

*FERNSTON*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
JUN 25 1962

Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington 25, D. C.

Attention: Deputy Director, Plans

Dear Sir:

For your information, I am enclosing communications which may be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosures

*(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)*

FOR COORDINATION WITH *FBI*

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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- (2)(A) Privacy
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*FERNSTON*

*NY #5*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBA 12614

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Seattle, Washington  
June 13, 1962

SE 105-971

① RE: COMMITTEE FOR A RETURN TO THE  
HOMELAND AND DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL  
RELATIONS WITH COMPATRIOTS  
INTERNAL SECURITY - RUSSIA

On February 8, 1962, Mr. BELIZARS J. RADZINS, Research Director of the Central YMCA, Seattle, and past President of the Latvian Relief Association, a cultural and fraternal group in the State of Washington, advised that during approximately the last two or three days in January, 1962, there occurred a mass mailing of a propaganda booklet published by the Latvian section of the above captioned committee at Riga, Latvia. Mr. RADZINS commented that apparently the captioned committee at Riga had obtained a current mailing list of the Latvian Relief Association in the State of Washington, inasmuch as small errors and irregularities found in the mailing list were exactly duplicated in the addresses on the envelopes transmitting the propaganda pamphlet.

Mr. RADZINS continued that the booklet, whose English caption is "People Without Conscience," contained slanderous accusations concerning some of the prominent Latvian Ministers in the United States and Canada accusing them of barbarous crimes against their own countrymen in Latvia prior to their fleeing to the United States and Canada.

Approximately thirty individuals in the Latvian speaking community in the Seattle, Washington area and to some extent, throughout the State of Washington, furnished copies of this booklet to the FBI, voicing concern that the United States Government would allow such propaganda to flood this country. The reactions of these individuals were generally that the propaganda would have very little effect upon the Latvians in the United States other than to solidify them in their opposition to the Communist Regime in Latvia.

CS COPY

13 June 1962

~~200-8-65~~

COMMITTEE FOR A RETURN TO THE HOMELAND AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH COMPATRIOTS

In March, 1962, Dr. LUIZA MIKELSONS, 156 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, New York, advised that she left Latvia during World War II to escape the Soviets, and like any other Latvian refugees, eventually came to the United States.

She related that in the last year or more, she has received unsolicited propoganda, obviously Soviet inspired, from the Committee for a Return to the Homeland. Most of this material comes to her from East Germany; however, the pamphlet "People Without Conscience," which she recently received, originated in Riga, Latvia. Dr. MIKELSONS observed that one of the Latvian Ministers who is attacked is PETERIS NESAULE. She said she knew NESAULE personally and that the charges made against him in the pamphlet are not true, to the best of her knowledge. She first met NESAULE in a displaced persons camp in Germany where he had fled from Latvia during World War II to escape the Russians. When she first met him, he was devoting himself entirely to assisting other Latvian refugees, both materially and spiritually. Dr. MIKELSONS became quite well acquainted with him at the time and has kept in touch with him. She stated he is a Christian and is anti-communist, and it is "unthinkable" that he could or would have so worked against his people. She said she knows this by her own personal knowledge of his past activities, character, and by his reputation among the Latvian people. She declared the allegations against him were purely an invention by the Soviets to cause trouble among the Latvians.

A translation into English from Latvian of the pamphlet "People Without Conscience" is as follows:

"PEOPLE WITHOUT CONSCIENCE

"Published by

"The Latvian Section  
of the Committee for Promotion of Repatriation  
and Cultural Ties with Compatriots Abroad

"R i g a 1961

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"The Preface (pp. 3 - 7) mentions that the Editor has received many letters from Latvians, expressing astonishment that some Lutheran pastors are allowed to preach in the USA and Canada, even though their past life has been 'full of crimes'. The Editors say that they have investigated these men's past, and present the 'facts' in the following pages.

"His Victims Lie in the Pine Forest at Smecere  
(pp. 8 - 14)

Nb 201 ✓  
"This sketch says that KARLIS SAUTINS, Pastor in the Berzaune Parish since 1928, began collaborating with the Germans right after their invasion of Latvia. He is accused particularly of informing on one KARLIS LIEPINS, who was subsequently arrested, tortured, and shot by SAUTINS himself. He is supposed to have informed on many others as well.

'He has found refuge in the U.S.A. and is Pastor of the Ev. Luth. Latvian Peace Congregation in Cleveland. His address is: 1518 Rosewood Ave., Lakewood 7, Cleveland, Ohio.'

"Not Thirty Pieces of Silver But 1000 Reichsmarks  
(pp. 15 - 19)

Nb 201 ✓  
"Another 'traitor' is PETERIS NESAULE, Pastor of the Ev. Luth. Latvian Church in Indianapolis, whose address is: 2228 N. Park Ave., Indianapolis 5, Indiana, U.S.A.

"This man, 'who now talks of Christian ideals for our young people', gave his signature in 1942 that he would notify the SD Police (German Surety Service) of anything pertaining to an anti-German movement.

"The Latvian State Central Archives have documents which 'prove' that NESAULE dispatched many people to their doom, and these people were not communists but believers and his own parishioners. NESAULE is said to have preached openly the theory of Nazi race superiority. There is also a document, 'signed by him', which shows that he got R.M. 1000 for these services.

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"Is He Only a Dean (or: Senior Pastor)?"  
(pp. 20 - 29)

"The article quotes from the Latvian Ev.-Luth.  
Church calendar:

No 201 ✓ Representative, in Canada, of the Latvian Ev.-Luth. Church and the Archbishop - Dean ALFREDS SKRODELIS - born May 22, 1894...He serves the independent Hamilton-Toronto Latvian Ev.-Luth, St. Ann's Church, and is Pastor of the Christ Church in Detroit, Michigan. Telephone: JA 70136, 99 Herkimer Street, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.'

"The article says that the calendar does not say a word about SKRODELIS to have been an agent of Hitler's Intelligence Service in Latvia since 1939, who was paid by them. The article accuses him of having supplied the Germans with lists of 'progressive' and 'pro-Bolshevik' citizens, whom they later murdered. The article says that this information is based on documents in the Latvian State Archives and on information supplied by people living in Latvia.

"First a Spy, Then a Bandit and Murderer"  
(pp. 30 - 34)

No 201 ✓ "EVALDS BERZINS is another such man, who was willing to serve the Fascist masters, who supplied them with lists of anti-Nazi persons, who shot at pro-Bolshevik refugees and Red Army soldiers, who participated in killings - says the article.

"EVALDS BERZINS is now Pastor of the Independent St. Martin's Latvian Ev.-Luth. congregations in Red Deer, Edmonton, and Winnipeg. His address: 45 Ave., Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.

"Under a Believer's Mask - a Sadist"  
(pp. 35 - 45)

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✓ "The former Pastor at Cirava, Latvia, ARNOLDS ERNSTSONS, is accused of duplicity: he wore his pastor's frock only to hide his other face - that of a Gestapo informer. The article mentions several instances when ERNSTSONS personally beat and tortured people, mainly Ukrainian war prisoners who worked as slaves in Latvia: ERNSTSONS was a believer in the Nazi theory of 'inferior races', and went out of his way to take revenge upon the Russians.

"ARNOLD ERNSTSON's present address is: 747 - 35 Ave., San Francisco 21, Cal.

"A Pastor? - No, a Mass Murderer!"  
(pp. 46 - 62)

"This article ascribes to Pastor EDMUNDS MACS the following character traits: egotism, bigotry, greed, hypocrisy, avarice, vainglory, and revengefulness. All these he exhibited even before the Nazis invaded Latvia. After that event, he openly began to arrest people (he organized a 'gang' and was the judge in a kangaroo court), convict them, torture them, and finally murder them. He killed Latvians, Jews, women, children, - anybody who contradicted him or whose property he wanted to acquire. This 'beastly murderer' is now Pastor of the Takoma Ev.-Luth. Church, and his address is: 3723 N. 22 Street, Takoma 7, Wash.

"On its last page, the booklet thanks Latvians at home and abroad for helping to uncover and remember the misdeeds of these evil people and to locate their present whereabouts. It asks Latvians to continue in the work of finding other such 'people's traitors and murderers.'"

"The Seattle Post-Intelligencer," the daily newspaper, dated February 4, 1962, carried an article captioned "Latvians Protest - Free Delivery of Red Mail Hit."

☐ 200-8-65 ☐

**COMMITTEE FOR A RETURN TO THE HOMELAND AND DEVELOPMENT  
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The article stated that American-Latvians in Seattle held a mass meeting on the night of February 3, 1962, at which time they signed sixteen petitions to President KENNEDY, cabinet officers, and Washington representatives and senators, protesting the free delivery of Communist propaganda through the United States Post Office Department. The meeting was held at Latvian Hall in Seattle where it was to continue through February 4, 1962, at which time it was expected that more than 300 Latvians in Seattle would sign the petitions being sent by the Seattle Chapter of the Latvian Relief Association.

HARRY MINDENBERGS, President of the Seattle Chapter, advised that during the past two weeks, Latvians in the State of Washington have been subjected to a "vicious Communist propaganda attack in the form of a 62-page booklet from Riga, Latvia, delivered free through the mail." "We find it inconceivable," the petition said, "at a time when the administration is asking Congress to raise postal rates, Communist propaganda is distributed free." The petition claimed that information concerning the United States is suppressed and never reaches its destination in the Soviet Bloc countries, "while Communist lies and distortions are permitted to flood our country."

The article related that Latvia was first occupied by the Soviet Union in 1940, then by the Germans from 1941 to 1944, and since 1944, Latvia has been a Soviet satellite.

An article in the Seattle Times daily newspaper, dated February 5, 1962, contained a photograph of members of Seattle's Latvian community burning Communist booklets containing accusations against Latvian clergymen in the United States and Canada.

On April 25, 1962, Reverend KARLIS KUNDZINS, Pastor of the Latvian Lutheran Church in Seattle, voiced the opinion that the booklet "People Without Conscience" has had very little, if any, effect on the recipients other than to strengthen their opposition to the Communist Regime in Latvia. He advised that some of the propaganda being mailed by the captioned organization is much more subtle and attempts to convey the impression that people in Latvia are happy and prosperous to instill a longing for the old country among the emigres in the United States and other countries abroad.

DBA 12614

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Reverend KUNDZINS advised that even this propaganda is full of falsehoods and furnished an example in a booklet captioned "Latvian Architects, 1960 - 1961" which he had recently received through the mail. In this booklet was shown a photograph of a beautiful, modern-looking building in Kemmer, Latvia, which is described as a "rest home." Reverend KUNDZINS said he recognized this building which was actually designed and built during the period 1933 - 1935 by a Latvian architect and engineer who is now in the United States. Reverend KUNDZINS noted that by showing this building without setting forth the information as to when it was built, there is by inference the claim that this is one of their recent architectural achievements.