

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. III, No. 2 (13)

April 23, 1977

SECOND CLASS CITIZENS?

H.E.L.L.P. Association in Hobart is making a submission to Prime Minister M Fraser, asking him to declare that the Australian Government will treat all its citizens as equals wherever in the world they may be. This has arisen from recent reports that naturalised Australians of Baltic origin have been denied full Australian consular protection while visiting their native countries, which are now under the Russian rule.

According to the Dual Nationality Report (released by the Federal Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence last October), many of the 1,069,500 people who have been granted Australian citizenship, are deemed to have dual nationality. This may be beneficial to some people, but the main drawback of dual nationality is that, according to The Hague convention of 1930, a dual national cannot claim the diplomatic protection based on one of the nationalities when he is in the country of his other nationality.

It is this latter point that makes many naturalised Australians "second class" citizens. H.E.L.L.P. Association considers that, if the Australian Government sincerely wishes all its citizens to have equal rights and to receive equal protection, the Government should intensify its activities in this area.

As the first step, the Australian Government should unequivocally declare that it is prepared to give all its citizens the same protection. As far as Australians of Baltic origin are concerned, The Hague convention should not be an obstacle. The Australian Government does not recognize the Soviet sovereignty over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Consequently, there should be no difference in the Australian Government's obligations towards the Australians who had formerly resided in these countries and the native born Australians, when they travel in the Soviet Union. The Soviet laws are not the laws of their former homeland for any of the Baltic people.

H.E.L.L.P. Association realises that practical difficulties may arise in assisting Australians of Baltic origin



when they undertake such travel. Therefore, better dissemination of the relevant information is of utmost importance.

A great majority of naturalised Australians are not aware that they possess dual nationality. The oath of allegiance administered at naturalization ceremonies is most misleading in this respect. Since a person has to denounce his allegiance to all other governments, it is quite natural that he believes to have then only one nationality. Officials concerned apparently have not considered it their duty to inform people that some of them will retain their former citizenship as far as certain foreign governments are concerned.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

ANTI-COLONIAL DEMONSTRATION

The victory of the Zalgiris soccer club on November 28, 1975, triggered off a mass demonstration in Vilnius. Some 2000 Lithuanians, mostly youths, circled the stadium twice and then, singing patriotic songs, marched to the centre of the city.

The crowd then converged upon the security building and scoffed KGB men hiding behind curtains. The demonstrators were finally dispersed by large militia and security forces who were aided by special units of the Red Army garrisons stationed in Vilnius. Arrests were made.

LETTER TO SIBERIA

Reproduced below is an extract from a letter written to a prisoner in a Siberian prison camp, by a Lithuanian underground worker.

"You are not forgotten! The whole Lithuanian nation is with you!.... We are entering a life-and-death struggle for the realization of the Declaration of Human Rights!.... Do believe in the victory of Truth, Peace and Liberty!"

UGANDAN TACTICS IN THE BALTIC?

On October 30, 1975, Stase Luksaite was savagely beaten in Kaunas (Lithuania) and died later in hospital. A reliable underground source has since commented, "Many practising Christians here believe that her activities in preparing children for the first communion were the main cause of her murder".

The Soviet authorities had claimed at the time that her death was "accidental" and that she had "slipped and hurt herself".

ANTANAS POSKUS - A FAKE

Recently, Antanas Poskus, under the pretence of collecting items of religious folk art, visited the rector of Kernave, the Rv. Zvezglys, and lured away from him his memoirs about various clergymen.

The same material soon appeared as an exhibit at the Museum of Atheism. It turned out that Antanas Poskus is a fictitious name used by the Museum's Director.

THANKS !

Postage is the dearest single item in the costs of producing and distributing the Baltic News. Thanks to voluntary help, one thousand copies can be typeset and printed for about \$150. But it costs twice as much to mail the same number of copies to our readers, in Australia and overseas. For example, the airmail postage for a single copy of Baltic News is 70 cents to the U.S.A. and Canada; and 75 cents to Europe.

We therefore thank our supporters, whose voluntary donations have enabled us to continue sending the Baltic News, free of charge, to all who ask for it. New funds received since the last issue include the proceeds from the last HELLP dance (held on 26th March 1977 - \$162.50), and the following individual donations: Lithuanian Community, Melbourne, \$25; A. Ziedars, A.A. Grikepelis (Vic.) \$20 each; Lithuanian Library Adelaide, \$15; Joint Baltic Committee, Sydney, L. Tidey (Qld.), P. Reiljan (Vic.) \$10 each; H.H. Child (W.A.), \$5; E. Dawson (Hobart) \$2.

CAN AUSTRALIA AFFORD NOT TO CARE?

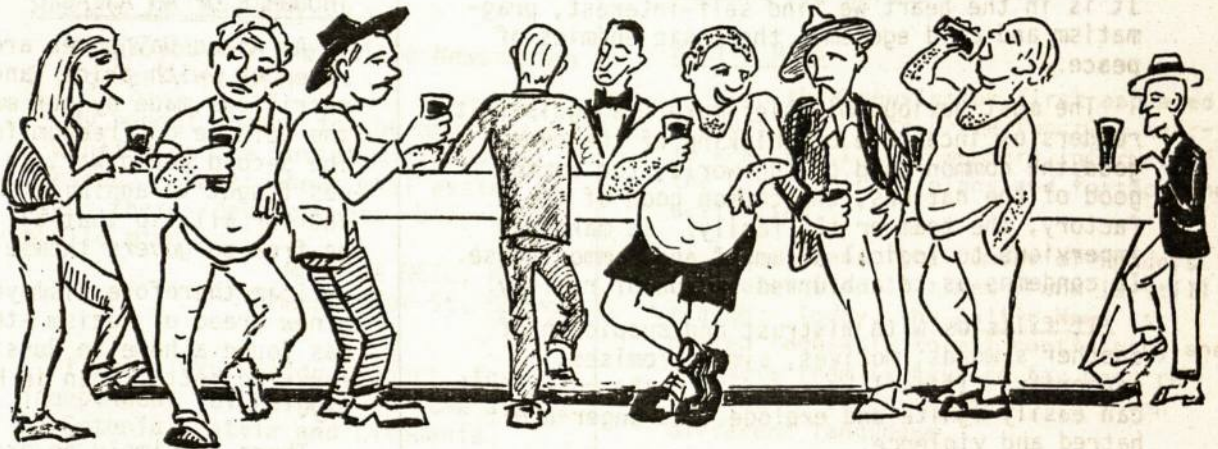
by T.R.McGlynn

PART 2 in a three-part series of extracts from Mr T.R.McGLYNN's delivered lecture at HELLP Association's 1976 Annual Meeting.

The tragedy of the Baltic peoples is difficult for Australians to grasp, since white Australians have not yet been occupied by a horde of foreigners - foreigners who are hostile to their way of life, and are their cultural inferiors.

It is very hard to arouse considerable concern in Australia about genocidal crimes committed 12,000 miles away, a long time ago. I almost sympathise with Mr Mellins of Melbourne, who once said, he hoped Australia would be invaded in order to knock some respect for the concept of nationhood into the population.

I have compared Australia, in a document circulated last year, to the Empire of the Incas. The people know all about traditional forms of political conflict - it's a question of Left or Right, isn't it? Do we eat our boiled eggs from the Big End or the Little End? Even after the cut-throat Pizarro appeared on horseback, the simpletons continued to bicker among themselves like chickens in a hen-coop, whereupon he slaughtered and enslaved them.



The Baltic people in Australia, and I, may be likened to witnesses of Spanish colonial policy elsewhere, who turn up in Peru a few years before the Conquest. Whereas the Incas were pre-indoctrinated by legend to believe that white men were Gods, we have in Australia a wide-spread superstition that red men are far holier than pink men.

I repeat that I am not a member of any political party. The issue of national survival is not a party political question. The Baltic cause is an anti-imperialist cause, like that of the Basques or the Kurds, or the Africans of Southern Africa or of the Timorese. Tomorrow, it may be the Australians' turn.

Continued on Page 7

PEACE BEGINS IN THE HEART

The dream of peace persists in the heart of man. It persists in spite of the fact that every day war is raging in many parts of the world, leaving in its wake smashed cities and homeless refugees, in spite of the violent demonstrations that are a familiar part of today's scene, in spite of the fact that mankind seems hopelessly divided by race, creed, geography, social strata, business interests, educational outlook.

Man still dreams of peace. He knows the struggle for it must be waged on many levels of life from the Security Council of the United Nations to disputes between a man and his wife in the privacy of their home. Diplomats, politicians, union leaders, marriage counsellors, social workers, clergymen - anyone who works for improved human relations struggles to bring about what they see as needed for peace.

But always the most difficult battle takes place in the human heart. It is in the heart of man we find the seeds of peace or conflict. It is in the heart we find self-interest, pragmatism and cold egoism - the basic enemies of peace.

The most devious mischief-maker is egoism. It renders us incapable of thinking of the common good: the common good of the world, the common good of the nations, the common good of the factory, the team or the family. It makes us impervious to logical argument and common sense. It condemns us to a blurred vision of reality.

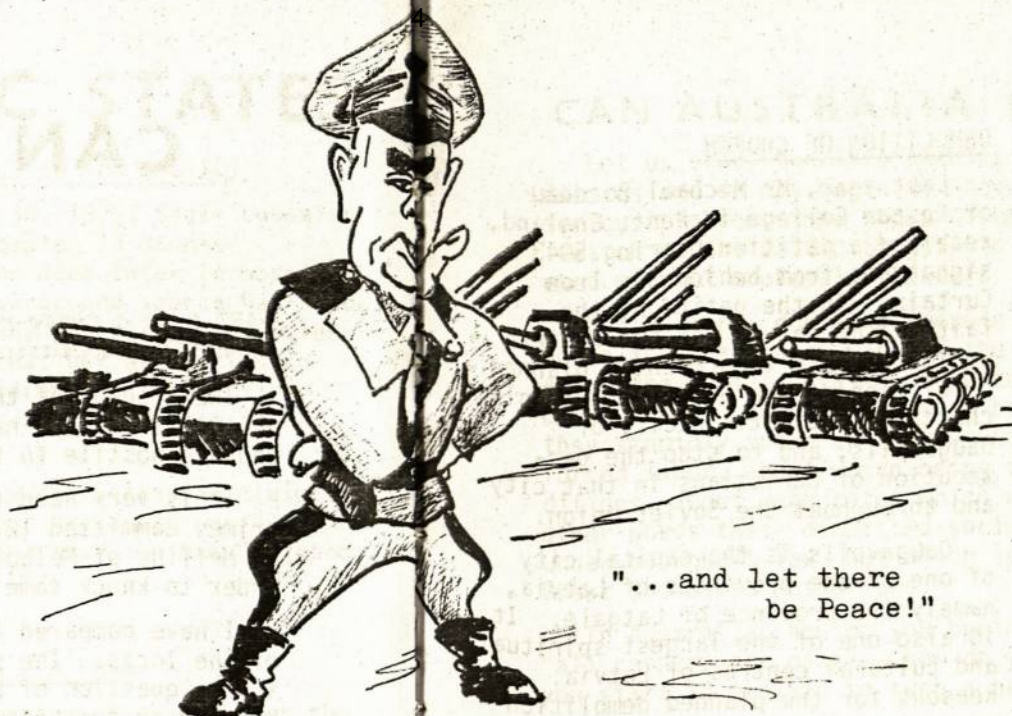
It fills us with mistrust and suspicion of another's words, motives, aims, promises, sincerity. It is like a spark in the heart that can easily ignite and explode into anger and hatred and violence.

The dream of peace will remain only a dream until mankind achieves greater purity of heart. It is probably asking too much that all mankind should conquer selfishness but the more it can be eradicated from the heart of man the greater is our hope of peace.

For all of us, then, the place to start working for peace is in our own hearts.

William H. Stinson, C.S.S.R.

Reprinted with permission from the Redemptorist Sunday Bulletin.



"...and let there
be Peace!"

LETTERS

THOUGHTS OF AN ANZAC

As Anzac Day comes around as we remember with pride and thank the sacrifices made by our men and in the defence of freedom for all. The Second World War, in particular, was fought to annihilate Nazism and for all, so that all people be free to govern themselves.

I am therefore dismayed to find that a new breed of Nazism - the Redism - has found a home in Russia, and now thriving better than in Hitler's day.

There is simply no excuse while Russian armies are still stationed in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania - 32 years after the end of the war or why these Baltic people are not allowed to run their countries themselves.

To my way of thinking, this is a gross betrayal of all those Austrians who had so willingly accepted call to arms in both World Wars, and had fought for the preservation of peoples' right to self-determination.

Burnie, Tas.

OLDAC.

SUPPORT IN CANBERRA

Thank you for the Baltic News which I regularly receive.

My recent speech in the House gave a warning on the Soviet military expansion. Baltic News will assist to keep these developments before the public mind.

Maurice NEIL, M.H.R.
Member for St. George

I write expressing support for the independent sovereignty of the States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

In the past I have had much support from the people from those States and will continue to assist wherever possible.

Barry SIMON, M.H.R.
Member for McMillan

You can rest assured that I will do whatever is possible to help your Association in your fight.

Mike TOWNLEY
Senator for Tasmania

MORE LETTERS ...PAGE 6

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

J. McAULEY MEMORIAL APPEAL

H.E.L.L.P. Executive Committee has decided to support, within its limited resources, the James McAuley Memorial Appeal. The appeal is being sponsored by the University of Tasmania, and the funds raised will be used to endow an annual series of lectures entitled 'The James McAuley Memorial Lectures'.

Professor McAuley was an active member of H.E.L.L.P. Association until his death last October.

In his letter of thanks, the Secretary of the Appeal Committee (Mr. B.G. Palfrey) has written to H.E.L.L.P., inter alia,

"...This generous donation is much appreciated and will greatly assist us in establishing what we trust will be a fitting and enduring memorial to the man and his works."

BALTIC NEWS

When this newsletter first appeared 2 years ago, its prime function was:- to keep H.E.L.L.P. members informed of the Association's plans and forthcoming activities.

Since then, the number of readers has multiplied 16 times - and is still rising. Today, the Baltic News is posted regularly to all continents; and extracts from it have so far been reprinted in 22 periodicals, in seven different languages.

Readers have urged us to keep on publishing factual reports and the news from the Baltic States, because such news rarely appears in the daily press, and even more seldom on A.B.C. radio/TV.

H.E.L.L.P. Executive Committee has agreed to meet these requests - for as long as the Association's funds permit it. So, until further notice, Baltic News will continue to be sent, free of charge, to all who ask for it.

H.E.L.L.P. T-SHIRTS - See Page 8.

LETTERS ...FROM PAGE 5

PERSECUTION OF RELIGION

The Anglican bishop of Newcastle Ian Shevill now feels competent to assure the people of Australia that there is no religious persecution in the Soviet Union.

This is simply not true. Bishop Shevill is an educated man and he can find the truth if he wishes. There are many volumes of scientific research findings at the Universities in Great Britain, U.S.A., Germany, Sweden, etc.; and there are hundreds of thousands of eye-witnesses to back it up.

The Church in USSR is not allowed to give religious instruction to children under 18. The Church has no right to own property. It has no right to elect a priest (or minister) without the approval of the Communist Government. No church is permitted to publish Bibles or religious books.

90% of the churches and monasteries have been destroyed, converted into theatres, cinemas or warehouses etc. Indeed, there is not very much left to persecute!

Melbourne

Dr A.J. MELLINS

EXPOSING IMPERIALISTS

I would like to congratulate the Hobartians on their activism and perseverance. I hope this movement gains strength in the larger metropolises of Australia.

As you have stated, our continuing task is to keep the Australian public informed and to keep exposing the Soviet imperialists for what they are.

Holt, A.C.T.

G. KAMINSKAS

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

DEMOLITION OF CHURCH

Last year, Mr Michael Bordeau of Keston College in Kent, England, received a petition bearing 5043 signatures from behind the Iron Curtain. In the petition, the faithful of Latvia ask the Western world for help to prevent a planned demolition of the principal Catholic church in the Latvian city of Daugavpils, and to stop the persecution of Christians in that city and throughout the Soviet Union.

Daugavpils is the capital city of one of the provinces of Latvia, namely the province of Latgale. It is also one of the largest spiritual and cultural centres of Latvia. Reasons for the planned demolition are not known to us. However, I am sure that it is NOT for the lack of churchgoers.

So much for the Helsinki Agreement.
Melbourne (Rev.) S. GAIDELIS

LATVIAN P.O.C.s

Amnesty International received reports in the autumn of 1976 that four dock workers from the Latvian SSR had been arrested and sentenced to terms of imprisonment in connection with participation in a strike which took place in Riga in May 1976.

The four workers - Sergei Frolov, Janice Varna, Mikhail Larchenkov and Andres Goldberg - were all sentenced to terms of imprisonment of 2 or 3 years.

We hope you will give publicity to this in your journal and encourage those of your members who are trade unionists to intervene on their behalf to Mr A. Shibayev, USSR, 9. Moskva V-119 Leninsky Prospekt 42, All Union Central Council for Trade Unions, Chairman, Mr A. Shibayev.

Hobart. Bertha ROLLS
President, Amnesty Int'l.

CAN AUSTRALIA AFFORD... *From Page 3.*

Let us study the life stories of Konstantin Päts or of Karlis Ulmanis or Alfred Berzins and we may begin to understand that some national leaders face more serious problems than those of mere party politics. It is an unspeakable trivialisation of the Baltic tragedy to reduce it to any alleged party-political level, even without wholesale slanders.

Furthermore, does the average Australian far-Left union organiser know that the Socialists, and also many of the local Communists, were among the first to die after the Soviet invasions? Dozens of leading Marxists were shot or exiled, because in 1945 and 1946 (having been in *democratic* countries during the 1930s) they stupidly spoke up to the Soviet Leadership about industrial safety, about forced labor, about women being forced into the mines, about general working conditions, about wage rates which were one quarter of the pre-war level or worse; in other words these dimwitted socialists voiced complaints which are admissible under bourgeois law, but which led to a bullet in the back of the head in the Great Socialist Motherland.

In Australia, how do you begin to tell a student Leftist - who tells you that "all coppers are pigs" - how do you tell him about the NKVD or the KGB? Where do you start to explain to such a baby?

Why, in 1940, did hundreds of Finnish Communists die fighting the Soviet invasion? Why would most of Finland's, all of Yugoslavia's and most of Rumania's Communists today fight the USSR to the death?

Let the Australian Marxist consider these questions before he dismisses the nationality question as a 19th Century Bourgeois relic. It is remarkable how the USSR only acknowledges the existence of "Bourgeois nationalism". This is supposed to be a disease afflicting Capitalist countries and all the constituent republics of the USSR *except the RSFSR*. Either Russia has the only and miraculous immunity from this terrible contagion, or else the world should examine more closely the true character of the State which claims not to be imperialist, but which proclaims to the world a "Doctrine of Limited Sovereignty" instead! Not for itself but for its little neighbours.

I do not consider Ulbricht or Husák, Gerö, or Rákosi to be any improvement on Quisling or Pavelic or Hlinka, just because they call their system "Socialist". The cases of Tito, of Berklavs and of Nagy and Dubcak suggest that the concept of Russian Imperialism has much life left in it, far too much even for convinced Communists.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: Nationalism - The Big Thorn in the Imperialists' Side.

**RUSSIANS, GO HOME
FROM THE BALTIC STATES!**

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COMING EVENTS

Please keep these two dates free:

21st May - (Saturday) 7.00 p.m.

Polish Hall, New Town

PUBLIC CONCERT

Lithuanian songs and folk-dances.

Guest Artists: "Dainava" girls' sextet from Melbourne.

Admission: \$1.50. Students and pensioners, \$1.00.

followed by:- 8.30 p.m. - 1.00 a.m.

DANCE

Good band - Novelties

Admission: \$3.50. Students and pensioners, \$2.00.

Table bookings (optional) - Phone 72 6360, Joe Paskevicius.

Come along and bring your friends.

23rd June - (Thursday)

Hobart City

36th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MASS DEPORTATIONS

FROM THE BALTIC STATES

4.30 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. : Silent Vigil.

7.00 p.m. - 7.20 p.m. : Candle-light Procession.

7.30 p.m. : Public Discussion -
"Should small nations govern themselves?"

Expert speakers - for and against.

For further details, please watch the daily press and the next issue of
"Baltic News".

SPECIAL OFFER to "Baltic News" readers:

H.E.L.L.P T-SHIRTS,

good "Exacto" quality, artistic 2-colour motif -
\$5.95 value at \$4.25, plus 50¢ packing and postage.

Please allow 3 weeks for delivery.

OFFER OPEN TO 31st MAY, 1977, OR UNTIL SOLD OUT.

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Adults 14(90cm chest), 16(95cm), 18(100cm),
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