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234-CWUSG

SUBJECT: Attachment G to 188-C238W

TO: Chief, ZACACTUS

INFO: Chief, ZACACTUS
Frankfurt, Germany

ATTN: []

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REF: 188-C238W
192-CWUSG

1. In answer to your proposal (para 7 ref 1) that an effort be made to facilitate the publication of subject manuscript, we have at last studied it in sufficient detail to forward our conclusions. In our view, the ramifications of using this manuscript are markedly similar to those discussed in ref 2 in connection with the author and by the same token so is our conclusion. Although specific portions of the book might be useful, it is our feeling that the book as a whole is not suitable.

2. The principal weakness of the book seems to us to lie in the many and bitter charges which the author makes against almost all political parties which were in opposition to his own. On some subjects, for example, the role of the Farmers Sport and Protection League, he distorts the facts according to the consensus of other written opinions. Allowing for the possibility that although in the minority the author is right, it still seems to us that there is little point at this time in facilitating the publication of bitter criticisms of one faction by another. It seems likely that only members of the authors own party would concur in his political judgments and that many would be angered and offended by them. Hence from the point of view of furthering harmony among the emigration, it does not seem that the book would be useful.

3. For the purpose of informing the English speaking world of the Latvian cause and thereby arousing some informed sympathy, the book seems to miss the mark on two counts. In a considerable extent the author vitiates the argument that Latvia is capable and deserving of democratic independence by the frequent implication that almost all politicians in free Latvia pursued their own self-interest exclusively and to the ultimate downfall of the government and were prone to the worst sort of political calumny against their political opponents. Secondly the author suggests that deep seated and irreconcilable differences caused the instability of the government. The usual interpretation, and one which seems logical, is that Latvia's troubles were caused primarily by her governmental framework--namely a very weak executive and an extreme multi-party system run riot.

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A further detriment to increasing the sympathy of the English speaking world for Latvia is the criticism which the author makes of British and American policy. For example, when discussing the Baltic war of independence, the author suggests that a large portion of Latvia's troubles derived from U. S. & U. K. vacillation. (pp 54 - 70) Later in the book he severely chastises the U. S. & U. K. for not intervening in Latvian affairs when the Ulmanis coup d' etat occurred. (p 145)

4. Since the date of ref 1 a good history of Latvia has been published in the U. S. and should go far in alleviating the need which you mention. In December the Princeton University Press published A History of Latvia by Alfred Silmanis. Although Silmanis was clearly subject to his own pro-Ulmanis prejudices, the book as a whole is readable, well balanced, and complete. Although he does not go into the political detail that the author of Attachment G to ref 1 gives, he refrains from extreme criticism of the opposition. In addition the book has a certain prestige by virtue of the author's diplomatic position in the U. S. and the publisher. If you would be interested in having a copy, please let us know.

5. Attachment G will be returned to you later. Several people here are interested in reading it who have not yet been able to do so. If you feel that it should be returned to you or the author by any particular date, please so advise us. Meanwhile it is being treated with great care.

[UNCLAS, NO-1]

28 January 1952
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