

BALTIC NEWS

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

Vol. II, No. 2(9).

March 29, 1976.

TASMANIAN CALL TO NEW ZEALAND:

DROP COLONIAL STAND!

The New Zealand Government is under increasing public pressure to withdraw its de jure recognition of the Russian colonial rule over the Baltic nations.

HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association) in Hobart was one of the first groups to write to the new Prime Minister of New Zealand (Mr. R. Muldoon), soon after Mr. Muldoon's landslide election victory at the end of last year.

HELLP Association appealed to Mr. Muldoon to follow Australia's example and revoke the recognition of Russian sovereignty over the formerly free Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Chance for Freedom

Such a move by New Zealand would enhance the Baltic native peoples' chances to exercise their right of self-determination, the HELLP submission said.

The New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. B. F. Talboys) replied on 28th January, 1976. He assured HELLP Association that the present N.Z. Government fully appreciated the Baltic peoples' freedom aspirations, but had not yet taken a final decision.

Genocide

In its second submission last week, HELLP assured Mr. Talboys that a reversal of his Government's Baltic stand would indeed help the Baltic people in

their peaceful struggle for survival and freedom.

HELLP Association drew Mr. Talboys' attention to the official Soviet census figures which showed that the survival of the Baltic peoples was seriously at stake. The proportion of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians in their own countries was steadily declining, and this was more than offset by a growing influx of Russian colonists.

"Any outside pressure to stem or reverse such a population trend would therefore serve the best interests of the Baltic peoples", Mr. Talboys was told.

The Baltic Council of Australia and the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand have also made similar submissions to the New Zealand Government.

More Action Needed

A HELLP spokesman said in Hobart today that a lot more could be done by private individuals in Australia and New Zealand.

"I appeal to all people of goodwill to write to The Hon. R. Muldoon and B. F. Talboys (both c/- Parliament House, Wellington, N.Z.) now, and to urge them to reverse their recognition of Soviet jurisdiction over the Baltic States", the spokesman said.



Maoris have been confiding lately in the Russians, the Soviet press claims.

Story: Page 2.

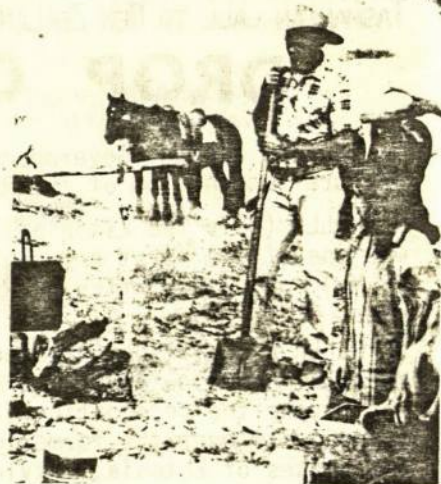
AUSTRALASIA: SOVIET VIEW

Australia and New Zealand have little chance of ever reaching a reasonable standard of living, unless they join the Soviet Union. This was claimed by a group of Soviet scientists last week, after a 30 days' visit to the countries "south of the equator".

The scientists' report on the "plight of the working people in Australasia" has received wide publicity in the Soviet press. "The Aussies go out of their way to be nice to Russian visitors", the report said, "because only Russia can save them".

Writing in "Gimtasis Krastas" (25.3.1976), Dr. P. Norkunas commented in greater detail. "Not all people have it easy in that capitalistic part of the world", he said. "In Australia, ordinary people have to scrape the bottom of the barrel, trying to build a little cottage of their own, or to get an orchard started and grow their own vegetables. It's very difficult to manage otherwise; rented flats are expensive and food prices are escalating each year".

"Car ownership is essential", Dr. Norkunas said, "Otherwise, you can't even reach shops easily".



"We received complaints from Maoris and Australian aborigines", Dr. Norkunas said. "Farmers have usurped the natives best land. Without the help of the Australian and N.Z. Governments, the native are facing the threat of extinction".

BALTIC NEWS NEEDS HELP

We apologize that, because of a lack of money, the Baltic News cannot appear more frequently. For the same reason, its size is restricted to 8 pages, leaving no space for several regular features (Baltic contributions to Australia; Historic notes; In memoriam and some news from the Baltic States.)

This issue has been financed by the proceeds from the last Baltic dance in Hobart (see story, page 5), and by the following donations:-

Captive Nations Council Newcastle (N.S.W.), Council of Estonian Societies

in Aust., V. Feldmanis (Tas), Lithuanian Youth Assoc. Melbourne, J. Luker (Tas), \$20. each; P. Brazdzionis (W.A.), Lithuanian Committee Newcastle (N.S.W.), B. M. Remess (Tas), J. Ruzgys (Qld), A. Tas-kunas (Tas), J. Pincius (Tas), \$10 each; G. Kaminskis (A.C.T.) \$5.90; O. Liutikiene (W.A.) \$5 & 30 p/stamps; R. Isted (Tas), E. Miezeitis (Tas), Mrs. C. M. McSherry (Tas), I. Ozolins (Tas), J. Slavenas (N.S.W.), J. Valius (Tas), \$5 each; P. Banelis (Tas), Mrs. E. Dawson (Tas), R. Ramanauskas (Vic), B. Siksnis (Tas), \$2 each; Mrs. E. Madden (Tas), P. Siauciunas (Tas) \$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.....

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

New Opposition Voice

A new 52 page underground periodical, Aušra (The Dawn), has appeared in Russian-held Lithuania.

The name has a special meaning for Lithuanians. The original Aušra was published by the Lithuanian national movement, during the Russian tsarist rule, in 1883-1886. This eventually led to the re-instatement of free Lithuania, 32 years later.

Big Chief's Son Wants Out

Tomas Venclova, a well-known poet in contemporary Lithuania and an acclaimed translator of Joyce and Eliot, wants to migrate to the West. The Soviet authorities, however, have refused to let him go.

Venclova first applied for an exit visa eleven months ago (on 11/5/1975). He claimed then that "the absolute rule of Communist ideology and the communication barriers and repressions imposed on those who think differently" had inflicted immense damage to Lithuania.

Tomas Venclova is the son of the late Antanas Venclova who for many years had served as "Soviet Lithuania's Minister of Education" in a series of colonial puppet governments set up by Stalin, Khrushchev and Brezhnev.

Rode On Hunger Strike

Amnesty International in West Germany has reported that Gunars Rode, a political prisoner from Latvia on hunger strike in Vladimir prison near Moscow, is in critical condition. Rode, born in 1934, was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for "nationalism and anti-Soviet agitation" in April of 1962.

Russian samizdat sources report that Rode became critically ill with twisted bowels. The condition is dangerous and extremely painful. Rode screamed continuously for two days. The prison authorities nevertheless refused to grant him urgently needed medical treatment until the well-known Russian dissident and poet Vladimir Bukovsky declared a hunger strike and, fearing for his friend's life nearly broke down a cell door with the aid of four fellow prisoners.

Strikers Dispersed.

Lithuanian bus drivers tried to stage a three-hour strike at the bus terminal of Šiauliai on October 1, 1975. They protested against the cancellation of "Progressive pay" (wage indexation).

The strike ended abruptly, when Party officials arrived at the scene and told the manager of the terminal to restore the previous wage procedures.



200 Latvians, who had gathered for an open air church service in the wooded outskirts of Riga last August (above), were forcibly dispersed by the KGB agents.

Editorial

WHICH WAY N. Z.?

Moral questions can have only two answers - "Yes" or "No". There are no "grey areas" and no compromise solutions.

The armed takeover of the three Baltic States, by the Russians, is not an item for idle political debate; it is a moral issue. And the passage of time cannot change the facts.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were free, and independent, countries - quite capable of governing themselves - until 1940. They remained neutral in World War II and were not at war against anyone, when the Russian tanks crossed their borders in June 1940. The Estonians', Latvians' and Lithuanians' only "crime" was that, for over 3,000 years, they had lived on the east coast of the Baltic Sea - and owned a few ice-free ports.

Since then, 36 years of cruel colonial rule have merely strengthened the Estonians', Latvians' and Lithuanians' determination to retain their own national identity, and to resist the Russian invaders.

Underground organisations have gained strength. They are constantly speaking out against any compromise deals between their Soviet masters and the western nations.

This has become a real embarrassment to the Russians. For 36 years, they have tried to white-wash their Baltic land-grab and convince the world that the Baltic nations had "voluntarily" joined the Soviet Union. For 36 years every decent and truly free country has refused to condone the Russians' brutal acts or to acknowledge that might is right. Canada, Belgium, the U.S.A., the United Kingdom and Australia are just a few of the countries that have recently reiterated their non-recognition of the Russian rule in the Baltic countries.

Now, it is Mr. Muldoon's turn, to declare his stand, on behalf of the people of New Zealand. Thousands of Anzacs died in the last World War, so that all people (Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians included) could be free. This time, New Zealand does not have to fight - it only has to speak.

For silence will mean acquiescence.



"We are looking carefully at the issues involved...
But our eyesight's getting weaker and we can't tell
right from left..."

LETTERS

FREEDOM

I sincerely hope that, while I hold this office, I will be able to serve your members in any capacity they may wish.

I believe in freedom, and the virtue of enterprise, as you do, and I wish you well.

Brian R. ARCHER,
Senator for Tasmania.

RUSSIAN COLONIALISM

When communist leaders speak of freedom and of fighting against imperialism, let us demand that they give up their own colonies first - such as Armenia, the Ukraine, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and others! The Russians are the greatest imperialists and colonialists today.

Tedis ZIERINS.

RESOLUTE AND RESPONSIBLE

I congratulate your association for the resolute and responsible way, in which you stood by your goal of regaining recognition for the rights of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It was a classic demonstration of how to press for a cause without engaging in militancy.

You can be assured of my continued support for the people still living in your homelands, and I hope that one day they will be able to determine their own future in freedom and dignity.

Max BURR,
M.H.R. for Wilmot.

The editor welcomes letters, especially short ones, at P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, 7005 - and reserves the right to condense.

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

Baltic Dance.

Over 200 people attended the last HELLP Association dance on 27th March in Hobart.

The President (Dr. Kruup) and Mrs. Kruup shared an enjoyable evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lichon, Mr. and Mrs. Zilberts and many other members and friends of the Association.

The proceeds from this evening were a welcome contribution towards the Association's flagging finances.

Approach to the United Nations.

The Executive Committee has met on several occasions since the last issue of the Baltic News to plan future activities.

A memorandum was prepared for submission to the Baltic Appeal to the United Nations (BATUN) suggesting the presentation of a petition to the U.N. on the Baltic peoples question.

As the petition, prepared by the Australian Assembly of Captive Nations Organisations attached to this issue of the Baltic News, covers the main points proposed by the Executive Committee, it was also decided to ask all members of H.E.L.L.P. Association to lend their wholehearted support towards collecting signatures for this petition.

It was felt that the major emphasis of the future activities of the Association should be towards lobbying the U.N. to recognise the problem and take up the cause of the Baltic peoples.

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.

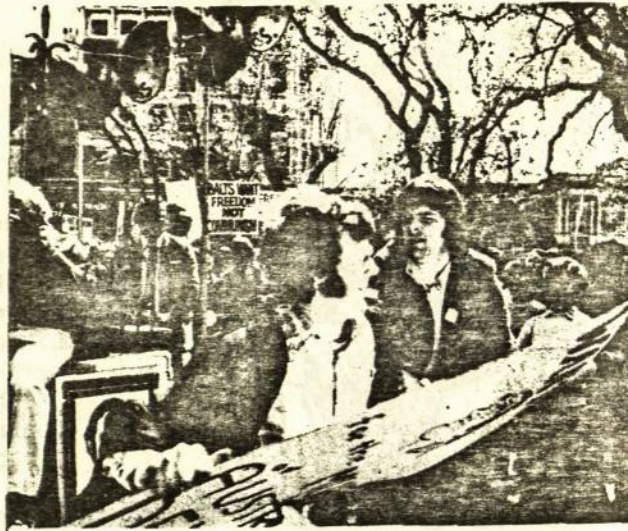
NEW BOOK

"CONFRONTATIONS WITH TYRANNY" - ANTHOLOGY OF BALTIC DRAMA

"Confrontations with Tyranny", the first anthology of Baltic drama in English, will be published by the Southern Illinois University Press in August 1976. The anthology contains six plays by Algirdas Landsbergis and Antanas Skema, Martins Ziverts and Hunars Priede, Paul-Eerik Rummo and Enna Vetemaa.

There are also introductory essays for each play with suggestions for discussion; Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian drama surveys; and bibliographies of original as well as of English sources concerning the Balts. More than 500 printed pages.

This anthology is a first in its field. Subscriptions at \$15.00 per copy should be mailed to: Southern Illinois University Press, P.O.Box 3697, Carbondale, Ill. 62901. U.S.A.



This picture, taken at a pre-election rally in Hobart last November, shows that facts can be effectively communicated by peaceful, civilised means. While a few supporters of the major political parties grappled (in the foreground), HELLP members and supporters conveyed their message, by remaining calmly in the background.

"Togatus" photo.

Find out the facts - Read **BOOKS** 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 - \$0.90*
- ***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.

COMING EVENTS

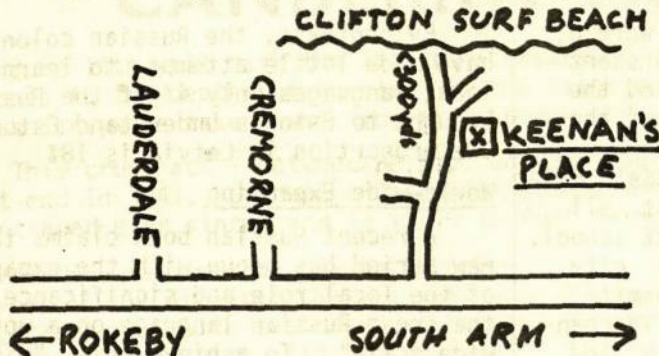
19th April-(Easter Monday) 1.00 p.m. onwards

Clifton Beach

BALTIC BARBECUE

Mr. & Mrs. Keenan will be hosts at a barbecue at their sea-side estate. Beer and steak will be provided.

Make sure you get there by following the map below:-



ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS
AND SUPPORTERS
WELCOME !

Proceed via Bailey bridge, Geilston Bay, Lindisfarne, Bellerive, Howrah, Rokeby, Lauderdale - by-pass Cremorne.

Admission:- adults - \$2.00, children - free.

1st May - (Saturday) 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

Polish Hall.

LITHUANIAN DANCE

For table bookings ring 72 6360.

Admission \$3.00, students and pensioners \$2.00.

URGENT PETITION

Accompanying this issue of Baltic News is a petition circularised by the Australian Assembly of Captive Nations Organisations for presentation to Dr. Waldheim the Secretary General of the United Nations General Assembly. All readers are urged to collect as many signatures as possible (attach extra sheets to bottom edge of petition if space insufficient) and return it to:-

Mr. S. Rozycki,
24 Coolabah Street,
MENTONE, Vic. 3194.

by the 25th of April.

This petition is intended to lend further support to the submissions made to Dr. Waldheim by the President of A.A. of C.N.O. (Mr. Rozycki) on the 10th of February.

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LANGUAGE:

RUSSIA'S NEW WEAPON

The Soviet Union has decided to speed up the imposition of the Russian language on the non-Russian peoples, in a drive for "Russification" and world domination.

Quoting Peking's Hsinhua news agency, the Associated Press reported recently that "Kremlin authorities had already established the unprecedented domination of the Russian language in some countries under its control".

Hsinhua said, the Russians were a minority of the population in present day Russia, but they had imposed the Russian language upon the rest of the population.

Australian visitors to Russia's Baltic colonies have confirmed that all natives have to learn Russian at school. In Vilnius, Lithuania's capital city, one of the two TV stations transmits entirely in Russian. The other TV channel offers a mixture of Russian and Lithuanian programmes.

Census Figures

During the last Soviet census (in 1970) the people were asked a new question, "Do you speak Russian?"

45.2% of all Latvians and 35.9% Lithuanians answered "yes". The percentages of Russian-speaking natives in other colonies were: Estonia 29%; the Ukraine, 36.3%; Byelorussia, 49%; Armenia, 30%; Georgia, 21%; Kazakhstan, 41.8%.



"Speak any language you like - as long as it is Russian!"

By contrast, the Russian colonists have made little attempt to learn the local languages. Only 4% of the Russians brought to Estonia understand Estonian; the proportion in Latvia is 18%.

World-wide Expansion

A recent Russian book claims that "a new period has begun with the expansion of the local role and significance of the great Russian language on a world-wide scale". To achieve this, "minority languages will have to give way to one common tongue".

Out of 2,186 books published in Lithuania in 1970, only 1,412 were in the Lithuanian language.

Reports of the Lithuanian Academy of sciences appear mostly in Russian, sometimes even without a Lithuanian abstract.

Jobs

In an article printed in the November 1975 edition of "The Soviet Teacher" Sh. Rashidov (a prominent candidate of the Politburo) admitted openly that "everyone living in the Soviet Union should learn the Russian language, because a knowledge of this language is an essential prerequisite for jobs".

New Resistance

A number of secret radio transmitters have sprung up throughout the Soviet Union, to combat the latest "russification" drive.

"Komsomolskaya Pravda" reported last year that one such transmitter was detected by the KGB (Russian Secret Police) in Donetsk, in the Ukraine. Other transmitters are said to be still operating in Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan.