United States Department of State
Office of Foreign Missions
Washington, D.C. 20520

August 14, 2001

Ms. Jerrily R. Kress
Director
Office of Zoning
One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, N.W., 2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

RE: BZA Application No. 16739
Embassy of the Republic of Latvia
2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Dear Ms. Kress:

The Department of State hereby provides its comments concerning the application submitted to the BZA by the Embassy of the Republic of Latvia on May 2, regarding its desire to locate its chancery at the property located at 2306 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. The application was submitted pursuant to D.C. Code 5-1206 and Section 206 of the Foreign Missions Act (22 U.S.C. §4306.) This case is scheduled to be heard on September 11, 2001.

On behalf of the Secretary of State, and pursuant to the Foreign Missions Act, 22 U.S.C. §4301, *et seq.*, particularly sections 4303 and 4306, I hereby convey to the BZA the following comments and determinations concerning the subject application. These comments and determinations relate to the statutory criteria governing BZA determinations that lie within the purview of the Federal Government, namely 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(1), (4), and (6), as well as the pertinent portion of (d)(3).

BZA
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Board of Zoning Adjustment
District of Columbia
CASE NO.16739
EXHIBIT NO.31

First, with respect to the criterion set forth in 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(1), we have determined that favorable BZA action on the present application would fulfill the international obligation of the United States to facilitate the acquisition of adequate and secure premises by the Government of Latvia for its diplomatic mission in Washington.

Second, after consultation with Federal agencies authorized to perform protective services, we have determined, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(6), that there exist no special security requirements relating to parking requirements in this case. I have also, after similar consultation, and pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(4), determined that the subject site and area are capable of being adequately protected.

Finally, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. §4306(d)(6), I have determined that a favorable decision on this application would serve the federal interest. While the United States Embassy in Riga does not own any property in Latvia, the United States is free to acquire property should it decide to do so. Further, the United States Embassy has enjoyed the support and cooperation of the Government of Latvia over the years in the management of its leased real estate interests.

Sincerely,

T. Strickler

Theodore E. Strickler
Deputy Assistant Secretary