

January 5, 1971
**Memorandum to Howland H. Sargeant from James
Critchlow**

Citation:

"Memorandum to Howland H. Sargeant from James Critchlow", January 5, 1971, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Released by the Central Intelligence Agency on October 16, 2019, in response to Mandatory Declassification Review request EOM-2018-00930. Contributed by A. Ross Johnson.
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Summary:

RLC official Critchlow forwards to President Sargeant letters from prominent Latvian-Americans Ilgvars Spilners and Uldis Grava advocating the inauguration of Baltic language broadcasts by RL or RFE.

Credits:

This document was made possible with support from Blavatnik Family Foundation

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

#17-98/3

tu 7.3.2.17

JAN 5 1970

(41)

Memorandum to Howland H. Sargeant

From: James Critchlow

I am enclosing the letter and memo received from Dr. Spilners of the American Latvian Association in the United States. As you will see, it is a rather low-key and essentially friendly submission on behalf of broadcasts in the Baltic languages by either RFE or RL.

It is possible that Nick Nyaradi may raise this matter when he is here on January 22 in connection with his general interest in the "ethnic" question.

Miss Goldberg is collecting the various background materials on previous deliberations about Baltic broadcasts that we discussed just before Christmas. There have been some technical hitches, but I hope to have the complete file later this week.

JC/lg

Enc.

42/78-02824/28/483

**AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
IN THE UNITED STATES, INC.**

BUREAU OF INFORMATION

940 GARDEN CITY DRIVE, MONROEVILLE, PA. 15146

TELEPHONE (412) 373-0367

December 28, 1970

Mr. James Critchlow, Director
Information Division
Radio Liberty Committee, Inc.
30 East 42nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10017

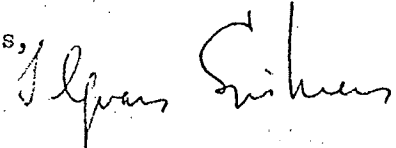
Dear Mr. Critchlow:

I thank you for the opportunity you gave me to have a frank and informative discussion with you during my recent visit to your office in New York. The Latvian community in the United States would welcome the opportunity to have Latvian language broadcasts to Latvia over the facilities of Radio Liberty. The proper setting, in respect to the diplomatic status of Latvian representation in the U.S., I believe can be worked out, so that there is no apparent regress of the Latvian freedom cause.

Enclosed is a memorandum which gives the background material and reasons for the need of the Baltic radio broadcasts. I would be happy to send you any other information material which you may need. We have been in touch with the Lithuanian and Estonian representatives, urging them to pay you a visit.

I wish you a happy and successful New Year!

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Ilgvars Spilners
Director

**AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
IN THE UNITED STATES, INC.**

BUREAU OF INFORMATION

940 GARDEN CITY DRIVE, MONROEVILLE, PA. 15146

TELEPHONE (412) 373-0367

Dr. Ilgārs J. Spilners, Director

December 28, 1970

FOR RELEASE

**EXCLUSION OF THE BALTIC STATES
FROM
RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY BROADCASTS**

The predominant public and official view in the United States is that changes for greater freedom in countries under a dictatorial and a foreign rule should be brought about by peaceful means. The most effective means to promote personal freedom and national independence is to expose people to uncensored news, ideas and thoughts which will improve and broaden their views and thereby increase their desire and understanding, as well as capabilities, for freedom.

The prime example of a dictatorial and foreign rule is the Russian communism and there is hardly any place where its power is exercised more brutally than in the Baltic. In addition to the suppression of personal and national freedom, the Baltic people have to withstand also forced Russification. This requires a good understanding of the events and trends taking place in the Baltic, the Soviet Union and elsewhere. The people could do it better if they had the outside help, especially in the form of news and analysis in the Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian languages. Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have facilities and experience to provide this help in the form of radio broadcasts. Will they give this help?

Historical and ideological background of the Baltic people.

Estonians, Lithuanians and Latvians have a national culture, language and homeland which goes back to the prehistoric times. These Baltic peoples have survived as nations not by subjugating other people but by developing and maintaining their own national identities and traditions. This is their own chosen free and good way of life. As free and independent nations they also worked as recognized members of the community of nations the League of Nations.

The Balts have paid dearly in blood in the defense of their countries and continue to do so now. Today they are better known in the Russian political prison camps and in the underground "democratic movement" in the Soviet Union than in the high councils of the world powers where the talks in glowing terms about the need for personal freedom are qualified by discriminating decisions what people deserve personal freedom and self-determination. That has made many Balts, especially the young people under the occupation as well as in the Free World, to show contempt for those who talk about freedom but avoid to see and mention the tyranny of the Russian communism.

The American Latvian Association seeks friends and supporters for the Baltic freedom cause wherever it can find men of good will and character. It will continue to do so until the freedom will be restored to the nearly seven million Balts in their homelands.

American Latvian Association in the United States, Inc.

American Latvian Association (ALA) unites the active element of Americans of Latvian heritage through its two hundred member organizations. In its twenty years of existence, ALA has promoted welfare, good citizenship, education and cultural life of Americans of Latvian heritage.

As long as Latvia is occupied by a foreign force, it has the additional responsibility to inform the world of the conditions in Latvia and, as much as possible, to give Latvians in their occupied homeland uncensored news on happenings, cultural life, political trends and ideas in the outside world, as well as in Latvia.

Much of the information work of ALA is carried out through its affiliation with other Latvian central organizations in the countries of the Free World under the auspices of the Latvian Free World Federation. ALA is affiliated also with the Estonian American National Council and the Lithuanian American Council in the Joint Baltic American Committee.

American supported radio broadcasts to Eastern Europe.

Of all the people in Eastern Europe who are under the Russian communist rule, the Balts (Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians) are the most neglected by American supported radio broadcasts.

Besides the Voice of America broadcasts, which is the official voice of the U.S. Government, the people in Eastern Europe under direct or indirect Russian communist rule receive also broadcasts over Radio Free Europe or Radio Liberty. The latter two specialize in news and commentary in the Eastern European languages on happenings and trends in the communist ruled Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, but do not broadcast to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The need for broadcasts to the Baltic States.

It is well known that Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have listeners in the Baltic. The Baltic people can hear over Radio Liberty the Russian language broadcasts which have been programmed primarily for the Russian audiences. Free Europe Committee, which is the parent organization of Radio Free Europe, carries out some studies of the conditions in the Baltic. However, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe broadcasts no programs in any one of the three Baltic languages and have no programs which would be made specifically for the Baltic audiences. There is only an occasional mention of developments in the Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian political, economic and cultural life in the Russian language broadcasts.

The officers of the American Latvian Association (ALA) has to answer many penetrating and angry questions by its members. The questions are not only a result of an outrageous Russian communist occupation of Latvia but also a result of concern about, what seems to them, double standards of morality and a lack of fair play in the American society and in the rest of the Free World.

The following are some sample questions and arguments. --- "As American citizens we are supporting Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. Why their radio broadcasts give no programs in the Latvian language." --- "The U.S. Government does not recognize the forceful annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union. In compliance with this, the State Department and Voice of America handle the Baltic affairs in their respective European, and not the Soviet, sections. Why cannot the private management of Radio Free Europe show respect for this policy and provide broadcasts in the Baltic languages, in addition to their present Polish, Czech, Slovak, Rumanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian broadcasts?" --- "Radio Liberty has facilities and personnel to broadcast in seventeen languages of the people under the Soviet rule. Why no Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian broadcasts? Broadcasting by Radio Liberty in the three Baltic languages should not mean that it is some kind of recognition of the Baltic States as a part of the Soviet Union. The necessary policy statements, disclaimers and terminology could be used to make clear stand on this issue in agreement with the U.S. policy."

January 5, 1971

Dr. Ilgvars Spilners
American Latvian Assoc. in the United States
Bureau of Information
940 Garden City Drive
Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146

Dear Dr. Spilners:

Thank you for your letter of December 28. I believe that it is an effective presentation of your case.

I am passing the memorandum along to my colleagues, and we will be discussing it at length. Given the various problems involved, some of which you indicate in your letter, I cannot promise a full early response, but will let you know as soon as I have something to report.

If in the meantime you should be visiting New York again please do not hesitate to call me.

Thank you for your New Years wishes which are warmly reciprocated.

Sincerely,

James Critchlow
Director,
Information Division

JC/lg

bc: Messrs. Sargeant, Sosin, Tuck

FREE EUROPE, INC.

11 JAN 1971

MEMORANDUM

To: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date: January 8, 1971

From: THE PRESIDENT WPD for ~~FO~~

Reference:

ATTENTION:

- CONSOLIDATED WEEKLY REPORT _____
- ADDENDA TO WEEKLY REPORT _____
- PROGRAM CHANGES MONTHLY REPORT _____
- RFE DAILY REPORT _____
- RESEARCH: ADVANCE ITEMS _____
- RESEARCH: PENDING LIST _____
- RFE NEWS ITEMS ("DESK SPECIALS") _____
- RFE FUND NOTES TO FIELD STAFF _____
- REPORT ON VISITORS TO RFE MUNICH _____
- EFFECTIVENESS ITEMS: _____
- POSITIVE REFERENCES _____
- ATTACKS _____
- PSPD: MONTHLY REPORT _____
- HIGHLIGHTS _____
- NEWS BULLETINS _____
- COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS _____
- HALASZ REPORT FROM THE UN _____

OTHER: *correspondence with Uldis Grava re broadcasting to Baltics (GRAVA Jan 4 letter + "release" ... also, copy, original Grava letter + Dunhee reply and, for comparison, Spillers exchange with Critchlow of RL*

REMARKS: *Per phone discussion*

J-9485

AMERIKAS LATVIEŠU APVIENĪBA
AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION
in the United States, Inc.

SUITE 913 - SHOREHAM BUILDING • 806 15TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005
TEL. DISTRICT 7-8084

Summary
Please Disburse
Uldis Grava
See RL cover
attached

Free Europe
JAN 6 77
Uldis Grava

Uldis Grava
122 Highwood Avenue
Leonia, New Jersey 07605

January 4, 1971

Mr. William P. Durkee, President
Free Europe, Inc.
2 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Mr. Durkee:

I would like to thank you and Mr. Yarrow for taking the time to see Dr. Spilners and myself recently. In our discussions you mentioned that you would find out the reasons as to why the Baltic people have been for so long been excluded from Radio Free broadcasts. We would certainly appreciate hearing from you on that point as well as to hear whether and how the long standing policy might be changed in the future.

Dr. Ilgvars Spilners, the Director of our Information Bureau, has prepared a memorandum on the subject which well expresses the feelings of the Latvian community in the United States. We would appreciate if you could circulate the thoughts of that statement to your Board members and others as you see fit.

Yours sincerely,

Uldis Grava

Uldis Grava
President

cc: Mr. B. Yarrow
Dr. I. Spilners

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Approved for Release: 2019/09/25 C06768156

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I wish you a happy and successful New Year!

Sincerely yours,

Ilvars Spilners
Dr. Ilvars Spilners
Director

(attachment was same "release"
Grava sent to FE)

January 5, 1971

Dr. Ilvars Spilners
American Latvian Assoc. in the United States
Bureau of Information
510 Carson City Drive
Hempfield, Pennsylvania 15146

Dear Dr. Spilners:

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Sincerely,

James Critchlow
Director,
Information Division

JS:lg

cc: Messrs. Sargeant, Sosin, Tuck

3 December 1970

Mr. Uldis Grava, President
American Latvian Association
Suite 913
Shoreham Building
806 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Grava:

Thank you for your letter of November 12. I would be very pleased to see you and Dr. Spilners and hear about your work. I suggest that you telephone me and propose a time that would be convenient to you both.

I should say in advance, however, that while I fully share your concern that Latvians under occupation should have access to news and analysis of world and local events, Radio Free Europe is facing increasing difficulty in meeting its obligations to the people of its five audience countries with the facilities available, in the face of jamming and increasing competition from other broadcasters, and could not realistically undertake any new commitments.

I look forward to the pleasure of talking with you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Durkee

WPD/mjl