

Free Europe Committee, Inc.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 2, 1961

To: The Executive Committee

Reference:

From: The Director - FEOP *Rum*

Subject: Latvian Youth Groups

As per your telephoned request, herewith is attached two copies of a report which contains all the information we have on the Latvian Youth Congress held in Germany in 1955.

On the so-called Latvian Youth Organization "Dangaras-Vanagi," the name of this organization is actually "Daugavas-Vanagi." "Daugavas" stands for a river in Latvia and "Vanagi" means falcon. The organization itself is not a youth organization but a well-organized, militant, group of veterans (ex-combatants) no member of which could be less than 32 years of age. It is mainly a welfare and social organization having some political undertones and run by former Latvian officers who were fighting on the German side during WW II. FEOP has never had any affiliation with the organization as such. However, many of the leaders in Germany and Scandinavia are members of the various National Service Committees, serving as individuals. The chairman of the Latvian NSC in Germany is a Col. Januims who is the world president and founder of the "Daugavas-Vanagi" which has a women's section and may well be forming a youth section. A Mr. Reitmanis, who is the overall head of Latvian organizations in Denmark, can furnish more information if needed.

FC- 4711

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005