist trappings" of salutes, uniforms, etc., but that these were common at the time in Europe. He said, however, that Ulmanis was a "paternal type dictator" and was described as such by ex-President Herbert Hoover after a trip to Latvia in 1938.

On August 10, 1964, NY T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he has personally known Berzins for several years and believes that he is presently an employee of Radio Free Europe. He recalled that Berzins divorced his first wife in Latvia and that this wife, along with a daughter, from the marriage, reportedly are presently living in the West German Zone. He further stated that Berzins went to Finland prior to the outbreak of World War II and from there to Sweden and eventually to Germany, where he spent a considerable amount of time in a concentration camp. Following World War II, Berzins did not return to Latvia. Source further advised that Berzins has recently remarried. He also stated that he knows of no information which would cast any doubt on Berzins' loyalty to this country. He further stated that he has no idea why Berzins' first wife was allowed to leave from behind the Iron Curtain and move to West Germany.

On September 16, 1964, NY T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he has been acquainted with Berzins for many years. He stated that Berzins is currently employed by Radio Free Europe in New York City, New York. He commented that he has no reason to doubt Berzins' loyalty to the United States; however, he described him as "glory happy" and that he would use any means to promote his standings. He further advised that Berzins is a very intelligent and shrewd man and he feels that he would not become involved in anything of a pro-Communist nature because of the calculated risk that would become involved.

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NY T-4 further stated that he is quite certain that Berzins is aware of the fact that his first wife is still alive and reportedly Berzins has sent packages to his first wife in Europe.

On August 25, 1964, NY T-5, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he has been acquainted with Berzins for numerous years and that Berzins was a former member of the Latvian Cabinet during 1934 when President Ulmanis took over the Latvian Government. Of the old Cabinet members, the only ones who were allowed to remain were Berzins and General Balodis. Berzins is considered to be a leader in the New York Latvian Community and it is known among the Latvians in New York that Dr. A. Spelke, Latvian Ambassador to the United States for the old free Latvian Government, who is in Washington, D. C., still obtains advice from Berzins in important matters. Source considers Berzins to be a person who "changes with the tide" and he feels while Berzins is in the United States he would work for the betterment of this government. Source considers Berzins to be loyal to the United States.

Source also advised that Berzins also recently wrote a book in the Latvian language called "The Good Years" and recently this book was publicized in "Voice of the Homeland", a Latvian language newspaper published in Riga, Latvia. Source made available Issue Number 50, dated June, 1964, of "Voice of the Homeland". Page 3 of this issue contains an article entitled "After Reading The Good Years, Remarks About the Book by Emigre A. Berzins." This article is written by Klavs Lorencs, former social democrat leader.

This article by Lorencs is critical of Alfreds Berzins and his book "The Good Years." Parts of this article, which have been translated from the Latvian language to English, are set out as follows:

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"The Good Years"...A. Berzins has published a book of reminiscences with such a title, and it touches upon more than two decades of the Latvian people's history. I read the 400-page book, as I had been one of the active participants of the events of that period. As many things mentioned in the book are distorted, it is difficult for me to keep silent and not voice my objections. I have asked the editors of "Homeland's Voice" to print these lines of mine in their newspaper.

"The political quintessence of the book, the social sympathies and even future longings of these reminiscences are tied up with the reactionary-fascistic coup-d'etat of May 15, as well as with the regime created by this coup d'etat. Already in the preceding section of the reminiscences, speaking of his life as Deputy of the Saeima and of the order and customs prevailing there, the author is trying to show that the political conditions - as if decreed by fate itself - were leading to this May 15; that the fascistic coup had come like a thunderstorm in the spring, in order to clear the stifling party skies; and that the people enthusiastically had greeted the "day of rebirth" of Latvia.

"I do not want to admit that A. Berzins is such a moronic political ignoramus who would not have understood the true meaning of the May 15 regime, its fascistic character. I should like to ask the author of the reminiscences: wasn't it Fascism which followed the coup - a totalitarian form of state government; a disbanding of the parliament, the destruction of every kind of opposition; the replacement of free public organizations and institutions with corporative chambers, whose management had been assigned and instituted by the government?!

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Alfreds Berzins also known as

"While sitting in America and speculating on Western sympathies, A. Berzins is attempting to give legal sanction to May 15th, putting on it a make-up that is more acceptable to the West. This, so he says, was a people's awakening; the curtailments affected only democracy's exaggerations; expedient changes were brought about, which gained the people's sympathies; a new representation by the people was being planned.

"But what can we ask of a man whose fascistic, anti-democratic sympathies lie in his blood and brain! In his remembrances, talking about the Nazi club's political murder, he can say that "some chance shot had killed the young worker, Masaks"... In the heroic struggle of Republican Spain, A. Berzins sees nothing but a communist plot, and he sees Hitler's Nazism as the smaller of the evils.

"In dramatic strokes, A. Berzins touches upon the "last year" of the May 15th Government, and he is deeply convinced that history will wreath their heads in an aura of heroism. I'll venture the remark that possibly history's inexorable verdict might put a final and fatal cross on this imagined aura.

"A. Berzins' personality is too unimportant, politically of little value, and socially negative to be discussed at such length. If I am doing this, it is only because, on A. Berzins' conscience, there lies the fact of his having helped to betray Latvian democracy, and with it Latvia herself. This supporter of Hitler's Germany and Gestapo politics has now, while an emigre, clothed himself in the toga of a patriot and is fighting for...the people's rights! And one must speak up also because the reactionary emigre circles have lately raised him openly on their banners, and he, himself, is adroitly trying to penetrate into the ranks of their leaders and is attempting to speak in the name of our people.

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Alfreds Berzins also known as

"Note of the Editor's Office. In publishing the remarks by the former Social-Democrat leader, K. Lorencs, regarding A. Berzins' book, "The Good Years", the Editor's Office does not consider that the author has unveiled fully the true essence of the fascistic May 15th coup d'etat; yet it recognizes that his commentaries are of considerable help in the evaluation of the unfolding of the respective events.

NY T-6, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised The Soviet Committee on Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad (formerly known as Committee For A Return to the Homeland and Development of Cultural Relations with Compatriots Abroad) is a Soviet propaganda organization founded in East Berlin, Germany in 1955; and since that time has been headed by various Soviet officials. The committee publishes a magazine entitled "Homeland" and a newspaper "Voice of the Homeland", in the Russian Byelorussian, Latvian, Estonian, Ukrainian, Georgian and other related languages. Such publications, which are mailed to numerous persons having a family origin in countries now under Soviet domination, attempt to entice such individuals to return to their homeland, to praise accomplishments of the current government of their individual countries of origin, and to attack and vilify generally the activities, leaders, and mores of countries in the Free World.

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