



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
POST OFFICE BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005 (AUSTRALIA).
Registered by Australia Post Publication No. TBH05443 — Category B.

Vol. VII, No. 4 (32)

Complimentary Copy

December, 1981

"POLISH DISEASE" IS SPREADING

The prolonged and obstinate stand of Poland's independent trade union movement Solidarity has rubbed off on to the neighbouring Baltic States. Since the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations are too small to risk a head-on confrontation with the Russian occupation authorities, the emphasis is on peaceful resistance — without violence and strictly within the letter of the Soviet constitution.



● Gemma-Jadviga Stanelyte (pictured) has been imprisoned by the Soviets for three years, because she organised a traditional religious procession in her native Lithuania. (Story, Page 3).

Last month, leaflets were circulated in Tallinn (capital of Russian-occupied Estonia), calling for half an hour's silence from 10 to 10.30 am on December 1, 1981. This is to be followed by similar periods of quiescence on the first working day of each month.

The leaflets suggest that all activities and movement should cease at that time, so that "the whole country would come to a standstill" for thirty minutes. Questions from the authorities are to be met with silence.

The leaflets have also called for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, non-intervention in Polish affairs, release of political prisoners, observance of the Declaration of Human Rights and of the Helsinki Agreements and the establishment of a true democratic system. The leaflets were signed on behalf of the "Democratic National Front of the Soviet Union."

Similar appeals for half an hour's silence have also been circulated in Riga (Latvia's capital), Vilnius and Kaunas (Lithuania's largest cities). The workers of Moscow and Leningrad have been informed, too.

Repression

Soviet authorities in the Baltic States have reacted with a new wave of interrogations and arrests (see Reports, Pages 3, 7).

The home of Eitan Finkelshtein was searched in Vilnius; and he was summoned for interrogation on October 5, 1981. Finkelshtein is a member of the Human Rights Committee for the Implementation of Helsinki Accords.

Former prisoner of conscience, Nijole Sadunaite, is completely cut off from the outside world. Although technically a free person, this Lithuanian woman is not allowed to receive any letters from abroad. Nijole's letters to friends in the free world have also vanished before reaching their destinations.

Polish Solidarity movement is now being blamed for food shortages in the Baltic region. As Baltic women are queueing for their staple rations, they are told repeatedly, "Poles are starving because of their Solidarity strikes. The Soviet Government had to rescue them by rushing your local produce to Poland."

— ELTA, USSR News Brief, BN.

Estonian schoolchildren arrested

Three eighteen-year-old schoolboys, Kaiko Einman, Haldi Koppel and Aivar Temanen, have been arrested and are detained in the Central Prison of Tallinn for taking down and tearing to pieces Soviet flags during youth demonstrations in Haapsalu in October 1980. They are indicted under Article 195-2 of the Penal Code of the Estonian SSR for "malicious hooliganism", for which the law prescribes up to five years' imprisonment. Kaiko Einman's, Haldi Koppel's and Aivar Temanen's address is: Estonian SSR, 200001 Tallinn, Kalaranna 2, Uchrezhdenie YuM-422/1.

Five other Estonians were imprisoned at the same time, but their names are not known.

— Eesti VVA, USSR News Brief.

Pentecostal Harassed

Latvian Pentecostal Teovils Kuma has been transferred from camp to Leningrad psychiatric prison hospital. T. Kuma had previously shown no signs of mental illness.

— USSR News Brief.

**Merry Christmas
and a**

Happy New Year
to our readers and supporters!

SOVIET PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE: PROFILE OF A VICTIM

Dr Algirdas Statkevicius, a physician confined in a Soviet psychiatric hospital, is known to the Soviet authorities as a "socially dangerous person" — a Lithuanian human rights activist. His life story is the story of the rise in Lithuania of national and religious dissent — a political force that continues to pose a serious threat to the stability of this Russian-occupied nation of 3½ million.

"There is no doubt that I am being tormented — by the KGB apparatus, the Supreme Court, and by the medical people, the psychiatrists who have lost their humanity. They are tormenting me without pity, and not a single one of them is telling me the reason why . . .", Statkevicius wrote recently.

Algirdas Statkevicius was born April 1, 1923. In 1951, at the age of 28, Statkevicius was arrested for participation in the Lithuanian resistance movement. He was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment, but amnestied 9 years later.

Zeal Punished

As a practising psychiatrist in Vilnius (capital of Lithuania), Statkevicius became absorbed in political ideology and sociological questions. His zeal was noted by the authorities, who arrested him again in May 1970 for writing *Critique of the Communist Manifesto, Conclusions from Sociological Research in Lithuania and The ABC's of Social Living*. He was then interned in a psychiatric hospital for 2½ years.

Statkevicius became a member of the Lithuanian Public Group for Furthering the Implementation of the Helsinki Agreements in the autumn of 1979. This led to his third arrest on February 14, 1980.

Following his endorsement of the Baltic 45 memorandum appealing for self-determination for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Statkevicius' apartment

was searched by security agents on October 3, 1979. Documents against alcoholism and his book entitled *Sophiocracy and its Geo-Moral Foundations* were confiscated. Another search was conducted at a later date.

Tried in Absentia

The Lithuanian SSR Supreme Court heard the case of Dr Algirdas Statkevicius in Vilnius on August 9-11, 1980. The defendant was tried *in absentia* and sentenced to compulsory treatment in a psychiatric hospital.

Members of the public other than his wife, security agents and witnesses, were not admitted to the "open" trial.

His wife, Mrs Statkeviciene, now resides at Čarno g. 18-21 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Friends of the Captives (an Australian ecumenical prisoners' help society) has a lengthy letter from Dr Statkevicius, in which he details his case. A copy of this letter (in English translation) may be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to: Friends of the Captives, Post Office Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005.

You Can Help

You, too, can help this unfortunate victim of psychiatric abuse:

1. Appeal to Soviet officials for the unconditional release of Dr Algirdas Statkevicius. Mention that the psychiatric interment of Statkevicius is contrary to the Soviet Constitution and international agreements, such as the Helsinki Final Act, signed by the government of the USSR. Write to:

● Chairman L. I. Brezhnev, The Kremlin, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR

● Chairman A. Barkauskas, Presidium of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet, Vilnius, Lithuania, USSR.

● His Excellency Dr N. G. Soudarikov, Ambassador, Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 78 Canberra Avenue, Griffith, ACT 2603.

2. Write to Mr Alexander Haig, US Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520. Acquaint him with the case of Dr Algirdas Statkevicius. Urge the Department of State to investigate Statkevicius' request to emigrate to the USA to join his sister.

3. Encourage the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists to oppose the abuse of psychiatry and medical ethics by sponsoring a letter-writing campaign to Prime Minister Fraser and the Soviet government on Statkevicius' behalf. Address your message to Dr Sandra Hacker, Hon Secretary, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Maudsley House, 107 Rathdowne St, Carlton, Vic, 3053.

● Continued on next Page



● Dr Statkevicius: Confined to Chernyakhovsk psychiatric hospital, because he campaigned for the withdrawal of Russian troops from his native Lithuania.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Aging Socialist gaoled

Dr. Juris Bumeisters, one of the leaders of the pre-war Latvian Social-Democrat Party, now banned, has been sentenced to 15 years in a work camp for "betraying the Soviet State." Bumeisters, aged 63, is one of Latvia's leading specialists on the application of electronic technology in fishing.

The trial, begun May 25, 1981, was behind closed doors, and not even his wife or daughter were allowed inside. He was accused of sending abroad secret information connected with his work.

— USSR News Brief, Daily Telegraph.

Helsinki Members Arrested

TWO members of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group — Mecislovas Jurevicius and Vytautas Vaičiunas — were arrested 25 March and have been charged with circulating slanderous fabrications. Both were well known for their activity in the Catholic community, and the charges against them apparently include participation in religious processions.

Jurevicius is 54 years old and has served an earlier sentence for anti-Soviet activity (1950-56). He joined the Lithuanian Helsinki Group in 1979.

He worked at the Centre for the Blind in Siauliai until 1975, when he was sacked for refusing to work on Christmas Day and other religious festivals and carrying crosses in pilgrimages to the Hill of Crosses shrine near Siauliai. He was known as an open critic of atheism and attended atheist lectures to ask awkward questions.

Vaičiunas is less well known. He is 51 and joined the Helsinki Group only in February 1981. He was a minor civil servant in Kaunas and a friend of Povilas Petronis (tried in 1975, together with Plumpa and Jaugelis, for producing the *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*). Since he protested in 1975 against anti-religious articles in the press, stating that Soviet laws could not be truly obeyed by a practising Christian, he has been searched and harassed by the KGB. A Council for Religious Affairs official has summoned him and warned him not to write any more protest letters.

The Lithuanian Helsinki Group is now left with only two members — Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene and Fr Bronius Laurinavicius.

The addresses of the families are as follows:

CCCP-Lithuania	CCCP-Lithuania
Jurevicius Mecislovas	Vaičiunas Vytautas
Siauliai	Kaunas
Spindulių g.6, dz.10.	Hippodromo g. 46, dz. 35

— Keston News Service.

PROFILE. . .

● From Page 2

4. Send your greetings (on an air-mail postcard) to prisoner of conscience Dr Algirdas Statkevicius, SSSR, Chernyakhovsk psychiatric hospital, 238100 Kaliningradskaya oblast.

5. Tell your local paper and TV stations about Dr Statkevicius and what you are doing on his behalf

— LIS Lithuanian Information Service-FOC-ELTA.



● Estonian worker Tilt Madisson (pictured) has been sentenced to 4 years in strict regime camp and 2 years exile. A former worker in a fishing collective farm, Madisson was charged with writing a letter to the West German radio station *Deutsche Welle*, in which he described the present situation in Estonia. Madisson was also charged with writing to Soviet leaders in protest against intervention in Afghanistan, with circulating Estonian independent publications ("samizdat"), and with oral critical statements.

— USSR News Brief.

Shrine Under Attack

The continuing popularity of the Catholic shrine of Siluva, in Lithuania, seems to be worrying the Soviet authorities.

The Siluva church, erected on the spot where Lithuanian shepherd girls had a vision of the Virgin Mary in the 17th century, also contains an icon of the Virgin Mary. In the past, many miraculous cures were attributed to this icon and Siluva became known as the "Our Lady of Lithuania". The Nativity of the Virgin Mary, 8 September, is the shrine's annual feast day; it was a national holiday in independent Lithuania before the war and even now, forty years after Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union, over 50,000 pilgrims turn up annually at Siluva to celebrate the festival. The shrine's importance was recognised by the Vatican in 1975, when Pope Paul VI declared it a minor basilica.

In recent years the Soviet authorities have been stepping up their harassment of pilgrims to Siluva, taking the car numbers of participants and intimidating them at their place of employment. In September 1979, the Raseiniai District Executive Committee tried to prevent Fr A. Svarinskas and the other four priests who were members of the Catholic Committee from celebrating Mass together at Siluva but did not succeed. In December 1980, Gemma-Jadvyga Stanelyte was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for organising a procession to Siluva.

— Keston News.

Christmas in Arctic Gulag

H. Tautvaisa

This Christmas, let us spare a thought for those who are less fortunate than us. Thousands of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have been torn from their homes and deported to Siberia or the Arctic Circle, since the Russian armed takeover in 1940. The victims were not criminals; their only "offence" was that they happened to be born in the countries wanted by the Russian empire-builders.

In this eyewitness account, Mrs Tautvaisa describes her first Christmas season in a remote Arctic Gulag camp.

Our barrack was divided into separate stalls. In the room, where we spent this first horrible Arctic winter, were twenty-one adults (4 men and 17 women) and nine children, aged from 3 to 14. A total of 30 people were crowded together. We were all strangers to each other. There were all sorts of people: Lithuanian State civil servants, teachers, workers, artisans and farmers. Each person had an area 150 centimetres long and 50 centimetres wide. From these measurements one could figure out the size of the room — it was approximately six by four metres.

We slept clothed and huddled together. The stalls were ranged along the walls; between the stalls were the iron barrels cut in half: our so-called "drums" which served as heating and cooking stoves. Our meagre possessions were tied to the ceilings above our heads, for lack of room. There could be no talk of "conveniences" (toilets).

Christmas Eve

It was Christmas Eve. It was a period of total polar darkness. The cold wind began to blow snow ever harder; the people working out of doors were released earlier. We wanted to remember the feast days together.

The tin lamp hung from the frozen ceiling went out. There was no more kerosene. The kerosene barrel was completely buried in the snow drifts. We used splinters of resinous wood for light. This evening one woman lit a candle. I also lit my piece of candle which I had received while constructing the brick stove.

Even the weak sat up on their beds. The places of the mother and father of the Deveika family were vacant. The mother had died, and the father was in isolation.

All of our tortured thoughts and souls fled to memories of our dear ones, who were far away, far away in the homeland, in the Krasnoyarsk camps and in the Kansk prison, where our men and brothers suffered. In place of the traditional Christmas wafers, we broke bread and passed around small pieces of it.

This evening the stove seemed to glow and burn longer. Our nine children clustered around the flames. They were cheerless, speechless, without joy. The Deveika girls were unable to rise from their beds.

Petratis, the teacher, tried to tell the children Christmas legends and speak about Christmases past in Lithuania while his small daughter clung to his neck and cried.

Large drops dripped from the frozen ceiling and formed ice puddles on the floor.

The calm of the evening was interrupted by the NKVD representatives. One of them climbed in, looked around and left.

That same night we felt that something terrible was happening outside; something we had not yet experienced. The cruel violent snowstorm known as the dark *purga* had begun.

● Continued on next Page



● A group of Lithuanian deportees on the banks of the Lena River, about 500 kilometres from Trofimovsk. The woman standing is the authoress of this first-hand report, Mrs Tautvaisa.

Christmas in Gulag

● From Page 4

Dark Purga

The *purga* was fine, sandlike and sharp snow carried across the wastes by whirlwinds. A damp and dark mass would fill the air. Pressed by inhuman cold the *purgas* would rage for several days, sometimes for weeks without letup. When this happened everything remained in the dark. It was certain death for people who ventured outside.

It was only during the *purgas* that the slaves were allowed to stay away from the work; otherwise the work continued in spite of the cold, storms and darkness.

This great natural force raged for several days. Our fuel reserves were small, yet we managed to kindle the stove several times. We planed the stalls and door posts for shavings. We would have also used tables and chairs for fuel but we did not have any. Toward the end we were unable to force open the doors and get to the snow in order to boil water from it.

Finally, as if exhausted, the storm eased. We dug out people whose doors had been snowed in. Those who could muster strength went to get bread for themselves and the weaker ones.

I still cannot forget the sight of the peasant woman, Mrs Augustinas, crawling about with stooped shoulders in the snow. She was scrounging around in the superintendents' garbage heap, like a hungry dog. Her headgear was infested with lice eggs. She died very soon after this.

Her son and daughter, who had worked as builders' labourers, lay in the snow at the burial site. Her husband and other son died in the lumber camps of Altai. The only survivor of the Augustinas family was a 12-year-old boy, Tony, who worked in the fishing collective.

Purga's Sacrifice

The Yakuts believe that the *purga* calms down when it has claimed a sacrifice.

In the wooden barracks next door lived a woman teacher who worked in the bakery. This job was the pick of them all. The bakery was twenty metres from the barracks. She had to work in the bakery on Christmas night; she dressed in her good clothes. She promised to bring her friends bread and warm yeast water. The doors were covered with snow. The unfortunate woman, being afraid of losing a good job, took the advice of friends and made a hole in the wall to go to work.

After the northern storm died down, the barrack door was dug out. The baker came looking for his worker because he did not go to the bakery on Christmas night.

In the spring, the hunters found the woman frozen in the tundra. Being driven by the wind and searching for the bakery she ran with the storm through several kilometres of drifts. The clothes were torn from her chest, because people perishing in the *purga* felt warm. Her five year old son was adopted by S., a strong woman who also had a daughter.

— Extracted from the book, *The Cemetery of Nations in the Siberian Tundra*, by H. TAUTVAISA. Published by the Lithuanian Social Democratic Union of America, 1968.

NEWS



● Geologist Skuodis: imprisoned for seven years, because he wrote a book on spiritual problems in Lithuania.

Rally for jailed Geologist

A national campaign has been launched in the U.S. on behalf of a Chicago-born Lithuanian-American jailed in the Soviet Union as a political dissident.

Concern for the fate of Vytautas Skuodis, a 52-year-old geology professor, increased recently when word came that he had gone on a brief hunger strike at the labor camp in Soviet Mordovia, where he is serving a seven-year term for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

Skuodis was a prominent geologist and geological engineer in the Soviet Union for almost three decades. In 1969 he joined the faculty of the University of Vilnius in the capital city of Lithuania, where he lived with his wife and two daughters.

Skuodis was arrested in January, 1980, after Soviet police searched his home and confiscated the uncompleted manuscript of a book he was writing titled "Spiritual Genocide in Lithuania." He was convicted last December on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

Skuodis was born in Chicago in 1929 and lived there until he was about a year old, when his parents returned to Lithuania.

— Howard A. TYNER

Latvian Help for Asia

Senior Pastor Haralds Kalnins has been made superintendent of German Lutheran congregations in Soviet Central Asia, although he is still living in Riga, Latvia. The Latvian Lutheran hierarchy has assumed responsibility for the theological education of new pastors for the German-speaking congregations inside the U.S.S.R. as the last German pastor emigrated in 1972. Four former elders of the German Lutheran churches in Kazakhstan have been ordained as pastors, although they have not fully completed theological training.

— Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Keston News.

BOOK REVIEW:

ROAD TO EXTINCTION

Jan Pakulski*

SOVIET GENOCIDE IN LITHUANIA, by Joseph Pajaujis-Javis; published by Maryland Books, New York, 1980. Recommended price \$10.95.

Imagine a situation of war and foreign occupation during which one fourth of the entire Australian population — men, women and children — has been either killed or deported to central Australia and Antarctica, to work there under the conditions worse than those of the 19th century convicts. Imagine also that two-thirds of these prisoners die of illness and starvation. Such a scenario may sound to the Australian reader like a fantasy, a nightmare, or a script for a horror movie. But this was the reality for the entire nations of Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians and many other minorities incorporated into the Soviet Union as a result of World War II and post-war Soviet expansion. This is also the topic of a detailed study by Dr Pajaujis-Javis entitled 'Soviet Genocide in Lithuania.'

Let us first summarize the facts. Between 1940 and 1950 the number of Lithuanians living in their country decreased from 2.5 million to slightly over 2 million, that is by 21%. The number of Latvians dropped during that time by over 18%, while the Estonian population declined under the Soviet occupation by over 32%. How did it happen that, without a formal state of war between these countries and the Soviet state, the Baltic nations faced not only total political incapacitation, but also the threat of biological extinction? The answer given by Dr Pajaujis-Javis is summarized in the title of the book. Lithuanians (as well as many other new Russian subjects) have been victims of a planned and systematically executed policy of national and cultural genocide which started with the first Soviet occupation of Lithuania in 1940-1941 and continued through the years of Stalinist terror.

The evidence presented by the author of the genocidal nature of the Soviet persecution can be divided into two types. The first, and the most important one, consists of some official Soviet documents showing that the occupation of Lithuania and the following terror and deportations had been carefully planned by the Soviet authorities and executed in clear violation of international law and human rights.

"Alien Elements"

The documents presented in Appendices 4, 5, and 6 contain especially dramatic evidence: secret instructions of deportations, plans for the "liquidation of the leading personnel of anti-state parties" and official orders concerning the elimination of the "anti-Soviet and socially alien element" in Lithuania. The last of these documents lists the categories of persons pointed out for deportations, and it is worth quoting *in extenso*. The 'alien elements' included (pp. 234-35):

- all former members of anti-Soviet (ie almost all) political parties, organisations and groups, as well as members of student fraternities and Rifleman's Association;

- all former army officers, policemen and prison employees;
- all foreigners, migrants and (past and present) employees of foreign firms;
- persons maintaining contacts and correspondence abroad, including Esperantists and stamp collectors (Sic!);
- former workers of the Red Cross and Polish refugees;
- priests and active worshippers of religious congregations;
- property owners who availed themselves of hired labor.

Thus, between 20 and 30% of the total population of Lithuania were declared to be enemies of the Soviet regime! Later, with the start of collectivisation, the list was extended to cover the 'kulaks,' ie, farmers owning over 25 ha (62 acres) of land. In predominantly rural Lithuania over 33,000 farms, with some 150,000 people, belonged to this category.

A striking feature of these official documents is the absence of any legal or court procedures involved in the arrests and deportations of the 'anti-state element'. The label of the 'people's enemies' was the basis of arrests and the decision of the Security Police was the law. Moreover, any contact with an accused person automatically transmitted the stigma and led to arrests. Hence the victims of political terror were not individuals but whole families and social circles.

Considering the range of persons labelled as enemies, it is not surprising to find that during the 5 years of the post-war 'socialist reconstruction', nearly 600,000 Lithuanians were either killed or deported to the forced labor camps of Siberia, Ural and the Far East. About two-thirds of them perished there.

Gulag Victims

The second type of evidence presented by Dr Pajaujis-Javis, concerns the fate of victims of the Gulag Archipelago. Readers of Solzhenitsyn and Marchenko may remember the names of Lithuanians and Latvians frequently mentioned by the inmates of the forced labor camps, whose number in the late 1940s has been estimated at about 20 million. The author examines memoirs and testimonies of dozens of ex-prisoners who later found their way to the west. This part of the book, mixing sober, factual analysis with the life stories of prisoners, is most fascinating, equal in its strength to the best of Solzhenitsyn's novels.

The major purpose of the Soviet camps was not only to isolate and punish the 'anti-Soviet element' but, primarily, to use them as slave labor in works no volunteer would do. The outcome, however was not much different than in the death camps designed for extermination. Considering the length of sentences (5-25 years with frequent 'extensions') and mortality in the camps (10% per year on average, up to 30% per year in the Far East), the chances of deportees to survive a sentence were rather slim.

* Dr Jan Pakulski, M.A. (Warsaw), Ph.D. (A.N.U.) is Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Tasmania.

New Prisoner



● Povilas Peceliunas (pictured) has been sentenced to 3 years strict regimen camp and 5 years exile. Aged 53, this teacher of Lithuanian language and literature was charged with writing articles which allegedly slandered the Soviet system. He was also charged with editing the independent Lithuanian journal, *Perspectives* which is published without the Soviet censors' approval.

USSR News Brief

The *USSR News Brief*, published fortnightly by Cahiers du Samizdat asbl, Brussels, is available in Russian and English editions. It gives continuous information on human rights questions and the dissident and oppositional movement in general in the Soviet Union.

USSR News Brief is edited by Dr Cronid Lubarsky, a distinguished scientist now living in the West. Dr Lubarsky himself served 5 years in Soviet labor camp and prison for dissident activity. Prior to being exiled in 1977, he was a representative in the USSR of Solzhenitsyn's Public Fund in Aid of Soviet Political Prisoners and Their Families.

One year's subscription to Australia and New Zealand is currently 1,050 FB (26 US dollars). It includes airmail postage. Bank drafts are to be made payable to Cahiers du Samizdat, 48 rue du Lac, 1050 — Bruxelles, Belgium. Please state clearly which language edition you require.

● From Page 6

The strength and reliability of the evidence presented by Dr Pajaujis-Javis is beyond dispute, and the literary form chosen for the presentation of this evidence deserves the highest praise. However, while answering the question on how hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians were systematically exterminated, the study poses another question which it cannot, and does not attempt to answer: why should they suffer? No political or sociological analysis is able to give a definite answer to this disturbing question. Like one of the victims quoted in the book we may ask — why? 'Just because they belonged to a small nation which happened to be in the path of a giant?'

COMING EVENT:

Baltic Conference

The First Australasian Conference on Baltic Studies will be held in Melbourne next month. It will be open to the general public, as well as to scholars active in the field.

The two-day conference will run on Friday January 8 and Saturday January 9, 1982, in Latvian House, 3 Dickens Street, Elwood (a suburb of Melbourne).

Organised by Dr T. G. Fennell, of Flinders University, this conference promises to open up a new era for systematic Baltic research in this country.

Dr Fennell said, there will be no conference fee and there is no need to register officially. Because of limited space, however, groups of more than two or three who are planning to attend are asked to notify the organizer in advance: Dr T. G. Fennell, School of Humanities, Flinders University, Bedford Park, SA 5042.

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Lithuanian Co-Op Credit Soc "Talka" (Vic), \$400; "Ramove" Adelaide (SA), \$200; Guests at LAS dinner (SA), \$74.40; Lietuvos Atgimimo Sajudis (SA), J. Mikalonis (USA), \$50 each; C. Ford (NSW), J. J. Davis (SA), H. G. Conalogue (Tas), \$25 each; J. Krastins (NSW), E. Eskirtas (Vic), V. Petkunas, E. S. Dainys (SA), J. V. Rubis (Qld), H. Juodvalkis, P. Lazdauskas (Tas), E. Annuk (NSW), \$20 each; V. Stalpa (SA), \$15; V. Bieliauskas (Vic), M. Mukans (NSW), E. Kujath, V. Eskirtas, R. A. Kirwood, K. Rand, S. Stasevicius, S. Smyth, E. Loooris, S. Kelly, Anon (Tas), \$10 each; S. Guscia (SA), J. Pendergast (Vic), M. Wisoky, J. Barta (Tas), E. A. Liftin (USA), \$5 each; L. Nobelius (Vic), \$4; G.K. (Vic), \$2.

CORRECTION to the list published in the last issue of "Baltic News": Donation of \$45 by V. Bindokas should read \$25 by the Geelong Lithuanian Scout Group, \$20 by V. Bindokas.

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

Juri Kukk — Estonia's Quiet Hero



● Juri Kukk (above, left) with his wife Silvi and daughters Andres and Lili. This picture was taken shortly before Juri's arrest in March 1980.

I was deeply shaken by the latest reports on Baltic prisoners of conscience, in the Sept. 1981 issue of *BALTIC NEWS*. In particular, I found Juri Kukk unforgettable: a peaceful Estonian who was not afraid of dying for his occupied country.

Only your headline could have been more appropriate. Kukk and Bobby Sands should not have been linked together, because they were so basically different: Bobby Sands had used violence, and Kukk hadn't. What about "Juri Kukk — Estonia's Quiet Hero", for an alternative headline?

Sydney, NSW.

R. Briggs

How much longer are we going to stand by and let innocent Balts like Juri Kukk die?

I suggest that the Estonian Association or Baltic Council of Australia should approach our Federal Government and insist that the Baltic question be raised with the UN Human Rights Committee.

Adelaide, SA.

G. M. TAYLOR



● Juri Kukk's grave in Vologda (Russia).

Very Interesting

Thank you for two very, very interesting copies of your *Baltic News*. I have passed them on to a friend who, in turn, will see that it is read by many folk.

Long may your publication prosper! May people here in Australia come to their senses and support you great Baltic people — and anyone else who abhors the Russian atrocities.

East Brighton, Vic.

(Miss) Q. KING.

Overseas Support

We enjoyed reading Vol. VII, No. 2 of *Baltic News* and are writing to reaffirm our support for your group and peoples.

We will circulate your magazine through the organizations here, and expect interest from the Christian students.

Best wishes. We pray that God will bless your efforts.

Wuerzburg

Tim and Caroline ROGERS,

(West Germany).

Bernhard RIEGER.

Feeding Afghanistan's Attackers

In the first year of the grain embargo on the Soviet Union (1979-80), Australia's agricultural exports to that country (which admittedly included more than grains) had quadrupled from \$221,500,000 to \$888,800,000.

After this, I find it hard to believe that Mr Fraser really cares about the Afghans, Balts and other oppressed people. Actions speak louder than words.

Perth, W.A.

J. NELSON.

Russian or Soviet?

For years we, the Russians living abroad, have shared with the Baltic people the Soviet bondage. But it is very painful for us to read "Russian sovereignty" in your periodicals.

We hope that this little mistake — Russian and Soviet — will be repaired.

Croydon, S.A.

(Miss) N. LOBATCHEVSKY.

REPLY: It was the Russians, not the Soviets, who replace large number of Baltic people deported from their countries. It is the Russians, not the Soviets, who may soon have a numerical superiority in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We believe, this is designed to lessen the Baltic people's claim to a separate identity.

As HELLP Association was constituted to aid the preservation of the national identity of the Balts and of their eventual independence, the use of "Russian" instead of "Soviet" seems appropriate. Even if Soviet oppression comes to an end, it does not mean that Russian domination would cease automatically.

J. K. LUKER,

Vice-President, HELLP.

BALTIC NEWS is published four times a year, 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: Baltic News, P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 — Australia.

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Printed by Focal Print, 32 Strahan St., North Hobart. Phone 34 2602.