

Kalins

SOURCES:

1. Because of the great deal of controversiality that exists regarding the personality Bruno KALNINS great care will be exercised in connotating the derogatory information available by utilization of the following system:

- F - Fact (Documentary evidence from books, periodicals, etc.)
- R - Rumor
- P - Personal knowledge and observation
- I - Information furnished by reliable informant

2. In its war of liberation (1914-1918) the Latvian Army fought two occupying powers, the Germans and the Russians. (F) In the latter part of this war Bruno KALNINS is said to have acted as an agitator attempting to sway Latvian soldiers to the Bolshevik Army. (R)

3. Inasmuch as Bruno KALNINS was the son of the speaker of the Latvian Parliament, Paul KALNINS a very esteemed and honored Latvian, not only in his own country but in Europe as a whole, it may be reasonably assumed that his father's popularity was the main reason behind Bruno KALNIN's election to the Latvian Parliament as a senator. However, it was no doubt his mother's, Berta KALNINS, influence as a member of the extreme left-wing of the Social Democratic Party in Latvia upon her son, Bruno KALNINS, which caused him as well to become such a radical socialist that the Latvian people took it for granted that both he and his mother were, if not out and out Communists, at least sympathizers and fellow travelers. The animosity of the Latvian people toward Bruno KALNINS and his mother Berta is evidenced by the fact that in the 1930's a parody on a popular song was quite the rage which ridiculed as well as accused the aforementioned two individuals of Communist sympathy and connection. (P)

4. In the late 20's (approximately 1928) Bruno KALNINS, still a member of the left-wing faction of the Social Democrats and still a senator in the Latvian Parliament, organized the so-called SSS Organization (Stradnieku Sports un Sargs - Workers Sport and Protector). (P and F) A great number of Latvians were and still are absolutely certain that at that time - while Chief of the SSS - KALNINS was either directly in the employ of the Soviet Union or acted in their behalf. (P and I) Several indications which may be taken as evidence to the foregoing belief held by many Latvians, is the fact that members of the SSS behaved, were organized, and acted as a para-military organization; they wore blue shirts and trousers, with red ties as their uniform and at all functions and demonstrations carried a red flag. Furthermore, the many proclamations, reprints of speeches and other propaganda material, the author of which was KALNINS and/or some of his henchmen, were posted about town (quite overtly) by members of the SSS. (P and I)

5. On 15 May 1934 Karlis ULMANIS with the aid of General Janis BALODIS and Alfreds HERZINS executed a coup d' etat and gave as the reason for this coup the fact that between the pro-Communist SSS and the pro-Fascist PERKONKRUSTS as well as the numerous grafters within the Latvian

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Democratic Government the country was not only doomed to go into bankruptcy but also on the verge of being sold to the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany whichever of these latter two would be able to out-smart the other. (P, I and F)

6. Alfreds BERZINS having been placed in charge of security was instrumental in jailing KALNINS at the same time raiding his headquarters which disclosed a great amount of pro-Communist literature, Russian manufactured weapons and great amounts of Latvian as well as Russian currency. (F and partially P) In addition indications were found that KALNINS was preparing to overthrow the Latvian Government by force with the support of the Soviet Union on some date later than the ULMANIS coup of 15 May 1934; the latter of course failed any such possibility. (R) Having served approximately two years in jail, (P, F and I) KALNINS was deported from Latvia and apparently through Finland and Sweden finally located in Norway where he supposedly joined the Norwegian Communist Party. As a representative of this party KALNINS is to have been sent to Spain where he became this party's representative to the Communist Government of Spain during the Spanish Civil War. (R)

7. Subsequent to this until June 1940 there was no information regarding KALNINS. (P)

8. On 14 June 1940 when the Russians occupied Latvia KALNINS suddenly appeared on the scene as the Political Commissar or so-called POLITRUK of the Latvian Army which was completely inactive under Soviet domination. In this position KALNINS was instrumental in the following:

- a) Executing orders from the Russian Army concerning the Latvian Army.
- b) Supervision of political reliability and other phases pertaining to all members of the Latvian Army.
- c) Made numerous speeches, extolling greatness of the Soviet Union which were all readily published by the pro-Russian Latvian newspaper Cina. (F)
- d) Furnished the Russians a complete roster of Latvian officers both on active service or reserve, emphasizing those whose political reliability toward the Soviet Union was questionable. As many of these officers as could be located were either imprisoned or deported. (R)

9. Even though KALNINS claims that his role of Political Commissar of the Latvian Army was accepted by him as a possible means of aiding the Latvian people especially since he had been requested to do this by General BALODIS, and even though he claims that his position as Political Commissar was only of a six weeks duration, such claims appear contrary to fact. The Latvian Army under Soviet domination existed for a period of three months during which time KALNINS was Political Commissar. Subsequently this army as such was disbanded; however, a number of soldiers and officers were automatically transferred into the regular Russian Army. (F and I) Having been relieved of his duties as Political Commissar - merely because of the lack of a Latvian Army - KALNINS became a lecturer

at the University of Riga where he lectured on the subjects of Marxism, Leninism and how these theories are applied in the Soviet Union. (I and partially F)

10. KALNINS whereabouts during the German occupation of Latvia (1941 to 1945) cannot be established with accuracy. However, upon cessation of hostilities he began to rise in Sweden as a very influential social democrat and a Latvian who was engaged in assisting his fellow-countrymen in that country providing they support his pretensions of becoming one of the great Latvian Emigre leaders. (P, I and F) His connection with various Latvian emigre organizations stems merely from the fact that in view of the death of his father, the leader of the Social Democrats, Bruno KALNINS inheriting this position must supply and approve the Social Democrats representatives in any Latvian emigre organization which strive for a united emigre representation. Past as well as present opponents of KALNINS, especially Alfreds BERZINS, are the victims of vicious slander heaped upon them by KALNINS through numerous letters to influential persons and through a Latvian newspaper published in Sweden which he controls. (F and P)

11. The majority of Latvians outside of their home country are both amazed and puzzled by the immensity of power and influence which KALNINS possesses in his dealings and his relationship with the Swedish government. In part that is explained by the fact that the Swedish government is dominated by the Social Democrats; some Latvians are certain that KALNINS derives his power from Communist interests. (R) The latter belief is substantiated in part by the following:

- a) Recently KALNINS and two of his supporters, one of whom, Mintants CAKSTE, is a relative by marriage, proceeded to a recent emigre conference in London without the apparent sponsorship of any one particular organization.
- b) KALNINS has no visible means of support. (F)
- c) The former Latvian minister to Belgium, VALTERS, fmu, a staunch supporter of KALNINS, has offered to cover all expenses of any Latvian emigre of any stature who would be willing to proceed to the United Nations assembly, for the purpose of achieving further recognition of Latvia as an independent country, providing such emigre permit VALTERS to insert his views in any written memorandums or correspondence and providing such emigre follow VALTERS dictation. (I)

12. Of particular interest may be the feud in progress at present between KALNINS and BERZINS. The former claiming that BERZINS is one of the triumvirate who participated in the coup in 1934 has been opposed and has exterminated all principles of democracy in Latvia. (F) The apparent truth of the matter is that BERZINS, a member at present of the Latvian consultative panel of the NCFE (National Committee for a Free Europe) and a person who is convinced that KALNINS is in the employ of the Communists, is attempting to discredit him by all possible legal means. It is noteworthy that KALNINS was successful in accomplishing the removal of a member of this panel - ABOLS, fmu - by means of discrediting letters to the head of NCFE. KALNINS has attempted to accomplish the same in regard to BERZINS but to date has been unable to do so. (P and partially F)

13. Voldemars BASTJANIS, a social democrat of the center-wing, has been a life-long friend of KALNINS although a great deal of suspicion that BASTJANIS had collaborated with the Russians in 1940 had existed and had deterred his immigration to the U.S. he has recently been permitted to enter this country. During BASTJANIS's stay in Germany he frequently corresponded with KALNINS and for a short period of time declared that he had broken his friendship with him. However, at present he has again indicated his support of KALNINS. (P and I)