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Berlin, 16 September 1961

Dear Mr. Karlovskis !

I received your letter of 1 August and read it with interest. I am only sorry it was so short and I was not quite able to understand some of the thoughts expressed in it. Therefore I cannot imagine by what other, farther and deeper reaching considerations you were guided in your suggestions. For my part, I can only repeat what I said in my previous letter -- we are striving for one thing -- it is our aim to maintain cultural relations with fellow-countrymen abroad and to inform them about life in the homeland, in our native cities and rural areas, about the thoughts, ideas and aspirations with which our people are living and working at this time, what they dream about, what they strive for, and what they fight for. We try to do this so that the thousands of members of the Latvian nation, who were scattered all over the world by the storms of war but who have remained faithful to their people and their homeland in their hearts, may even in far-away countries be up to date on life in the homeland and may not be lost to the Latvian people. And there are many of them in Canada too, who are thankful to us for giving them a chance to live, even in a distant country, in the same rhythm as the heart beat of their native land.

Naturally, we are not speaking here of persons who maybe lived in Latvia too, but who in their work and ideas were never one with ^{the} Latvian people, and always remained spiritually aloof from it. You will agree that not everyone who has eaten the rye bread grown in the "land of amber" thereby becomes a member of the Latvian people. Nevertheless, these cosmopolitans of various hues like to brag with the name of Latvia, play the role of Latvian patriots, and even believe themselves authorized

to speak in the name of the Latvian people. And what they say !
They slander the name of Latvia and try to prove to all the world that
the Latvians are just a little nation of "peasants" who are unable to
live without masters. And so it appears that some of the ^(German??) repatriates ^{??}
of 1939-1940, such as for instance JANUMS, are today the truest Latvians.
Well, you know, that is too much ! Is it possible to be indifferent to
such things and you even recommend establishing contacts with such
"hurrah-patriots"! A song festival is a good and commendable undertaking,
it is a fine initiative. However, it is interesting why, for example,
quite a few of the Canadian Latvians are so naive and gather for their
song festival in order to give unfailing homage to some former scribblers
of the Fascist or Nazi occupation regime's newspaper "Tevija" /Fatherland/,
such as for instance UPESLACIS, praising them as patriots engaged in
large-scale national activities ? Your song festival takes place under
their slogans and speeches about some kind of liberation of Latvia.
From whom ? And for whom ? For the Germans ? For the Latvian Nazis ?
Or perhaps for the American uncles, various former chiefs of "Societies
of American Friends" ? (P. Lejins) After reading "Latvija Amerika"
that is the only way one can understand it. The majority of present
"spokesmen" of your Latvians in Canada are that way. They are a dying
caste and it is no use being guided by them. They do not represent anyone,
except themselves, no matter what titles they appropriate.

About that Baltmanis or Baltrums you mentioned in your first letter.
So far none of our associates have had a chance to go to Ilukste to find
out about this person. Is he of interest to us ? Only insofar ^{as} /this
person now appears in public and makes speeches. If this person, who

formerly committed all kinds of atrocities and murders, is now playing the role of some patriot and is continuing to heap dirt upon his homeland, we would gladly expose such a man to the Latvians abroad without his mask of a "national worker." May the Latvians see what kind of a person their national fighter is. However, we don't know what this Baltmanis is doing and saying today. You did not write any details about it...

I quite agree with your thoughts about the appraisal of the present situation. One must strive for and find understanding. War will bring no good to anyone, and who among the ordinary people wants to wage war? Once we are living on one planet, we must try to find understanding, even though the political views may differ. Naturally, one must look for the proper ways and methods of understanding, and one must try to kindle the idea of mutual understanding among wide circles of Latvians. I can only welcome your ideas on this matter as realistic and courageous, especially considering the atmosphere which prevails in certain Latvian circles in Canada. Therefore it would be better to orient oneself toward such persons who, as far as we know, try to understand the situation and find ways to establish closer ties with the homeland. The Latvian people are on our side and that is the most essential fact which should be considered in organizing Latvian societies in Canada. And there are such people. They are not alone. If you wish, you can gradually establish contact with ~~some~~ them. For example, V. MUKTS, and A. KVEPS, despite the positions they/previiously/occupied, have a realistic view of the situation and are doing more or less positive work in stimulating and developing

the ideas of mutual understanding. And that is quite a bit !

I shall look forward with interest to a longer letter from you and to your thoughts on these questions. Your opinion about "Dzimtenes Balss" /Voice of the Homeland/, i.e. its contents, topics, and make-up, would also be of value to us. This interests us very much and I hope that in this respect you will also be able to help a great deal.

It would also be interesting to hear what the Toronto Latvians think about the questions referred to in the letter. What are their views and attitudes ?

Sincerely yours,

/signed/ B. Zebergs