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EXECUTIVE

Con(Baltic)

September 13, 1976

Dear Mr. Ricketins:

The President asked me to forward to you the enclosed statement. He indicated that this is the statement he dictated to you on Friday night.

I hope all is going well.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dorothy E. Downton
Personal Secretary
to the President

Mr. Julius Ricketins
22 Union Street, S.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

9-13-76

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

D

Walter Jenkins right
away + send him this
statement which is the
one I dictated to him
on Friday night

I am pleased to take this occasion to discuss my policy toward Eastern Europe and my policy toward the captive nations -- particularly in this year when we celebrate the Bicentennial of America's birth and the contributions of so many Latvian-Americans to America's development and well-being. It is the policy of the United States, and it has been my policy -- fully and formally documented -- ever since I entered public life, to support the aspirations for freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe by every peaceful and proper means. With specific reference to America's policy toward the captive nations -- the United States has never recognized the Soviet incorporation of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, and the United States is not doing so now. For two centuries the fundamental basis of American policy toward other nations has remained unchanged: the United States supports the aspirations for freedom, independence and national self-determination of all peoples. We do not accept foreign domination over any nation. I reaffirm this principle. This is my policy.

JULIUS RIEKSTINS

(616) 458-4820

Latvian Group - he is longtime national leader.

Advertising and campaign effort.

\$3,000 minimum. Could effectively use \$5,000. Will raise several thousand on their own.

Need an answer by Friday afternoon, September 10th, because Latvian monthly publications go to print in the next week or so.

I promised to call him this Friday at (516) BR 3-2127.

He wants a statement from me for the many Latvian national publications.