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PARTY AND STATE (XV)

Localism in Latvia

- I. Introduction
- II. On Behalf of Local Interests
(Pravda, 18 August 1959,
by I. Ivert) p. 1
- III. Fruitful Friendship
(Partinaya Zhizn, No. 16,
1959, by V. Latsis) p. 2
- IV. Latvian Scholar Discusses National-
istic "Deviations"
(Sovetskaya Latvija, 14 August,
1959, by Ya. Libet) p. 4
- V. On the International Education of
the Working People
(Excerpt from Kommunist of Soviet
Latvia, No. 9, 1959, by A. Pelshe) p. 7
- VI. Biographies of:
 - Pelshe, Arvids J. p. 8
 - Peive, Janis V. p. 8
 - Latsis, Vilis T. p. 9
 - Kalnberzin, Janis E. p. 10

INTRODUCTION

The resignations of Jan Kalberzin and Vilis Latsis, as first secretary of the Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party and as Chairman of the Latvian Council of Ministers respectively, bring to an end the longest continuous period of Party-State rule by a single pair of individuals in the history of the Soviet republics.¹ For nearly two decades, from 1940 to 1959,² these two Baltic bolsheviks, who had been trained in the Soviet Union after the October revolution³ and then carried out Comintern assignments in Latvia during the 20's and 30's, had faithfully executed the orders of Stalin -- and Khrushchev -- in pressing the tiny republic into the Soviet mold of collectivization and industrialization. Less famous and more fortunate than their compatriots -- Yan Rudzutak, Robert Eideman, Robert Eikhe and Gen. Alksnis -- who were liquidated by Stalin in the purges,⁴ Kalberzin and Latsis survived because their duties kept them abroad during that time of terror and, in the case of the former, led to a Latvian prison. That such symbols of Stalinist imperialism are no longer able to meet the specifications of leadership and loyalty demanded by Khrushchev and his cadre chiefs⁵ suggests that the problems posed by the implementation of the administrative and planning reforms of the last two years are to be solved by other men; the selection of the successors,⁶ A. J. Pelshe as 1st secretary and J. V. Peive as Chairman of the Council of Ministers is proof, however, that Khrushchev is still relying on completely Russified Latvians⁷ to meet the challenges raised by his more flexible policies. With the 66 year old Jan Kalberzin, the personification of absolute subordination of Latvian aspiration to Soviet interests, now retired to the post of Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, unbroken continuity with the past has been maintained through the promotion of Pelshe, a tested veteran

1 Tass, 25 November 1959.

2 During the Nazi occupation both were active as leaders of Latvian units in the Soviet Army and returned to their previous posts with the Soviet troops.

3 See biographies, below, pp. 8-10.

4 See W. Kolarz, *Russia and Her Colonies*, Praeger, New York, 1952, p. 107.

5 Since October, V. Churayev, formerly head of the CC Department of Party Organs for the RSFSR, has been in charge of the Party organs for the Union Republics (*Pravda*, 22 Oct. 59), replacing V. S. Semichastny.

6 Tass, 27 Nov. 1959.

7 See biographies, below p. 8-10.

of nearly two decades in Kalnberzin's secretariat and his accomplice in all measures taken to suppress nationalist deviations within the Party ranks as well as among the population at large.

In the context of the series of Party-State changes during the past year, the Latvian reorganization is particularly significant because it involved, for the first time, a candidate member of the Presidium. Together with two other Republican party secretaries,⁸ K. Mazurov (BeloRussia), and V. Mzhavanadze, Kalnberzin was rewarded at the June 1957 Plenum with a promotion to candidate status in the Presidium for his support of Khrushchev in the struggle in the Central Committee against the anti Party group. This advancement to the top of the Party hierarchy, however, has provided no immunity from criticism. At both the December 1958⁹ and the July 1959¹⁰ plenary sessions, the First secretary made uncomplimentary remarks concerning shortcomings in Latvian agriculture, particularly with respect to inadequate increase in livestock numbers, insufficient utilization of corn as fodder and an impermissible expansion of officials dealing with agricultural problems. In no case, however, did Khrushchev's sarcasm exceed the bounds of his normal candid comments; far more revealing was the servile tone employed by Kalnberzin in his protestations and pledges to redress the errors "pointed out by Comrade Khrushchev"¹¹. In particular, the following plea for help in handling the First secretary's favorite produce reveals the relationship between the Party leader and his obsequious subordinate:¹²

"Nikita Sergeevich, I have one request from you. I would ask that you dispatch into our republic for a couple of weeks your remarkable assistant¹³ who has already helped many even beyond the borders of our country to grow corn, so that he could help us in Latvia, and I am convinced that his rich experience would give us very much."

In the light of the general agricultural production increases in Latvia since 1953,¹⁴ however, there seems to

⁸ See listing of names of CC members in Istoria KPSS, Moscow 1959, p. 655; all present and full members of the Presidium except Voroshilov and all candidates except Pervukhin are given.

⁹ Pravda, 16 December 1958.

¹⁰ Pravda, 2 July 1959; see Farm Fact and Fancy, Background Information, 3 July 1959.

¹¹ See Stenographic Report of December 1958 Plenum, Moscow 1959, pp. 148 ff.

¹² Ibid., p. 151.

¹³ There is no evidence of the identity of this anonymous personality, perhaps A. Shevchenko.

¹⁴ See Osteuropa, #6, 1959

be little reason to attribute unsatisfactory performance in this sector as the primary cause of Kalnberzin's upward ouster. The documentation available of the criticism of Latvian localism in industry certainly carries considerably more weight. Thus, on 18 August, a Pravda report complained that the Buro of the Latvian CC had twice ordered a plant to "produce only items which remain in the Latvian republic"¹⁵. About the same time, an article by V. Latsis, the recently resigned Chairman of the Council of Ministers, provided the reasons for the unexplained dismissal of one of his deputies, E. Berklaivs a month earlier.¹⁶ The errors of the latter, as in the case cited above, involved not only support for increased investments for projects "in the light and food industry, the products of which must be consumed largely within the republic"; in addition Berklaivs was accused by Latsis of having opposed the priority of heavy industry in the Latvian economy - i.e., opposition to increasing facilities for railroad car and diesel plants in the Republic. To the veteran head of the Latvian government this attitude

"signified nothing but a desire for autarchy, national exclusiveness and isolation; the adoption (of these ideas) would have harmed all state interests."

The angry accusations directed towards Berklaiv's economic deviations by Latsis must be read in conjunction with the former's appeal for more Latvians to join the Communist Party earlier this year.¹⁷

"Why are many of these best, diligent and educated people not in the Komsomol or the Party? Perhaps, I would say, there is something you do not like about our daily round? Perhaps you feel all kinds of doubts about the shortcomings in our life or in the past? Perhaps you imagine that some of us do not come up to the Leninist type of leader? Since our conversations were completely candid, I used to receive the following reply in every case: 'yes, that was why I refrained from seeking the way into the Party, or into the Komsomol'. The Party admits that there are shortcomings but there are also tremendous achievements. Does not the Party fight against shortcomings? Do you not believe that it is possible to do away with shortcomings? Do you want to look on from the side-lines? How much longer?"

Although there is, as yet, no evidence that "Comrade Berklaivs" has been expelled from the Party for his sins, the response to his exhortation for increased Party membership for Latvians has been made inevitable by his disgrace. Completing the bill of particulars against Berklaiv in September, the new 1st secretary, A. Pelshel¹⁸, identified some of Berklaiv's supporters, the veteran trade unionist I. Pinksis and the youthful P. Dzerve, director

¹⁵ See below p. 1.

¹⁶ Partinaya Zhizn, No. 16, 1959; see below p. 2.

¹⁷ Padomju Jaunate, 27 February 1959; see also "Party Recruitment Problems in Latvia", Background Information, 25 March 1959.

¹⁸ Kommunist of Soviet Latvia, see below, p. 7.

of the Republic Institute of Economics, and also introduced clearly ideological and nationality issues into the economic controversy. Transforming objective reasoning into subjective opposition to an extremely sensitive labor recruitment policy which had consistently assigned Russian and Ukrainian workers to Latvia and sent Latvian "volunteers" to Kazakhstan, Pelshe labelled such intra-Party resistance to all national interests as "harmful and politically dangerous".

The combination of known and unknown political, ideological and economic factors in the Latvian equation precludes the possibility of any simple interpretive solution. The relatively insignificant industrial weight of the tiny Baltic republic suggests, moreover, that the erroneous economic program which was "defeated" at the planning stage played only a secondary role in the shifts of the top Party-State leadership. As the only really new element in the situation, however, the economic problems which are the direct result of Khrushchev's reforms have undoubtedly placed an additional burden on those responsible for executing Khrushchev's directives in a republic where "nationalism" has not been eradicated - in the Party or the people - either through the Stalinist stick or the Khrushchevian carrot. For Kalnberzin and Latsis the task of continuing the implacable struggle under even more complex conditions may have become too great; their successors, trained in the same tradition of employing all the necessary pressures to supplement persuasion will scarcely be less loyal to Moscow. For their long years of faithful service to the Kremlin, Kalnberzin and Latsis have, despite their unfinished work, been rewarded with honorable retirement - for the time being at least; Pleshe and Peive, their comrades in betrayal of their own people, now assume the thankless task and the inglorious traditions of serving foreign masters.

ON BEHALF OF LOCAL INTERESTS

By I. Ivert
Pravda
18 August 1959

The Latvian Sovnarkhoz informed the Yelgava Agricultural Machine-Building Plant in 1958 that production of a large batch of new goods -- air conditioners -- had been planned for the enterprise in 1959 in addition to agricultural machines.... But the first air conditioner had not reached the consumer before a new order came from Riga cancelling production of them.... What was the matter? It seems that the matter was that officials of the Latvian Central Committee suggested, for purely local (mestnicheskiye) reasons, that the production of air conditioners be halted. The leadership of the sovnarkhoz twice proved to the bureau of the Latvian Central Committee the expediency of developing production of this type of item in Yelgava, but their proposals were unsuccessful. The request of the Yelgava City Party Committee was not considered. Comrades from the Latvian Central Committee took the position that the Yelgava Plant should produce only items which remain in the Latvian Republic. And so the enterprise was obligated to produce domestic gas stoves and water heaters in such small numbers that the economic usefulness of production of them was threatened.

Chief Y. I. Damburg of the Administration of Radio, Technical, and Metalworking Industry of the sovnarkhoz recently arrived at the Yelgava Agricultural Machine-Building Plant. He personally carried a packet of blueprints.

"The plant needs to be enlarged and given orders," said Comrade Damburg. "In addition to ventilators for the Riga Railroad Car-Building Plant, make these iron boxes for it also."

Ill-conceived planning causes febrile activity at the plant. Even such items as harrows and cultivators are first put in the plan and then removed. And then it is proposed that the plant produce machines already mastered by other plants in the country and needed only in very small numbers. This practice raises costs and leads to losses....

And there are other cases of manifestation of localism and ill-conceived planning in Latvia. This example was cited at a recent plenum of the Riga City Party Committee. For over 10 years, the mechanical repair plant has been producing kitchen ranges which are widely desired for new construction sites. Many of these are sent to other republics. However, B. F. Bezel', Minister of Construction Latvian SSR, issued an order which, in fact, reduced production of the ranges to nothing.

The party organizations of Latvia have been called on resolutely to suppress manifestations of localism and tirelessly to take care that the interests of the state are above everything.

FRUITFUL FRIENDSHIP

By V. Latsis
Partinaya Zhizn
#16, 1959

...Unfortunately, leading officials were found among us who attempted to turn the development of the republic from the correct road and to lead it toward national exclusiveness and isolation. For instance, during the discussion of the draft Seven-Year Plan, former Deputy Chairman Berklay of the Council of Ministers Latvian SSR openly spoke against the general party line, which is directed at development of heavy industry. He persistently demanded rejection of enlargement of the railroad car building and diesel building plants in Latvia and demanded increased capital investments in the light and food industry, the products of which must be consumed largely within the republic.

In essence, these proposals signified nothing but a desire for autarky and national exclusiveness and isolation, and adoption of them would have harmed all-state interests and also the interests of the Latvian people, would have led to a breach of the economic ties of Latvia with other republics and to a restraint of development of its productive forces. But the Latvian Central Committee gave the proper rebuff to these manifestations....

There are still substantial shortcomings in the work of local soviets. Executive committees insufficiently check the financial and economic activities of organizations subordinated to them, do not fully use the rights granted them in their practical activities, poorly analyze unused reserves, and frequently turn to superior agencies concerning problems which they can solve themselves, thus dragging out their decision. The Council of Ministers Latvian SSR is eliminating these shortcomings. Certain departmental instructions which should have been reviewed long ago sometimes restrict the initiative of local soviets.

The aspiration of republic organizations at times to present the "inferiors" with completely prepared decisions and to dictate measures from above without studying local conditions also hinders the development of initiative by rayon soviets. For example, consider the planning of development of sovkhos production. The republic ministry of agriculture demands that the production plans compiled by sovkhoses be presented to it with the visa of rayon organizations. Rayon executive committees attentively examine the plans and, considering local capabilities, together with sovkhos leaders outline ways for raising the profitability of sovkhoses. But the plan is often so modified in the ministry that nothing remains from that planned in the rayon. This practice evokes justified dissatisfaction.

Something similar is encountered in other branches of the economy. To liquidate these phenomena much must be changed both in republic and union organizations, for the Council of Ministers Latvian SSR does not always have the right to make corrections in the established procedure, although this would be expedient....

The Latvian people know that the friendship of the peoples of our country is the force which ensures the rapid growth of its welfare and the successful movement forward on the road toward Communism. It is no accident that the efforts of the enemies of the Latvian people -- bourgeois nationalists and their foreign masters -- are directed at undermining the historic friendship of the Latvian and Russian peoples.

Therefore, the party organizations of the republic wage a ruthless struggle against any attempt to weaken this friendship and against each individual manifestation of national exclusiveness, local nationalism, or great power chauvinism....

By Ya. Libet
Sovetskaya Latvija
14 August 1959

...The party began to implement its program on the nationality question immediately after the establishment of Soviet power. This was the period of the destruction of capitalism and the liquidation of national inequality of rights, when new socialist nations were born with complete equality of rights. But equal rights still did not mean that all nations were really equal. Some historically inherited inequality of rights existed between them, in view of the fact that they were at different stages of economic, political, and cultural development. The essence of national inequality was that by virtue of historical development, one nation, namely the great Russian, was found to be more developed politically and industrially than other nations which were oppressed earlier by the Czarist government.

The task of the party was to help the peoples of the national outlying areas to eliminate their backwardness and to overtake advancing Central Russia. It was necessary to help them develop and strengthen their own Soviet state systems, suitable to the conditions of these peoples, and to create cultural and educational establishments in the native language, a press, theaters, and a wide network of courses and schools, both of a general educational and of a professional-technical nature, for the accelerated training of local cadres....

In its practical work in resolving the nationality question, the Communist Party of Latvia was guided by the theoretical theses of Marxism-Leninism and by the program on the nationality question worked out by V. I. Lenin....

As is known, remnants of capitalism are especially tenacious with regard to the nationality question. The experience of our party shows that in resolving the nationality question at various stages, there had to be a struggle against two deviations, great-power chauvinism and local nationalism. The essence of the deviation toward Great Russian chauvinism consists in attempts to pass over national differences in language, culture, and modes of life of peoples. Thus, the principle of national equality of rights is undermined, and the policy of the party in building up the state apparatus, press, schools, and other establishments in the national republics is violated.

Deviationists of this type erroneously suppose that with the victory of socialism in our country, the nations must merge together and their languages turn into a single, common language. Meanwhile, Marxism-Leninism teaches that

on the contrary, only under socialism will the nations obtain their subsequent development as socialist nations. During this period, the flowering of national languages and cultures is unprecedented. Under the conditions of the dictatorship of the proletariat, culture is socialist in content and national in form. The culture must be such as to indoctrinate the masses in the spirit of socialism and internationalism. The culture of this or that nation must be developed to its full extent and all of its possibilities must be brought to light so that conditions will be created for the merger into one common culture, with one common language, during the period of the victory of Communism on a world scale.

Consequently, nations and different languages die off through rapid development. Such are the dialectics of life. The party considered great-power deviation the chief danger in the field of the nationality question until the 1930s. But the 17th Party Congress emphasized that the deviation against which we had stopped struggling became the chief danger.

What is the essence of the deviation toward local nationalism? It lies in attempts to stand apart, to shut oneself up within one's own national shell. In the end, this results in deviation from the general flow of Communist construction and in separation of the working people according to their "national lodgings," instead of rapprochement and unity. Deviationists often exaggerate the importance of national particularities in party and soviet work, keeping the interests of the working people in the background. The danger of this deviation and its reactionary essence is that it fosters bourgeois nationalism and weakens the unity of the peoples of the USSR, thus playing into the hands of the imperialists.

The task of the party organizations is to strengthen in every possible way the friendship of the peoples of our country, especially the historic friendship between the great Russian and Latvian peoples....

Indeed, the great Russian people, like other peoples of the Soviet Union, always gave fraternal aid to the Latvian people, both in the building of socialism and in the struggle for freedom and independence against the Fascist invaders. There are no objective reasons among us which could give birth to discord and difference of opinion between peoples. Therefore, great Russian chauvinism and local nationalism can appear only as shameful remnants of the past.

Local nationalism can be manifested in very diverse forms. It can be manifested, for example, in attempts to place one nationality in a privileged position, in comparison with another. Let us say that in the selection and

promotion of cadres, one is guided not by the business and political qualities of a given worker, but by considerations of nationality.

Or take, for example, the matter of language. Language is the most important means of communication of people. V. I. Lenin pointed out that if every privilege disappears and the "pushing" of one language ceases, all people will easily and quickly begin to understand each other. It is wrong therefore to oblige everyone, by special decree, to master this or that language within a prescribed period. The communication of people speaking in various languages by itself will lead to the gradual mastering of these languages. This is a natural process, and administration can only be harmful.

Life itself shows that nationalism may express itself in the exaggeration of the national particularities of this or that republic, in attempts to create a closed economy and to develop it in a one-sided manner, only to satisfy the needs of the populace of the republic itself. This results in the weakening of economic ties and in a reduction in the rate of development of the industry of the republic, and in the end, damages the whole country, including above all the republic itself....

ON THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Excerpt from
article by A. Pelshe
Secretary of the CC
of the Latvian CP

From Kommunist of Soviet Latvia, No. 9, 1959.

"For example the former Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Latvian SSR, Comrade E. Berklav, made insistent attempts to divert the development of our republic towards national narrowness and reticence. He repeatedly opposed the development in Latvia of the manufacture of freight cars and diesel engines, and advocated the acceleration of the development of the light and food industries, the products of which are used mainly within the Republic. Similar views are also expressed by the former chairman of the Republic Trade Union Council, Comrade I. Pinksis and the former deputy chairman of Gosplan of the Latvian SSR, Comrade E. Mukiņ.. The director of the Institute of Economics, Comrade P. Dzerve, even invented a new principle of planning. He proposed that the industry of the republic should be planned in two new groups - a separate group for enterprises producing mainly for all-national needs, and a separate group for factories producing goods mainly for local consumption. Moreover, asserting without any foundation that there is a shortage of labor in the Republic, he proposed that the rate of increase of output at factories whose goods are mainly sent outside the republic should be restricted...

"In the conditions of the extensive construction of communism, when a technical revolution is being carried out and when the productive forces of the country are developing more rapidly than ever before, a certain migration of labor and of technical, scientific and other cadres from republic to republic, from the villages to the towns, to the virgin lands, etc., is objectively inevitable. Everyone who is not blinded by nationalism understands that it would have been impossible, for example, to raise the productive capacity of Kazakhstan to its present level without the influx of a significant quantity of able bodied people from other republics, just as the development of Latvian industry to its present stage would have been unthinkable without a certain mechanical increase in the population from the labor resources of fraternal republics.

"Due to the false and totally unfounded fear that the Latvian Republic would lose its national characteristics, some comrades have attempted artificially to slow down the objectively necessary process of population movement. In their speeches they have stated repeatedly that for example in Riga the mechanical growth of the population by even one man must not be allowed. This policy is harmful and politically dangerous..."

PELSHE, Arvids J. Party official; secretary and Bureau member, CC, Latvia CP; Party member since 1915.

Born 1899. After 1917 Revolution and Civil War served for a long time in Red Army; studied at Institute of Red Professors; subsequently worked in People's Commissariat of State Farms (Sovkhozes); 1940 returned to Latvia for propaganda work; during World War II left Latvia with retreating Soviet Army; returned upon Soviet re-occupation of the country and became secretary, CC, Latvia CP; elected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, 1950 and 1954; elected deputy, Latvian Supreme Soviet, 1955; elected member, CC, Latvia CP, at all post-war congresses; similarly elected secretary and Bureau member, CC, Latvia CP, at all post-war CC plenums after congresses; voting delegate, 20th Congress of CPSU, Feb. 1956; Feb. 1957 elected member, Economic Commission, Council of the Union, USSR Supreme Soviet.

Pelshe is a veteran Latvian Communist of the Soviet school who had been trained for USSR seizure of Baltic states.

PEIVE, Janis V. Agronomist; full member and president, Latvia SSR Academy of Sciences; Doctor of Agricultural Sciences; professor of agro-chemistry; corresponding member, USSR Academy of Sciences; member, CC, Latvia CP; member, CP, since 1940.

Born 1906, Sementsevo village, Toropets Raion, now Velikie Luki Oblast. Grad. 1925 Velikie Luki Pedagogical Technicum; grad. 1929 Agronomy Department, Moscow Agricultural Academy (Timiryazev), remaining there for scientific work with Department of Spinning Crops; 1930-41 senior scientific associate, Chemistry and Physics Laboratory, All-Union Flax Research Institute, Torzhok, Kalinin Oblast; 1942 director of Institute; 1940 defended doctoral dissertation; 1943 professor of agro-chemistry; 1944-50 rector, Latvian Agricultural Academy and head of its Department of Technical Crops and Plant Cultivation; 1945 Honored Science Worker of Latvian SSR; 1946 elected full member, Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences; 1950 academician secretary, March 1951. president, Latvian SSR Academy of Sciences; 1953 elected corresponding member, USSR Academy of Sciences; scientific work concerned chiefly with raising productivity of technical crops (flax, sugar beets); developed original methods for determining active forms of potassium, aluminum and humus acids in soils of podsol regions; author, numerous monographs and textbooks on technical crops and use of fertilizers including "Flax Growing," 1948; "Microfertilizers in Agriculture"; "Agronomic Methods of Soil Study"; "Technical Crops," 1949; elected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, 1954; since 1949 member, Soviet Committee for Defense of

Peace; Honored Science Worker of Latvian SSR; Order of Red Banner of Labor; Badge of Honor medals.

LATSIS, Vilis T. Party and government official; writer; chairman, Latvian SSR Council of Ministers; candidate member, CC, CPSU; Bureau member, CC, Latvia CP; member, CP, since 1928.

Born 1904, Rinuzi, Latvia. In 1917 evacuated with parents to Siberia; studied at teachers seminary in Barnaul, worked as messenger for printing shop, later as secretary of a village soviet; 1921 returned to Latvia and worked as fisherman, lumberman and stoker on merchant ships; 1928 on order of Latvia CP began subversive work in preparation of Bolshevik seizure of Latvia; 1930 as author published first novel "The Woman," 1931-32 wrote trilogy, "The Five-Story City," "On High Seas of the World" and "Wingless Birds," on everyday life of Latvian people; 1933-34 published "The Fisherman's Son," a two-volume novel describing the precarious life of a fisherman; this novel was later dramatized and filmed; 1940 upon Soviet occupation of Latvia appointed Latvian Minister of Internal Affairs; later same year became chairman, Latvian SSR Council of People's Commissars; during World War II took part in organizing Latvian units of the Soviet Army and partisan movement in Latvia; continued as chairman, Latvian SSR Council of People's Commissars (later Council of Ministers); elected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, 1946, and thereupon member, Foreign Affairs Commission, Council of Nationalities; 1949 Stalin Prize for novel "Storm" which describes Communist underground activities in independent Latvia and during World War II; re-elected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, 1950 elected candidate member, CC, CPSU, at 19th Congress, Oct. 1952 (reelected 20th Congress, Feb. 1956); 1952 second Stalin Prize for novel "Towards a New Shore" which depicts "the struggle of Latvian peasantry for successful collectivization of farms;" elected board Presidium member, USSR Union of Soviet Writers, Dec. 1954; reelected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, and thereupon chairman, Council of Nationalities; same year member, USSR delegation to Conference for Preservation of Peace and Security in Europe; 1955 member, Soviet delegation to Warsaw meeting of East European bloc; June 1955 addressed "World Peace Assembly" in Helsinki, declaring that "Baltic countries had voluntarily joined the USSR;" member, Editorial Commission and Commission on Amendments and Additions to 20th Party Congress' Directives on Sixth Five-Year Plan, 20th Congress of CPSU; 1956 head, USSR Supreme Soviet delegation to the funeral of Paasikivi, Finland's president; elected member, CC, Latvia CP, at all postwar congresses and Bureau member, CC, at all its plenums after the congresses; elected deputy, Latvian Supreme Soviet, 1947, 1951 and 1955; People's Writer of Latvian SSR; three Orders of Lenin; Order of Great Patriotic War First Class; medals.

KALNBERZIN, Janis E. Party and government official; first secretary and Bureau member; CC, Latvia CP; candidate Presidium member, CC, CPSU; member, CP, since 1917.

Born 1893, Katlakalns Volost, Riga Uezd. Worked for ten years as dock hand in Riga harbor, where he was in touch with revolutionary group of workers; 1919 active in an attempt to establish Soviet rule in Latvia; upon defeat of Soviet regime in Latvia fled to Soviet Russia; during civil war volunteer in Red Army; after war studied at Communist University in Moscow; 1925 assigned to Latvia for Communist underground work; in 1928 returned to Moscow and entered Institute of Red Professors; 1936 returned again to Latvia to head activities of Riga Communists; 1939 arrested and put in Riga Central Prison; in 1940, upon Red Army Occupation of Latvia, released from prison; elected first secretary, CC, Latvia CP, June 1940 elected deputy, USSR Supreme Soviet, 1950 and 1954; elected member, CC, CPSU, at 19th Congress, Oct. 1952, (reelected 20th Congress, Feb. 1956); reelected member, CC, Latvia CP, at 13th and 14th Congresses, Feb. 1954 and Jan. 1956; reelected first secretary and Bureau member, CC, Latvia CP, at CC plenums after 13th and 14th Congresses; elected member, Legislative Proposals Commission, Council of the Union, USSR Supreme Soviet, April 1954; deputy, Latvian Supreme Soviet; Presidium member and member, Commission for Drafting 20th Party Congress Resolutions, 20th Congress of CPSU; elected candidate Presidium member, CC, CPSU, at CC plenum, June 1957; two Orders of Lenin; Order of Great Patriotic War First Class; medals.