



BALTIC NEWS

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

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EDITORIAL

The latest events in Afghanistan have convinced even the most apathetic Australians that the Russian Empire is spreading like cancer. As such, it aims to stop at nothing until the whole world is in its grip.

But, unlike cancer, the Russian expansion can be halted. Throughout the last 30 years or so, the Baltic people have offered us the "cure." What a pity that — blinded by the greed for profit — we Aussies chose not to listen.

How much longer can we now afford to keep our heads buried in the sand? The answer is: we can't, for our time is up.

Australia must act NOW and follow the "Baltic prescription" for checking the Russians without bloodshed. This "prescription" is simple: we must turn off the economic tap (i.e., stop all exports to Russia, boycott the dollar-generating Moscow Olympics), and send home all Russian ambassadors, trade missions and other Kremlin representatives. This has been the constant plea of the oppressed Baltic people, since the late 1940's. They have also stressed that going to war will NOT cure the spreading Russian cancer. On the contrary: a

large-scale war would consolidate the Kremlin's power and weaken its non-Russian subjects.

To be effective, the economic and moral boycott of Russia must be total. Without exceptions or concessions. For, as any doctor will tell us, half a cure may be worse than none at all.

So far, we have received impressive-sounding promises from America's President Carter and Australia's P.M. Fraser — but not enough action. The Soviet troops in Afghanistan are wearing winter coats woven from Australian and New Zealand wool. American-built computers continue guiding Russian missiles and gun-boats in their daily attacks on the Afghan people.

It is already later than we think. The Russian colonial cancer is spreading incessantly, and the future of the free world lies in our leaders' hands. It is time for Mr Fraser to learn from the Baltic people's sad experience and heed their advice. Australia must turn off its economic tap to Russia NOW, and send Russia's representatives home. For tomorrow may be too late, and future generations will curse us for napping at the height of the Red Epidemic.

Discrimination in Olympics

Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians must again be allowed to compete in the Olympic Games under their own colours — instead of being lumped together with their foreign oppressors. And, unless this anti-Baltic discrimination is removed immediately, Russia appears ineligible to remain in the Olympic Federation.

These are the main points of a factual submission which the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association in Tasmania (HELLP) has telexed to the International Olympic Committee in Lake Placid, N.Y. (U.S.A.) on February 7, 1980.

Old Members Kept Out

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were long-standing members of the Olympic Federation, until Russian armed forces annexed these States to the U.S.S.R. under a secret 1939 agreement with Nazi Germany. Although other Nazi pacts have since been declared null and void, this "great injustice" is continuing to the present day: The U.S.S.R. has been admitted to the Olympic Federation, while the old members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are still kept out without explanation.

HELLP has urged the International Olympic Committee to consider this evidence immediately and to suspend Russia's membership until Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are readmitted to the Olympic Federation.

League of Nations Precedent

"We hope, the IOC will act responsibly and remember the international precedent created by the League of Nations in 1939, when Russia was excluded for attacking Finland," a spokesman for HELLP Association said in Hobart today.

"Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were admitted to the League of Nations in 1921-22 and remained full members to the end, i.e., until the League was dissolved in April 1946. The Soviet Union joined the League in 1934 and was expelled in 1939 when it attacked Finland, as a prelude to its premeditated armed takeover of the Baltic region," the spokesman said. "These facts speak louder than words, and cannot be ignored by the IOC if it wishes to remain unbiased."

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NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

More Daring Protests

The native people in Russian-held Baltic countries have spoken out against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and have urged the International Olympic Committee to move the Olympic Games out of the U.S.S.R.

Two separate messages signed by about thirty Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian activists, have recently reached the West. Both messages were dated January 28 and copies were released by an Estonian scientist, Jurii Kukk.

One message took the form of an open letter to Russia's Party Leader Leonid Brezhnev and was also sent to U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. It condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and compared it to the Russian annexation of the Baltic States in 1940.



War and Peace

The second message was addressed to the International Olympic Committee and to the Olympic committees of the U.S., Canada, Britain, Australia and other countries. That message reportedly said that "no nation at war should take part in the Games since the Olympics symbolizes peace". It calls on the IOC and all freedom-oriented countries to work for the removal of the 1980 summer games from the Soviet Union. It particularly protests the selection of the Estonian capital, Tallinn, as the site for Olympic yachting events.

This will put in doubt "the Estonians' right to self-determination", the statement said. "Baltic people felt it fitting and reasonable that, under present conditions, the games should be held outside the Soviet Union."

— BATUN — Cartoon by courtesy of *The Mercury* (Hobart)

Olympic Cleanout

In preparation for Moscow Olympics, the Russian authorities have started a massive campaign to silence all attempts at free speech. Some 300,000 foreign tourists are expected to come to the Games, scheduled to start on July 19. The local people are therefore to be isolated from "undesirable" foreign influences.

The chiefs of all Moscow offices and factories have been ordered to submit, by April 1, the names of all drunks, "nervy and unbalanced employees" and any Jews who wish to migrate abroad. The Communist Party will then decide, who is to leave the city before the start of Olympics.

Students must fill out forms, stating where they propose to spend next summer (June to August). Those planning to stay at home will be sent to camps

outside Moscow. Human rights workers have been threatened with house arrest.

Special talks are now given in all schools, pointing out the dangers of talking to strangers, especially Americans. The schoolchildren are warned that "American tourists will be distributing poisoned chewing gum."

Charter Signatories Lose Jobs

In the BALTIC STATES, the pre-Olympic wave of persecutions has hit a number of people who had signed the "Baltic Charter 45". Released in Moscow on August 23, 1979, the Charter had called for Baltic independence and for public disclosure of the secret clauses in the 1939 Russian-Nazi German pact (For more details, see the last issue of *Baltic News*, page 3).

Estonian Erik Udam was dismissed from his engineering job, Enn Tarto — fired from a heating plant, and Endel Ratas was threatened with sacking from his post as an auto mechanic. A leading Estonian activist, Mart Niklus, was dismissed from the Tartu foreign languages evening school on November 13, 1979. He had worked there 12 years, teaching English, French and German.

Interrogations and Arrests

At least two Lithuanian signatories of the "Baltic Charter 45" have been arrested — Antanas Terleckas on October 30, 1979, and Julius Sasnauskas on December 11. On October 3, the residences of Algirdas Statkevicius, and Vladas Sakalys were searched in Vilnius. On October 11, Angele Paskauskiene's home was subjected to a police search and on October 12, Arvydas Cechanavicius received similar treatment.

Latvian reports on interrogations and searches in connection with the Baltic Charter include not only the heretofore known names of Ints Calitis, Juris Ziemelis and Ivars Zukovskis, but also Maris Strupulis, Grinbergs and Uldis Ofkants (a "Baltic Federation" case veteran).

On January 14, UPI reported from Moscow the arrest of Lithuanian geologist Vytautas Skuodys, a former lecturer at the University of Vilnius (Lithuania). He is accused of having signed the Baltic Charter, although his name did not appear on the original list of 45.

Of the five Russian dissidents who had added their signatures to the Baltic Charter, Sakharov has been exiled from Moscow to Gorki, while Tatiana Velikanova (a 47-year-old mathematician) was arrested on November 1.

In spite of this police crackdown, 35,000 signatures have since been gathered in Lithuania in support of the Baltic Charter 45. Such unprecedented large-scale demonstration of public opinion is most remarkable for the U.S.S.R., since it is extremely difficult to carry out any community surveys, in the present political atmosphere of that country.

—UPI, Washington Post, BATUN, *Europos Lietuvis*, CCCI.

Profile

Human for R

Niyaz Sakhnati is the
people (Iranians), who
still deprived of their ba

- the right to be
"free from of fear"
- the right of

"These human rights are the most important and you can't
colonize your children. We have revealed during a camp, released
the political犯 and the political犯 have been in jail since 1988. The
political犯 have been in jail since 1988."

Parties of this Iranian
country, the Iranian who have
been freed from prison



"In 1990, I became a working off, p
work from my university, because
they didn't want to give me a special job
and I didn't want to work in a factory
and I didn't want to work in a post office
because they don't want to give me a special
job, and I work today, not know if I
can't work to you and tell", when
in working to things not tell
"since I signed,

more harder and harder to work."

1990: Niyaz Sakhnati

Iranian dissident and political prisoner, United States

Human Rights Activist and Author, Iran

One of the best known unofficial publications in the USSR is the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church* which, since 1972, has been reporting Soviet persecution of religious believers in Lithuania. Nijole Sadunaite was one of the Lithuanian Catholics who produced and distributed this journal. In June 1975 she was sentenced to 3 years in labour camps and 3 years internal exile. During her trial she showed herself to be a woman of remarkable spiritual stature whose attitude to the court itself was one of Christian charity. "I love you all as if you were my brothers and sisters," she told her judges, "and I would not hesitate to give my life for any of you. Today you don't need my sacrifice, but you do need to hear the truth spoken to your faces." According to Nijole, the *Lithuanian Chronicle* had truthfully reflected atheist crimes against believers, and truth could not be conquered.

Nijole Sadunaite is now in exile in Boguchany, a small village in Siberia. Although very weak after the labour camp, where she developed chronic bronchitis, a heart condition and cholecystitis, her letters are free from self-pity: "Thank you, good Lord," she writes, "for the beauty of nature; for the sparks of goodness in people's souls."



Human Rights for Balts!

Nijole Sadunaite is but one of 6½ million Baltic people (Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians) who are still deprived of their basic human rights today:

- * the right of free speech,
- * freedom of religion, and
- * the right of self-government.

These human rights infringements by the Russian colonial authorities are documented carefully, and are published - 4 to 6 times each year - in the Baltic News.

Copies of this factual bulletin are sent, free of charge, to anyone who asks for them.

FIND OUT THE TRUTH - IT'S YOURS FOR THE ASKING:

TO: H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association),
Post Office Box 272,
SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

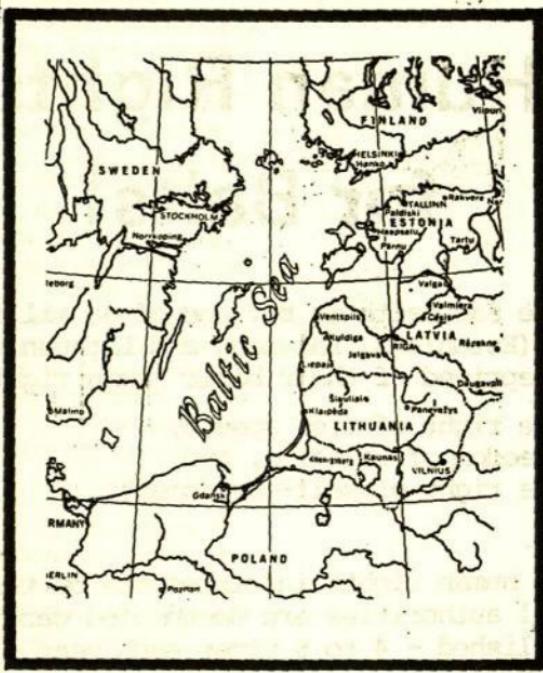
I do not recognize the Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

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

Name

ADDRESS

..... POSTCODE



The BALTIC COUNTRIES

Soviet Colonies in the Heart of Europe

BALTIC PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE:

Help from All Directions

New Zealand Successes

Large numbers of Christmas cards have been sent by New Zealand people, to prisoners detained by the Russians, including a number from the Baltic States. Cards have also been sent to Russian human rights activists.

The "blitz" was organised by Mr James Read, a student in the history dept of Massey University, in Palmerston North, New Zealand. A number of cards were sent by registered mail, together with Advice of Delivery cards. Amongst the A.O.D. cards returned so far were from: Voldamar Bangers, Antanas Burbulis, Povilas Birzys, Antanas Baltrunas, Natalija Grinvalde, Stasys Morkunas, Bronius Petrauskas, Benius Rekasius, Jonas Kurzinskas, and B. Pupelis.

A number of cards were also sent to persons detained in psychiatric hospitals. Amongst such people was Mr Anatoly D. Ponomaryov, the man responsible for sending much information on psychiatric abuse to the West, before he was himself incarcerated in such an institution. Mr Read got an A.O.D. back from the hospital, confirming the arrival of the greeting card he had sent.

Unfortunately, under Russian postal regulations, A.O.D. cards need not be signed by the addressee, only that of the postman is required. However, it still serves to focus attention on these prisoners' plight.



• 18-year-old Latvian Maris Tilgals (pictured) is serving a three year sentence in Perm concentration camp No. 35 (Russia), because he had prepared and distributed patriotic leaflets. He had also allegedly tried to establish an S.D. (social democratic?) party. His 19-year-old brother Janis Alberts has been gaoled for five years, for the same "offences".

German Offer

According to reports in *Billpost* and *Deutsche Tagespost*, Catholic priest Rev. Winifred Pietrek and eight West German lay people have each offered to work in Russian concentration camps for a year, if the Soviet colonial office agreed to release Lithuanian freedom worker, Viktoras Petkus.

Known as "the Third Man" during the 1978 crackdown on dissidents inside the Soviet Union, Petkus was sentenced to a total of fifteen years in prison, labour camp and internal exile, because he had called for an immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic States.

Australian Register

Several Australian-born members of HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian People Association in Tasmania) are compiling a card index of all Baltic prisoners of conscience who are known to be in Russian captivity now. The group will be pleased to give the prisoners' names and addresses to anyone in the free world who would like to write to these captives.

All enquiries are to be directed to BALTIC NEWS, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005 — Australia, in the first instance.

... AND FROM OUR MAIL BAG

Response from Britain

I received all your material and we have been able to put it to quite good use. We have mobilised hundreds of Christians here in Britain to support persecuted fellow believers behind the Iron Curtain and are even hopeful that we may be able to organise a long term project to continue this work. Such people could also be very interested in "Baltic News".

Philip VICKERS,
National Director, Aid to the Church in Need
(United Kingdom)

Leave Your Tears

I enjoyed reading the book "Leave Your Tears in Moscow." Please find cheque enclosed. Any money left over is for donation.

I don't know much about how to help the poor people in prison. My husband's parents are Lithuanian so I am interested in that respect but I don't know the language.

Best wishes in your efforts.

Chiltern, Vic. Margaret LIORENTAS

More Prisoner Help

I have decided to write to Sergei Soldatov, by post card. I enclose a donation.

St. Peters, N.S.W. (Miss) C. FORD.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Human Rights and Hypocrisy

Last year, I was a member of the Sub Committee on Human Rights in the U.S.S.R.; let me tell you why I served on it. Because I object to the hypocrisy of the U.S.S.R. and its stooges in criticising *relatively* liberal regimes all over the world whilst denying human rights to its own citizens in a country which 61 years after its establishment does not dare to allow political parties, independent trade unions, a free press or travel for its citizens.

But hypocrisy is not confined to the U.S.S.R., though they may have developed it to a higher level. The Liberal politicians who speak about their love for human rights, belong to a government which sent a parliamentary delegation to the U.S.S.R., after having been told by the Russians that no member of the Sub Committee on Human Rights would be admitted.

Fairfield, N.S.W.

(Dr.) R. E. KLUGMAN,
M.H.R. for Prospect.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee's full report on Human Rights in the Soviet Union (available in book form) was reviewed in the last (Nov.-Dec. 1979) issue of Baltic News, page 5.

Russian Ambassador

Last December, an article published in LONDON TELEGRAPH named Russia's ambassador in Australia (Mr Nikolai Georgiyevich Sudarikov) as a former senior officer with the Russian secret police, the NKVD. HELP Association in Hobart (Tasmania) immediately wired Australia's Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, requesting Mr Sudarikov's expulsion. The revelations made Mr Sudarikov a criminal under international genocide law, the telegram said. Mr Fraser's attention was also drawn to the 1948 United Nations resolution signed by Australia.

Mr Fraser has not yet replied, but several members of Parliament have strongly responded in support of the HELP submission. The following is a typical example of the letters received so far:

I am concerned that if the details contained in the London Telegraph article are correct then the appointment by the USSR of Mr Sudarikov as Ambassador is an affront to this nation and in particular to its citizens from the Baltic States.

Because the article was written by Robert Moss it carries authority which cannot be ignored and I am sure that Mr Peacock will be making urgent investigations with a view to appropriate steps being taken.

Brian HARRADINE,
Senator for Tasmania

Don't Give Up!

Sincere thanks for the Baltic News which keeps reminding us of the suffering people in the Baltic countries.

I enclose a donation (\$20). Don't give up!

Melbourne, Vic. P. MORKUNAS.

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

Red Army Choir



Congratulations on the peaceful and civilised manner in which the Baltic people demonstrated against the Red Army concerts in our major cities last October and November. The leaflets in particular, were excellent (see sample above): they got the message across, without the need to throw eggs or tomatoes.

Adelaide, S. A.

J. ABBOTT.

Plenty to Sing About

The Russians certainly have a lot to sing about — just compare the 1938 and 1968 maps of the world!

Yet, like curious fools, we flocked to Palais Theatre in St. Kilda last November, and poured thousands of Australian dollars into the Red Army's pockets. It must have been a welcome contribution towards the expenses of their Afghanistan "tour" six weeks later . . .

To be consistent, I guess, we should bring the Russians back for an encore, once they are finished with the Afghan slaughter. Or, are they returning uninvited — and in battle-dress, this time?

Melbourne, Vic.

G. EDWARDS.

The Red Army



An Appreciation

I am enclosing a small cheque towards defraying expenses of your noble and informative paper, which I read from cover to cover and pass on to someone else.

Seymour, Vic.

Roy EVANS

SOVIET/AUSTRALIAN

DUAL CITIZENSHIP

A. P. Taskunas

The new Soviet citizenship law, which came into effect on July 1, 1979, has received wide publicity in the Australian daily press and ethnic papers. This has caused concern, occasionally bordering on panic, among some Australian citizens of Baltic and East European origin. BALTIC NEWS has asked Mr A. P. Taskunas, of the University of Tasmania, to write a factual report on the present situation.

Citizenship is a person's allegiance to a State. Every citizen enjoys the rights set out in his country's laws, and has to fulfil certain obligations in return.

In accordance with the usual Australian practice, the words "citizenship" and "nationality" will be used as synonyms in this article. It should be noted, however, that in continental Europe "nationality" means "ethnic origin" and therefore may be different from a person's citizenship¹.

It is an internationally accepted principle that the conditions governing citizenship are determined by the *domestic* laws of each individual country.² These domestic laws differ a great deal from one country to another, and can be overridden only by explicit international treaties.

A person is a *dual citizen* (also known as "dual national"), if — according to their own domestic laws — two countries can claim him as their citizen.

It has been variously estimated that between 3/4 and 1 1/4 million Australians are dual nationals; and that 500,000 of them are dual Australian/Soviet citizens.³ Nearly all naturalised Australians of Baltic origin belong to this category.

As with many other issues, it is unwise to discuss dual citizenship in generalised terms. Certain groups of people (e.g., dual British/Australian citizens) derive distinct privileges and advantages from their dual citizenships; for many others, dual citizenship is an unwanted burden.⁴ Most Balts in Australia seem to hold the latter view.

Acquisition of citizenship

There are several ways in which an individual may become a citizen of a State: by birth, by naturalisation, by marriage, or by state succession.

Citizenship by birth has two different rules: (1) *jus sanguinis* (blood relationship) whereby a child's citizenship is determined by his parents' citizenship, irrespective of where the child is born; and (2) *jus soli* (place of birth) whereby any person born within a State's boundaries is a citizen of that state, regardless of the parents' citizenship. Some countries follow only one of these rules, some have a combination of both.

An alien who settles in another country may be granted the latter country's citizenship, if he satisfies certain conditions (such as length of residence, knowledge of language or proof of loyalty). This procedure is known as *naturalization*. A person who becomes "naturalised" must take an oath of allegiance to his new country and renounce all loyalty to the country of his previous citizenship. However, this does not always cancel his previous citizenship: it depends on the domestic law of each country. For example, the Soviet law holds that, once a Soviet citizen, a person always remains a Soviet citizen — unless the renunciation of his

citizenship is expressly authorized by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.⁵ The Australian Citizenship Act 1948-1973, on the other hand, states that an adult Australian citizen automatically loses his Australian citizenship, if he voluntarily acquires another country's citizenship (other than through marriage).⁶

In some countries, women forfeit their citizenship by marriage to an alien. This is not so in Australia or the Soviet Union: marriage does not affect the spouses' citizenship.

The state succession means that "upon change of sovereignty, the inhabitants of the territory concerned lose the nationality of the predecessor State and become *ipso facto* nationals of the successor".⁷

Baltic state succession

On June 15-17, 1940, units of the Red Army entered Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, without a declaration of war. New governments, favourable to the Soviet Union were formed immediately. Less than two months later (on August 3 - 6), the three countries were incorporated into the USSR.⁸

The citizenship law then current in the Soviet Union had been in force since August 19, 1938.⁹ This very brief statute, consisting of merely eight articles, remained unchanged until June 30, 1979. Over the years, however, it was supplemented by a number of decrees. In addition, the 1938 law had not repealed all previous laws, and the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet was given the power "to solve the question of previous laws in accordance with set procedure."¹⁰

Under the 1938 Soviet law, two groups of people were USSR citizens:

"(a) all who on November 7, 1917 were subjects of the former Russian empire and who had not lost their Soviet Citizenship; and

"(b) persons who had acquired Soviet citizenship in a manner established by (Soviet) law."

On September 7, 1940, the Soviet Union issued its federal decree "On the Procedure of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian SSR's".¹¹ The decree stated that "the citizens of the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian SSR's are USSR citizens as from the date of admission of these Republics into the USSR". Balts abroad were directed to register with the Soviet diplomatic missions or consulates not later than November 1, 1940. Provision was also made for the stateless persons in the Baltic countries to acquire Soviet citizenship.

Another decree, issued by the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on December 16, 1947, conferred Soviet citizenship on all former Lithuanian citizens who were native residents in the Klaipeda region on March 22, 1939, and on their children.¹²

The new Soviet law

Over the years, the Soviet writers as well as foreign researchers had pointed out a number of citizenship problems, on which the Soviet laws were either conflicting, or entirely silent.¹³

Many of these gaps have been filled by the new 1979 USSR Law on USSR Citizenship. Proclaimed on December 1, 1978,¹⁴ it came into operation on July 1, 1979. The new law re-affirms (in Article 3) that all persons who had USSR citizenship as of July 1, 1979, remain USSR citizens. From this day onwards, USSR citizenship is acquired by birth, or as a result of admission to USSR citizenship, or on grounds stipulated by international treaties of the USSR, or on other grounds listed in the new law (Art. 10).

If both parents are Soviet citizens, their child is also Soviet citizen — irrespective of whether the child is born in the USSR, or abroad (Art. 11). The same applies, if one of the parents is a Soviet citizen and the other is stateless.

A child becomes a Soviet citizen, if he is born in the USSR and both his parents are either unknown, or are stateless and have a permanent place of residence in the USSR (Art. 13 and 14).

If the parents have different citizenships but one of them is a Soviet citizen at the time of the child's birth, the child is a Soviet citizen, too, if he is born in USSR territory, or if at least one of the parents had a permanent place of residence in the USSR, at the time (Art. 12).

If a child is born outside the USSR in a "mixed" marriage (i.e., where the parents have different citizenships, but one of them had USSR citizenship at the time of the child's birth), the citizenship of the child is determined by mutual agreement of the parents. The law does not state, where, when and by whom such an agreement is to be registered.

Features of the new Soviet law

The new Soviet law offers a successful blend of *jus sanguinis* and *jus soli*, in which *jus sanguinis* (the blood principle) emerges as the pre-eminent principle. It overcomes the risk of statelessness in a number of cases — such as a child born on Soviet soil of foreign parents with different citizenships and where the father's country abides by the *jus soli* principle.

The 1979 Soviet law mentions dual nationality, for the first time in USSR legislation — albeit in negative terms: "No person who is a USSR citizen is recognized as being a citizen of a foreign state" (Art. 8). According to V.V. Kuznetsov, First Vice-Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, this provision is "of fundamental importance".¹⁵

All matters concerning the renunciation, deprivation and restoration of USSR citizenship are now centralized in Moscow: the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet is the only body authorized to make such decisions (Art. 17-19).

The 1979 law also stresses that "USSR citizens are obliged to observe the Constitution and Soviet laws . . . , to safeguard the interests of the Soviet state, to help strengthen its might and prestige, and to be loyal to their socialist homeland".¹⁶ For USSR citizens abroad, Article 6 guarantees "the protection of the

Soviet state, in accordance with the USSR Constitution".

Australian citizenship law

Australian citizenship is a comparatively new concept. Until January 26, 1949, there were no Australian citizens as such — only British subjects and some foreign citizens resident in Australia.¹⁷

On January 26, 1949, the Australian Citizenship Act came into effect. All British subjects, born or naturalised in Australia or New Guinea before that date, became Australian citizens. Persons who had lived in Australia or New Guinea for at least five years prior to January 26, 1949, also received Australian citizenship.

Australian citizenship is now conferred automatically on anyone born in Australia after January 26, 1949, unless he or she is the child of a foreign diplomat or consular official. A child born outside Australia also acquires Australian citizenship, if at least one of the parents is an Australian citizen at the time of the child's birth and provided that such birth is registered at an Australian consulate within five years.

The Australian Citizenship Act 1948 — 1973 provides for the acquisition of Australian citizenship by naturalisation. 33,545 migrants from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have thus become naturalised Australian citizens, out of a total of 36,613 who arrived in this country between 1945 — 1976.¹⁸

It appears, some of these people were not aware that the naturalisation act did not change their status as citizens of the USSR, in the eyes of the Soviet law.

Some were also under the mistaken impression that the recognition or non-recognition of Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States had some kind of a direct relationship with the Australian citizenship of the former Baltic immigrants. The confusion was heightened, when a Melbourne solicitor wrote to the Department of Foreign Affairs on 22nd August, 1974, only to learn that "the Soviet Government would regard Australian/Soviet citizens visiting the Soviet Union as being predominantly Soviet citizens, in which case the degree of Australian consular protection would be reduced."¹⁹

This, of course, merely confirmed a general international principle: i.e., when an Australian citizen who has dual nationality is in the country of his other citizenship, the citizenship of that country predominates and the Australian Government cannot help and protect him. The principle was established, *inter alia*, in The Hague Convention of 1930, and has since been supported by decisions of the International Court of Justice.

Some Balts in Australia, however, mistakenly linked the Foreign Affairs Department's reply with the Australian Government's temporary recognition, in July 1974, of the Russian rule in the three Baltic States. The recognition was withdrawn in December 1975; yet the problem facing the dual Soviet/Australian citizens has remained unchanged.

The present situation is that, while in Australia, dual Australian/Soviet citizens enjoy the same rights and are treated in the same way as "pure" Australians. Since 1930, when it signed The Hague Convention, Australia has consistently held the view that dual citizenship is undesirable and that every person should

be the citizen of one country only.

However, the Australian view is not shared by the Soviet Union and a number of other countries. While Australians usually lose their citizenship by becoming citizens of another country, the reverse is not always true.

Consequently, when Australian citizens of Baltic origin are visiting the USSR, they are deemed to be Soviet citizens under the USSR law, even if they are travelling on an Australian passport. So far, the Soviet authorities have chosen not to obstruct such tourists, especially as they provide a welcome source of foreign currency. To date, there have been only three reported cases of the former Balts having been detained, jailed or expelled while visiting the countries of their birth.²⁰

Towards a solution

As we have seen, the questions of citizenship are determined *internally*, by the *domestic* laws of each country. As the styles of government differ from one country to the next, so do their attitudes towards citizenship and dual citizenship.

A number of attempts have been made to resolve dual citizenship problems, through international co-operation; but no world-wide solution has been found so far.²¹

Experience has shown that much more can be achieved through bilateral agreements between two individual countries.

Australia has taken some initial initiatives. Early in 1975, conscious of the problems faced by the dual nationals, the then Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs (the Hon E. G. Whitlam, QC, MP) asked the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to look into the matter.²²

The Committee spent 18 months on this Inquiry and considered over 100 written submissions — including those from 8 Baltic Associations in various parts of Australia. The Committee's report was completed on 5th October 1976, and was presented to the House of Representatives by Dr Klugman, MHR, on 14th October.

Having described the current situation, this Report ended with six conclusions and recommendations. Of these, recommendation No 4 was most important and of greatest urgency, as far as the Baltic people were concerned:

4. As a shorter-term objective, high priority should be accorded to entering into bilateral agreements between Australia and those countries whose nationality laws cause Australian citizens to be dual nationals and who suffer disadvantage because of this circumstance.

Australian initiatives to date

Recommendation No. 5, stressing the need for better communication to dual nationals, was the first one to be adopted by Australia's Federal Government which was by then headed by Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser.

In May 1977, the Department of Foreign Affairs published a booklet, *Hints for Australian Travellers* which contained a warning (on Page 11) on the implications of dual nationality. The original text read, *inter alia*:

"To check whether you are a dual national, you should ask the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country in which you were born, or your parent or spouse was born."

This did not meet the needs of the former Baltic refugees, and, following representations by HELLP Association in Hobart²³, was subsequently replaced by a more detailed explanation.²⁴

The remaining recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence were referred to an interdepartmental committee drawn from the Departments of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney-General and Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

In the Australian Senate on 29th March 1979, Senator Michael Tate moved a motion expressing concern at the lack of Government action in the matter of Dual Nationality. The motion was supported from every part of the Chamber in a constructive non-partisan way.²⁵ The Interdepartmental Committee concluded its report during the same year and, after consideration by Australia's Federal Government, the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr. Peacock, M.H.R.) made a statement to Parliament on 17th October 1979.²⁶

Mr. Peacock stated that:

- While dual nationality was unavoidable in certain cases, Australian Government reaffirmed its long-standing policy that every person should have one citizenship only, wherever possible.
- The Government concluded that there is no requirement for new or additional machinery to investigate complaints by dual nationals.
- The Government will examine "the possibility of having the question of dual nationality examined in the appropriate forum of the United Nations".
- The Government will study the prospects of negotiating bilateral agreements with "certain countries" (the countries were not named in Parliament).
- It was not proposed to replace particulars of the place of birth in Australian passports with particulars of place of residence.²⁷

The situation was summed up by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition (Mr Lionel Bowen):

"We appreciate the efforts made by the Committee and by the Minister, but there is a long way to go. It would seem appropriate that we should be using some of our monetary muscle to indicate clearly to these countries that when citizens leave them and come to Australia, by a bilateral arrangement which we should negotiate at the time, and if they adopt our citizenship, they should be accepted by other countries as having one nationality only, namely, that of Australia."²⁸

Other Western countries

The problem of dual Soviet/Baltic citizenship is most acute in the countries that have settled large numbers of refugees from the Baltic States, since World War II.

CANADA signed an agreement with the U.S.S.R. in July, 1967 which includes this commitment:

"A person who visits the territory of Canada on a Soviet passport with a Canadian visa or a person who visits the territory of the U.S.S.R. on a Canadian passport furnished with a Soviet visa will not be denied permission to leave Canadian or Soviet territory, as the case may be, only on the grounds that the matter of his citizenship is interpreted differently by the two Governments and that he is regarded as a citizen of the State he is visiting."

In reply to demands for action, made by the Canadian Ukrainian Immigrant Aid Society and other concerned groups, in 1979, the Canadian Department of External Affairs sought, and obtained, an assurance from the U.S.S.R. that this agreement still applies.²⁹

The UNITED STATES House of Representatives unanimously passed a Resolution (H.Con.Res.200) on 13th November, 1979, re-affirming its non-recognition of the 1940 Soviet annexation of the Baltic States and expressing "deep concern" over the new 1979 Soviet citizenship law. The Resolution ends with the following declaration,

"It is the sense of the Congress that the President should warn the Soviet Union against taking any action under this new Soviet citizenship law which would be detrimental to the interests of the United States and its individual citizens, and that the Secretary of State should inform United States citizens planning to visit the Soviet Union of the implications of this law."³⁰

The Soviet view

The Soviet authorities consider that all persons who were resident in the Baltic States at the dates of their incorporation into the U.S.S.R. in July 1940, and their issue, are regarded as citizens of the U.S.S.R. The Soviet authorities attach no legal significance to the issue of Soviet visas to the former Baltic refugees travelling on Australian passports, and they will continue to regard such persons as Soviet citizens.³¹

Persons who left the Baltic States before the 1940 incorporation, and who did not register with U.S.S.R. consulates by 1st November, 1940, are deemed by the Soviet authorities to have lost their U.S.S.R. citizenship.³²

Renunciation of the U.S.S.R. citizenship

The new 1979 Soviet citizenship law has a provision for the renunciation of U.S.S.R. citizenship (Article 17). Each act of renunciation must be authorized by the Presidium of the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet.

However, this is not as straightforward as it may appear at first. Article 17 warns:

"Renunciation . . . may be refused if the person applying for renunciation has unfulfilled obligations to the state or property obligations involving the essential interests of citizens or of state, co-operative and other public organisations . . . (or) has had charges brought against him . . . or if the person's renunciation of U.S.S.R. citizenship is at variance with the interests of the U.S.S.R.'s state security."³³

These omnipotent provisions of Article 17 have been amplified by the following recent statement, made by an official Soviet spokesman, Mr P. Petronis:

"This Article concerns those wartime and postwar migrants who had served the enemy of the U.S.S.R. during the years of Hitlerist occupation and became war criminals; those who had murdered Soviet citizens, (and) were the confidants of German Fascists in the struggle against the people of the Soviet Union and the Lithuanian nation. Having escaped with their masters — German Fascists — they have turned up in other countries and, though they may have found refuge there and acquired the citizenship of those countries, legally they have remained citizens of the U.S.S.R. They must answer for their crimes against the Soviet Union and its people, in accordance with the laws of the U.S.S.R."³⁴

Conclusion

The problem of dual Soviet/Australian citizenship has thus remained unresolved. The pragmatists may well argue that there is no cause for worry, since there have been no reported cases of harassment of Australian citizens inside the U.S.S.R., in recent years.

However, this offers little consolation to the former Baltic refugees who would like to visit their families in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — but find that their Australian citizenship offers them no protection, once they venture inside the boundaries of the Soviet Union.

The risks are not confined to the Balts. As a correspondent to the *Baltic News* pointed out,

"With the continuing and therefore multiplying number of people who marry and have families even distantly connected with peoples of Soviet dominated countries, I see a very high proportion of Australian citizens at risk when they travel overseas. They often knowingly carry dual nationality."³⁵

NOTES

1. For a more detailed discussion, see TASKUNAS, A.P., "Citizenship or Nationality?" in: *Five Common Myths About Migrants in Australia* (ms.).
2. This was enunciated, *inter alia*, in the Hague (1930) Convention to which Australia and 19 other countries were signatories.
3. Cf. "Soviet citizenship forced on half million Australians," *News Weekly*, June 27, 1979, p.15.
4. For a succinct list of the pros and cons in the Australian context, see COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, *Dual Nationality: Report from the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence*, 1976, pp.4 - 7.
5. *Law of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on USSR Citizenship*, Articles 8 and 17 — published in *Pravda*, December 2, 1978, p.1 (henceforth referred to as USSR 1979 Citizenship Law).
6. *Australian Citizenship Act 1948 — 1973*, Article 17, cf. *Acts of the Australian Parliament, 1901 - 1973*, Vol. 1, Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1974, p.688.
7. O'CONNELL, D.P., *The Law of State Succession*, Cambridge, 1956, p.246.
8. For detailed documentation, see: *Baltic States: A Study of their origin and national development; their seizure and incorporation into the U.S.S.R.*: Third Interim Report of the Select Committee on Communist aggression, (U.S.) House of Representatives Eighty-Third Congress, Second Session, 1954, Under the Authority of H.Res.346 and H.Res.438. — Reprinted in *International Military Law and History Reprint Series*, Vol. IV (ed. I.I. KAVASS and A. SPRUDZS), Buffalo, N.Y.: William S. Hein & Co., 1972 (Third Reprint edition).
9. Original text in *Pravda*, August 24, 1938.
10. Cf. "Closing word by deputy N.A. Bulganin," *Pravda*, August 20, 1938; quoted in: GINSBURGS, G., *Soviet Citizenship Law*, Leyden: A.W. Sijthoff, 1968, p.17.
11. English translation in GSOVSKI, V., *Soviet Civil Law*, Vol. I, Ann Arbor, 1948, pp.298 - 299.
12. English texts in: *Laws Concerning Nationality*, United Nations Legislative Series, ST/LEG/SER.B/4, New York, 1954, pp.464 - 467.
13. e.g., GEILKE, G., *Das Staatsangehoerigkeitsrecht der Sowjetunion*, Frankfurt-am-Main/Berlin, 1964.
14. *Pravda*, December 2, 1978, p.1.
15. *Ibid.*, p.2.
16. English translation in: *The Current Digest of the Soviet Press*, Vol. xxx, No. 50, January 10, 1979, p.13.
17. The discussion that follows is based on the succinct summary of this topic in *Family Guide to Australian Law*, Sydney: Reader's Digest, 1978, pp.90-91. For full text of the Act, see *op.cit.* in note (6) above. I am also indebted to Mr Brian Phillips of the Dept. of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, Canberra, for supplementary information.
18. Based on the 1971 Australian census figures. For details, cf. "Baltic Contributions to Australia: Fine Record", *Baltic News*, Vol. V, No. 4 (25), Nov.-Dec. 1979, p.2.
19. *Notes and Documents on the Australian recognition of the Incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R.*, Vol. 2. (?Melbourne:) Baltic Council of Australia, 1975, p.24.
20. The last incident known to the author was reported in 1978. See: "Tourists Trapped," *Baltic News*, Vol. V, No. 1(22), March - April 1979, p.2.
21. For more details, see: TASKUNAS, A.P., *Dual Nationality in Australia, with special reference to former Baltic refugees*. — Paper presented at Baltic Convention, Adelaide, S.A., June 17, 1978.
22. The brief to the Committee was to inquire into "the international legal and diplomatic aspects of the situation of Australians possessing dual or plural nationality."
23. Letter from Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELP), P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, Canberra, dated August 10, 1977.
24. The tenor of the instruction places the onus on the individual traveller. This was confirmed by Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs (Mr Peacock) (Australian House of) *Representatives Hansard*, 17 October 1979, p.2103.
25. (Australian) *Senate Hansard*, 29 March 1979, p.1178 ff.
26. (Australian House of) *Representatives Hansard*, 17 October 1979, pp.2103 - 2106.
27. This recommendation was defeated earlier in 1979, after a debate on the Passports Amendments Bill. It was somewhat ironic that the Australian Labor Party supported, and the Government parties (the Liberal - Country Party coalition) voted against, the (Canberra) Joint Baltic Committee's submission in this matter. See: Dr. R.E. Klugman's Letter to the Editor of *Baltic News*, Vol. V, NO. 1(22), March - April 1979, p.3.
28. (Australian House of) *Representatives Hansard*, 17 October 1979, p.2105. The emphasis has been added by me.
29. "Editorial," *Speak Up*, Vol. 5, No. 8(48), August - September 1979, p.3.
30. (U.S.) *Congressional Record* — House, November 13, 1979, H10583.
31. (a) "Naujam Istatymui Isigaliojus", *Gintasis Krastas*, No. 42 (662), October 18, 1979, p.4. (b) Letter from G.J. Knox, (Australian) Dept. of Foreign Affairs Adelaide, to Mr J. Lapsys, Vice-President, Australian Lithuanian Community, dated 14 February 1980.
32. *Ibid.*
33. USSR 1979 Citizenship Law, Art. 17.
34. "Naujam Istatymui Isigaliojus", *op.cit.*
35. "Need for Government Action", M. Truchanas' Letter to the Editor of *Baltic News*, Vol. V, No. 1 (22), March - April 1979, p.3.

The Chronicle Now in English

Parakaitės duok kitam!
Kaina nuo 1972 m.

LKB KRONIKA Nr.28

Šiam numeriję:

Lietuvos ir Tarybų Sąjungos religinių gyvenimo problemos.
Helsinkio nutarimų "vykdymas".
Pamerkta ba kaltos.
Dar viena KGB suka.
Zinių iš vyskupijų.
Tarybinėje mokykloje.
Iš "LKB Kronikos" archyvo.
Pogrindio leidiniai.

1977 m. birželio 29 d.

Lietuva 1977 m.

• Title page of an original *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*.

It was in the 1970's that the world first began to be aware of the Catholic human rights movement in Lithuania. Russian *samizdat* (unofficially published) documents were already well-known to the Western public, but in 1972 a booklet of type-written pages sewn together by hand, in a language unknown to most foreign correspondents, appeared among the *samizdat* reaching the West.

The language turned out to be Lithuanian: this was the first issue of the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*. Its pages were packed with information on the difficult situation of Roman Catholics in Lithuania, reporting the trials of priests for teaching children the catechism, discrimination against religious believers at work and at school and government limitations on the number of students training for the priesthood.

Today, eight years later, the Lithuanian *Chronicle* has established itself as the most authoritative source of information on the Catholic Church in Lithuania. An overwhelming majority of Lithuanian priests have signed documents published in the journal, a situation unparalleled in any other denomination in the USSR. Petitions signed by over 17,000 people have been published in the *Chronicle*. Its reports are now regularly published in the main Russian *samizdat* human rights journal, *The Chronicle of Current Events*, as well as in the foreign press.

Other Lithuanian *samizdat* journals and human rights organisations have grown up around the *Chronicle* itself — The Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, for example. One of the Catholic Committee's members, Fr Juozas Zdebskis, is the priest whose trial in 1971 was reported in the first issue of the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*.

The Lithuanian *Chronicle* continues to reach the West at regular intervals, and is now translated into English. The latest English version is issue No. 34: it may be obtained from BALTIC NEWS (P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas., 7005) at \$1.00 per copy, plus 40 cents

postage. This 40-page issue contains a factual report of Viktoras Petkus' trial, letters from Lithuanian prisoners of conscience, new evidence of child abuse, an appeal to Cardinal Jean Villot (Vatican Secretary of State) and reviews of other underground publications.

Back copies of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* (in English translation) may be ordered directly from the publishers, The Lithuanian R.C. Priests' League of America, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207, U.S.A., at \$1.00 per copy, plus postage.

— We gratefully acknowledge *The Right to Believe* (published quarterly by Keston College, Keston, Kent BR2 6BA, England) as the source for the first part of the above report.



• Ona Pranckunaite (pictured) has spent nearly two years under house arrest and in Russian prisons, 1977-79, because a photo-copying machine (allegedly used to multiply the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*) was found in the bathroom of her flat. During interrogation by the Russian colonial police, Pranckunaite was charged with "being a nun".

Ona's first encounter with her foreign colonial masters was on May 15, 1951. She was fifteen years old then and was sent to Siberian concentration camps for six years, for the following "anti-Soviet" song:

Dunduli, Zalecki*,
God won't help you:
You forced us into a collective farm,
Our children will starve.

We live in poverty on the collective farm,
Our clothes are tattered and we are bare.
Help us, Mary,
Because You still exist.

* The names of two agronomists.

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community leaders and
opinion-shapers!

BOOK REVIEW

Traitor's Smoke-screen

"The Baltic Riddle". G. Meiksins. L. B. Fischer Publishing Corp. New York, N.Y. (now defunct) 1943.

The years between Stalingrad (1943) and the Berlin Crisis (1948) were fateful ones in Baltic and world history. Like in 1917-20, German power was eclipsed and U.S. power projected into West-Central Europe. However, unlike in 1917-20, Britain and France were exhausted while Russia, feeble in 1917-20, had become the second world power after America.

Americans perceived too slowly the negative implications of Soviet expansion. Except for new attitudes towards Germany, Roosevelt's European policies resembled Woodrow Wilson's rhetorical support for national freedom with inadequate guarantees against revisionism. Stalin, since 1918 as determined a revisionist as Hitler, proved as expert as Hitler in turning western weaknesses to territorial advantage. The book reviewed here was one of Stalin's weapons.

By mid-1943, Germany had lost the war in Africa and the Ukraine and had bankrupted England and France, thus smashing itself and European world power in the same campaign.

The practical problem for Stalin, just when this historic opportunity arose, was the rise of U.S. power to utter invincibility (1944-49). No power in history had the advantage of the U.S. between the development of their A-bomb and Russia's — or probably ever will again.

However, military and economic inferiority need not spell defeat, particularly if a piecemeal approach is adopted. Intelligence overcomes many obstacles. Stalin studied his new enemies closely from the Tehran Conference (1943) onwards. Soon he realized that the U.S.A. thought George III a greater menace to the world than Josef I. Britain was seen by Americans in the light of faded schoolroom rhetoric while Russia was viewed through rose-tinted New Deal spectacles. Most interallied arguments hence involved Churchill, but direct US/USSR clashes were rare until later. Too late for millions.

In helping undermine America, Meiksins' book mirrors Stalin's views early in 1943, some time before his confidence expanded to grabbing Bulgaria, Bohemia and Berlin. In 1943, Germany, Poland and Baltic States were "on the front burner". Hence this well written and illustrated piece of propaganda (242 pages) by a Latvian Stalinist for the extinction of Baltic sovereignties in favour of Moscow. His American readers are told he is a "Democrat", anti-Nazi and associate of ex-Foreign Minister of Latvia Felix Cielens. These must have been high sounding credentials in New York in 1943.

Meiksins writes off all support for Baltic independence as Nazi-inspired — "There are only the Axis and Allied Views. There can only be either a German or a Soviet Baltic." "Russia should no more negotiate on the Baltic than America be expected to discuss the status of California". "Baltic independence never happened."

"The three states were either British or German puppets at all times, etc. etc."

The authoritative preface is a condensation of Kremlin ideas at the time: — Stalin apparently anticipated U.N. recognition of the Baltic Soviet Republics in 1943 and expected a strong Western public reaction. The book therefore explains why incorporation is good for world peace, for the Baltic peoples, etc. Readers are warned against their own warmongering Press which will undoubtedly tell the peace-loving western peoples that recognition was extracted only by Soviet pressure, with the intention of reversing that recognition in the 1950's and 1960's as a prelude to a war over the Baltic States!* "Dark forces in capitalism dream of an anti-Soviet war and are shouting slogans about the Baltic at the behest of Hitler's War Office and Foreign Ministry."

As we now know, Stalin's fears about the Baltic issue receded soon after the date of publication. His Conference meetings with Churchill, Roosevelt, Truman and Attlee proved as fateful for millions of Europeans as Hitler's with Chamberlain. Events in the Baltic area, in 1943 thought likely to be much disputed, were overshadowed by huge thrusts into the Balkans and Central Europe. Molotov seriously demanded Hamburg, Bornholm, Constantinople and Tripolitania (Libya). Lenin's basic requirement of a united Soviet Germany still seemed possible until 1948.

The anticipated "V.N. recognition" of 1943 did not materialize, while 'criminal Finland' was not so severely punished for defending itself against the U.S.S.R. as Meiksins vengefully predicted. Soviet thinking on these issues evidently had to be revised after Meiksins' latest briefings, as did the theory of a Third World War over the Baltic issue.

A few questions remain: Where is Meiksins today? (He was born in 1911). Did he collect his pension in 1976 from a "U.S. Welfare agency"? Did he join the U.N. Secretariat, perhaps? Or is he celebrating 35 years of "organic solution" somewhere in Riga? Is he still as enthusiastic a Soviet agent as in 1943 or has he, like the aged Bolshevik, Edward Berklav, finally realized that mass murder and deportation, plus cultural genocide via Russification, are not the goals he once thought worth supporting? Even more to the point is the question — was there a Gregory Meiksins, anyway? In the world's libraries, apart from this extraordinarily well-composed book published at the age of 31, one finds nothing else under "Meiksins".

T. G. McGLYNN.

* In this context, it is interesting to note that this expected Western attitude towards a hypothetical Western recognition of Russians sovereignty is a projection onto the West of actual Soviet practice. On August 1, 1940, Molotov claimed that the 1920 Russia-Baltic Treaties had been invalid "because Russia was acting under duress at the time". No other authentication of the Muscovite provenance of "Meiksins' book" need be sought than this.

SPORT AND POLITICS:

The Russian View

While the Western world is debating, whether politics should be kept out of sport, the Soviet Union has firmly taken the opposite stand: the 1980 Olympic Games must pit "decadent capitalism" against "socialism which is growing stronger every day."

An official Russian publication, *The Little Book for party Activists*, claims the "history of the Olympic movement is characterized by a constant struggle between the progressive forces and the forces of reaction." Prepared by senior party theorists in Moscow, the handbook's 13-page section on the Olympics makes clear in flamboyant, unfettered language the political meaning that the games have always held for the Kremlin.

The party booklet also glorifies the triumphs of Soviet Olympic teams in "putting an end to the unshared hegemony of the United States" since the post-war Olympics resumed in 1952 at Helsinki.

Political Tool

The importance of sport as a political tool has been consistently stressed in Government-sponsored Russian statements, over a number of years. For example this is proclaimed in *Soviet Sport: Questions and Answers* (published by Novosti Press, Moscow, 1974, page 48):

"Politics and sport are interdependent. The Soviet Union refused to send its national soccer team to play in Santiago, Chile, in the very stadium which had been used as a concentration camp for political prisoners, and this political step was understood, supported and approved by progressive sports organisations and functionaries in many countries."

— Novosti, Toronto Star.

COMING EVENTS

● 19th APRIL (Saturday),

8.30 pm-1 am

Polish Hall, 22 Main Road, New Town

DANCE

Good Band . . . Novelties . . . All Welcome
B.Y.O., or buy refreshments next door

Admission \$5 single, incl. light supper
For table bookings (optional), please 'phone
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Organised by Lithuanian Association in Hobart

● 23rd-25th JUNE

(Monday to Wednesday)

Hobart visit by the former Lithuanian sailor
and ex-Soviet prisoner

SIMAS KUDIRKA.

For further details, see the next issue of
BALTIC NEWS.



● Lithuanian woman, Mrs Danute Kelmelis (above) was brutally beaten by Russian colonial police on July 1, 1979. This photograph, smuggled out through the Iron Curtain, shows the injuries to her neck and face. The incident has been documented in the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, No. 39, (original) page 30.

Our thanks

The following contributions have been received since the last issue of "Baltic News":

Anonymous Tasmanian, \$200; Lithuanian Catholic Women's Ass. of Melbourne, \$100; Baltic Council (S.A.), \$50; Lithuanian Community (S.A.), Dr S. Statkus (Vic), S. Jarembauskas (N.S.W.), \$30 each; Dr. S. Pacevicius (S.A.), C. Ford, (N.S.W.), \$25 each; V. Laukaitis, A. Grikepelis, E. Mackeviciene, Stankunaviciene (all Vic.), O. Liutikiene (W.A.), A. Reisgys, (N.S.W.), L.A.S. C.-V. Stalba (S.A.), F. Borumas (A.C.T.), E. J. Galloway (N.S.W.), B. Barsteika (U.S.A.), \$20 each; J. Gully, B. & J. Tamosiunas, Korpi Romuva, F. Sodiatis, A. Skirkiene, K. Augunine (all Vic.), J. Sirgunas, S. Pander, J. Krutulis, Anonymous (all Tas.), O. Haas (S.A.), I. Davis (S.A.), H. E. Baltins (N.S.W.), D. Reid (N.Z.), J. Vaitkus & Sister Josephine (U.S.A.), \$10 each; J. Zonius, J. Kvetelaitis, K. Kvetelaitis, J. O'Brien, R. F. Evans, E. Sidlauska, S. Lukaitis (all Vic.), R. Ciyaras (Q), M. Smith (W.A.), J. Taimre (S.A.), Friend from Nowra (N.S.W.), M. Kaitinis, C. McSherry (Tas.), \$5 each; L. Nobelius, K. Prasmutas, J. Berotas, R. Semenais (all Vic.), E. Kujath (Tas.), K. Katin (U.S.A.), \$2 each; Dr. A. Mellins, Z. Raudys, K. Kazlauskas, Lipcius, Silvienė, J. Sikorskienė (all Vic.), \$1 each.

Many 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

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

Sport or Politics?

Mr. Vladmir Skutina, a Czech dissident and former Olympic Gold Medallist, has addressed the following open letter to the President of the IOC, Lord Killanin:

Dear Mr. President,

According to an Andersen fairy-tale, a naked king drives through the streets of his city and everyone has to pretend to be admiring his new suit. They all fear to shout that the king is in fact naked. You — exactly as Andersen's emperor — are telling the world that sport is non-political and you demand that the world echoes your claim. Your Committee has allocated the organisation of the 1980 Olympics to Soviet Moscow though you knew all too well that the Communist order has promoted sport as a political tool and even shaped it into a weapon against the remaining civilised world.

I come from Czechoslovakia, a small Soviet occupied country in the heart of Europe. For one year I have lived in Switzerland, having spent almost five years before that in a Communist prison. In the same way as another 20 million exiles from the Communist states of Europe, I watch with horror how the USSR step by step occupies further countries on our blue planet. The last one is Afghanistan.

And the International Olympic Committee presided over by you will go this summer to Moscow, and pay tribute to the Red Tsar Leonid and will pretend that it is in fact a non-political event. You must be suffering from a loss of memory if you no longer recall the year 1936, when your predecessors witnessed the "Sieg Heiling" and even shook hands with the mass murderer Adolf Hitler.

Whole Team Arrested

Now, Mr. President, it is exactly 30 years, when just before their departure for the World Ice Hockey Championships in 1950 in London, the entire Czechoslovak team was arrested and sentenced to long prison terms. The charge? That they were planning not to return home. And do you know why?

Soviet Russia was just entering the world hockey arena. Czechoslovakia was the reigning European and world champion. The Russians could not tolerate that their team, 'Stalin's sons' (*Molodci*), could be defeated by a satellite team, by their colonial people. That is why the Czechoslovak security services were ordered to incarcerate the entire team in a gulag.

When, after years of absence in prison, the hockey-players returned with ruined health, they were rehabilitated. After all, sport is not political and no one could imprison sportsmen just because they can play hockey better than their Russian counterparts!

Silenced

Mr. President, no one probably mentioned to you that the heroine of the Mexico Olympic Games, Ms. Vera Caslavská, was silenced and banned from competing merely because she would not join the Communist

Party? You do not know that thousands, alas hundreds of thousands of gifted sportsmen, cannot compete because they do not measure up to the totalitarian regime's political expectations?

You do not mind that a part of the summer Olympics will take place in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, a country occupied by the Russians since 1940, together with Latvia and Lithuania; and that from these territories alone, a million or more people were deported to Siberia? Do you really not know of these things or do you merely pretend, as Andersen's emperor, that you do not know? Or do you not worry about it? Sport is non-political, according to your protestations to the world.

Mr. President, please do not be cross with me, but you remind me of a vegetarian who invites a cannibal to lunch; offers him a vegetable soup and tries to convince him that vegetables are healthier than human flesh. Do you know what the cannibal would do? He would eat the vegetable soup as an entree and would follow with the host as the main dish. Having done that, he would proclaim that vegetables are healthier than human flesh! — FCI.

Important Visit



● Former Lithuanian sailor Simas Kudirka (pictured) will visit Hobart on June 23-25, at the invitation of HELLP Association. Kudirka came into prominence in 1970, when he leaped from a Soviet fishing vessel to a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, but was returned to the Russians. He was then imprisoned for four years until US officials proved that his mother was a US citizen. Kudirka now lives in the U.S.A. "The Russians destroyed our freedom," he says, "and I witnessed it all myself. The tortures, the shootings. A tyranny that sent 500,000 best sons and daughters of Lithuania into Russian concentration camps".

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

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