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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM

4 APR 1952

SUBJECT: KALNINS, Bruno

1. The following information, contained in the files of OSO-CIA, concerns Bruno KALNINS, a controversial personality among Latvian emigres, who, according to latest reports, resides in Sweden.

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

3. Subject's father, Social Democratic Speaker of the Latvian Parliament, Paul KALNINS, was an esteemed and honored Latvian, not only in his own country but in Europe as a whole. It was assumed that because of the popularity of his father and because his father served as Speaker of the Latvian Parliament, Bruno KALNINS was elected as a Senator in the Latvian Parliament. However, probably because of the influence of his mother, Berta KALNINS, who was a member of the extreme left-wing of the Social Democratic Party in Latvia, Subject became such a radical socialist that the Latvian people assumed that both Subject and his mother were, if not outright Communists, at least communist sympathizers. The animosity of the Latvian people toward Subject and his mother was evidenced by the fact that in the 1930's a parody on a popular song ridiculed as well as accused them of communist sympathies and connections.

4. In the late 20's (approximately 1929) 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). A great number of Latvians were, and still are, absolutely certain that while Chief of the SSS, KALNINS was either directly in the employ of the Soviet Union or acted in their behalf. Several indications which may be taken as evidence of this belief held by many Latvians, was the fact that members of the SSS were organized, and acted as a paramilitary organization; they wore blue shirts and trousers, with red ties as their uniforms, and at all functions and demonstrations carried a red flag.

5. On 15 May 1934, Karlis UPMANIS with the aid of General Janis BALODIS and Alfreds BERZIS, 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 PEREKONKURSTS, as well as the numerous grafters within

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the Latvian 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.

6. Alfreds BERZINS, having been placed in charge of security, was instrumental in jailing KALNINS and 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. In addition there were rumors to the effect 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. Having served approximately two years in jail, KALNINS was believed to have been deported from Latvia and probably went through Finland and Sweden. It was rumored that Subject finally located in Norway where he supposedly joined the Norwegian Communist Party and as a representative of this party KALNINS was believed to have been sent to Spain where he became this party's representative to the Communist Government of Spain during the Spanish Civil War.

7. Subsequent to this until June 1940 there was no known information regarding KALNINS.

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. The supervision of the political reliability of all members of the Latvian Army. It was rumored that KALNINS was instrumental in the arrest of Latvian Army officers who were believed by the Russians to be politically unreliable.
- c. Making numerous speeches extolling the greatness of the Soviet Union, all of which were readily published by the pro-Russian Latvian newspaper Slava.

9. Even though KALNINS claims that he accepted his role of Political Commissar of the Latvian Army as a possible means of aiding the Latvian people, especially since he had been requested to do this by General HALDINS, 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 the Latvian Army as such was disbanded, however, a number of soldiers and officers were automatically transferred into the regular Russian Army. 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.

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Leninism and how these theories are applied in the Soviet Union.

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 as a Latvian who was engaged in assisting his fellow-countrymen in Sweden, providing they support his pretensions of becoming one of the great Latvian emigre leaders. Subject's connection with various Latvian emigre organizations appears to stem from the fact that, upon his father's death, he inherited his father's position as leader of the Latvian Social Democrats. In this position he was expected to supply and approve the Social Democrat Representatives in the Latvian emigre organizations, many of which are striving for a united emigre representation.

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 relationship with the Swedish government. In part this is explained by the fact that the Swedish government is dominated by the Social Democrats. It is also rumored that some Latvians are certain KALNINS derives his power from Communist interests. The latter belief is substantiated in part by the fact that KALNINS has no visible means of support.

12. Part as well as present opponents of KALNINS 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. Of particular interest may be the feud in progress at present between KALNINS and BERZINS. Subject claimed that BERZINS was one of the triumvirate who participated in the coup in 1934 and had exposed and exterminated all principles of democracy in Latvia. The apparent truth of the matter is that BERZINS, at present a member of the Latvian consultative panel of the NCPE (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, one ABOLS, fm, by means of discrediting letters sent to the head of NCPE. KALNINS has attempted to accomplish the same in regard to BERZINS but to date has been unable to do so.

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.

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SUBJECT: LAMBERGS, Valdemars

1. On 2 March 1950, the Latvian newspaper, Latvju Ziņas in Stockholm, Sweden, accused Valdemars LAMBERGS, editor of the newspaper, Latvian in Germany, of being a Russian agent for the NKVD during the first Soviet Occupation of Latvia (1940-41). Subject denied this, asserting that Latvju Ziņas (a political opposition group newspaper) had always attacked the nationalist members of the Latvian Central Council, the Latvian National Council, and the Latvian Central Committee. He stated he had been subject to several severe interrogations by the NKVD from 5 May 1941 to 9 June 1941, and claimed this could be verified by arrest documents found in the NKVD office in Jelgava, Latvia. He further stated he was active in the underground in the regional committee of Zemgale of the Latvian National Council. LAMBERGS asserted that this could be attested to by Konstantine CAKSTE, Chairman of the Latvian Central Council, and by the nationalistic Latvians at Jelgava. Further, LAMBERGS stated that Latvju Ziņas would have to answer to the law.

2. Latvju Ziņas, in an article on 23 November 1950, answered that they would be glad to go before a law court since they possessed positive proof of their accusation. Inquiries made among former members of the Latvian Central Council in Zemgale revealed that LAMBERGS' claims were untrue. A "well-informed Latvian resident" of Stockholm stated the following facts to be the case. Through threats and possibly, "third degree methods", LAMBERGS was intimidated into consenting to become an informant. However, the information he furnished was evidently without value to the Cheka. (Even his political opponents among the Latvians do not claim that he has betrayed any secrets or that as a result of his information any Latvian has been or could have been arrested by the Cheka.) In the spring of 1941, the Cheka had gradually become more exacting, and, failing to receive valuable information from LAMBERGS, had submitted him to prolonged hearings. Shortly before the outbreak of the Russo-German War, LAMBERGS took to the woods and hid until the Soviets had been expelled from Latvia.

3. A 1950 report states that when the Soviets had overrun Latvia, all lawyers were either arrested or prevented from following their profession, LAMBERGS was permitted, during this period of the Soviet occupation, to continue his law practice, a situation which has never been explained. Subject was tried before a German military court whose findings stated that LAMBERGS had given information to the Soviet secret police, but because of the relative unimportance of

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the information, he was released. Source of this information had considered LAMBERGS to be a man of questionable integrity, and perhaps even an agent of the Soviets, although he (source of the information) had no personal knowledge.

4. Other unconfirmed 1950 information stated that LAMBERGS' brother was given a post as station-master during the occupation and the brother's son, Valdis LAMBERGS, was a "Russian agent" who held a high political position during 1940-41, subsequently fleeing from the Germans to Russia where he is presently alleged to be. During 1940-41, Valdis was reported to have a strong leaning for Communism. Also it was rumored that Valdis was parachuted into Latvia by the Russians during the German occupation. LAMBERGS reportedly had no connection with his nephew.

5. LAMBERGS visited Sweden in connection with his position in the Latvian Information Bureau. Funds of the newspaper Latvija were at his disposal. Upon LAMBERGS' return to Germany, it was discovered that much of the money could not be accounted for and that the newspaper was in danger of bankruptcy. At the next meeting it was decided to make Latvian economist, Alexander /BOLINS, director and editor of the newspaper to prevent bankruptcy of the paper. The explanation offered for the use the money was put to in Sweden, was that "a traveling editor has many duties and responsibilities in the entertainment line" and made it appear that he had spent the money in this manner. Subject had also published propaganda pamphlets which had reduced the working capital of the newspaper by a considerable amount. This was done without the approval of the Latvian Central Committee and has caused Subject to stand in disfavor with many of the Latvians.

6. Subject claimed to have received reports of a positive intelligence nature from sources in Sweden. These reports were written in either English or Latvian and concerned the situation in Russian-occupied Latvia at the time. These reports allegedly contained first-hand information obtained from within Latvia. They were sent to LAMBERGS from Sweden, where it is believed they were composed. Also Subject allegedly received mail under the cover name V. VACZEMIEKS addressed to the Information Bureau of the Latvian Central Committee. The mail received under this name was alleged to be espionage reports. LAMBERGS maintained correspondence with Bruno KALINS in Sweden; both belong to the Social Democrats.

7. LAMBERGS was a minor, controversial personality among Latvian emigres and was not too well regarded by any one group. While the accusations of his too close collaboration from 1940-41 with the Soviets may have contained some truth it was not considered necessarily derogatory when viewed in the context of events at that time.

8. LAMBERGS has in the United States, suggested at one of the meetings of the American Latvian Association (ALA) that all Latvians in the United States leave their present church affiliations and sup-

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port a Latvian church in the United States. In view of the fact that many Latvian emigres in the United States were sponsored by local churches, this suggestion was strongly opposed.

9. It is suggested that contact be made with the Department of Army, CIC, Germany for possible further information concerning Subject.

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