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BALTIC NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
P.O. BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TAS. 7005 (AUSTRALIA)

April 12, 1978

Baltic States gestures by P.M and Labor

The Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Fraser, has publicly re-affirmed his position that the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are not formally part of the Soviet Union by attending the 60th anniversary celebrations of the declarations of independence of the three countries. Senior members of the Opposition also attended the function, which was arranged in Canberra by the Baltic Council of Australia, last month. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Hayden, was unable to come and was represented by his deputy, Mr Bowen.

In a front-page comment on this event the *Canberra Times* wrote:



'One of Mr Fraser's first acts on being elected in 1975 was to revoke the de jure recognition of the Soviet occupation of the three States which had been given Moscow by the Whitlam Government.'

'The Baltic States, which had long histories of independence before falling under Imperial Russian domination, regained their status after World War I but lost it again when Soviet armies invaded them at the end of World War II.'

'It was suggested last night that the presence of senior ALP members at the independence day function could indicate a change in the party's policy to fall into line with that of the Government.'

'But if the 300 or so Baltic people present had hoped that Mr Fraser in his speech might make some further declaration of the right of their countries to be independent once again they were to be disappointed. He spoke only of the contribution the three peoples had made to the culture of Australia and their work within the ethnic community.'

The Prime Minister also sent separate written messages to the Lithuanian and Estonian communities in Australia, on the days of their anniversaries (February 16 and 24). The Latvian independence day will be commemorated on November 18.

An extract from Mr Fraser's message to the Estonian community is reproduced on Page 4, in this issue.

BILL HAYDEN

June Tragedy to be remembered

Mass deportations of the native people from the Baltic States (which started in June 1941) will be commemorated in Hobart on Friday evening, June 9.

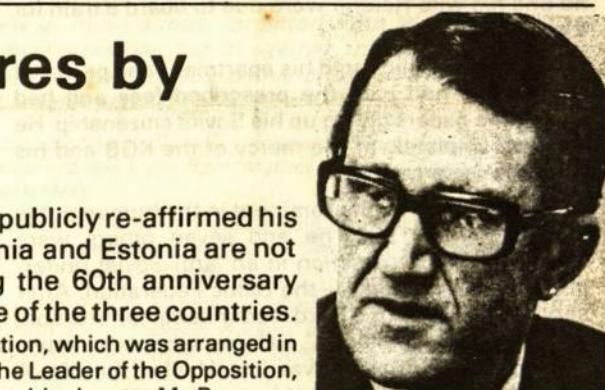
The Catholic Archbishop of Hobart (The Most Rev. Dr G. Young) has agreed to speak at a public ecumenical church service to be held in St Joseph's Church to mark this occasion.

In addition, HELLP Association will organise a vigil in Franklin Square and a candlelight procession through the City.

All Tasmanians — irrespective of their religious, political or ethnic backgrounds — have been asked to join in this peaceful display of sympathy for the natives of the Baltic.

For full details, see 'Coming Events', page 7.

• Truth is more effective, Page 8.



MALCOLM FRASER



• PICTURED: The widow of Dr Gudonis weeping beside her husband's body. Like thousands of other Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians, Dr Gudonis was tortured to death in June 1941. His only 'crime': he happened to live and work in the Baltic territory wanted by the Russians.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

KALNINS NOT ALLOWED OUT

Viktors Kalnins, a Latvian dissident who planned to migrate to the U.S.A., had his visa suspended by the Soviet authorities on January 20 — eight days before he and his wife Helena were due to board a train for Vienna.

Kalnins had already sold his apartment and personal belongings, had paid the prescribed fees and had signed the papers giving up his Soviet citizenship. He is now completely at the mercy of the KGB and his future is uncertain.

Kalnins (42) has been prominent in the human rights movement. In 1962, he and seven others were charged with participation in an 'anti-Soviet underground organization' — the Baltic Federation. After serving ten years in a hard labour camp for 'treason' and 'anti-Soviet agitation', Kalnins returned to Latvia — only to find that he was 'blackballed' for life. A trained teacher, he has not been allowed to work in his profession, and has been repeatedly interrogated by the KGB. Last October Kalnins was beaten up in the KGB office in Riga, after he refused to testify against Alexander Ginzburg and Viktoras Petkus (two human rights workers, now on trial in the U.S.S.R.).

Thanks — again!

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

Estate of J. Vasiliauskas (Tas.), \$300; V. Mikelaitis (Tas.), \$40; A.W. Kaitinis (Tas.), \$30; E. Fogarty (N.S.W.), J. Sirgunas (Tas.), \$20 each; Sister Superior, Little Company of Mary, Christchurch (N.Z.), G. Smelters (N.S.W.), L. Kalasim, J. Luker, A.P. Taskunas (Tas.), \$10 each; B. Viknus (Tas.), \$8; Senator P. Rae, S. Domkus, C.M. McSherry, J. Valius (Tas.), \$5 each; B. Siksnius (Tas.), \$4; M.J. Ramsey (Tas.), \$2.50; J. Abromas (N.S.W.), L. Bishop, W.M. Ryan (Vic.), E. Dawson (Tas.), \$2 each.

Net proceeds from Baltic Dance on February 18, \$174.60.

Baltic News is now mailed to 1,500 individual homes, libraries and educational institutions in all States of Australia and 22 countries overseas. The circulation is still rising — and we are willing to send the *Baltic News*, free of charge, to anyone who asks for it. Please use the coupon below, or write on plain paper.

TO: H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association),

Post Office Box 272,
SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

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● University of Tartu (Estonia), founded in 1632

RUSSIFICATION

Another step towards systematic russification of the Baltic States has been taken by the new regulations from Moscow which require that all higher degree theses at the University of Tartu (Estonia) have to be written in Russian.

Experts point out that this makes it virtually impossible to write theses about certain linguistic aspects of the Estonian language. Russian and Estonian languages have nothing in common, and certain letters which stand for unusual vowel sounds in Estonian have no equivalents in the Russian alphabet.

PRICE DROP DID NOT LAST

On April 13, 1977, the residents of Kaunas (Lithuania's second-largest city) were rubbing their eyes in disbelief: the prices of all goods displayed in the windows of *Sauletekis* store were reduced ten times.

The price drop was short-lived. The original price tags were restored, as soon as two bus-loads of foreign tourists departed from the Soviet-Government-owned store.

YOUTH DEMONSTRATION IN LATVIA

Two accounts have reached Tasmania of a demonstration that took place in the Latvian coastal city of Liepāja on August 11, 1977. The demonstration started when an Estonian rock group was not allowed to perform at a pop music concert.

In protest against the authorities' interference in the evening's programme, the audience reportedly wrecked the theatre, then marched in the streets shouting, 'Freedom! Freedom!'. According to one account, troops were called in to quell the demonstration.

● New Call for Help, page 6

THE FIFTH WORLD

Since 1945, political commentators have tended to divide the world into three parts: the **Communist World**, the **Free World** and the **Third World**. Lady Barbara Ward later introduced the concept of the **Fourth World**, to describe 'international basket cases': countries which have few chances of development, because of social and economic reasons (e.g. Bangladesh and Ethiopia).

Such a simplified view of the world has neglected another important segment of our Planet Earth — the 98 non-Russian nations inside the huge Russian Empire. A few of these almost-forgotten **Fifth World** nations are relatively large, many are small, and some are on the verge of extinction; but, altogether, they number more than 130 million people. The Russians themselves have become the minority ethnic group in their 8½-million-square-miles empire (that is, less than 50% of U.S.S.R.'s total population today are Russians).

Meanwhile, more and more Fifth World nations are becoming dissatisfied with the Russian colonial rule. Encouraged by the human rights clauses of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement, they want to break loose from 'Mother Russia'. They want a chance for genuine self-determination, so that they could govern themselves.

The process is slow, but irreversible. Two new types of people's movements have sprung up spontaneously and are spreading across the U.S.S.R.: (1) open dissidence, and (2) large-scale religious revival. The Soviet police-state machinery, based on brute force and intimidation, cannot suppress these new kinds of trends.

What is going to happen next? Will the people of the Fifth World manage to wriggle out of the Russian colonial grip? If so, when and how? What are the pitfalls? What lessons can the Fifth World freedom workers learn from the Third World — especially from the natives of the former British, French and Dutch colonies? What social, political and economic structures will be most appropriate, once the Fifth World nations attain independence from Russia?

BALTIC NEWS has invited a cross-section of contemporary thinkers to suggest solutions to the Fifth World's problems. These will be published, in a series of articles, throughout the year. Unsolicited contributions will be very welcome, too.

— EDITOR

RUSSIAN NATIONALITIES POLICY SINCE 1917

T.R. McGlynn*

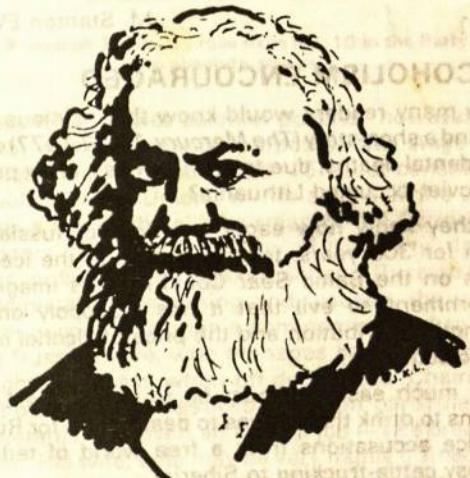
In 1853 Karl Marx wrote, in the 'New York Tribune', an attack on Russian imperialism. He noted that since 1800, the Tsars had advanced 700 miles towards Berlin, 500 towards Constantinople, 600 towards Stockholm and 1,000 miles towards Tehran.

Marx, who despised not only the Tsars but Slavs generally and Russians in particular, intended to frighten his readers. Yet, whereas St Petersburg controlled 15% of Europe's people in 1800, and 25% in 1883 (when Marx died), Moscow was master of 50% of Europe's people and 65% of its territory by 1953 (when Stalin died).

Russian history has now had two constant themes for 500 years: dictatorship and imperialism. Already the largest state in the world by 1689, it had conquered so many non-Russians by 1920 that there were 166 other ethnic groups in the Empire. Today, only 50½% of the Soviet population is Russian. Soon they will be in the minority.

How did Russia manage to retain and even expand its Empire, in a century in which all the others, from the Ottomans to the Portuguese, have collapsed? And why is it quite likely that the present Russian Empire will expand further in future?

In the 19th Century, as a result of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars, linguistic nationalism spread through the European Empires, fatally undermining the old-style state-patriotism,



● Karl Marx . . . despised Slavs generally and Russians in particular

which was imperial, religious and dynastic rather than based on language.

In Russia the socialists encouraged nationalism as a means of overthrowing the Tsarist government. Even today, the 'nationalities' feel that they are opposed to the government and not to the Russians. 'Ivan is all right. It's just the machine we'd like to smash.' What they should not forget is that both the Tsars and the Communist Party have used that Russian majority and language as instruments with which to crush the minorities. The Russians, incidentally, are not only the jailers for their vast colonies, but are themselves locked in, too.

● Continued on page 5

*Tom R. McGlynn, BA, MA, Dip.Ed., is currently Head of Geography Dept., Alanvale College (Launceston). He has studied at the Universities of Birmingham, Bath, London, Bucharest and Vienna.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

COMPUTERISED NOOSE

Lenin's prediction — quoted by your correspondent T. Zierins (*Baltic News*, October 25, 1977) — is certainly coming true.

The one-time U.S. lead in military technology is rapidly disappearing. For a decade or so, American computer companies have been falling over themselves to sell their finest products to the Kremlin: General Electric, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Sperry-Univac, RCA and Control Data Corp.

The last named has sold about 50 large computer systems to the Soviet bloc and Communist China, including some highly sophisticated models used at nuclear research facilities in the Soviet Union and Poland.

Now Control Data is preparing to sell to Moscow a so-called 'supercomputer', Cyber 76, which costs some \$13 million and is said to transmit 100 million instructions per second. It is years ahead of anything the Communists have available. There are only a dozen or so in the United States, used as 'brain centres' for the Pentagon, the National Security Agency and other crucial installations.

M. Stanton EVANS

ALCOHOLISM ENCOURAGED

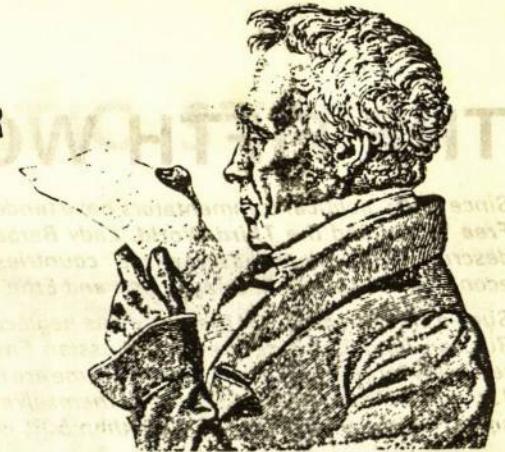
How many readers would know the insidious facts behind a short story (*The Mercury*, 15.12.1977) of the accidental deaths, due to drunkenness, of six people in Soviet-occupied Lithuania?

Do they know how eager land-locked Russia has been for 300 years, to gain access to the ice-free ports on the Baltic Sea? Could readers imagine a government so evil that it has monopoly on the strength, distribution and the price of alcohol in the Baltic countries?

How much easier it must be to encourage Lithuanians to drink themselves to death, than for Russia to face accusations from a free world of tedious, clumsy cattle-trucking to Siberia!

Glenorchy, Tas.

Judith TARVYDAS



MORE SUPPORT IN CANBERRA

Like so many of my Parliamentary colleagues, I find your publication of great interest and assistance in informing me of the continuing problems of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian peoples.

I enclose a donation and would be pleased if you would continue to forward the *News* to me.

(The Hon.) RAY GROOM,
M.H.R. for Braddon,
(Minister for Environment, Housing
and Community Development)

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOR THE ESTONIAN COMMUNITY ON ESTONIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE to send this message of good wishes and congratulations to the Estonian Community on the occasion of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Estonia.

There are some 7,000 people in Australia of Estonian origin — either born there or with parents born there. Many have made significant contributions in the professions, public administration, industry, and the cultural and academic fields. Notable examples are Peter Lindsaar, author of "Estonians in Australia" and Sir Arvi Parbo who is MANAGING DIRECTOR OF WESTERN AVIATION CORPORATION, A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION and Chairman of the Ethnic Broadcasting Advisory Council.

Your community has always worked hard to preserve the heritage of your homeland, and in addition, to enrich Australia. I extend to all members of the Estonian Community best wishes for continued success in all your endeavours.

Malcolm Fraser

Russian Nationalities Policy since 1917

● From page 3

Marx himself wrote that Russia was the 'Prison of the Nations', and that it should be broken up; that Poland should be restored to the frontiers of 1772, and that Georgia should again join the ranks of independent nations. These writings of Marx are unavailable in the U.S.S.R. One wonders why!

The First World War encouraged socialist opposition inside Russia and nationalist opposition in its colonies. In 1917, therefore, the Bolsheviks had problems. Of course they were opposed to imperialism! Hadn't they just shot the Emperor? But how could even a Bolshevik Russia survive without the wheat, iron and coal of the Ukraine, or the oil of the Caucasus?

While they considered this vexing 'contradiction', they took two provisional steps:

- (1) The equality of all nations was proclaimed to the world and enshrined in the Soviet Constitution. (Perhaps 'entombed' would be a better word.)
- (2) Joseph Stalin was appointed People's Commissar for Nationalities.

Stalin was only about No. 10 in the Party, was thought of as a thug, and got a job which seemed less important than those of Trotsky, Zinoviev, Bukharin and the others. But Stalin's job was the most important of all. He knew that the pursuit of the European Proletarian Revolution and the planning of Soviet Industry were insignificant details. What mattered was the preservation of the substance of Empire. On that insight he based his rise to absolute power. The policies he created have been used now for 60 years to pursue a policy of Russification which reveals the Tsarist régime as rank amateurs.

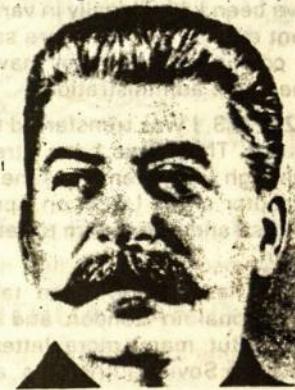
After the 1917 Bolshevik coup d'état, there ensued a Civil War between Reds and Whites and another between Russians and Nationalists. The Reds defeated the Whites, often with help from the nationalists, and then turned on the nationalists. In Finland, Poland, and the Baltic States, the Reds were beaten; but in the Urals, Central Asia and the Far East, there was a war between the races which the Russians won. The defeated Kazakhs, Bashkurs and Kirghiz had their lands stolen and were massacred or deported in thousands to labour camps. What really enraged the Bolsheviks was that the nationalists in Asia had taken Lenin's Decrees literally, and had expelled the bourgeoisie accordingly, all of whom happened to be Russians! They then set up their own 'Turkish Soviet Republics', which 'had' to be smashed by the Reds so that Russian colonists could return.

By 1924 the Empire had settled down again, though new stage-scenery was clearly required in order to deceive the proletariats and the colonial masses of other people's empires.

An amazing result of Soviet propaganda, of course, has been that the chief response in the west has been from the lower middle classes — including academics, politicians, journalists, teachers and even some churchmen, but not the proletariat. Apparently, a critical minimum of awareness is needed to reject

Christianity, capitalism and patriotism. However, this can lead to such a spiritual vacuum that the same moderate intellect may subsequently be filled instead by Marxism, state-bureaucratic capitalism and an uncritical displaced patriotism for the Soviet paradise — or for China.

The great despot



● Joseph Stalin ... rose from No. 10 in the Party to absolute power.

In respect of Soviet colonial policies, however, for control and propaganda purposes, the stage-sets produced were the so-called '16 equal constituent Republics of the Union'. In the centre of the stage stands a local 'ethnic' 'Chairman-of-the-Council-of-Ministers', or 'First Secretary of the Party'. In the wings, pulling the strings, crouches a Russian Deputy-Minister-of-Everything and, usually, the unfortunate puppet-Chairman's domineering and patronising Russian wife, who manages that gentleman's thought-processes when off duty. If the 'Chairman' steps out of line, as has occurred often, particularly in Turkestan, he is given an honest job — like breaking stones. His wife, who may be very highly trained and talented, does not necessarily follow such an erring husband into oblivion. She may be found equally important work elsewhere.

The policy is a super-slick version of Ian Smith's 'Tribal Elders' or Dr Vorster's 'Bantustans'. Apartheid is not necessary, as the Russians are the majority and 80% are Europeans anyway. Mixed marriages are encouraged, praised and financially rewarded, as it is assumed the children will speak Russian.

Meanwhile, offstage, Russian and other non-local colonists pour into all the 'Republics' in a constant stream, while local graduates and school-leavers are directed to jobs in areas where their language is not understood. It is expected that they will be enveloped (like bacteria), denationalized, and, ultimately, Russified.

● To be continued in next issue

New Call for Help

In a letter smuggled out of the Soviet psychiatric hospital at Barashev, 51-year-old Lithuanian prisoner Algirdas Zypre has appealed to the people of the free world to press for his early release.

In 1958 Mr Zypre was sentenced to fifteen years in a Soviet concentration camp, because in 1944-45 he had joined the Lithuanian Freedom Army to fight against the Russian invasion of his country. In spite of Krushchev's 1957 general amnesty to Baltic freedom fighters, Zypre and many others were arrested and jailed soon after.

'My term of punishment expired on January 14, 1973, but I have been kept illegally in various places of imprisonment ever since', Mr Zypre says. 'I have written many complaints, but they have all been withheld by the camp administration.'

'On October 12, 1973, I was transferred to a psychiatric isolation cell. They have been "treating" me ever since, although I am mentally sane. I wrote to the Chief Prosecutor of the USSR on April 5, 1977, setting out my case and asking him to set me free — all in vain, so far.'

Mr Zypre's case has already been taken up by Amnesty International in London and Heidelberg (West Germany). But many more letters are still needed, to draw the Soviet authorities' attention to this man's plight.

According to the prisoner's cousin (Mrs Apickiene), individual Australians could help a great deal by writing, by registered mail, to Mr Zypre at this address:

Algirdas ZYPRE,
Mordovskaya ACCP,
Tungshevskoy raion,
431200, Poselok Barashevo,
ZhCH 385/3,
U.S.S.R.

The letters may be in any language and on any topic — as long as they do not contain anti-Soviet propaganda. 'There is no guarantee that every letter will reach Algirdas Zypre', a spokesman for HELLP Association said in Hobart today. 'However, if you write by registered air-mail, mark your letter **Deliver to the addressee only** and ask Australia Post for a return receipt, you will be entitled to \$8.10 compensation if your letter does not reach the addressee.'

'In any case, the Soviet authorities will realize that there are people in Australia who care about Algirdas Zypre. Since the Russians are very sensitive to public opinion abroad, this is precisely what is needed to speed up Mr Zypre's release from Barashev psychiatric "hospital"', the spokesman said.



(Advertisement)

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COMING EVENTS

- 13th May (Saturday), 8.30 pm—1 am

Croatian Hall, Glenorchy

DANCE

Good Band . . . Novelties . . . All Welcome

Organised by Lithuanian Sports Club 'Perkunas'.

- 9th June (Friday)

37th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MASS DEPORTATIONS FROM THE BALTIC STATES:

4.30 pm—7 pm: Vigil in Franklin Square, Hobart City

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

7.00 pm: Candlelight Procession, from Franklin Square (corner Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets) to St Joseph's Church (corner Macquarie and Harrington Streets).

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

7.30 pm: Ecumenical Church Service, in St Joseph's Church,

corner Macquarie and Harrington Streets.

Guest Speaker: The Most Rev. Dr. G. Young, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Hobart.

- 16th—18th June (Friday to Sunday)

BALTIC CONFERENCE

in Adelaide, S.A.

Organised by Baltic Council of Australia.

(Chairman: Mr E. Voitkuns, 1 Taylor Tce, ROSSLYN PARK, 5072.)



- 24th June (Saturday), 8.30 pm—1 am

Polish Hall, 22 Main Road, New Town

LITHUANIAN DANCE

B.Y.O., or buy refreshments and supper next door.

Good Band . . . Novelties . . . All Welcome

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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. New members are welcome to join at any time. Postal address: P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 — Australia.

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Truth is More Effective

HELLP Association has appealed to the general public to take part in the commemoration of Baltic deportations, on Friday evening, June 9, 1978.

'This is not something that has happened far away, long time ago and can be comfortably forgotten', a spokesman for HELLP Association said in Hobart today. 'Nor does it mean bringing foreign politics into Australia'.

'We are talking about the basic principles of human decency towards fellow men — values which distinguish humans from animals and do not diminish with the passage of time. We are talking about blatant elimination of three entire nations — elimination which started on a large scale in June 1941, but is continuing to this very day. Surely, if we value our own freedom, we cannot let these nations vanish before our eyes, without showing some compassion and speaking out on their behalf.'

'Another World War is not the answer: it would merely lead to further loss of life', the HELLP spokesman said. 'Constant exposure of the truth, on the other hand, and unrelenting prodding of the Russian conscience are very effective weapons, indeed. World opinion has led to the restoration of the basic human rights in many other parts of the world — it must ultimately crack the Russian ice, too.'

For full details, see 'Coming Events', page 7.

BOOKS

WORTH READING

THE LITHUANIAN STATUTE OF 1529: Translated and edited with an introduction and commentary by Karl von Loewe. — Published by E.J. Brill, Leiden, 1976 (xiv, 206pp., cloth Gld.68.—).

The Lithuanian Statute of 1529 was the first comprehensive code of laws in Europe since Justinian. It covered such diverse subjects as the right of women, real property, guardianship, mortgage, military service and hunting, as well as the more usual legal topics. Because of the multi-ethnic nature of the Grand Principality of Lithuania, this Statute was a confluence of a variety of Baltic and other legal traditions. *Moreover, the statute itself constituted a major source for Muscovite and Imperial Russian law.*

THE RUSSIANS, by Hedrick Smith. — Sphere Books, London, 1976 (639pp., paperback \$3.95 in Aust.).

A penetrating and authentic account of present-day Russia, written by a former *New York Times* correspondent in Moscow and winner of Pulitzer Prize. Essential reading for the friends of the Baltic nations, and anyone interested in the real face of Russia.

LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW, by Barbara Armonas (as told to A.L. Nasvytis). — Australian Citizens' Committee for Lithuanian Rights, Sydney, 1975 (222pp., \$4.00, plus 60c postage).

A first-hand story of an ordinary Lithuanian woman's plight under the Russian rule. *As moving as the Diary of Anne Frank.* This book may be ordered from HELLP Association, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005 (please send payment with order).

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