

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.4 (11)

September 30, 1976

BIG DONATION TO H.E.L.L.P.

The help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELP) - which publishes Baltic News in Australia - has received the damages paid to a Launceston matriculation college teacher by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Whitlam.

The teacher, Mr. Tom R. McGlynn, has donated the full amount of damages \$ 250, to HELP, after reaching an out-of-Court settlement recently.

Mr. Whitlam has also apologised to Mr. McGlynn and has withdrawn statements he made at a public meeting in June last year (The full text of Mr. Whitlam's apology is on Page 2).

Legal Challenge.

Mr. McGlynn issued a writ after Mr. Whitlam - the then Prime Minister of Australia - addressed students at the Launceston Matriculation College, during last year's Bass by-election campaign.

At the meeting, Mr. McGlynn challenged a statement by Mr. Whitlam that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania had existed as separate States only between 1919 and 1939. Mr. Whitlam was reported as having said that, for all previous centuries, the three countries had been part of Sweden, Russia or Poland, with fascist governments.

After Mr. McGlynn challenged him, Mr. Whitlam allegedly said, " You are a disgrace to your profession".

Never Fascist.

Mr. McGlynn said yesterday, he was satisfied with the settlement. "When Mr. Whitlam called them fascist, he could have been referring to something which happened during World War Two", Mr. McGlynn said. "But during that time, they were occupied by Germany - and more Baltic people were fighting on the Russian than the German side. They were never fascist"

Great Help.

A spokesman for HELP Association has publicly thanked Mr. McGlynn for his generous donation.

"The Baltic News" owes its continued existence to the financial help from people like Mr. McGlynn", the spokesman said "The Baltic News is distributed, free of charge, to an ever-increasing number of readers in all States of Australia and overseas. Without continued donations, this important work would have to cease"



Tom McGlynn



WHITLAM

To Speak in Hobart.

Mr. McGlynn has also agreed to address the Annual Meeting of HELP Association in Hobart on November 7. (For further details, see Page 7).

FREEDOM
FOR RUSSIA'S COLONIES
IN THE HEART OF EUROPE :
ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA

APOLOGY AND RETRACTION

At a public meeting held at Launceston Matriculation College, Tasmania, on 26th June 1975, during questions about my government's decision to recognize Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic states, I had an exchange of opinions with Mr. T.R. McGlynn, a member of the audience.

When Mr. McGlynn challenged my assertions that there had only been separate states in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania between 1919 and 1939, that for all the previous centuries those states had been part of Sweden, Russia or Poland, and that in the 1930s they had had fascist governments, I replied "I presume you are a teacher. You should not mislead your students". Mr. McGlynn then said my history was in doubt, whereupon I twice asked him "Are you a teacher?" When Mr. McGlynn said that he was a geography teacher and had spent two years in Eastern Europe, I replied, "You are a disgrace to your profession".

I apologize to Mr. McGlynn for the statements I made about him at the meeting and I withdraw those statements and also any implications which may have arisen therefrom concerning Mr. McGlynn's character, credibility and professional reputation. The words I addressed to him were said in the heat of public controversy and I freely admit that they were entirely without foundation.

I accept too that, although the exchange between us took place during an election campaign, Mr. McGlynn's objections to my remarks about the history of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were not occasioned by loyalty to any particular political party. I also accept that his opposition was based primarily on several years' study of East European and Russian history.

Because I recognize that my statements concerning Mr. McGlynn were unjustified, I have undertaken to pay the costs of his legal action against me and to pay him \$250.00 for damages.

DATED this 9th day of August 1976.
E.G. Whitlam.

TORCH IS STILL ALIGHT

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

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

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:

T.R. McGlynn (Tas.) -250; A. Jablonskas (Alice Spr.), V. Mikelaitis (Tas.) \$20 each; I. Tidey (Qld.), S. Stasevicius, Mr. Romasko (Hob.) \$10 each; J. Mockunas (S.A.), E. Looritz, Watchorn Family, J. Siguinas, P. Reiljan, A. Jonusaitis, J. Salylkis, M. Truce, M. Modzelewska (all Tas.) \$5 each; L. Kalasim, O. Cwalinska and J. Post (all Tas.) \$2 each.

THANKS!

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

TRIAL IN TALLINN

The underground newspaper "Chronicles" reports details of court proceedings against five men in Tallinn on October 2-3 last year. Sergei Soldatov, Kalju Mättik, Matti Kiirendi, Artemi Juskevich and Arno Varato were charged with "antisoviet agitation and propaganda."

Details of the charge named over 40 publications allegedly composed, duplicated and/or distributed by the defendants. These included: The Programme of the Estonian National Front; Estonian Democrat; Estonian National Voice; A Memorandum to the United Nations General Assembly; Letters to the United Nations General Secretary K.W. Waldheim; and several underground publications in Russian. Books included A. Almarik : Will the Soviet exist until 1984? M. Dzhilas : The New Class, and A. Solzhenitsyn : The Gulag Archipelago. The exhibits in court also included five typewriters and one camera, all confiscated as the result of police search.

From the nine witnesses called, two denied that the accused men had distributed documents, four confirmed some facts about distribution, but one

of them denied that documents were of anti-Soviet nature. One witness, a typist, reported duplication, but added that facts in these documents were correct. One witness was described by defendants as false witness and provocator, and Juskevich demanded that the ninth witness should undergo psychiatric examination before his evidence was accepted. The court ignored this request.

During the hearing only Varato confessed fully, the others denied all charges. Some pointed out that materials were not defamatory and were actually taken from the Soviet Press. One of such documents criticized the severity of tsarist regime in 1905.

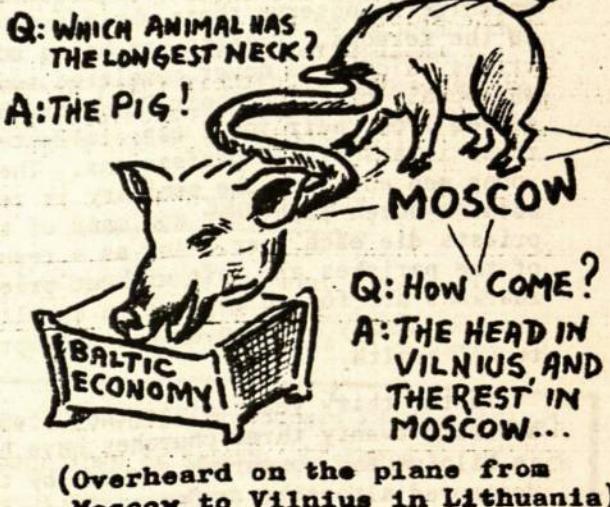
At the beginning of the trial Mättik requested that observers from the U.N. should be invited to attend, because some documents were addressed to that organisation. This request was supported by Juskevich and Soldatov, but the court rejected it.

Mättik and Soldatov were sentenced for six years, Kiirendi and Juskevich for five years to hard labour camps. Varato was sentenced conditionally for three years with a probationary period of five years.

New Shortages.

Rank-and-file consumers in Latvia and Lithuania have been unable to buy coffee since June. Several other "luxury" lines (such as electronic calculators, mushrooms and chewing gum) have also disappeared from store shelves.

At the same time, the Russian colonial authorities have raised the import duty on gift parcels from Australia by 300%. This action is believed to be aimed at stemming the inflow of coffee, clothing and other everyday needs from outside the Soviet Union.



EDITORIAL:

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

It is interesting to note that the Anglican Bishop of Newcastle, Right Rev. J. Shevill has high praises for the church in the U.S.S.R. On his return several months ago from leading a delegation of Anglican clergy to Russia as guest of the Russian Orthodox Church he gave the impression that the church is quite free there. To compare his reports as a visitor to that country - who has been shown that which would make him pleased - with reports from members of the church in Lithuania is to be shocked by the unreality and false impressions which are given by the authorities concerning the freedom of the church.

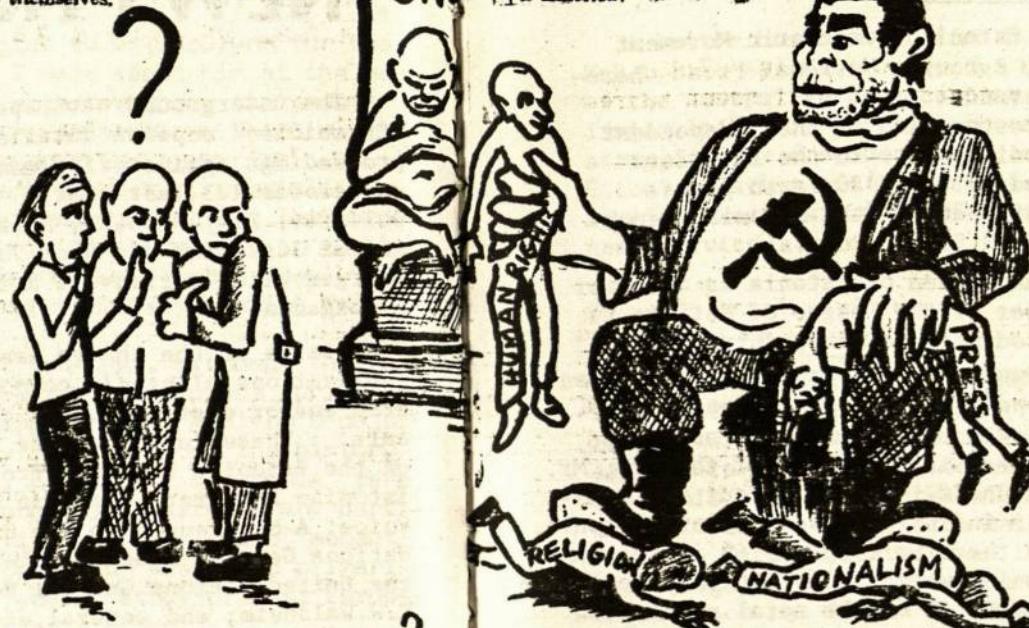
Examples of the true situation are given in a letter sent to Cardinal Bergsch, Archbishop of Berlin, written by the editors of the "Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania", requesting him to convey to the Church and the whole world their cry for help as they are being gradually smothered and as their church is being slowly destroyed from within. They warn the church of the world not to believe any promises made by the Soviet Government and not to believe those who officially represent the Soviet Union in the world as they are completing assignments for the party and the state through lies and deceit.

Visitors to Lithuania do not see police waiting at the doors of the churches as this would certainly hurt the public image of the supposedly free church. What actually occurs is that official and unofficial agents, masquerading as worshipers, observe those who attend and listen to the sermons. Priests are being accused of crimes which were never committed and persons who openly practice their faith are being dismissed from their jobs, especially teachers and those in associated professions. The numbers of young men entering the seminary is restricted to about a dozen each year and many of the old priests die each year. And as a result up to ten of the parishes are left without priests. Seminarians are forced to live in appalling conditions and many of them do not make priesthood due to ill health.

In the thirty years since the Second World War at least twenty three churches have been closed in Vilnius and converted for use by the State or destroyed altogether. One example is St. Barthol-

"Press freedom could become extinct... if governments take over press matters for themselves."

"Times spent on 30 exiles where press freedom did not exist: Africa, Asia and America."



WHAT ABOUT HIM?
... THEY SEE AFRICA
SOUTH AMERICA...

omeuis which has been converted into a warehouse and workshop for the Art Institute sculptors. Last year in that church a huge sculpture of Lenin was being completed. Another example in the chapel of the church of St. Ignatius which has been turned into a restaurant. In many of the converted churches stained glass windows, sculptures, paintings, plaques etc. dating back to the 15th century have been destroyed and consequently great artistic works which have been carefully preserved by many generations are lost forever.

Although the above is only a brief summary of some of the suppression of the church in Lithuania, it serves as an example of what is happening today to the church in the U.S.S.R. Much information is available on this subject through the HELLP association if you are at all interested in the facts and not the totally false and surface only impressions given on religious freedom in Baltic countries by Soviet propaganda.

LETTERS

LACK OF NEWS

Recent newspaper coverage of the Amnesty International's Annual Report seems to be conspicuously silent about political imprisonments and persecutions in Soviet Russia. Among a large number of "founding countries named, including Sweden and Switzerland, one cannot find Soviet Russia. Is another case where our news media give the 's "favourite nation" treatment or do they believe that Soviet Labour Camps are filled contented volunteers?

J. Carter, S.A.

Sympathy and Service.

I am very sympathetic to the concern and aspirations of the Baltic peoples, and of all who represent the interests of captive nations throughout the world.

I would be pleased to offer my services to any of your readers residing in the Perth area who may wish to discuss their problems or raise issues of concern with me.

Ross McLean.
Member for Perth.

I am a member of the Senate living in the Northern Territory of Australia, and I too pledge myself to help your people in this vast area. I have met several people from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and I can only thank God that the people of Australia have not had to go under the persecution as you have suffered. However we stand against the tyranny that has oppressed you, and at the same time are willing to ease your load in becoming one of us in Australia.

Senator B.F. Kilgariff.

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

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.

PROTESTS FROM THE BALTIC STATES

Although Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have been under foreign occupation since 1940, the people living in these countries have not forgotten that they have the moral right to demand restoration of their independent states.

A letter with 17,000 signatures from Lithuania asked the UN General Assembly in 1972 to help the Lithuanian people to promote their own national culture and to guarantee their rights for cultural and religious activities.

In January 1972 a letter from "17 Old Communists" asked the "fraternal parties in Europe" to influence Soviet party functionaries to end the colonialist administration of Latvia.

In February 1972 a letter reached Stockholm from Tallinn proclaiming "Estonia for Estonians".

There are also two memoranda addressed to the UNO from two underground organisation in Estonia: The Estonian Democratic Movement and the Estonian National Front. Both memoranda bear the date of 24 October, 1972, but have reached the Western World after a delay of more than two years.

The first of these is addressed to the General Assembly of the UN. It points out that under the present colonial rule "the Estonian nation has not been guaranteed the fulfilment of the articles 3,8,9,10,11,12,13,14(1), 18,19,20,21, 26(2), 27(2) of the Universal Declaration on Human rights, articles 1,8(1d),13(3),15(3) of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and articles 6,7,9,10,12,14,17,18,19,21,22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights".

WANTED

"BALTIC NEWS" URGENTLY NEEDS
TYPING HELP. CAN YOU ASSIST FOR
A FEW HOURS EACH MONTH? PLEASE
RING RAY ON 725147, or AL ON 252503

The Estonian Democratic Movement and the Estonian National Front therefore demand

1. restoration of the Independent Estonian state in the frontiers fixed by the 1920 Tartu peace-treaty between the Estonian Republic and Soviet Russia;
2. admission of Estonia as a former member of the League of Nations to United Nations membership;

A number of necessary steps are then recommended to implement these demands.

The second memorandum is addressed to the Secretary General of the UNO, Mr. Kurt Waldheim. It points out the considerable influx of Russians into Estonia. In 1934 there were only 5.6% of Russians in Estonia, whereas in 1970 they constituted 28.1% of the total population. The memorandum emphasizes that one "must not miss the fact that the Soviet colonial rulers will never feel themselves safe and secure in their illegally and unjustly seized possessions until all non-Russian population of these possessions is russified". An appeal is then made to the UNO pointing out that this world body had helped many nations to national independence. Its responsibility towards the three Baltic States should therefore be even greater, because these states "have the precedent of internationally recognized nationa independence".

These memoranda have been published in full by the Estonian Information Centre, Box 45030, Stockholm. Sweden.

"Industrial action" in Riga.

The shortage of meat in the Soviet Union is hitting people hard and the workers at the VEF electronics factory in Riga have started a go-slow strike, which is as far as any worker in the "workers paradise" would dare to go, in protest against the shortage of food supplies.

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

A letter has been written by the H.E.L.L.P. Association to the Manager of the Australian Broadcasting Commission in Hobart pointing out that struggles for freedom by people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have received scant attention from the ABC news service.

In his reply, Mr. Naylor, the Manager for Tasmanian explained that this has occurred mainly because of limited availability of news from behind the "Iron Curtain". He said, "As material about the Baltic States becomes available, so it receives our attention."

U.S. STANDS FIRM

The United States Senate has recently passed "Senate Resolution 406" which clarifies various issues related to agreements signed in Helsinki. Section 5 of this resolution states: The Congress finds that the three Baltic States - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are illegally occupied by the Soviet Union since the Second World War. This section also explains that signing of the agreement has not altered in any

way the longstanding U.S. policy not to recognize the seizure and annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union. It states clearly that whatever interpretation other states, including the Soviet Union, may put on the Helsinki agreement, the United States will continue its previous policy not to recognize annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

COMING EVENTS

23rd October - (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 \$4.00, students and pensioners \$2.00

For table bookings ring 72 6360

7th November - (Sunday) 3.00pm 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 1st November. These must be signed by two members of the Association and the candidate.

GUEST SPEAKER: TOM McGLYNN.

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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:- HELLP association, P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005. Please add 60¢ per book, for postage and packing.

**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.

Signature _____

NAME (Mr, Mrs, Miss) _____

ADDRESS _____

Phone _____

Action costs money. Donations always 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:

Baltic POC (Prisoners of Conscience) Groups