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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. 7.

October 17, 1975.

HOW TO VOTE AT

NEXT ELECTION

The Tasmanian Balts and their supporters will not align themselves with any one political party in the next Federal election. Instead, they will investigate the local situation in each electorate and will vote for the candidate who has worked hardest for the Baltic cause.

This was announced in Hobart today, by the Executive Committee of H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association).

A H.E.L.L.P. spokesman said that it was anybody's guess, at this stage, whether a full-scale Federal election would be held within the next two months, or two years. However, it was better to decide early than to get caught "with one's pants down".

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- * HOW BALTS HAD SAVED AUSTRALIAN HOSPITALS - PAGE 2.
- * SOVIETS' GREATEST ALLY IN AUSTRALIA - PAGE 5.
- * MR WHITLAM FILES HIS DEFENCE - BACK PAGE.
- * BALTIC POC GROUPS TO BE FORMED HERE - PAGE 7.
- * MORE UNDERGROUND PAPERS IN BALTIC STATES - PAGE 6.

Don't miss ...

Public Talk by

Mr. Brian HARRADINE (pictured, at right),
Secretary, Tasmanian Trades and Labour Council:
on Friday 28th November, 1975, at 8.p.m.
Polish Hall, New Town.



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Page 2 - Baltic News, 17.10.1975

BALTIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIA

(Continued from previous issues)

The first ship with 843 Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian migrants, in the US Army transport "General Heintzelman" reached Fremantle in Western Australia on 28 November 1947. They were accommodated in a former military camp at Bonegilla, near Wodonga in Victoria. Here a reception and training centre was established. In May 1948 a second reception and training centre was established at Bathurst in New South Wales. The displaced persons were bonded to two years labour, according to the government's direction, and after the two years they were free to choose their own occupation.

A report from the Commonwealth Employment Service in September 1948 stated that in the first seven months of 1948 about 4000 displaced persons had been placed in jobs. Their labour, according to the report, has relieved the shortage of domestic staff in hospitals; increased the output of building material; helped to build Australian homes; saved fruit and sugar crops from being unharvested and made it possible to maintain railways. Some details of the report are interesting: "The staff at Woorooloo T. B. Sanatorium (W. A.) had fallen from 80 to 13, and it was on the point of turning away many of its patients when 40 Baltic women were allotted to it. The Under Secretary for Health stated that only the arrival of the Baltic women enabled the hospital to continue. In New South Wales, 60 Balts enabled hospitals to keep several wards open. At the Gippsland Hospital, Victoria, 28 Balts made possible the opening of a new T. B. ward to admit a substantial waiting list..." The report goes on listing harvesting of fruit, cutting of sugar cane, work in sawmills, brick factories, cement works, work on the railways, on sewerage projects, water conservation, salt and brown coal mining, clearing land, quarrying, etc. It continues: "They are everywhere employed upon work for which sufficient Australian labour is not available, and this review of their activities over a very short period suggests how much impetus their availability in large numbers is likely to give to our housing programme and to our production in other industries which are vital to the Australian economy."

What the report did not mention was that among the cane cutters, trench diggers, brick makers, etc. were Baltic doctors, lawyers, engineers, geologists, linguists, economists, artists, in fact, all academic professions were represented. The attraction for these people was the promise of freedom.

From the latest book by Professor E. DUNSDORES, The Baltic Dilemma, published 1975 by Robert Speller & Sons, New York (pp. 29-30). Aust. recommended price is \$7.50. - If unobtainable from your local bookseller, this book may be ordered from HELLP Association, P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Please add 60¢ postage). - Trade enquiries are also welcome.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Although comparatively small in number, the post-World-War-2 migrants from the Baltic States have made a significant contribution to the arts, sciences and industries of Australia.

In this series of articles, we show that the typical Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian who has settled in this country, is a loyal, hard-working citizen - and not a war-monger or a Nazi-in-hiding.

The Baltic migrants have also brought with them a rich cultural heritage that is some 4,000 years old. Some of this heritage is being passed on to the coming Australian generations, in many varied forms. A lot more is likely to be lost forever, because of a lack of public interest.

Readers are invited to send articles and other suitable material for this series.



H.E.L.L.P. ASSOCIATION'S

ANNUAL REPORT

The first moves leading to the formation of the HELLP Association took place in early August 1974 when a group of interested people gathered in the Polish House, New Town to plan a protest meeting against the Australian Government's decision to recognize de jure the Soviet Union's sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The planned meeting took place in the Polish Hall on Sunday, 11th August, 1974.

This meeting led to a second one three weeks later when, among the other matters, a resolution was passed to form an Association to continue provisional committee's work.

The inaugural meeting of the HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian Peoples) Association took place on Wednesday, 30th October, 1974. The meeting approved the aims of the Association as being:

- (1) to make all people aware of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations' continuing struggle for survival and self determination, and
- (2) to work towards the reversal of the Australian Government's de jure recognition of Soviet Union's sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

It was decided that the Association should have an Executive Committee of 15, elected at the Annual General Meeting which was to be held either in October or November each year. The committee was also empowered to co-opt additional members. The provisional committee was then endorsed by the meeting as the first Executive Committee of the Association.

Members of the 1974/75 Executive Committee : K. Kruup - Chairman, V. Feldmanis - Vice-chairman, A. Taskunas - Secretary, later Editor "The Baltic News", A. Kantvilas - Treasurer, R. Tarvydas - Publicity, later the Secretary, A. Celmins, J. Paskevicius - Organisation, J. Parums - Internal Auditor, I. Celmins, W. T. Kowaluk, B. E. Burbo, F. Aitken, S. Kelly - other members. V. Slaidins and E. Miezitis were co-opted during the year as additional members. The committee regrets the loss of Fred Aitken through his untimely death last month.

It was envisaged at the inaugural meeting to hold one public meeting in every three months. Difficulties in obtaining speakers and the need for various other activities, however, led to the abandonment of this plan. The public activities of the Association have been reported more fully in the previous editions of "Baltic News"; it should therefore suffice to list them in their chronological order:

- 17.11.74 HELLP Barbecue at Margate.
- 18.11.74 Ecumenical service of prayer at St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 25.11.74 & Stalls at the Salamanca market.
- 30.11.74
- 5. 12.75 A public meeting in the Franklin Square (Speaker: the Hon. B.K. Miller).
- 3. 2.75 Participation at a public meeting addressed by Mr. Sneddon in the Franklin Square.
- 15. 2.75 Silent demonstrations at the Ferry Terminal and Hobart Town Hall on the occasion of Mr. Whitlam's visit.

Page 4 - Baltic News, 17.10.1975

H.E.L.L.P. ANNUAL REPORT ...Continued from Page 3

- 1. 3.75 The first issue of "The Baltic News".
- 8. 3.75 Stall at the Salamanca market.
- 15. 3.75 Baltic dance at the Polish Hall.
- 10. 4.75 Silent demonstration outside G.P.O. Hobart.
- 11. 4.75 Public lecture "The Baltic Dilemma" at the University of Tasmania by Professor E. Dunsdorfs (Chairman, Professor C. H. Miller).
- 4. 6.75 & 26-hour vigil in the Franklin Square, followed by a torchlight procession and a service in St. Mary's Cathedral.
- 5. 6.75
- 21.6.75 Pre-Bass by-election - demonstrations and public meeting in Launceston.
- 29.7.75 Counter tea at St. Ives hotel (Guest Speaker: Mr. B. Harradine).
- 30.8.75 Baltic dance at the Polish Hall.
- 9.9.75 Public Symposium in the Polish Hall (Dr. P. Boyce, Prof. J. Polya, Mr. A. Downie). Chairman - Dr. R. Jones.
- 22.9.75 Silent demonstration at the Black Buffalo on the occasion of Mr. Whitlam's visit.

The Executive Committee has met regularly each month. Besides involvement in activities listed above, it has ordered relevant literature and has arranged printing and distribution of suitable handouts. Seven issues of "The Baltic News" have appeared so far for distribution to members and other interested persons. Members of the Committee have talked to various groups and represented the Association at several meetings.

These various activities would not have been possible financially without generous donations by members and others. The income from stalls at the Salamanca market and from dances also helped considerably. A more detailed financial report will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

The HELLP Association has been successful in bringing the Baltic issue to the notice of the public and our activities have been reported frequently in the news media. It has not yet been successful in getting the present Australian government to reverse its Baltic decision. It is heartening, however, that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Fraser, has announced recently that the parliamentary opposition when in government will reverse the decision of the present government.

Finally, thanks should be expressed to all who during the year have supported the activities of the HELLP Association either through their personal participation or through donations.

(Dr.) K. KRUUP, Chairman.

To: H.E.L.L.P. Association,
Post Office Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania. 7005.

I am sending you, herewith, my donation of \$.....Cash/Cheque/Postal Order.

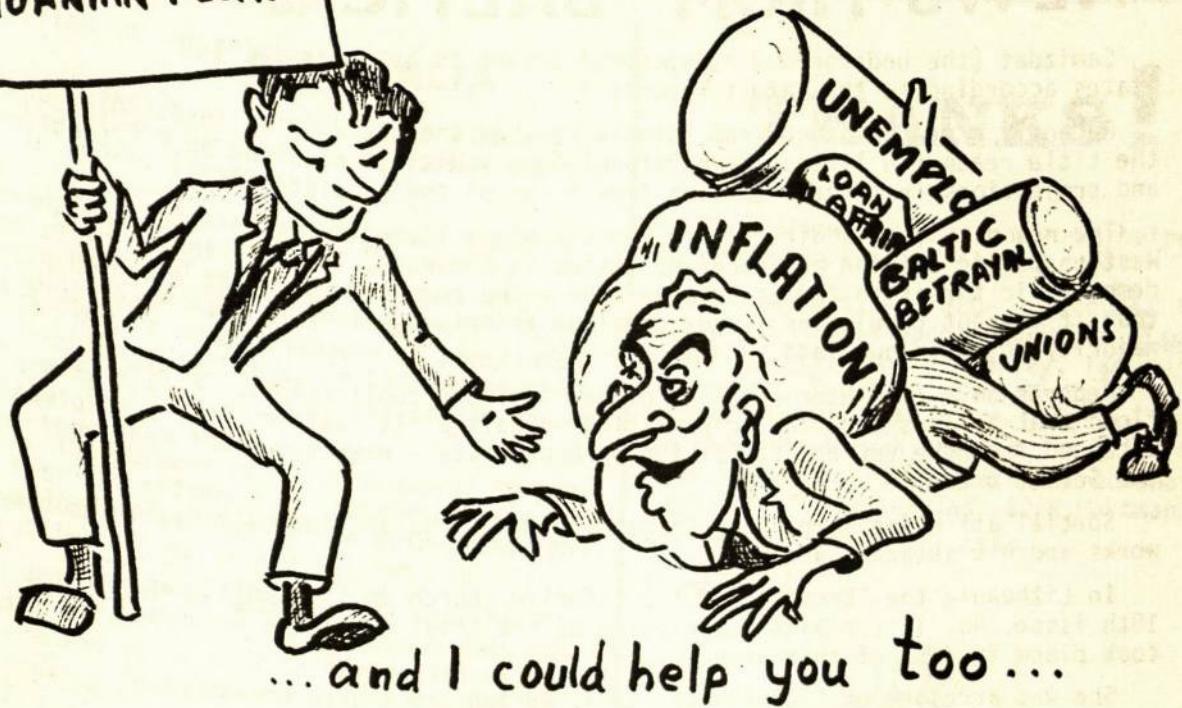
NAME (Mr, Mrs, Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

If receipt required, please tick here: _____

HELP ESTONIAN
LATVIAN AND
LITHUANIAN PEOPLES

Baltic News, 17.10.1975 - Page 5



Editorial

THEIR GREATEST ALLY

Lenin was once asked, what had helped him most in his success in Russia.

He replied, "The weakness of my enemies. If there had been in Petrograd, in 1917, only a group of a few thousand men who knew what they wanted, we would have never come to power in Russia".

There were, of course, thousands of good men in Petrograd (now called Leningrad) at that time; but they were too preoccupied with their own little problems and concentrating on their own comfort.

Doesn't this ring a familiar bell? Isn't the Russian history repeating itself, in Australia today?

While we are busy backing horses, following footy and mowing the front lawns, a small, yet persistent group of Quislings is gnawing away at the foundations of our Australian way of life.

And apathy is their greatest ally.

Don't remain indifferent. Join HELLP Association, support its peaceful activities. By speaking out against Russia's ruthless colonialism and by pressing for freedom for the Baltic people, we'll have a better chance of preserving our own freedom in this once-lucky country, Australia.

Page 6 - Baltic News, 17.10.1975

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Samizdat (the underground newspapers) appear to be mushrooming in the Baltic States according to the latest reports.

Recently a new samizdat from Estonia reached the West. It is in Estonian and the title reads (in literal translation) "Quo vadis Estonian nation? Perceptions and projections from the viewpoint from a son of the people".

The new document is directed to the Estonians living in Estonia and not towards Western public opinion or Estonians living in the West. Its starting point is the demographic threat to the Estonian nation - the possibility if not the probability that if present population trends continue Estonians will no longer constitute a majority in their own land.

Reports have also been received of new samizdat publication - "Pali", (i.e. flood that follows the thaw) circulating in Latvia. It contains mostly information obtained from the BBC and Radio Liberty broadcasts - news items not mentioned in the Soviet press.

Special attention is paid to Sacharov's memoranda and interviews, Solzhenitsyn's works and his speeches abroad.

In Lithuania the "Cronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania" has reached its 18th issue. No. 17 contains description of the trial of Nijole Sadunaite (37) that took place in June of this year.

She was arrested on 27th August, 1974. During the search of her home, No.11 of the "Cronicle..." was found being retyped.

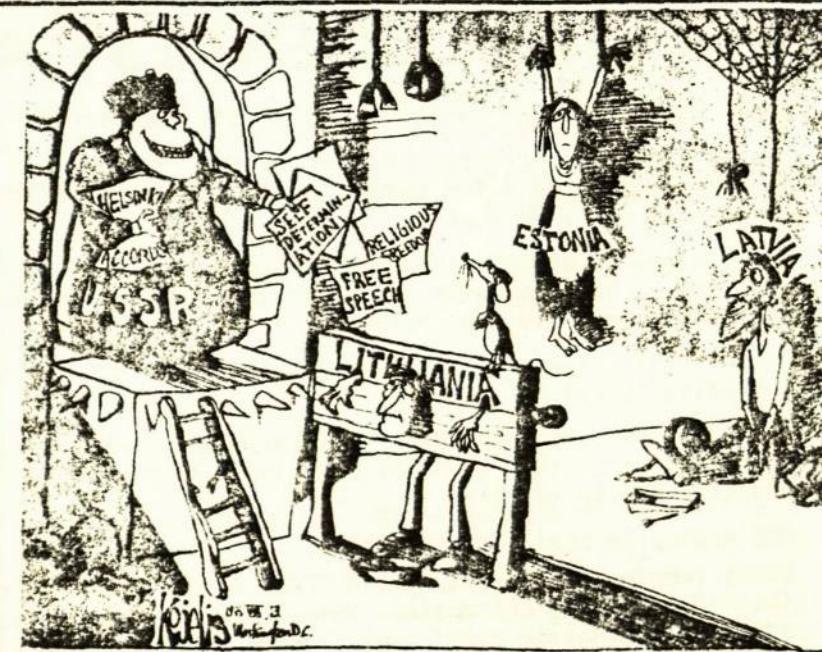
In her address to the court she said:- "I wish to ask the court to set free all those people in prisons, labour camps and psychiatric hospitals who fought for human rights and justice.

In doing so you would prove your good faith... and the beautiful saying "Man is man's brother" would become a reality.

Nijole Sadunaite was sentenced to three years in strict regime labour camp and additional three years in exile.

WANTED

BALTIC News URGENTLY
URGENTLY NEEDS TYPING HELP
CAN YOU ASSIST FOR A FEW
HOURS EACH MONTH? PLEASE
RING RAY ON 725147, OR
AL ON 252595.



Baltic News, 17.10.1975 - Page 7

P.O.C. GROUPS IN AUSTRALIA

Australia's first Baltic Prisoners of Conscience Group is to be formed shortly in Hobart (Tasmania).

A POC Group is an informal group of 2 to 10 persons of any nationality - at least one of whom is of Baltic origin. Each POC Group assumes responsibility for one or more prisoners of conscience from Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania, who are in Soviet jails or subject to Soviet exile.

The purpose of a POC Group is to protect the prisoner of conscience from arbitrary actions by the authorities and, ultimately to secure his release.

* In order to maintain its credibility and effectiveness, a POC Group does not use the issue of POCs for political purposes. In other words, a POC Group is pro-prisoner, rather than anti-Soviet.

A number of Baltic POC Groups are already operating in all parts of the free world; many more are still needed.

The current Baltic POC lists contain the names of 14 residents of Estonia, 53 of Latvia and 135 from Lithuania. Only a total of 46 POC's have been adopted by POC groups so far.

Anyone willing to participate is asked to write to:

Dr. Uldis Blukis,
14 Remington, Apt. 201,
Cambridge, Mass. 02138, U.S.A.
or

Mr. Viktoras Nakas,
1668 Bowers Ave.,
Birmingham, Mich. 48008, U.S.A.

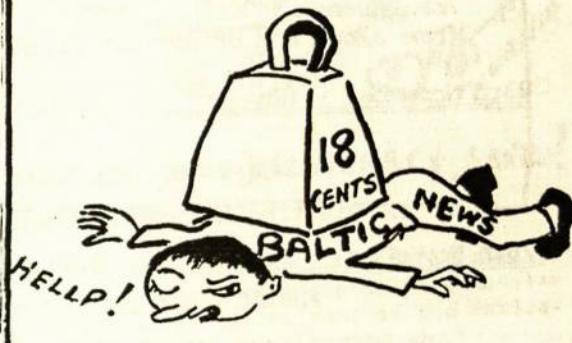
A copy of the first Baltic POC Groups' Newsletter is available, on request, from HELLP, P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005, AUSTRALIA.

THANKS !

The following donations have helped to cover the cost of this issue:

\$25- Anonymous, Tas. \$20- J.Bachunas Library, S.A. \$10 each: Anonymous, Tas. J.Luker, Tas. Prof.J.McAuley, Tas. I.Maganov, Tas. J.Pincius, Tas. R.Sakadolskis, USA, A.Sobczak, Tas. \$5 each: Mr.&Mrs.A.Jakstas, Tas. Dr.V.Kiausas, Old. \$3 each: T.Truchanas, Tas. Sen. M.Townley, Tas. \$2: R.Hartmanis Vic. \$1: G.Lazdauskas, Tas.

Thank you !



To: H.E.L.L.P.* ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005.

I do not recognize Russian sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

I agree with the objectives of H.E.L.L.P.* Association and hereby apply for membership.

Signature _____

NAME (Mr, Mrs, Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

Action costs money. Donations always welcome.

I ENCLOSURE \$ _____ Cash/Cheque/Postal Order

If receipt required, please tick here: _____

Page 8 - Baltic News, 17.10.1975

COMING EVENTS

2nd November - (Sunday), 8.00 p.m. - Polish Hall - New Town

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HELLP ASSOCIATION

Nominations for the Executive Committee (up to fifteen members) are to be sent to the secretary of the Association by 26th October. These must be signed by two members of the Association and the candidate.

14th November - (Friday)

VISIT TO HOBART

by Mr. I. Freimanis, Vice-president of the Latvian Federation in the Free World from Stockholm.

Ring 281578 for further information.

22nd November - (Saturday) - 7.30 p.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

CONCERT

by visiting Lithuanian Choir from Melbourne

Admission :- \$ 1.00

followed by:- DANCE 9.00 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

Admission:- \$ 3.00

Come along and bring your friends !

23rd November - (Sunday), 2.00 p.m. - St. Theresa's Catholic Church Hopkins Street, Moonah

CONCERT OF RELIGIOUS MUSIC

by the visiting Lithuanian Choir.

28th November - (Friday), 8.00 p.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

PUBLIC MEETING

"Are Australians losing their freedom ?"

Prominent speakers including Mr. Brian Harradine, T.T.L.C. Secretary.
Admission free ----- all welcome.

BALTIC HERALD

Complimentary copies of the latest Baltic Herald have been distributed with this issue of Baltic News.

First published in June 1975, the Baltic Herald appears about once a month, in Sydney.

For additional copies or back issues, send a large stamped, addressed envelope to: HELLP, P.O. Box 272 Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005.

P.M. FILES DEFENCE

According to a report in "The Mercury" (19/9/75), the Prime Minister of Australia (Mr Whitlam) has filed a defence in the Hobart Supreme Court to a writ taken out against him earlier this year by Launceston schoolteacher, Mr Thomas Richard McGlynn (see Story, in Baltic News, 17/7/75, pp.4-5).

Because of the state of the Supreme Court list, the case is not expected to come up for hearing before the next year.