

ORIGINAL IN
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SOURCE: []
SUMMER 1959

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ATTACHMENT "A"

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2D
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

Gunars ASTRA

DOB: Approximately 1932

POB: Possibly Riga, Latvia

PRESENT ADDRESS: Maskavas iela 18-5, Riga, Latvia

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6' 4" or 5", weight 250 lbs; hair - light brown, abundant and eyes gray.

1. Subject graduated from the Riga Technical High School and is presently associated with VEF in an engineering capacity. At one time he had charge of approximately 200 people. He later was told that to continue in his administrative job, he would have to join the Communist Party. When he refused to join the Party, he lost his administrative position but continues to be employed by VEF as a technician.

2. Source first noticed him at the U.S. Exhibit and recognized that he was not a Russian. She initiated contact with him since she thought that he might be Latvian. At first he was reluctant to talk to her. Whatever discussions they had were held in the parks in and around Moscow.

3. Subject is evidently well known to Richard HARNSTONE, the Economic Attache at the American Embassy, who met Subject in Riga, and is also well known to John THOMAS, who was also a guide at the U.S. Exhibit in Moscow. Source and THOMAS later spent some time with ASTRA at his home in Riga. THOMAS especially spent a great deal of time at ASTRA's home. Since Source had many people to visit in Riga who spoke no English she left THOMAS, who accompanied her to Riga, at the home of ASTRA. There they met ASTRA's wife, Guna, who works as a secretary in Riga. Her exact place of employment is unknown.

4. Attached hereto is a photograph of ASTRA and his wife.

5. Concerning Subject's education, Source said that after he was notified that he would have to quit his administrative job at VEF, he started to study law at night. ASTRA studied law only a short time and then switched to English. Source feels that he will find a way to come to the United States. He expressed a strong desire to learn everything that he could about the United States. He specifically asked Source questions concerning the possibility of finding a job in the U.S. and the pay scale in the U.S. Subject gave Source a list of salaries at the VEF plant which she marked down in cryptic notes on a single piece of paper but she lost same on the airplane going to Kharkov.

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6. ASTRA, several years ago, became very interested in yacht racing and joined the yacht club in Riga. Since that time he has been one of the first yacht club members to visit Estonia on a club yacht.

7. ASTRA's father was an army officer who was deported to Siberia at the end of the war. Source does not remember ASTRA mentioning any brothers or sisters. ASTRA is a Lutheran and apparently has some interest in his religion.

8. At one point in their conversation at ASTRA's home, Source and ASTRA discussed the future war. The question of Latvia being bombed arose and ASTRA commented that several defense shelters had been and were being dug in Riga. He offered to show THOMAS one of these shelters which had been built in a nearby park. Apparently there was still a fence around the construction area, but THOMAS was able to look through holes in the planking at the construction taking place. Since Source was not interested in this sort of information, she completely ignored this discussion and did not accompany THOMAS and ASTRA to visit the excavation site.

9. Concerning religion, Source learned from Subject that the older people in Latvia are still interested in religious confirmation. However, instead of a two-to-three week preparatory period for a youngster, the youngster parades in front of a church with a red flag and after a certain length of time, goes into the church where a priest conducts the confirmation ceremony. Although she did not learn a great deal concerning religious matters, ASTRA did tell Source that some weddings and funerals are still conducted by ministers. These ministers do not receive a salary from the State, but exist on contributions from their congregation. The State does not subsidize church repairs but rather comes out of contributions made by the congregation. The Big Dom Church is now a museum. ASTRA further said that there really is nothing very religious about services anymore.

10. Concerning schools, ASTRA told Source that Russian is a language requirement taught at the Latvian schools in Riga. From her discussions with ASTRA, Source gathered that there was a new version of history being taught at the schools. For example, the twenty years of Latvian independence is now being taught as the worst time in Latvian history. They now call this period "the Regime of the Capitalist." The old Latvian folk songs and folk legends are no longer being taught. From the time a young Latvian child starts kindergarten until he is an adult, he finds himself fighting with the Russians in Latvia. Source went on to say that Latvian kindergarten children learn to fight Russian kindergarten children. (Russians and Latvians attend different schools, although there is some slight intermingling.) Trouble also

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takes place in grade school as well as high school. There appears to be a great deal of crime and violence directed against the Soviets by Latvians.

11. Concerning the cost of living, Source said that the majority of the Latvians can only exist by stealing and by the receipt of packages from the West. ASTRA commented that stealing from the government is not considered a major crime. There is, he said, an extensive black market, especially in clothing which comes from the West.

12. Latvians dress quite conservatively although the average dress is of poor quality. Foreign shoes are very much in evidence. Raincoats and fountain pens appears to be exclusively imported from China. The average "stilyaga" in Latvia dresses quite similarly to his counterpart in Moscow. Latvian women dress with much more taste than their Muscovite counterparts.

13. At one point in their conversation ASTRA asked Source about ZARINS and BLUMBERGS and two other men whose names she does not recall ([] and [], AEBIAS/2 and AECOMBARO/2). He asked if there were any more of these types. Since this was the first time she had heard these people mentioned, ASTRA explained to her that these were four agents who the Latvian papers claim had been dispatched by the American Intelligence Service. He went on to say that the paper stated that two of them had been killed and two had been captured. He said that most of the Latvians were extremely happy to hear that someone, at least, is doing something or is attempting to do something for Latvia. He went on to comment that these four people were considered Latvian heroes. In answer to his question whether there were any more of this type of individual, Source told ASTRA that she not only did not know but had not even heard about this incident. Conservatively some 25 people mentioned this REDSOX operation to her, especially anyone who talked about the forthcoming war.

14. Source's over-all impression of ASTRA is that he is an extremely cautious individual. He is anti-Russian and anti-Communist. She feels that he will one day turn up in the United States. She suggested that for further information we should contact Mr. HARMSTONE and Mr. THOMAS. Source feels that with proper bona fides from her, ASTRA would make an excellent source of information and would be willing to cooperate with the United States Government. ASTRA is one of the people who felt that life in Latvia is not worth living under the yoke of the Russians and is willing to risk a third world war and the annihilation of Latvia in order to be rid of Communism.

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ATTACHMENT "B"

SUBJECT: Miscellaneous Information

1. Out of all of the Latvians that Subject met during her stay in Moscow and Latvia only one out of 500 "cussed her out" for being a traitor.

2. A flourishing black market existed between the guides and the local Latvians. This black market appeared after the guides learned the extent to which the Latvians were anti-Communist. It is the belief of the interviewing case officer that Source played no small part in this situation. Source herself gave away practically everything she owned when she left. As a matter of fact, she found herself with practically no under clothes and no stockings after the first two weeks in Moscow since she gave away most of these things to visiting Latvians. She managed to borrow and finally purchase some more clothes for herself.

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ATTACHMENT "E"

SUBJECT: Vairis ABOLS

1. Three weeks before Source went to Riga she was walking through the American Exhibition and there met a young Latvian boy who was asking for Americans who could speak Latvian. She volunteered that she was Latvian. The two of them started a conversation about life in the United States. Source determined that ABOLS is 20 years old and lives in Vairoga iela, 7a Riga, Latvia. He is about 5' 7", narrow face, long nose, brown hair, blue eyes pink complexion, 155 lbs. She learned from him that he had a sister who was not in Moscow with him and that they lived in a small house in Riga. Source also met ABOLS' father whom she judges to be approximately 47 years old. The father is an engineer, approximately 5' 7", slight build, balding head, very little brown hair and has an asthetic narrow face. ABOLS' family drove from Riga to Moscow in the family's Moskvitch to see the American Exhibition. ABOLS's father speaks English, French, German, Russian and Latvian. The family turned out to be the most anti-Communist group Source met while in the Soviet Union. ABOLS's father (Source does not remember his first name) was so anxious to try out his languages that when he overheard a man speaking French in front of the hotel in Moscow he ran up to him "just to be able to speak French again." Source made arrangements to go out one evening with the ABOLS family and for them to pick her up at the hotel. ABOLS's father and ABOLS picked up Source and John R. THOMAS at the hotel in their Moskvitch. Vairis ABOLS drove and tried to shake surveillance by driving on the foot path in a park with the car. Source fully expected them to be arrested for a rash act, but apparently they shook surveillance because they were not followed after they emerged from the park. When Source met the family two weeks later in Riga, she learned that they had not been arrested.

2. Concerning Vairis ABOLS, Source determined that he was a mechanic and was studying drama. He is very anxious to receive American magazines such as Popular Mechanics and Popular Science. He speaks English quite well and appears to be very intelligent. He feels certain that he will be drafted into the service this fall. He spent his four or five days at the Exhibition examining the automobiles on display. Source also learned from him that he has a cousin in either North or South Dakota.

3. Vairis told Source the following joke--"There were two men sitting in a street car. One man turned to the other man and said - 'What is the difference between the earth and sputnik.' The other man replied - 'I don't know. What is the difference.' To which the answer is 'On a sputnik a dog dies, on earth a dog lives.'"

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4. Source assesses Vairis as being extremely nationalistic and assesses the father as being extremely anti-Communist. For example, the father commented to Source that if he had at least one chance in a hundred he would attempt to take a boat and escape to Sweden or any other place he could, but he feels that he would stand no chance of escaping.

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ATTACHMENT "F"

SUBJECT: Vilnis NOLLENDERS

1. Source received a call from NOLLENDERS at her hotel. He asked her to meet him at the "Balticem" which is a so-called Latvian Literary Club, but in reality is a Latvian fraternity. Although she did not go to meet with him at the "Balticem", she met him later on at the Exhibition.

2. Subject is a bright, happy-go-lucky young man who receives some subsistence from the Soviet Government, engages in black market activities, and also works part-time unloading fruit.

3. Subject wanted to buy a pair of shoes. He did not know his size, but he was approximately 6' 3" tall. Source knew of a guide who wanted to sell his, so she acted as a middle man in the transaction.

4. NOLLENDERS is planning on a career as a writer and attends the University of Moscow. He would very much like to get out of the Soviet Union. He saw Source off at the airport in Moscow when she left for the United States.

5. He introduced Source to K. E. SKUDNIEKS.

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ATTACHMENT "G"

SUBJECT: K. E. SKUDNIEKS

1. SKUDNIEKS was introduced to Source by Vilnis NOLLENDERS.
2. Source brought NOLLENDERS and SKUDNIEKS both to her room at the hotel where SKUDNIEKS read her some of his poetry. Although the poetry was anti-Russian and sometimes anti-Communist by nature, he was apparently not afraid to read it to her. Source offered to carry his poetry out to the West and try to get it published. He refused to do this since he said it could not be published under his own name. He told Source anti-Communist jokes.
3. SKUDNIEKS appeared to be quite bitter over the fact that his parents live in the United States where his father is an American journalist. SKUDNIEKS apparently feels somewhat deserted.
4. SKUDNIEKS is approximately 22 or 23 years of age, 5' 7", slight build, very blond hair, a few visible gold teeth and has a light complexion.
5. John WOLFE, another guide at the fair, became quite friendly with SKUDNIEKS. Source arranged for John WOLFE and Kirk COMMONS, (another guide at the fair) to steal the Encyclopedia Britannica. Source, COMMONS and WOLFE packed the encyclopedias in cardboard boxes and carried them on the bus going to the hotel from the fair. This in itself was rather unusual. It was even more unusual when they got off the bus half way to the hotel. They turned over the complete set of encyclopedias to SKUDNIEKS. It was Source's feelings that since the Soviets were stealing all the books in sight, she might as well see they got into the hands of a student who would not only use them himself but would share them with other right-minded students.
6. SKUDNIEKS address is--K.E. SKUDNIEKS, Moscow K-9, General Delivery. (DO Vostrebovaniya Moskva K-9.)

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ATTACHMENT "H"

SUBJECT: Uldis MATVEJS

1. Source met MATVEJS at the U.S. Exhibition where she spoke to him for approximately 15 or 20 minutes. He was extremely anti-Communist and volunteered to do anything that she wanted him to do. He claimed to know every road, street and alley in Moscow.

2. Subject had spent 10 years in Vorkuta. He offered to help anyone who needed help who came from the West. He had been in jail in Moscow and had worked as a prisoner in and around Moscow.

3. Source received a letter from MATVEJS and provided the undersigned with a photograph of MATVEJS.

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ATTACHMENT "I"

SUBJECT: Oldis KALEJS - Professor R. V. KALNINS

1. KALEJS is a student studying architecture at the University of Riga. He is six feet tall, 150 to 155 pounds, wears glasses, is slight of build and has a small face.
2. KALEJS was on two weeks leave from Riga. To enter the University of Riga, he joined the Komsomol. He is at the present trying to make good grades and is studying French in the hopes of being sent to France or some other place in the West, where he might defect.
3. KALEJS dogged Source's steps while she was in Riga. He was questioned by the police after waiting for her for a long period of time, in front of her hotel. He told Source that all of her surveillants in Riga would be carrying folded newspapers. She later observed this to be true.
4. At one point, KALEJS asked Source how he could defect once he was out. He did not know whether he should go to the French police or to the American Embassy. He was told by Source that she could not help him since she herself did not know what the correct procedure would be.
5. Subject is also studying English as well. His mother is in poor health at present. He is willing to do anything that he possibly can to get to the West.
6. Source met Professor R. V. KALNINS in Riga. She was told by KALNINS that KALEJS was a student in one of his classes. He teaches architecture at the University. He asked Source for the phone number of the Australian Embassy in Moscow. He requested her to send money to his brother in Australia. He also warned Source to stay away from KALEJS who, he said, was a Communist.
7. KALNINS' address is Riga, Krosnoarneyskaya 28, Dom 28, Riga, anti-Communist approximately 55 years old.
8. KALEJS has an aunt who lives in San Francisco by the name of Ina SULCS, 2201 Derby Street, Berkeley 5, California.

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ATTACHMENT "J"

SUBJECT: REDSKIN Trip to Riga.

1. Vera GARTHOFF, John Reed THOMAS, and Source went to visit Riga. Mrs. GARTHOFF simply went to see her home in Riga, attended an opera, and then returned to Moscow.

2. There were only two other passengers on the plane with GARTHOFF, THOMAS and Source. Their regular flight had been cancelled. They were put on a mail plane which was flying to Riga from Moscow.

3. After they landed at the Riga airport, Source noticed three men who were watching them as they walked to the office. These same three men Source later noticed were part of her surveillance in Riga. The party went to the Riga Hotel in a plain car.

4. At the hotel, they showed their In-tourist papers and a Latvian clerk called someone to come down from upstairs. This proved to be a woman interpreter. They were taken into an office where the In-tourist guide turned out to be very rude to all three.

5. In the hotel restaurant they were permitted to sit only at certain tables.

6. The day after Source arrived in Riga, she went to a small store around the corner and called her cousin. She told her cousin to call Gunars ASTRA and tell him that she had arrived in Riga.

7. Source actually has two cousins in Riga. These are identical twins Nanija and Janis SMIDRIS. Nanija is a telephone operator. During the course of her conversations with Nanija, Nanija told her that she should be extremely cautious in the use of her telephone at her hotel since all calls coming from the hotel are recorded. Also all incoming and outgoing foreign calls are recorded. Nanija SMIDRIS further told Source that the listening post for the telephone calls to and from the hotel is located in the cellar below the bookshop across the street from the Hotel Riga.

8. Janis SMIDRIS lives at 75 Jauna Yalla, Majori, Latvia. He is a fisherman, 31 years of age 5' 8", 180 pounds. Source provided the undersigned with photographs of both her cousins. Janis SMIDRIS has recently been married and Nanija is still single.

9. Source met Paulis LEMANIS who is a good friend of Janis SMIDRIS. LEMANIS comes from Riga, is a former Latvian legionnaire, close to 40 and unmarried. He knew Source's father quite well.

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10. Janis works on a fishing boat with Russians. Source does not know exactly what he does. She says that he is very anti-Communist and Nanija is very anti-Communist. Both the cousins want to defect to the West. They both speak Latvian, Russian and some German.

11. Source feels that either one would trust any non-Latvian that comes to them mentioning Source's name. A Latvian would need very strong proof that he actually does know Source.

12. Source went to visit in Majori. She took a cab from Riga. The cab driver was one of the few people she could not tell was Russian or Latvian. She noticed that the cab was being surveilled. She spoke for a few minutes to the cab driver telling him that she was an American citizen and showed him her passport. He told her that he was a Latvian. At this point she mentioned that they were being followed and he replied that they had been ever since they had left the hotel. She asked whether it was possible to lose the surveillance and he said "just sit back and relax." He then proceeded to lose the surveillance very rapidly. When they arrived at her cousin's house in Majori, she found that the surveillance was there before she was and was waiting on the corner when she arrived.

13. At her cousin Janis SMIDRIS' house in Majori, she found Gunars ASTRA and her cousin. One of the interesting things that she noticed at her cousin's house was the fact that Gunars ASTRA did not trust her relatives and her relatives did not trust Gunars ASTRA. Both, however, trusted her. Her comment was that there are small groups and cliques in Riga. Within each group and within each clique people trust each other but the groups do not trust one another. After the party, she went back to her hotel by train, and noticed that she was being followed by the same man that was outside her cousin's home.

14. The SMIDRIS twins have a brother in Sweden. His name is Sterman E. SMIDRIS, Stomans Institute, Stockholm, Sweden.

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ATTACHMENT "K"

SUBJECT: Alfons DUKS

1. DUKS is Latvia's tennis champion. He received his degree in engineering. He is anti-Communist and anti-Russian and openly expressed this to Source. Source met DUKS through her cousin Janis SMIDRIS, whose wife is DUKS sister.

2. DUKS does not smoke and appears to have a good moral character. She believes that he would risk his life on behalf of the West because of his hatred of the Soviets. He specifically requested Source to agitate for war to free Latvia.

3. DUKS has a very nice apartment. He earns a good salary, and lives with his wife and mother-in-law. His apartment is located at 101 Revolutsia iela, Riga, Apartment #3. She can contact him at any time through her cousin, Janis SMIDRIS. Source felt that if we were looking for someone reliable, who had common sense and a good education that DUKS should be considered since he was willing to work. He practices tennis frequently because he wants to go abroad. In particular he would like to visit England to get as he said "a breath of fresh air." He feels that he never can go to a Western country, because he is not a Communist and he has no children to leave behind him as hostages. He lives well. His wife, however, is very much afraid and was always cautioning DUKS to not talk quite so much or quite so loudly.

4. DUKS is 27 or 28 years old, 5' 10" to 5' 11", 170 pounds, reddish-blond hair. He has a wide face, a reddish complexion and blue eyes.

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ATTACHMENT "L"

SUBJECT: Janis SKENDERIS

1. Before Source left the United States, she was contacted by RABACS who is the editor of Leiks Magazine published in New York City. SKENDERIS is RABACS' brother-in-law. Source visited SKENDERIS in Latvia during her visit.
2. SKENDERIS married a physician two or three years ago. He is about 42 years old, 5' 9", 185 pounds, heavy-build, and is very blond. He is a graduate engineer from the University of Riga. He also served as an officer in the Latvian Legion. Since the war he has been in Siberia having returned only several years ago.
3. SKENDERIS is a very out-spoken individual. He has recently completed a nice new house located just outside of Riga. He claims that he has built this house by stealing the materials and selling on the black market. He claims that the Soviets cannot do anything to him they have not done before.
4. SKENDERIS arranged for Source and John THOMAS to see the city by using two automobiles to lose the surveillance that THOMAS and Source had.
5. SKENDERIS mentioned that 10,000 new Russians a month are registering in Riga.
6. SKENDERIS is anti-Communist and anti-Russian. He was in charge of putting in the electric wiring in the new Riga Hotel. He claimed that he had to give kick-backs because he could not do all the work himself. The Hotel Riga took eleven years to build and SKENDERIS said all the rooms in the hotel contain listening devices.

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ATTACHMENT "M"

SUBJECT: Soviet Provocation

1. Early in her stay in Moscow, Source was walking through a park near the American Exhibition. She was lost and stopped a young student who was also walking in the park and asked him for directions. They started a conversation and he told her that he was a medical student. Since she spoke fluent Russian, they got along quite well and the medical student asked her for a date. That evening he showed up with a friend of his who was about 35 years old, quite handsome, but had a cold face, and cold eyes. Source was suspicious of him from the very beginning. This new stranger took charge of everything. He was introduced to Source as being Nikolai Grigoryevitch CHERNYSHEV. He was approximately 5' 11", weighed 165 to 170 pounds, medium build, sandy hair, receding hair line, wide forehead, narrow face, and very blue eyes. As Source described it, he had a penetrating gaze. He had a few gold or silver teeth in his mouth.

2. CHERNYSHEV took charge of the evening. He claimed to be an engineer and a teacher. He had a great deal of money to spend. CHERNYSHEV met her three or four times and each time insisted that she drink copious amounts of liquor.

3. One evening when CHERNYSHEV thought that Source had had a great deal to drink, he started asking her who her close friends were among the guides. Among others she told him that John R. THOMAS was. CHERNYSHEV proceeded to call her practically every night for the next week. She had become rather suspicious of him and had spoken to THOMAS and to the Exhibition security man. He told her not to see CHERNYSHEV any more. When CHERNYSHEV called the next morning she told him that she had received orders not to see him any more. He told her "That's okay, we can meet around the corner." He continued to call. She noticed shortly thereafter that she was under rather close surveillance. The next time CHERNYSHEV called she told him "Get those people off my back." He laughed and said, "What makes you think I can." At this point she told him in no uncertain terms and did not hear from him again. Shortly thereafter her surveillance appeared to lighten up.

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ATTACHMENT "N"

SUBJECT: Leons RIETERS

Source had heard of RIETERS both in Moscow and in Riga. The people that mentioned him to Source said that he got a job as a conductor, approximately 10,000 rubles, and an apartment. Several people quoted to her that all returnees get these things given to them. The local Latvians regard him as insane. All people that she spoke to about these Latvians, suggested that she tell people not to repatriate.

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ATTACHMENT "O"

SUBJECT: Dr. Lilia SEICS

1. Dr. SEICS is a dentist who practices in Skriveri a small town approximately 80 kilometers from Riga. Dr. SEICS knew Source's parents very well and was brought up only about a mile away from Skriveri. Dr. SEICS came to Moscow with her daughter Aina or Anni. She also has a son who is a physics student.

2. Dr. SEICS was a very scared woman. She told Source that she kept a retired conductor of the Bolshoi Theater in her home who also had an apartment in Moscow. While in Moscow, Dr. SEICS stayed in his apartment. This apartment was across from the American Embassy. Dr. SEICS claims that this unnamed retired Bolshoi conductor is a drunkard who does not live with his present wife.

3. Dr. SEICS is anti-Soviet and anti-Communist. She has not regretted not having left Latvia. She believes that her children have been brought up as true Latvians, not as "half Americans." Dr. SEICS is an extremely nationalistic person.

4. Dr. SEICS told Source how the Communists try to bring out all the indecent immoral things in people. She is worried about the fact that the Soviets are bringing in a low culture to Latvia. She said it is difficult for cultured Latvians to accept Russification.

5. Concerning her dental practice, Dr. SEICS said that she has no decent material with which to work.

6. Dr. SEICS said that many Latvian teeth are ruined at this point because of faulty diet.

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ATTACHMENT "P"

SUBJECT: Janis KRUMINS

1. Janis KRUMINS is one of the star Soviet Basketball players. He is from Latvia. Source described him as a giant, absolutely tremendous in height, but she is unable to estimate his exact height. She says his hands are like "hams." She described him as being a very cautious individual. At one point Source overheard the malicious saying as KRUMINS passed: "That's our star basketball player that helped beat the Americans in South America."

2. Source was invited to watch the Soviet basketball game that was being played in a small suburb of Moscow. She purchased flowers and went out to see the game. After the game, she wanted to meet some Latvians and present the flowers to them. She overheard Latvian being spoken and approached the group and asked in Latvian where the players were. She was offered a ride to the hotel where the basketball players were staying. In the car were three men who spoke Latvian. She entered the lobby of the hotel and met two girls whom she had previously met in Moscow who were basketball players. One was the captain of the team, whose name is Mirdza JONANS. Source described Mirdza as a fearless type who is not afraid of talking. Source gave her stacks of tickets to be distributed to the Latvians that she knew. Mirdza took Source down to dinner at the table where the team was eating. The girls talked mostly of food. There were no green vegetables, no fruit, just breadballs in grease, hamburger sauce, kafir, cottage cheese, etc. The Latvian girls were all complaining about the food. They called it "junk." After dinner, the girls introduced her to the various othermembers of the team, Soviets included, and it was there that she met many of the Latvian players that she later contacted in the United States. The hotel turned out to be the sportsmens clinic. It was a wonderful place in which to meet because many people came and went. This was suggested to her by the Latvian girls.

3. The girls spoke of their hatred for the Soviets and Source later learned that the following day the bosses of the team tried to find out who had invited the Source. One of the reasons that they were upset because the Source was there was the following incident. At one point Source went to the toilet. She was taken there and it was in her opinion one of the dirtiest, filthiest places she has ever seen. The Soviet bosses specifically asked how did Source get to the toilet, who took her there, and this apparently is the thing that upset the Soviets the most.

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ATTACHMENT "Q"

SUBJECT: Hjaras JANSONS

1. JANSONS is the second rank Latvian tennis star. He was introduced to Source by Alfons DUKS. Source refers to him as "pretty boy." He is approximately 27 years old and a playboy.
2. Source saw him in Riga and he accompanied her at one time when they went out with Source's cousins and others. Source described him as being a very handsome, but stupid guy.
3. At one point, JANSONS "propositioned" Source. She claims to have stood him up.

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ATTACHMENT "R"

SUBJECT: Gunars BRUNAVS

1. BRUNAVS approached Source at the Exhibition. He asked her if he could talk to her for a few minutes and appeared to be quite nervous. He requested her to meet him outside of the Exhibition. She met him several hours later in a nearby park.
2. BRUNAVS appears to be a Latvian who has a peasant face, yet is quite well-educated. He was extremely nervous and his hands shook throughout the meeting with Source. He kept checking around for surveillance and for people who might be listening to their conversation. He asked Source if she would be willing to discuss conditions in Latvia and she agreed.
3. He told her that he had been in the Vorkuta Slave Labor Camp in the Soviet Union for a number of years. Also present at Vorkuta with him was a very close friend who held the rank of Lt. Col. in the Latvian Army. Both of them were in Vorkuta during the period of the uprising. BRUNAVS claimed that a Polish Lt. Col. was the brains behind the uprising. This Polish Lt. Col. was later shot. The Latvian Lt. Col. who was a friend of his was a physician and had written a manuscript concerning the Vorkuta uprising and thought that this manuscript might be of some interest in the West.
4. At this point, BRUNAVS said he did not think they should talk anymore and he asked that she meet him that evening. Source had told him that the Soviets were probably checking on various people that the guides were talking to and this excited him even further, but she said that they could meet that night in the park and if they were cautious, probably it would be all right.
5. That night she met him in the park again. They walked and talked for several hours. She had not trusted BRUNAVS in the beginning and she told him so. He showed her his Vorkuta passport and told her that if she ever saw anything like that again to trust the bearer. He said that he would attempt to get the manuscript to her when she visited Riga.
6. BRUNAVS and Source made plans to meet on 7 October in front of the Opera House in Riga at 1900 hours. The alternate would be the next evening at the same time. He did not show up and she never heard from him again.

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7. During the course of their conversation, he told Source that in Riga he was a part of a small band of people who could make Source disappear and get the manuscript to her, and if necessary help her get the manuscript out. He said that this small band knew the Riga area extremely well and could get many things done that ordinarily could not be done.

8. Since Dr. SEICS (the woman dentist that Source had previously met) and BRUNAVS were leaving at the same time, she met the two at the train station in Moscow and introduced them to each other.

9. Dr. SEICS and BRUNAVS exchanged addresses and the three of them talked together for some time. At some later point, Dr. SEICS told Source that she trusted him. The two, Dr. SEICS and BRUNAVS, went to board the train together.

10. BRUNAVS was bitter about the Latvians as a people. He said that the resistance could have lasted much longer than 1956, but that drinking, women, poor judgement, and poor planning had led to its downfall. He said that one of the last of the resistance groups was arrested in 1952 in the Kurzeme area.

11. BRUNAVS had mentioned the name of one of these last people to be arrested in the Kurzeme area but Source has since forgotten the name. Source did remember, however, that Wilma BRIEDIS was this man's common law wife. BRUNAVS was furious at this man because he had neglected to look after the security of the people who were working for him. BRUNAVS claims that it was his desire to play Little Caesar that led to the downfall of some of the resistance groups.

12. BRUNAVS commented that there were still people in Latvia who had been deported, who would do anything against the Soviets. He went on to say that he and some of his friends meet from time to time.

13. BRUNAVS impressed Source as being an extremely serious and well educated person. He is approximately 34 to 36 years old, 5' 8", 180 to 190 pounds, big boned, light brown hair, grey eyes, broad face, and still had almost all of his hair.

14. BRUNAVS works at the Popov Radio Factory. He said that there are very few Russians at the factory. He employed as an engineer there at the present time. He appears to Source to be anti-Soviet and anti-Communist.

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ATTACHMENT "R"
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15. BRUNAVS claims that he has heard some rumors about organized resistance groups. He commented that it would be extremely difficult to organize resistance groups, because the individual Latvians do not trust each other at this point. The Latvians and specifically BRUNAVS himself admire the Estonians who stick together. He calls the Latvians apple-polishers. He also claims that after the Hungarian uprising resistance activities dropped off to practically nothing.

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ATTACHMENT "S"

SUBJECT: Victors LORENCS and Gunars PIESIS

1. Both Subjects are Latvian drama students in Moscow. They waited to see Source at her hotel. LORENCS played a German in a Sholokov anti-German film. She talked to the two for about an hour.

2. Source feels she cannot really evaluate these two people. They claim to have been afraid to wait for her too long because they did not want to be questioned by the police.

3. The two drama students said that they were planning on writing a script on the life of an exile and they were trying to get first hand information from her. In the course of an hour, she certainly could not give them very much information. They offered to take her and THOMAS to Mosfilm but this never materialized.

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ATTACHMENT "T"

SUBJECT: Mara and Ilza FEDERE

1. Source met Mara and Ilza FEDERE (two sisters from Latvia) in Moscow. They were on their way from Latvia to Tashkent to attend the bicycle races in Tashkent. They had stopped off in Moscow to visit the Exhibition and there they met Source. Source learned from them that they had been in Pilsen at the end of World War II and were sent back to Latvia from Pilsen. The girls are from a "good family." They are approximately 19 or 20 years old, and are acquainted with SKENDERIS. Their father died fighting against the Russians.

2. They helped Source distribute tickets to Latvians in Moscow for the American Exhibition. At one point Ilza FEDERE was stopped by the militia and questioned.

3. Both these girls are extremely anti-Russian and thanked Source profusely for the Exhibition. Source mentioned that one of the girls' goals was to get into a crowd of Russians at the American Exhibition and be able to elbow and jostle the Russians.

4. Photographs of these girls are attached, and Source says she has the addresses of the girls, but was unable to locate the addresses at the time of this debriefing.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Non-Communist Meetings

1. Gunars BRUNAVS was one of the few people who told Source that he and several of his friends meet from time to time. He described the several friends as old inmates of the Vorkuta Slave Labor Camp, and claims that this group can do a great many things in Riga, which other people could not. For example, he told Source that he could make her disappear for any length of time and he could aid her in smuggling out the manuscript that he discussed with her.
2. Only small groups of people get together. Only the people within a small group will trust each other. This is true at all levels. One group will not necessarily trust another group. An example of this is when Source attended a small party at her cousin's house where the group as a whole sang nationalistic songs and toasted the United States, one of the guests Gunars ASTRA felt that he did not know whether he trusted her cousins, and her cousins in turn did not know whether they trusted ASTRA.
3. The Latvians in Moscow felt much freer to talk there than they did back in Riga. They only talked in Latvian and felt that they would not be understood. In Moscow they would walk in the street and discuss anti-Communist and anti-Russian matters with a certain degree of freedom.
4. One of the jokes overheard by the Source, concerned the following: When a gypsy was asked what he was going to do when the borders of the Soviet Union were opened up, he replied, "I'm going to climb a tree so I won't be trampled in the rush."
5. The gypsies are persecuted, rounded up, and many times shot, because they do not work and they eat food that they haven't earned.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Latvian Exile Groups

1. Source claims that the Latvians do not know much concerning the emigres and that they do not know whether or not the emigres are working for their liberation or not. She felt that many of them had their own theories about it, but these theories were not passed on to her. She also explained to the interviewer that most of the Latvians have emigre relatives living in the West and they can keep in touch that way and keep abreast with what is going on.

2. The thing that appealed most to the Latvians who lived in Latvia is receiving packages from their relatives in the West.

3. The people who are living in Latvia at the present time are very much interested in the activity, particularly in the freedom activity of the Soviet exiles. They are not yet informed, according to the Source and the only method they have of knowing what is going on is through personal letters.

4. Source felt that the people did not know the names and programs of the Latvian exile groups.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Religion and Churches

1. Church services are held for baptisms, funerals and confirmations.

2. Older people primarily go to church. Source did not meet anyone younger than 25 years old who believed in God. There is a great deal of religious literature floating around Latvia and the Soviet Union. It is very noticeable that the majority of the young people even though they may be anti-Soviet and anti-Communist have no belief in God.

3. The clergy in Latvia subsist on the donations and contributions given to them by their church members. There is no state support for them. Church upkeep and repair must be taken out of contributions given locally.

4. No religious training is given in schools but rather schools give a great deal of anti-religious training. The only religious training that Source heard of was given in some homes by older people.

5. Most of the people that Source spoke to are Lutheran.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Ways of Liberation

1. Most Latvians fervently believe that Latvia will be liberated from Soviet occupation. They thrive on this hope and appear to be terribly disappointed when told that the United States is seeking ways of peace. It appeared to Source that most people in Latvia were grasping for straws.

2. Most Latvians do not believe that liberation will come through any anti-Communist revolution nor do they believe it will come through a process of evolution. The Latvian people felt extremely let down by the West at the time of the Hungarian Revolution. They believe that the Russians are very happy and they point out that the better the Soviets live the happier they are. As far as the Latvians are concerned, their only hope appears to be World War III.

3. The majority of people that Source spoke to believed that war is the only realistic possibility to liberate Latvia from Soviet occupation.

4. Although the Latvians realize what would happen to them and to the entire Baltic area in case of atomic war, they believe that the life they are living now is no life at all and they might as well be obliterated. Source mentioned that these comments were made by intelligent people. Concerning atomic warfare, Gunars ASTRA told John Reed THOMAS that he was taught in the Soviet Army that Soviet espionage was so good that they would know several seconds before the United States drops any atomic bomb and would destroy the United States first. ASTRA went on to say that shelters were presently being dug in Riga and took THOMAS to see these shelters. When asked about differences of opinion between the youth and the older generation regarding the alternative to continue living indefinitely under Soviet occupation or taking the risk of atomic war, Source said that the younger people were studying very hard in the technical and scientific field and ignoring the social studies. She believes that the older people are more for an immediate war than are the younger people. Source went on to point out that the youth is studying hard in Latvia just to be able to leave Latvia for a little while.

5. In the event of war Source believes that because of the hatred of the Russians, everyone from 20 years old and up, and even below the age of 20 years, would definitely offer very active resistance to the regime.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: The Future Latvia

1. Source did not overhear any discussions nor does she believe that the topic of the future form of government of Latvia as well as the Constitution of the new Latvia is being discussed at the present time. She believes that they are not discussing this because of the remote possibility of a free Latvia. She said that only in the West do they think of the future form of government or constitution--not in Latvia. The Latvians she says concern themselves only with getting the Russians out of the country.

2. When asked about the relationship with a free and non-Communist Russia, Source said that any sort of relationship would be impossible because of the Latvian hatred of the Russians. She calls this an impersonal and irrational blind hatred. She feels that most of the people in Latvia make no distinctions between Communists or non-Communists, but hate Russians.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Underground and Resistance

1. Source believes there are no longer any guerilla groups operating in the woods. The last ones that she heard about were captured in 1956.

2. Source did not hear of any acts of sabotage in transportation, factory or kolkhozes.

3. Concerning moderate or cautious resistance being useful or harmful, Source could not answer the question specifically but commented that it would be a very difficult decision for a family man to make whether he should be involved in any form of resistance.

4. Source believes that the Latvians would not cooperate with other nationals including Russian opposition to strengthen their front with general anti-Communist resistance. She believes that they would not because of their mistrust and hatred of the Russians. Source commented also that they might be overlooking a very important factor, but her guess would be that they would not cooperate.

5. Source felt that Latvians would distribute anti-Communist literature in the Russian language among the occupants and went on to give the following examples: BRUNAVS, SKENDERIS, Uldis KALEJS, Mirdza JONANS.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Communist Organizations

1. Not all party members are traitors in the opinion of the nationalist-minded Latvians. For example, BERKLAVS was a Communist, but is not considered a traitor. The Latvians differentiate between the real Communists on one hand and Latvian nationalists with party membership cards on the other.

2. By using party membership cards as camouflage Source believed that Latvian patriots can help the Latvian national cause. As an example, she cited BERKLAVS. She did go on to say, however, that these people are not appreciated for the things that they are attempting to do.

3. Most Latvians consider that young people joining the Komsomol to be admitted to universities and other schools are harmless. They regard the Komsomol as very innocuous organization and feel that the youth must belong to this in order to get a job and to further their own careers. Most of the youth join this organization in name only. Gunars ASTRA asked some of the youth who were applying for jobs at the VEF factory about the rules and regulations of the Komsomol and found that they did not even know this slight information which they should have known about the organization.

4. Although Source felt that nationalist tendencies is evident among Komsomol members, she could not explain why.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Defections

1. A great many people certainly think of defecting from Latvia, however, the physical obstacles of a physical defection are almost insurmountable. A number of Latvians are unwilling to give up their family life. They think about defecting, but do not defect.

2. Probably the major obstacle preventing defection is the physical impossibility of getting out of Latvia. Those people who were able to prove German descent were lucky and were able to get out. A sports group which attempted to travel legally to Estonia were stopped five times in going from Latvia to Estonia. These individuals had to submit 24 pictures of themselves plus many forms. They were finally stopped at the border because they did not have a red flag flying from the car. Instead they finally raised a red pillow case. Even these people were searched several times. It was extremely difficult for this group to get permission to travel. They started working on the problem of exiting from Latvia to Estonia three full months ahead of time.

3. Certainly many Latvians would defect to the West if they were allowed to go abroad as tourists. People are not afraid to flee Latvia because of the uncertainty of living conditions and political asylum in the West, but rather they are afraid of being caught by the Soviets.

4. Source believes that Western propaganda should not inform the Latvians at home about the prospects for defectors to the West, because too many people would be killed or caught in coming out. Source feels it would induce defection and this would probably be bad.

5. Source does not know whether there were any reprisals against relatives or friends of defectors who helped the anti-Communist cause of the West.

6. If emigration became legal, a great many people would try to leave Latvia for the West.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Radio

1. Subject's comments concerning various propaganda problems were of necessity in broad terms, since she was not briefed beforehand and she did not ask specific questions. Her comments are, therefore, broad and sometimes very general.

2. Many people expressed the opinion that VOA contains entirely too much religion in their broadcasts. This was even told to her by many of the older people. Very few of the Latvian youth believe in God. Most often she heard that they want to hear facts and news. Commentaries and analysis were not as valuable as the facts and the news themselves. They would like to hear more about life in the United States. Several people asked her why the United States and the Western powers broadcasted at all, since neither the United States nor the other Western powers would help them if they needed help, and quoted as an example the Hungarian uprising. One person told her "I don't really know whom I hate the most, the United States or the Russians-- the United States for not helping the Hungarians, or the Soviets for being our masters.

3. Some people listen clandestinely to the broadcasts and some keep taperecorders handy to tape the music. Gunars ASTRA mentioned to her that some people are putting a gadget on their radio to stop the jamming. He said that it was very expensive, but quite successful.

4. The local populace calls jamming "saw." It apparently sounds like a saw being run over a file.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Mail and Publications

1. Subject did not know anyone who had ever received anti-Communist letters through the mail. Neither has she met anyone who has ever seen the Latvian newspaper Laiks. She never heard of anyone who received anti-Communist letters or periodicals.

2. In Riga, it is not possible to buy the magazine Amerika; however, it is being smuggled in and it can be bought on the black market. Occasionally it is received by the local library. One boy that she met has a friend who is a librarian at Cina and he manages to see the magazine regularly there.

3. The magazines which are most appreciated are Popular Science, Popular Mechanics and magazines showing technical progress.

4. A supposedly true story, which is making the rounds in Latvia concerns an elderly Latvian woman who died in the United States and expressed in her dying breath that her only wish was to be buried in Latvian soil. Her relatives had her cremated and attempted to mail her ashes to Latvia to be buried there. United States postal authorities would not accept the package for mailing. Her ashes were put into a package of flour and sent to Latvia and a letter explaining what had been done was then sent at the same time. The flour arrived and was used to make pancakes, bread and cake. The letter explaining about the ashes being put into the flour did not arrive until several weeks after the resultant product had been eaten.

5. It is rumored that all incoming mail is photographed.

6. Further rumor concerns the fact that when leaving Riga, people warned her definitely not to take anything out of Riga that she was not supposed to, because of the body and luggage search. She commented that neither was her luggage searched, nor her body.

7. Rumor has it that Elza ZEBRANSKA was searched. Other rumors concern the fact that things are much freer and better than in Stalin's time.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Students

1. Concerning students there is apparently a great deal of student dissatisfaction. Some Latvians send their children to Soviet schools, but most Latvians prefer to send their children to Latvian schools.
2. Source understands that from grade school up, the Latvian children get into fights with the Soviet children and this continues on through highschool and into college. It is apparent to a Latvian visitor that there is a great deal of hatred between the Latvians and the Soviets and this can be sensed, for example, even on a street car.
3. The Soviets did promulgate some reprisals against the students who participated in the Yale Choir singing episode.
4. In the Russian schools the main language is Russian. In the Latvian schools the Latvians are allowed to use the Latvian language, but Russian is the first foreign language taught. Concerning foreign students, or Latvian students studying in foreign areas, Source heard of Janis ABOLINSCH. The comments in Latvia, concerning Janis ABOLINSCH, were that he was an extremely lucky boy. In the U.S. Source heard that Latvian emigres do not trust ABOLINSCH, since in order to come to the United States he must be politically reliable according to the regime.
5. Subject commented at one point that the hatred the Latvians have for the Soviets is one based on nationalism rather than on a political difference. This is the reason that the comments that are made by her are often divided by anti-Soviet versus anti-Communist.
6. Latvian students in Moscow are foremost Latvians. They separate themselves from the Russians and they consider the Russians as stupid, uncultured, etc.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Literature and Art

1. Source met several Latvian intellectuals, for example, SKENDERIS and his wife who are definitely anti-Soviet and anti-Communist.
2. A Latvian writer living in the West, who has recently had one of his novels published in Latvia is Anslavs EGLITIS. The Latvians are officially printing one of his travelogue novels dealing with his travels in the United States. He is the only author and his book is the only one that Source heard has been published in Latvia by an exile. EGLITIS is recognized by many Latvians as being an extremely good author. While in Latvia EGLITIS wrote several good books. The Latvians were extremely pleased with his work and Source brought some of his works along with her and passed them out in Riga. Source brought in with her about eight books and several issues of Laiks Magazine, including the issues concerning the two Latvian fishermen who defected in Canada. These issues were provided by Carlos RABACS in New York. These materials she left in Latvia.
3. Many Latvians who traveled to Estonia, have been "stung" by speaking Russian, for example in asking directions, going to barbershops, restaurants and so on. The local Estonians will not answer anyone who speaks to them in Russian. Even though a Latvian who is visiting Estonia cannot speak Estonian, Russian is the wrong language to use. The Latvians who visit Estonia, wish that they could be more like the Estonians.
4. A local joke concerning the Baltic area is about the planning for the next war. The plan is to let the Latvian army go into the Soviet Union and take a town, they are followed by the Estonians to kill off the local population, and they are followed by the Lithuanians who proceed to plunder the town.
5. As in Poland, Latvia is much influenced by the West. The Latvians are striving to get away from Soviet culture and many painters and writers are censored for these actions. This was specifically spelled out to Source.
6. A prominent Latvian contemporary writer is Vilis LACIS. Another one is Andrejs UPITIS. LACIS is a proletarian who suffered during the time of free Latvia. Source knows nothing about UPITIS.
7. Cultural exchanges between the various Baltic countries is found mostly in the sports field. It appears that the sportsmen travel back and forth between the Baltic countries without too much difficulty. At any sport event, one Baltic country will cheer the other Baltic country in the other's language. The three Baltic countries stick very close together at this time.

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ATTACHMENT "U"
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8. At sporting and other events the Georgians band with the Balts and cheer them on, since the Georgians feel that they have nothing in common culturally with the Russians.

9. The Latvians would very much like to promote cultural exchanges with the West. A great many people wanted to know from the Source what is being written by the exiles. Most people whom Source met were at least highschool graduates. They were particularly interested in cultural exchanges dealing with the stage, art and music. They also expressed an extremely great interest in student exchanges. The Yale University Choir made a great impression in Riga. MICKEVICS was mobbed when he was in Latvia. He went to the student houses and together with the local students sang many patriotic songs. The local authorities raised hell with the students when the Choir left and two students were expelled from school entirely.

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ATTACHMENT "U"

SUBJECT: Sociological, Political

1. Concerning expressions of nationalism, Source said that everyone she talked to even the students in Moscow who appeared to have leftist leanings expressed nationalist feelings. Source commented that the Latvians are an extremely nationalistic people and the only ones who do not express their nationalism would be the ones who are out and out Communists.

2. The relations between the Latvians and the Russians in Latvia are easy to describe. Source said they simply hate each other. For example, in a department store where Source was shopping for some small gifts, she was shoved by a woman whom Source described as "a fat slob." The woman turned out to be a Russian and Source shoved her back. The woman called her a "Latvian pig." Source replied to her, "Thank you for culture." A crowd gathered and Source turned to the general crowd and said, "I'm an American and if this is an example of Russian culture, I'm not having any," and left. She was questioned by Russians in the store concerning the incident and wondered whether or not it appeared in the Latvian Pravda newspaper.

3. Regarding Soviets as occupiers, the Latvians refer to the Soviets as enslavers and regard themselves as being under the Soviet yoke.

4. Latvians do get to hold some influential and authoritative positions in government, as well as in the Party, for example, BERKLAVS. BERKLAVS was removed from his position last May or June. He was accused of being a nationalist Communist and the Soviets accused him of out and out nationalism. After his removal, he was regarded by the local Latvian populace as something of a hero.

5. Seventy-five percent of the population of Riga is Russian. The official figure which Source got from a student of economics is 71.4% of the total population of Riga. At this point the Latvians are really a minority group in Riga.

6. The attitude which is expressed by the Latvians about their economic situation can be characterized by the fact that almost all Latvians say, "One can live only by stealing." The comment has been passed to the Source many times that one is able to eat up his whole salary by just eating pastry once a day.

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ATTACHMENT "U"
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7. Most of the Jews who lived in Latvia were wiped out by the Germans. Whether many of the Jews who fled have come back, she did not know. Source recommended that Joe GROSSMAN, who was a guide at the Fair from Washington, D.C. be queried. She said that Mr. GROSSMAN is a mature individual interested in the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

8. Concerning Poland, most Latvians regard the Poles as foreigners and consider them as being lucky since they have self-government to a much greater degree than the Latvians and are therefore much better off.

9. The Latvians see World War III as the only means for their liberation. The Latvians want war. They claim that the living conditions in Latvia are worse than Hell and even if World War III means total annihilation, they would rather have themselves annihilated than continue to live under the Soviet yoke. Several people relayed this feeling to Source and said that they wanted Source to agitate for World War III.

10. Concerning peaceful co-existence with the West, Latvians are saying that Americans are leaving Latvians to suffer by themselves. They claim that Americans are purchasing peace with pretty words and that Americans are "stupid idiots, because they believe that they can co-exist peacefully with the Soviet Union."

11. The attitude of the Latvians toward the Germans is the hope that the Germans will rise and liberate them because the United States, England, and France will not. There are no delegations to West Germany at the present time and the local Latvian populace looks upon West Germany as a potential white hope.

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