

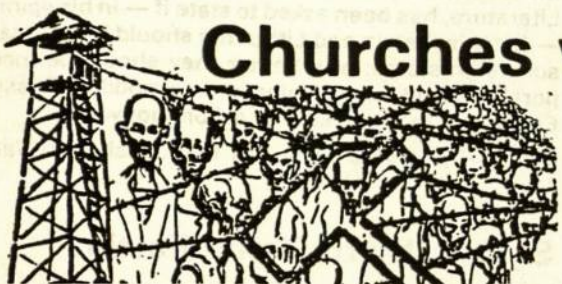


BALTIC NEWS

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

Vol. IV, No. 3 (19)

June 3, 1978



Churches will pray for Balts

Prominent Hobart churchmen of all the major denominations will lead prayers in an Ecumenical service, to be held in St Joseph's Church (corner Macquarie and Harrington Streets, Hobart City) next Friday night, 9th June at 7.30 p.m.

Please tell your friends and neighbours about this — then come yourself and bring your family! It will be a quiet way of showing your sympathy and compassion for the less fortunate people in the Baltic countries.

The service will commemorate the mass deportations from the Baltic States which started in June 1941, twelve months after the Russian armed takeover of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. 124,467 Balts were either executed or deported during that 'black June' alone. By 1951, the number of known victims had quadrupled — and the full extent of these human losses to the present day may never be discovered.

The Catholic Archbishop of Hobart (the Most Rev. Dr G. Young) and the Anglican Assistant Bishop of Tasmania (the Rt Rev. H.A. Jerrim) will attend the Ecumenical service, together with Rev. G. D. Macdougald (Uniting Church of Aust.), Rev. A.C. Stubs (St John's Presbyterian), Rev. D. Webster (Tas. Council of Churches), Mr L. Gourlay (Churches of Christ) and other church leaders. Music will be provided by the well-known singing group, Hobart Chorale.

Vigil

The church service will be held after a silent vigil to be organised by HELLP Association in Franklin Square, from 4.30 pm to 7 pm; and a candlelight procession through the City at 7 pm.

Non-members are welcome to join in both these functions, too. Candles should be enclosed in wind-proof containers. Battery-operated torches will be also suitable for the procession.



Pravieniškiai labour camp 26 June 1941

EDITORIAL

If you ask the average Australian what he knows about the Baltic States, he would probably say that he neither knew nor cared anything about the subject. If he thought about it at all, he might ask why, after so long, the Baltic people are still making a fuss about their freedom. After all, those who are here in Australia are free citizens of this country; so, why are they still weeping?

But the Balts still cherish the ideals of freedom and independence and sovereignty which they had fought for, won and now have lost again. Thousands of their kin have been forcibly deported to the depths of Russia and Siberia, and their countries have been peopled with Russians. Thousands of others have fled to the free world where they have become well integrated and adjusted citizens, making worthy contributions to the economic and cultural life of their host countries.

Yet the fact remains that the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have been denied the basic right of all men to live — peacefully, in freedom and without fear — in their own native countries. This fact must be kept before the free world, or the Baltic people will be forgotten.

It is hard for Australians to understand how it feels to be denied these things. In this lucky country, we have never been deprived of our freedom. We have been able to pursue our political activities and our religious persuasions without sanction.

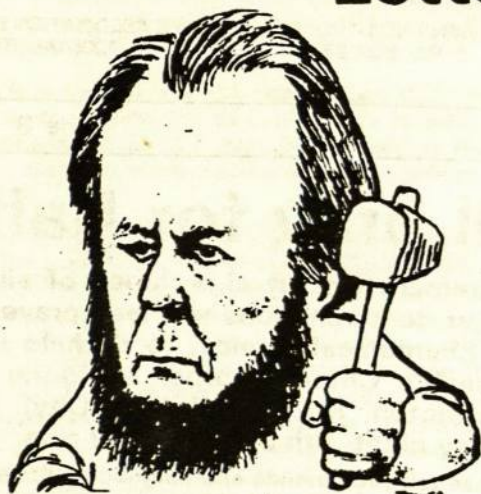
The Australian Government has clearly indicated its displeasure in its refusal to recognize Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States, and in its welcome of migrants and refugees.

Concerned Australians could also contribute to the cause of freedom in small but important ways — such as writing letters of protest to the Press and to the Soviet leaders; by taking part in peaceful demonstrations and attending functions which bring this matter before the minds and hearts of people.

It would be a tremendous boost to the morale of exiles everywhere and to those enslaved in their own countries, if Australians really stood beside them in support

H.E.L.L.P. ACTIVITIES

Letter to Solzhenitsyn



Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association in Hobart (HELLP) has written to Mr Solzhenitsyn (pictured), enquiring about his views on the Baltic States.

Mr Solzhenitsyn, the 1970 Nobel Prize winner for Literature, has been asked to state if — in his opinion — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should be separate, sovereign states; or whether they should be incorporated in the Soviet Union, or in a modified Russian Empire, or in some kind of a Commonwealth.

Mr Solzhenitsyn's reply will be published in *Baltic News*.

Sympathy to Dame Pattie

The Baltic Council of Australia and HELLP Association have conveyed their condolences to Dame Pattie Menzies, widow of the former Prime Minister of Australia who died in Melbourne on April 15.

The late Sir Robert Menzies had been regularly receiving *Baltic News* since August 1975.

UN Action Overdue

The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Peacock) will again be asked to press, through the United Nations Organization, for the restoration of free and independent Baltic States. HELLP Association is organising a petition to be presented to Mr Peacock, reminding him of a 1975 pre-election promise made by the then Leader of the Opposition (Sir Billy Snedden).

"This year, Australia is a member of the United Nations Committee on Decolonization and the UN Committee on Human Rights", a spokesman for HELLP said in Hobart today. "We feel, many Australians would like the Australian delegation to remind the United Nations that the restoration of human rights and early decolonization are well overdue in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania today".

The spokesman said, HELLP Association still remembered Sir Billy Snedden's promise which he made in Tasmania over three years ago. At a Hobart public meeting on 3rd February 1975, Sir Billy Snedden had promised that the present Government would raise the question of the Baltic States, in the United Nations. "We expect the Government to honour this promise", the spokesman added.

For an earlier report on this topic, see *BALTIC NEWS*, October 25, 1977, page 1.

BALTIC NEWS

Now in its fourth year of publication, *Baltic News* is Tasmania's only English-language ethnic periodical. It appears four to six times per annum, and aims to report on the facts and issues that are of common interest to both the former Baltic migrants and other Australians. In this way, *Baltic News* acts as a bridge between the three ethnic strands and the rest of our population.

The following donations have been received since the last issue of *Baltic News*:

Council of Estonian Societies in Australia, \$100; A.A. Griepelis (Vic.), \$20; I. Sleiters (Tas.), C. Ford (N.S.W.), Latvian Association of W.A., Senator B. Archer (Tas.), J. Randazzo (N.S.W.), \$10 each; M. Steinbergs (A.C.T.), B. Barkus, \$5 each; Anonymous, (Mrs L.) \$4; Anonymous (Mr. S.), J.J. Ganly (Vic.), L. Nobelius, \$2 each.

—SINCERE THANKS!

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

Post Office Box 272,

SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

I do not recognize the Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

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

Name

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE

Optional:

I enclose my donation of \$.....Cash/Cheque/M.O.

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.

Material published in the **BALTIC NEWS** (other than acknowledged reprints) may be reproduced in whole or part, without any charge or obligation. If use is made of this material, HELLP Association would appreciate receiving clippings at P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Exhausted — But Alive

Trying conditions in Soviet labour camps have not broken the spirit of the Baltic prisoners of conscience, according to reports in the latest issue of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* (No. 30). The *Chronicle* has been published clandestinely since 1972 and, in spite of widespread arrests and interrogations by the KGB (Soviet secret police), is still appearing periodically in Russian-held Lithuania.



● The grim face of the Soviet rule: Prison in Novosibirsk.

— Reprinted from *The Voice of the Martyrs*, P.O. Box 34, Miranda, N.S.W. 2228.

The *Chronicle* reports that Petras Plumpa (see *Baltic News*, Feb. 11, 1978) was visited by his wife in September 1977. He is 'exhausted by the difficult camp conditions', but remains 'strong'. His present address is: Perm' area, Chusovskiy raion, Vsesvetskaya St., VS 389/35, Plumpa Petras, U.S.S.R.

Ona Pranckunaite is now in Kozlovka camp, Chuvash ASSR, U.S.S.R.

In mid-1977, Nijole Sadunaite was transferred, under guard, from her labour camp to the Siberian town of Boguchany, Beregovskaya 18-3, Krasnoyarskii kr., U.S.S.R. Local residents are surprised that Nijole receives so many visitors from Lithuania and from other parts of the Soviet Union, in this remote town. Boguchany is situated on the banks of River Angara, and is surrounded by vast taiga.

Pope's greetings in Lithuanian

This year, Pope Paul VI conveyed his Easter greetings in eleven languages, including Lithuanian. According to overseas commentators, this special gesture might have been in response to many messages reaching the Vatican about the Roman Catholics in Lithuania.

In one such case, a German nun, Sister Michaela, had told her bishop how moved she was by the 'heroic stand of the small Lithuanian nation'. The nun had read the latest reports in the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, then asked the bishop to transmit her feelings to the Pope.

Heart Attack

In a letter sent from Boguchany, Nijole said that she left Barashev on August 24 and had to spend one week each in the prisons of Cheliabinsk and Krasnoyarsk. The prisons were dirty and overcrowded. On September 5, she survived a heart attack.

During the journey, Nijole contracted influenza and an ear inflammation, but no medical help was available. This caused permanent damage to her hearing. 'Only the toughest and the strongest manage to resist illness', Nijole said.

She is now working as a cleaner in a high school. Work is hard, but Nijole is already feeling much stronger than in the camp.

Anti-Australian Campaign

The official Soviet press is continuing its subtle, but persistent anti-Australian campaign.

In the English-language section of *Gimtasis Krastas*, dated February 16, 1978, the chief of tourism in Russian-held Lithuania (Mr Vytautas Greblikas) had this to say:

Tourism widens people's outlook, strengthens the contacts of friendship and cooperation and frequently reveals the truth to people misled by false information. Thus, for instance, Petras Vaitkus who had come to Lithuania from the far off Australia wrote in the 'Intourist' visitors' book:

'I was on a visit to Lithuania and to Vilnius. How intimidated we had been before we went to Lithuania! — Take bread and pork along with you. They are as poor as a church mouse. They starve and wear rags or go barefoot.

I was there and saw what it looks like — the board and clothing of people in Lithuania is richer and better than with us in Australia . . .

* His English expressions have been left uncorrected. — EDITOR.



'Take no notice of my husband — he has just come back from Australia.'

— Reprinted from Soviet official monthly, MOKSLAS IR GYVENIMAS

LETTERS

LOUDER THAN WORDS

The sorrow on Mrs Gudonis' face (*Baltic News*, Apr. 12, 1978) speaks louder than a million words.

Keep up the good work of exposing the truth!

Perth, W.A.

(Mrs) S. KELLY

READER'S DOUBTS REMOVED

At first, I thought that your February headline (*Real Russian Power is Weakening*) was a bit optimistic.

But the latest events are proving you right. Just imagine: a South Korean airliner was able to stray (undetected and unchallenged) across the Soviet's top-secret military complex near Murmansk. No wonder the embarrassed Russians reacted so furiously and shot down the Boeing 707 when they finally picked it up, well inland.

The Russian power-machine may still be winning in Africa. But it is certainly collapsing at home — slowly but surely.

Mitcham, Vic.

G.Z.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Shoot first — Then challenge

The recent Soviet attack on a civilian South Korean airliner has brought back some tragic memories to an Estonian living in Hobart. He writes:

'On 14th June, 1940, a Finnish Airlines passenger plane left Tallinn on a regular flight to Helsinki. At that time, Estonia was still a free country. Some Russian troops were stationed in Estonia, but the Soviet leaders had assured the Estonian Government that they would in no way interfere in Estonia's internal affairs. The Soviets had certainly not asked that international flights from Tallinn be stopped.'

'However, this plane did not reach its destination. It was shot down by Russian fighter planes over the Finnish Gulf, 35 km out of Tallinn and still inside the Estonian territorial waters. There were no survivors. Among the passengers who perished were a French diplomatic courier and Mrs Luts, a young Finnish woman. Mrs Luts was living in Estonia at the time and was travelling to Helsinki to attend her father's funeral.

'Local fishermen later testified that they had rushed to the scene of the disaster, trying to help. They were chased away by a Soviet submarine which fired warning shots at them.'

The writer concludes: 'Both incidents clearly demonstrate the Soviets' disregard for human life. Why didn't the Soviet authorities warn the Estonian officials in 1940 that no further communication with the outside world was to take place? Why didn't they warn the Korean airliner this year that it had strayed to the Soviet territory?'

SPREAD THE TRUTH!

This is a little but very sincere Thank You for sending me your *Baltic News*. With interest and approval I read this finely produced newsletter.

I shall be grateful if you keep me on your mailing list, and I invoke the blessings of God on all who are helping you spread the truth about Russian imperialism and the menace of Communism.

Bishop Ivan PRASKO, D.S.E.O.,
Apostolic Exarch for Ukrainians of
Byzantine rite in Australia

Melbourne

PAGAN OUTLOOK

The Soviet might is based on the ancient pagan outlook which denies that human life is sacred. It asserts the competence of the State, or of individual officials, to decide who will live and who will die.

How can we get through to the Russian rulers that there are basic human rights which are superior to all human laws? It was to these basic human rights that the International Court appealed when it condemned the Nazis for their slaughter of millions of Jews, even though this action was taken under the direction of the supreme civil authority.

It is to these same basic human rights that we must appeal now, in defence of the Baltic people. We must act now, for tomorrow may be too late.

Melbourne.

Dorothy WILLIAMS

LET'S PULL TOGETHER!

I believe, there is good cooperation between the Balts and Ukrainians in the U.S.A. and Canada. We need much closer cooperation here in Australia, because the freedom of the nations of Central-Eastern Europe is interdependent.

We should understand very clearly that the captor of our homelands is the same Russian Empire, and that this Empire is going to break down as all other empires have done in the past.

Box Hill, Vic.

Dr T. JASKEWYCZ



— SPEAK UP (Canada)

THE FIFTH WORLD

RUSSIAN NATIONALITIES POLICY SINCE 1917

T.R. McGlynn*

Like in the Spanish New World colonies in the 16th century, purely Russian towns and state-farms are created in non-Russian areas to act as centres of colonial control. They also serve to attract non-Russians into Russian-speaking jobs in the new proletariat and bureaucracy. It is hoped that this process will prevent the resurgence of a nationally-oriented intelligentsia.

Now it may be all very well to cut pages out of Marx and Engels, but it became clear that a suitably Marxist-sounding justification was an urgent necessity in view of the visible reality of a Soviet Empire, not to mention the prospect of expansion.

Since 1917, there have been two major theories, one of them attributed to Lenin, and the other to Stalin. They are, respectively, the 'Doctrine of the Proletariat', which was dominant until 1934, and the 'Conception of the Lesser Evil' which superseded it in that year.

The Doctrine of the Proletariat is quite simple:

- (1) The proletariat is the most advanced class.
- (2) Most proletarians in the Empire are Russians.
- (3) Now that the bourgeoisie has been eliminated, Russians are not really a nation but a class.
- (4) Therefore Russia should keep the colonies to prevent them falling into the hands of people who live there, who cannot be proletarians and must therefore be less advanced, which would be a tragedy for the natives.

Even Rudyard Kipling could not have thought that one out, as he was not a real intellectual.

Imperialism

This 'Doctrine of the Proletariat' was considered adequate until the 1930s. But Stalin became annoyed at the emphasis on the wickedness of Tsarism in the teaching of Russian history. He found that Soviet-Kazakh literature, for example, still praised anti-Tsarist national heroes and heaped curses on Tsarist imperialism as a way of expressing opposition to something else. That 'something else' led to a 35% decline in the Kazakh population between 1930 and 1940.

Accordingly, Stalin took personal charge of Soviet history in 1934. Pokrovsky, the chief Bolshevik historian, had died in 1932, while in the following 3 years, most of his colleagues were murdered. The 'Conception of the Lesser Evil' was then formulated. It is nothing less than a total justification of all Tsarist imperialism of previous centuries, based on the argument that Tsarism as a social order was superior to the miserable tribal, semi-nomadic and semi-feudal societies conquered by the Tsars in Siberia



and Central Asia. (This 'argument', used logically, suggests that the Baltic States should have been independent before 1917, but not after . . .)

Therefore the whole of Soviet history was re-written after 1934. All Russian colonial policy since 1528 is now regarded as 'progressive'.

Colonization

Whereas Lenin saw much merit in Peter the Great, Stalin admired Ivan the Terrible, and had him written up as a 'progressive hero'. The colonization of Siberia and Central Asia, the massacres of Khabarov, and the dispossession and scattering of all the nationalities are all now progressive features of history, vouched for as such by Stalin, the apostolic successor of Marx, Engels and Lenin.

This Doctrine is not only valid for Tsarist history, but, because the Russians are now undeniably the 'most progressive class on earth', the 'Doctrine of the Lesser Evil' has a limitless validity for the future also, not only inside the Soviet Empire, but over the entire planet. The new Soviet historiography, which burns books, photographs and documents and alters and forges others, is designed to eliminate all evidence which contradicts the 'Conception of the Lesser Evil' and to prepare for an ultimate, definitive, edition of the true history of the Soviet Planet Earth.

Meanwhile, in Leningrad and Moscow, the unsophisticated members of the Russian population refer to Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia as the 'Sovietskaya Zagranitsa', or 'Soviet Foreign Countries'. So much for theory and doctrines! The people themselves can recognize and give a name to imperialism when they see it! One wonders how many others will one day find themselves in the Sovetskaya Zagranitsa?

Russian Nationalities Policy since 1917

● From page 5

In 1934 a prominent Old Bolshevik, Karl Radek published an article on Soviet Foreign Policy in the British Magazine *Foreign Affairs*. He stated:

'The attempts by Western critics to represent the foreign policies of the USSR as a continuation of Tsarist ones are ridiculous! Tsarism, or any other bourgeois régime, would necessarily resume the struggle for the conquest of Poland and the Baltic States. The USSR, on the contrary, regards their attainment of independence as a positive and progressive historical factor'.



Karl Radek never had to eat his words. Nor was he even disillusioned. Long before the 'Progressive' USSR attacked Poland and the Baltic States in its 'tsarist/bourgeois' manner of 1939 and 1940, the 'Great Stalin' spared him of any embarrassment by causing a pistol bullet to enter the base of his skull. Radek and every other important Old Bolshevik with any spark of independence whatever were shot during the Great Stalinist Counter-Revolution of the 1930s because they knew too much about the 'Great Stalin' for his good and theirs.

Stalin thus murdered historians as well as crystal-gazers, Russians and non-Russians, Communists as well as non-Communists, with apparently impartial savagery. The 'Enemies of Progress' came in a hundred shapes and forms! How strange, therefore, that the self-styled 'Father of the Nationalities' (by which was clearly meant all non-Russian nations on earth) should never have seen the dossier of a single individual arraigned for the crimes of Great Russian chauvinism, bourgeois nationalism or imperialism against any other national group or its territory! Whoever investigates this amazing anomaly will find that neither jurisprudence, reason or metaphysics can provide an explanation of the perpetual innocence of the Russians when contrasted with the incorrigibly criminal tendencies of the 'nationalities'.

Families Suffer

Ludmilla Grünberg, wife of imprisoned Sergei Soldatov, has become a social outcast in Russian-held Estonia. Her neighbours in Tallinn are afraid of visiting her. The only person who comes to see her is Matti Kiirend's wife Malle. Both men were gaoled for writing letters to the United Nations about the violations of Human Rights in Estonia (see *Baltic News*, September 30, 1976).

Since the imprisonment of her husband in 1975, Ludmilla has been paid only half of her normal wages at her place of employment. This is barely sufficient for rent and food; nothing is left for clothing or shoes. Ludmilla possesses only one pair of sandshoes and a pair of white shoes which she wears all the year round.

When her son Aleksander turned 18 (which legally made him an adult) his 'friends' involved him in a street fight. Police arrived very promptly, Aleksander was arrested and he is now serving a year of hard labour. None of his companions were arrested.

(Advertisement)

1st MORTGAGE INVESTORS

14 % PA

ON

\$2,000 — \$50,000

OVER 6—18 MONTHS

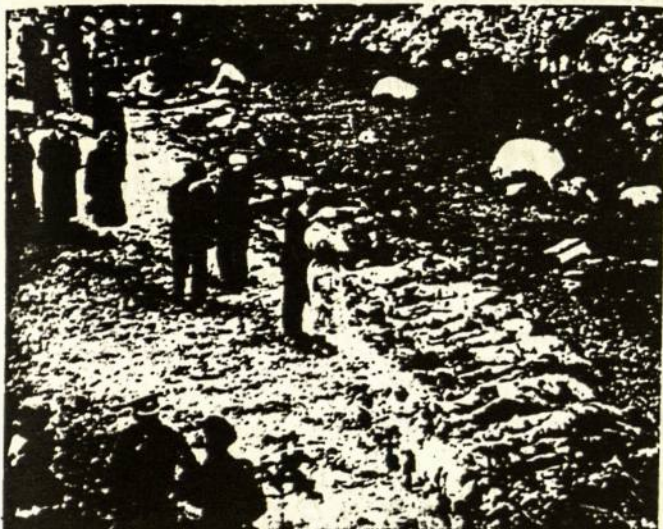
SECURITY

1st MORTGAGE WITH LEADING HOBART SOLICITORS

Contact: VIS FELDMANIS, PH 72 3188

COMING EVENTS

37th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MASS DEPORTATIONS.



● We accuse . . . These Estonian victims' corpses were found in the moat of the ancient castle of Kuressaare, on the island of Saaremaa.

(Advertisement)

FELDMANIS & ASSOCIATES

PTY LTD

Finance Brokers

MONEY TO LEND

1st Mortgage only
Interest only payments
13½% per annum

From \$100,000 up to 65% of valuation available on commercial and industrial propositions. Up to 60% of valuation on city or suburban hotels. Present mortgages paid off and finance re-arranged.

Phone 72 3188

FELDMANIS & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

337 Main Road, Glenorchy
Registered Finance Broker

● 5th June (Monday), 8.00 pm:

ABC-TV programme, all States
(Part of 'A Big Country' series)

SPIRIT OF OLEGAS

The story of Lithuanian-born Olegas Truchanas, who became one of Tasmania's greatest explorers.

● 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.

● 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

● 5th August (Saturday)

Lithuanian Folk Dancers'

DANCE

in Croatian Hall, Glenorchy.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS? or — are you about to move?

If so, please enter your new address in the space on the right, clip along the dotted line and post to us today.

If you prefer to write on a separate sheet, please ensure that you show both addresses: your old address, as well as your new one.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....Postcode



Dear Mr Brezhnev

BALTIC NEWS readers have responded very warmly to our recent appeals on behalf of the Baltic prisoners of conscience (Nijole Sadunaite, A. Zypre, P. Plumpa . . .). People from all parts of Australia and from all walks of life have written to the Soviet Premier (Mr Brezhnev), pleading for immediate release of these prisoners.

But 70-year-old Eric Fogarty, of Waratah, N.S.W., has some doubts whether his rather outspoken letter will ever reach Mr Brezhnev. Just in case Eric's fears are justified, an extract from his letter is reprinted here:

Leonid Brezhnev,
Moscow.

Comrade,

Now listen, mate, I intend to write as an old Australian, not in the terms of modern diplomacy. Just grab that telephone and tell the K.G.B. to immediately free that Lithuanian man, Petras Plumpa. Do you get the message?

We are now in the 20th century, not in the age of Ivan the Terrible.

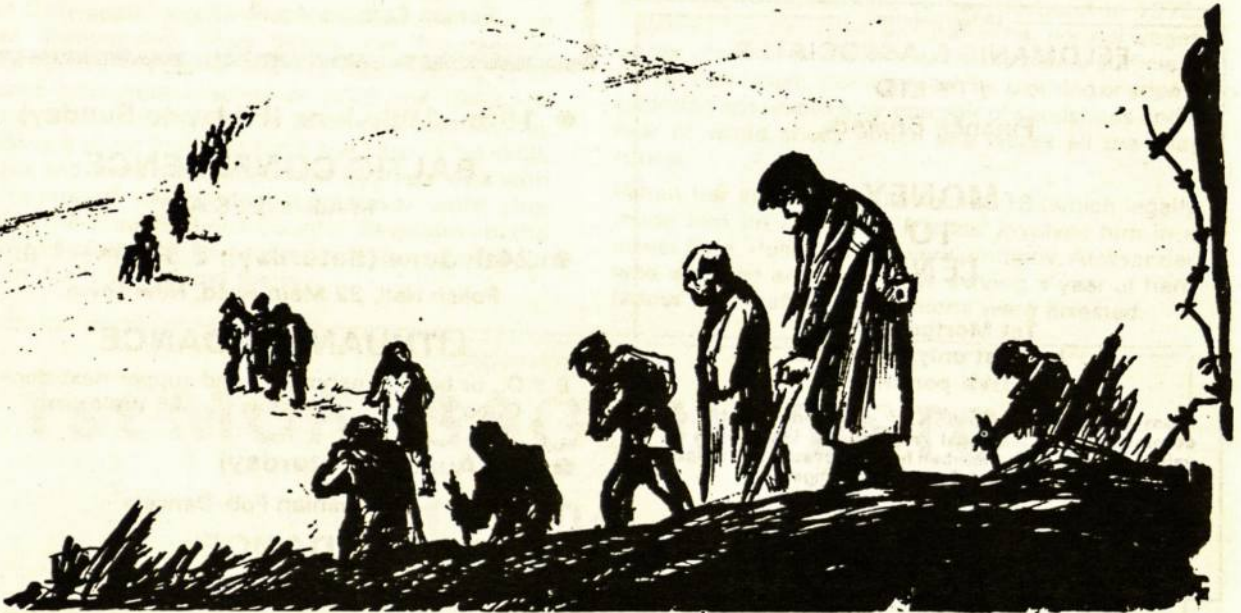
Most Australians knew of the "Animal Farm" during the reign of the beast, Stalin; and we did not like his successor, Krushchev.

When you get a chance, just read the writings of your own Russian historian, Vladimir S. Sobolev. China is your future problem, mate.

I see that you are now 71. And you should, at this late hour, give some consideration to your soul. You have one, you know! What a great tragedy if you have to spend your eternity with "Old Joe" drinking red-hot vodka. There is no future in that . . .

And do not forget Plumpa.

Eric Fogarty



REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PUBLICATION — CATEGORY B

BALTIC NEWS

P.O. BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TAS. 7005 — AUSTRALIA

Postage Paid
Sandy Bay
TAS. Aust.
7005