



BALTIC NEWS

1 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP),
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September, 1982

Why Not Nuclear-Free Baltic?

Russian nuclear build-up in the Baltic region is causing increasing alarm among the local people. The latest wave of concern came after the Warsaw Pact manoeuvres earlier this year, when several hundred Soviet submarine crewmen were admitted to the municipal hospitals of Riga (Latvia) and Klaipeda (Lithuania), suffering from radiation effects. Some men died.

The incident was hushed up entirely by the Soviet authorities. The sailors' complaint was officially described as an "epidemic". Nevertheless, the Baltic doctors sent a confidential report to Moscow, urging that the Soviet submarines be shielded more effectively from their nuclear cargo.

The Baltic nations' concern goes back to 1963, when retired Finnish President Urho Kekkonen suggested that neutral Finland and Sweden as well as NATO members Norway and Denmark should be free from nuclear weapons in peace and war. Kekkonen's idea was endorsed by the independent Baltic freedom movements, asking that the three Baltic States be added to the nuclear-free zone. The other Nordic nations responded positively, too, but called for the heavily-armed Soviet Kola Peninsula to be included. The Russians remained silent.

Exposed to Nuclear Death

On October 25, 1976, an "earthquake" of the strength of 4.5 on the Richter scale shook buildings in Western Estonia and in Helsinki. The quake was later traced to a nuclear accident in the Soviet underground fortifications in Baltiski (in Russian-occupied Estonia).

In the death-camp of Paldiski Bay (Estonia), prisoners are still used to clean the nozzles of atomic-powered submarines; this exposes them to slow but certain death.

In the camps of Cherepovets, Groznyi and 34 other labour camps, Baltic prisoners are among those employed in uranium mining, or uranium enrichment work. They are constantly exposed to severe radiation.

The Soviet Union's largest nuclear power station is now nearing completion near Ignalina (in Russian-occupied Lithuania). Scientists have privately expressed fears that insufficient precautions have been taken; this is likely to lead to nuclear contamination of nearby rivulets.

Latest Moves for Nuclear-Free Baltic

In June 1981, Soviet President Brezhnev hinted for the first time that Moscow might be willing to include some of its territory in a Nordic nuclear-free area. Thirty-eight prominent citizens of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania responded on October 10, 1981 with an Open Letter to the governments in the region. The citizens asked that the Baltic Sea and the three Baltic countries be made part of a nuclear-free zone.*

* Copies of the letter (in English, German, Lithuanian or Latvian) are available from Baltic News, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay 7005. Please send a stamped, addressed envelope.

Isolated



● Former Baltic prisoner of conscience Nijole Sadunaite (pictured), now living with her brother in Russian-occupied Lithuania, has been totally cut off from all communications with the West.

On October 27, 1981, Nijole and her brother, Jonas Sadunas, wrote a formal complaint to the Ministry of Communications, giving details of 74 registered letters which were sent to foreign countries before Easter, but did not reach their destinations. The Soviet Post Office tried to claim that the registered letters had been "delivered to the proper addressee," but could not provide signed return receipts C-5. Payment of compensation, as prescribed by the International Postal Union, was also refused.

— CCCL, No 50.

This open letter was ignored in the Kremlin, but attracted wide interest in other countries. On February 8-9, copies of the letter were handed to the Swedish government and to the embassies of Iceland, Norway, Denmark and Finland in Stockholm. Several major newspapers discussed the appeal, e.g., the *Guardian* on March 3, 1982.

In Australia, *Chain Reaction* (magazine of the Friends of the Earth, 37 Swanston St, Melbourne) has shown interest in documenting the cause of nuclear-free Baltic.

— ELTA/BATUN/Posiev/Europos Lietuvos.

Peaceful Balts Imprisoned

In March, 1982, Soviet courts sentenced four Estonians to prison terms, for their part in the peaceful 30 minutes' Baltic strike last December.

The victims were: Dr Endel Rose (one year in ordinary regime labour camp); labourer Valdur Jarve (21 months, hard regime); carpenter Peeter Kuum (one year, ordinary regime) and engineer Siim Sade (one year, ordinary).

All four men are serving their sentences in Tallinn labour camp, at the following address: CCCP, Estonian SSR, 200001 Tallinn, Tisleri 31a, Uchrezhdenie Yum-422/5, U.S.S.R. — Telephone Tallinn 661378.

— EVVA

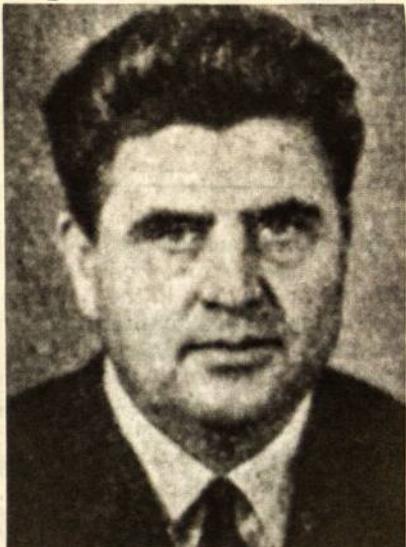
Schoolchildren Named

As reported previously (*Baltic News*, December 1981), eight Estonian schoolchildren were arrested in Haapsalu for tearing up Soviet flags during peaceful anti-regime demonstrations in October 1980. They were 17 and 18 years of age, at the time.

The youngsters were subsequently gaoled for terms ranging from one year to two and a half years. They have since been identified: Kalvi Koppel, Arme Lauri, Heiki Hallman, Kaido Einman, Kalev Lauri, Ivo Rosenblatt, Aleri Teesalu, and Alvar Temonen.

Three girls at the same Haapsalu secondary school — Kulla Magi, Inge Roomae and Riina Vare — received suspended sentences of 18 months each for the same "crime". The Supreme Court of the Estonian SSR in Tallinn found them guilty of transgressing Article 194-2 of the Estonian SSR Criminal Code, because they had "insulted the State coat of arms and flag."

— EVVA



● The trial of Dr Johannes Hint (pictured) is expected to start soon. This 68-year-old Estonian physicist and former managing director of *Desintegraator* has been charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" — an "offence" for which the Soviet law prescribes up to seven years imprisonment plus five years of internal exile (Article 68, part 1 of the Estonian SSR Criminal Code).

After a month's detention in Murmansk investigation prison, Kume and Pihelgas were transferred in January 1982 to Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry in Moscow, for psychiatric examination. They were declared "insane" because of their strong religious faith, and committed to a psychiatric hospital in Leningrad, at this address: USSR, 195108 Leningrad, U1 Arsenalnaya 9, Uchrezhdenie p/ya US-20/st-5.

Alar Kume's parents' address is: Family Kume, Parnu maantee 49-4, Kilingi-Nomme, Parnu rajoon, Estonian SSR, USSR.

Zita Salaseviciute, an English teacher in Lithuania, was sacked from her job in 1976 because she had started to apply for a permit to emigrate from the USSR. On 4 January, 1981, she went to the Red Square in Moscow, carrying a placard "I demand my right to emigrate."

She was then detained and interned in a psychiatric hospital in Moscow where she was subjected to intensive insulin treatment. On her release in March, 1981, she returned to Lithuania with the intention to renounce Soviet citizenship. There is no news of her since then.

Young Prisoners

One of the persons arrested in Riga on 18 November, 1981, for attempting to raise the Latvian national flag, was 18-year-old Igor Zuravskis.

Another 18-year-old Latvian youth, Haralds Burnickis, was arrested in November, 1981, for circulating leaflets protesting against the Russification of Latvia. Burnickis was first interned in a psychiatric hospital in Riga. Two weeks later, KGB officers told his parents that he had escaped and was now in hiding.

— Eesti VVA, USSR News Brief.

Candles: Symbol of Hope



● On June 11, the people of Hobart staged their annual candlelight procession, to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the first wave of mass deportations from the Baltic States. A few of the participants are shown in this photograph. Because of strong winds, the candles had to be protected in glass containers.

— Photo: Margaret Rosenhain,
11 Strathern St., Mt. Stuart, 7000.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES: Christian Students Expelled

In September 1981, two Lithuanian students were expelled from the University of Vilnius (in Russian-occupied Lithuania), because they had attended a retreat conducted by Father R. Cerniauskas. They were Alfonsas Vindovas, a second-year student in the faculty of economics and Miss Audrone Ginkute, a third year student in the faculty of physics and mathematics.

Both students were making good academic progress and their conduct on the campus was above reproach.

In Estonia, architecture student Tiit Padam was expelled from the Tallinn Art Institute in November 1980, shortly after Rev. Vello Salum's arrest (see *Baltic News*, March 1982). Tiit Padam was making satisfactory academic progress, but was not allowed to continue because of his activities as a youth delegate at the European Lutheran Conference, held in Tallinn in September 1980.

— USSR News Brief/EVVA.

Election Boycott

Early in June, leaflets were distributed in the Estonian cities of Haapsalu, Parnu and Voru, calling for a boycott of the local Soviet elections scheduled for 20 June 1982. The hand-written leaflets were signed by an entirely new resistance movement, the Estonian Democratic Youth Association (EDNL).

The worsening food situation and Russian discrimination against the indigenous Estonian culture and language are quoted as the reasons for the electoral boycott. The leaflet also compares the low standard of living in contemporary Russian-occupied Estonia with the very high standards enjoyed during the years of independent Estonia.

— EVVA.

Another Samizdat Reaches the West

Twelve consecutive issues of an Estonian samizdat (uncensored clandestine publication) have recently reached the West. Published since 1978, the periodical is called *Lisandusi motete ja uudiste vabale levikule Eestis* (Additions to the free flow of news and ideas in Estonia).

This "Estonian Chronicle" reports on Baltic and Estonian appeals, on the persecution, court trials and prison experiences of Estonian dissidents and on demonstrations. Issue No.11 is dedicated entirely to the memory of Professor Juri Kukk.

The publication is being reprinted in Estonian by the Relief Centre in Sweden (Box 34018, 100 26 Stockholm). English translations will be published by the Estonian World Council in New York.

— EVVA.

The Chronicle 10 Years Old

March 19 marked the 10th anniversary of the oldest and most authoritative underground journal from Lithuania, namely the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*.

English translations of the *Chronicle* are obtainable from *Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Inc.*, 351 Highland Boulevard, Brooklyn, N.Y., 11207, U.S.A., at \$1 per issue plus postage.

— LIC Lithuanian Information Center.



● Rev Ricardas Cerniauskas (pictured), assistant priest at St. Michael's church in Vilnius, Lithuania. Behind him is the statue of St. Christopher, the patron saint of this city.

Since August 20, 1981, Rev Cerniauskas has been repeatedly interrogated and beaten by the KGB, because he conducts spiritual retreats for young people.

Nineteen Lose Membership

Nineteen Lithuanians were expelled from the Young Communist League last year, according to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, an official Soviet publication. The youngsters lost their Party tickets, because they were married in church or were caught attending religious services.

— ELTA.

COMING EVENTS

● NOVEMBER 6-7 (Sat and Sun)

Lithuanian House, 44 Errol Street,
North Melbourne

BALTIC CONVENTION

Papers on a wide range of topics — Discussion — Australia-wide representation.

For further details:

Miss B. J. Saulys, Mine Road, Cottlesbridge, Vic. 3099, Tel (03) 658 3793 (bus.) 714 8233 (home); or Mr Alb. Pocius, 65 Wallace St., Brunswick, Vic. 3056 Tel. (03) 380 9208 (Bus.) 383 4308 (Home).

● NOVEMBER 12 or 19 (Friday)

Date and venue not yet finalised

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

Members are reminded that written nominations for the Executive Committee (up to 12 members) are to be sent to the Secretary of Association, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005, not later than November 5, 1982. The nominations must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee.

For the final date, time and place of the Annual General Meeting, see advertisement in the Public Notices column, Hobart Mercury, on Friday 5/11/82; or contact any Committee member.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Imprisoned, but Not Broken

First of all, I would like to thank sincerely all individuals and organisations who have given moral and material aid to my family in Estonia in their difficulties, at a time when a small son has been deprived of his father and a wife of her loving husband.

Let it be known by all that we may be punished unjustly, but that we cannot be broken, not even by the years spent behind barbed wire in Soviet slave camps.

It is now 43 years since the signing of the Molotov - Ribbentrop agreement, a secret clause of which determined the fate of our peaceful Estonia for dozens of years. It is a day of shame and humiliation.

I want to announce that I join the historical memorandum by 45 Baltic citizens, dated August 23, 1979, a document which is generally known as the "Baltic Appeal" or the "Baltic Charter" and which demands the eradication of the consequences of the secret agreement of August 23, 1939 (between Nazi Germany and Russia).

Camp No.389/37,
Perm oblast, U.S.S.R.

Tiit MADISSON.

● Tiit Madisson's photograph and a brief description of his case were published in the December, 1981 issue of BALTIC NEWS.

Baltic States or Baltic Nations?

Whenever possible, in furthering our stated aims of national independence and freedom for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, we should encourage use of the term "Baltic nations", rather than "Baltic States". To most Australians, the state is a lesser entity than is a nation. This could well be true in a Canadian or U.S. context, too.

One of our immediate and continuing tasks is the raising, throughout the world, of the plight of the captive Baltic peoples and their distinct non-Soviet national identity. I am hopeful that my suggestion would contribute, albeit in a very small way, to the fulfilment of that mission.

Mount Waverley, Vic.

Bruce KING.

Hypocrisy unmasked

I very much appreciate the scholarly way in which you present religious persecution in the Russian-occupied Baltic States. The facts you publish unmask not only the individual Soviet officials, but also the system itself.

The Soviets claim to guarantee the freedom to profess any religion. Yet people who do, are punished without regard to the Soviet Constitution.

Enclosed please find a donation.

Melbourne.

(Rev Fr) P. DAUKNYS,
Editor-in-Chief, *Teviskes Aidai*.

Graphic details

Your copy of June 1982 again reveals graphic and very sad details of the suffering of many prisoners and deportees from the Baltic States.

You are doing a very important job in exposing the inhumanity of the Soviet State and the urgent pleas which come from relatives of prisoners and which need every bit of spotlight that can be given to them.

I just want to compliment you on the work you are doing and trust that it will lead to the release of some of these suffering prisoners.

Melbourne, Vic.

Alan MISSEN,
Senator for Victoria.

Klaipeda Church

I read, with considerable interest, the June 1982 edition of BALTIC NEWS. I was particularly interested in the article concerning the Church of St. Mary, Queen of Peace.

It seems to me to be but another display of the inhuman and uncaring face of Communism and Marxism that a government which is repressing a people into economic and political slavery will also deny them the hope, comfort and solace of their religion in a familiar place of worship.

Parliament of N.S.W.,
Legislative Assembly.

Tim MOORE, M.P.,
Member for Gordon and
Shadow Attorney-General.

A very real picture

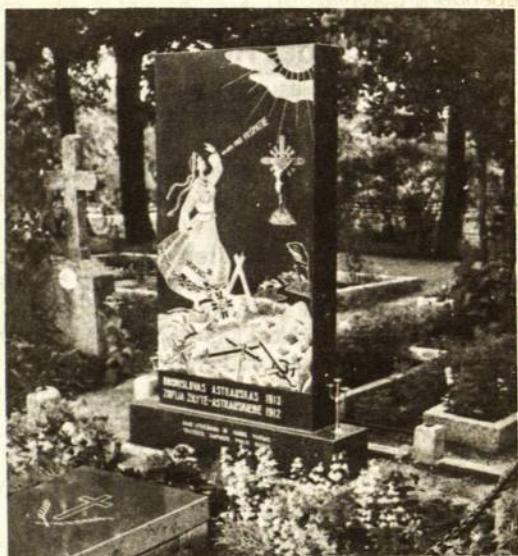
I have just seen for the first time a copy of *Baltic News* and was pleased to see someone doing such a great service to Australia in bringing to a young, and sometimes very blind country a very real picture of the less fortunate countries in our world.

With regard to Dr G. Harrison's letter (March issue), may I point out to that good gentlemen that should such sanctions as he suggests be placed on the USSR, the consequences would be far from what he obviously believes. Russia's money would not be used for food production instead of arms (a naive, if comfortable thought), but would more likely force a starving Russia into a frightening corner, from which she would eventually emerge fighting, like the hungry bear in a trap, catapulting us all into a brutal and bloody world war III. That is no answer to the Baltic peoples suffering, merely a formula for an explosive compound.

Neutral Bay, N.S.W.

Melanie WEST.

Smashed Down



Soviet authorities have destroyed this tombstone on the grave of Astrauskas family, in Palanga cemetery (in Russian-occupied Lithuania). The officials objected to the inscription, *Lord, save us*, claiming that it was meant to infer, *Lord, save us from Communist Russians*. A member of the family, Mrs Sofija Astrauskiene, was ordered to delete this "anti-Soviet" inscription. When she refused, she was detained at a police station, while a tractor was used to demolish the monument.

PROFILE:

Photographer Behind Bars

Zanis Skudra was born on April 20, 1924 in Vecauce, Latvia. After World War II, as an amateur photographer, he used his spare time to travel throughout Latvia taking pictures of historic buildings, dilapidated churches and neglected monuments. He also took notes describing the photographs. All of this information and pictures were smuggled out of Russian occupied Latvia by his former classmate, Laimonis Niedre, who resides in Sweden.

Based on these materials, a book entitled *Diary of Occupied Latvia* was published in 1976 by the Latvian National Foundation in Stockholm, Sweden. In addition, a collection of Skudra's photographs depicting the condition of churches in Soviet occupied Latvia, entitled *These Ruins Accuse* was also published. These publications expose the systemic suppression of religion in Latvia by the Soviet regime.

The Soviets retaliated by arresting both Niedre and Skudra during their meeting in Tallinn, Estonia on June 7, 1978.* Both were tried and convicted by a closed-door court on November 3, 1978. Niedre was sentenced to 10 years; Skudra to 12 years imprisonment to be served at a forced labour camp. The charge was espionage and treason. The pictures of churches were considered to be of "military" nature.

On March 20, 1979, Laimonis Niedre was released, because of ill health, from a special forced labour camp for foreigners located in Mordavia at Yava near the river Moksha, U.S.S.R. After his release, Niedre visited the United States and Canada on a speaking tour.

Zanis Skudra, however, continues to serve a twelve year term in a forced labour camp deep inside the Soviet Union, merely because he had tried to document the present-day living conditions in his own homeland.

His address is:

V-S 389/35,
St. Vsesviatetskaya,
Chusovskoi Raion,
Permskaya Obl.
Skudra, Zanis
U.S.S.R.

What You Can Do

There are at least two things you can do.

Firstly, write to Zanis Skudra at the forced labour camp's address. Even though he may not receive your letters, the camp authorities and the K.G.B. will know that he has not been forgotten. It is a known fact that letters from the free world make the life of a prisoner somewhat less harsh.

Secondly, write to the Soviet Ambassador in Canberra, asking for Zanis Skudra's release:

His Excellency Dr N. G. Soudarikov,
Ambassador of the Soviet Union,
U.S.S.R. Embassy,
78 Canberra Avenue,
Griffith. A.C.T. 2603

As long as Zanis Skudra remains imprisoned by the Soviet regime, a Latvian somewhere in the free world will stand vigil on his behalf. The vigil began on August 8, 1981 and will continue until 1990, if need be.



● Zanis Skudra (back row, right), pictured with his wife Rita, daughter Dace and sons Martins and Andrejs.

Other Prisoners

Unfortunately, Zanis Skudra is only one of hundreds of thousands of Balts who are deprived of their basic human rights. Here are the names of some other recent victims from Latvia:

Ilmars Ancans, Juris Bumeisters, Ivars Grabans, Imants Keress, Sigurds Krumins, Heins Lama, Peteris Lazda, Dainis Lismanis, Maris Lukjanovics, Viesturs Polis-Abols, Arnolds Spalins, Richards Spalins, Maris Tilgalis, Antis Vinkelis, Juris Vankelis, Alfred Zarins.

More information on Latvian prisoners of conscience is available from the Latvian Youth Group Monitoring Transgressions of Human Rights in the Soviet Occupied Baltic States, P.O. Box 2, Brooklyn Park, S.A. 5032.

An Estonian prisoners' group is active in Sydney. It may be contacted through: Eili Annuk, 12 Sorlie Ave., Northmead, N.S.W. 2152.

The Australian — Lithuanian Society for Human Rights (N.S.W.), c/o 16-18 East Terrace, Bankstown, N.S.W. 2200, cares for Lithuanian prisoners of conscience and their families. Another similar group is now being formed in Melbourne.

Friends of the Prisoners, U.S.S.R. is an ecumenical Christian society, with headquarters in Tasmania and members in all States of Australia as well as overseas. "Friends" aim to alleviate the plight of all Soviet prisoners of conscience — Balts and non-Balts alike. Address: P.O. Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas. 7005.

Released

In Estonia, two Jehovah's Witnesses, three Baptists and five students have been released from Soviet prisons: Viktor Dudarev, Artur Mikit, Joann Lowen, Viktor Matveyuk, Ludmilla Zaitsev, Raivo Hermlin, Vello Sostar, Olev Tiitson, Aleksander Soldatov and Viljo Vilba.

All have served their prison sentences in full. Joann Lowen spent five years behind bars for "printing prohibited religious literature."

* Both men's arrest was first reported in the March-April 1979 issue of *Baltic News*.

BOOK REVIEW by Prof. Edgars DUNSDORFS*

Guidebook to Archipelago

THE FIRST GUIDEBOOK TO THE USSR, by Avraham Shifrin. Published by Stephanus, Uhldingen/Seewis, Switzerland, 1980 (ISBN 3-921213-35-5), 379 pages. Price \$10.70 incl. postage. — Available from Lithuanian Club Bookshop, 16-18 Est Tce., Bankstown, N.S.W. 2200.

Since 1511 when Erasmus published his *In Praise of Folly*, no author has penned such an unsurpassable satirical title for his book as Avraham Shifrin. The bona fide tourist first looks at the Index at the end of the book, to select the places he intends to visit. On pages 358-359 he sees a map labelled "Major connections to and within the Soviet Union" and he finds there a list of cities in which there are located Intourist offices. If the tourist is no novice and has previously visited the Soviet Union, he nods — oh yes! he knows in the SU he would not be able to walk a single step, not even to the privy, without the knowledge of an official from the Intourist office.

The tourist selects from the Index the places he wants to visit, say, the Omsk or the Tomsk region, turns to the appropriate page — and is bewildered. There is no list, as expected, of hotels, museums, art galleries, churches to be visited, not even a list of dollar shops established to siphon out foreign currency. Instead the tourist finds a list of prisons with their addresses, tram numbers, etc. to reach them, neatly classified into concentration camps, women's and children camps, psychiatric prisons and — last not least — death camps.

At present the tourist would not be allowed at all to inspect a Soviet prison. Only if he lingers outside the prison and, God forbid! (or, as they write in the SU, "god forbid!") attempts to take photos of the magnificent exterior of the prisons, the great monuments of communism, he would be "admitted" inside. Knowing this, one has to express the greatest admiration for the collaborators of Shifrin, who had provided the pictures for the book with hidden cameras, at great risk to themselves.

In the preface of the book Shifrin writes that this was the first work of this kind ever written and that the book listed more than 2000 penal institutions in the Soviet Union.

Shifrin dispels the myth held in some circles that the Soviet Union had changed its ways after Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union was relegated to the scrap heap of history. As a proof for such a view some are advancing that Solzhenitsyn has finished his book with the year 1956. Shifrin shows that the methods as initiated by Lenin and Stalin, to treat their citizens and the citizens of countries occupied by the Soviet Union, have not changed. Shifrin's book does not picture past history but the grisly actuality of the present Soviet Union. Ruling communism has not changed its methods and it is doubtful whether communism ever will obtain "a human face", as attempts to give such a human face to it have been unsuccessful in Czechoslovakia, in other satellites and most recently in Poland.

* Edgars Dunsdorfs, M.A., D.Ec. (Riga), M.Com. (Melb.) is Emeritus Professor of Economic History, of the University of Melbourne.

A personal note. On page 127 of this book the reviewer found a facsimile of a document with his own name. The caption of the facsimile reads, "This document states that the Latvian K.G.B. has confiscated a copy of the Bible as anti-Soviet literature and that the Bible is to be burned". Above the Bible, the document lists another book: E. Dunsdorfs, *Latvijas vesture 1710-1800*, in translation: *Latvian History 1710-1800*. This book was published in Sweden in 1973. In November 1974, somebody had sent it to an address in Soviet occupied Latvia and it was confiscated in the mail.

In the opinion of the reviewer, Shifrin's book is a time bomb ticking away which eventually can blow up the Soviet Union. This can and will happen if the book becomes common knowledge inside and outside the only country of the world where (according to a popular Soviet song) "man can breathe freely". What is needed is a wide circulation and repeated editions of the book and translations into as many languages as possible (as far as known by the reviewer, the Russian original has been translated also into German).

The reviewer recommends the book to everyone who is prepared to do more than only express in empty phrases his hostility to the greatest scourge and pestilence of our present times — communism. It should be sent to parliamentarians, to the clergy, to schools, universities, libraries and the offices of the trade unions. Who will take it upon himself to organize the widest possible distribution of the book?

Footnote: In preparing the next edition of the *Guidebook* it would be advisable to consult more people who have knowledge of the localities. For instance, Dalbuti on page 126 should read Dalbe. On the map of Latvia on page 124, Brasa should be located to the north-east near Riga.

BOOKS: PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

This Christmas, give something really valuable to your friends, relatives and children — give them books about the Baltic people:

- AN INFANT BORN IN BONDAGE: 44 Lithuanian prisoners' meditations on liberty. Bi-lingual edition (English and Lithuanian), 99pp, large format. — \$7, plus \$1 postage and packing.
- CATHOLICS IN SOVIET-OCCUPIED LITHUANIA (Faith under persecution), 120pp. — \$2, plus 90 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 Andrus Kung, 272pp., hard cover. — \$14 posted anywhere in Australia.

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

Jews Honour Two Balts

A Lithuanian priest who saved several hundred Jews from the Nazi holocaust was honoured at a special ceremony in Jerusalem, on April 5. He was the late Rev Bronius Paukstys, a member of the Salesian order and former administrator of the Holy Trinity parish in Kaunas (Lithuania).

During the German occupation of Lithuania (1941-1944), Father Paukstys established and ran a lifeline for the local Jews who were earmarked for Nazi death camps. At a great risk to himself, he hid and fed these Jews at his presbytery during daylight; then, at night, he helped to organise their evacuation to distant farms.

Today, some of the people who were saved by Father Paukstys live in Israel and in other countries. One of them is Avraham Tory, a lawyer, who still speaks fluent Lithuanian. He lives in Tel Aviv and holds a high post in the government.

Thanks to Mr Tory's and other survivors' testimony, the Israeli Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem, decided to confer upon the late Father Bronius Paukstys its highest expression of honor: a medal of honour with the right to plant a tree in the Avenue of the Righteous, on the Mount of Remembrance in Jerusalem.

The tree was planted at a special function, organised by Avraham Tory and his committee, on April 5.

Besides Rev Paukstys, another Lithuanian priest — Salesian Father Zemaitis — was also remembered at this ceremony. During World War II, Father Zemaitis was in charge of an orphanage and, with the help of

nuns, he was able to save 200 small Jewish children. Most of these survivors live in Poland today.

More information on this subject is available in the booklet, *LITHUANIA'S JEWS AND THE HOLOCAUST*. Write to: Lithuanian American Council, Inc., 2606 West 63rd Street, Chicago, Ill., 60629 — U.S.A.

— Bridges.

Russian Rule Not Recognised

France does not recognise the 1940 annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the USSR. This was re-affirmed in a formal statement by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Claude Cheysson, published in *Journal Officiel* on December 17, 1981.

Canada continues to deny *de jure* recognition of the forcible incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. This was stressed in a letter signed by Mr W. M. M. Fairweather, Deputy Director of the Eastern Division, Canadian Department of External Affairs on March 19, 1982.

— ELTA.

BALTIC NEWS

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Exchange Offer



• Ten West German Christians have volunteered to work in a Soviet labour camp for one year each, on the condition that Viktoras Petkus (pictured) be released immediately. The offer has been announced by the Frankfurt-based International Association for Human Rights.

Petkus is a Lithuanian prisoner of conscience, currently serving a fifteen years' sentence (Address: PO Box Uchr 5110/1-UE, Moscow, USSR). Petkus has been in and out of labour camps since 1945 for his religious and human rights activities.

For more details, see *Baltic News*, Aug-Sept. 1978, p.3.
— Helsinki Watch/Keston News.

KLAIPEDA CHURCH:

Russians Admit Illegal Seizure

Chairman V. A. Kuroyedov of the USSR Council of Religious Affairs has admitted that the Soviet government had illegally seized the Queen of Peace Catholic church in Klaipeda, Lithuania, over 20 years ago. According to issue no. 52 of the underground periodical *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, Kuroyedov said this when he met in Moscow with a delegation of Lithuanian Catholics from the City of Klaipeda in June and September, 1981.

In the presence of the ten-member delegation of the Klaipeda Catholic Committee and Chairman P. Anilionis of the Lithuanian SSR Council for Religious Affairs, Kuroyedov offered to rectify the wrong done to believers by granting permission to build a new church in Klaipeda, according to the *Chronicle*.

Mary, Queen of Peace Church in Klaipeda was the only new church allowed to be built in Russian-occupied Lithuania since World War II. It was funded by 3 million rubles collected from Catholics throughout Lithuania. The church was completed in 1961 by volunteer labour, after the Soviet government had granted building permission in 1956.

However, just before it was to be consecrated, the authorities sealed the church doors on orders of Nikita Khrushchev and later converted it into a concert hall.

Unremitting Campaign

Since then the Catholics of Klaipeda have kept up an unremitting campaign for the return of the church. 3,012 people signed petitions in 1972; 30,782 in 1973; 3,500 in 1974; 10,241 in March 1979; an unprecedented 148,149 in October 1979; over 600 in 1980; 1,008 in 1981 and 21,033 this year.

According to the most recent petition, signed by 21,033 and dated April 1982, the population of Klaipeda reaches over 190,000. The Catholic churches in neighboring towns of Nida and Juodkrante were closed down over 20 years ago. The number of believers in Klaipeda and environs total about 200,000.

The believers of Klaipeda write:

"The present church, a small rundown building, is wholly inadequate for the needs of the Catholic population — with 8,000 regular communicants and over 900 first communions yearly . . . The church cannot accommodate all the parishioners or even a good proportion of them. People faint from the crowded atmosphere and others have to stand in the churchyard or even in the street . . ."

Kuroyedov pledged to supply an answer regarding necessary arrangements through the executive committee of the City of Klaipeda.

However, having received no reply by December 5, 1981, the Klaipeda Catholic Committee and believers sent a statement signed by 250 to Mr. A. Zalius, chairman of the Klaipeda executive committee, demanding the return of the confiscated church.

V. A. Kuroyedov is known for his aggressive suppression of religion, especially in the area of restricting clergy control of Church affairs. Under Kuroyedov's direction, the government closed down thousands of Orthodox churches and stopped young people under 18 from participating in church services.



● Built by volunteers with Soviet official approval in 1954-61, St Mary's Church in Klaipeda (pictured) was confiscated in 1961 and converted into a concert hall. Ever since then, Lithuanian believers have been petitioning for the restoration of this church to Christian worship. Australians of all walks of life are now joining them in this campaign.

Australian Action

In Australia, signatures are now being collected in all States and are regularly presented in the Senate. The aim is to use peaceful diplomatic pressure and finally persuade the Kremlin authorities to return St Mary's church to Klaipeda believers.

YOU, too, can help — please send a stamped, addressed envelope to BALTIC NEWS, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas., 7005; and ask for blank petition forms.

— Lithuanian Information Centre.

Released

On February 1, 1982, Miss Gemma-Jadyga Stanelyte — whose case and photographs were featured in the last two issues of *Baltic News* — was released from Nizhni Tagil criminal camp in Sverdlovsk district and was allowed to return to her native Lithuania (currently under Russian occupation).

The remarkable feature of Gemma's release was that she had served only a half of her sentence. In the Soviet system, this is most unusual.

— Togatus/ELTA/RFE.

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