

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.II, No.3 (10)

May 30, 1976

Editorial:

CANBERRA MUST ACT

June 14th will mark the 35th anniversary of the mass deportations of Baltic people to the depths of Russia. 60,000 Estonians, 35,000 Latvians and 34,000 Lithuanians were taken away from their homes and sent to Siberia, without trial.

This cruel act - matched perhaps only by the recent events in Cambodia - did not end in 1941. Gradual elimination of the three peaceful Baltic nations has continued ever since, and is still in full swing today.

What has happened to the lofty principles of the Atlantic Charter (see page 2), for which thousands of Anzacs had died in World War II? It appears, their sacrifices have been betrayed by the post-war Western governments - including our own Governments in Canberra.

At the first Inter-Allied conference, held in London in September 1941, the Russian Government gave its endorsement to the principles of the Atlantic Charter. "The Soviet Union", said Ambassador Maisky, "defends the right of every nation to the independence and territorial integrity of its country, and its right to establish such social order and to choose such form of government as it deems opportune and necessary for the promotion of its economic and cultural prosperity".

At the close of the Yalta Conference on February 11, 1945, Russia unhesitatingly underwrote a solemn promise to contribute to "a secure and lasting peace which will, in the words of the Atlantic Charter, afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want."

Today, no less than one hundred million people on 264,200 square miles of Soviet "liberated" Europe still live in constant fear and want. Among them are the three Baltic nations, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Their hope for ultimate freedom rests upon an "awakening of the West" and more resolute action by the United Nations.

Baltic underground organisations are constantly urging the Western governments to honour the promises of the Atlantic Charter and to expose the Russian imperialism.

There is no need to go to war, to achieve this. Cultural and economic sanctions can be equally effective. For example, when Great Britain (on May 26, 1927) interrupted her diplomatic relations with Russia and revoked her trade covenant, the rate of exchange of the Russian chervonyets fell rapidly and the total of the Russian foreign short-term debts approached the figure of one billion gold roubles.

The Australian representative at the United Nations must raise the Baltic question without delay and demand that the systematic genocide of the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians be stopped.

Mr. Billy Snedden - while Leader of the Opposition - had publicly promised, during his visit to Hobart, to initiate such action as soon as the Liberal Party came to power in Canberra.

It is now up to his successor, Mr. Malcolm Fraser, to honour this promise.

TEXT OF THE ATLANTIC CHARTER

Joint declaration of the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

First, their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

Second, they desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

Third, they respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

Fourth, they will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

Fifth, they desire to bring about the fullest collabora-

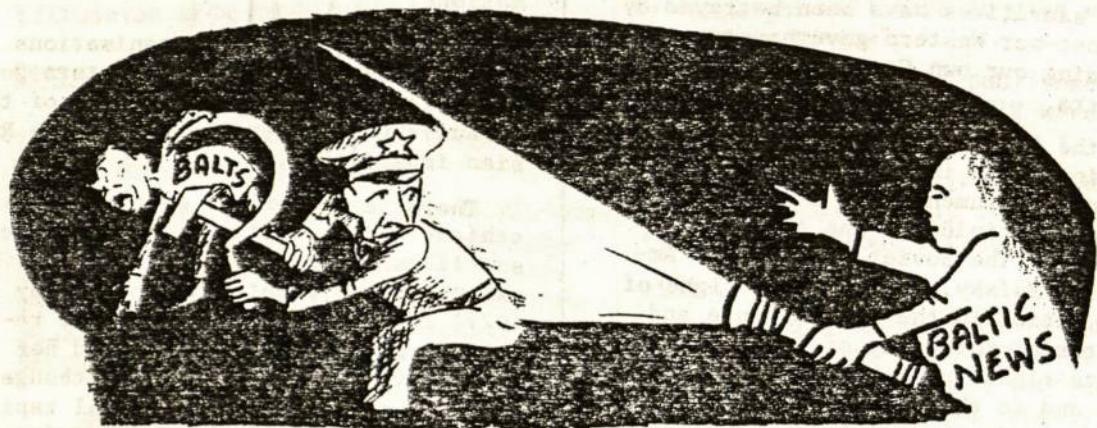
tion between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic advancement, and social security;

Sixth, after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

Seventh, such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

Eighth, they believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea, or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

August, 1941.



KEEP THE TORCH ALIGHT!

A regular reader of the Baltic News, Mr. P. Siauciunas of Sandfly (Tasmania), has donated \$100.00 towards the costs of producing this issue.

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.....

"I cannot write for the Baltic News", Mr. Siauciunas said, "so this is my way of contributing to this important work."

Other donations, received since the last issue, included:

Baltic Council of Australia, \$25;
A. Sobczak (Tas.), \$15; Miss Juska (Vic.), J. Pincius (Tas.), \$10 each;
S.D. & E. Keenan (Tas.), Mr. Dolyak (Tas.), \$5 each; Jan Ola, \$1.

Many thanks!

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Call for U.N. Intervention.

During the last few months, an increasing number of desperate calls for help has reached the West from the Baltic States. Reliable information has been received, and double-checked, by H.E.L.L.P. Association - in the form of open letters and direct appeals, from the various independence movements in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

To date, at least 9 organisations have publicised their active involvement in the struggle for independence, and have asked for the cooperation of all Pro-Baltic associations in the free world. In particular, they have been asking for U.N. intervention, to halt the spread of "russification" and to have free elections held for the first time in 36 years.

Waldheim Disappoints.

The Baltic natives are begging for the Australian people's assistance, because their own direct approaches to the United Nations have been notably futile.

Five Estonians who had openly signed a petition to the Secretary General of the U.N. (Dr. Waldheim) last year, are in Russian jails today. The men had asked Dr. Waldheim to raise the question of Estonia's continuing occupation in the U.N.O., so that the Russian armed forces could be removed from the Estonian soil. Dr. Waldheim passed the petition on to the Russian authorities for action. Within a few days, all five signatories were arrested.

Youth in the Forefront.

Young people - students, apprentices and factory workers - are particularly prominent in the clandestine freedom movements on the east coast of the Baltic Sea. The new generation, although born and brought up under the Russian domination, is rejecting the colonial rule most decisively.

Opposition Growing.

The underground Lithuanian National Peoples' Front has also summoned all Lithuanians to celebrate their National Day (on 16th February). The LNPF has warned the natives to beware of all foreign aggressors and colonists, "no matter under what colours they try to disguise their expansionist aims".

Joint Appeal.

Another appeal, addressed to "The Leaders, Organisations and Associations of freedom-loving nations in the entire world" has been issued by six underground organisations in the three Baltic countries. The appeal makes a five-point request to the United Nations, asking for the restoration of self-determination rights, removal of Russian troops and the conduct of free elections, under the supervision of U.N. armed units.

The signatories say that cruel reprisals by the Russian Colonial Office are likely to follow, but this will not deter them from fighting for the basic human rights and freedom.

In spite of the Pope's friendly detente policies towards Russia, the Soviet press has intensified its anti-Church ridicule campaign.

- This cartoon, reprinted from "Mokslas ir Gyvenimas", is a typical example.



FREEDOM
FOR RUSSIA'S COLONIES
IN THE HEART OF EUROPE-
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania!

LETTERS

Torture in Chile

If Chile, why not Lithuania? If Angola, why not the Ukraine? If the Vietnamese, why not the Armenians? If Nigeria, why not Estonia?

You hear a lot about torture in Chile, and you should. The current government there seems to be a nasty, vicious, psychopathic dictatorship. But when do you hear anything about Russian torture of Catholic clergy in Lithuania?

I am delighted that Barbados is a free and independent country with a representative at the U.N., but I am forced to observe that Lithuania has been a nation slightly longer -- like about a thousand years or two -- and Lithuania is not a free country and does not have a representative at the U.N.

Remember one thing. The Lithuanians have been around a long time. They'll still be around long after most of the artificial African nations have reverted to tribal "balkanization." And some day they will be free once again.

They have long memories and they are likely to ask you how come you were not interested in their freedom.

Andrew M. GREELY.

Language: Russia's New Weapon

Facts speak louder than words. Your report on the latest "Russification" drive (Baltic News, 29/3/1976) was most enlightening.

I have just come across the following open admission by the Communists themselves (in *Komunistas*, November 1975):

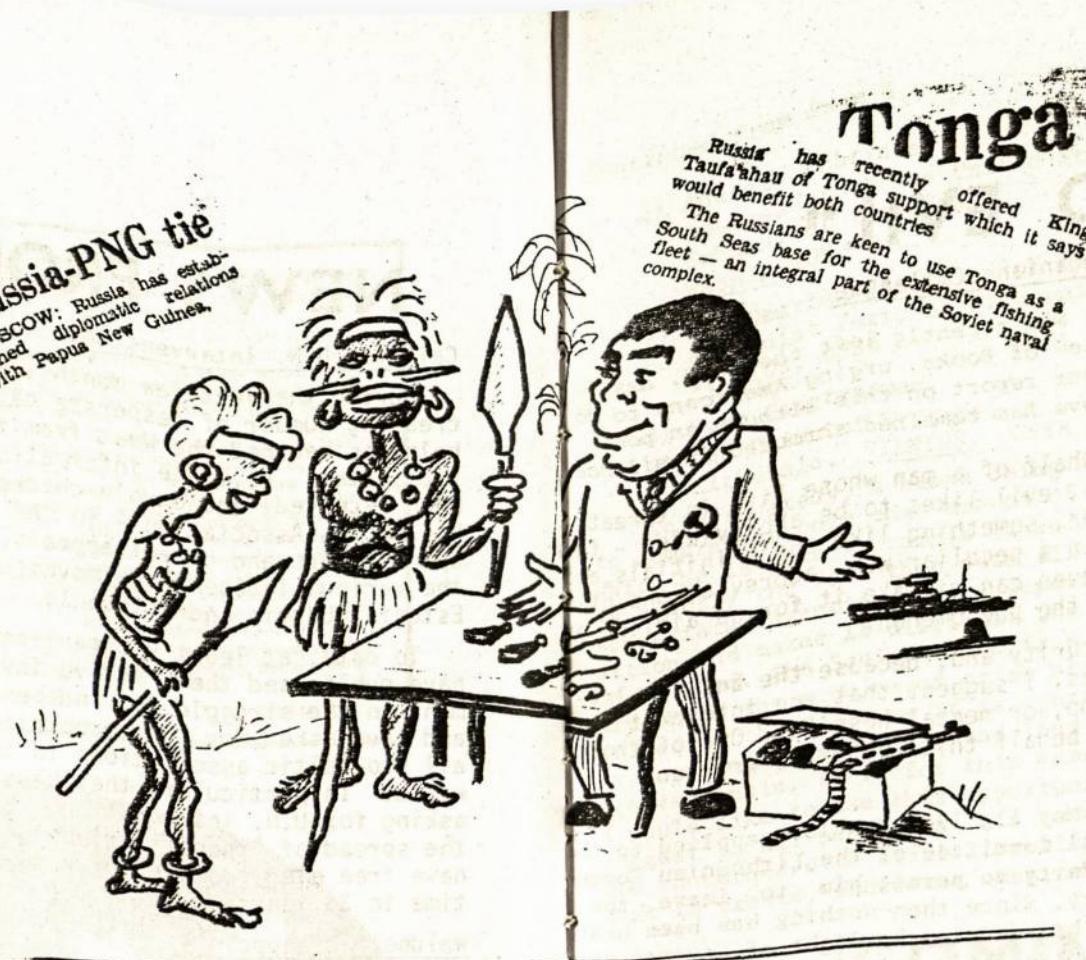
"In each united family there is a senior member who has a special authority and receives the greatest respect. Such a senior exists in the Soviet family of nations as well. It is the Russian nation."

Melbourne.

G.Z.

Russia-PNG tie

MOSCOW: Russia has established diplomatic relations with Papua New Guinea.



Happy to Help

Thank you for sending me the Baltic News.

I am particularly concerned for the interest of the Baltic peoples and will do all I can to help your organisation. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time.

Tony MESSNER
Senator for South Australia.

I am a very ordinary person, aged 43, married with five daughters. My office is on the 5th floor of the Marine Board Building in Hobart, and I am available to assist any of your readers, day or night, who may wish to discuss a problem, or raise issues of concern.

Bruce GOODLUCK M.P.
Member for Franklin.

uanian Honoured

am writing to inform you that the nclature Advisory Board the Depart- of Lands and Surveys has official- named a mountain in the Hamersley e in the North West of Western alia, in memory of Olegas hanas.

Truchanas is a peak of about 1350 ts elevation situated south west of township of Tom Price, position 22° by 117° 40'.

Box 89,
BURDOO, W.A. 6754.

Article on Olegas Truchanas' contri- ons to Australia was published in c News on June 4, 1975, page 11.

* * * *

EDITOR WELCOMES LETTERS, ESPECIALLY ONES, AT P.O. BOX 272, SANDY BAY, AND RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CONDENSE.

H.E.L.P. ACTIVITIES

What is H.E.L.P.?

H.E.L.P. is an abbreviation for "Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association".

It is a voluntary non-denominational and non-Party-political group of concerned Australians, who aim to make all people aware of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations' continuing struggle for survival and freedom.

When first founded in Tasmania in September, 1974, H.E.L.P. Association also had a second objective, i.e., to press for a reversal of the Australian Government's recognition of Russian rule in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This objective has since been achieved.

BALTIC BARBECUE

H.E.L.P. barbecue at Mr. and Mrs. Keenan's place on Easter Monday was well attended and proved successful financially and socially. Among the guests were Senator Harradine and his family and Mr. Bruce Goodluck (M.H.R.)

The weather was fine, the atmosphere convivial, the company enjoyable and the Association gained almost \$100 towards its depleted coffers.

The Association thanks Mr. and Mrs. Keenan for their generosity.

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome. To join H.E.L.P., complete the coupon below and post it today.

To: H.E.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.P. Association and hereby apply for membership. Please send me H.E.L.P. Newsletter, *Baltic News*.

Signature _____

NAME (Mr., Mrs., Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

Action costs money. Donations are welcome.
I enclose \$ _____ Cash/Cheque/Postal Order.

"ABBREVIATED EVIL"

Russian Poet Intercedes for Lithuanian Colleague

Joseph Brodsky, the noted Russian poet who recently left the USSR, has addressed this letter to the New York Review of Books, urging Americans to do everything to help Tomas Venclova. Since our report on this Lithuanian poet and critic (B.N., 29.3.76., p.3) Mr. Venclova has remained shrouded in silence.

Here is one more letter for you to read on behalf of a man whose life is threatened by a familiar abbreviation: KGB. Unlike gods, evil likes to be abbreviated - for in this way it obtains a certain domesticated air, something like one's initials, and thus gets an almost legitimate right to exist. In a peculiar way, abbreviations of evil reduce our willingness to fight it and we even can mistake it for an airline or TV company. Anyway, it simplifies our notion of the phenomenon.

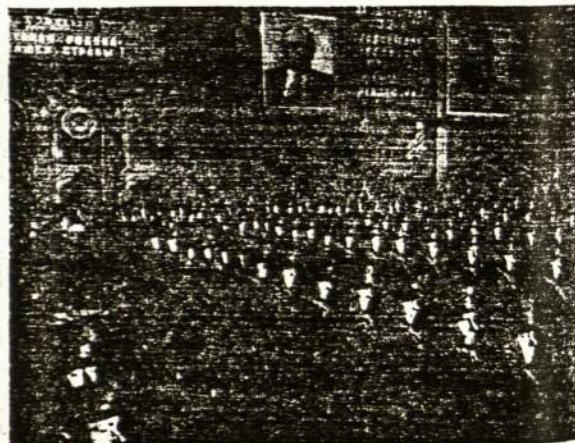
KGB means in Russian a Committee of State Security and, because the English letters anyhow do not coincide with the Russian ones, I suggest that you interpret these initials merely as firing squad, labor camp, or mental hospital. One of those things is in store for Tomas Venclova, on whose behalf this letter is written.

Tomas Venclova is a Lithuanian which makes things worse, because very few people in this country have any idea where Lithuania is. Sparing you a geography and history lesson, let me state that Mr. Venclova is the best poet living on the territory of that empire of which Lithuania is a small province. I dare to state this evaluation of his work because I am acquainted with it perhaps more than anyone else in this hemisphere, for I translated his poetry into Russian. Apart from Russian his works have been translated into Polish, German and French. He is also very well known among European linguists for his semitic studies, and last year he was invited for a year to teach a course at Berkeley, but was refused a visa.

Mr. Venclova himself is the first person to translate into Lithuanian the works of T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Robert Frost, W.B. Yeats, Ezra Pound and others. He has also translated the English metaphysical poets. The wide range of these names should not embarrass you, for this is the usual thing in the small nation literatures; one man does all the jobs. Besides, translation was Venclova's main source of income for years.

On May 11, 1975 Venclova applied to the Central Committee of the Lithuanian Communist Party to permit him to leave the country. Since then nothing has been heard about him and in the light of events described in the supplied materials, his destiny instills fear. I urge all of you who read this letter to do everything in your power to help Mr. Venclova to obtain permission to leave the USSR. Your letters (cables, etc.) should be sent to:

Continued on next Page



Continued from Page 6

- 1) Anatoly Dobrynin,
Ambassador to the United States,
Embassy of the USSR,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 2) The Central Committee of the
Communist Party of Lithuania,
VILNIUS, USSR
- 3) Your Congressmen.
- 4) The Union of Writers,
Lithuania, VILNIUS, USSR

Unfortunately, a human being is able to comprehend only that amount of evil which he is able to commit himself. This is exactly the fact that puts all those abbreviated agencies into a superior position and makes it difficult for us to fight them. The Soviet Union is a country where the problem of crime has been solved by the State -- it is performed by government employees, and they are professionals. It is for this reason that I would like to use this opportunity to suggest to all people in this country who are concerned with civil liberties in the East to create, under the auspices of the

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Congress or the Department of State, a separate body which would concern itself with problems of this kind. Along with this, all information on such arrests tortures and murders should be fed into computers and matched with the names of persons and organizations which could take action or publicize such matters. The need for centralization of our efforts in this area is due to the fact that we are dealing with professionals sponsored by the state, and we cannot afford to be scattered and amateurish. Amnesty International, for all its good works, is not enough -- it is already too late to defend from the outside a person already inside a prison. We need to act efficiently and at much earlier stages. Any defense takes much longer than prosecution, and time is no longer a good thing when it gets distributed by the State.

Joseph Brodsky,
Poet in Residence,
University of Michigan.

COMING EVENTS

11th June - (Friday) 12.00 - 2.00 p.m.

DEMONSTRATION

Franklin Square, Hobart

to acquaint the public with the events of 14th June 1941, through placards and leaflets.

13th June - (Sunday) 2.00 p.m.

Domain

WREATH LAYING

at the Cenotaph in memory of the tens of thousands of Balts who lost their lives during the Russian occupation of 1940 - 41, in particular those who were deported on 14th June 1941, in one of the most massive genocidal acts of modern times.

The wreath laying will be followed by a non-denominational

PRAYER SERVICE at St. Carlos Church, Elizabeth St. North Hobart

All members and friends are urged to attend both functions to commemorate this most significant event.

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4 YEARS AGO...

LITHUANIA

Ordeal by Fire

For the past three months a series of grisly suicides has ignited mass protest demonstrations in Lithuania, thus illuminating the long-smoldering grievances held by citizens of this remote corner of the Soviet Union.

The trouble began in May, when Roman Kalanta, 19, a member of the Young Communist League, sat down in a park in Kaunas, Lithuania's second



SUICIDE ROMAN KALANTA
"Freedom!"

largest city, and set fire to a gallon of gasoline he had poured on himself. On the day of Kalanta's burial, thousands of young mourners flooded the streets of Kaunas shouting "Freedom for Lithuania!" A young girl lay down in the street and spread her arms in the form of a cross. When the local police manhandled her, the rioting started. Hundreds counterattacked with fists, sticks and stones. When the police proved unable to quell the demonstrators, tough riot-control troops were called in. The angry young people reportedly killed a policeman, stoned a bookstore selling Communist literature and threw a fire bomb into the local Communist Party headquarters. A sitdown strike was staged by workers in a synthetics factory. Five hundred people were arrested, of whom 200 have been jailed or are awaiting trial.

Since Kalanta's suicide, three other Lithuanians have also set themselves on fire in political protest. Further evidence of how high tensions are running in Lithuania came last month at an international handball tournament in Vilnius, which suddenly turned into an anti-Russian demonstration. Students jeered the Russian players and cheered the foreign participants. They refused to stand for the Soviet national anthem, passed out anti-Soviet leaflets, and even hoisted the national flag of independent Lithuania. Most recently, the Soviets dismissed Lithuania Agitation and Propaganda Chief Pranas Mishutis, the man in charge of keeping the lid on Lithuanian unrest.

Brutal Annexation. These unprecedented protests spring from the deep-seated patriotism of the 3,000,000 Lithuanians, most of whom are Roman Catholics. Their anti-Russian feelings are longstanding; the country suffered 120 years of oppression under the czars, and after 22 years of independence was brutally annexed by the U.S.S.R. in 1940. Emboldened by the example of Russia's own dissidents, Lithuanians have become increasingly vocal in their protests against Soviet religious and ethnic repression. No fewer than 17,000 Lithuanians signed an open letter that was sent to the United Nations this year deplored the deportation of Catholic bishops, the arrest of priests, and the closing or destruction of churches. Perhaps the most moving appeal was made by Simas Kudirka, the Lithuanian sailor who was sentenced to ten years at hard labor for having attempted to escape aboard a U.S. Coast Guard vessel in 1970. At his 1971 trial, Kudirka cried: "All I demand is an independent Lithuania, one that is not occupied by any army, and has a free, democratic system of elections."

The harsh treatment of Lithuanian dissenters suggests that the Kremlin views the disturbances as a dangerous precedent for other non-Russian peoples under Soviet rule—notably the Latvians, Estonians and Ukrainians—who are also showing signs of unrest.

Reprinted from:
TIME, July 31, 1972.

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*
- *** 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*

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