



# 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. 5(21)

November-December 1978

## Minister will speak at H.E.L.L.P. Meeting



The Federal Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (the Hon. M.J.R. MacKellar, M.H.R.) will be the guest speaker at the next Annual Meeting of Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (H.E.L.L.P.) in Hobart. The meeting will be held in the Polish Club, on the corner of Augusta and Main Roads, New Town, on Saturday 25 November, at 2.30 p.m.

Interested non-members are also welcome to come.

Members of H.E.L.L.P. Association are reminded that written nominations for the Executive Committee (up to 12 members) are to be sent to the Secretary of Association, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, not later than 18 November, 1978. The nominations must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee.

● The Chairman's Annual Report is on Page 2, in this issue.

## Renewed Call to New Zealand

The Australian Baltic Council has asked the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr Muldoon, to withdraw his country's *de jure* recognition of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

There was a public outcry in July, 1974, when Moscow Radio announced that the Australian Government had agreed to the legal presence of the Soviet Union in the three Baltic States by sending Canberra's Ambassador to Moscow, Sir James Plimsoll, on a formal visit to their capitals.

About three weeks later, the New Zealand Labour Government under the late Mr Norman Kirk decided to follow the Australian move. The policy remained unchanged when Mr Muldoon became Prime Minister after a defeat of the Labour Government in New Zealand.

An Australian deputation which went to see Mr Muldoon last year received no assurance that New Zealand would follow the present Australian Govern-

ment's example (since also endorsed by the ALP) of withdrawing recognition of the legality of the Soviet occupation.

In its issue of October 3, 1978, *The Canberra Times* commented:

'Recent economic agreements between the USSR and New Zealand are believed to be the principal reason for the Wellington Government's anxiety not to publicly change the status of its recognition of the Soviet presence in the Baltic countries. These include the highly advantageous recent arrangements under which Soviet fishing fleets exploit the waters in New Zealand's 200-nautical-mile economic zone.'



Mr MULDOON



## H.E.L.L.P. ASSOCIATION'S

## 1978 ANNUAL REPORT

The past year has been one of concern about human rights. Following the Belgrade Conference on European security in 1977, this aspect of Russian occupation was pursued by HELLP Association, and we started with the visit of dissident Tomas Venclova, who spoke at a press conference, and to the public on 28 December 1977. Mr Venclova warned of the danger that his group of Helsinki observers in Vilnius was facing, and how right he was! Within the next few months Viktoras Petkus, the leader of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group, was arrested, and later sentenced to 15 years' prison and exile. To bring attention to his plight, HELLP organised a lunchtime protest on 21 July 1978.

At the same function, in Franklin Square, signatures were collected for a petition calling on the Federal Government to raise at the United Nations the question of the continuing occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

On 9 June we commemorated those Balts who have died as a result of the Russian occupation starting with the mass deportations of June 1941. A vigil, with flags and candles, was held in Franklin Square in the evening, and was followed by an ecumenical service at St Joseph's Church, with representatives of leading churches in Hobart; the Most Reverend Sir Guilford Young, Catholic Archbishop of Tasmania preached a moving sermon.

The last major event was on 20 August, when the Polish Association and HELLP organised a public meeting on the subject 'Human Rights and the Soviet Union'. The Polish Hall was full of people who came to hear Mr Michael Hodgman, M.H.R., representing the Minister for Foreign Affairs; Senator K. Wriedt, Opposition Leader in the Senate; and Independent

Senator B. Harradine. The guest speaker, brought to Hobart from Sydney by the two Associations for the occasion, was Mrs T. Kroll-Simmel, well-known Estonian worker for the Baltic cause. At the end of the meeting, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

**No. 1**

THAT this meeting declares that the systematic suppression of basic human rights by the Communist regimes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe is an offence against the whole of humanity.

This meeting therefore calls on all Australians to boycott the Olympic Games due in Moscow 1980 and work for a change of venue.

We urge the Organising Committee to make contact with others through Tasmania and the rest of Australia and campaign on the slogan

**'NO MOSCOW GAMES WITHOUT HUMAN RIGHTS'**

**No. 2**

THAT we write to the Government seeking its assurance that in the interests of democracy and of the suffering people concerned it effectively raise at the United Nations and International Labor Organisation and on the Human Rights Commission the systematic suppression of human rights by the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union and the foreign domination and alien subjugation by the Soviet Union of the Baltic States.

This function was extremely successful in terms of interest by the public, and shows that there is a strong anti-Soviet feeling in the Hobart community.

Mr Taskunas, a member of the Committee, presented a paper entitled 'Dual Nationality' at Baltic Week held in Adelaide in June. At the same place, the Australian Labor Party announced that as a future government it would not again accord to Russia de jure sovereignty over the Baltic States.

On a more social theme, the Association sponsored Miss Barbara Viknius in the Blue Gum Festival Queen competition, and held two dances to raise finance.

I wish to thank the Committee for its work, and the members for their continuous support — especially the editorial group who has continued the mammoth task of producing the *Baltic News*, a newspaper admired throughout Australia. We feel it is our chief propaganda weapon.

At the moment your Association is involved in pursuing a number of major items, including bringing before the United Nations the fact of Russian colonialism in the Baltic, and action concerning the appointment of Professor Roebuck of the University of Tasmania to the position of head of research of Amnesty International in London.

R. Tarvydas,  
Chairman





# NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

## Freedom of the Press

Moscow authorities have notified the International Olympic Committee that journalists who 'do not support the spirit of Olympic friendship and peace' will not be granted visas to the Soviet Union.

No comments are necessary.

## Helsinki Violation

'The sentencing of Balys Gajauskas by a Soviet court to ten years of extremely harsh regime labor camp for helping jailed Moscow dissenter Alexander Ginzburg distribute funds from the Solzhenitsyn Fund for jailed Soviet dissidents is unjust and contrary to the Helsinki Final Accord,' stated Father Casimir Pugevicius, Executive Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, based in Brooklyn, New York.

Gajauskas is a fifty-year old Lithuanian Roman Catholic veteran of the anti-Soviet resistance in post-World War II Lithuania. For this he served twenty-five years in Soviet labor camps. Upon release in 1973, he was denied validation of his internal passport, and constantly harassed and fined. His aged mother was accused of harboring an 'illegal resident'.

A KGB search of their apartment in December, 1974, turned up several religious books, personal notes and fifty pages of a Lithuanian translation of Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*. The material was confiscated and Gajauskas was questioned.

On April 20, 1977, after another KGB raid had turned up a camera, enlarger, personal letters and the mother's diary, which were all confiscated, Gajauskas was brought in for questioning and never released. He was sentenced April 14 for 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda', to ten years in labor camp and five additional years of banishment from Lithuania.

## Another Monitoring Group

A Helsinki Human Rights monitoring group has been active in Russian-occupied Estonia for some time now.

A member of this group, Enn Tarto, has been repeatedly harassed by the KGB (Soviet secret police). Among the charges laid against him, Tarto was accused of arson after a mysterious fire damaged the house occupied by him.

Other members of the monitoring group are Mart Niklus, Endel Ratas and Valdur Raudvasar.

## 'FREEDOM' OF SPEECH

Anneli Koppel, a young Swedish woman of Estonian origin, was arrested in Warsaw in September 1977, for distributing pamphlets. Before her arrest, Miss Koppel and her friend Elizabeth Lie managed to hand out about 1400 pamphlets deploring Soviet domination and the presence of the Russian armies in East European countries. They were sentenced to 60 days imprisonment or a fine of about \$150 each.

Initially, both women refused to pay the fine. Anneli Koppel later changed her mind and returned to Sweden after spending a month in a Polish prison. Elizabeth Lie decided to serve her full term.

Anneli Koppel had been previously arrested by the KGB in 1970. On that occasion, she had chained herself to a pillar in a Moscow railway station and distributed pamphlets demanding freedom for Soviet dissidents.

## Thanks — again!

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

J.Paskevicius (Tas.), \$200; Estonian Community in A.C.T., \$52; Anonymous (Tas.), \$50; S.Jarembauskas (N.S.W.), \$30; Lithuanian Women in S.A.; V.Petkunas (S.A.) \$25 each; K.Petravicius (Tas.), O.Liutikienė (W.A.), \$20 each; V.Lipping (N.S.W.) \$15; V.Mikelaitis & othr. (Tas.), E.Kuplis (Tas.) \$12 each; A.Urnevicius (S.A.), A.Gudelis (S.A.), C.Liutikas (N.S.W.), P.Cekanauskas (W.A.), H.E.Baltins (N.S.W.), E.Baulis (Tas.), Mrs.Modzeliewski (Tas.), P.Petraitiene (Tas.), I.Andrikoniene (Tas.) Anonymous (Tas.), \$10 each; Dr.L.D.Sylwestrowicz (Tas.), J.Dolyak (Tas.), E.Mieziitis (Tas.), J.Z.Klara (Tas.), B.Nielsen (Tas.), A.&M.Mukans (N.S.W.), C.Ford (N.S.W.), A.Smits (Vic.), \$5 each; A.Jonusaitis (Tas.), J.Salyklis (Tas.) \$4 each; E.Madden (Tas.), Mr.Dziendziel (Tas.), \$2 each.

*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.

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# DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION

**Tomas Venclova**

The dissident movement differs from an underground movement. Underground organizations do exist in the Soviet Union, but with present day methods it is relatively easy to infiltrate and liquidate such organizations. Even though this may not be always successful, the government does in fact have a long experience in fighting underground movements. But dissidents, operating completely in the open, have paralyzed traditional government methods. In truth, even among the open dissidents there are government agents, traitors, cowards and adventurers. The democratic movement received a large blow from Yakir and Krasin, who when arrested harmed very many people. Perhaps they were not agents, perhaps they only broke down. Now when the government has started to eliminate the Helsinki groups, a similar role was played out by Petrov-Agatov and Lipauski. An underground organization would probably be unable to recover from such blows, but the dissident movement, not having a clear structure and hierarchy, and being motivated by moral principles, after some time regenerates once again. As we know, after arrests the samizdat also regenerates.

Within the dissident movement there are a number of major streams. From these it is appropriate to mention the Marxists whose interpretation of Marxism differs from the official one (General Grigorenko, Pliush and others). The second group is closest to me personally and in my view has the greatest prospects — the liberal democrats (Sakharov, Orlov, Ginzburg and many others). The third group — the Christians (Solzhenitsyn and those of similar outlook). Russian nationalist group (Osipov and others), close to the Christians although it has a chauvinistic wing from which it is not possible to expect much good. A different direction constitutes the Jewish movement for emigration to Israel. Their representatives work together with the Sakharov people, and sometimes (e.g. M. Agurski) with the Christians — Russian nationalists.

All in all, the Sakharov people because of their tolerance and broad outlook unite everyone except the Stalinists and fascist-type rightists (these two groups often have similar aims, making up, so to speak, a closed circle).

## Isolated from Moscow

In Lithuania dissidence is not as open as it is in Russia, and perhaps this is the correct tactic for a country which is more isolated than Moscow from western journalists (only some political prisoners, more active priests and protesting artists names are more widely known). Nevertheless, it is possible to talk even about Lithuanian dissident directions — Roman Catholic and national. They formed without encouragement from the Moscow dissidents, but

were simply a continuation of the traditions when Lithuania was independent before 1940 and of the armed resistance movement which lasted until 1962. However, they did establish some sort of relations with the Russian dissidents eventually which became evident during the trial of Kovalev in Vilnius in 1975. V. Sevrukas was the unusual person to be the only Marxist dissident in Lithuania. It was only after the visit of Sakharov to Vilnius in 1975 for the trial of Kovalev that he enlisted more supporters in Lithuania.

It is important to note that, in their fight against totalitarianism, people of such conflicting philosophies as libertarian, rationalists and Christians find common ground for talking and acting. The reason for the cooperation is that, even though from different premises, these ideologies acknowledge personal freedom and responsibility. Sakharov is formally an atheist, even though perhaps every Christian would find him a familiar soul. The most important thing here is that, instead of 'progress', 'historical inevitability' myth, and instead of the 'winning horse', a human being brings to the surface his conscience and intelligence.

## Starry Moments

The democratic movement had a few 'starry moments' which became history. One of these was the demonstration in the Red Square during the invasion of Czechoslovakia. A few people, among them N. Gorbanevskaya with her baby in her arms, perhaps for the first time since 1917, raised their voices for freedom. All of them were imprisoned. This demonstration had about the same meaning as the self-immolation of Romas Kalanta in Lithuania. Someone in the West correctly stated that Gorbanevskaya did more for her country than all of Brezhnev's tanks.

The second moment was the appearance of Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* which was followed by the author's exile. The writer always stood on the edge of the sword, but did not perish. Even today he writes, works for his country and influences public opinion perhaps even more than he would if he lived in his country.

The third moment was the freeing of Bukovsky. His case showed how important is the pressure of public opinion in the West. The importance of that opinion is much greater than we imagine. At the time of the freeing of Bukovski I was still in Lithuania, but I visited Moscow and remember very well that no one, not even Sakharov, believed that it would be possible to win anything. Nevertheless it was won. In recent times new democratic associations have begun to form — the Human Rights Committee led by Sakharov, the Moscow branch of Amnesty International led by Tverdokhlebov, and finally the Helsinki group with Orlov in front. As you know the



Helsinki groups formed in other places also, including Lithuania. It is extremely difficult for them to function and at the moment their activities are virtually strangled, but they have a considerable moral and symbolic presence. Besides, the noise about the fulfilment of the Helsinki Agreement sometimes helps individual people. Pliush and Bukovski were saved, and I myself was able to leave, though I do not wish to compare myself with those great ones. Only recently Jokubynas left. Therefore I ask everybody to bring into the open the matter of the liberation or freeing of persecuted persons, because public opinion helps a lot.

### Demoralisation

The gravest difficulty for the democratic movement to succeed in the Soviet Union is the demoralization of intelligentsia and its negative selection. Through a long period of time the best people are dismissed or even eliminated, their places are taken by weaklings with a bureaucratic psychology among whom democratic ideas have no echo. That is even worse than government repressions. For Lithuania, in my opinion, what also hurts is the everlasting repetition amongst ourselves and for others that we are negligible, weak, in a hopeless danger. I believe that the Lithuanian nation has done and is still doing much. The Lithuanian historical tradition is no less than, for example, that of Poland or Sweden, and that is all quite appropriate to remember.

When talking about the prospects of the democratic movement, we must comment on the reapproachment of the movement, the inflammable reapproachment, with the masses. In Lithuania such closeness is very evident, while in Russia it is just starting to

develop. Because of economic difficulties the workers are beginning to place their hopes in Sakharov, even though the official propaganda denigrates him in all ways. Sakharov gets letters from workers. Here is one as an example. 'I am so and so, a factory worker. I work quite well, I am well ahead of the plan, I drink very little. I have six children and I cannot provide for them. I have heard that in the West workers live quite differently. For my family's sake, so that my children would not starve, I would like to go to the West. I know that you stand up for the working people and I hope that you will help me.' When I left for the west, Sakharov had already received about 200 of such letters. Later perhaps there were even more of them.

### Reorientation

The process of the reorientation of the people has proceeded the furthest in Poland. In 1968 the workers together with police dispersed a student demonstration, but now the Catholic, intellectual and worker movements in Poland are in effect amalgamated. The government there is forced to make concessions, to find peaceful solutions to conflicts. That is not a bad sign for the whole of eastern Europe, including Lithuania.

In my opinion it is very important that the Russian liberal movement should find a common talk with national movements in the soviet republics (including Lithuania) as well as in the whole of eastern Europe. After all, it is quite clear to everyone that it will be difficult to achieve independence without changes in Moscow. A good start has been made for such changes. We all know that Lithuanians and

● *Continued on page 6*



Baltic youth demonstrating in Washington for human rights in their occupied country. The Western countries could decide to retreat on the question of human rights... This would be a terrible blow for human rights not only in the USSR and Eastern Europe, but also in the developing nations.



# DISSIDENTS

● From page 5

Russians have a lot of accounts to settle, beginning with the slaughter of 1655 (the first enemy occupation of the Lithuanian capital Vilnius when Russian and Cossack troops looted the city, the fires burning for 17 days). The prohibition of Lithuanian printings by Tsar Alexis in 1865 was a highlight of the Russian occupation of Lithuania in the 19th century. The visit by Sakharov in 1975 may be the start of the gradual peacemaking and bipartisan understanding process between these two nations. Among other things, the government fears such a reapproachment and tries to put many hurdles in its way. It often happens that a Lithuanian dissident hears in court: 'So you have put your lot in with the Russians?' (or: 'So you have befriended the Jews?'). So, an attempt is made to use national feelings for the affairs of the communist government, but of little avail. Present-day Lithuanian distinguishes who is his friend, and who is his enemy.

## Risky Home Visit

A British citizen has been recently released after serving ten years in a Soviet prison. Nikolai Sharogin, 57, went to visit Russia (his former homeland) in 1968 and was detained after refusing KGB offers to act as their agent in Britain.

Sharogin was charged with bringing anti-Soviet materials to Russia and gaoled.

Although since set free, Sharogin has not yet received permission from the Soviet authorities to return to Britain — in spite of his refusal to accept a Soviet passport, and despite his insistence that he is still a British subject.

## 250 Million Dissidents

Bukovski has said that the USSR has 250 million political prisoners. It is also possible to say that it has 250 million dissidents, because in one way or another almost everyone is dissatisfied. However the overt dissidents have a special historical undertaking because through their lips talk those who are too shy to talk, cannot talk and who are incapable of talking. The overt dissidents show to the people that it is possible to live without compromise and lies. They show to the world the situation in the Soviet Union, and also the difficult situation in annexed Lithuania. They prepare and realize the moral and ideological alternative to the present regime. I do not think that they would be able to assume government in the near future (they do not even raise this problem for themselves); but if a new situation arose following some changes, they would certainly be a partner in the new dialogue. To conquer evil altogether is an impossibility, but it is possible to push it away by degrees — to herd the monster back into his cave and guard him so that he would not slither out again. In that way the dissident movement reminds one of life itself, which is also a daily fight against evil.

# LETTERS

## An Appreciation

My family and I have been deeply touched by the many generous tributes that have been paid to Sir Robert.

These expressions of affection and respect have come not only from his friends, but from many Australians who never knew him personally as well as from people far beyond Australia. Your own message has meant a great deal to me.

Malvern, Vic.

(Dame) Pattie MENZIES

## Correction

I have no objection to your story on page 1 of your August-September, 1978 issue.

It is your editorial on page 3 which I believe to be unbalanced. Until you can quote from the transcript of what I had to say to prove me wrong, I believe I went no further than to state:

1. Foreign affairs decisions were not being arrived at democratically, whichever party was in office.
2. Mostly they are being made by a very few Senior Cabinet Ministers heavily influenced by their Senior Public Servants, and
3. In the case of the Baltic decision, there is no doubt the *initiative* came from the Public Servants.

Adelaide, S.A.

Chris HURFORD, M.P.



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



# COMING EVENTS

18th November (Saturday), 8.30 pm - 1 am: in Polish Hall, Main Road, New Town -

## BALTIC DANCE

Good Band .... All Welcome

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

25th November (Saturday), 2.30 pm: in Polish Club, New Town -

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of H.E.L.L.P. Association.

For further details, see Page 1 of this issue.

26th November (Sunday), 2.30 pm: in Hobart Town Hall -

## INAUGURAL MEETING

of Ethnic Council of Tasmania.

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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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# Expelled from school for saying 'No' to KGB

Four Lithuanian schoolboys have declared that they were expelled from school because they refused to co-operate with the KGB — the Soviet secret police — by giving 'false evidence against our common acquaintance Viktoras Petkus', according to materials smuggled out of the Soviet Union.

Petkus, a Lithuanian human rights activist, was recently convicted of 'anti-Soviet agitation' and sentenced to 15 years in prison, labour camp and exile (see story in last issue of *Baltic News*).

The declaration by the four students to the Lithuanian State prosecutor appeared in Number 31 of the 'Chronicle of the Catholic Church' in Lithuania, a samizdat (underground publication) which reports on anti-religious activity and human rights violations by the government in Soviet Lithuania.

The declaration was signed with the boys' full names and addresses.

Contents of the latest chronicle were made public in England by the Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism at Keston College, Kent.

In their declarations the boys said that they were unjustly expelled from Vienuolis Secondary School because of their religious and nationalist views and their friendship with former political prisoners, and because they had refused to give the KGB false evidence against Petkus.

The proposal for their expulsion was not approved by their teachers.

According to Keston College, the kind of false evidence that was sought is indicated by an article in the Russian-language paper *Sovetskaya Litva* (Soviet Lithuania) of July 16 applauding the 15-year sentence imposed on Petkus.



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