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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : LONDON

2474  
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. January 20, 1954  
DATE

REF : Embassy despatch No.2389, January 12, and previous

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	REC'D	OTHER
	7-22	CIA-7

SUBJECT: Appointment of Latvian Representative in Washington

(2)

With reference to previous correspondence on the above subject, there is now enclosed a copy of a self-explanatory letter from Mr. Zarine of January 18. In another letter of January 19 Mr. Zarine states

"... if possibly (Mr.) Dinbergs should be considered too young to be Charge d'Affaires - though youth is not a vice! - there is (Mr.) Vilis Masena, now Chairman of the Latvian Committee for Free Europe in New York, who has counsellor's rank in the Latvian diplomatic service. Mr. Masens has written to me about himself in connection with the Washington post. His personality is known to the State Department.

"Among our diplomats of Minister's rank there remains Dr. Spekke, whose name commands considerable respect. I am wondering whether the State Department's ruling out of him is a final decision, in which case I would not consider him further. I would add that I have not made any such suggestion to Dr. Spekke himself."

The Department's comments are requested for transmission to Mr. Zarine.

J. K. Penfield  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure:  
Copy of letter from Mr. Zarine dated January 18, 1954.

JKPenfield/mw

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Page 1 of \_\_\_\_\_  
Encl. No. 1  
Desp. No. 2474  
From \_\_\_\_\_

Copy.  
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Latvian Legation,  
87, Eaton Place,  
London, S.W.1.

18th January, 1954.

Dear Mr. Penfield,

As I mentioned to you yesterday, I have received a letter from Mr. Liepins in which he thanks me for having thought of him, but that because of his lack of English his candidature should drop. He considers that he can best do his duty for Latvia by remaining in Germany. Frankly I do not understand this refusal, as the opportunity would be so much greater in America. But I must confess it has added to my growing doubts as to his suitability, on the score of being a generally welcomed person to take this post, and of being loyal to myself and what I work for - the unity of the nation in exile and all questions of political parties being left until our regaining of the homeland. That such is also the wish of the overwhelming majority of the people, both at home and in exile, I am almost daily getting fresh confirmation. I have written again to Mr. Liepins, but do not hope now that he will reply differently. Rightly or wrongly I cannot help wondering whether his refusal has anything to do with the activities of Colonel Janums, who goes to U.S.A. and Canada, or to the persuasion of others who cherish hopes of forming a government in exile. I repeat that the effect of such schemes will only be to split the nation.

This matter is remaining so long in abeyance that the resulting rumours and intrigues are becoming unhealthy, and I should be very glad if a solution could be reached, if only temporary. I should therefore be very grateful, dear Mr. Penfield, if you could ascertain the views of the State Department on one of our junior diplomats - and I would suggest Mr. A. Dinbergs, who works so loyally and modestly with the State Department - being appointed as Chargé d'Affaires until a full Minister's rank diplomat were appointed. My idea then would be to have Mr. Janis Tappers here from Sweden as a second Counsellor in the Legation for a period of perhaps a year. During that time, here in the atmosphere of London, and with opportunity to learn English, I would hope that he would regain the confidence of his undoubted great abilities and eventually undertake the post after all, when Mr. Dinbergs would revert to his Counsellorship.

Yours very sincerely,  
(Sgd) Charles Zarine

Mr. James K. Penfield,  
United States Embassy,  
London.

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