

Draft

L A T V I A.

July-December  
1961.

INTRODUCTION.

Among the events during the last half of the year 1961, two deserve a particular attention, i.e. the XVIII congress of the Latvian Communist Party that took place in Riga, September 26th to September 28th, and the sixth session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet that took place December 26th to December 28th. If one could define the work of the congress as the preparatory work for the Soviet Union's Communist Party XXII congress, the work of the session should be qualified as one carried out in the spirit of fulfilment of the decisions adopted by the Soviet Union's Communist Party XXII congress. Besides it, both of these events were interesting since they proved that the purges of "nationalists and localists" that began in summer, 1959, have not yet been terminated. In the result of these actions during the last six months of the year 1961, several of old and leading Latvian communists had to lose their posts. Likewise, the wave of destalinization did not spare Latvia, too, and the partisans of Khrushchev, mostly non-Latvians or the so-called Russian Latvians, are trying to fortify their positions in the newly elected central committee of the party and the puppet "government" of the Latvian SSR.

I. POLITICAL SITUATION.

a. Latvian Communist Party.

There had been only 230 members in the Latvian Communist Party / further referred to as LCP/ in 1940, when the Soviets occupied Latvia.

2.

Today, twenty one years later, the membership is estimated to be 76,642, among them 70,235 members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and 6,407 member-candidates. The members of the LCP are united in 3475 party primary organizations. More than 20,000 communists are working in industry, ca. 4000 of them -in construction, 6000+ in transportation system, and some 13,000 are working in agriculture. Over 33,000 party members are serving with the army or security police units stationed in Latvian territory. / Communist party members serving with the army or security police automatically belong to the party group whose activities district includes the location of their units/. From the total number of party members more than 24,000 are specialists in various branches of national economy. More than 14,000 communists or 18% of them have completed or partly completed higher education, and 21,000 of them- or 27%- are highschool graduates. 55% have not completed their secondary education. The Latvian Communist party is a multi-national body because there are working, together with Latvian communists, members of 58 other nationalities living in Soviet Union. /Most of the nationalities come from the ranks of the Red Army/.

Communists compose 3.46% of Latvia's population and this is one of the highest percentages in comparison with the other Soviet republics. Frankly speaking, this percentage is much lower because approximately 33,000 CP members are serving with the army or security police, and thus only ca. 43,000 or not quite 2% of Latvian population could be considered LCP members coming from the Latvian territory. How many of them are Latvians is difficult to say. We know that in March, 1961, their members were estimated to be 20,625 or approximately half of the total of the LCP.

The reports of the mandate commission of the XVIII party congress give us a rather significant survey on the composition of the membership of the LCP. Altogether 546 voting delegates and 67 having only consultative functions were elected to this congress. From Riga alone there participated 280 delegates, and 210 of them came from rural districts. Among the delegates there were 126 workers, 59 kolkhozniks, 102 party workers, 106 people serving in Soviet institutions; 56 scientific, cultural, educational and health protection workers; 36 leading workers of industry, construction, transportation and communications, and 128 members of the armed forces. / or those serving with the State security agencies. / 433 of the delegates have been decorated by the government with medals or orders, and 266 delegates were veterans of the Great Fatherland's War /World War II/. This means that all of the veterans were Russians since Latvians did not fight then in Soviet military units but were fighting against them. Among the delegates there were : 279 Latvians, 216 Russians and 51 belonging to other nationalities. This indicates that half of the LCP congress delegates were non-Latvians. It must be said that these figures are somewhat larger since among the "Latvian" first names there were figuring many Ivans, Grigoriys, Nikitas, Ugors, Sergeys, Fiodors, Vladimirs, and so on, which make us believe that these delegates are offsprings born to Latvians in Russia, and therefore these persons have only a Latvian last name, and nothing else. From among the more than 600 congress delegates there were only 185 workers and kolkhozniks, or the "genuine representatives of the nation", thus making it clear that the oppressing majority of the delegates belonged to the recently created communist aristocracy. To this should be also added that more than 20% of the delegates belonged to the army or security police. And the latter

category by no means could be regarded as representatives of the Latvian people. However, we must say that no particular attention should be paid to the ethnical composition of the delegates or speeches delivered at the congress, and the same goes for the decisions adopted there. Such congresses, following the pattern set by Moscow, have only to listen to the speeches made by the party leaders, as well as to their proposals. The delegates are supposed to applaud and to elect the candidates designated by Moscow.

The said congress elected the LCP central committee consisting of 105 persons. Among them there are 60 persons having Latvian last names. Latvians are also in majority in the body of candidates of the CC and its revisory board, too. This is again a repetition of the Muscovite "tradition"- to have the local peoples elected in majority to the central committees of the local CP, to show the world that the local peoples are the "bosses".

The work of the LCP is practically directed by its secretaries and members of the central committee's bureau. At the LCP XVIII congress A. Pelše was elected 1st secretary. M. Gribkov was elected 2d secretary and A. Voss, P. Strautmanis and V. Lejins were elected secretaries. The following- in addition to the party secretaries- were elected members of the CC bureau : V. Ažans, First Secretary of the party Riga municipal committee; G. Galle, Chairman of the People's Economy Council; General Colonel I. Gusakovskiy, Commanded of the Baltic Military District; J. Peive, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Latvian SSR ; M. Plūdonis, Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR., and J. Kalnbērziņš, Chairman of the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet. It is for M. Gribkov, the 2d Secretary of this 11-member body, to decide. He is a Russian and was elected for this

post by Moscow and is considered in Latvia to be the Kremlin's "politruk". The same functions belong to ~~General~~ General Colonel Gusakovskiy, the already-mentioned Russian high brass.

Also Latvian SSR trade unions having 750,000 members and Latvian Comsomol having 142,000 members have to obey these Moscow emissaries. Also the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet and Government are under control of the Comm. party's central committee's bureau.

/Source: Sovetskaya Latvija, September 27 to 30th, 1961./

b. Changes Within the Government of the Latvian SSR.

By virtue of the decree of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet of July 11st, 1961, the Latvian SSR Minister of Auto-Transport and High-Roads, Eduards Liberts, has been discharged from his duties. /Cina of July 12th, 1961/. The Riga newspapers "Sovetskaya Latvija", "Riga" and some others in their issues of July 13th, 1961, mention the reasons for his dismissal. It appears that at the same time, i.e. simultaneously with ousting of Liberts, rather extensive purges and punishments had been meted out also to other institutions-/not only the Ministry of Auto-Transport and High-Roads/ and thus we obtain a very good picture on chaos reigning in various institutions in Soviet Latvia.

In a feature entitled "On the Tasks of the Party's Work" published in Cina No.164, 1961, among other things we read:

"..... Signals had been received for a longer time that many truck drivers had been deceiving the State. The officials of the Auto-Transport and High-Roads' ministry pretend not to see these flagrant disorders. The goods-transportation plan by means of auto-transportation always is in excess what concerns the reports made by the ministry..

But the truth is that the trucks did transport a great deal less than the documents say. The unused gas coupons were simply torn by dishonest drivers and the necessary number of miles simply spinned on the speedometer... All this was well-known to the former minister, comrade Liberts, deputy minister Birznieks; director of the auto-transport bureau, comrade Guriyev / now discharged/; the former director of the Latvian Auto-Transport Trust, comrade Brodskiy, and some other of the directors, as well. They knew it but did not do a thing to discontinue this criminal activity. The party organizations did not sound the alarm. No wonder, since comrade Guriyev, secretary of the primary organization, is himself to be blamed for cheating the State... Also officials of many other economic enterprises have been helping to make false reports.... The above-mentioned serious deficiencies would not have arisen if the ministry had organized the work with the cadres in a right manner. Not so seldom did it happen that people who turned out to be failures were transferred to another district to a responsible post. Asst. director of "Degviela", Albins misappropriated nine tons of gasoline. Was he put on trial for that? No, he was transferred as senior dispatcher to Latvian Auto-Transport Trust... The majority of the leading officials of the auto-transport system does not have special education. But at the same time 86 persons having secondary and even higher education are working as drivers and locksmiths... The former director Brodskiy liked very much people knowing how to please him, and to keep their mouths shut.... Many of the auto-transport leading officials began to lose the sense of reality, and they even imagined that everything would be permitted to them. They took and stole wherever possible. When they

were building their summer houses they were in need of transportation, and the ministry did not keep them waiting for a long time but organized supplying of their officials with used cars very cheaply. But it is a known fact that it is better to use a good road, and therefore the officials of the ministry were building good roads to their summer residences at the State's expense... But at the same time many important roads necessary for the national economy were left without repair. Also comrade Kaminskiy, Director of the Road Board, had been practising false entries, so that the roads would look longer and straighter on the paper... The Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party did discover many defects and disorder in the work of the Economic Council's Meat and Milk Production Administration, as well... This particularly applies to the Valmiera Meat Combine. During the last year alone, some 280,000 Rb. in the new currency had to be declared as a loss... This could not have been overlooked by comrade Ivanov, Secretary of the Valmiera District Party Committee..... Comrade Gravitis, Director of the Meat and Milk Administration of the Economic Council, and particularly his deputy, comrade Maizitis, who is in charge of the meat production branch, are caring little to promote to leading posts honest people... In several meat combines people fond of green pastures have obtained work, who do not care much about their duties, who steal and squander. In 1958, a certain /Mrs./ D.Licis was appointed director of the Daugavpils Meat Combine. Already one year later she was caught stealing. The local administration suggested that the unfit director be dismissed but the higher instances did not agree. This is the reason why in 1961 comrade Licis was sitting on the dock... A certain Sveipulnieks was hired as a storehouse manager by the Valmiera Meat Combine. Already

prior to this he had been punished for a theft committed in the same enterprise. Seipulnieks loved to drink and to cheat and thus he ended his career in a jail... The Central Committee of the Communist Party discharged and punished comrade Maizitis and strongly advised comrade GBavitis..... "

Thus far the newspaper! Further explanations seem to be superfluous. The red tape of the communist economic administration as well as the system of selection of workers / the only requirement for a responsible worker being his Communist Party member card / have created a chaos in Latvian economy which to liquidate proposes the new Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party.

By the decree of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet of September 6th, 1961, the following were appointed :

Antons Vonda - Latvian SSR Minister of ~~Autotransport~~ and Roads,  
Valentine Pihela - Latvian SSR Minister of Social Security.

By virtue of the same decree Ieva Paldina, Minister of Social Security, was discharged from her duties.

Cina of Sept. 7th, 1961.

The post of the Minister of Autotransport and Roads had been vacant since July 11th, 1961, when Eduards Liberts was discharged from this post because of many misdemeanours.

There is no information available for the time being about the motives for Ieva Paldina's discharge. One must presume that she is being pensioned off because of her age. She belongs to the old guard of Latvian communists and had been active in the underground during the era of the independent Latvia. She had been imprisoned for these activities prior to 1940. After 1940 she served long years as a Cabinet



member. On July 6th, 1961, Mrs. Paldiņa was given a special citation by the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet. / Mrs. Valantine Pihele had been the Chairman of the Valka District Working People's Soviet during the postwar years. Antons Vomda belonged to the LCP group of propagandists and was considered to be one of the best propagandists. Edit./

Cīņa, September 12th, 1961.

c. Latvian Members of the Soviet Union's Communist Party Central Committee.

Two Latvians were elected to the central committee of the Soviet Union's Communist Party. These are Jānis Kalnbērziņš, former First Secretary of the central comm. of the LCP and the present Chairman of the Presidium of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet, and Arvids Pelše, 1st Secretary of the LCP central committee.

Formerly J. Kalnbērziņš had been also member-candidate of the Presidium of the Soviet Union's Comm. Party central committee, but this time he was not reelected to this post.

Jānis Peive, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR, was elected member-candidate of the Soviet Union's Comm. Party central committee.

Pravda, November 1st, 1961.

d. State Control Commission of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers.

By virtue of the decree of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet of August 4th, 1961, the hitherto existing Control Commission of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR has been transformed into the Union-Republican State Control Commission of the Latvian SSR Council of Ministers /Latvian SSR State Control Commission for short/. According

to the above decree the necessity for such reform has been caused "in connection with the increasing economic tasks and the emergency to increase the control over the implementation of the Government's decisions from the top to the bottom, as well as to further strengthen the State's discipline". The said control commission is supposed to fulfill their tasks "in close cooperation with the Soviet, Party, Trade Unions' and Comsomol organizations by extensively recruiting help of the workers, kolkhozniks and employees." /Cina, of August 6th, 1961. /

e. The most important events during the Sixth Session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet were:

1. The Law on the Latvian SSR State Budget for the year 1962,
2. Report on the fulfilment of the 1960 budget,
3. Elections to the Latvian SSR Supreme Court,
4. Personnel Changes in the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet leadership.

1. The Latvian SSR State Budget for the Year 1962.

The law on the Latvian SSR State Budget for the year 1962 has ten paragraphs.

Para. 1. determines that the Latvian SSR State Budget has 507,158,000 rubles as income and 505,023,000 rubles for expenditures. Thus there is an active balance of 2,135,000 rubles. 17 million rubles are meant for cash circulation.

Para. 2. Income from the state and cooperative enterprises and organizations is determined to be 453,308,000 rubles.

Para. 3 permits 232,992,000 rubles for financing of national economy.

Para. 4 assigns 239,095,000 rb. for social and cultural enterprises.

Para.5 assigns 9,703,000 rb. for the needs of the state organs, administration and courts.

Para.6 approves the Latvian SSR republican budget for the year 1962 to the amount of 440,577,000 rb. on the income side against 438,422,000 rb. on the expenditure side, leaving a balance of 2,135,000 rubles and 11,724,000 rb. for cash circulation during the year 1962.

Para.7 determines the 1962 budget for districts and towns having autonomy, in the amount of 165,926,000 rb. on income and expenditure sides, and 5,276,000 rubles for cash circulation during the year 1962.

Para.8 confirms the amounts that can be deducted for districts and autonomous towns during 1962.

Para.9 determines the amounts that can be deducted from the population's income tax, the kolkhoz tax and sales tax in district and municipal budgets.

Para.10 determines the amounts to be assigned from the republican budget for subventions to the local budgets.

## 2. Fulfilment of the Latvian SSR State Budget for the year 1960.

The Sixth Session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet adopted the report on the fulfilment of the 1960 budget : 5,063,579,000 rubles on the income side and 4,938,456,000 rubles as expenditures , thus leaving a surplus of 125,123,000 rubles.

## 3. The Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR.

The Sixth Session of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR adopted "The Decree on the Revoking of the Latvian SSR Judges and Jurors", and

published the full text of this decree.

There was elected the new members of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet whose number is 25. B.Azāns was elected chairman but V.Kauķis and V.Naumov - vice chairmen. Also 480 jurors of the Latvian SSR Supreme Court were elected.

4. Personnel Changes in the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet.

K.Ozoliņš was discharged from the duties of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet's first deputy chairman. Instead of him was elected J.Pakalns who was discharged from his post of the Chairman of the Budget and Economic Commission of the Supreme Soviet. J.Rudomiotov was elected chairman of this commission, instead. All of the above changes were carried out by the Sixth Session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet. /Ousting of Ozoliņš was not a surprise because some time ago he had already been demoted from the post of the chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet to that of the first deputy chairman. Besides it, during the party conventions he had been blamed for his belonging to the so-called Berkļav's group and for unwillingness to "confess his sins!". The newly-elected J.Pakalns is Chairman of the Daugavpils Working Peoples' Deputies Executive Committee, member of the ICP central committee for long years. J.Rudomiotov is the 1st Secretary of the Riga Proletarian district committee, and also for many years member of the ICP central committee. Edit./

Qina, December 29th, 1961.

f. Destalinization.

Six of the old Latvian communists / party members since 1907-1913/- F.Allens, ARēders, J.Kariņš, A.Strautmanis, A.Dižbite and J.Biezais published in the newspaper Padomju Jaunatne a feature entitled "That's Right!", in which they express their gratitude to the congress

that adopted the decision to move away Stalin's body. The feature says that "it would be a sacrilege to let stay in the mausoleum of the party's father, leader and all world's working people's teacher the sarcophagus of Stalin, a man who violated Lenin's heritage". /Prior to this the old Latvian communists had been almost for thirty years calling Stalin the father, teacher, etc. Edit./.

Padomju Jaunatne, November 1st, 1961.

Not much of physical labor had to be applied ~~in Latvia~~ to liquidate the Stalin cult in Latvia : one had to remove just one monument in Cēsis, one publicly displayed bust / in Riga at the Esplanade Square/ and to remove his pictures from various institutions, and- finally- some tens of kolkhozes had to be renamed. All this has been done, and - as the news received from Latvia says- together with renaming of ~~far-~~ <sup>kolkhozes</sup> ~~max kolkhozes~~ bearing Stalin's name there disappeared also the names of Molotov, Kaganowitch and other representatives of this cult. All these activities connected with removing of pictures and busts, as well as renaming, were carried out quietly. Nothing has ever been published to this effect in the party or government publications, and there has never been issued any decree telling to do so. Stalin's name is not used any more publicly in Latvia.

## II ECONOMIC SITUATION.

The economic situation can be very well estimated from the reports delivered at the ICP XVIII congress, the Sixth Session of the Latvian SSR Supreme Soviet and speeches by Latvian representatives at a similar party congress in Moscow / the XXII/ and the Seventh Session of the USSR Supreme Soviet in Moscow.

*Agriculture*  
a. AGRICULTURE.

There are at the present time 970 kolkhozes and 162 sovkhoses in Soviet Latvia. All kolkhozes and sovkhoses are connected by telephone lines but the problem of internal telephone communication is being developed very slowly.

During the last two years the total of the cattle has increased by 33% in Latvian kolkhozes and sovkhoses / the numbers of cows by 17%. The numbers of pigs have increased by 40%. During the same period the yield of milk has increased only 6%, that of meat by 28%, and the numbers of eggs have increased by 75%.

At the present time the number of tractors working in Latvian agriculture is estimated to be some 14,000. The number of automachines is 8500 and there are also 3700 grain and silo combines. 817 kolkhozes and 159 sovkhoses have been electrified and more than 16,000 electromotors have been installed and are working.

Speaking about the failure of the agriculture, A. Pelše said : " We have to admit openly that the decisions of the XVI congress of the LCP /that took place in February, 1961. Edit./ in many instances have not been fulfilled. There are kolkhozes, sovkhoses and some districts in our republic that unsatisfactorily fulfill the directives issued by the Government with regard to the increase of agricultural production, that extremely slowly raise the numbers of their cattle ... badly ameliorate the abandoned land, that do not increase the area under crop for the most important cultures, and even harvest badly. The yield of milk has decreased in several districts. Pig breeding has not been sufficiently developed in several districts... Many districts are badly fulfilling the task of increasing potato production... There are

still many problems to be solved in the field of mechanization... Many farms have no qualified managers. We do even have sovkhoses that are working badly and causing losses. In order to fulfil our pledges during the next years it is particularly important to fulfil this year's obligations imposed to our agriculture. From that depends the further development of the agriculture. During the next days we shall finish the harvest and we have to begin with the winter sowing campaign. Everything has been unpardonably delayed. We owe the State great quantities of milk and meat."

Cina of September 28th, 1961.

b. Industry.

The gross production during the first nine months of this year has been fulfilled prior to the deadline by 131 enterprises belonging to the Council of Peoples Economy. ~~The construction of the atomic reactor in the first in the Baltic countries will be finished soon. It has been put into operation shortly before the XII Party congress in Moscow (1961).~~ During the last year the Latvian industry did receive equipment from 45 of the Soviet Union's Economic Districts; oil- from 22, black metals from <sup>10</sup> economic districts and coal- from 5 districts, i.e. coal basins. At the same time Latvia had been sending telephone switchboards and equipment, motorcars for the electric railways, street-cars, electric installation, control apparatuses, as well as hydrometeorological devices and some other products of specialized industry to all republics of the Soviet Union. Soviet Latvia has a specific importance what regards the production of some items, as e.g. : various installations for electric trains, 20% of the total of streetcars, 44% of the automatic telephone switchboards, 14 % of laundering machines and 13% of radio receiver sets produced in the entire Sov.Union.

Latvian industry has already reached the plans foreseen for the year 1963, thus giving a good chance to finish the Seven Year Plan within five years. The Riga railway-car factory is producing now motor-cars exclusively. However, the industrial plants should be more specialized. This work is proceeding slowly... The situation is not satisfactory in many enterprises since a lot of them do not fulfil the production-schedules. Serious deficiencies have been observed in the work of the meat and milk industries. In many enterprises big loss of working time is still being tolerated. The raw materials and materials, in general, should be more economized. One should do more to combat production of defective wares.

During the period after February, 1961, the numbers of industrial specialists like engineers and technicians have increased by 2,900. Despite this, there is still a shortage of engineers, particularly in the field of fine mechanics and chemistry. /Cina, September 27th, 1961/.

c. Construction.

More than 120 big enterprises have been put into operation during the postwar period in Soviet Latvia. At the present time there is under construction a synthetic fibre factory at Daugavpils, a glass fibre factory at Valmiera and a HES power plant at Plavinas. "Never in Latvia have been built so many factories and plants, apartment houses and communal objects than right now", writes Cina on September 27th, 1961. During the fifteen postwar years there have been put into operation 4,173,000 square mt. of living space that would equal to facilities necessary for 400,000 town peoples. The Riga apartment reserve fund has increased almost by 700,000 sq.mt. during the last ten years.



More than 20,000 houses have been built in rural districts during the same period. 137 schools have been erected in towns and country side during the last 15 years.

The Northwestern system of energetics is nearing its completion and to it belongs the Leningrad, Latvian and Estonian energo-systems. By putting into operation this fall the Rigg-Šauliai in Lithuania/ electro-line, also the Lithuanian and Kaliningrad /Koenigsberg/ energo-systems will be included in the united system. The construction of the Dashau-Lutzk-Vilnius-Riga gas-pipe is proceeding satisfactorily.

Besides it, during the period after February, 1961, there have been put into exploitation the Liepāja factory of agricultural machines, metal foundry and refrigerators in Riga, Liepāja, Venstpils and Rēzekne. The construction of the new Riga railway station has been finished, as well as the Ogre peat-brick plant, the new divisions for the VEF, Sloka Combine, Daugavpils Meat Combine, etc.

While speaking about the deficiencies, A. Felše said: " Yet, the course of the capital construction is not satisfactory in our republic. The construction of industrial objects is unsatisfactory, very slowly are being built meat combines at Balvi, Saldus, Tukums and Talsi. The Valmiera Construction Administration is slowly building the drainage pipe factory at Iode. The construction and assembling of the Brocēni cement and slate combine have been very delayed. Also is lagging behind the construction of the artificial fibre factory in Daugavpils. The construction of the Pļaviņas HES should be accelerated. The construction work's quality is improving slowly".

Sovetskaya Latvija, September 27th, 1961.

d. Traffic, Communication Service, Transport.

There is still much of idle standing in the work of Latvian railways, maritime shipping and particularly auto-transport which causes losses.

The decision of the XVII congress of LCP concerning construction of the Leningrad-Tallinn-Riga radio relaying line has been fulfilled. The exchange of TV broadcasts between Riga, Tallinn, Leningrad, Moscow and Kiev has begun. Cina of Septemb. 28th, 1961.

e. Material Well-Being of Working People.

The transition of workers and office employees to a seven hours' working day and even six hours' working day in several branches of the national economy has been put into effect. The quality of the consumers' goods has been slightly improved and the assortment enlarged. During the last two years more than 500 new shops and communal eating houses have been opened in Latvia. Department stores have been opened in Valka, Preiļi, Gulbene, Kuldīga and Limbaži. Self-service system is being introduced in cafés and eating houses. To this effect A. Pelše said: " There are many serious deficiencies in the work of the commercial enterprises and communal eating houses. Wares of inferior quality very often are offered for sale in our commercial system. Many industrial enterprises, some schools and educational institutions still do not have their own eating facilities. Particularly badly has been organized this problem in sovkhoses... /Cina of Sept. 28th, 1961./ Three mechanized shops have been organized in Riga for repairing of shoes, cleaning of garments, and watch and precision apparatuses repair... Shops serving communal needs have been organized also in other cities but the problem of the population's servicing is far from being on the due level.

During the last two years hospitals had been opened in the Lenin district of Riga, at Priekule, Dagda, Malta, Liepāja and elsewhere. The number of beds in the hospitals has increased almost by 2000 during these two years. There are now in Latvia ca.6000 physicians, one fourth of them being employed in rural districts. Besides, there are approximately 16,000 of medical personnel but still serious deficiencies have not yet been eliminated in Latvia's medical service system. There is a shortage of specialized doctors and some of the medical personnel do not treat the patients well.

12 pre-school institutions have been opened for children in Latvia during the last year. The total of sanatoria and rest-houses in Latvia has reached now 78, where every year more than 150,000 working peoples are taking rest and cure. The Riga Beach and Ķemeri spas are now classified as All-Union institutions. During the last ~~two~~ year the entire system of sanatoria and spas, except for TB treatment institutions, has been put under the responsibility of trade unions. The numbers of pensioned off peoples in Latvia at the end of the last year has increased by some 200,000. The amount of sums paid in pensions did surpass 80 million rubles in 1960. More than 285 thousand persons in Latvia are practicing some kind of sport. This year alone, 36 Latvians acquired the Soviet Union's, European or even world championship. /Cina,9,28,61./

f. Proposals by the 1st Secretary of the LCP Central Committee at the XXII Party Congress in Moscow.

A.Pelše submitted the following proposals:

1. The radio technical plants of the republic should be specialized by concentrating the production of radio receivers in Riga / in such a case, to his opinion, it would be possible to build 1,200,000 radio

sets a year instead of some 605,000 produced now./

2. A specialized telephone apparatuses factory should be built that would be able to produce 2.5 million apparatuses a year / but not just one million as the plan foresees/.
3. The Main Fishing Industries Administration of the Soviet Union's Northwestern Basin should be established into which should be included fishing fleets of Murmansk, Kaliningrad, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, as well as other ones now catching fish in the Atlantic. In such a case it would be possible to better manage fishing and to exploit the fishing vessels. / At the present time Latvian fishing vessels are losing up to 20% of the fishing time by waiting near their base-ships when discharging fish catch, receiving food, water, tools, etc./
4. The project to include the numbers of Latvian pedigree cattle sent to other republics or exported outside the Soviet Union into the State meat supply plan figures should be <sup>approved</sup> ~~decided~~, or otherwise quantities of pedigree cattle are slaughtered.

While speaking on this proposal Pelše mentioned that approximately 150,000 heads of pedigree cattle / the Latvian Brown Cows/ have been sold by Latvia during the last years, and it appears that during the next future Latvia would be able to sell 50,000 pedigree cows a year. Mentioning the achievements of the agriculture, A. Pelše also stated the "Latvian working people really like corn". /During the previous party congress Khrushchev attacked Pelše because Latvia did not cultivate corn at that time. Edit./ Pravda, October 26th, 1961.

g. All Means and Energy Should be Used to Implement the Decisions

Adopted by the Party's XXII Congress !

Immediately after the XXII party congress there were taking place in Latvia big conventions of the local communist parties. The largest of these meetings was the convention of the party's activists that took place in Riga, on November 17th at which there were outlined the weak sides observed in the party, national economy and elsewhere. The main speaker in this and other meetings, too, was A. Pelše, First Secret. of the ICP central committee. Condemning the Stalin era the speaker, however, / according to condensed contents / judged it prudent to mention Khrushchev's name at least for 23 times in various connections/. And this is not a personal cult. Edit./. The speaker also attacked the leadership of the Albanian party and the so-called anti-party group /Malenkov, etc. Edit./. Speaking about the tasks of the national economy, A. Pelše said that during the next twenty years more than 200 new enterprises should be built. Daugavpils, Rēzekne, Liepāja, Valmiera, Cēsis, Ventspils, Jelgava and Kuldīga will become cities having greater significance in industry. But to achieve all this, it is necessary to increase the volume of the propaganda, so that all people should understand the great tasks of the party. In this respect in many places nothing has been done by the party organizations yet. In Latvia there are more than 9000 propagandists and over 50,000 lecturers and special reporters. During this year 106,000 non-party-men-activists are getting their political education in the system of political education together with 60,000 communists. All of them should be given work to build up communism. To achieve all this one should fight "energetically against such remnants of capitalism as parasitism, drinking, hooliganism

cheating and niggardness. The conscience of our people should be freed from religious prejudices and superstition... The fight against the bourgeois ideology and prejudices should be increased. Particular attention should be paid to strengthening of education of people in the spirit of working peoples' internationalism and friendship among the nations of our country, and to the Soviet patriotism." /Cina, November 18th, 1961./.

Speaking about the economic questions <sup>the</sup> ~~the speaker~~ said that 180,000 persons / out of the total of ca. 800,000 of employed people <sup>Ed.</sup> / are participating in the competition for communist work". Only one and a half month is left till the end of the year, but the tasks of the republican industry have not yet been fulfilled. Much should be done to liquidate heavy work... During the past ten months the program of the capital investments has not been completed. Particularly intolerable situation exists in the most important construction projects of our republic, such as the Brocēnīx Cement Plant and the Daugavpils Synthetic Fibre Factory. ... The most of our attention should be paid to the construction of apartment houses. Rīgā and Liepāja are strongly behind in this respect. ... Unsatisfactorily are being supplied financial means for the construction of establishments for children, schools, hospitals and polyclinics." /Cina, November 18th, 1961./ Speaking about the agriculture, Pelšs said : " 2,120,000 tons of milk should be produced in 1965; 2,900,000 tons in 1970 and 3,900,000 tons in 1980. In 1963 we should produce 221,000 tons of meat; 255,000 tons in 1970 and 350,000 tons in 1980. Thus the increase of the milk production will be 97% during the next ten years, but after 20 years our republic will have 2.6 times more than now. The respective increase for meat production will be

68% <sup>or</sup> and 2.3 times more". /Cina of November 18th, 1961/. Further, while giving instructions pertaining to the development of agriculture, the speaker said that the production of grain should be increased, a planned husbanding should be introduced and should be discontinued the barbaric exploitation of soil and harvesting. The next year's corn culture should be ~~carried out~~ <sup>increased</sup> in all farms where ignorants had been masters; also should be settled the debt to the State in milk, meat, potatoes and sugar beet supplies." /See: Cina of November 18th, 1961./

### III SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

#### a. Museum of History of Medicine Riga Riga.

On July 20th there was opened in Riga the Museum of History of Medicine named in honor of Dr. Med. Prof. Pauls Stradiņš, a physician and medical scientist. This scientist had already been known in the independent Latvia as a student of cancer and an expert with a European name. During the era of the independent Latvia Dr. ~~Stradiņš~~ had been working as a professor with the Latvian University School of Medicine. When the communists occupied Latvia he remained there and later was working as the Director of the Riga Institute of Medicine, ~~established by the occupants~~. He had been working also as a hospital doctor. Prof. Stradiņš died two years ago. He began to collect materials for the museum already 30 years ago. More than 12,000 items are now exhibited in the museum, as well as several thousands of medical books. Mrs. H. Hanzen is director of the said museum. The opening ceremonies were arranged on a wide scale where took part also some guests from Moscow. It has been reported that this is one of the most interesting museums of its kind in the world and, quite possibly, the only one having such rich collections. Source: Cina of July 21st, 1961.

b. The Salaspils Atomic Reactor Begins to Work.

On October 9th, the first atomic reactor in the Baltic countries began to work at Salaspils. At the opening ceremonies there participated the entire leadership of the LCP, as well as scientists and representatives from various organizations. The solemn meeting was opened by K. Plaude, President of the Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences. After him spoke I. Kirko, Director of the Institute for Physics. It was evident from the speeches that members of various nations living in the USSR participated at the construction of the atomic reactor, and that the Salaspils reactor is one of the most modern and economical ones. Valuable modernization has been carried out in the construction of the reactor, and its capacity doubled - from 1000 kv. to 2000 kv., as well as many changes made in comparison with the original project. The Salaspils reactor will be used for nuclear research and other experiments by Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian scientists.

Padomju Jaunatne of October 10th, 1961.

c. Chemistry Fighting Cancer.

At the IV session of the Institute of Oncology of the USSR Academy of Medicine that took place in Riga from November 15th to November 18th, 1961, reports on fighting cancer were delivered by Dr. P. Gerke and Cand. Med. V. Bramberga. It appears that Latvian cancer specialists had been the "first ones to organize a special department in hospitals for the chemical therapy of cancer". /See: Cina of November 19th, 1961/.

d. The Riga Polytechnical Institute is Short of Qualified Teachers.

On December 14th the People's Administration for Economic Matters discussed the question about preparing of scientists and teachers for



the Riga Polytechnical Institute. It was evident from the debates that the management of the RPI is not sufficiently taking care of raising the qualification standards of scientists. Many who begin as aspirants do not know well foreign languages. The scientific research work of the institute does not follow the requirements of the modern life. The scientific research does not respond to interests of the republic's national economy. Besides it, the institute is lacking the material and technical base necessary for a scientific work. There are no rooms for laboratories. Also the teachers' staff and aspirants do not have their own laboratories. Most of the laboratories are outmoded. The People's Administration for Economic Matters decided to eliminate all these shortcomings. /Cina, December 16th, 1961./

#### IV LEGISLATION.

Two laws were promulgated in the Latvian SSR during the month of August, 1961, which are meant against the newcomers from Russia, since there had never been any necessity to issue similar decrees during the era of the independent Latvia.

##### a. Boozing and Moonshining.

The Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR published a decree on August 14th, 1961, signed by its presidium, having as its object combatting of drinking and making of moonshine. While reading the long text of this decree, one can see why this measure had been adopted. It appears that consumption of alcohol and moonshining have acquired tremendous dimensions in Latvia now. Administrative fines from 20 to 30 rubles and dismissal from work is imposed for excessive drinking and summoning to a criminal court and confiscation of the moonshine-making device will be now the penalty for illegal producing of alcohol. / As far as it

has been possible to ascertain, no similar decrees have been issued in Soviet Estonia and Soviet Lithuania. It seems that the situation there is not so dangerous because of a lower percentage of Russians than in Latvia. Edit./ See: Sovetskaya Latvija of August 18th, 1961./

b. Decree on the Increased Fight against the so-called Parasitic Elements

The presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR published a decree on August 18th, 1961, on the increased combatting of persons avoiding work useful for the society, and leading a life that is detrimental to the society, and even parasitic. The preamble of the decree mentions the kinds of persons that might be included in this group of social parasites, as for instance, those who do not wish to work honestly, who enrich themselves at the expense of the country; people having some private business, speculators, beggars, personal car owners, those exploiting other person's work, house-owners, moonshiners, etc. The decree has 10 articles and it foresees severe punishments for those guilty of disobeying it. Similar decrees have also been promulgated in Lithuania and Estonia, though some months prior to the decree issued in Soviet Latvia. Source: Sovetskaya Latvija, August 19th, 1961.

V DEPORTATIONS.

Deportations of Youths.

Radio Riga announced on July 22d that " 259 young men and girls from our republic with travelling documents provided by the Comsomol left to build in a shock tempo beyond the Ural Mountains".

On July 29th it announced that " 500 members of the Republican Comsomol and youths, as well, with travelling documents issued by the Comsomol left for Northern Kazakhstan to help in harvesting campaign, again as a regular assistance to the heroic pioneers in the new lands.

50 of the best sovkhos and kolkhos combiners and also 200 drivers left for Kazakhstan ".

But at the same time there is a reliable information that hands are lacking on Latvian fields to harvest crops....

Radio Riga, on July 26th broadcasted: " Riga youths are leaving to construct elevators, living houses, cattle farms. Many times the trains from Latvia have arrived to Kazakhstan. This help has become particularly perceivable when one year ago Latvia declared her patronage of Northern Kazakhstan. Latvia had been sending there furniture, agricultural machines, radio sets, textiles, sewn and knitted wares. Thousands of Latvian city inhabitants had been helping to organize sovkhos and to harvest crops. So, for instance, almost all of the Kokchetov District sovkhos have been built by the hands of Latvian workers."

#### VI MILITARY POWER IN THE BALTIC AREA.

The "Baltic Military District" comprises geographically the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Soviet republics and the Soviet East Prussia. The land forces presently consist of 15 army divisions and 6 air force divisions, all of them under the Army command. The armoured divisions are all equipped with modern tanks. Along the coast there are placed numerous rocket launching bases.

The Soviet forces are the strongest military and political power in that area. Backing the Soviet Baltic Navy are tremendous land and air force elements.

The most important among the Soviet bases are : Kronstadt, Tallinn, Riga, Kaliningrad / former Koenigsberg/, Baltiysk and Liepaja. Fleet is the

The Red Banner Baltic Fleet is the strongest of the four Soviet fleets.

The Soviet forces in the entire Baltic area include the following numbers : army- 200,000 men ; navy - 160,000 ; the elite security troops- 80,000 ; police troops - 15,000, and many auxiliary organizations, as well.

From the above-mentioned units two mechanized divisions are stationed in Jelgava district, one - in Liepāja, one in Riga and one in Daugavpils. An army corps headquarters is located in Jelgava. There are now approximately 100,000 Russian soldiers in Latvia, alone. / See: Latvija, September 30, 1961/.

All these military units not only in Latvia but in the entire Baltic area, as well, are used also to combat the resistance movement. Particularly spectacular are numbers of military stationed on the territory of Latvia.

#### CONCLUSION.

Article 13 of the constitution of the Latvian SSR reads: "The Latvian S.S.R. exercises its state power independently while reserving in its entity its sovereign rights." This "independence" and "sovereign rights" of Latvian people could be illustrated best by the analysis made in this feature with regard to the Latvian membership of the Latvian Communist Party, i.e. their numbers in comparison with the numbers of Russian communists in the same party. How powerful in their independence were the central committee of the LCP, the composition of which was artificially created by the majority of its Latvian members, has been amply demonstrated by the last events in Latvia, already mentioned before. Only four / sic! / of the old Latvian communists are still members of the present central committee of the LCP. The rest of the

membership has been formed after Moscow's "image and likeness" by giving the Russians posts, or distributing them also to Latvians born in Russia or, partly, to the youngest generation of communists who never saw themselves the era of the independent Latvia and never experienced what a self-determination for a nation is.

The present-day course of the LCP has been fully characterized by speeches delivered at the LCP XVIII congress. Let us take some excerpts! M. Gribkov, the "politruk" of the LCP central committee, said : " Under the leadership of the Communist Party the nation restored the Soviet regime in the Latvian SSR in 1940, and joined forever the family of the Soviet nations. During all these years the Latvian culture has tremendously flourished, being national by its form but socialistic by its contents. Altruistic and friendly assistance to our republic has been rendered and still is being given by all nations of the USSR and, first of all, by the great Russian nation... Under the leadership of the Communist Party the nations belonging to the Soviet Union did create their national states. Now is beginning a new era in the development of national relations in the Soviet Union. This is evident from the fact that the nations are now drawing nearer to each other and there is no doubt that a complete fusion will be achieved. The party is of the opinion that no national differences should be permitted. The education of workers belonging to various nationalities and their employment in the Soviet republics, liquidation of the remnants of nationalism ~~respe~~ the interests of all Soviet Union's nations... We have to fight relentlessly against the manifestations of nationalism, against the national retrenchment and tendencies to idealize the past, against the customs and traditions that have already outlived their age. We have

to overcome entirely the remnants of the bourgeois ideology, the religious superstition and the nationalist views, the lack of culture and other manifestations which we have as a heritage from the bourgeois regime". / Sovetskaya Latvija, September 27th, 1961. /

A. Pelše / a Russian Latvian/, First Secretary of the LCP central committee :

" There are communists living and working on the territory of our republic that belong to the glorious forces of the Soviet Union. Their role is great and full of honor. They are guardians of our nation's building up, they guard our fatherland's borders. Simultaneously with their direct duties the soldiers of the Baltic Military District actively participate in our republic's party's, social and cultural life, they also largely contribute towards realization of political and economic tasks. All this helps to strengthen the ties existing between the army and the nation, and to educate the people in the spirit of international proletarianism." /See: Sovetskaya Latvija, September 9, 1961./

It seems that no commentaries are required as to the contents of these speeches. Is there any possibility to exceed more the Russian imperialism and colonialism ?