

48-7 1962
FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

NEWS FROM LATVIA

1. A tourist who visited Latvia in the summer of 1962 gave the following account:

"Whatever the political opinions and convictions of tourists might be, it seems that everyone finds it hard to understand and defend a system which refuses to allow visitors to stay overnight with their relatives in Riga.

I stayed at a Riga hotel together with another Latvian, whose wife lives in Riga and who went to Latvia so that he could spend a few weeks with her. Although he tried in many respects to understand the system which is now ruling in Latvia, he was unable to hide his displeasure with the fact that he had to leave his wife in the evenings and spend the night at the hotel.

Although, in former years, tourists were occasionally allowed to visit their relatives outside of Riga, no such cases have been heard of this year. It seems, however, that a few tourists took a trip outside Riga on their own.

The Russians are supposed to say about Riga: "This is one of our most beautiful cities, only there are too many Latvians living in it."

Of course, one may admire the beautiful buildings and apartment houses, ~~and~~ the many schools, and the development of science, but there are things which are very depressing to Latvians returning for a visit after a long absence. This is not a Latvian Riga any more, as it used to be and as we felt it to be about 20 years ago. Of course, here and there one can hear the Latvian language, but it does seem that the

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B26
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005