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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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S T A T E M E N T

The Latvian-Americans of Metropolitan Detroit, assembled at the Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan on 19th day of November 1961, to commemorate the 43rd Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Latvia, unanimously agreed to issue the following statement:

1. As we pause today to observe the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Latvia, we again thank the United States Government for refusing to recognize the forcible seizure by the Soviet Union of the Baltic States of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. We urge that this policy be continued.

2. At this time when many peoples in Africa and Asia are receiving their freedom, it would be well to remember that the Soviet Union has enslaved whole nations and peoples but at the same time attacks the free world as colonial powers.

As Latvians who witnessed Soviet occupation of our country we know the true meaning of Communist greed and hatred of freedom in any form.

3. The naked face of Communist brutality and terror has been exposed for the whole world to see in the recent H-Bomb tests the Soviet-Union have been carrying out. Their sole motive is to blackmail and terrorize the world into surrendering.

After all these years, and repeated examples of Soviet viciousness, the world is only now coming to realize the true motives of the Communists - world domination and oppression.

4. History has shown that large countries gain only perhaps a brief respite in a struggle by bartering small nations as if they were a commodity to be sold, but in the long run the big powers lose morally and then physically. Nations are people and can't be sold in the international market place. To this respect the West's record is not clean. The history of World War II with its Yaltas, Teherans and Potsdams prove this. The damage has been done in most areas of Eastern Europe and in major portions of Asia. However, it is not too late for the West to once again assert its moral leadership, to its own people, as well as the Captive nations, by reaffirming it will to resist Communism and to repair the damage done to the helpless people by Western inaction and acquiescence in Communist plans that aim at international slavery.

5. If there are to be any negotiations with the Soviet Union, the free world should constantly remind the Communists and neutral States of their opposition to the subjugation of the Baltic States and press for their liberation. There can be

no peace in the world unless the principle of self-determination is applied universally for the small States as well as the large.

6. In this connection the world should be reminded that failure to apply the principle of self-determination has put in power red party functionaries such as Khrushchev who represent only themselves and not the people they rule with an iron fist.

7. Despite 21 years of Communist persecution, the continued deportations, attempted extinction of the Church and peoples national heritage, the Latvians still proudly hold their head high and look to the day when they will be free again. They see the United States their only hope. This country must not fail them.

8. This statement is the expression of the entire Latvian-American community of Metropolitan Detroit and this Assemblage directs that copies of this statement to be sent to the President of the United States, Secretary of State, the United States delegation to the United Nations, Senators and Congressmen from Michigan, Governor of the State of Michigan and Mayor of the City of Detroit.

Done in Detroit, Michigan this 19th Day of November A.D. 1961