

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. 4 (15)

August 30, 1977

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN HOBART

A national campaign for the restoration of human rights in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was launched in Hobart in June. The campaign was announced by Dr. A. Kabaila, Federal president of Lithuanian Community in Australia, who came from Sydney at the invitation of H.E.L.L.P. Association. Dr. Kabaila held a press conference, and was widely reported in the Tasmanian media.

Public Meetings

The first public meeting regarding human rights in the Soviet Union was organised jointly by H.E.L.L.P. and the Polish Association of Hobart, on June 10. It was called to protest at Russia's failure to implement the human rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement. The meeting was chaired by Professor H. Gelber.

After speeches by Mr. Michael Hodgman, M.H.R., Senator Brian Harradine, and Dr. Polya, of the University of Tasmania, a telegram was sent to Mr. Andrew Peacock, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, pointing to the continuing violations of human rights by Russia, and urging Australia to send a delegate to conference in Belgrade.

City Protest

To focus attention on the human rights situation in the Baltic States a lunch-hour demonstration was staged by HELLP members outside the Hobart G.P.O. a week later, on 17 June. Placards were displayed, and leaflets distributed by ladies dressed in Lithuanian national costumes.

Torchlight Procession

On 23 June a vigil was held in Hobart's Franklin Square to commemorate the June deportations of 1940, and, again, to draw attention to the continuing lack of human rights in the Baltic States. National flags with black ribbons were prominently displayed. A solemn procession then formed, and marched with torchlights through the city streets to Hobart Town Hall where another public meeting was held. Dr. Kabaila, of Sydney, and Mr. Tom McGlynn, of Launceston spoke to a large audience, on the topic



Dr. KABAILA: "We must campaign for Baltic peoples' freedom - because they cannot do it in their own home countries".

"Should Small Nations Govern Themselves?" Dr. Kabaila chose the case of Lithuania, comparing and contrasting it with that of New Guinea. He concluded that, since New Guinea has been granted independence, there is no reason why Lithuania and the other Baltic States should not be given the same right.

Mr. McGlynn analysed recent European history and stressed that the Baltic Nations, having already shown that they are capable of running their own affairs, should be granted the same right again.

Action to Continue

The campaign launched by Dr. Kabaila is gathering momentum. Further peaceful demonstrations will be held in Hobart on Friday September 9 and Friday September 23.

HELLP Association is also making plans for film evenings and school seminars, later this year.

Photo by courtesy of 'The Mercury'.

NEW ARRESTS

A new wave of arrests has swept across Russian-held Lithuania. Students, factory workers and young women are amongst those detained. Their names and charges will be published in the next issue.

DUAL NATIONALITY

Naturalised Australians of Baltic origin are still treated by the Russians as dual Soviet/Australian citizens - and the Australian Government has done nothing about it.

This was revealed recently by a spokesman for the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Canberra.

In a letter to H.E.L.L.P. Association, Mr.A.D.Campbell, an acting first assistant secretary in the Department of Foreign Affairs, has admitted that "...there are constraints as to the Australian Government's ability to assist an Australian citizen where the latter is in a country which also regards him as a citizen".

In April this year, H.E.L.L.P. wrote to the Prime Minister (Mr.Fraser), asking for early implementation of the recommendations made by the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence last October. In its report, this Parliamentary Committee has recommended that "...high priority should be accorded to entering into bilateral agreements between Australia & those countries whose nationality laws cause Australian citizens to be dual nationals and who suffer disadvantage because of this..."

Australian-born, too

So far, Mr.Fraser's Government has taken no action. It seems that, encouraged by this indifference, the Russians now consider that the Australian-born spouses and children of the former Balts are Soviet citizens, too.

In May this year, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs published an official booklet, "Hints for Australian Travellers". The booklet warns (on Page 11),

"You may have another nationality as well as Australian if:

- * You were not born in Australia.
- * You were born in Australia but one of your parents or both were not born in Australia.
- * You are married to a person not born in Australia.

To check whether you are a dual national you should ask the embassy, high com-

mission or consulate of the country in which you were born, or your parent or spouse were born."

Lagging Behind

H.E.L.L.P. Association has asked the Australian Government to start immediate negotiations with the Soviets and persuade them to renounce all claims on naturalised Australians of Baltic origin.

Australia is sadly lagging behind most other countries, in this regard. Canada Sweden and other principal host countries of former Baltic refugees have already concluded satisfactory treaties, or are currently negotiating, with the Soviet Government.

Strong Support

H.E.L.L.P. has received strong support in this action, from prominent politicians - both, Labor and Liberal-NCP. Those who approached the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, included M.Burr, M.Hodgman and The Hon. K.E.Beazley, M.P.s; and Senators B.R.Archer, B.Harradine, Shirley Walters and Ken Wriedt.

A number of other Federal politicians have acknowledged the receipt of the H.E.L.L.P. submission, but have not yet reported what action they intend taking. This group includes J.L.Armitage, R.V.Garland, D.Hamer, Dr.R.E.Klugman, R.F.Shipton, and J.R.Short, M.H.R.s; and Senators the Hon. Sir Magnus Cormack, D.B.Scott, M.Townley and H. Young.

Further developments will be reported regularly, in future issues of *Baltic News*.



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 recognise 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).

NIJOLE NEEDS HELP

Here is a real-life story of a woman who was prepared to stand up for her basic human rights: the right of free speech, and the right to practise her religion.

Nijole Sadunaite (36), an ordinary working-class Lithuanian woman, was arrested and held without trial for nine and a half months, because an article for a local church newsletter was found in her typewriter, when her apartment was searched by the Soviet secret police. She was ultimately sentenced to three years of compulsory labour and another three years in exile.

The publication of Bibles and religious literature is prohibited in all Russian-held countries, including Lithuania. Even church newsletters have to be printed, and distributed, secretly - at the constant risk of arrest.

During her trial, Nijole told the Soviet judges, "This is the happiest day of my life. I am being tried for the *Chronicle*, which is a protest against the physical and spiritual tyranny to which my people are being subjected. This means that I'm being tried, because I love people and I want the truth."

"May this call for the restoration of my people's rights find an echo in everyone's heart", Nijole continued. "I am privileged: not only have I fought for human rights and for justice, but I'm being punished for doing so".

LETTERS NEEDED

Today, Nijole is held in a Russian concentration camp, at this address:

S.S.R. MOSKVA,
UCREZDENIE 5 HO/12ch.
Sadunaite Nijole,
U.S.S.R.

She is not allowed visitors, and is cut off from outside contacts. Letters and parcels would help a great deal to boost her morale.

Simas Kudirka and other former Soviet prisoners have stressed the importance of receiving mail from abroad, when you are in a Soviet gaol. Letters and parcels reassure prisoners that they have not been forgotten by the world outside. They also warn the gaol administrators that the prisoner does



have friends who are free to speak and can publicize any mistreatment of the captives.

WILL YOU HELP?

Show your support for Nijole's independent spirit - write to her today (preferably by registered mail) or, if you can, send her a small parcel.

A documented report on Nijole Sadunaite's arrest, and extracts from the transcript of her court case, have been smuggled out of Lithuania. They are available in English translation and will be sent free of charge to anyone who asks for them. Please send a large stamped, self-addressed envelope to: H.E.L.L.P., Post Office Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005 (Australia).

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR BALTIC PEOPLE!

EDITORIAL

Papua-New Guinea and over sixty other nations in Africa and Asia have been granted self-determination, since the end of World War II. This would have been quite an achievement, if it were not at the cost of robbing some 10 or 12 East European nations of their freedom.

As things stand now, the world is morally no further advanced today than it was in the Middle Ages. However, there is new hope for the oppressed East Europeans. A different kind of help is on its way, and it is coming from an unexpected direction. It is the spontaneous Human Rights movement which has been started inside Russia by a small group of individual Russians. Slowly but surely, the movement is gathering strength across the entire Soviet empire. Where will it end?

In the meantime, more and more thinking Russians are realizing that their Kremlin masters have been too ambitious in their attempts to subjugate - and gradually melt away the non-Russian nations that are older and culturally more advanced than the Russians themselves.

Baltic Aborigines

This is particularly true of the three Baltic nations. Historical and archeological evidence has proved beyond doubt that the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians had lived in their present regions as far back as 3,000 years before the birth of Christ; and there is no trace of any other ethnic group having resided there, before them. In this sense, the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians are the true aborigines of the Baltic east coast.

In 1253 A.D., Pope Innocent IV sent a crown to the first Lithuanian King Mindaugas and called him "Filius specialis sanctae Romane Ecclesiae." For several centuries thereafter, Lithuania was a dominant European power, protecting an entire continent from the onslaught of warring invaders.

Human Rights Pioneers

Lithuania's rule of the nations within her commonwealth which extended to the Black Sea, was recognised by the entire civilized world as a model of justice and freedom.

The Lithuanian Statute, in 282 legal articles drawn up in 1529, was the most progressive code of laws in Eastern Europe. It spelled out the rights and privileges of all classes and gave full recognition to religious and nationality rights.

This was 262 years before the U.S. Bill of Rights (ratified in 1791), and 431 years ahead of Canada's Bill of Rights!

Cultural Depth

The superior cultural heritage of the Baltic people has been well documented. Suffice to mention that Lithuania's first university - the University of Vilnius - was established in 1579 and Estonia's Tartu University opened its doors to students in 1632; whereas Russia's oldest institution of higher learning, the State University of Moscow, was not founded until 1755.

So when we speak of independence for Papuans, New Guineans or newly-emerging nations we have in mind a significant new development, a definite step forward.

But whenever something new is created, one must not destroy all that is old, particularly when the value of the old has been proven over the centuries. Baltic people have enjoyed freedom much longer than they have been under foreign domination, and their contributions to humanity have been the greatest during the periods of freedom. For the sake of their future, Baltic people must regain their freedom and basic human rights.

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



DUAL NATIONALITY

I wish to support the approach made by the H.E.L.L.P. Association to the Prime Minister on the question of dual citizenship.

I give my full support to their assertion that they now have no homeland, as they do not recognize the Soviet Union in that capacity, and that, as such, they have single nationality only, which is Australian.

Brian ARCHER,
Senator for Tasmania.

I congratulate your Association on its succinct and informed letter to the Prime Minister.

I have written to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, also pointing out the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence and giving support to your request.

Brian HARRADINE,
Senator for Tasmania.

I wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs concerning the rights of naturalised Australians who return to their country of origin on a temporary basis or for a visit.

It is quite apparent from the Minister's reply that only limited protection is available to a person with dual nationality. In the absence of an international agreement, it seems that any person with dual nationality ought to consider very carefully before visiting his country of origin.

Senator K.S. WRIEDT,
Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.



LETTERS

ALERTNESS PAYS OFF

Young people of Baltic origin must be congratulated for their alertness in detecting false information about the Baltic States being distributed by the Soviet exhibitors at the International Expo 77 in Adelaide.

This enabled Baltic organisations to lodge protests, and, as a consequence, the offending pamphlet was withdrawn from distribution. Thus another project of the KGB misinformation department came to its sad end.

Adelaide (S.A.)

K. BROWN.

OUR BALTIC CONNECTION

Australia's tallest mountain - a symbol of freedom - is named after Kosciuszko, who was the commander-in-chief of the combined Lithuanian and Polish armies, which fought the Russian invaders in 1794-95.

It was only after Kosciuszko's defeat that the Lithuanians and the Poles fell under a foreign rule for the first time in their long histories.

How come that our children are not taught any of these important facts at school?

Perth, W.A.

J. MATTHEWS.

FATHERS UNDER REDS

Following the Judeo-Christian tradition upon which our Australian way of life is based, we observe Father's Day in September. But too many, who like myself have arrived in this land of freedom from the Baltic countries, this date also reminds us about a different situation that exists in these countries under the Soviet rule.

Instead of obedience and respect, children are taught disobedience towards parents who are not communists. They are told that their first duty is to spy upon, and betray, their parents if this benefits the state.

On Father's Day, when we honour our father - or are honoured as a father - we should consider those who have not this privilege.

Sydney

J. DZIRKALIS.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

MUTINY IN THE BALTIC

Russian authorities have been unable to hush up the news of a full-scale mutiny aboard the Soviet destroyer Storozhevoy. After a silence of almost 2 years, the Swedish military intelligence sources have now confirmed that the mutiny took place on 7 and 8 November 1975.

The Storozhevoy crew rebelled when the Soviets refused to demobilise them at the end of their compulsory military service. The draftees were told that, because of the war in Angola, they had to stay in the Soviet Navy for an unspecified time.

After locking the captain and several officers into their cabins, the chief political officer of the ship took control of the crew of 250.

The Storozhevoy was then attacked by Soviet bombers and other naval ships. It is said that 50 of the crew of Storozhevoy were killed during these attacks. The leaders of the mutiny have since been sentenced to death and executed. The others have received long prison or labour camp sentences.

It is also reported that the crew of an attacking TU-16 aircraft refused to drop bombs on the Storozhevoy. The aircraft crew has been sentenced to imprisonment.

From: World Freedom League Newsletter, 368 Lord St., Perth, W.A. 6000.

LEADER'S CALL FROM RUSSIAN GAOL

Three letters written by Konstantin Päts, the last elected President of free Estonia, have recently reached the West. The texts are thought to have been written between the time of the President's arrest by the Russians in July 1940 and his death 15½ years later (in January, 1956), at the age of 82.

In his letters, Mr. Päts appeals to all Estonians and other Balts to resist Russian enslavement.

The letters bear the former President's finger-prints, and are written in his characteristic style.



President PÄTS: elected by his own people, removed by Russian tanks.

BALTIC HERALD

We welcome the new *Baltic Herald*!

Changed to handy A4 size, the *Baltic Herald* will be published in Sydney, at quarterly intervals.

The August issue of the *Herald* is enclosed to this edition of our newsletter (for Tasmanian readers only).

For additional free copies, please send a stamped, addressed envelope to: HELLP, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, 7005; or to the publishers, Australian Citizens' Committee for Lithuanian Rights, P. O. Box 470, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135.

RODE IS FREE

The Latvian human rights fighter, Gunars Rode, has been released from Soviet imprisonment. The unexpected move came after U.S. Congressman Edward I. Koch telephoned the notorious Vladimir prison where Rode had been held under most trying conditions.

The Russian prison authorities refused to speak to Mr. Koch. The Vladimir telephone operator at first tried to sidetrack the Congressman's enquiry by claiming that "there was no one in charge of the prison—they had all gone out."

COMING EVENTS

3rd September - (Saturday) - 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

DANCE

sponsored by the organising committee for the 1977 Lithuanian Sporting Carnival in Hobart. == Good band - All welcome == Admission \$4, students & pensioners \$2.

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

9th September - (Friday) - 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m. - Hobart City Centre

PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION

for the restoration of human rights in the Baltic States.

17th September - (Saturday) - 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

LITHUANIAN DANCE

in aid of the Lithuanian Amateur Folk Dancing Group. - Good band; Lots of fun! -

Admission (including supper) \$5; students and pensioners \$3.

For table bookings (optional), please phone Joe Paskevicius, 72 6360.

October - Date and place are still to be arranged: Film evening -

" PRISONERS BEHIND BARS "

5th November - (Saturday) - 8.30 p.m. to 1.00 a.m. - Polish Hall, New Town

LITHUANIAN DANCE

12th November - (Saturday) - 7.00 p.m. - Croatian Hall, Glenorchy:

ANNUAL MEETING

of H.E.L.L.P. Association. * Election of office-holders * Guest speaker.

Nominations for the executive committee (up to 12 members) are to be sent to the

Secretary of the Association (P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005), by 5th November.

These must be signed by two members of the Association and by the candidate.

THANKS!

We thank our supporters for the following donations, received since the last issue of the *Baltic News*:

Canberra Lithuanian-Australian Club, \$100; Mrs. M. Siauciunas (Tas.), Australian Latvian Information Centre (S.A.), \$50 each; Baltic Committee W.A., Council of Estonian Societies in Australia (S.A.), A.P. Kabaila, (N.S.W.), B. Burbo (Tas.), Anonymous, \$20 ea.; Estonian Society in Adelaide, O. Liutikas, (W.A.), L. Cox (N.S.W.), E. Kuplis, V. Navickas, E. Miežitis, L. Valčiulevicius, P. Siauciunas (Tas.), V. Skrolis (W.A.), \$10 each; Mrs. Petraltis, \$6; J. Riauba (S.A.), K. Jozas, B. Siksnius, Mejic, Rosson, J. Watchorn Mrs. M. Trus, A. Saulis, J. Sudmeyer, J. Paskevicius, and E. Ramanauskas (Tas.), \$5 each;

W. Craig (Tas.), \$4; J. Z. Klara, T. Rogers (Tas) \$3 each; J. Fisher, L. Kalasim, J. Sleivers, E. Olubas, E. Loozits, E. Madden, Anon. (Tas.) \$2 each; Krause (Tas.), \$1.

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.....

URANIUM

— RUSSIA'S ANSWER

Today, Russia has 37 "official" nuclear power stations and 154 top-secret "nuclear establishments". Another nine "official" nuclear power stations are under construction.

These figures were mentioned by Leonid Brezhnev, the Secretary-General of the Russian Communist Party, at a private reception given in the Kremlin, on the occasion of the 32nd anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Speaking to his close associates, Brezhnev said, "The second world war was won by the best armies. But it will be the superiority in energy supplies that will decide the winner of the next world war."

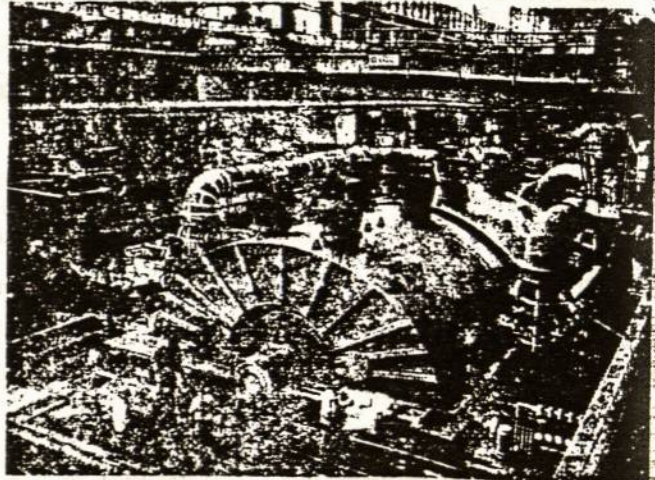
Mists of Secrecy

"This is why we must not reveal our true hand to our Western enemies", Brezhnev continued. "Like the tip of an iceberg, our official statistics are to show only a fraction of our real strength. The rest is to be hidden in the mists of secrecy. As they say in the enemy camp: out of sight, out of mind."

The 154 top-secret "nuclear establishments" are totally inaccessible - they are taboo not only to Western visitors, but also to the Russian press and the general public. They include nuclear bomb stock-piles, research stations and standby nuclear power generators. Most of these establishments are sited away from cities and major traffic routes. Some have been built underground and are invisible from the air.



Nuclear engineer D. Kalnins and a group of his co-workers at the Salaspilis Centre.



A steam turbine in the new nuclear power plant near Ignalina (Soviet Lithuania).

Away from Russian Soil

In recent years, many of the new nuclear reactors have been erected away from Russia-proper, in Soviet satellite regions. It is believed that the Kremlin leaders have yielded to the pressure of Russian environmentalists who have expressed fears about nuclear waste disposal and long-term effects on pure-blood Russian population.

A large new nuclear power plant is now under construction near Ignalina, in north-eastern Lithuania. Since Lithuania already has more than adequate hydro-electric generating capacity for its own needs, the entire output of the Ignalina nuclear reactor will be sent to central Russia.

The Soviet atomic research centre at Salaspilis (Latvia) was expanded in 1966, and again this year, when new "zero power" reactors were added to the establishment.

The nuclear base at Baltiski (Estonia) has remained under a shroud of secrecy, since its last mysterious "earthquake" (see report in *Baltic News*, 24/2/1977).