

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE LATVIAN LEGION

MR. R. BANGERSKIS

The Honourable General,

An enemy from the East is once again ominously approaching Latvia. This is the same enemy whose armed forces had occupied the Republic of Latvia on 17 June 1940; this very power that as if on behalf of Latvian nation then had issued the Parliament of the Republic of Latvia (*Saeima*) Election Law and afterwards did not even bother to observe this very Law which by its form alone was sort of democratic; it was brutally breached by admitting only one – the communists' and their collaborators' – list of candidates; besides the results of balloting were forged. The outcome from such elections, of course, could not and did not provide nation's true representation just the puppets selected by the Russian occupying power.

These henchmen afterwards had taken a decision requesting to accept adhesion of the independent Republic of Latvia to the Soviet Union. Later the world was notified that the Republic of Latvia had voluntarily aligned with the Soviet Union. The same scenarios were carried out concerning the independent Republics of Estonia and Lithuania.

Latvia's incorporation in the Soviet Union was a brutal violation of the Constitution (*Satversme*) of the Republic of Latvia; it breached bilateral treaties signed by the Republic of Latvia and the Soviet Union, the Covenant of the League of Nations as well as various international treaties. Latvia's incorporation in the Soviet Union is not being recognized according to provisions of international law.

As the result from the above mentioned and according to provisions of international law, the Republic of Latvia has not lost its sovereignty and thus legally still exists. The official position of Government of the Soviet Union and its press agencies as well as point of view of some foreign newspapers that Latvia supposedly had become a part of the Soviet Union and as such should be once again incorporated in the Soviet Union has absolutely no legal grounds. In the same way unfounded is present position taken by the German occupation authorities as if Latvia had been a part of the Soviet Union. Disclosure of this position is apparent in the German occupation authorities' everyday political and economic life. This attitude is not consistent with mobilization of Latvian residents for service in the German armed forces that was carried out on behalf of the German occupation authorities. Our nation is deeply hurt and expresses its justified discontent with such behaviour from the German occupation authorities.

Latvian nation's legal consciousness and national self esteem would agree to mobilization in the Latvian Army announced for Latvia's defence and on behalf of legitimate Latvian state authorities. Only such a mobilization would make full use of our military potential and would greatly enlarge our soldiers' combat power.

We consider that at this stage of World War II events our nation's existence is being imperilled; for Latvians this is a fatal time – to be or not to be.

No one, according to all the laws of nature and humanity, could question the right for self defence, especially when life of a nation is being threatened.

Based on the above mentioned we hereby declare the will and readiness of Latvian nation to defend Latvia's borders against an assaulting enemy with all our potential and resources.

On behalf of Latvian nation the below signatories of this memorandum pronounce the following unified will:

1. Immediate renewal of the Republic of Latvia de facto independence.
2. Formation of Latvian coalition government with our nation's full representation based on the Republic of Latvia existing Constitution (*Satversme*) of 1922.
3. The Latvian government instant main tasks should be: renewal of state apparatus and Latvian Army, defence of Latvia against the imminent invasion of the Soviet Union's armed forces and, as far as it is feasible during the time of war, establishing of diplomatic relations with foreign states, primarily with those who might recognize this will of our nation and would support our military task – defence of Latvia.

We believe that establishment of a close union with Estonia and Lithuania should be promoted and that such a union, with approval from the above mentioned states, should be transformed into Baltic States' Confederation.

By declaring our nation's unequivocal stance on Latvia's de jure sovereignty and willingness to renew our state's de facto independence as well as our strong commitment to defend Latvia against its enemy with all our strength and possible resources, we plead You, the Honourable General, to pass this Latvian nation's stance and firm volition to those international powers who might objectively understand the importance and necessity of renewal of the Republic of Latvia de facto independence and who might wish and could assist the Republic of Latvia in a fight for regaining state independence and securing of its territory.

The Honourable General, please accept our most sincere regards.

In Riga, the capital of Latvia on March 17, 1944.

1. P. Kalniņš, Speaker of the Latvian last *Saeima*.
2. K. Pauļuks, 1st Vice Speaker of the Latvian last *Saeima*, sworn advocate.
3. Bishop J. Rancāns, 2nd Vice Speaker of the Latvian last *Saeima*.
4. P. Jurševskis, former Prime Minister, Minister, member of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th *Saeima*, notary.
5. F. Cielēns, former member of the *Saeima*, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Envoy in Paris and Madrid.
6. D. Apinis, former member of the *Saeima*, farmer.
7. V. Zamuēls, former Prime Minister, Senator of Supreme Court's Senate, Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
8. Archbishop T. Grīnbergs.
9. Professor Dr. J. Vārsbergs, member of Latvian National Council and Constitutional Assembly.
10. K. Skalbe, former member of Constitutional Assembly and the *Saeima*, writer.
11. T. Zvejnieks, Acting Chief Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
12. P. Leitāns, Senator of Supreme Court's Senate, Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
13. General (ret.) M. Peniķis, former Commander of the Latvian Army.
14. Professor Dr. P. Kvelde, Rector of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture and former Vice President of Latvian Chamber of Agriculture.
15. General (ret.) Ed. Kalniņš, former Minister of War and Artillery Inspector.
16. Professor Dr. A. Teikmanis, Vice Rector of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture.
17. Professor Dr. M. Eglītis, Dean of Faculty of Agriculture of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture, former Vice President of Latvian Chamber of Agriculture.
18. General (ret.) J. Priede, Assistant Commander of the Vidzeme Division, board member of the *Lāčplēsis* (Bearslayer) Military Order.
19. Sp. Paegle, former Latvian Minister of Trade and Industry, President of Latvian Red Cross.
20. Professor Dr. R. Markus, Dean of Faculty of Forestry of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture.

21. V. Dāle, Chairman of Riga Regional Court, former Chairman of the Latvian Court Martial, Lieutenant Colonel (res.)
22. Interim Professor W. Vītols, Vice Rector for Economy of Riga University.
23. General (ret.) V. Teffers, former Chief Military Prosecutor, Chairman of Preservation of Monuments' Board.
24. Jānis Kalnačs, former Chairman of Administrative Department of Supreme Court's Senate, Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
25. R. Ivanovs, former Auditor General and member of the *Saeima*.
26. Kārlis Straubergs, University Professor, former Minister of Education.
27. Mintauts Čakste, Senator of Supreme Court's Senate, Legal Adviser of General Directorate of Law.
28. Dr. med. Anna Bormane, former member of Riga City Auditing Committee.
29. Jānis Breikšs, former member of the *Saeima*, sworn advocate.
30. A. Robežnieks, Prosecutor of the Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
31. A. Klīve, former President of Bank of Latvia, former member of the *Saeima*.
32. Dr. Augusts Pētersons, former Director of Department of Health.
33. Professor Dr. J. Endzelīns.
34. V. Alksnis, Chairman of Criminal Cases Department of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
35. Dr. A. Tauriņš, Professor of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture.
36. P. Stērste, member of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel, Senator of Supreme Court's Senate.
37. P. Delle, Professor of Jelgava Academy of Agriculture.
38. Dr. D. Bīskaps, Director of Latvian Red Cross' Jelgava Hospital.
39. J. Teriņš, former member of the *Saeima*.
40. Rudolfs Alksnis, former Senator of Supreme Court's Senate, Senior Legal Adviser of General Directorate of Law.
41. Antons Kursītis, Director of Earth Resources' Research Institute, former Minister of Transportation.
42. Augusts Rumpēteris, former Senator of Supreme Court's Senate, member of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
43. Interim Professor Arnolds Aizsilnieks, former Managing Director of Central Cooperative Union *Turība* (Prosperity).
44. Vilis Lauskis, teacher of Bulduri School of Horticulture.
45. Jānis Ziediņš, Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel.
46. Ernests Blese, Professor of the University of Latvia.
47. Aleksandrs Gubenis, former Chief Judge of Supreme Court's Senate.
48. Georgs Apinis, Judge of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel, Cavalier of Military Order of *Lāčplēsis*.
49. Interim Professor Kārlis Bērziņš, former Vice President of Latvian Chamber of Crafts.
50. L. Sēja, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Envoy.
51. A. Sakenfelds, Director of Grain Mill Company *Dzirnavnieks* (Miller).
52. V. Zeminskis, Vice Chief Judge of Riga Regional Court.
53. A. Klāvsons, former Managing Editor of Newspaper *Rīts* (Morning).
54. Eduards Grosbergs, architect, former council member of Latvian State Audit Office.
55. Konstantīns Čakste, interim professor, sworn advocate.
56. E. Krieviņš, Vice Prosecutor of Supreme Court's Judicial Panel, Colonel (ret.), former member of the Chief Court Martial.
57. J. Asars, University Interim Professor.
58. Dr. B. Rudiks, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia, Director of Veterinary Board of Riga City Council.

59. J. Ozoliņš, Legal Adviser of General Directorate of Law, Lieutenant Colonel (ret.), former Judge of the Court Martial.
60. V. Vītiņš, former Director of Legal Department, Head of Agrarian Law Section of Agriculture Directorate.
61. Eduards Šīrons, interim professor.
62. Paulis Radziņš, Director of Riga School of Commerce and Riga School of Trade.
63. Jūlijs Vecozols, writer.
64. Nikolajs Dūze, President of Latvian Disabled Persons' Cooperation Union, General (ret.)
65. Zinaīda Lazda, mag. phil., poetess.
66. Pēteris Sockis, notary.
67. Oļģerts Bištēviņš, conductor.
68. Sergejs Duks, conductor.
69. Valija Priedīte, Head of Girls' Union of Latvian Youth Organization.
70. Arvīds Prēdelis, free lancer – organist.
71. Alfons Kušķis, agriculturalist, Head of Horticulture Section of Agriculture Directorate.
72. Pēteris Miežītis-Mieziņš, mag. paed., former Director of Cēsis State Gymnasium.
73. Professor Jāzeps Vītols, Rector of the Latvian Conservatoire.
74. Eduards Grantskalns, farmer, board member of Riga Dairying Company, former member of the *Saeima*.
75. J. Poruks, Director of Riga Opera.
76. General Mārtiņš Vācietis.
77. Pauls Jurevičs, Professor of the University of Latvia.
78. Jūlijs Students, Senior Associate Professor of the Latvian Conservatoire.
79. Viļums Skubiņš, agriculturalist, former member of Land Council.
80. Jānis Grīns, mag. iur., Manager of the Joint Stock Company – Publishing House *Valters & Rapa*, former Editor of Magazine *Daugava* and Manager of Latvian National Theatre.
81. Kristīne Pāvuliņa, Director of Riga State Art Weaving School.
82. P. Kaktiņš, Interim Professor of Faculty of Medicine of the University of Latvia.
83. Pēteris Mucenieks, Interim Professor and Dean of Faculty of Medicine of the University of Latvia, former Head of Labour Protection Section of Latvian Chamber of Labour.
84. Olga Taube, philologist – writer.
85. Vilis Skārds, University Professor.
86. Heinrichs Zariņš, former Secretary of Latvian Press Society and Managing Editor of Newspaper *Brīvā Zeme* (Free Land).
87. Jānis Francis, General.
88. Alfrēds Stūre, former Director of Central Cooperative Union *Turība*, Chairman of the Board and Manager of Sesava Consumer Society.
89. Kārlis Kundziņš, Professor of the University of Latvia, former Dean of Faculty of Theology.
90. Pauls Kundziņš, Professor of the University of Latvia, Dean of Faculty of Architecture. Former Vice President of Latvian Chamber of Professions.
91. Eišens Laube, Professor of the University of Latvia, former Dean of Faculty of Architecture.
92. Jānis Rudzītis, writer.
93. Dr. ing. Arturs Ozoliņš, former Director of Pleskodāle State Institution for Boys Education, board member of Riga Latvian Teachers' Society. Senior Engineer in Wood Industry Association.
94. Dr. Vladislavs Puriņš.
95. Pēteris Bērziņš, former Assistant Chief of Credits and Budgetary Department of Latvian Ministry of War and a member of Institute of History of Latvia.
96. Dr. med. Jānis Šulcs, Professor of the University of Latvia, Director of the 2nd Surgical Clinic, President of Latvian Medical Society.

97. Associate Professor Pāvils Dāvis.
98. Jānis Kadilis, publisher.
99. Anna Rūman-Kēniņa, writer and journalist, former director of gymnasium and diplomat.
100. Arturs Bērziņš, writer and journalist, former Manager of Latvian National Theatre.
101. K. Birnbaums, former member of Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Head of Chamber's Industry Section.
102. Elza Stērste, writer.
103. Austra Kārkliņa, teacher and writer. President of Latvian Association of Academically Educated Women.
104. Jūlijs Pētersons, writer.
105. Kārlis Ābele, Interim Professor of the University of Latvia, Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.
106. Arturs Ozols, former member of Constitutional Assembly, former Director of Maritime Department.
107. Professor Dr. med. Jēkabs Alksnis, former board member of Riga and Liepāja City Councils, former Head Physician in Colonel Kalpaks' Battalion, former President of Latvian Physicians' Association.
108. Agr. V. Neimanis, Head of Agriculture Section of Riga Meat Plant, former Inspector of Youth Development Organization *Mazpulki* (Latvian 4-H Club).
109. Dr. med. Vīgante, Extraordinary Associate Professor of the University of Latvia Faculty of Medicine.
110. Adolfs Erss, writer.
111. Jānis Kurelis, former Commander of Latvian Army Technical Division, General.
112. Jānis Lavenieks, former Assistant Commander of Latvian Army Kurzeme Division, General.
113. Leons Āboliņš, Interim Professor, former Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.
114. Dr. Jānis Princis, retired physician, Lieutenant Colonel.
115. Jūlijs Roze, writer, journalist, former Manager of the *Daile* Theatre.
116. Fricis Gulbis, Interim Professor of the University of Latvia, former Vice Rector and Dean.
117. Ernests Brože, former Managing Director of the Joint Stock Company *Farmācija* (Pharmaceutics). Former member of Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
118. Elfrīda Rapa, former board member of Latvian Women's National League.
119. Jānis Zariņš, Manager of Riga Dramatic Theatre.
120. Jānis Kārkliņš, writer, former Managing Editor of Newspaper *Jaunākās Ziņas* (Latest News).
121. Professor P. Sņķers.
122. E. Dārziņš, Interim Professor of the University of Latvia, Director of Serum Institute.
123. Engineer R. Purs, former council member of Latvian State Audit Office.
124. Professor Dr. Edvards Balodis, former member of Latvian National Council, former board member of Latvian National Bank. Former Chairman of the Board of Consumer Society *Konzums*.
125. Extraordinary Associate Professor Jānis Stiprais, former member of Kurzeme Land Council, member of Latvian Red Cross, board member of Teachers' Cooperative Society.
126. Pēteris Mantnieks, industrialist, former member of Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, former member of Latvian – Lithuanian Border Commission.
127. Professor Dr. agr. P. Starcs, former President of Latvian Agricultural Association.
128. Arvīds Alksnis, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
129. M. Goppers, owner and Managing Director of Publishing House *Zelta Ābele* (Golden Apple Tree).
130. Dr. Barkans Vinca, former Vice Minister, member of the 3rd and 4th *Saeima*.
131. R. Liepiņš, former Minister of Finance, Envoy Extraordinary, Mayor of Riga, Chairman of Riga Latvian Society.
132. K. Pētersons, Director of Peat Factory.

133. G. Vanags, Professor of the University of Latvia.
134. A. Ķešāns, Professor of the University of Latvia and Dean of Faculty of Chemistry.
135. Vilhelms Jansons, engineer, Technical Director of Electricity Company.
136. Al. Neibergs, former Director of Latvian Red Cross Hospital in Riga.
137. P. Ābele, extraordinary associate professor.
138. Professor Dr. E. Zariņš, Professor of the University of Latvia.
139. Professor Dr. med. Edv. Kalniņš.
140. K. Ozoliņš, former council member of Latvian State Audit Office. Chairman of Latvian Physical Education and Sports Committee's Auditing Commission. Chairman of Latvian Old Riflemen Association's Auditing Commission.
141. Roberts Kleins, engineer technologist.
142. Dr. iur. Arvēds Švābe, former Professor of the University of Latvia, former Vice Chairman of Latvian Press Society.
143. Jānis Muncis, artist, former Director of the *Daile* Theatre.
144. Professor Dr. J. Kārklīš, former member of Latvian National Council.
145. Associate Professor Z. Landavs, Vice Rector of Latvian Academy of Art.
146. Agriculturalist M. Olupe, Director of Latvian Housekeeping Institute.
147. Heinrichs Skuja, Interim Professor of the University of Latvia.
148. Jānis Pontags, vice director.
149. Eižens Leimanis, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
150. Staņislavs Vasiļevskis, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
151. Andrejs Zaķis, former member of the *Saeima*.
152. Kārlis Princis, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
153. Agriculturalist Voldemārs Alksnis.
154. Auseklis Veģis, Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
155. Dr. Valdis Ģinters, Director of State History Museum.
156. A. Kallass, former council member of Latvian State Audit Office, former Chairman of the Board of Public Officials' Credit Union, Chairman of Latvian Automobile Club's Auditing Commission.
157. Mārtiņš Celms, Community School Inspector of Riga City 1st District.
158. G. Lukstiņš, Extraordinary Associate Professor of the University of Latvia.
159. Chemical Engineer Jānis Celms, former Director of Schools' Department of Latvian Ministry of Education, executive council member of Latvian Chamber of Professions.
160. Arturs Laiviņš, merchant.
161. Agriculturalist Jānis Tirzītis, former Director of Agriculture Community University, former board member of Latvian Agriculturalists' Society.
162. Hermanis Kreicers, Head of School Inspections' Section of Riga City Educational Board, former Chairman of Riga Latvian Teachers' Society.
163. Ludvigs Bērziņš, Professor of the University of Latvia.
164. Arvīds Māļītis, publisher of books. Former Chairman of Publishers and Merchants' Section of Latvian Chamber of Writings' and Art.
165. Arvīds Jaunarājs, magistrate.
166. Jānis Krasts, magistrate.
167. Hermanis Mielēns, Riga City Counsellor.
168. Engineer Paulis Selga, factory director.
169. Merchant H. Rumpītis.
170. Dr. J. Celmiņš, physician in Riga District.
171. V. Pāvilāns, Director of Cooperation School of Central Cooperative Union *Turība*.

172. Dr. J. Lībietis, Director of Ķemeri Sulphur Springs Institution, former member of Constitutional Assembly, former Latvian Envoy to Estonia, former member of Latvian – Estonian Border Commission.
173. Augustīns (Pētersons), Orthodox Church Metropolitan of Riga and all Latvia, Dr. theol. h. c.
174. Alfrēds Ieviņš, Professor of the University of Latvia., Dr. chem.
175. Ernests Dišlers, Interim Professor of the University of Latvia.
176. Pēteris Ozols, mag. iur., Chairman of Riga City Custody Court.
177. Jānis Goldmanis, former member of Constitutional Assembly and the *Saeima*, former Minister of Agriculture and Minister of War.
178. Dr. R. Mežulis.
179. Pastor, Dr. theol. and mag. phil. E. Šmits.
180. Dr. M. Ozols, Director of Riga City Children's Hospital.
181. J. Krauklis, sworn advocate.
182. L. Georgin, Chairman of the Board of Riga City Bacteriological Laboratory.
183. Dr. Jānis Jaunzems, retired physician, Lieutenant Colonel.
184. E. Āboltiņš, former Chairman of the Board of Rozēni Consumer Society.
185. Dr. Alfrēds Vītols, Deputy Director of Riga City Board of Health.
186. K. Barons, professor, Dr. med. h. c.
187. J. Laukevics, former council member of Latvian State Audit Office, former Chairman of Auditing Committee of Latvian Chamber of Agriculture.
188. Kārlis Gulbis, former member of the 1st and 2nd *Saeima*, former Mayor of Valka and Chairman of Public Organizations, member of Latvian – Estonian Border Commission.
189. E. Morics, former member of the *Saeima*, Chairman of Latvian Workers' Sickness Insurance Funds' Union, former Secretary of Latvian Trade Union Head Office.