

BALTIC NEWS

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A Newsletter of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELLP) - P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005 (Australia).

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January 21, 1976.

COLONIAL RECOGNITION ENDED



M. HODGMAN, M.H.R. :
"Freedom for the
Baltic States!"

THE new Federal Liberal Government had honored its commitment to withdraw recognition of Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States, the Federal member for Denison, Mr Michael Hodgman, said yesterday.

He had been advised of the withdrawal by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Peacock.

Mr Hodgman said that within four days of the Federal election, Mr Peacock had taken appropriate action through diplomatic channels to reverse the de-

cision of the former Whitlam Labor Government.

"The instruction has been given to the Australian Ambassador to the USSR that neither he nor any of his staff are to officially visit any of the Baltic States," he said.

"The Victorian Consul for Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia also has been officially advised of the withdrawal of de jure recognition of Russian sovereignty."

Mr Hodgman welcomed the decision and congratulated Mr Peacock on his prompt action.

"One day I hope the Baltic States will be truly free from foreign domination as the result of military aggression."

THE MERCURY, SATURDAY, 3-1-1976

Australia's temporary recognition of the Russian colonial rule over the Baltic nations had brought no tangible benefits to Australia, a spokesman for HELLP Association said in Hobart today. Travel restrictions had remained unchanged. Once they crossed the Russian border, the Australian Balts were denied consular protection by their own Australian Ambassador.

A number of other Australian attempts at improving communication with the Baltic countries were equally frustrated by Soviet counter-measures.

At the same time, Australia was severely criticised by the world press (including Red China) and by Russia's own dissidents for "having sold out the innocent Balts".

There was simply no point in persevering with a fruitless impasse, the HELLP spokesman said, and the Federal Government's latest decision was the only logical step Australia could take.

The spokesman praised Prime Minister Fraser's prompt and decisive action. He also publicly thanked the majority of Australians who had supported the Baltic campaign - with special thanks to Mr. Michael Hodgman, M.H.R., Senator Brian Harradine and Mr. Ray Sherry (former M.H.R. for Franklin).

Hardly noticed by a festive nation, Messrs Fraser and Peacock have re-recognised the Baltic States as independent nations. This may not be realistic but it is in their sense idealistic, and the important thing is that Russia did not take public offence. Fraser-led Australia did its own thing, and a superpower had to lump it.

This perception of Australia's independent potency in world affairs will be the hallmark of an Australian foreign policy presided over by Malcolm Fraser and administered and manipulated by Andrew Peacock.

The Australian, 2.1.76.

* Editorial: A lot more remains to be done, Page 3.

* What YOU can do, Back Page. * Letter of support from ALP Senator, Page 4.

BALTIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO AUSTRALIA (5)

Delight with folk songs

HOBART music lovers were treated to two concerts introducing dainos — the Lithuanian folksongs with a cultural heritage which are more than 2,000 years old.

The Lithuanian Choir, from Melbourne, under the direction of Mr P. Morukunas, presented two concerts at the weekend, one

to a full house in the Polish Hall and the other at St Theresa's Church, in Moonah.

The first concert ranged

from light-hearted love-songs to the melancholy outcry of sorrow of a suffering and captive people, and was received enthusiastically by the audience.

The concert in St Theresa's Church was devoted to Lithuanian religious music, which differed from

the Gregorian chant or the traditional unison hymn singing, and the Melbourne group had a richness of tone and harmony rarely heard today in amateur performances.

The Lithuanian Choir is an amateur group, and the 36 members put the true Lithuanian interpretation into all their songs.

Both concerts were enriched by pleasant solo items by Mr J. Rubas, a bass baritone of the old European school.

The organ and piano accompaniments were from Misses Z. and B. Prasmutas, two younger artists, and they brightened the hopes of the Lithuanians at the concerts that Lithuania's ancient culture is being handed down to the young Australian generation.

The Mercury, 25/11/75.

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.

JOIN H.E.L.L.P. NOW

H.E.L.L.P. is an abbreviation for: "Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association". HELLP is not an ethnic group. Nor is it connected with any political party or religious denomination.

HELLP is simply an association of concerned Australians who are anxious to help the Baltic people in their continuing struggle for survival and freedom. Members include both Liberal and Labor politicians, business men, trade unionists, students, university professors - and housewives!

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. Please send me HELLP Newsletter, Baltic News.

Signature _____

NAME (Mr., Mrs., Miss _____)

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

Action costs money. Donations are welcome.

I enclose \$ _____ Cash/Cheque/Postal Order.

If receipt required, please tick here: _____

Membership is open to anyone who agrees with the objectives of HELLP Association. There are no joining or membership fees. For its running expenses, the Association relies on voluntary donations and on income from social functions.

Members are kept informed of current HELLP activities and the latest events in the Baltic States, by means of this newsletter (Baltic News)

In the Next Issue:

LANGUAGE - RUSSIA'S NEW WEAPON.

New "Russification" drive.

BIG TASK AHEAD

H.E.L.L.P. Association's first objective has been achieved! Australia no longer considers the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) to be part of the Soviet Union.

By reversing the previous Prime Minister's (Mr. Whitlam's) attitude towards these small, defenceless nations, our new Government has disassociated Australia from Russia's colonial land grab in Europe. It has also reassured the world that the majority of Australians still believe in fair go for the Baltic underdogs.

HELLP Association is now entering a new phase of activity. In 1976, HELLP will concentrate on its second task - the task of telling people about the Baltic nations' desperate struggle for survival and freedom.

The matter is urgent. Recent statistics (released by the Soviets themselves) show that the native people in Russia's Baltic colonies are vanishing at an alarming rate. According to the official census figures, the proportion of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians *in their own countries* has dropped to an all-time low:

	1937	1970
Estonia	88.0%	68.2%
Latvia	76.0%	56.8%
Lithuania	85.0%	80.1%

And, as the Baltic people disappear (to gaoles, Siberian labour camps or "mental asylums"), Russian colonists move in and take over their homes, property and jobs.

The wholesale massacre of these three little nations is not likely to be stopped by yet another World War, or by any other kind of violence. It can be stemmed, if the people of Australia (and other free countries, too) speak out and start demanding freedom for Russia's Baltic colonies.

Over the last 30 years or so, most of the former British, Dutch, Belgian and Portugese colonies have been granted their independence. Now, it is Russia's turn to do likewise - and let the non-Russians go free.

In the words of Tasmania's present Attorney-General (The Hon. Brian Miller, MHA), the Baltic people are "imprisoned by men whose political philosophy differs fundamentally from ours, but men who are sensitive to world opinion... If we who are free remain silent, then something of freedom itself dies, and all mankind is the loser".

So, now is the time for all HELLP members and their supporters to "stand up and be counted". Remember: *for evil to succeed, all that is required is that good men do nothing!*





THANKS!

Baltic News is distributed, free of charge, to the members of HELLP Association, various libraries and to other interested readers.

We thank our supporters, whose continued donations have helped us pay for the production and postage of the Baltic News.

This issue has been largely financed by the following recent donations:
 Z. and B. Prasmutas (Vic.); A. C. Jankus (Tas.); Rev. P. Bacinskas (Qld.) \$20 each, H.H.Child (W.A.); H. Juodvalkis (Tas.) \$5 each, N. Butkunas (Vic.) \$3, F. Binkus (Vic.) \$2, Mrs. R. Ramanauskas (Vic.); J. Taimre (S.A.) \$1 each.

To: HELLP Association,
 P.O. Box 272,
 SANDY BAY, Tasmania. 7005

Please continue sending the Baltic News to me.

I enclose my donation of \$.....

NAME
 ADDRESS.....

.....
P/CODE.....

LETTERS

IMMORAL PERSECUTION

I should be pleased if you would tell the members of your organisation that I regard the Soviet occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as immoral and indefensible. I am conscious also of the fact that the fraternal parties of the Australian Labor Party, the Social Democratic Parties of these three Baltic countries, suffer constant persecution and suppression by the Soviet authorities.

I hope that these peoples and all other subject peoples will regain their independence.

JOHN WHEELDON

Senator for Western Australia

WILL BALTS EVER LEARN?

The latest events in Australia have shown that your correspondent Jock Williams (Baltic News, 26/8/75) was way out in his assessment of Malcolm Fraser.

This is, however, no excuse for the Australian Balts to drop off to sleep again.

The Balts have only themselves to blame, for having failed to acquaint us with their problem; but there is still time to act - now.

Hobart. R.S. MURRAY

REPLY TO CORRESPONDENT ("Lithuanian Teenager")

Your ideas are taken seriously and we do appreciate your interest.

You have no doubt noticed that we have since adopted your suggestions in regard to publicity, reduced admission charges for students, etc.

We also need additional teenagers and young people on the HELLP Committee. Will you come forward, so that we could get together and discuss the best way of achieving this?

HEL⁵LP!

**HELP ESTONIAN,
LATVIAN AND
LITHUANIAN PEOPLES!**

**P.O. BOX 272,
SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005**

NEWS ROUNDUP

Big Beef Profit

Australia's prime beef - exported to the Soviet Union at well below cost last year - has been re-sold by State-owned butcher shops in Russia, at 300% profit.

Australia had sold at least 40,000 tonnes of first-grade beef at specially cut rates, ranging from 42 to 50 cents per kilogram (19¢ to 23¢ lb.). The price to the Russian consumers jumped to two roubles (\$2.05 Australian) per kilogram - or 93¢ lb.

"I don't mind helping the starving people of Bangladesh or Ethiopia", said Mrs. M. O'Brien, a Melbourne housewife who pieced this information together, from official Australian and Soviet announcements.

"But, as an Australian taxpayer, I do object to subsidising Russia - which, according to its own official statistics, is amongst the world's ten best fed countries", she said.

Pope Asked to Help.

The Lithuanian Catholic Federation in Australia has written to the Pope, expressing its concern at religious persecution in Lithuania.

Two direct calls from Lithuania, made in 1948 and 1972, had brought no public response from the Pope.

Et Tu, Brute?

In a desperate attempt to silence the underground press in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Russian Secret Police (KGB) has started interrogating suspected Russian dissidents who are living in those colonies.

Among those imprisoned is Andrei Tverdokhlebov, who has been under arrest without trial since April 1975.

A Man Called Simas

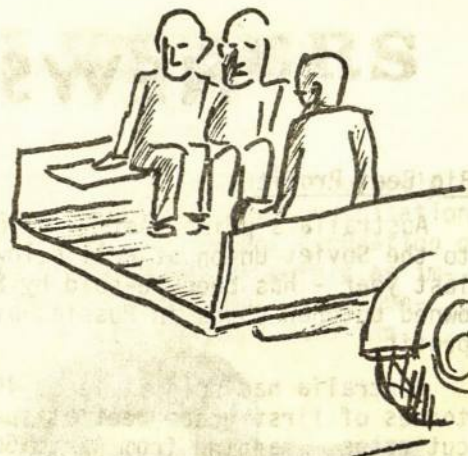
A hair-raising factual report appeared under this heading in the U.S. edition of "The Reader's Digest" last August.

The article describes the recent plight of a Lithuanian sailor, Simas Kudirka, in Russian forced labor camps and his final breakthrough to freedom.

Members and supporters are urged to write to Jean Storey, Reprint Editor, The Reader's Digest Association Pty. Ltd., Box 4353, G.P.O. Sydney, 2001 - and ask her to make A Man Called Simas available to the Australian readers, as soon as possible.



This statue has been erected in Moscow, and postage stamp issued, in honour of Pavlik Morozov. Schoolboy Pavlik became hero of Soviet Russia, when he betrayed his own father to KGB.



Book Review

NO MORE TEARS FOR BARBARA

*LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW, by Barbara Armonas, as told to A.L. Nasvytis. Sydney: ACFLR, 1975. \$4.00**

Why do the Baltic migrants become emotional at the mere mention of communism or Russia? Having read Barbara Armonas' real-life story, just reprinted in Australia, I am beginning to understand.

The book, "Leave Your Tears in Moscow", is a first-hand account of the human misery and suffering which have followed in the wake of Russia's colonial thrust to the Baltic Sea.

Barbara, the daughter of an ordinary Lithuanian peasant, became separated from her American-born husband when the Russian armies overran her native Lithuania in 1940. "Don't worry" Barbara's husband said then, "In a few months you can join me in U.S.A."

But the family's reunion was delayed for nearly 20 years. The Russians charged Barbara with having done unspecified "harm to the U.S.S.R." and deported her and her son to Siberia, 8,000 kilometres from home. A long sequence of physical and spiritual torture followed; transportation in cattle-

trucks, starvation, slave-labour, interrogations..... In her account, Mrs Armonas also reveals some hidden facets of the Soviet system; grafts, black-marketeering, universal spying on your neighbour (even among prisoners) and constant fear for one's own safety.

Unlike thousands of her Siberian camp-mates, Barbara Armonas finally managed to return to freedom - but not before a number of Western journalists and politicians had taken up her case.

First published overseas in 1961, this book is just as topical today. The latest reports from behind the Iron Curtain indicate that, after a brief "thaw" during the Khrushchev era, the Russian masters have once again returned to the strong-arm tactics described by Mrs. Armonas.

I strongly recommend this book to all thinking Australians. At \$4.00, it is an inexpensive way to find out how the other half lives (or is trying to survive.)

- SAM HARPER

COMING EVENTS

25th January - (Sunday) 10.00 a.m. onwards Kingston Beach

PICNIC

A "Back to Nature" picnic organised by the Lithuanian Community of Hobart. All nature lovers and others are invited to gather on the beach for a day in the sun.

14th February - (Saturday) 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 p.m Polish Hall

LITHUANIAN DANCE

For table bookings ring 72 6360

Admission \$3.00, students and pensioners \$2.00

27th March - (Saturday) 8.30 a.m. to 1.00 a.m. Polish Hall

HELLP ASSOCIATION DANCE

Come along with your friends and meet other members of the Association in convivial surroundings.

Admission \$3.00, students and pensioners \$2.00

BOOKS

Find out the facts - Read about the Baltic States:-

- *** ARMONAS, Barbara (as told to A.L. Nasvytis), Leave Your Tears in Moscow. Sydney, 1975, 222pp.- \$ 4.00*
- ***The Baltic States, 1940 - 1972: Documentary Background and Survey of Developments, Stockholm, 1972. 121pp. - \$4.95*
- ***BUDRECKIS, A., Soviet Occupation and Annexation of the Republic of Lithuania, New York, 1968. 31pp - \$6.90*
- ***Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church (Lithuanian underground periodical, in English translation: Nos.5, 6, 7 and 8. - \$1.00each*
- ***DAUMANTAS, J. Fighters for Freedom: Lithuanian Partisans versus the U.S.S.R. (1944-1947). New York, 1975. 254pp - \$9.95.*
- ***DUNSDORFS, E. The Baltic Dilemma: The case of the de jure recognition by Australia of the incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R. New York, 1975. 302pp - \$7.50*
- ***GERUTIS, A. (ed.), Lithuania 700 Years: New York, 1969. 458pp - \$12.00*
- ***SAVASIS, J. The War Against God in Lithuania: New York, 1966. 134pp - \$2.75*
- ***The Tragedy of the Baltic States: 8pp - Free*

*If unobtainable from your local bookseller, all above publications may be ordered from:-HELLP association, P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005. Please add 60¢ per book, for postage and packing.

HELLP!

Inside this issue, you will find a yellow HELLP car sticker. Please affix it inside the rear window, or the windscreen, of your vehicle. It will remind people that the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations need help, in their continuing struggle for survival and freedom from Russian colonial rule!

Additional stickers are available, free of charge. Please send a stamped, addressed envelope to: HELLP, Post Office Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005.

What you can do

The colonial rulers have silenced the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian people in their own countries. But you can help and make these people's plight better known:

1. Find out the facts about the three Baltic nations - then tell others (for a list of books, see Page 7)
2. Give up your lunch-hour or an evening, to attend the public meetings and social functions organised by HELLP (see Page 7).
3. Join the Baltic P.O.C. (Prisoners of Conscience) Group in your town or suburb. If there is no such Group in your area - start one.
4. Visit, phone, or write to, your local MHR and the Senators from your State - and ask them to urge immediate United Nations action for de-colonisation of the Baltic region.
5. Invite HELLP speakers to your Club, Union and Church group meetings.
6. If you visit the Baltic States, insist on basic freedoms to which you - as a free person - are entitled: freedom to travel by public transport of your choice; freedom to stay where you like, for as long as you like; freedom of speech; and personal privacy, outside the watchful eye of the KGB.
7. Write to the editors of your local daily and your church newspaper. Use the facts published in this Newsletter and in the books listed on Page 7.
8. Join HELLP Association or send a donation to P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005 and ask for the Baltic News to be posted to you.

FREEDOM FOR 3 COLONIES

IN THE HEART OF EUROPE ;

ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA !

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