

Latvian Group Wants Full Political Independence

The Popular Front of Latvia will call for full political independence from the Soviet Union in its new programme to be formally adopted by its congress in early October, Popular Front spokesmen said Tuesday. . . . One of the front leaders, Dainas Ivans, had said last week that the new programme would call for "the struggle for full economic and political independence," rather than moves on the path towards such a goal. The programme will also demand that the Baltic state now be given a special status in the Soviet Union, marking its transition from a Soviet republic to an independent state, as existed prior to annexation by Moscow in 1940, Mr. Ivans added. . . . The Latvian Popular Front, which claims 240,000 members and 300,000 supporters out of a total population of 2.7 million, will support candidates backing its own platform in next December's local elections . . . the Popular Front, which acts as an umbrella organization for about 30 societies, also says its membership includes 40,000 of the 170,000 members of the Latvian communist party.

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