



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP)
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PUNISHMENT WITHOUT CRIME

June is the "black month" for Baltic people. In June, 1940, their free, self-governing countries were overrun by Russian tanks. Twelve months later, in June, 1941, the first wave of mass deportations started — leading to a prolonged, large-scale slaughter of the Balts. It has been variously estimated that between 674,000 and 1,500,000 innocent Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have so far died at the hands of their uninvited Russian rulers, or have been deported to the depths of Siberia.

Here is a brief first-hand account of the traumatic Baltic deportations. It was written by Barbara Armonas, wife of a Lithuanian farmer — and one of the very few deportees who managed to escape to the free world.

AT about four o'clock in the morning, I heard a knock on my door. I opened it and froze with fear: A whole detachment of soldiers, about thirty altogether, all with heavy weapons. In the yard a machine gun had been set up.

Some two hundred families were collected from our area. At about 4 pm we were put into trucks, each guarded by four Russian soldiers with guns. These trucks were nearly all American Lend-Lease equipment.

At the railway station we were put into cattle cars, about forty to sixty people to a car. In each car there were two rows of sleeping berths but no mattresses or toilet facilities. People and their belongings took up so much room that it was hard to move around and there was hardly room to sleep.

The misery in the crowded cars and the nervous tension caused by such a disaster could be compared with cattle in transit.

Snatched from maternity hospital

In my car was the Tamosiunas family. When the deportation squad came, they found only the husband and a six-year-old at home. The mother was in a hospital for the birth of another child. The soldiers snatched her and the new baby from the hospital only four hours after birth and put them into our crowded car.

The feelings of human beings herded into cattle cars are impossible to describe. No one knew where we were going or what could be expected in the future.

Some days were very hot, the heavy smell in the cars was unbearable and a number of people fell sick. In our car one two-year-old boy ran a high fever and cried constantly because of pain. The only help his parents could get was a little aspirin which someone gave them. He grew worse and worse and finally died.

Finally about 130 families arrived in Novostroika. We found the place very wild and run down. There were some barracks with broken doors and windows and about five new small houses.



● V. Valsvila (left), a locksmith at the "Maistas" factory in Panevezys (Lithuania), murdered by the Russians on June 26, 1941. His father and sister are at his side.

Women: Timber-Workers

All the men, and all girls sixteen and older, were assigned to the felling of trees eight hours a day. The working place was five to six miles from the barracks, however, so they really worked from dawn to dusk. The work quotas were very high and with such poor tools and no experience, the men made only fifty to sixty rubles the first month.

A pound of bread in the store cost two rubles; the only way most of us survived the summer and the first winter was that we had supplementary food which we had brought from home. We had nice pieces of dress material, shoes, silver spoons, and so on, which interested the Russians and they traded food for these items.

Mrs. Bajorunas did not earn enough to feed her three children. She exchanged everything she possessed for food, even her blankets and pillows. She had only one dress left for herself and her children. When she couldn't feed her family any longer, she took all her children — seven, five, and three years old — and jumped into the river with them.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES:

Soviets Break Their Silence

After widespread publicity in the Western press, the Soviet authorities have finally admitted that Father Leonidas Sapoka is dead. The admission came in the form of an article in the official Soviet daily, *Tiesa*, on August 15, 1981 — more than ten months after this Lithuanian priest's sudden death.

Father Sapoka was murdered in his presbytery in Luoke (Russian-occupied Lithuania) by unidentified intruders on the night of October 9, 1980. In spite of a total media gag inside the Soviet Union, details of the incident leaked out and were reported in *Baltic News* in May 1981. Within weeks, the news spread throughout the free world and brought angry protests from believers and non-believers alike.

Culprits Found: In Gaol

The Soviet authorities eventually broke their silence on August 15 last year. An article in *Tiesa*, by-lined by V. Zeimantas, announced that three men had been charged with Father Sapoka's murder. Significantly, two of them were already in gaol, serving sentences for other criminal offences.

All three were found guilty, according to another report in *Tiesa* (December 16, 1981). Jonas Sabaliauskas (26) was sentenced to death; Adomas Lukas (31) and Danielius Mockevicius (20) were imprisoned for fifteen years.

Both *Tiesa* articles were accompanied by a strong attack against the "slanderous" Western press and electronic media "who had asked disturbing questions about this event".

— ELTA.

New Evidence

Meanwhile, eyewitness accounts have reached the West, throwing new light on Father Bronius Laurinavicius' tragic death on November 24, 1981 (reported briefly in the last *Baltic News*). The new information appears in the latest issue of the clandestine *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* (No. 50, dated December 8, 1981)*.

According to the *Chronicle*, Rev. Laurinavicius was deliberately pushed under truck No. Maz-503, driven by G. Lazutkin. The fatal accident happened at 8.20 pm, in Zalgiris street, in the city of Vilnius (capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania).

Witnesses

A woman, who for her own protection remains unidentified, saw a man with a hat standing on the footpath who was approached by several men. They took him by the arms and started talking to him. It was apparent that he did not wish to speak to them. The men suddenly pushed the man with the hat, namely Fr. Laurinavicius, under a passing vehicle.

A high school student, who also remains anonymous, witnessed the exact moment when four young men pushed an elderly gentleman in the path of an oncoming truck.

Medical officers on the scene asserted that Laurinavicius had clearly been pushed under the



● After Rev. Laurinavicius' fatal "accident", the Lithuanian writer Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene (pictured) is now the only member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group who has escaped imprisonment or death.

vehicle, because he lay face down, his palms clean, and his face was crushed beyond recognition.

The case of Fr. Bronius Laurinavicius has been transferred from the Vilnius traffic police to the Lithuanian SSR Ministry of Internal Affairs. The case is headed by interrogator Vaitiekunas.

Previous Attempts

Prior to his death, Laurinavicius told close friends that attempts to run him over had been made twice before.

Fr. Laurinavicius, aged 68, was one of the outstanding members of the religious and patriotic movement in Lithuania. Since the 1960s, he had been protesting to Soviet officials about their interference in church affairs, and violations of human rights in Lithuania. He was also active in the Lithuanian temperance movement, which was viewed with suspicion and hostility by the authorities.

Only three days before his death, Fr. Laurinavicius was viciously attacked in the Communist Party daily *Tiesa* as a foremost enemy of atheism, and denounced for his pastoral activities among Lithuanian youth.

Fr. Laurinavicius joined the Lithuanian Helsinki Group in 1979, and his death leaves only one member of the group, the poetess Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene, at large: the others, except for one withdrawal and one emigration, are in labour camps.

— LIC Lithuanian Information Center/Keston News Service.

* The *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* is the oldest and most authoritative underground publication in the Russian-occupied Baltic States. 50 consecutive issues have so far been smuggled out of Lithuania since the *Chronicle's* inception on March 19, 1972. English translations of the *Chronicle of the C.C. In L.* are available (at \$1 plus postage, per issue) from: Lithuanian R. C. Priests' League of America, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY, 11207, U.S.A.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nuclear-Free Baltic

Congratulations on featuring the Baltic people's demand for a nuclear-free zone, on the front page of your March issue. With anti-nuclear demonstrations sweeping the Western world, the timing was excellent.

Hobart people picked up your message and pointed out, during the anti-nuclear demonstration there, that the Russians are the worst villains in the nuclear race. Little wonder, then, that the people living in the Baltic region are worried.

Launceston, Tas.

B. TAUTIETIS.

Writing to Prisoners

Greetings! I have just obtained a new address of Baltic prisoner of conscience, Zibre Algirdas. It is "Moscow, Institution 5110/1 UN."

Last year, I wrote to "Comrade" Brezhnev and told him that I suspected that my letters were not reaching Zibre, and would he please look into the matter.

It did not surprise me that I received no reply. But yesterday, quite unexpectedly, I received a letter from the New Zealand Red Cross to tell me that they had had a communication from the Russian Red Cross giving Zibre's present address, and asking them to pass it on to me. I can only think that in a very round about way it is a response to my letter to the Kremlin in Moscow!

I have now written Zibre Algirdas seventeen letters — one every month, and shall continue to do so.

Auckland (New Zealand).

Kenneth R. PREBBLE.

Young Julius

I would like to write to young Julius Sasnauskas, whose photo was published in your last issue (March, 1982).

Do you know his address?

Bentleigh, Vic.

(Mrs.) M. STEWART.

REPLY: Julius is now in exile, at the following address: CCCP, 636600, Tomskaya obl, pos. Parabel, ul. Sovetskaya 147a, Sasnauskas Julius, U.S.S.R. He is currently working as a sanitation technician.



"Sorry, comrade President, again no letters for you — they're all for prisoners!"

— Cartoon by courtesy of The BULLETIN.

Wanted: A Map to Please All

Everyone congratulates your publication on its excellence, and I agree.

There is only one thing that bothers me about it, namely the map on the masthead. I think it is rather incongruous to mark Prussia on the map, as it would seem to suggest a return to pre-1939 borders in that region. You would be better off leaving that area blank. Page, A.C.T.

G. KAMINSKAS.

You are to be commended for showing East Prussia, on your front-page map. Don't drop it, whatever you do!

It is a living reminder of the grisly events in Prussia, after World War II: Total elimination of the native people and their replacement by Russian colonists. The Russians have even changed the place-names: e.g., Kaliningrad Oblast instead of Prussia.

Adelaide, S.A.

R. CZEKALOWSKA.

EDITOR'S REPLY: The sole purpose of our map is to show the approximate location of the Baltic States. We shall be pleased to consider alternative maps for publication.

Relevant

I would like to congratulate you on producing a magazine that is up-to-date and relevant to the average Australian.

Please find enclosed a donation.

Morley, W.A.

L. HAYS.

Genocide by Proxy

Since American economists discovered, during the Korean War, that protracted "balanced" fighting created a steady flow of money via politicians to industrialists, the game was on.

And so, to the present day, arms are flowing to El Salvador, to Iran through Israel, to Afghanistan through Egypt.

Human life is expendable. Especially non-American. By artificially balancing the weaponry, the Afghan freedom fighters will be defeated by sheer attrition. As the Soviets use non-Russian draftees in the Red Army's lower ranks, the Afghans are decimating the very part of the Communist empire that could, and if given a chance would, topple the Communist oppressors and free their countries from Soviet domination.

Ironic as it is, the Afghans are killing the very people that would give them freedom.

Unless the Western governments cease supplying the Communists with food, tank factories, communication systems etc, they will have Afghan blood on their hands. The Western industrialists are also the killers by proxy of Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and all the other slaves forced to do the Russians' imperialistic bidding.

What will the U.S. politicians do when they run out of other countries to feed the Soviet Moloch? What will they do when the Red menace starts to devour the people of North America?

L. LAURINOVICS,
Chairman, Latvian Aid for Afghans.

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

New Prisoners in Estonia

It is now known that, on 1 December 1981 about 150 persons were arrested in connection with the call for a half-hour strike in Tallinn. Most of them were soon released, but the following four are still under arrest:

- Jarve, Valdur, a worker, arrested in the Estonian town of Viljandi;
- Kuum, Peeter, a carpenter, arrested in the Estonian town of Parnu;
- Sade, Siim, an engineer, arrested in Tallinn;
- Rose, Endel (52), a doctor of medicine, arrested in Tallinn. His case had been heard in Tallinn on 14 April 1982, and he has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment in ordinary regime camp.

All four were accused of duplicating and distributing the strike leaflets.

Other Arrests

In December 1981 Alar Kume (21) and Jaanus Pihelgas (21) were arrested in the north of the Kola Peninsula, apparently for attempting to cross the Soviet-Norwegian border. They were held first in Murmansk. Then in January 1982, they were transferred to the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow for psychiatric examination. Several people in Estonia have been interrogated in connection with this case. According to the latest reports, they are now held in a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad.

Johannes Hint (68), a doctor of physics and the managing director of a construction and technological bureau in Tallinn, was arrested on 13 November 1981. He was first accused of "theft of State property", but the charges were soon changed to "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". Dr. Johannes Hint is detained in the Central prison of Tallinn. Address: Estonian SSR, 200001 Tallinn, Kalaranna 2, Uchrezhdenie Yum-422/1, U.S.S.R.

— U.S.S.R. News Brief.



● Ona Vitkauskaitė (pictured) was arrested on April 18, 1980 in a raid on the presbytery of Bagotoji (in Russian-occupied Lithuania). She was discovered at a typewriter typing copies of *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, no. 42. She has completed her 1½ year term in a criminal camp for women.

RELEASED

Two workers for the independent press in Russian-occupied Lithuania have completed their prison sentences and have been released by Soviet authorities. They are Petras Plumpa-Pluira and Miss Ona Vitkauskaitė.

Petras Plumpa-Pluira gained many supporters in Australia after his story appeared in *Baltic News* on February 11, 1978. Some wrote to Plumpa, while others appealed to Mr Brezhnev directly, 70-year-old Eric Fogarty of Waratah, NSW had his somewhat outspoken letter published in *Baltic News* on June 3, 1978. Plumpa's case was subsequently taken up by Friends of the Captives, Amnesty International and Baltic P.O.O.C groups.

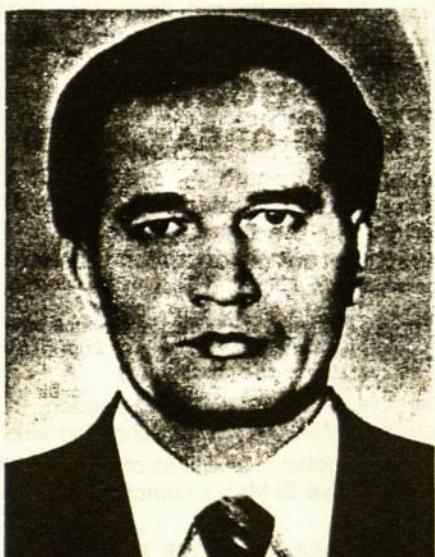
Ona Vitkauskaitė, while in prison, impressed everyone by her undaunting faith and forgiving spirit. She was allowed to receive only a fraction of her mail; even Easter cards were withheld. On May 17, 1981, Ona Vitkauskaitė wrote, "They are determined to keep us from seeing Christ even on a card . . ."

Eight other Baltic Prisoners of conscience were released recently: B. Garoza, J. Viskers, Z. Kirsnauskaitė, V. M. Zavalnyuk, P. Buzas, R. Cerniauskas, P. Cidzikas, and V. Lapenės.

People in the free world should continue writing letters to these ex-prisoners, at their home addresses. There is increasing evidence that former Baltic prisoners of conscience are discriminated against even after their release.

For example, Miss Nijole Sadunaite — released from prison and exile nearly two years ago — is now living with her brother in Vilnius (Lietuva — 232043 Vilnius 43, Architektu 27-2), but is not allowed to receive any mail from the West, or to write to her friends abroad.

— ELTA BATUN.



● Born 1939, Petras Plumpa-Pluira (pictured) was arrested and charged with possession and circulation of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, on November 19, 1973. He was sentenced on December 24, 1974 to 8 years strict regime labour camp under LSSR Criminal Code Arts. 68, 70 and 212. Plumpa-Pluira was released from labour camp on November 20, 1981, and allowed to return to his wife and three children.

BOOK REVIEW BY Dr. J. B. POLYA:*

Baltic Dilemma

THE BALTIC DILEMMA, by Edgars Dunsdorfs. Part One, published by Robert Speller & Sons, New York, 1975. Part Two, published by Baltic Council of Australia, Melbourne, 1982. Recommended price \$11 for both volumes; \$8 Volume 2 only. Postage \$1 extra. — Available from B.C.A., or from Baltic News, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005.

Despite the change of publishers and gap in publication dates, the two volumes constitute a uniformly presented integrated work. The index in Part Two corrects some errors occurring in Part One but does not wholly compensate for a list of errata. Biographic information in the index helps critical students. Cross references would have been preferable to repetition; otherwise, the text can be read with ease and pleasure.

Part one was written when Prime Minister Whitlam made Australia the first free nation to recognise *de jure* the *de facto* annexation of three free countries presented to Stalin by Hitler. This unprofitable gesture of friendship to Moscow and undeserved insult to anti-communist refugees in Australia antagonised well over 2% of the electorate. The apology for this political blunder rested on Whitlam's ignorance of European history camouflaged by insults of informed critics and the much used device of Russian and Australian Marxists of writing fictitious history in support of bankrupt ideologies.

Whitlam's Minister of Foreign Affairs prevaricated with his master's voice. All this tissue of lies and absurdities served to mislead Australians, few of whom had even a basic knowledge of three Baltic nations colonised for being small and not black. Part One adduces the true history of the Baltic region, sheds

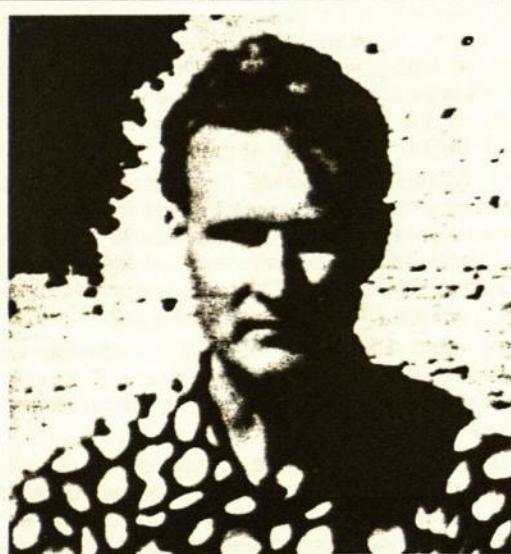
light on the crooked arguments, explains the dangers to Baltic migrants arising out of ex-Soviet citizenship foisted on them and suggests ways out of the Whitlam-made morass.

Part Two deals with events after the fall of Whitlam that resulted in restoration of the minimum justice Australians of Baltic origin might well expect from their Government. After the mercifully brief details of deportations, murders, cultural genocide and colonisation of the Baltic by Russian chauvinists given in Part One, Part Two tells a happier tale and the last chapter envisages solutions for the problem of civilised small nations trying to live in peace with a huge and backward neighbour.

Balts, fellow-victims of Russian imperialism and all Australians who see value in clean debate will find this work useful. The two volumes are topical at this time of political instability in Australia that threatens domination by a pro-Soviet ALP ruled by the "broad left". This well-documented book by Professor Dunsdorfs will acquaint electors of today with ALP politicians voting for the legitimisation of genocide in 1974 and seeking now our democratic vote. Similarly the book explains to the perspicacious reader intrigues within the ALP against one of its most respectable members who is not only of a race disliked by Nazis, Soviets and our "broad left" but also one to have stood up against Whitlam's pro-Soviet anti-Baltic policies.

It is a pity that the book is most likely to be shunned by those who would profit most from it — blind Marxists, contemptuous of facts, with minds made up in Moscow and manipulated by all-mouth puppet masters in our midst.

* Dr. John B. Polya, Dipl. Ing. Chem., D.Sc. Tech. (Zurich), D.Sc. (Tas.), FRACI, FRIC, was until recently Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Tasmania.



● 46-year-old Estonian engineer Veljo Kalep (pictured) is now serving a four years' sentence in a Russian labour camp. He was imprisoned for anti-Soviet agitation and possessing forbidden literature. Kalep had apparently been collecting material on the missing Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg, who was arrested in Budapest by Soviet forces in 1945.

BOOKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

Buy a book a month — and give it to your friends, relatives or children. Let them discover the truth about the Baltic States:

- CATHOLICS IN SOVIET-OCCUPIED LITHUANIA (Faith under persecution), 120pp. — \$2, plus 90 cents postage & packing.
- BALTIC STATES: A domestic issue, and international problem; by J. W. Knight and E. Delins, 32pp. — Reduced to \$2, plus 50 cents postage & packing.
- LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW, by Barbara Armonas, 222pp. — \$5, plus \$1.50 postage & packing.
- THE BALTIC STATES, 1940-1972: Documentary background and survey of developments, 121pp. — \$5, plus \$1 postage & packing.
- THE BALTIC DILEMMA, Vols. 1 and 2, by Edgars Dunsdorfs, \$11 plus postage (Vol. 2 is also available separately, at \$8 plus \$1 postage and packing).
- A DREAM OF FREEDOM: Four decades of national survival versus Russian imperialism in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, 1940-1980; by Andres Kung, 272pp., hard cover. — \$14 posted anywhere in Australia.

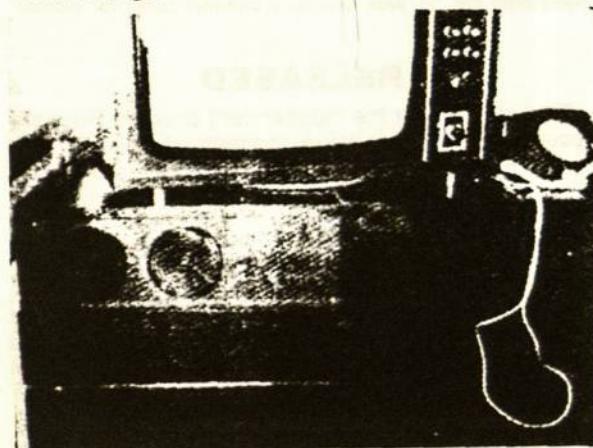
If unavailable at your local booksellers, all these books may be ordered from: BALTIC NEWS, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005

The Listening Post



Foreign visitors to Riga — the capital city of Russian-occupied Latvia — are now accommodated in the newly built hotel *Latvija* (pictured, above).

All conversations between guests and their friends are monitored and tape-recorded. This gives the authorities immediate information on the guests' opinions, their plans and whom they intend to meet while in Riga.



Eavesdropping is done throughout the hotel, via the speaker system of the television sets in guest rooms (see photograph below).

An inside view of the speakers (below) reveals a red wire attached to the right-hand speaker. The wire connects a hidden microphone to the central "listening post". Additional microphones are concealed in the light fixtures hanging from the ceiling.



The tape-recording equipment is located on the third floor of the hotel. This floor is out of bounds to all except official permit holders. Every lift stopping at the third floor is met and scrutinized by a female floor supervisor (locally known as "corridor matron"). People without a permit are not allowed to step out of the lift.

Visitors are also banned from the sightseeing platform on the 27th floor which faces the harbour area: some secret listening devices are located on this floor. Visitors can view the city only from the side facing the market area.

— Latvian News Digest.

Return of Church Urged

Several petitions have been presented in the Australian Senate, asking the Australian Government to help the Christians of Klaipeda in their struggle to regain the Church of St Mary, Queen of Peace.

Klaipeda is the largest Baltic harbour in Russian-occupied Lithuania. St Mary's church was built with official Soviet approval by a large team of volunteers, in 1954-60. A year later, in 1961, the Soviet authorities confiscated the church and converted it into a concert hall.

Since then, over 150,000 residents of Russian-occupied Lithuania have risked their jobs and freedom, by openly petitioning the Soviet Premier (Mr Brezhnev) and asking him to return St Mary's church to Christian worship.

To strengthen the Klaipeda believers' plea, signatures are now being collected in all States of Australia. The aim is to exert diplomatic pressure and to convince the Kremlin authorities to give St Mary's church back to its rightful owners.

YOU, too, can help — please send a stamped, addressed envelope to BALTIC NEWS, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas., 7005; your petition form(s) will be forwarded promptly.

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.

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