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Regarding Latvia's Army

Soviet Russia knows quite well the Lettish sharpshooters. The Russian proletariat knows the sacrifices of the Lettish soldiers, laid on the altar of the socialistic revolution. Despite all attempts of our enemies, despite Lochart's subsidies, lies of the Kazan and Siberian counter-revolutionists, the Lettish troops have remained faithful defenders of the Socialistic revolution. And when the battle cry was raised: "To Latvia!" the Red sharpshooters and the Lettish workers came forward from the vast expanses of Soviet Russia toward the west, in order to create their own Soviet Latvia.

Many still think that Red Latvia acts separately from Russia, but this is a great error. Latvia is so closely connected with the Russian Social Revolutionaries that there can be even no thought as to their being separate.

If one speaks about the uprising of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie, and of capturing power at all cost, this can be said of the Lettish proletariat. They had taken the power into their own hands, even before the arrival of the Red Sharpshooters. The Lettish soldiers have proven to be the defenders of the proletarian gains. The whole civil population thought that the clearing of the Baltic region from the White Guards was a matter of a few days. But in the higher directing spheres, people regarded this question quite differently, and expressed grave apprehensions. I remember how, after the taking of Valki and Volmer, Comrade Vatzetis was indignant when the main forces moved not towards Reval, but against Riga. It was not the fault of Vatzetis that his strategic plan was not complied with. But this is not the subject of our discussion. One thing is clear: the apprehensions of the directing military heads have come true. Allied front.

know the results. Sections of the Ethonian Red Army had to retreat. The heaviest burden of fighting with the White Guards and Esthonian and Finnish bands was carried out on the northern front of Latvia. The offensive of the Esthonian-Finnish White Guards began at the time when the entire front of Latvia was yet weak. At many points and in many directions comparatively small detachments were operated, which have not yet succeeded in effecting a junction. War commissarists were not yet organized, through which we might have begun mobilization and training the mobilized and volunteers. Further military operations disclosed immediately that the army of Latvia had not reached the stage desired and that it had passed through a period of disease. The army of Latvia at the present moment is undergoing the same things as the Russian Red Army underwent at the beginning of its existence. The third conference of communistic sections of Lettish regiments, which took place in Riga on February 20th, was characteristic. The question of building up a Latvian Army was discussed at this conference. From the reports from different localities it became clear that the Latvian Army suffered from lack of discipline, and that this had produced a ruinous effect. The officers' command had not teamed up yet. Rights and duties of separate organs are not yet defined. Every one looks at the army's business from his own particular point of view, and pursues his own method. And as a result, the wagon is still there. Latvia's army is an inseparable part of the whole Russian Red Army, and must carry out the task put before it by the whole revolutionary front. Therefore the building of the Lettish army must be conducted according to one common principle on one unit-