



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP),
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UNWILLING SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN: Russia's "Foreign Legion"

Thousands of non-Russian conscripts are fighting — and dying — for Russia, in Afghanistan now. Ironically, there are many Estonians, Latvian and Lithuanians among them, whose fathers had fought against the Russian invasion of their countries in the 1940s.

To prevent mutiny or desertions, Baltic conscripts are deliberately mixed with soldiers of other nationalities and posted to distant units. Russian officers are in charge, and Russian is the only language of communication. As Susan L. Curran and Dmitry Ponomareff recently reported, "The Soviets seem to be making every effort to russify their nationalities, and military service plays an important role in this process."

Hobson's Choice

In Afghanistan, the Baltic conscripts in the Russian army have no choice but to fight for their countries' oppressor. Most white-skinned Red Army soldiers who give themselves up to the Afghan guerillas are shot on the spot.

For the past 24 months civil rights activists have laboriously searched cemeteries in the entire Baltic region to trace the graves of Baltic conscripts killed in Afghanistan. There are no official Soviet casualty figures for the war in Afghanistan. Relatives of dead soldiers are forbidden to publish death notices or obituaries.

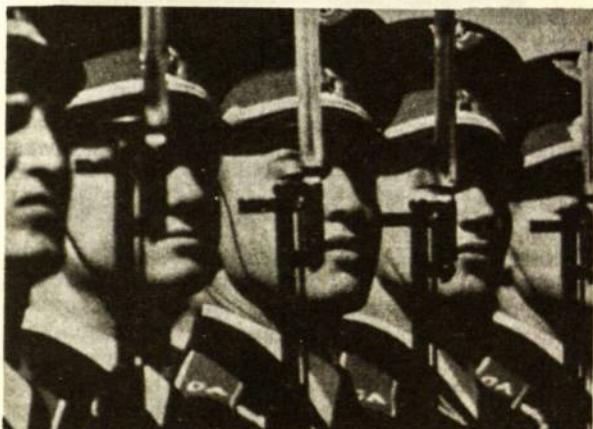
The investigators succeeded in finding definite evidence of 600 burials of soldiers killed in Afghanistan. Subsequently leaflets appeared all over the Baltic region, mainly in Latvia. They were directed against Soviet war operations in Afghanistan. One of these leaflets says, "Fathers and mothers! Our sons must not murder the daughters and sons of Afghans. Long rows of graves for Afghans, zinc coffins for us . . . Freedom for Afghans and Latvians!"

Transports Stopped

After these protests, the Soviet leadership has ordered transports of bodies from Afghanistan to the homeland to cease. According to reports by soldiers returning to the Baltic countries on leave, all Soviet personnel killed in Afghanistan are now "either hastily covered with soil or left where they fall."

Only the bodies of officers are now transported in zinc coffins back home, either in refrigerated cars or by air. The families of Baltic soldiers killed in action receive only an official notification stating, "Lost his life in the exercise of his duty."

A report drawn up by Baltic civil rights activists on the basis of information obtained from soldiers returned from Afghanistan says that mostly non-Russian soldiers are deployed in Afghanistan.



● Russia's army is now more multinational than the French Foreign Legion. The main difference is that the French Legion consists of voluntary mercenaries, while Russia uses unwilling conscripts from conquered lands.

"Seventy per cent of the approximately 100,000 strong army of aggression in Afghanistan are not Russians, although Russians account for 50.8 per cent of the total population," claims the text distributed in the form of a leaflet.

Contacts with Hezb-I-Islami

An unknown association composed of representatives from all three Baltic nations has established contacts with the Hezb-I-Islami, one of the resistance groups in Afghanistan. Leaflets in four languages (Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Russian) invite Soviet occupation forces in Afghanistan to stop fighting the Afghans. The Latvian text (brought back to the Baltic region by soldiers on home leave) states:

"Soviet imperialism oppresses and murders the Afghan people. Do think about it! Just like Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians, the Afghans wish to live peacefully in their own country, free of Russian domination. Do not aid the Soviet Union's imperialist policy! Help the Afghan people! Do not shoot Afghans! Do not lay waste their homes and fields! Leave your weapons and ammunition wherever they are accessible to Afghan freedom fighters. You will thereby speed up the approach of the hour of freedom — for Latvians, Estonians and Lithuanians, just as for Afghans and the Polish people and all other peoples oppressed by the Soviet Union. The life of each Latvian is needed for a free Latvia. Afghanistan for the Afghans! The Baltic region for the Balts!"

— Die Welt/Smoloskyp/ELTA.

MY FRIEND JURI KUKK

In the Clutches of the KGB

Two years ago, in December 1980, Estonian scientist Juri Kukk started a hunger strike, in a Soviet gaol. Arrested in March, 1980, he had been held without a trial for 10 months and was then convicted of involvement in "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Transferred to prison camp 142-17 in North Central Russia, Kukk continued his fast and died on March 27, 1981. Soviet authorities refused to release Kukk's body to his family for burial in his homeland. (For more information, see *Baltic News*, September 1981, page 8).

Here is a brief tribute to this quiet, gentle man, written by someone who knew him well — Jevgeniy Gabovich.

My friend Juri Kukk was arrested in Tartu on March 13th, 1980. He was stopped in the street carrying documents which he was supposed to take to the OVIR in order to apply for permission to emigrate to Israel.

Both of us studied at the University of Tartu at the same time but later our paths separated. I went to Moscow for post graduate courses at the university, while Juri did his military service.

Having served his time in the army, Juri took post-graduate courses, completed his doctoral thesis, was appointed to the faculty of Tartu University and became one of the best teachers in the department of chemistry.

Juri joined the Communist Party in 1966. Like many others he felt that every decent person, in the interest of the country ought to be a member of the governing party in order to prevent careerists and scoundrels from committing shameful acts in the name of the party. Juri realized this naive error only ten years later when he saw ever more opportunists and villains or professionally absolutely unqualified people take over leading positions in the university and in the party committee of the city. Having witnessed this, he first asked to be released from his tasks as a member of the party office and soon afterwards expressed the wish to resign from party membership.

Party Disenchantment

A scientific assignment abroad contributed greatly to his change of mind. In 1975 and 1976, a ten-month stay in Paris offered Juri Kukk a chance, exceptional for a Soviet citizen, to obtain first-hand information about life in the West. He saw himself how much better plain people live in a "decadent capitalist" society as compared to a country in which socialism has won.

It is currently no simple matter for a person with higher education to join the party. The number of people accepted is limited and candidates need a recommendation by the Komsomol and the regional committee of the party. It is even more difficult, however, and even dangerous to resign from the party. I doubt whether Juri was aware of the possible effects of his leaving the party — whether he knew that he thus made himself a second class person and a target of revenge by the machinery of the party and the government.

After he had left the party, there were threats of dismissal. This pressure affected not only Juri but also his wife. In reply, the couple announced that they felt compelled to renounce their Soviet citizenship. In the summer of 1979 the science committee of the university declared Kukk unbearable, and the rector dismissed him from his office. Stubborn Kukk demanded that he be either reinstated in office or



● Juri Kukk: Photographed with his wife, Silvi, a few months before his arrest.

recognized as unemployed with a right to emigrate to some other country where he might find a job in his special field. When Kukk failed to receive any answer to his demands, he turned to his Western colleagues for moral support.

Juri Kukk's fight for his rights and human dignity brought him into contact with some Estonian human rights fighters. Soon after the invasion of Afghanistan by Soviet forces, a group of Baltic civil rights fighters wrote two protest letters which compared the occupation of Afghanistan in 1980 with the annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940 and called upon all countries to join the protest against the Moscow Olympic Games.

Arrested

Juri Kukk's name was among the signatures on these letters. He came to Moscow with them to see us off at the airport on January 26th. Two days later he met some foreign correspondents and handed them the protest letters. A few minutes after he stepped out of a correspondent's car, the militia stopped Juri Kukk. He was searched and copies of the letters were found. He was told, "You came out of a car belonging to a foreigner. Perhaps you exchanged foreign currency with these people in the car." Juri announced a hunger strike and refused to sign the record.

On January 30, 1980 when we were already in Vienna, Kukk was handed over to two militia men sent to Moscow from Tartu.

Commenting on his adventures in Moscow, Juri remarked: "Until now I never believed those rumours about the methods of the KGB. Now I got to them." Unfortunately, Juri subsequently experienced these methods once again which cost him his life.

Pipeline — At What (Human) Cost?

France and West Germany have launched official enquiries into charges that the Soviet Union is using political and religious prisoners to help build the latest natural gas pipeline from Siberia to Western Europe.

The International Society for Human Rights, based in Frankfurt, West Germany, has disclosed that 100,000 Soviet prisoners, including thousands of prisoners of conscience are doing heavy work such as cutting down forests and levelling land in preparation for the pipeline.

Baltic Prisoners

According to unconfirmed reports, Julius Sasnauskas and other Baltic prisoners are also engaged in this work, in the harsh Arctic regions. Fears are mounting for their survival, because nothing has been heard from them over the last eighteen months*.

The exact route of the pipeline is unknown. However, if it originates in the Urengoy gas fields and leaves Soviet territory at Uzhgorod, its first stage should traverse the Komi autonomous republic in Western Siberia which contains one of the densest concentrations of labour camps in the Soviet Union.

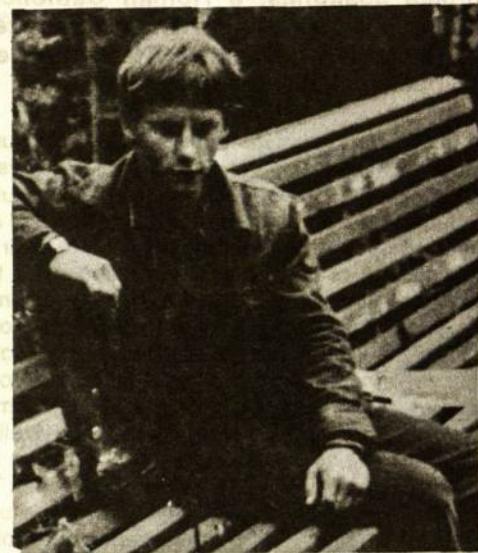
The Soviet authorities are known to have used forced labour for pipeline construction at least twice — for an internal gas pipeline that originated at Ukhta, near the start of the West Siberian gas line; and on the "Friendship" line which supplies gas to Eastern Europe.

Gulag Route

Dr Reinhard Grauck, president of the International Society for Human Rights, has charged that old and new concentration camps are situated all along the new pipeline from Siberia westward: there are camps in Urengoy, Surgut, Tavda, Lys'va, Kungar and eight brand-new ones in Ust'-Ishim region.

Many of the prisoners of conscience do not even have barracks — they live in boxcars. They suffer from cold, hunger and poor medical care. They are permitted no contact with the West German engineers on the line.

* During the past 18 months, over 900 letters and cards have been sent to Baltic prisoners in the U.S.S.R. by Friends of the Prisoners — an interdenominational Christian association based in Australia (PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005). To date, not a single reply has been received, causing widespread anxiety about the Baltic prisoners' welfare.



● Slave labour: Julius Sasnauskas (pictured) and other Baltic prisoners of conscience are reportedly used for the Siberian gas pipeline work in the unbearable Arctic region. 900 letters from Australia have brought no response.

The Germans, in turn, are not permitted any contact even with the "free workers" who, along with "politicals" and criminals, make up the labour force.

Russian Denial

In a Finnish-language broadcast on August 5, Moscow Radio called the charges "false". The broadcast said, "Is it even conceivable that the completion of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline would be made dependent on the so-called political prisoners? Not to mention the fact that there isn't a single person in the Soviet Union who has lost his freedom for political reasons."

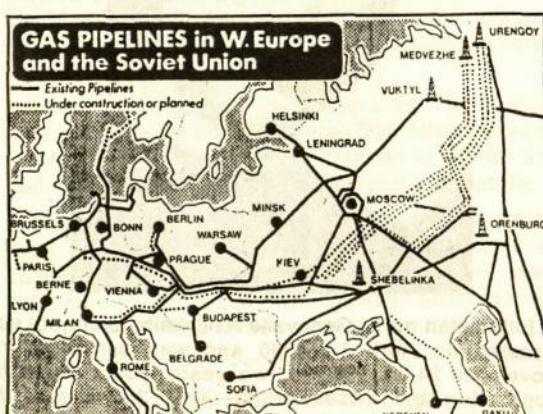
— The Wall Street Journal-National Review.

Australian Tour by Rev Bordeaux

Father Michael Bordeaux, Director of Keston College, Kent, and expert on religions in the Soviet and Communist countries, will visit Australia in February and March, 1983.

His exact itinerary is not finalised, but he will certainly visit New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania. For details, watch your local Press, or contact Friends of the Prisoners, PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, 7005, (003 34 8640).

Those familiar with the reputation of Keston publications for exact and reliable information and analysis will not want to miss this chance to hear its famous Director.



PROFILE OF A PRISONER:

Henrikas Jaskunas

Henrikas Jaskunas, a Roman Catholic actively involved in the Lithuanian human rights movement, is at present serving a sentence of ten years in a special regime camp, to be followed by five years' internal exile. The sentence was imposed in 1977, after Jaskunas was tried for disseminating "anti-Soviet literature."

Born into a working class family in 1927, Jaskunas was not brought up to be anti-Soviet. His father was a communist. During the German occupation Jaskunas and his father took part in the anti-Nazi resistance and were interrogated by the Gestapo. It was only after the Soviet invasions of Lithuania in 1940 and 1944 that Jaskunas began to experience the Soviet system in practice. At first he enrolled as a member of the Soviet militia in Panevezys, but after seeing the violent oppression of the Lithuanian population by the Soviet authorities, he founded a secret organization to combat the Stalinist terror by disseminating anti-Stalinist leaflets, burying people murdered by the police and issuing false documents to those in fear of arrest. The organisation was uncovered in 1947, when Jaskunas was arrested together with his sister Irena and 17 other members. After a year in Panevezys Prison, during which he was tortured, he was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment. His sister died in prison.

Sent to Vorkuta

Jaskunas was sent to the notorious death camp of Vorkuta, where in 1953 he was one of the leaders of a strike organised by the prisoners. Out of the 18,000 prisoners imprisoned in appalling conditions at Vorkuta 15,000 prisoners refused to go out to work for two weeks. After machine-guns had opened fire on strikers, killing 200 of them, the strike was abandoned and the leaders were either executed or, like Jaskunas, sentenced to further terms of 25 years. Jaskunas was to serve ten years in solitary confinement in Vladimir Prison, but there he spent his time demanding better treatment for the prisoners and sending denunciations of the Vorkuta camp authorities to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In the aftermath of Stalin's death, Jaskunas was released from prison and rehabilitated but sent into exile in Siberia. He was allowed to return to his homeland, Lithuania, only in 1965.

In 1976, after reproducing over 1,000 documents on human rights and anti-religious repression in the cellar of his house, he was arrested and charged with "anti-Soviet activity." His trial in November 1977 was held in a courtroom surrounded by armed soldiers with dogs; Jaskunas and his fellow-defendant, Juozas Daujotas, were guarded personally by nine soldiers with machine guns and an officer wearing a pistol. His family were informed of the trial only on the last day, as Jaskunas had refused the services of a lawyer and no one else had been appointed by the court to tell them. One of the witnesses, Juozas Survila, challenged the judge to quote something "anti-Soviet" from the documents produced by Jaskunas. The judge, after glancing through a "Manifesto" written by Jaskunas, declared that the court could not give expression to anti-Soviet ideas.

Protest in vain

Jaskunas protested against the sentence (see above), as an illegal act punishing him for his beliefs, and refused to leave the courtroom. He was dragged away by force, after being put in handcuffs. Many of those present expressed sympathy for him.

In 1979, an attempt was made by the authorities in the "special" camp where Jaskunas was being held to put pressure on him to recant. His family were asked to persuade him. After this failed, he was transported to Camp 36 in Perm in the company of violent criminals. In November 1979, after being refused a visit from his relatives, Jaskunas went on a hunger strike for 23 days. He is now threatened with incarceration in a "closed" prison.

Jaskunas has had a number of heart attacks. He has lost many of his teeth — extractions in the camp are carried out without anaesthetics.

At the moment —Jaskunas's address in camp is:

618263 Permskaya oblast
Chusovskoi raion
st. Kuchino
uchr. VS-389/36-2.
Jaskunas, Henrikas
U.S.S.R.

Keston News Service.

**Gaoled
for Printed Word**

● Lithuanian nurse Genovaite Navickaite (pictured) was arrested on April 17, 1980 and was sentenced on November 24-25, 1980 to two years labour camp for duplicating and disseminating the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*.

No Hope for a Change

The appointment of Yuri Antropov as the new head of the Soviet Government and another KGB man, Geidar Aliyev, as his first deputy will worsen the situation of Baltic people under the Soviet Russian rule. It is feared that the ruthless underhand methods Antropov used during the Hungarian uprising in 1956 will now be implemented against dissidents and minorities with national aspirations.

The recent increase of KGB activities in Latvia is well documented in the *Report on the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act in Soviet Occupied Latvia: 1982*, published in August 1982 by the World Federation of Free Latvians (Rockville, Maryland 20850, USA).

The report points out that many prisoners of conscience are still confined to special psychiatric clinics for an indefinite period. A recent list of such prisoners includes Peteris Lazda who is still undergoing forced medical treatment after being kept in a psychiatric hospital for the last few years. Lazda is a lawyer and a well known opponent of Russification in Latvia. Another similar case is Imants Keress who was committed to a psychiatric hospital for making films depicting Russification of the Latvian language and culture.

Opponents of Russification are especially singled out for repression. Officials opposing this process are either dismissed or transferred to other parts of the Soviet Union. Artists who portray nationalistic themes face reprisals and dismissal from their respective unions. For example, Jurgis Skulme, a Latvian art historian and an ardent advocate of preserving the Latvian culture, has served a prison term.

Intimidation

Acts of terrorism, such as assassination or physical assaults, are carried out to intimidate individuals as well as the general population. In August 1981, an attempt was made to assassinate a former political prisoner, Maris Tilgals. At an intersection "unknown assailants" shoved him into the path of an approaching vehicle. Because of his youthful dexterity, and the driver's presence of mind, Tilgals survived.

Another Latvian, Gederts Melngailis, was repeatedly assaulted in public during 1981 and he has been threatened with further acts of terror. He is a practising Christian and he had attended courses given by the Evangelical Church in Riga. Then, in January 1982, an attempt was made in Riga to run down a former Latvian political prisoner, Maigonis Ravins, with a snowplough. On May 7, 1982, Augusts Zilvinskis, a Catholic priest missing since December, 1981, was found murdered in a forest near Griva.

There are also new imprisonments. These include Ieva Bisevaja, a Latvian Seventh Day Adventist who on December 21, 1981, was sentenced to a year and a half of hard labor for mailing religious literature.

The secret police have been particularly active in trying to stamp out unrest among young people. At a Latvian high school in Ilguciems, KGB agents examined students' handwritings in an attempt to trace the author of handwritten political proclamations.

Christmas Greetings



● Maris Tilgals, the survivor of an assassination attempt.

Nuclear Campaigner Gaoled

A campaigner for nuclear-free Baltic (see last issue of Baltic News) has been seized by the Soviet authorities and is held at an undisclosed location.

Reliable sources have now confirmed that Heiki Ahonen, a young Estonian intellectual, was arrested on November 20, 1981 while walking in a street in Tallinn. He was in perfect health at the time. One week later he was taken from prison to a hospital for endemic diseases, allegedly suffering from encephalitis. He has not been heard from since then.

Heiki Ahonen, his wife Eva and 36 other well-respected Baltic residents signed an open letter on October 10, 1981, calling on the governments of the USSR, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden to establish a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe which would include the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania). The letter mirrored the local people's concern at the escalating stockpiles of Russian nuclear weapons on their non-Russian soil. Heiki Ahonen had previously signed several other protest letters and had contacts with Western journalists. Ahonen's signature also appeared on the public letter calling for an investigation of the untimely death of university lecturer Juri Kukk in a prisoner's camp, and for an official announcement of the findings.

BOOK REVIEW by J. W. DOYLE*

Modern Acts of Martyrs

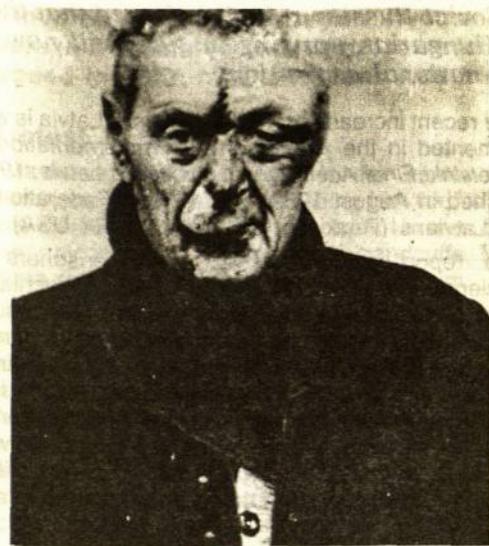
THE CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA. Chicago: Loyola University Press, for The Society for the Publication of the C.C.C.L., 1981. xxv + 458 pp. Cloth. \$12.50 incl postage. — Available from Lithuanian Club Bookshop, 16-18 East Tce, Bankstown, N.S.W. 2200.

The underground *Chronicle* began in typescript in March 1972, not long after Lithuanian Catholics' widely publicised appeal to the United Nations. At first it confined itself to the religious situation. Later (the most recent issue I have seen is that of March 19, 1982), it gave more attention to social and cultural affairs; for faith cannot but permeate the whole of culture. This is true, of course, of unbelief, too.

From 1795 till today, Lithuania has enjoyed only 22 years of independence, from 1918 to 1940, when it came under Soviet control. And the bold, factual narrative in the *Chronicle* amply documents the Soviet concept of freedom of religion — it means freedom from religion.

Hence 'psychiatric treatment' for dissidents; harassment of bishops, priests and people; lack of bibles, prayer-books and Vatican II documents; house to house searches; vandalism and sacrilege; exile and false brethren; interrogation of little children in the attempt to impeach their parents, teachers and priests; confiscation of property (such as the new Queen of Peace church at Klaipeda); court proceedings — all are here to show the heroism of ordinary Catholic people in the twentieth century. And other religious communities face the same persecution.

Indeed, *The Chronicle* is a present-day *Acts of the Martyrs*, without the rhetoric that over the centuries cast a romantic veil over the history of the early Church. There is nothing romantic about what is happening to our brothers and sisters today! They are almost literally treading the Way of the Cross.



● An alarming trend in Russian-occupied Lithuania is the violence against members of the clergy. Father B. Povilanskis (pictured) was a victim of physical torture on September 12, 1980. Three other priests have been murdered since October 1980, under KGB orders.

The first volume of *The Chronicle*, the nine issues of 1972-74, could therefore well be used as study material in schools and youth groups, together with similar objective accounts.

Young people are looking for a Faith worth living for; they will see it here. And the vigour of the persecuted Church will inspire them to make the faith the dominant guiding principle in their own everyday lives at home, at school and at work. They will realise that the Church still needs the blood of martyrs to give it life.

POST SCRIPTUM: Interesting as is *The Chronicle*, I think the briefer, systematic account in *Catholics in Soviet-occupied Lithuania* (paper., 120 pp. Translated from *Chretiens de l'est* No. 27, 1980; available from *Baltic News*, \$2.90) would be more useful for people who do not know the country and its history, at least as an introduction. It provides a background for the day-to-day incidents reported in *The Chronicle*.

* Fr. John W. Doyle, S.J., B.A., M.A.C.E., is Dean of Studies at St. John Fisher College, University of Tasmania.

Academic Standards Slip

Practising Christians and persons holding independent views are not allowed to occupy teaching posts in Soviet-controlled educational institutions. This has "watered down" the academic standards in Baltic universities.

For example, the department of social sciences at Tartu University (in Russian-occupied Estonia) now employs 53 academics, of whom only four have doctor's degrees. Thirty-four are said to be candidates of science; 19 of them are assistant professors. The remaining fifteen lack any basic qualification.

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 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, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005.

IOC Silent⁷ on Balts

The International Olympic Committee has offered no explanation why the three Baltic nations are no longer allowed to participate in the Olympic Games, under their own flags.

On January 20, 1982, Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association in Tasmania (HELP) wrote to the International Olympic Committee at Chateau Bde, VIY, 1007 Lausanne (Switzerland):

"Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were members of the Olympic Federation. These three nations are not now permitted to field national teams. Our Association considers this exclusion grossly unjust.

"We would like to know whether you are of the same opinion. If you are — and it would be hard to imagine why you should not be — please let us know what course of action our Association should take to have Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania readmitted among the equals in the Olympic movement."

So far, the Committee has not replied; and the letter has not been returned unclaimed.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian People (HELP) Association was held at the St David's Cathedral Centre on November 19, 1982. Following the Chairman's Annual Report, the meeting approved the audited accounts of the Association and elected office bearers for the coming year.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Mr Michael Hodgman, MHR. Among issues raised, he reported that the new Latvian Consul for Victoria and Tasmania, Mr E. Delins, will soon be able to present his credentials to the Tasmanian Government.

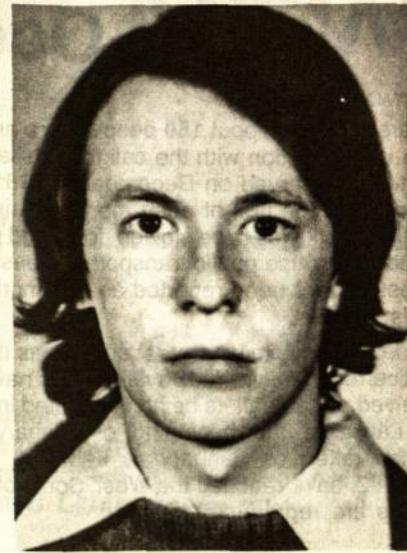
In a Press statement, released for the occasion, Mr Hodgman said: "I sincerely believe that, within my lifetime, the Soviet Empire will collapse and that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — along with the other captive Nations will be liberated." He continued later: "The spirit of individual freedom is constantly gnawing away at the totalitarian State and ultimately, that spirit will prevail."

Finally, Mr Hodgman pledged his continuing support to the HELP Association and urged its members to "keep up your close contact with and support for your brothers and sisters and friends who are the real freedom fighters today in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania".

Sincere thanks to all our supporters during the past year. Our thoughts are also with the captives who are unable to celebrate the festive season. The following donations have been received since the publication of our previous issue of Baltic News:

Lithuanian Co-op Credit Society "Talka" (Vic), \$300; LKVS "Ramove" (SA), \$100; Latvian Federation (SA), \$75 A. R. Alyta (A.C.T.), \$30 D. Darzins (S.A.), (J. Cyzas (WA), \$25 each; J. Treimanis, Z. A. Medikis (ACT), T. Laukaitis (Vic), J. Dirgincius (NSW), \$20 each; N. B. Balton (NSW), B. Lazauskas (USA), \$15 each; A. C. Top, J. O'Brien (Vic), H. E. Baltins, L. Mirlieb (NSW), J. Ruzgys (Q), J. Jonavicius (SA), M. Smyth (WA), C. Ford (NSW), J. Gully (Vic), E. Baulis (Tas), \$10 each; O. Cwalinska (Tas), \$7; E. Madden (Tas), L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2 each.

— Many Thanks!



Printed Word Frightens Russians

● Estonian architect Viktor Niitsoo (pictured) is currently serving a sentence of two years' imprisonment and an additional two years in exile. He was convicted of anti-Soviet propaganda, slander of the Soviet Union and planning of terrorist acts.

The evidence: A search of Niitsoo's home and office produced "old books" (ie, literature published during the period of Estonian independence), Hedrick Smith's paperback "The Russians" and current underground publications; anti-Soviet statements made during a discussion with a Communist youth leader in the youth centre of Tartu, and similar statements during a telephone conversation; and the Russian authorities' suspicion that Niitsoo was planning to rebuild a Soviet Pobeda car into a tank with which to attack Soviet installations. Niitsoo pleaded not guilty.

Before his imprisonment, Niitsoo worked for the commission for the restoration of cultural monuments in Tartu. His name was also linked with a group of young intellectuals who published an uncensored newspaper "Poolpaevalte" in Tartu. The KGB traced the group in April, 1978, after eight issues had appeared.

Four men (Hubert Jakobs, Jaan Isotam, Mati Millius and Victor Niitsoo) got away with a warning but Hubert Jakobson, a young writer who acted as editor, was expelled from the university and was demoted from his position as chairman of the youth section of the writer's association in Tartu.

— Newsletter from behind the Iron Curtain (EIC).

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

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

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

Name

ADDRESS

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Optional:
I enclose my donation of \$ Cash/Cheque/M.O.

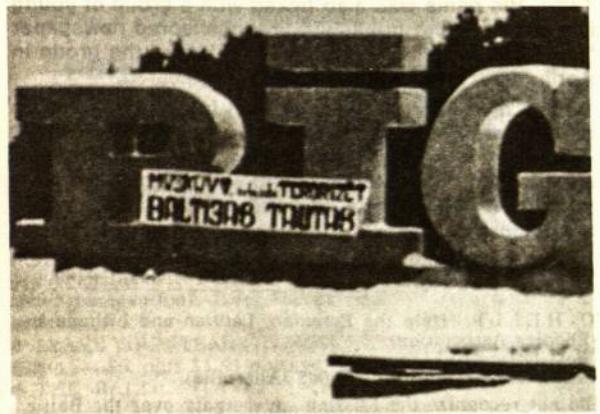
Silent Protests Against Soviet Occupation

It appears now that about 150 people were arrested in Estonia in connection with the call for a "silent half an hour" to be observed on December 1, 1981, and, subsequently, on the first of each month. During this specified time work was to be slowed down and people were asked not to use public transport. At least 40 of those arrested have been reported as still imprisoned in July this year.

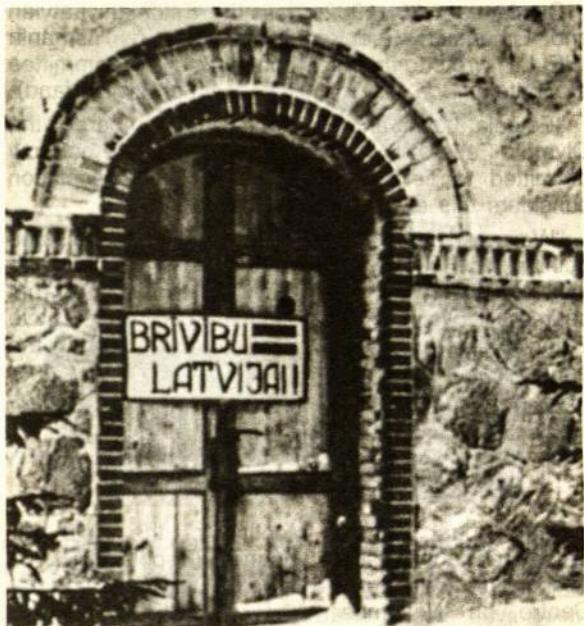
For some time no similar protest action was thought to have occurred in Latvia. However, reports have now been received about leaflets being distributed in some parts of Latvia at the beginning of January, and photographs taken on January 4, February 1 and March 1, 1982, have reached the West. Some of these photographs are reproduced here:



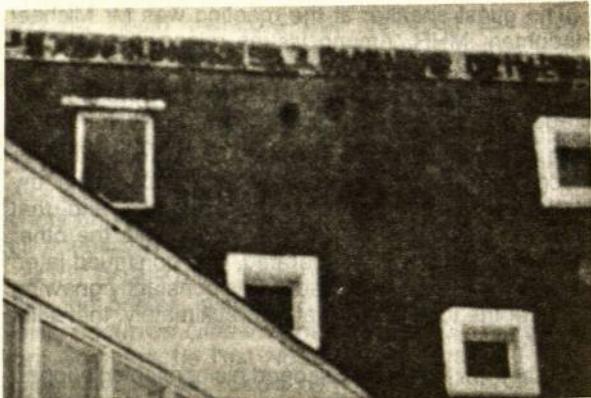
● Near Latvian border crossing an international "No entry" sign with a tacked on message "For Russians in Latvia." (January 4, 1982).



● At the outskirts of Riga a banner proclaims: "Moscow stop terrorising Baltic People." (February 1, 1982).



● A sign on a chapel door: "Freedom for Latvia." (March 1, 1982).



● A Communist Party slogan on the top of a factory is defaced. (February 1, 1982).

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.

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