

L A T V I A.

October 1960 - July 1961.

I THE POLITICAL SITUATION

A. THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

The Socialistic Competitions not Popular any more.

On November 23rd 1960 took place in Riga the consultation of shock workers and working brigades of Latvian Communist working people. At this gathering there took part approximately 500 of the so-called "Scouts of the Future", and, of course, the usual Pleiad of Communist high brass without whom none of the greater -extent gatherings is imaginable . /See: Oina No.279, 1960/. The main speaker was M.Gribkov, Second Secretary of the Central Committee of Latvian Communist Party, and he mostly spoke about the problem how to raise the work productivity, i.e. the production itself, too. The contents of his speech made it clear that great deficiencies are still hampering the work itself and also the production's volume. The principal means of exploitation of working people - the so-called "socialistic competitions" seem to be not too popular in Latvia, since only "around 16% of working people" did participate there.

Mrs. Furceva at the meeting of the Latvian Communist Party Activists.

Comrade J.Furceva, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, stayed in Riga for several days. On December 26th, there took place the meeting of the activists of the Latvian Communist Party at which more than 1200 Party members participated. The agenda of this meeting contained decisions adopted by the Universal Communist Congress that took place in Moscow, i.e. the message issued by this congress. The main speaker at the above-mentioned meeting was comrade J.Furceva.

She pointed out that the most characteristic trait of our times is the fact that the socialistic system becomes the most decisive factor for the development of the human society. The communists are fighting for " the liberation of the nations from the imperialist yoke, exploitation and for the liquidation of colonialism...." " The communists are struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism" / Cina of December 27th, 1960./

After having shouted out the usual Communist propaganda slogans, Mrs. Furceva dealt with tasks to be fulfilled by the Latvian Communist Party. These tasks were clear as day light - the Seven Year Plan should be fulfilled before its deadline.

There is no doubt that Furceva's visit to Riga was connected with certain failures to implement the Seven Year Plan in Latvia. Her duty was also to strengthen the new course of the Latvian Communist Party which is now being introduced after the great purges that started in 1959 and still have not been discontinued in Soviet Latvia.

Latvian Communist Party analyzing the economic conditions. ?

On January 29th took place in Riga the meeting of the active of Latvian Communist Party attended by 1300 persons. In his speech-report Mr. A. Pelē, First Secretary of the Central Committee of Latv. Comm. Party, characterized the true life and economic conditions in Soviet Latvia. This speech is being now partly quoted as it appeared in Cina No. 26 of January 31, 1961. ".... Yet, the results achieved during the last year cannot satisfy us. One must admit that our republic has not fully exploited all its chances and possibilities. On the all-republican scale the production of milk has increased only by 2%; we not only have failed to fulfill our obligations but even have not secured the fulfilment of the milk-production plan. 306 kolkhoses and soykhoses / or one third of the total number. Rapp./ have not fulfilled their obligations with regard to the yield of milk.

So, for instance, the average yield of milk in the district of Talsi per one cow has decreased by 39 kg. and 15.2% of cows have been disqualified without any justification / slaughtered for meat. Rapp./ Only two kolkhozes of this district have fulfilled their pledges... The increase of numbers of cows in Latvia has considerably slowed down during the last years.... 14.5% of cows on the all-republican scale have been sold to be slaughtered. Likewise, one does not breed cattle. ~~the~~ Most of the kolkhozes and sovkhoses are wasting too much of the expensive fodder and work for the production of milk.... Already today we do not have enough of fodder, litter, stalls and sties and milking machines.... Many kolkhozes have irresponsibly fulfilled their obligations with regard to meat-production.... They have thoughtlessly taken upon themselves some obligations which they even do not think to fulfil. We have to struggle for the honor of the Party... During the last year the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of our republic purchased from the population ca. 142,000 calves for fattening but could not fulfil this plan and thus fattening of 50,000 calves had to be left for the current year.... We pledged ourselves to produce 70,000 tons of meat but were able to produce 49,200 tons only. During the last year the kolkhozes and sovkhoses had been able to fatten one million of pigs but the result was only 563,000 pigs... The production of mutton has decreased though there exist in our republic all possibilities for breeding of sheep.... The agricultural products cost us too much: so, e.g. the production cost of one cent. of milk during the last year was 8.33 rubles; ten eggs cost us 44 kopecks; one cent. of goose meat was to be had for 77.5 rubles.... Without any justification we have decreased the production of grain. In the district of Dobeles the acreage under cereals has decreased by 1,500 hectares, in the district of Bauska - by 3000 ha., in Valka - by 800 ha. and Jelgava - by 2000 hectares / all of the mentioned districts ~~mentioned to be~~ the best grain producers during the era of indepen-

The last year's harvest gave us only 40% of the grain necessary for our needs....Minister of Agriculture, comrade Nikonov, is to be blamed for this, he has proved to be incapable to lead Latvian agriculture.... There are many deficiencies what regards cultivation of Indian corn.... More sugar-beets should be cultivated...Likewise, we should pay more attention to cattle-breeding and during the current year this is a 150% task in comparison with the year 1960... The most part of pastures has overgrown with bushes, has turned into bogs and therefore only partly used for pastures... During this year we have to recultivate 75 to 80 thous. hectares of neglected and weed-overgrown pastures... The potato harvest is not stable and is low... The fields are not harvested in time and much of grain remains on the fields during the winter... Our republic has failed for several years consecutively to fulfil the production of flax... Among the actual problems of the agricultural development that of the scientific research for furthering of agriculture has been kept aloof... There is shortage of agricultural machines... people are still toiling with their hands.... The sovkhoses are working with a deficit...In many districts fusing of kolkhozes has proved to be a failure and is causing losses... The role of the agricultural specialists should be enlarged. Today we have 6812 specialists among whom there are only 1108 graduates of schools for higher education.

The Fifth Plenum of the Central Committee of Latvian Comm. Party.

The fifth plenum of the Central Committee of Latv.Comm.Party took place in Riga, March 29th and 30th, 1961. Two items were on the agenda: Convocation of the next regular congress of the Latv. Comm. Party and questions pertaining to the work of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party of concern to fulfilment of January 1961 decisions adopted by the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party with regard to agricultural problems. It was decided to convok

the XVIII Congress of Latvian Communist Party in Riga on Sept. 26th, 1961. This congress is supposed to prepare materials for the All-Union Communist Party Congress / the 23rd / scheduled to convene in Moscow, October, 1961.

An extensive report pertinent to the second item of the agenda was delivered by A. Felše, First Secretary of the Central Committee of Latvian Communist Party. The principal part of this report dealt with the "sins" of Latvian sovkhoszniks, kolkhozniks and local leaders of Latvian Communist Party in connection with failures of Latvian agriculture during the last year. The report contained also some interesting figures. "So, for instance, there are serious deficiencies in the construction plans in the kolkhozes. During the last year the kolkhozes fulfilled only 63% of the byre-construction plan, or 50% of the sheds for young cattle. The plan for the construction of houses has been fulfilled only 87%. On the all-republican scale the kolkhozes and sovkhoses have sold and delivered only 78% of milk, but the districts of Ludza and Preiļi - only 64%. The percentage was 67 in the district of Viļani, and that of the district of Rēzekne was 86. Such deficiencies should be eliminated". /Cina No.77, 1961./

Changes within the leadership of Latvian Communist Party.

The 5th Plenum of Latvian Communist Party at their meeting of March 30th, 1961 / See: Cina N o.77, 1961/ decreed the following changes:

1. At his own request was discharged from the duties of the Secretary of the Central Committee of Latvian Comm. Party and membership of the Bureau of the Central Committee, A. Migliniks / at his request claiming bad health / and in his stead was elected / to both of the above-mentioned posts / V. Lejinā.

A. Migliniks was the last of the five secretaries remaining at his post after purges within the Latvian Comm. Party initiated in 1959.

It is quite possible that his "bad health" is the end of the purges. V. Lejiņš, the new secretary of the Central Comm. and Member of the Central Committee's Bureau, is a new star on the firmament of Latvian Communist Party because until now his name did not figure among those of the members of the Central Committee or even among the candidates. Likewise, he had never been occupying any of the important party posts in Soviet Latvia.

2. R. Verro has been appointed Director of the Agricultural Departm. of the Centr. Comm. of Latvian Comm. Party / instead of V. Rubenis/. Also he is a new star in the leadership of the Latvian Comm. Party, since his name had never been mentioned before in connection with any of the important posts.

3. V. Karaliun has been appointed the responsible editor of the magazine Padomju Latvijas Komunisti, to replace K. Tchaadzev. This is an important promotion to V. Karaliun since his previous post had been merely editor of the illustrated magazine Zvaigane and he had never held any positions within the Communist Party.

4. P. Skreveris was promoted from a candidate to full membership of the ~~same~~ Central Committee of Latvian Comm. Party.

5. V. Kupča, First Secretary of the Liepāja Communist Party was struck off ~~his~~ membership of the Central Comm. of Latvian Communist Party.

#### VI Plenum of the Latvian Communist Party's Central Committee.

VI Plenum of the Central Committee of Latvian Communist Party took place in Riga, June 6th and 7th, 1961. Two questions were on the agenda: 1. Improving of the organizatory and political work among masses to be carried out by the Party rural organizations and 2. Survey of the Communist Party's Riga Municipal Committee on fulfilment of the decisions of the Plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party adopted in July, 1960, and the decisions adopted by the XVII Congress of the Latvian Communist Party. To make it short:-

this was an accounting for the results achieved by Communist Party workers in rural areas and the capital city of Riga. /See: Cina NNo.133,134 and 135 of 1961/.The said accountings/ or to be ~~xxx~~ true-lectures/<sup>on</sup> what and how to work in the future / were delivered by two Moscow's henchmen - M.Gribkov, Secretary of the Central Comm. of Latv. Comm. Part, and N.Soloviov / both of them are Russians/, Secretary of the Riga Municipal Committee. The speeches of the said contain some parts that are interesting because of figures contained therein, and also because of failures described.

M.Gribkov in his report on Latvia's agriculture, among other things, said: /Quotations taken from the above-mentioned newspaper Cina/

"... According to information coming from the Central Statistical Bureau of the Republic, the sovkhoses and kolkhozes have managed to fulfil the sowing of spring corn /until June 1st/ over 90% - having sown 30,000 hectares more than during the same period last year. The sowing plan for cereals and leguminous plants has been fulfilled 97%, or 40,000 ha. more than during the last year's corresponding period... The things are better with sowing of corn. 82,600 ha have been sown before June 1st, or - 27,000 ha. more than during the same period in 1960. However, areas under crop for cereals and vegetables, as well as the pace of sowing of grass cannot satisfy us... We have some facts making it clear that some Party district committees, district executive committees, primary organizations of Party and Komsomol, as well as directors of sovkhoses and kolkhozes have not taken sufficient care of fulfilment of pledges given by working people. This is explanation why kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the districts of Aluksne, Ogre, Riga, Gulbene, Cēsis.... have delayed and thus lost the best time for the sowing campaign, and in some of the said districts' husbandries there were even grossly ignored the most elementary demands of agro-technique. / Thus the areas under crops seem to be

larger than the last year but in the most productive districts the things have gone wrong. Could this be explained again as a sabotage? Rapp./ The pace of meat and milk production can by no means satisfy us since during the last five months they had been much lower than foreseen by the socialistic pledges. The republic is not fulfilling her obligations towards the country what regards selling of milk and meat. The districts of Riga, Madona, Jēkabpils, Preiļi and some husbandries of other districts, as well, are lagging behind what concerns production of meat, and with regard to production of milk the same could be said about the districts of Bauska, Dobele, Valmiera, Ventspils and some husbandries of other districts, too."

And for all this, the above-mentioned Party boss is blaming the Party, and admitting that "the Party primary organizations are not being duly guided". Also communists have not been placed in the right angles. To this effect Gribkov said: "Just now there are among the kolkhoz chairmen of our republic 832 communists; 123 communists work as sovkhos directors and 271 as farm directors. Approximately 1000 communists are working as agronomists, zootechnicians and other agricultural specialists. In the direct process of <sup>production</sup> marketing are working only 7419 communists / as mechanizers, cattle farmers and soil tillers/. Thus, not even 10,000 communists are working in Latvian agriculture, and this proves that the Communist Party is not popular in Latvia's rural areas inhabited by almost one million peoples. And therefore comrade Gribkov did not have any other issue but to reproach the communists living in the country-side and to tell them what should be done in order to increase the numbers of Party members in rural areas, and to achieve by means of propaganda that the Seven Year Plan should be fulfilled before its deadline. The fact that the next tasks will not be easy to fulfil is evident from the lecturer's words, that "Such deformations as dishonest attitude towards



work, drinking, tendencies to nurse private property, speculation, tendency to become rich, swindling and religious superstition do delay the fulfilment of our plans and stop our progress... Yet, many Party organizations do not fight consistently enough against these negative facts. Several Party organizations still fight too softly against drinking and immorality... We should not even for a moment relax in our fight against such remnants of the capitalistic regime as the bourgeois nationalism... We shall not forget that our enemies are not sleeping. The bourgeois nationalists are eager to use every crack to infiltrate their reactionary ideas. They lift their heads every time when the political vigilance of the Party workers becomes bluat... A great hindrance is the fact that people are living in individual homesteads in our rural areas. Generally speaking the moving of peoples to villages has not yet been duly organized. The plan for the construction of kolkhoz living space during the last year has been fulfilled only 67%. During one year 2463 apartments have been put into operation. 407 apartments have been made available during the first months of the current year, or 11% of the plan. Districts of Kraslava, Gulbene, Riga and also kolkhozes of several other districts have not paid any attention to building of apartments. /Some of them have fulfilled only 2 to 3% of the prescribed plan. Rapp./

With reference to agricultural specialists M. Gribkov said :

" The Latvian Communist Party's Central Committee, and the city and rural district committees have recently done a great work in order to provide kolkhozes and sovkhoses with specialists. For the time being in 484 kolkhozes / from the total of 976 / agricultural specialists are working as chairmen of the boards. In 115 sovkhoses / out of 161 / zootechnicians, agronomists and other agricultural specialists are working as directors. In the entire republic there are working in the agriculture more than 9000 specialists, among them 4000 agronomists

and approximately 1700 zootechnicians". It is evident from the above that the numbers of kolkhozes have been again decreased. / There had been 1150 in 1960/, and this indicates that the consolidation of the kolkhozes is still being continued. There are no changes what regards the numbers of sovkhoses.

N.Soloviov reporting about the situation in Riga industry was more optimistic than M.Gribkov when speaking about the Soviet Latvia's agriculture.

It appears from Soloviov's report that " the Riga industry is producing the major part of the republic's industrial output, including 90% of the machine-building industry. The Riga industry has connections with almost all economic districts of our state / i.e. Soviet Union/, as well as with 50 foreign countries. The city's industry is doing its best to fulfil its task. The gross production plan for the first five months has been fulfilled 103.1%. A great assistance to Riga has been rendered by the Soviet Union's Communist Party, the Leninist Central Committee, the Soviet Government and the brotherly Soviet republics, and particularly - the great Russian nation .... 2700 collectives and more than 60,000 workers are participating in the movement for a communist-type work... Riga working people are competing with working peoples in Tallinn, Minsk and Tbilisi... Approximately 100,000 young workers are employed in Riga industrial enterprises, construction organizations and transportation...." Speaking about the deficiencies, Soloviov said : " There are still many deficiencies and serious mistakes in the work of the City's Party Committee. Very often positively estimated figures are masking deficiencies and failures... There are enterprises where very little attention is being paid to the problem of decreasing the volume of manual work... There are still many defects in the construction work. The quality of the construction work is still low and many anxieties

is causing the bad work performed by specialized organizations... The plans have not been fulfilled... The patronage of sovkhoses and kolkhoses is limping and pledges are not fulfilled..." Just the same as in agriculture, cheating is also being practiced in industry. With regard to this the lecturer said: "The Party and State discipline should be strictly obeyed. Workers of many enterprises have chosen the road of cheating the State and producing of fictive records."

#### B. KOMSOMOL.

##### Plenum of Latvian Komsomol in Riga.

The IV Plenum of the Central Committee of Latvian Komsomol took place in Riga, December 8, 1960. At this plenum participated the activists of the Komsomol of the higher educational institutions, directors, rectors, and secretaries of the Party organizations, as well as deans and secretaries of the faculties' Party organizations of the schools for higher learning. Also there were present representatives of various organizations, Komsomol district and secretaries of the municipal councils, secretaries of the largest industrial enterprises, chairmen of the republican Party and Trade Unions, officials of the Ministry for Culture, as well as representatives of the Committee for Higher and Special Secondary Education, altogether more than 500 persons. Only one question was on the agenda, i.e. "About the Tasks of the Komsomol Organizations". A. Litmanis, Secretary of Latvian Komsomol's Central Committee, was the rapporteur and Bashanov, an instructor of the Central Committee of the All-union Komsomol, was the supervisor sent for this purpose from Moscow.

The plenum organized on such wide scale clearly shows that there are some serious problems to deal with in the work and the tasks of the Latvian Komsomol / Young Communist League /. This was also evident from the contents of the report and the debates which have been published in Padomju Kautne No.239, of December 9, 1960.

A. Zifmanis : " ...We should secure the high ideological level of the educational work and we should positively do away with some students' nonchalant attitude towards the theories of Marxism-Leninism, the students should be educated in the spirit of the nation's and the Communist Party's revolutionary and working traditions, in the spirit of today's heroism, the unshakable friendship among the nations of the Soviet Union, in the spirit of the proletarian internationalism; the students should unconditionally struggle against any kind of revisionist and nationalistic mutilations. / Underlined by Rapp./

Not a one director of a primary school, boarding-school, or a kindergarten, or a pioneer leader for the schools of our republics who would satisfy the Party's requirements has ever been prepared from among the young graduates coming from our higher schools... We simply have to see to it that our influence penetrates into each of our students."

Jaun zeme, Secretary of the Komsomol of the Latvian State University:  
 " For the time being there are more than 1700 members of the Komsomol organizations studying in this university / I.e. approximately 504 of those studying in that school. Rapp./. This year we have admitted more students into the Komsomol than during the three previous years combined... Yet, there are many deficiencies what concerns the educational work."

Vilks, First Sec-ry of the Riga Komsomol:

"Only two Komsomol conventions have taken place in the Academy of Fine Arts during the last two years. No wonder that during the period revised the Komsomol organizations has not admitted even one comrade"

Putniņš, Chairman of the State Higher AND Special Secondary Education Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR ;

" There are 21,000 students in our republic the population of which is 2 million... The buildings of the Daugavpils and Liepāja pedago-

Institute have been erected. At the present time the building of the Latvian Agricultural Academy is under construction at Jelgava / Already for the fifth consecutive year, but the work does not progress.

Rapp./

Silecka, Dean of the Riga Faculty of Medicine :

" In the result of sessions and examinations many students receive unsatisfactory marks in the political economy and marxism-leninism... However, the Komsomol organization does not react to this. It also does not control the young teachers / Thus we have one statement more making it clear that Komsomol has also to control the pedagogical staff.Rapp./... The work does not proceed easily in the Institute / of Medicine. Rapp./. The Institute was established ten years ago but up to this day it does not have its own material basis."

The plenum imposed a task on the Komsomol organizations of the schools for higher education to strengthen the political and ideological education of students with a particular indication that they should comprehend the theory of Marxism-Leninism, that they should grow up in the spirit of a Communist "morale" and be intolerant towards the remnants of the bourgeois ideology and demonstrations of nationalism. The students should be taught to acquire the sense of responsibility and readiness to do their work everywhere after their graduation where the interests of the State demand this.

Latvian SSR Committee for Youths Organizations established.

On February 23rd and 24th, 1961, the V Plenum of the Latvian Komsomol took place in Riga having on its agenda only one item - "Participation of the Komsomol members in the Fulfilment of Agricultural Tasks". It would be of interest to note that also this time there was a special supervisor from Moscow, comrade M. Zhuravliova, Secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol. And, of course, all decisions were adopted unanimously and according to a long established

pattern- the Komsomol members have to show an example while doing the field work so that the Seven Year Plan would be accomplished with a surplus, before deadline, et.etc.

As a surprise came the joint meeting of various youths organizations in Riga, Febr.24th, where, together with the representatives of the Komsomol, participated also delegates of other youths organizations / ca.500 delegates altogether / and their decision was to establish the Latvian SSR Committee for Youths Organizations / See: Cina No.49 of 1961/. L.Himmelreichs, Secretary of the Komsomol's Central Committee, was elected chairman, as well as the committee itself consisting of 69 members. The point of the matter is that the establishment of this committee is nothing else but bridling of other youths organizations / sport, cultural, etc./ so that their activities could be easily and effectively controlled by the Latvian ~~Komsomol~~ Young Communist League /Komsomol/. However, the greatest danger to the youths can be traced in the forcible placement to work in the kolхозes and virgin areas. Pravda of February 11,1961, reported that the Central Committee of the All-Union Komsomol has decided to place 1 million youths to work in the fields in order to avoid the agricultural crisis caused by Khrushchev. There is another question, i.e. whether this one million people would be able to save the chaotic collective system by their efforts, but there is no doubt that this decision made in Moscow will impose new tasks and trials to Latvian youths and Moscow will be again trying to dilute the national composition of the Baltic population by sending them to Kazakhstan or other districts having virgin lands, and polluting the original population by sending in soldiers and Russian rubbish proletariat.

Changes within the Latvian Komsomol.

Padomju Jaunatne of April 28,1961, writes:" On April 26th took place the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Latvian Young Co-

The Plenum / the 6th/ discharged L.Himmelreichs from the duties of the Secretary of the Central Committee in connection with his designation to another post. L.E.Bartkevitch was elected by the Plenum to do the Komsomol Central Committee's secretary's work in the field of propaganda and agitation. He was also elected member of the Central Committee's Bureau".

Bartkevitch is a new "star" of the Komsomol Pleiad. His name was not known in Latvia prior to his election. He even was not a member of the Central Committee or a candidate-member.

### C. GOVERNMENT.

#### Supreme Soviet's Session in Riga.

On November 25th and 26th there took place in Riga the Fifth Convocation of the Fourth Session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The most important item of the agenda was "Measures to be taken in order to further construction of houses, outhouses and buildings for cultural needs in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of our Republic". Other questions were not so important since the council had to ratify the decrees and other decisions taken by the presidium. The main speaker on the construction matters was V.Stroganov, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvian SSR. /Cipa No.281 of 1960/. Also this rapporteur was ~~admitted~~ forced to admit that ruin has overtaken the agriculture where the old buildings, long ago in need of repair, still have to be used, and no new buildings have been erected to replace the obsolete ones. It was evident from the report that there is a lack of construction materials, no proper organizing and even lack of funds what concerns construction in Latvia's rural districts.

At the conclusion of the session was adopted a long-size resolution concerning planning of rural construction. /See: Padomju Latvijas Jaunatne No.236 of 1960/. The most interesting statements contained in this resolution are the following : 1.All individual farmhouses should be vacated within the next ten years and all Latvian farmers will then have to live in villages according to the Russian pattern; 2. The plans for the liquidation of individual farms should be prepared during 1961 but the plans for the construction of villages - during the years 1961 and 1962. 3. 25% of farm-workers' income should be deposited in the indivisible funds of the kolkhozes for financing of construction. 4. Besides it, the kolkhozniki have to find every possible means for the individual construction. In addition to this

the resolution contains a decision indicating which state enterprises and institutions will have to help to carry out the complete collectivization of Latvian country-side in the field of construction. This decision is nothing else but a clear indication that thousands of years of the private farming system so characteristic for the individualistic Latvian farmers will be destroyed and Russian spirit originating from the village system now is predestined to be the dominating one also in Latvia. But ten years hence is a long time!

Among the decisions adopted at the above session it would be of interest to note the following :

1. Composition of the Council of Ministers and Ministries.

/ See: Cina of December 2d, 1960./

Composition of the Council of Ministers: / Amended Art.45 of the Constitution of the Latvian SSR/ :

Chairman of the Council of Latvian SSR Ministers,  
First Deputies of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers,  
Deputies of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Ministers of the Latvian SSR:

Chairm. of the State Planning Commission of the Council of Ministers,  
Chairman of the Secondary and Higher Education Committee of the  
Council of Latvian SSR Ministers,  
Chairm. of the State Construction and Architecture Committee of the  
Council of Latvian SSR Ministers,  
Chairman of the State Communal Economy of the Council of Ministers  
of the Latvian SSR,  
Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission of the Council of Ministers  
of the Latvian SSR,  
Chairman of the State Security Committee of the Council of Ministers  
of the Latvian SSR,  
Chairman of the Central Statistical Board of the Council of Ministers  
of the Latvian SSR.

Ministries of the Latvian SSR / The new Art.48 of the Constitution/  
Latvian Union-Republican ministries are the following :

Defence  
Foreign Affairs  
Finance  
Culture  
Agriculture  
Communications  
Health.

The following are the so-called republican ministries of the Latvian SSR :

Autotransport and Roads  
Construction  
Interior  
Education  
Forestry and Timber Industry  
Social Security  
Commerce.



2. The newly-created Commissions of the Supreme Soviet :  
 / See: Cina of December 2, 1960/

By virtue of a decision by the Supreme Soviet three new commissions have been created in Soviet Latvia by consolidating the old ones :

Budget and Economic Commission of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet consisting of 19 members. Janis Pakalns - Chairman.

Commission for Legislative Initiative of the Latvian SSR Supr. Soviet consisting of 15 members. Vladislavs Azans - Chairman.

Commission for Protection of Health, Social Security and Culture CONSISTING OF 17 members. Vladimira Daksa - Chairman.

The above changes have not introduced any renewals in the Soviet bureaucracy but, probably, will give the possibility to better supervise this great variety of institutions.

Elections of the Peoples' Judges.

The elections of the peoples' judges took place in Latvia on December 11st. Cina of Dec. 14th, 1960, reported that 99.77% of the voters participated in these elections and that all of them did cast their votes for the proposed candidates. Altogether there were elected 74 peoples' judges and 5550 peoples' jurors. Among those elected 43.24% are women, 50.43% - members or member-candidates of the All-Union Communist Party. / No mistake, - all these people are members not of the Latvian but the All-union's Communist Party!/. 49.57% of the elected do not belong to the Communist Party. The newspaper adds that in these elections " did manifest the greatest political activity of the working people of the republic".

A New Minister.

The newspaper Cina reported on Dec. 16th, 1960, that the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet has decided to appoint Michail Sidorov, the Vice Chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of National Economy, to the post of a Minister of the Latvian SSR.

First came the radio announcement that M. Sidorov / a Russian / was appointed Vice Chairman of the said institution and then came the news of his promotion to a ~~minister~~ Cabinet rank.

The regular election-farce.

On March 19th there took place in the occupied Latvia the elections of the working peoples' deputies. Peoples' representatives were elected in 29 district councils, 55 city councils, 3 Riga City district councils, 33 hamlet councils and 620 village councils of working peoples.

Altogether there have been elected 20,963 deputies for the local councils or soviets, and among those elected there are 8,794 women /or 41.94%/; 8,719 deputies or 41.58% of the total are members or candidate-members of the All-Union Communist Party but 12,249 deputies, i. e. 58.42% are non-Party people. 12,643 deputies are workers by their profession and kolkhozniks. This group represents 60.30%. 99.7% to 99.87% of those having the right to vote participated in the above elections.

This was again the regular farce played in Soviet Latvia by the occupants. The elections were organized / quite understandably !/ on the basis of only one candidate-list thus giving no choice to voters who had to submit the list given to them. Everybody was forced to participate in the election comedy.

Soviet Latvian Association "Latvian Agricultural Technique".

By virtue of a decree promulgated by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet on March 18th 1961, there was established in Soviet Latvia the so-called Republican Assn. for Agricultural Technique, for selling of mineral fertilizers and other technical means, for amelioration of the soil and organizing of machine-repair and usage in kolkhozes and sovkhoses. This organization's chairman has a Cabinet member's rank.

His name is Ilya Pozniak. / Source: Padomju Latvijas Jaunatne No. 58 of 1961. / The newly-promoted Minister has never before occupied any political posts and had been working for several years as the director of the Liepāja Agricultural Machine Factory. The task of the new association would be to supply agriculture with new technique,

reserve parts and other items necessary for production. Among its tasks would be also organizing of the repair of agricultural machines, taking care of qualified agricultural cadres, as well as organizing and carrying out of amelioration, recovering of overgrown and neglected lands, etc. In other words, - the newly-established organization and its director / and a new member of Soviet Latvian Council of Ministers / have to fulfil tasks that are by no means easy. This has been already made clear by many reports on failures of the Soviet Latvian agriculture and the ruin of agriculture in general.

A new minister of agriculture and a new administration for sovkhoses.

The decree of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet of March 23d, 1961, discharged A. Nikonov from the duties of the minister of agriculture. In his stead was designated Janis Vanags. By virtue of the said decree there was established in Latvia the Central Board for Sovkhoses of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR. Peteris Skreiveris was designated to serve as its director and promoted to the Cabinet Minister's rank. /Se:Gina No. 70, 1961/

These changes did not occur unexpectedly because the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party has for several times warned A. Nikonov in his speeches saying that the latter cannot remain on his post because of his inability to manage Latvian agriculture. Also the establishment of a central board for managing of sovkhoses seems to be in the result of failures existing in the managing-system prevailing in kolkhoses and sovkhoses and their being under the administration of the same authority that created nothing else but a chaos. The task to discontinue such chaotic conditions will fall on the above-mentioned newly appointed ministers. The Minister of Agriculture, Janis Vanags, had been running this ministry a short time after Latvia's occupation in 1940, but after the World War II he had been performing the duties of the Rector of the Soviet

Latvian Academy of Agriculture. He is a graduate agronomist having received the degree during the era of the independent Latvia and is considered to be an expert. Besides it he is respected by the graduates of the Latvian Academy of Agriculture. These seem to be the reasons for his designation to a new post with the task to avert a total ruin. The second of the newly-appointed ministers - F. Skreiveris made a big step forward since he had been nothing else but a candidate for the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party, and had been working as a Party secretary in the district of Rzekne.

A new minister of finances.

By its decree of March 24, 1961, the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet appointed Kārlis Tolmadzevs the Minister of Finances relieving at the same time Fiodor Mancilo from the above post. The reason for Mancilo's discharging was given as "appointing to another post". During the postwar years K. Tolmadzevs had been working as the responsible editor of the Party magazine Latvijas Komunistis and had never been performing any political or administrative post. The real motives for Mancilo's dismissal are not known to us but it would be hardly believable that there might be some connection with the purges previously carried out in Latvia because Mancilo had been working as a minister all these postwar years and it is not excluded that in one or another way he might have been cooperating with Latvian communists like E. Berklaivs and some others who are now in disgrace. / Cina No. 72, 1961. /

One more ministry. Also a new deputy chairman of the Latvian SSR

Council of Ministers.

By virtue of the decree of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet of March 28, 1961, a new ministry was established in Soviet Latvia, this time - the Ministry of Supply of the Latvian SSR. Vladimir Stroganov, the former deputy chairman of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers, was appointed minister. Vitālijs Rubenis was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR. / Cina No. 75, 1961. /

As a matter of fact it appears that V. Stroganov had been demoted though he is now a head of an independent institution. That the tasks of this new ministry will be -has not yet been mentioned but one could presume that within the sphere of its work will be included the task to take care of the fulfilment of the state supply-plan and thus this new ministry will assume the role of the examiner for better implementation of the Soviet colonial exploitation of Latvia. The newly-appointed deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers had been working as the Director of the Agricultural Departm. of the Central Comm. of the Latv. Comm. Party. His promotion to the new post means that the agricultural problems should now get more attention within the Cabinet.

Secondary  
The State Committee for Higher and Special Education liquidated.

By virtue of a decree of the Presidium of the Latvian S.R. Supreme Soviet of May 4th, 1961, the State Committee on Higher and Special Secondary Education of the Latvian <sup>SSR</sup> Council of Ministers has been liquidated. The said committee had been established in 1959 when the new school law was introduced in Latvia /like the entire Soviet Union/ stipulating that the general-type highschools were transformed into schools for technical trades. Though the implementation of the new school law, i.e. the reorganizing of schools is now being carried out / it should be terminated only in 1963 /, it seems that the now liquidated committee has already proved to be superfluous. As a matter of fact its establishment two years ago has not been justified since the reorganization in educational matters undoubtedly belongs to the competence of the Ministry of Education. But this has not been for the first time in the occupied Latvia that various entirely unnecessary institutions have been established with the only purpose to have them liquidated sometime later. This is typical for the communist bureaucracy! Source: Padomju Jaunatne No.83 of 1961.

II ECONOMIC SITUATION.

THE STATE ECONOMY PLAN AND BUDGET.

1961 Budget.

The Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR Soviet Union decreed on December 22, 1960, by a special law that Soviet Latvia's budget for the year 1961 shall be balanced at 475,006,000 rubles / in the new currency; see Cina No.302 of 1960/. By the same law it was also stipulated that 19.9% from the amounts foreseen by the Soviet Latvian budgetary income and taxes, shall be counted off for the benefit of Latvia herself. This is the lowest percentage of counts off among these foreseen for any of the 15 Soviet Union's "republics" and this induces us to suppose that Soviet Latvia's economic life should be considered to be more stabilized than any in any other of the Soviet republics. But, at the same time, it is a clear evidence that Soviet Latvia's income is being used for the benefit of the entire Soviet Union thus giving us a typical example of Latvia's colonial exploitation by the occupant.

On January 5th and 6th the fifth session of the fifth convocation of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet took place in Riga. The most important items of its agenda were of economic character, including the adoption of the state economic development plan for the year 1961; adoption of the 1961 budget and confirming of the 1959 budget. The following <sup>wide</sup> plans have been included in the 1961 state economic development projects. / Cina No.5, of 1961/.

The Latvian SSR State Budget for the year 1961 has been worked out correspondingly to the USSR State Plan.

The 1961 Latvian SSR State Budget's income side is 483,328,000 Rb.  
Expenditures 480,684,000 "  
Act. Balance 2,644,000 "

The 1961 Latvian Republican Budget foresees:  
 420,811,000 Rb. of income and  
 418,167,000 Rb. expenses, or  
 2,644,000 Rb. as Active Balance.

/See: Cina No.6, 1961/.

23.

The realization of the Latvian SSR State Budget for the year 1959 has the following figures : Income- 4,841,481,000 Rb. / old curr./  
Expend. 4,754,261,000 " "  
Balance 87,220,000 Rb.

Implementation of the State Economy Plan for the Year 1960.

Sovetskaya Latvija No.25 of January 29,1961, contains the data pertaining to realization of the Latvian SSR State Economy Plan for the year 1960. In its editorial the newspaper mentions that the plan was realized in compliance with the decision of the XXI Congress of the USSR Communist Party. Thus the factual power of the Russian colonial system in Latvia again appears very distinctly.

Industry.

The output of Soviet Latvia's industry in 1960 has increased by 14% in comparison with the year 1959.

	<u>Produced in 1960</u>	<u>The year 1960 in comparison with the year 1959 in %.</u>
Steel, thous. of tons	91	99.5
Electroenergy, in bill. of kw.h.	1.6	110
Product. of peat, in mill. of tons	1.9	86
Natural gas, mill. of cub. mt.	17.7	102
Mineral fertilizers, thous. of to.	324	101
Electr. install. for trains, thous. of sets	1.9	98
Passenger cars for electr. railways, pieces	349	136
Street-cars, pieces	181	100.6
Automatic telephone exchanges, thous. of customers' numbers	185	121
Telephose, thous. of pieces	527	104
Electr. bulbs, mill. of pieces	71.1	115
Cement, thous. of tons	460	111
Bricks, mill. of pieces	409	107
Cellulose, thous. of tons	35.6	102
Paper, thous. of tons	78.7	104
Cotton fabrics, mill. of sq. mt.	41.7	102
Woolen stuff, do	11.8	108
Linen, do	8.4	104
Silk, do	10.1	100.9
Socks and stockings, mill. of pairs	23.8	105
Knitted underwear, mill. of pairs	14.3	105
Knitted garments, mill. of pc.	3.7	108
Leather footwear, mill. of pairs	7.4	110
Rubber footwear, do	6.6	97
Bicycles, thous. of pc.	183	98
Radio receiv. sets, thous. of pc.	553	106
Fish catch, thous. of tons	143	137

/Conti./

roduced in 1960: The Year 1960 in compari-  
son with the Year 1959  
in %:

Meat, industr.outp.in thous. of tons	80	113
Butter, in thous.of tons	25.2	105
Production of milk, thous. of tons	204	118
Cheese, thous. of tons	4.3	121
Confectionery, thous. of tons	24.6	99
Cigarettes, mill of pieces	5.7	97

Agriculture.

The acreage under crops was 1.9 million hectares in 1960, or approximately 50% less than in 1939 when Latvia was an independent state. The sovkhoses and kolkhoses did not implement the plan for improving of the derelicted land. ~~The volume of the winter crops was lower than in 1959.~~ The volume of the

<u>Number of Cattle:</u>	<u>in 1953</u>	<u>in 1959</u>	<u>in 1960 /approx</u>
	<u>In thous. of heads</u>		<u>figures/</u>
a. <u>In Kolkhoses and Sovkh.</u>			
Cattle, /includ.cows/	477	489	513
Cows	215	271	296
Pigs	239	493	647
Sheep	200	127	124
b. <u>Private Sector:</u>			
Cattle, including	331	397	324
Cows	251	272	256
Pigs	361	366	401
Sheep	320	390	346
c. <u>Total Numbers:</u>			
Cattle, includ.	808	886	937
Cows	466	543	552
Pigs	600	859	1048
Sheep	520	517	470

In general, there is an increasing tendency to be observed in kolkhoses and sovkhoses, except for the numbers of sheep that had decreased. In the so-called private sector there is a decrease of cattle, cow and sheep numbers but a certain increase in the number of pigs in comparison with the year 1959. But this private sector managed privately by the owners of the small plots of land / approx 4% of the total of the tilled land/ still registers a considerably large percentage of animals in comparison with the numbers owned by the state



and this is one of the best examples of a non-economical and absurd system of communal agriculture. If certain numbers of animals have decreased during the year 1960, it is nothing else but the results of a pressure exercised by the Communist Party to to sell forcibly the private-owned cattle to the state farms. A more interesting illustration we can obtain from the figures indicating production of meat, milk and eggs.

	<u>1953:</u>	<u>1959:</u>	<u>1960:</u> / Approxim. figures/
<u>Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes:</u>			
Meat and bacon, net weight 36 in thous. of tons, includ.		62	74
Pork	14	35	39
Milk, thous. of tons	400	663	725
Eggs, mill. of pc.	50	73	86
<u>Private Sector:</u>			
Meat and bacon in thous. of tons, including pork	47	78	77
Milk, thous. of tons	27	43	45
Eggs, mill. of pc.	580	777	745
	126	228	219
<u>Total for all types of husbandries:</u>			
Meat and bacon in thous. of tons, includ. pork	83	140	151
Milk, thous. of tons	41	78	34
Eggs, million of pc.	980	1140	1470
	176	301	305

It is evident that the so-called private sector is fulfilling more than 50% of the plan for agricultural production despite of the fact that it occupies only about 4% of the tilled land's area. And this is in all kinds of production and despite the pressure exercised by the Party and Government! It is the best example of the results achieved by the collectivization system.

It is also interesting to note the quantities of Latvian agricultural products which the Latvian farmers are forced to deliver to the All-Union Fund, in other words to the representatives of the Soviet colonialism.

	<u>1953:</u>	<u>1959:</u>	<u>1960 /Approxim. figures/:</u>
<u>Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes:</u>			
Meat/on the hoof/ in thous.			
of tons	29	81	98
Milk, in thous.of tons	292	579	641
Eggs, in mill. of pc.	15	42	54
<u>Private Sector:</u>			
Meat, thous. of tons	6	35	32
Milk, do	118	221	221
Eggs, mill. of pc.	10	9	13
<u>Total for all types of husbandries:</u>			
Meat, thous. of tons	35	116	130
Milk, do	410	800	862
Eggs, mill. of pc.	25	51	67

Thus from the total of the agricultural output only 21,000 tons of meat, 608,000 to. of milk and 238 mill. of eggs are left for the population of the Latvian SSR. The rest is sent away to satisfy the needs of the Soviet Union proper. This is the most striking example of the colonial exploitation and therefore one should not wonder that the private sector is selling to the state only about one third of its produce but the rest is sold on the local markets or consumed by the producers themselves. Also this may be qualified as a kind of a resistance against the communist regime displayed by the once free farmers of Latvia, and adversaries of the collectivization system, as well.

#### Capital Construction.

Capital investments made by the state have increased in comparison with 1959; In the chemical industry 2.9 times; machine-construction -1.5 times; timber, paper and wood-working industries - by 36%; /while the cellulose and paper industry has increased the capital investment by 2.1 times. Again, there is nothing else but the result of a colonial exploitation because the paper industry is using only Latvian raw materials. In 1960 a new high-tension electric line was built between Narva and Riga / The Baltic VRES/ and the construction of a power-plant at Pļaviņa as started.

It is also evident from the survey that "there are serious deficiencies in the organizing of the construction and assembling works and this is the reason why the construction of some very important projects meant for industry, culture and communal economy has been delayed. Bad quality's work is being tolerated in the construction of apartment houses as well as in repairing of the apartments belonging to the Soviet apartment fund". Thus also in the field of construction the matters are bad, but the most important thing is that there is in Soviet Latvia a chronic shortage of living space.

Numbers of workers and office workers, increase of population's welfare, and cultural needs.

The population of Latvian SSR has increased by 45,000 persons during 1960 and now / as per Jan.1st,1961/ is over 2,155,000 pers. The natural increase is being estimated to be 11,000 persons a year and this means that during the last year 35,000 Russians have been infiltrated. Furthermore, a statement has been made that the numbers of workers and white collar workers employed in Latvian state economy during 1960 have increased by 7% in comparison with the year 1959, and now have reached 720,000 persons. All those employed have to work now only 7 ~~hours~~ or 6 hours daily, and the working week is only 5 days. All workers and office employees ~~have~~ received at least 2 weeks of paid vacations. Income tax for workers and white collar workers has been abolished on Oct.1st,1960, but we know too well that there are many ways of indirect taxation in the Soviet Union. This reform applies only to wages and salaries.

The total of savings has exceeded 100 million rubles and the number of investors has reached half a million. The population is buying now / a funny statement/ more of food and other wares. However, the demand for some items from the category of consumers goods has not yet been satisfied in Latvia. The assortment <sup>market</sup> and

quality of some goods not always fit the customer's taste or demands, says the survey. We do agree completely with this statement because the Soviet colonial policy is not directed towards the <sup>increase</sup> ~~interests~~ of the welfare of Latvian population.

293,000 students and pupils are attending Latvian schools during the current academic year. 11,000 graduated from Latvian highschools in 1960. The number of educational institutions: 183 schools for general secondary polytechnical education and 26 boarding schools. 46,000 students are attending the higher and secondary special school among them 22,000 studying in schools for higher education. 48,000 persons are studying in evening schools. 8,000 specialists have graduated from higher and secondary special schools in Latvia during 1960

Towards the end of 1960 there were registered in Latvia approximately 1000 movie-houses, more than 100 clubs and approximately 2000 public libraries with approximately 13 million books. 345,000 radio receiver sets and 83,000 TV sets were used by the population in 1960.

The number of physicians was 5000 towards the end of 1960. Approximately 50,000 children were enjoying vacations in pioneer-camps, children sanatoriums, tourist bases or participating in excursions during the last summer. By the way, it must be noted that approximately only one sixth from the Latvian children could enjoy the above privileges, and this is not much, indeed.

645,000 sq.mt. of living space were built in Latvia during the year 1960. In these numbers is included the area built by state means, which is 510,000 sq.mt. Besides it the kolkhozniks and the rural intelligentsia / in other words- members of the Party/ have built 1700 houses during the same period.

#### B. AGRICULTURE.

##### Latvian agriculture under the yoke of colonialism.

At the plenum of the All-Union Communist Party's Central Comm. January 12th which mostly had been dealing with agricultural questions

a speech was also delivered by A. Pelše, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party. This speech gives us a good picture of the conditions prevailing in Soviet Latvian agriculture and its complete dependency on Moscow. Here we have some of the quotations: /See: Sovetskaya Latvija No.12,1961/

"... 15% of the meat stocked by the entire republic /Latvia/ in 1958, were given to the All-Union stock; ~~xxx~~ 17% in 1959 and 19% in 1960. Now, during the year 1961, this contribution will increase and reach 24%. From the milk produced in the republic 39% were given to the centralized All-Union stock in 1958, and 44.4% will be given in 1961".

No wonder that there is a permanent shortage of meat and milk in Latvia and the population thus is not permitted to satisfy their own needs.

While speaking on the agriculture the rapporteur said: "Next to good sovkhoses and kolkhoses we have also lagging farms. During the last year 306 sovkhoses and kolkhoses / i.e. one quarter.Rapp./ had not been able to fulfil their norms or have lost 50,000 tons of milk ... In order to have a better yield of milk, one should take care that it would not be <sup>depending</sup> ~~depending~~ from the season. During the five months when cattle is grazing we must produce 61% of milk but the rest of 39% should be produced during the remaining seven months when the cows stay in byres."

" We have not yet used all our reserves in order to increase the production of meat and we have not yet fulfilled our pledges to sell certain quantities of meat to our state..." . " At the beginning of this year we promised to fatten one million pigs but got 300,000 less. During the last year we could/<sup>not</sup>fatten 50,000 steers and therefore we left this task over to the year 1961...". " The Latvian brown cows are very well known all over our country / the entire Soviet Union/ and the demand for them is increasing every year.

More than 15,000 cows were exported from the republic during the last year. We could quite efficiently increase the export of this cattle brand but, first of all, we have to solve the problem by achieving that the meat-supply plan for the centralized All-Union stock ought to be determined for our republic /Latvia/ while taking into consideration the number of cattle to be exported". In other words, nothing else but a total dependence on Moscow and its economic policy that is a complete colonial exploitation of Latvia. "...It is notoriously known that in accordance with the decision taken by the XXI Congress of the All-Union Communist Party, the kolkhozes and sovkhoses of our republic have to satisfy themselves their needs for food and fodder grain, and we have still been planning to do it". Again- everything is being determined by Moscow!

There is a shortage of agricultural machines in Soviet Latvia and they must be asked from Moscow despite the fact that there are several plants in Soviet Latvia producing agricultural machines for the needs of the Soviet Union. Pelše admits that "... only 350 machines for sowing of Indian corn and 700 combines are now in 1267 husbandries of our republic. We have for several times asked to allot us the necessary numbers of combines but our requests have been denied. We asked for help also during this year by giving us 800 combines. We have a lot of neglected land / ca.1 million ha./ but we cannot use it because the work is being strongly delayed by lack of bush-hacking machines, stump extractors, bulldozers, marsh-ploughs and other machines... It is not possible to do such extensive work by manual labor, alone..."

"There is in Riga one small superphosphate factory. We have asked Moscow to decide about the construction of a new superphosphate factory in our republic". Comments are not necessary. Some more quotations: " The organization of the Latvian Party is doing their

possible to fulfil / underlined by V.H./ the directives of the December 1959 Plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party with regard to mechanization of agriculture, but we do not still have the adequate numbers of machines to carry it out. Only 23% of grain and one third of corn were reaped by combines in 1959. Harvesting of sugar beets and flax is still being done manually. The degree of mechanization is exceedingly low in cattle-breeding. Milking of cows is only 8% mechanized."

"...Financial means allocated for the needs of construction are so restricted that it is not even possible to build shelters for the cattle-increase". The entire speech by Pelše is full of such admissions. The demands made by Moscow are very extensive and difficult to fulfil but the demands of Soviet Latvia are being ignored. In his speech on January 17th Plenum Khrushchev mentioned that "Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have without any ground decreased their produce of grain", and with reference to the 1961 harvest he said that it would be necessary to produce / in millions of tons / the following :

To satisfy completely  
the needs of Latvia :

Prepared in 1960: To be prepared in  
1961:

8

0

4

/Sec: Cina No.17 and 18, 1961/.

By this Khrushchev meant that the Latvian SSR did not deliver the necessary quantities of grain for the needs of the Soviet Union. He said that in 1953 the quantity was 5.6 million tons, whereas in 1960 nothing has been delivered. It means that during the period 1953 to 1961 the produce of grain in Soviet Latvia has strongly decreased leaving Moscow without anything in 1960. However, Khrushchev forgot to mention that those to be blamed for it are not Latvian farmers, resp. their idleness but the collective system as such which quite naturally has caused the peasants' resistance.

Tasks imposed on Latvia's agriculture.

The newspaper Cina of April 8th, 1961, published the decisions adopted by the V Plenum of the Central Committee of Latvian Communist Party concerning ~~tasks~~ to be fulfilled by Latvia's agriculture in order to implement the decisions adopted by the January Plenum. The said ~~next~~ plenum of the Centr. Comm. of Latv. Comm. Party took place in Riga, March 30, 1961, but this time it took more than one week's time before the decisions were published. This indicates the degree of caution displayed by the occupants (henchmen, i.e. leadership of the Centr. Comm. of Latv. Comm. Party, by preparing instructions necessary for carrying out of ~~the~~ the plans imposed to the oppressed nation's agriculture. The decision is a very long one and containing 27 paragraphs. Figures and plans contained in the published text could be of a certain interest to us. Moscow has decreed / decision adopted by the January, 1961, Plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party that during the next years Latvia will have to deliver to the Soviet Union / i.e. to sell for the price fixed by the State / 8 million poods / or 131,040 to. / of grain , 160,000 to. of meat and 1,300,000 tons of milk. This demand by Moscow is too high and there remains the question whether Latvia even <sup>during</sup> / the Seven Year Plan ending in 1965 will be able to fulfil this norm. In 1960 Latvia did not ~~fulfil~~ fulfil her obligations in any of the branches. So, for instance, the percentage for meat being only 88/100 from the plan / or 67% for pork / and that for the milk - only 96%. Approximately 20% of husbandries did produce lower quantities of meat and milk than during the year 1959. Generally speaking the situation is much worse because many of the districts did supply the Party with wrong figures. Besides it, not a grain had been delivered to the State, i.e. the Soviet Union, in 1960.



The task for the year 1961 is to deliver to the Soviet Union /from the Latvian Soviet Republic/ : 140,000 to. of meat; 940,000 to. of milk 90 mill. eggs and 65,000 to. of cereals, as well as to increase the supply of other agricultural products. Yet, at the same time, the said decision of April 8th stated that " there are serious deficiencies in the work of the Party republican organizations, big mistakes made while organizing work, failures of the last year repeated.... though the year 1961 is supposed to be the decisive one in the struggle for sharp increases of the volume of agricultural produce. Despite this the output has not increased in many districts during this year and the output of meat and milk to be sold to the State has even decreased in comparison to the last year / shortage of milk for 9% or 7% for meat, in some districts even 20% to 40% of meat below the norm and 12% to 27% short of norm for milk/. Likewise, the numbers of cattle have decreased in some districts and perishing of cattle has also taken place". /Lack of fodder. Rapp./

Having admitted that the two first years of the Seven Year Plan had been nothing else but a failure, the Centr. Comm. of the Latvian Communist Party is now demanding from the Latvian agriculture during the next five years :

Tillage:

a. Area under crop in kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Latv. Soviet Rep.

In Thous. of hectares in:

1961	1962	1963	1964	1965
1,559	1,614	1,693	1,765	

b. Cereals/Area under crop/ in thous. of hectares:

649	667.6	700	750	800
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c. Area/in thous. of ha./ under crop for corn:

90	110	125	140	150
----	-----	-----	-----	-----

d. Area under crop / in thous. of ha./ for sugar beets for cattle:

13.4	20	30	40	50
------	----	----	----	----

e. The rust for the harvest of cereals / in cnt. from 1 hect./

12.4	13.5	14.5	15.5	17
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Cattle-Breeding :

a. Produce of meat in all sectors /on the hoof, in thous. of tons/:

286	280	290	310	330
including output of pork:				
145.6	165.1	176	188.8	

production of meat in <u>kolkhozes</u> and <u>sovkhozes</u> :	175	205	225	255
including output of <u>pork</u> in sovkhozes and kolkhozes:	102	120	134	131.

The volume of meat and pork production has not been mentioned in the decision with regard to the year 1961. As far as we can judge, the so-called "private sector" will still be able to produce more than sovkhozes and kolkhozes combined during the current year, and we can suppose that it was not quite conveniently to admit it openly by giving some figures. Beginning with the year 1962 the leadership in meat production is supposed to be taken over for the first time by the kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

b. <u>Production of milk in all sectors, in thous. of tons:</u>				
in <u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>1964</u>	<u>1965</u>
	1,680	1,820	1,965	2,120
including quantities produced in kolkhozes and sovkhozes:	970	1,130	1,300	1,475
c. <u>Number of cows in thous.:</u>	620	658	700	745
including that in kolkhozes and sovkhozes :	339	382	430	474
d. <u>Number of pigs /in thous./:</u>	1,060	1,070	1,130	1,190

The above numbers include numbers of pigs in kolkhozes and sovkhozes, which are planned to 723 thous. in 1962; 760 thous. in 1963 ; 880 thousands in 1964 and one million in 1965.

Also numbers of cows and pigs for the year 1961 have been omitted in order to avoid the unpleasant numbers showing the leadership of the private sector despite the fact that 96% of the agricultural land belong to the collective sector. However, figures for the next years shown in the tables disclose that the numbers are rather high in the private sector husbanded by the kolkhozniks privately on their small plots of land representing only 4% of the total of agricultural land.

The tasks of the newly-established ministries.

J. Peive in his report also pointed out that " in accordance with decisions adopted by the January Plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, the Latvian SSR Ministry of Agriculture has been reorganized. /This, of course is not interference into internal affairs of Latvia. Rapp./ This was done with the purpose to

introduce the experience gathered by the first and foremost workers and therefore the ministry will directly supervise the experimental husbandry in each of the agricultural districts. The district inspectors have been liquidated. The Ministry of Agriculture has been taken away the responsibility from managing the sovkhoses, the latter being now transferred to the Directorate for Sovkhoses of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers which was established in March 1961. Also there was established an association called "The Latvian Agricultural Technique" the task of which is to supervise the amelioration and land-cultivation questions, the exploitation of agricultural technique, repairs and supplying of all sovkhoses with technical means of production. Also a Supply Ministry has been established in Soviet Latvia that should take care of the fulfilment of the tasks imposed by the State with regard to supply of agricultural products and raw materials as demanded by the State Plan. "There is no doubt that the new structure of the agricultural organs will further the progress of agriculture." / See: Cina No.98 of 1961/.

By their nature the above-mentioned reorganizations to save the agriculture in Latvia have already been delayed too much and there is no doubt the the work of these newly-established directorates will not proceed smoothly. But this remains to be seen. Two years ago, when the last Seven Year Plan began, the Latv.Comm. Party had been boasting that the plan will be surpassed already in 1963 but at this year's conference there had been a cautious talk about the "fulfilment prior to the schedule". But also this remains to be seen. The newly-established Ministry of Supply is the worst one what concerns all this reorganizations. The oppressed people of Latvia have already named it "The Ministry for Requisitions" because its task is not to help the kolkhozniks but to exploit the agriculture in every respect. This exploitation is being done in order to fulfil the norms set by Moscow. ~~Did anybody say this is not a colonial exploitation?~~

Wages in rural districts.

Cing of May 18th, 1961, writes that some of the collective farms are trying to interest their workers by securing them higher wages. Agricultural worker is earning 60 to 70 rubles a month in the district of Dobele, but the so-called mechanizators earn more by being paid 2.8 to 5.4 rubles for a working day's norm. If the harvest happens to be in excess of the plan the farm-hands are supposed to get 25% more for over-production. In the district of Aizpute, in order to persuade workers to sow more corn- a premium of 1.4 Rb. is promised for each ton of corn-fodder in excess of the plan. The district of Kraslava is more modest in this respect since the said paper written about this says: "Wages for a working day is satisfactory in our district; being 0.50 Rb plus 1.5 kg. of grain. Besides it, we will use a half of our income in the excess of the plan as payments for premiums." It is obvious from the above how different is the remuneration for work in various places in Soviet Latvia. If we compare the new ruble with the dollar it is not difficult to see how low is the income of Latvian peasants. Besides it, we should not forget that the ruble's buying capacity is much lower than that of the dollar, and also the primitive conditions under the Communist regime should be taken into consideration.

Spoilage in Latvian industry.

Comrade G.Gaile, Director of the Latvian SSR State Economy Administration, in the magazine Padomju Latvijas Komunisti No.1 of 1961 admits that one of the worse case of production of spoilage was observed in the VEF / the biggest electro-plant<sup>ian</sup> in the entire Soviet Union/. This factory, he told, is forced to take back every fourth radio set sold by it under the trademark "Latvija". The same could be said about every third telephone produced by the VEF and every fifth automatic telephone exchange having defects that should have been eliminated by the producer.

The things are by no means better in the textile industry. The knitted goods factory "Rīgas Aitājs" had to qualify 242 items out of an output of 2965 to be of inferior quality. 241 had to be sent back for repairing and 640 items had been totally rejected. Defective ware is also produced by the bicycle factory "Sarkanā Svauģene", the factory of auto-electrical devices, and also the shoe factory "Pionieris" and "Elasma". Of particularly bad quality is children footwear. Examining the production, 6670 pairs of children shoes had to be rejected in the shoe factories "Firmāis Maijs", "Rekords" and "Pionieris" during the first eight months of 1960. The same can be said about the Radio-factory "Popov", rubber factory "Metēors", and some others, too.

The spoilage is caused by the lack of discipline, unregulated work and inadequate control. This is a rather frank language. All of the said factories are the biggest ones of their kind in Latvia and if there is no adequate discipline, it would not be difficult to imagine how the things are in the smaller plants.

Soviet Latvian industry's output.

Padomju Jaunatne of April 30, 1961, wrote that "Relying on the industrial might of the Soviet State and the brotherly assistance rendered by the Soviet nations, the Latvian nation has created during the post-war years a new socialistic industry". This is quite true:- while using the raw materials produced in other republics and using the skill and work of Latvians. This is the way how the things are in the colonies. Speaking about the plans and activities of the Soviet Latvian industry the said paper wrote that the principal task of Latvia during the Seven Year Plan should be to develop the electrotechnical, radiotechnical branches and building of apparatuses and transportation machines, as well as furthering of the fishing industry. Now many items are being made in Soviet Latvia, like comfortable Diesel cars, street railway-cars, movable electro-stations, electro-devices,

hydro-turbines, telephone switch-boards, telephone installations for mines, auto control devices, hydrometeorological apparatuses, citric acid, and many medical preparations.

Though the population of Latvia is only about 1% of that of the Soviet Union and her territory represents not more than ~~0.1%~~ 0.3% of that of the Soviet empire, Latvia occupies an important place among the other "republics" what concerns the volume of the industrial output. So, for instance, in 1960 Riga gave more than 14% of the total of laundering machines produced in the entire Soviet Union, or 13% of radio-receivers and ca.6% of the total of bicycles. Every fifth tram-car is produced in Riga and Latvia produces 3% of the paper and knitwear manufactured in Soviet Union, or 3% of furniture and wool fabrics. Latvian fishermen catch 3.5% of the total Soviet Union's fish catch and in the field of manufacturing of mineral fertilizers Latvia occupies the 6th place among the other Soviet republics. Telephones made in Riga are exported to 96 Soviet Union's economic districts.

Semi-fabricates of various kind are sent to Latvia from 29 Soviet cities; various installations are imported from 45 districts of national economy but oil from 22, metals from 29, and coal from 5 districts.

#### D. CONSTRUCTION.

##### A giant printing-house will be built in Riga.

The Soviet Union's <sup>telegraph</sup> agency TASS reported that it has been planned to build a giant printing-house in Riga that would be able to print one million newspaper copies a day. It appears from this news that the Russians intend to print in Riga Russian papers for the entire Soviet Union. It also means that the Latvian polygraphic industry, that had been highly developed during the era of the independent Latvia, would serve Russians as a good example. This project coincides with the Kremlin's policy aiming at strengthening of the Russian element in Latvia. / Source: Latvija Amerikā, December, 21st, 1960./

Construction of the oil-pipe to Ventspils interrupted.

The construction of this pipe had to be finished during this year. It meant that approximately in the middle of 1961 this pipe would have connected Ventspils with the oil-pipes in the district of Volga or the Ural Mountains. For the time being there is a gap several hundred km. wide and there are no indications that the constructions would be finished within the next three years.

The London newspaper The Financial Times of January 19th said that the construction was interrupted because of lack of tubes. Further, the said paper informs that the Soviet papers had during the last months often criticized the incapacity of the steelworks to produce due quantities of material necessary for fulfilment of the pipe-casting according to the plan. Huge quantities of tubes are being consumed by the 2500 miles long oil-pipe connecting the Baku oil-fields in Caucasus with Poland, Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. It seems that for the time being this pipe-line has got a priority.

But even if the Ventspils oil-pipe could be finished during the next years, a long time will elapse before the construction of the refineries could be done because the construction has not yet been started at all. But today Ventspils has been transformed into a real Russian colonization center with hundreds of oil specialists and their families who have already arrived there.

The purpose of the Ventspils refinery is conquering of the Scandinavian market. There was a project in Moscow to build some oil refineries in Klaipėda but it seems that in connection with the discontinuation of the Ventspils pipe also the Klaipėda project has been dropped.

It would be naive to imagine that solely because of commercial considerations Moscow is constructing the long pipes coming from Caucasus and the Ural Mountains and running to the satellites and Ventspils. The most important reason is nothing else but the supply of the Soviet

armies with fuel. Ventspils is on the flank and therefore for the time being preference has been given to the construction of a pipe connecting the satellite countries and supplying the armies stationed there.

Construction of a new theatre in Riga.

According to Literatūra un Māksla No.9 of 1961, the first discussion of the blueprints for the new Art Theatre took place quite recently in Riga. Several Soviet Latvian architects and the management of Dalles Teātris /Art Theatre/ participated in this examination and discussion. The project seems to be attractive because of its European-type architecture, and most of those present approved it, but, of course, there were some technical objections and corrections. Only one of the architects, a Russian named A.Kramarev, / the author of the project is a Latvian architect /woman /Marta Stepa/ criticized the project while saying that it, i.e. the shape of the new theatre " does not correspond to the requirements of the socialistic realism". What such requirements should be, the criticaster did not reveal but his remarks produced sneers and silence because the Russian communists themselves do not know or understand the meaning of the socialistic realism.

Brocēni cement plant again expanded.

The newspaper Cīņa / No.54, 1961/ reports that the Brocēni Cement Plant, the largest of its kind in the entire Soviet Union, is being expanded again. It has been calculated that the limestone deposits in the district of Saldus would be sufficient for 50 to 60 years of production. The extension plans are very far-going. Cement and other products will be sent to Moscow, Leningrad, Cuba, Burma..."the produce of the .... Brocēni plant will be traveling far away..."

Construction of the Salaspils atomic reactor almost finished.

Cīņa No.124 of 1961 reports that " the year 1961 will be very important for the development of physics in our republic. We will



receive at our disposal an atomic reactor suitable for research and thus we will be able to do a wide research with the help of this big and modern apparatus. Together with our physicists there will also be working representatives from our neighbour republics - Estonia and Lithuania. The construction of the first Baltic atomic reactor is nearing its end. The electro sub-station and the artesian well are already working. In a few days will be working also other subsidiary installations including ~~the~~ boiler house. For the time being work is being done in the main building. The assembling of the reactor's junction-boiler, biological protective zone and hot cameras will be soon finished. Further the said paper asserts that "the population of Salaspils may be assured that no harm will be caused to them or the neighbourhood". Besides it an extensive modernization has already been carried out increasing the reactor's capacity from 1000 to 2000 kw. Physicists from Moscow and Georgia had been helping to build this reactor, and extensive research had been carried out in the field of physics and chemistry. The modern reactor will be ready prior to its deadline - the opening of the XIII Congress of the All-Union Communist Party.

Blueprints for construction of hydroelectric plants on Daugava.

According to Cina No.135 of 1961, it appears that seven new electro plants will be constructed on the Daugava River at: Vitebsk, Bessenkovitchi, Druja, Daugavpils, Jäkabpils, Pļaviņas and Dole. Five of them will be located on Latvian territory.

III EDUCATION, CULTURE, ART AND RELIGION.

Congress of Soviet Latvian Teachers.

The second congress of Latvian teachers took place in Riga, December 27th, 1960. More than 500 delegates representing teachers and also guests from other Soviet republics participated at this meeting, and Mrs. J. Furtceva, the USSR Minister of Education, was the main speaker.

The congress began with a mass decoration ceremonies of teachers. 37 school workers were decorated with the Order of Lenin, 110 -with the Order "Badge of Merit"; 270 persons were given the Medal "For Heroism of Socialist Labor" and 73 persons were decorated with the "Order of the Red Banner". These rewards were given by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR but the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet awarded 19 honorary titles /"Honoured Teacher"/. Thus, as a matter of fact, awards were given to all teachers participating in the above congress.

Two long speeches were delivered also by V. Krūmiņš, the Minister of Education of the Latvian SSR, and A. Zitmanis, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Komsomol.

Krūmiņš's speech was dedicated mostly to some rearrangements in the educational program, as well as criticism of the failure in the school work.

It is a fact that all seven-year elementary schools in Soviet Union, including Latvia, are being converted now into "incomplete secondary schools for general education preparing for a politechnical work" thus terminating the work of the now existing highschools. This rearrangement should be carried out not later than Sept. 1st, 1962. While speaking on the students' progress, school work and the tasks imposed upon teachers, Krūmiņš, among other things, said the following: /See Cina of December 28th, 1960/

"...Not all of the school collectives and school directors do work energetically and skilfully enough to enable all children of the school age to attend schools. There are many deficiencies in several four year elementary schools and seven-year schools. Therefore we have unsuccessful pupils and many children do not graduate at all. Much of the preliminary work should be done before the transition to the new system: 470 classrooms, 550 scientific studies and 260 working shops

This work.... should be done by our own forces". The rapporteur gave an example by quoting the achievements reached by the kolkhozniks of the Krustpils district, who " during the last years while using the local resources / the kolkhozes and local organizations/ have built 4 schools for 920 pupils, 2 boarding schools and 5 houses for teachers. / This is a rather sad statement: in a country where everything is supposed to be delivered by the State, the impoverished kolkhozniks are forced to take care of construction of the school buildings. Rapp./. Further the speaker made the following statement: " The numbers of evening - schools has rapidly increased where the working youths are getting their education. The day-schools are being gradually converted into those of productive training. During the year in 180 highschools /out of 276, among which 26 are boarding-schools/ production-training is being extended to more than 11,000 students./ who have ~~more to~~ <sup>more to</sup> work than to learn. Rapp./ The evening-schools' specific weight is constantly increasing. More than 25,000 youths are learning in these schools this year... Great deficiencies have been observed in the rural evening schools... During the last years there have been opened in our republic 26 boarding-schools for 5077 pupils. During the Seven Year Plan it has been scheduled to open 65 boarding-schools for 18,000 pupils. The system of extended school-days has proved to be an important measure useful for education. During this academic year we have approximately 250 of such groups comprising ca. 8000 pupils. In Riga has been opened a school having extended number of school days."

This part of the report shows us how the Latvian youths have been fenced in to be able to get education. "Overtime" class hours, evening schools and, finally, boarding-schools / nurseries of the new communist generation/ are a rather characteristic traits for all what the have to endure in their way to higher education.

Further the speaker gave his instructions to the teachers while saying: "Unfortunately, there are deficiencies in the educational work of some of the schools. The principal factor determining the ideological education is the ideological and Marxist preparedness... Therefore, the task of every teacher is to widen the volume of his ideological and political knowledge. Particular attention should be paid to the inculcation of the Leninist spirit of friendship among the Soviet nations, and that of the international socialism. The students should be explained... the brotherly community of the interests and aims of the Soviet nations. The common struggle of the Latvian and Russian nations and their cultural relations in the past, the unselfish assistance rendered by the great Russian nation, as well as other brotherly nations to the national economy of the Soviet Latvia - those are the themes that should be mastered during the lessons or studies during the out of school hours."

This is one the meanest assertions ever made by the occupants. Latvians have never had any cultural ties with the Russians and what the speaker said is nothing else but a pure communist imagination. And at the same time the communist henchmen are trying to persuade by all means that no Russification is being carried out in Latvia!

Speaking about the construction of school buildings, V. Krūmiņš was forced to admit that "the construction schedule does not satisfy us. Many schools are working in two shifts. In accordance with the new construction plan 90% of all schools should have only one working shift by 1965 but in 1968 all schools should have it".

In his lecture A. Zitmanis, First Secretary of the Centr. Comm. of Latvian Comm. Party, besides the usual summons to contribute towards the communist construction work, mentioned some characteristic figures / See: Cīņa of December 29th, 1960 / : "Now, approximately 20,000 teachers are working in our republic, /35% of them having higher

education/. Among them there are 3900 members of Komsomol. It means that each fifth teacher is a member of Komsomol... There are 15,000 Komsomol-members in the 700 Komsomol organizations for pupils and students... More than 93,500 young Leninists have been united in the pioneer organizations of our republic... During the last summer more than 22,000 pupils and over 1200/<sup>children</sup>were taking rest in 39 pioneer camps belonging to the Trade Unions and 12 camps for work and relaxation. The vacation period for the pioneers has now been connected with their participation in manual work while building kolkhozes and sovkhoses... Yet, up to the present day we have not solved the problem of cadres for the pioneer camps, where very often are working occasional workers having no pedagogical education... For the time being we have in our republic 250 schools where in special classes Latvian and Russian language is being used simultaneously..."

These statements by A. Zitmanis are very significant: only one out of five teachers is a communist and from 300,000 pupils and students only 108,500 belong to the Komsomol or Pioneers. /15,000 members of Komsomol and 93,500 Pioneers/, or only one third of the total! And from this great number of pupils only 22,000 had been given the opportunity to have vacations and rest during the last summer. Maybe the lucky ones were children of Party members?

A new school subject in Soviet Latvian schools.

A new subject - "Elements of the Political Knowledge" will be introduced in Soviet schools next academic year 1961/62. Already during the current year this subject has been tentatively introduced in seven Latvian schools, i.e. 3 Riga secondary schools, 2 schools for working youths and the Augstkalne secondary school at Dobele. The new course comprises "important theoretical questions helping to discover the economic and philosophic foundations of the Communist Weltanschauung, principles of the historical materialism and dialectics" and "gives important knowledge of the socialistic economy and principles of

education of tomorrow's man". Furthermore, it has been pointed out that "the basic programs of the political knowledge have been tightly connected with actual events, policy of the Party and Soviet Government and struggle for the fulfilment of the Seven Year Plan."

What is the actual genre of this subject and method could be obtained from the experience and examples gathered at the Mugstkalne school that permitted to use the themes prepared by its students and entitled like "Liberation movement of the African nations" or "Unemployment in the USA", as lectures in the neighbouring kolkhozes and sovkhoses. And, of course, the thesis like "The Achievements of the Chinese People Republic" should not be forgotten, but it would be in vain to find among these themes something pertaining to the construction of communism in Latvia or Soviet Union itself. Thus we have to come to the conclusion that this new school subject is meant for training of Soviet youths for a world-wide communist propaganda. Source: Padomju Latvijas Skola, No.2, 1961.

The Greek Orthodox Cathedral closed in Riga.

The newspaper Latvija No.22 of 1961, reported that the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Riga was closed for Divine service shortly before May 1st, 1961. Crosses were sawed off. For the time being there is no information indicating for what purposes it will be used. The Lutheran Cathedral of St. Mary that was closed some years ago is now being rebuilt ~~for~~ as a museum and a concert hall, reconstructing also the organ that used to be one of the most famous in Europe. The Orthodox Cathedral in Riga was built during the years 1877 and 1884. This church during the czarist regime in Latvia had been often used for russification purposes and for glorifying of Russian imperialism. Now the communists have other methods for russification and therefore the cathedral had to follow the fate of many Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches in Latvia.

IV RUSSIFICATION, DEPORTATIONS, TERROR, PROPAGANDA AND OTHERS.

Campaign against the Latvian Ligo Day.

Cina and Riga Radio, as well, started on March 24th, 1961 the campaign against celebration of the Latvian national holiday "Ligo Day". In the result of this campaign there were no Ligo songs in Soviet Latvia this year because the Party and the "Government" do not recognize this most popular and ancient of the Latvian national holidays. At least this refers to radio and the press. This refusing to recognize this holiday was begun last year and this was particularly felt by the Latvian people since during the first years after Stalin's death the government and the Party had been encouraging the celebration of this day. Then there was a sudden turn and Latvian communists were considered to be poisoned with "nationalism" and quite a number of them lost their jobs and Moscow declared that the time has come to annihilate the national "distinctions". And then began the attacks against the Ligo Day / on St. John's Day/ which have never been mentioned by the press though the people have been celebrating this day secretly risking a punishment. The communists did introduce some new holidays instead but none of them has ever been able to replace the traditional Ligo Day!

Advertising of Russian language in Latvia.

Cina of May 10th, 1961, dedicated a whole page to praising of Russian language. The paper says that "Latvians are, indeed, happy having been on friendly terms with the Russian language and the great Russian nation since time immemorial. The Russian language is not to them a foreign language but this is the language of their friends and defenders, - the language of the common fight for freedom... We need Russian language more than any other... Not everybody is capable of learning languages but let us remember that no efforts or time should be spared to master it." Further the feature says that the Russian language is the most progressive of the tongues, and a language that should be seriously expected to become the language of the future. /Underlined by Rapt./

Deportations.

On April 19th Radio Riga announced that 443 construction specialists have been ~~sent~~ sent off to Kazakhstan to do construction work there. But at the same time there is a shortage of such specialists in Latvia herself. Yet, the local needs should be forgotten when the occupants' aim is nothing else but the exploitation.

200 Latvian youths have again been sent to Northern Kazakhstan from Latvia on May 25th, according to Radio Riga and Padomju Jaunatne No. 101, 1961. The first party of youths came from Liepāja, Daugavpils and Jelgava. 35 communist youths left from Liepāja, 23 -from Jelgava and 22- from Daugavpils. All of them have a certain trade ~~skill~~ and they are 17 to 19 years old, in other words children. All of them have graduated from some kind of technical school, and it should be noted that the graduation exams have been arranged prior to regular schedule, as this is the case with Daugavpils. It is not a secret that there is a shortage of hands in Latvia herself, and this particularly applies to specialists but despite this the Russian colonial regime takes into consideration only its own requirements. This is again a squandering of Latvian lives for the needs of the Muscovite empire because this time it is obvious that the Latvian youths are leaving their homeland for good to stay their entire life in the virgin lands, and only a few of them might be lucky enough to escape or to return home.

Cina No.131 of 1961 reported that on June 3rd, 1961, "the regular group of enthusiasts / the paper did not mention any numbers. Rapp./ left for a permanent work in Kazakhstan. Already prior to this more than 150 of our republic's constructors had left for a permanent work with the Matyevo Construction Administration at the district of October, Northern Kazakhstan."

Magazine 4vaigzne No.9 of 1961, reported that "also many youths of our republic, the future medical specialists, inspired by comrade Khrushchev's call, have submitted their applications."



them to work in the virgin lands". The said magazine has a picture showing four young physicians who recently graduated from the Institute of Medicine and 8 nurses. It seems that only 3 among them are Russians. Thus the deportation of "volunteers-enthusiasts" is being continued under the disguise of providing them with work in the remote areas of the USSR.

Purges still continuing in Latvia.

According to Literatura un Māksla of April 8, 1961, it appears that V.Sauleskalns has been kicked out of the Soviet Latvian Assn. of Writers but V.Melnis has been ousted from all his posts there. Besides it, a "strict Party punishment" was meted out to Riga writers J.Jaganovskis, V.Altirtsev and M.Lorin. Both of the latter are Russians and one should suppose that they were infected by the "Latvian bourgeois nationalism" to which A.Voss repeatedly referred in his report. His speech was dealing with arts and their share got also "the summits of Latvian white emigres" who from abroad are sending in to Latvia "a plenty of nationalistic literature, letters, various packages" and who also "take care of an increasing anti-Soviet propaganda."

Five Death Sentences in Riga.

The session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Court took place in Riga, from March 9th to April 13th, 1961, at which was tried the case against nine members of the Latvian Legion. They were accused of "treason to the homeland", "warfare against partisans in Byelorussia, and mass murders". All of the said were made POW by Russians towards the end of the World War II and it seems that they had already served their terms in Siberia. Three among them had been regular army officers in the old Latvian Army and they got the severest punishments. It appears from the prosecutor's and the chief justice's speeches that this trial should serve as a sharp warning to all revengeers and war mongers-war criminals who managed to stay free". Also it was evident from

hope that the old times will come back again, i.e. Latvia will be free and independent.

Five of the accused were sentenced to death penalty but the remaining four were given 15-years' " deprivation of freedom " sentences. Similar trials and almost simultaneously, too, took place in Tallinn, Estonia and Vilnius, Lithuania. Two of the accused were sentenced to death in Tallinn and the same penalty was given to three persons in Vilnius. It should be noted that during the Tallinn trial which took place prior to the Riga trial, the Russians tried to extradite some persons from England and Australia, but both of the said countries refused to do so referring to the illegality of Estonia's incorporation into the Soviet Union. On May 31st Radio Riga announced that death sentences have been carried out to five Latvians, former members of Latvian Army and Latvian Legion who were sentenced during the trial that took place in Riga from March 9th to April 13th. Radio Riga also mentioned that the Supreme Soviet of Latvian SSR /which is nothing else but a puppet parliament / declined the appeals submitted by the accused. This murdering of former Latvian soldiers is a new barbaric act perpetrated by the occupants and belonging to the long chain of crimes which was begun by the Soviets when they in 1941 murdered some Latvian frontier guards, and which has not yet been interrupted after 21 years of slaughtering of Latvian people. The Riga trial was the usual communist theatre performance when peoples accused of crimes never committed by them are also denied the legal right of a defence council.

Zionist literature forbidden in Latvia.

During the month of May the Israeli basketball team was visiting in Riga whose trainer Mr. N. Cagan had once been a citizen of Latvia. Members of the said team did spread among Latvian Jews some Zionist literature in Russian language and for that the Soviet papers did severely censure the Israeli basketball players and called them Western spies.

"Bourgeois Nationalists" blamed and attacked again.

On May 23rd, the Radio Riga attacked again Latvian "bourgeois nationalists". The contents were a feature by a certain comrade Sendriks, Director of the group of lecturers of the Central Comm. of the Latvian Communist Party, in which he was trying to expose the "bestial nature" of the bourgeois nationalists, their "subservience to American imperialists", etc. The broadcast also made a statement that nationalism / dating from the era of the independent Latvia / is still existing in Latvia, and therefore the communists should work carefully and persistently in order to annihilate the remnants of the bourgeois nationalism. In other words, the struggle against the national elements in Soviet Latvia has still a long way to go.

CONCLUSION.

This survey covering the last nine months' events in Soviet Latvia makes it clear that despite 21 years of occupation there are no indications whatsoever that the ~~present~~ Communist Party has become more popular or that the economic achievements are worth of mentioning, and still much should be done in this field. The purges within the Party and Government that began in 1959 with the purpose to strengthen the so-called Moscow line have not yet been finished and have caused a greater resistance by the so-called nationalist circles which fact is evident from speeches delivered during the communist congresses and meetings during the last nine months. And one should not forget that at the most of such conventions there are present Moscow's special emissaries who very often, like the local communists, are forced to speak about the bourgeois nationalism, and nationalism in general. The second year of the Seven Year Plan has a plenty of failures. It appears that the plans made in Moscow are very difficult to fulfil and if one would speak honestly about the fulfilment of this ~~State~~ ~~Plan~~, one must say that it very often is based on the "cheating of the

State" by filing reports which only indicate that the plans have been fulfilled on the paper but not in reality.

All this is a ~~sympathetic~~ vigorous evidence to the fact that the people in Soviet Latvia are opposing the occupation regime and its methods of colonial exploitation and we hope that this resistance spirit will remain unbroken also in the future until the Latvian nation will be able to shake off the communist yoke and return to the community of free countries.