

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.3 (14)

June 6, 1977.

FAIR GO FOR ALL -

BIG AND SMALL

Is might always right? Should big control small? How small is small? How do these principles affect the existence of nations - large and small -, and their right to self-government? Is Australia too small to run its own affairs? What about Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania...?

These will be among the questions to be raised at a public lecture and discussion evening, in Hobart Town Hall on Thursday 23 June, starting at 8.00 p.m.

Prominent Speakers

HELLP Association, which is sponsoring the evening, has invited two well-known scholars to give introductory talks on the theme, *Should small nations govern themselves?* The audience will be afterwards invited to ask questions, and to discuss any of the issues raised.

The principal speakers will be Dr. A.P. Kambaila, of the University of New South Wales; and Mr. T.R. McGlynn, BA, MA, Dip.Ed., of Alanvale College. Both are known throughout Australia, for their expertise in contemporary East European affairs.

Professor O.M. Roe, of the University of Tasmania will be the Chairman.

Widespread Interest

A spokesman for HELLP said today, this public event - timed to co-incide with the 36th anniversary of the first mass deportations from the Baltic States - has already created considerable interest in Tasmania and interstate. An amateur ethnographer is coming especially from Melbourne, and several State and Federal politicians have also promised to attend.



The spokesman stressed that all members of the general public will be welcome, whatever their opinions. He said that, only by listening to the views of others and stating our own, we can hope to gain a better understanding of the small nations' problems in today's world.

Don't miss it - Remember the date:

THURSDAY 23RD JUNE, 1977

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HELLP ACTIVITIES

DUAL NATIONALITY

HELLP Association has written to all Tasmanian Senators and M.H.R.s, seeking their support for the Association's representations on dual nationality. Similar letters have also been sent to each member of the Federal Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.

There has been a good response from Federal politicians - both, members and non-members of the Joint Committee.

Two of these letters are published on Page 5.

In the meantime, the Prime Minister has notified HELLP that its submission (see *B.N.*, 23/4/1977) has been referred to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

OLD-AGE PROBLEMS

At the invitation of the Southern Tasmanian Regional Council for Social Development (G.P.O. Box 821 H, Hobart, 7001), HELLP Association has completed a questionnaire on the senior citizens' needs.

In particular, HELLP has drawn the Council's attention to the special problems faced in this country by aging migrants.

SWEDISH REVERSAL?

HELLP Association has written to the Prime Minister of Sweden, asking him to reverse the Swedish Government's recognition of the Russian rule in the Baltic States.

Sweden had recognized the 1940 incorporation of Latvia and the other Baltic States into the Soviet Union, because Sweden had considerable investments in the Latvian hydro-electric power station "Kegums" and hoped (in vain) to receive repayments of its investment from the Russians.

T-SHIRTS: OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

HELLP T-shirts have proved very popular: the first stocks were sold out completely, within a fortnight.

To avoid disappointment to interstate and overseas supporters, the Executive Committee has obtained new supplies, and has extended the special discount offer to June 30. (*Full details of the offer are on Page 7*).

Designed by a leading Tasmanian artist, the shirts feature a young couple, dancing a Baltic folk-dance.

THANKS FOR SUPPORT

We thank our supporters for the following donations, received since the last issue of the *Baltic News*: P. Siauciunas, (Tas.) \$60; H. Juodvalkis, Rev. J. Wall

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

Please send me the *Baltic News*, free of charge and without obligation.

NAME.....
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(Tas.), \$20 each; Senator M. Lajovic, R. Salasoo, (N.S.W.), P. Lazdauskas, A. Andrikonis, (Tas.) \$10 each; R. Mather, J. Valius, P. Petraitiene, Ad. Kaitinis, (Tas.) \$5 each; I. Andrikoniene, \$4; A. Kugis and L. Kalasim (Tas.) \$2 each; J. Jurevicius, \$1.25.

Sincere thanks !

NEWS ROUNDUP

INTERPRETER SERVICE

Earlier this year, the Australian Government established a free interpreter service which is run by the Dept. of Social Security. At present there is a pool of 64 interpreters in Southern Tasmania, covering 24 languages.

Interpreters are available on call (telephone Hobart 20 4427) for a variety of interview situations. These include medical and legal appointments, employment and housing matters, and any problems associated with social security matters. A limited amount of translation can also be arranged.

BALTIC DELEGATION IN GENEVA

For the thirty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights that took place from February 7 to March 11, 1977 in Geneva, BATUN (Baltic Appeal to the United Nations Group) submitted 17 cases of human rights violations in the Baltic countries. This year's Baltic delegation to Geneva was led by Rev. Pauls Kļaviņš, head of the human rights movement "Action Light" in Bonn, Germany. Rev. Kļaviņš also gave a press conference and invited diplomats and journalists to a showing of two underground films, smuggled out of Latvia. The films contained evidence for the neglect of human rights in Latvia.

GROWTH OF UNDERGROUND PRESS

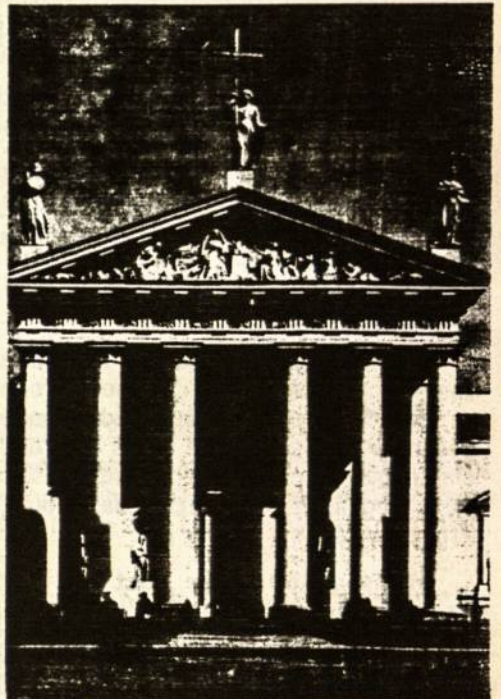
New clandestine periodicals, seeking freedom for the native population, are appearing in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

The *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* has reached its twenty-fourth issue; and No.4 of *Aušra* (The Dawn) was recently smuggled out to the West.

Another new publication is entitled *Dievui ir Tėvynei* (For God and Fatherland). Its first issue features a complete Lithuanian translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

CANADIAN SUPPORT

Baltic Consular Representatives in Canada, Mr I. Heinsoo (representing free Estonia), Dr E. Upenieks (Latvia) and J. Zmuidzinas (Lithuania) were recently introduced to the Lower House of the Canadian Parliament. During question time on March 9th, a Liberal member, Mr R. Stanbury, asked whether the Canadian Government would continue its policy of demanding full Human Rights for people in the Baltic States. He then introduced the three Baltic Consuls who stood up in the visitors' gallery. They were greeted with loud applause from the members present, including the Prime Minister, Mr P.E. Trudeau, and his Cabinet members.



This 15th century Cathedral of Vilnius (capital of Lithuania) has been seized from the Catholic Church and converted into an art gallery by the Soviets. The crosses and roof sculptures are no longer there.

HUMAN RIGHTS FORUM

(Editorial)

The Helsinki agreement of 1975 contained sections which promised easier communication and travel between countries and, in particular, unification of families. The follow-up conference in Belgrade in June this year is supposed to assess the progress made in fulfilling the Helsinki aims.

It has become quite obvious in the meantime that the Soviet Union, one of the signatories to the Helsinki agreement, has not adhered to these Human Rights clauses. People wishing to visit their relatives in the Soviet occupied Baltic Countries have had considerable delays in getting their visa applications processed and their applications have often been refused.

The situation is even more difficult for people in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who wish to visit their relatives abroad. Visas for travel are granted very rarely and then only after repeated applications over a number of years.

The prohibitive fee of 400 roubles (\$533 Australian) for such visas is another obstacle. This is more than one full year's income for some pensioners in the Soviet Union and equal to 3-4 month's wages for a majority of other Soviet people.

Several Western Countries have collected factual evidence which they propose to present at the forthcoming Belgrade conference. Baltic organisations in the free world have played their part in accumulating evidence and they have organised public debate on these Human Rights issues.

It is quite clear that only strong international public opinion can influence the oppressive Soviet rulers. In this month of June, the month of the Belgrade conference, we should highlight the violations of Human Rights in the Soviet Union.

According to Solzhenitsin, 60 million people have perished in the Soviet Union as a direct result of political persecution in the 60 years before Helsinki. There is no sign of improvement since Helsinki. If we don't do anything, another 60 million may perish in the years to come.

"I didn't push them -
they volunteered..."



LETTERS

ANTI-BALTIC CAMPAIGN

Don Riseborough's sudden rehash the hunt on Nazi war criminals (*Sun Herald*, Feb.27) unfairly generalizes that "almost all the suspects are Eastern Europe, particularly from Baltic States..." After 31 years, suspects are not Nazis any more, but the nationals from Soviet-occupied countries?

It is more than a coincidence that every time Balts, Ukrainians or other exiles from Soviet-occupied countries protest here in Sydney against Russian colonialism, the well-known "Scull" and his companions in full Nazi regalia intermingle, uninvited, with the crowd. This is a naive attempt to incriminate and intimidate "by association".

I suggest that the orchestrated criminalization of Balts and other captive nations is a pay-back in response

the recent accusations in the U.N. General Assembly - where Sydney Sober (U.S.A.) raised the question, "For how long does the U.S.S.R. intend to occupy the Baltic States?"

(Mrs.) L. LOOVEER.

Punchbowl, N.S.W.

MORE SUPPORT IN CANBERRA

Thank you for *Baltic News*.

I am well aware of the justice of the causes that you support.

Michael BAUME, M.P.,
Federal Member for Macarthur.

Do please keep up the good work.

John MARTYR, M.P.,
Federal Member for Swan.

- On 22/3/1977, Mr. Martyr made a speech in the House of Representatives, about the Lithuanian people in exile. - ED.

DUAL NATIONALITY

I find your *Baltic News* very interesting and to the point.

I am particularly interested in your front-page article of April 23 issue, and I have constant discussions with my parliamentary colleagues regarding firm action by our Government on this matter.

I am attaching a cheque for \$10, as a donation to the costs of printing your paper.

Misha LAJOVIC,
Senator for New South Wales.

As Chairman of the Sub-Committee drafting the report, I hope that you and other appropriate groups will support our recommendation for the abolition of Dual Nationality, especially in the interests of those migrants whose countries are controlled by undemocratic regimes.

A few letters to newspapers might be a good idea and a campaign amongst Liberal-Country Party M.P.s, who I note are always big on messages of support to your organisation, but never do anything about it.

R. KLUGMAN M.P.,
Federal Member for Prospect.

MIGRANT EDUCATION

Some well-meaning people are currently campaigning for more Government expenditure on the education of migrants.

What is needed even more urgently, is nationwide education about migrants and refugees: why they come to Australia, what are their values, and how their inherent traits, cultural heritage and skills are enriching this country.

Patronizing attitudes, on the other hand, merely breed discrimination - quite unintentionally, at that!

Hobart.

A.P. TASKUNAS.

NATIONALISM

CONCLUDING the three-part series of extracts from Mr. T.R. McGLYNN's lecture, delivered at HELLP Association's last Annual Meeting.

There are in my opinion many parallels between present-day Moscow and Imperial Rome. There is the same arrogance. There is the same lack of originality, there is the same ruthlessness and for the idea of Roman citizenship we find the very comparable concept of party-membership. The extent to which Roman and Soviet policies cannot be called nationalist in the true sense is the precise extent to which they can be called instead by their proper name - Imperialist.

Of course, there are still numerous ways in which Russia is like old Russia. The absolutism, the secret police, the rich upper class, the brutality and crudity - these deriving understandably from a Byzantine and a despotic tradition of more than a thousand years, which Stalin did not invent - he merely perfected it.



Perhaps because of a certain simplicity, the Russians are, nevertheless, frank about some matters. The mass of the Russian people - not the professional hypocrites of the party - refer to the Baltic States as "Soviet foreign countries". This tells its own story. The Baltic peoples are not against Russia because Russia is Communist, but because the Russians are in Riga, in Tallinn, and in Vilnius. How hard is it really for Australians to understand that if a foreign army were to occupy this continent, we would not be so much worried by their alleged political colour as by the simple facts that they were (a) foreigners (b) killing Australians, and (c) stealing everything they could lay their hands on? The Basques and the Catalans oppose Madrid. They do not oppose it because Madrid is Fascist. They do not oppose it because it is Catholic, because they are also Catholics. They oppose it because it is Spain and therefore stands for Colonialism.

Let us suppose that Rosa Luxemburg had made a German Socialist Revolution and that Lenin had been run over by a bus. We might well have found a Communistic Germany in conflict with Czarist Russia in the 1940s. Just conceivably, German Marxists of the Luxemburg type might have been arriving as liberators in the Baltic States. No doubt western conservatives would thereby have concluded that the Baltic people were all Communists. They would have been as wrong in saying so as all the ignorant or criminal adulators of Soviet policies who are even today prepared to equate any opposition to the Red Army with Fascism.

Nationalism, I suggest is still far stronger than Socialism and the latter is still not more than an idea, or a slogan, or an excuse for something better called by its real name.

Even revolutionary Marxism is a force today only where it is consistent with national aspirations and I would mention Russia, Vietnam, China, Rumania, Yugoslavia and Cuba as places where different versions of Marxism support local nationalist aspirations.

Nationalism of course has a dark as well as a positive side, but beware of the man who preaches to you that in all cases it is a relic of the 19th Century, or that it is by definition hostile to democracy or incompatible with socialism.

It is true of course that a harmonious world state is more desirable in theory than 150 nationalisms. But only a fool, or a hypocrite, or the agent of a particular brand of nationalism can pretend that harmony will automatically follow from the victory over other states of any particular world wide system of political organisation which pretends that it cannot, by definition, suffer from the faults of other polities.

Western politics is often confused by the idea that a person more extreme in his views than you is in some peculiar way more correct in his views than you. It is not only ignorant Social Democrats who think Communism is just "extreme social democracy" and therefore "O.K." We have noticed Conservatives, like those in England in the 1930s, making a similar mistake about those who were more to the right than themselves. Apparently, they believed that since Hitler was anti-Left, that was "O.K." too. Chamberlain brought Britain to the brink of an irreversible disaster by refusing to acknowledge that Germany was a danger, irrespective of joint German-British revulsion against Stalinism.

Both these viewpoints arise from stereotyped thinking, from simplemindedness and from an inability to see that the freedoms of societies like ours, for the capitalist and for the worker alike, require resolute action at all times against whatever forms of extremism threatens them - whether from within, or from outside. I would recommend all who can only think in terms of left and right to contemplate the simple fact that in the 1930s the Baltic States were dictatorships of the Centre, in the national interest, were both anti-Soviet and anti-Nazi, were fiercely nationalist and were only crushed by overwhelming forces from outside and not by constant bickering and treachery from within.

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 EXTENDED TO 30th JUNE, 1977 =

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Adults 14(90cm chest), 16(95cm), 18(100cm),
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....., Size.....*Youths/*Adult, Colour.....1st pref., or2nd pref.

....., Size.....*Youths/*Adult, Colour.....1st pref., or2nd pref.

Total....T-shirts @ \$4.75 each (incl. packing & postage) = *Cheque *Cash *Postal
Order for \$..... is enclosed.

If Airmail delivery is required, please add 50¢ per shirt extra.

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COMING EVENTS

10th June - (Friday), 8.00 p.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

PUBLIC MEETING

on Helsinki Agreement and forthcoming Belgrade Conference. Speakers to be announced.

Admission free - All welcome.

11th June - (Saturday), 4.00 p.m. - Lutheran Church, Davey St., Hobart.

ESTONIAN SERVICE

to commemorate the victims of deportations. - Pastor A. Meeksi, from Melbourne.

23rd June - (Thursday)

36th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MASS DEPORTATIONS FROM THE BALTIC STATES

4.30 p.m.-7.00 p.m.: Vigil in Franklin Square, Hobart City

If you cannot come for the whole of this time, join us when you can!

7.00 p.m.-7.30 p.m.: Starting point - Franklin Square, corner Elizabeth & Macquarie Streets.

Finishing point - Hobart Town Hall (front entrance).

Please bring your own candles (in wind-proof containers) or battery torches.

8.00 p.m.: Hobart Town Hall -

PUBLIC LECTURE AND DISCUSSION:

"Should small nations govern themselves?"

Guest Speakers:

Dr. A.P. KABAILA, of The University of New South Wales

Mr. T.R. McGLYNN, of Launceston

Chairman: Professor O.M. ROE, of the University of Tasmania.

All Welcome - - - - - Admission Free.

2nd July - (Saturday), - 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

DANCE

organised by Lithuanian Sports Club "Perkunas". Good band - Novelties.

Table bookings (optional): Phone 72 6360, Joe Paskevicius. All welcome.

Baltic News is published by HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association) in Hobart, Australia. HELLP is a non-denominational and non-party-political group of concerned Australians, who (1) do not recognize Russian sovereignty over the three Baltic States; and (2) are working to publicize the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian people's continuing struggle for survival and freedom. Postal address: P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 - Australia.