

BALTIC NEWS



A Newsletter of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELP) - P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005, (Australia)

Vol. I, No. 3.

May 5, 1975.

"SECOND-RATE" AUSTRALIANS?

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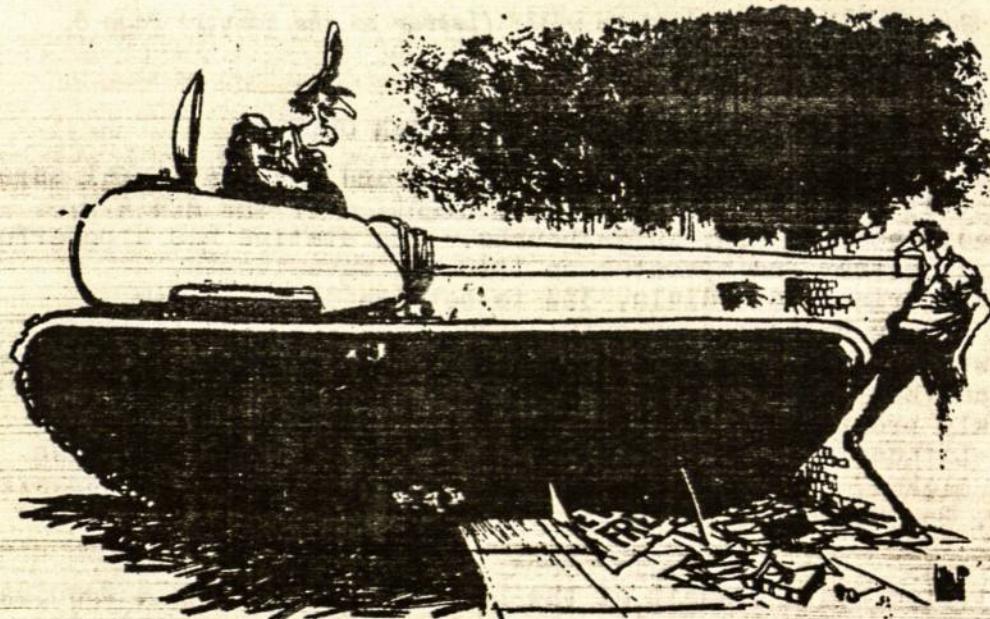
These startling revelations were made in a recent letter written by the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Senator D.R. Willesee) to the Federal Member for Macquarie (Mr. J.C. Kerin, M.P.).

Although the Australian Government last year gave its official recognition to the Russian rule in the three Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the recognition is obviously not reciprocal.

Senator Willesee has stated the Australian Government's stand in the following words:

"The question of military service in the Soviet Union is ... a matter of relevant Soviet law on both nationality and military service. A person who is a citizen of the USSR in accordance with the latter's laws, remains liable for military service under the law of the USSR, irrespective of whether that person has acquired another citizenship - including Australian citizenship... If such a person were voluntarily to return to the Soviet Union, even if he were travelling on the passport of his second nationality, the Soviet authorities could compel him to discharge his military obligation."

(continued on Page 2)



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Some 30,000 Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians settled in this country after World War II. During the past 25 years or so, they have proved to be loyal, hard-working and law-abiding people. Many of them have become naturalised Australian citizens and have willingly accepted the obligations of their new citizenship, including service with the Australian armed forces in Korea and Vietnam. It is a real slap in the face, the spokesman said, if their adopted country is now prepared to abandon them.

Threats of "Treason."

Conscription into the Red Army is not the only threat facing naturalised Australians who were born in the Baltic States and who may wish to visit the country of their birth. According to the Soviet Russian law, escape from Soviet colonies is an act of treason, punishable by death and total confiscation of property. A number of other charges could be easily invented, such as - espionage, propaganda against the Soviet government or criticism of the ruling party.

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"While your clients remain in Australia, they are subject to Australian jurisdiction. However, as each country has the right to protect the persons and interests of its citizens abroad, the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Canberra has a legitimate consular interest in its citizens in Australia, under the terms of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations".

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The weekly programme is sponsored by LACAS, a society for Australian-Lithuanian cultural activities. The society's chairman is Mr. V.J. Alekna. The address for listeners' comments and suggestions: LACAS, P.O. Box 93, Caulfield East, Vic. 3145.

The Victorian State Council of the Liberal Party passed a resolution early in March, urging the Party, when returned to Government, to discontinue recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic States into U.S.S.R.; and to make a public statement of the intention.

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He is urging President Ford to legalise the Russian occupation of the Baltic countries in the interests of the U.S. - U.S.S.R. datente ,(it may be noted that the Helsinki conference on European Security is stuck on the question of permanent borders for Europe) Kissinger is apparently hoping to have the Department of the National Security Council on his side, but the U.S. Congress would probably oppose such a move in deference to the feelings of two million Americans who have migrated to America from once-free Estonia, Latvia & Lithuania.

This is the message contained in two articles in the "Chicago Tribune" on March 15th and 18th, 1975 by columnist Bill Anderson)

Anderson reports that the National Security Council even objected to a deputation of nine Baltic Americans visiting the President on the question of recognition, and then forbade the voice of America to broadcast a programme about the meeting. Official photographs of a smiling President Ford and the nine proponents of the Baltic cause were marked "Not to be used for publication" by the N.S.C.

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The National Security Council tried to have Derwinski reprimanded for inviting the group to see the President.

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The best method is for individuals to send telegrams or write to either

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position on the question, or to

PRESIDENT FORD.

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WASHINGTON. D.C. thanking him for his past

support to the Baltic people, and asking him not to recognise the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union, and also to

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Estonia. In the last issue of the Baltic News, we published the "S.O.S." from the Estonian underground which described the plight of the Estonian people today.

The report quoted from a petition sent to the United Nations secretary Kurt Waldheim in October, 1972, which took nearly two years to reach its destination. A wave of repressions broke out in Estonia after the publication of the petition in the West. The sad news came in a further letter to Kurt Waldheim, dated the 23rd December, 1974, from the Estonia National Front and the Estonian Democratic Movement, the authors of the original petition, the letter says *inter alia*:

"As soon as the news of the arrival of our appeal was published there followed in Estonia a wave of repressions. On December 13th 1974 large scale house searches were executed and several arrests were made. As the number of security-officers needed for such a sweeping operation was insufficient. KGB-men from neighbouring Latvia had to be introduced.

Since then a silent regime of terror has been established over our country, security forces repressing and suspecting every expression of liberal thinking. We consider that our primary goal has been achieved. Innumerable men and women in the Soviet Union can prove at any time that, despite the publicity given by the Soviet Government to the good will and peaceful cooperation, the violent repressive and inhuman nature of the Soviet regime has not altered.....

This letter ends with a plea to have released several Estonian political prisoners, including, Kalju Matik, lecturer in the Tallinn Polytechnical Institute, Mati Kiirend, an engineer, Arvo Varato, physician, Artjem Juskevitsch, an engineer.

Lithuania.FORMER NUNS SACKED.

As a contribution to International Women's Year we published (from the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, No.8.) a list of women who lost their jobs in Russian occupied Lithuania:

THE SOLE REASON WAS THEY HAD BEEN OR STILL ARE NUNS.

Brone Pukeviciute, studying for a graduate degree in education, a senior fellow at the Scientific Experimental Institute of Education, forced to resign by the Director of the Institute after pressure by security organs.

Domicele Gailiusyte, teacher of French in the middle school of North Vilnia, dismissed despite her high qualifications

* * IN MEMORIAM * *

CEPULIS, The Rev Pranas, OFM. - In sad memory of the former Franciscan Provincial of Lithuania; sentenced to death in absentia, died while on the run from the Russians, March 30, 1962.

SUZIEDELIS, The Very Rev Mgr Bernardas. - In memory of the former administrator of the diocese of Kaišiadorys (Lithuania); died on April 9, 1967, after 9 years in Russian prisons and 3 months in Nazi prisons.

BENJAMINS, J. - A tribute to a newspaper editor in free Latvia; deported by the Russians in 1940 and starved to death in Astrahan prison, on April 13, 1942.

BURNEIKA, The Rev John. - One of many deported Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians; died at Irkutsk concentration camp (Siberia), on April 16, 1956.

KIVITIS, Janis. - Treasured memories of the former champion sprinter in free Latvia; deported to Siberia in 1941 and died in Kamchatka in 1942.

BUDRAITIS, The Rev Tadas. - One of many Lithuanian priests who gave their lives for their faith; died on April 22, 1962, after 9 years in Siberia.

507. - In memory of the five hundred and seven unnamed Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, shot by a Russian firing squad in May, 1954, after an unsuccessful uprising in Kolima slave labour camp (Siberia).

KARALIUKAS, The Rev Juozapas. - Passed away in May 1963, after 5 years torture in Siberia.

The Lord is my Shepherd.

KREICBERGS. - In sad memory of Karlis Kreicbergs, farmer in free Latvia; deported by the Russians to Siberia, where he died on May 3, 1942.

AUSURA, The Rev Pranas. - A tribute to a fearless Lithuanian priest, who died on May 7, 1967, after 10 years' torture in Siberia.

KALANTA, Romas. - In memory of the young Lithuanian who burnt himself alive on May 14, 1972, in the hope of drawing the world's attention to his people's plight.

FRANKEVICS, Gedimins. - In memory of the 19-year-old Latvian student, sentenced to 10 years in Soviet slave labour camp, then shot by a Russian firing squad on May 21, 1941.

MARKULIS, Jonas. - One of many Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian resistance fighters, died in battle, March 1945.

PESTININKAS, The Rev Vladas. - Passed away on May 28, 1968, after many years torture in Siberia.

LASMANIS, Fricis. - One of thousands of deported Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians; died in Narima labour camp (Soviet Russia), in 1942.

Baltic News, 5/5/1975 - Page 8.

* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Sunday 11th May, 1975:

MEETING CANCELLED

A meeting planned for Sunday 11th May, 1975 (to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of Romas Kalanta's death) has been cancelled.

This supersedes the preliminary notice published in "Mūsų Pastogė" last week.

Saturday 17th May, 1975:

DANCE

The Lithuanian sporting club "Perkunas" will hold a dance, in the Polish Hall

(corner Main rd. & Augusta rd., New Town),
on Saturday night, 17/5/1975.

Good Band - All other usual attractions !!!

For table bookings, 'phone Joe Paskevicius, 72 6360.

Friday 13th June or Saturday 14th June, 1975:

34th ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIC DEPORTATIONS

The Committee is considering several ways of commemorating the tragic events of June, 1941. Suggestions include: a torchlight procession and an ecumenical church service.

Do you have any ideas? If so, let us know: 'phone R. Tarvydas 72 5147 or Dr Kruup 27 9726.

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Letter to the Editor

"RUSSIAN CITIZEN" AGAINST MY WILL

"I was born in the Republic of Estonia of Estonian parents. I cannot speak a word of Russian, nor have I ever set foot on Soviet soil.

My only contact with Soviet Russians was in 1941, when without declaration of war the Soviet Army occupied Estonia, arrested my parents, "nationalised" our home and belongings, (and) without trial sentenced my mother to Siberia for 25 years and shot my father. His crime: Being a member of the Estonian Parliament. Hers: Being his wife and an active Girl Guide leader. I was nine years old.

Having escaped our homeland with relatives I arrived in Australia in 1948, helped financially by the Australian - then Labor - government. I later married an Australian and became a naturalised subject in 1954. As a result of our present Government's decision, I am now termed officially "of Russian descent". Should I leave this country to travel abroad, my Australian visa would give my place of birth as the Soviet Union which by the dual citizenship laws of that country would give it the right to repatriate me to Siberia if it so wished.

Do you wonder at the alarm, resentment and protest Mr. Whitlam's decision* has brought among Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians of the whole world?"

Mrs. D. E. Hoile, SEATON, S.A.

*see story pages 1 & 2.

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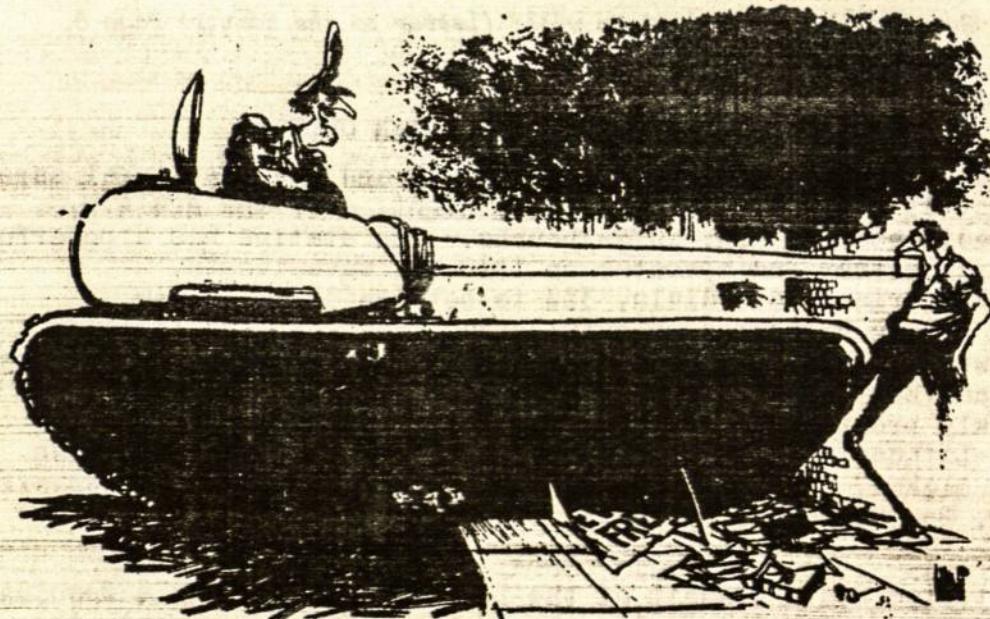
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KIVITIS, Janis. - Treasured memories of the former champion sprinter in free Latvia; deported to Siberia in 1941 and died in Kamchatka in 1942.

BUDRAITIS, The Rev Tadas. - One of many Lithuanian priests who gave their lives for their faith; died on April 22, 1962, after 9 years in Siberia.

507. - In memory of the five hundred and seven unnamed Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, shot by a Russian firing squad in May, 1954, after an unsuccessful uprising in Kolima slave labour camp (Siberia).

KARALIUKAS, The Rev Juozapas. - Passed away in May 1963, after 5 years torture in Siberia.

The Lord is my Shepherd.

KREICBERGS. - In sad memory of Karlis Kreicbergs, farmer in free Latvia; deported by the Russians to Siberia, where he died on May 3, 1942.

AUSURA, The Rev Pranas. - A tribute to a fearless Lithuanian priest, who died on May 7, 1967, after 10 years' torture in Siberia.

KALANTA, Romas. - In memory of the young Lithuanian who burnt himself alive on May 14, 1972, in the hope of drawing the world's attention to his people's plight.

FRANKEVICS, Gedimins. - In memory of the 19-year-old Latvian student, sentenced to 10 years in Soviet slave labour camp, then shot by a Russian firing squad on May 21, 1941.

MARKULIS, Jonas. - One of many Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian resistance fighters, died in battle, March 1945.

PESTININKAS, The Rev Vladas. - Passed away on May 28, 1968, after many years torture in Siberia.

LASMANIS, Fricis. - One of thousands of deported Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians; died in Narima labour camp (Soviet Russia), in 1942.

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* * * COMING EVENTS * * *

Sunday 11th May, 1975:

MEETING CANCELLED

A meeting planned for Sunday 11th May, 1975 (to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of Romas Kalanta's death) has been cancelled.

This supersedes the preliminary notice published in "Mūsų Pastogė" last week.

Saturday 17th May, 1975:

DANCE

The Lithuanian sporting club "Perkunas" will hold a dance, in the Polish Hall

(corner Main rd. & Augusta rd., New Town),
on Saturday night, 17/5/1975.

Good Band - All other usual attractions !!!

For table bookings, 'phone Joe Paskevicius, 72 6360.

Friday 13th June or Saturday 14th June, 1975:

34th ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIC DEPORTATIONS

The Committee is considering several ways of commemorating the tragic events of June, 1941. Suggestions include: a torchlight procession and an ecumenical church service.

Do you have any ideas? If so, let us know: 'phone R. Tarvydas 72 5147 or Dr Kruup 27 9726.

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Letter to the Editor

"RUSSIAN CITIZEN" AGAINST MY WILL

"I was born in the Republic of Estonia of Estonian parents. I cannot speak a word of Russian, nor have I ever set foot on Soviet soil.

My only contact with Soviet Russians was in 1941, when without declaration of war the Soviet Army occupied Estonia, arrested my parents, "nationalised" our home and belongings, (and) without trial sentenced my mother to Siberia for 25 years and shot my father. His crime: Being a member of the Estonian Parliament. Hers: Being his wife and an active Girl Guide leader. I was nine years old.

Having escaped our homeland with relatives I arrived in Australia in 1948, helped financially by the Australian - then Labor - government. I later married an Australian and became a naturalised subject in 1954. As a result of our present Government's decision, I am now termed officially "of Russian descent". Should I leave this country to travel abroad, my Australian visa would give my place of birth as the Soviet Union which by the dual citizenship laws of that country would give it the right to repatriate me to Siberia if it so wished.

Do you wonder at the alarm, resentment and protest Mr. Whitlam's decision* has brought among Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians of the whole world?"

Mrs. D. E. Hoile, SEATON, S.A.
*see story pages 1 & 2.