



# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP).  
POST OFFICE BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA 7005 (AUSTRALIA).  
Registered by Australia Post — Publication No TBH 0543.

Vol IX, No 1 (37)

Complimentary Copy

March, 1983

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: UN Urged to Act on Baltic States

On January 13, 1983, the European Parliament adopted a motion of its Political Affairs Committee calling upon the Conference of European Foreign Ministers to submit the Baltic States issue to the Decolonization Subcommittee of the United Nations. The motion describes conditions in the three Baltic States, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, as typical of colonized countries.

The European Parliament's resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority. It states that the Soviet authorities have imposed the Russian language on all three nations, and have subjected them to systematic economic exploitation. It also expresses concern over the persecution of political and religious dissidents, and calls Soviet policy in this area a calculated gradual genocide. The tragic fate is mentioned of 665,000 Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians who have been removed to labour camps in Siberia by the Soviet rulers since 1940.

### Territorial Breach

The motion sets out the details of the relevant peace treaties in 1920 in which the Soviet Union guaranteed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania the inviolability of their territories. After condemning the occupation of these formerly independent states by the Soviet Union as the result of the Molotov/Ribbentrop Pact, the motion quotes the struggles of Baltic people while attempting to regain their freedom.

The motion instructs the President of the European Parliament to forward the resolution to the member States and their Foreign Ministers. Besides suggesting the action in the United Nations, the resolution recommends that the plight of Baltic people should be the subject of review during the conferences that monitor the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

### United States' Support

During recent sessions of the United Nations, the United States has repeatedly reiterated its support of the right to self-determination for the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Speaking on behalf of the US delegation at the Human Rights Commission session in Geneva on February 4th, Richard Schifter said:

... more than 40 years after those (Baltic) countries were swallowed up in the wake of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, their



● Stalin was personally present when Russia's Molotov (right) and Nazi Germany's Ribbentrop (second from left) met on August 23, 1939 and signed the pact which bears their names. The pact gave Russia the green light to invade Finland and the three Baltic States. Nazi Germany was defeated six years later, but the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact remains unrenounced to the present day.

indomitable will to assert their national identity shined through the heavy veil of censorship. The United States had refused to recognise the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union and would continue to do so.

This statement echoes the position presented by the United States delegation at the General Assembly last year, when Carl Gershman spoke before the Third Committee, on October 15th:

Following the annexation of the Baltics, the Soviets embarked on a policy of ruthless Sovietization which encountered universal opposition. Then, on a single "night of terror" — June 14, 1941 — the Soviets deported almost the entire Baltic intelligentsia to Siberia, where most of them perished . . . Between 1944 and 1949, some 600,000 Balts were deported to Siberia. Guerrilla resistance to the Soviet occupation continued until 1952, eight years after the re-entry of the Red Army.

Since then, the Soviets have pursued a conscious policy of cultural russification aimed at the denationalization of the Baltic states.

— ELTA/LIS/BATUN.

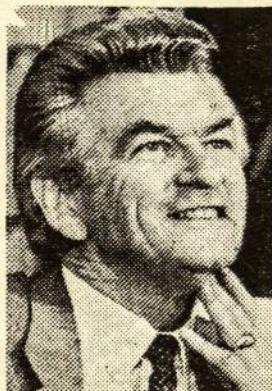
# NEW AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT: Non-recognition to Continue

The Liberal/National Party coalition Government led by Malcolm Fraser was voted out of office by the Australian electorate on March 5 this year. Labor leader Bob Hawke is now Prime Minister of Australia. This change has not affected Australia's stance on the Baltic question.

The private secretary to Mr Bill Hayden, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs wrote to HELLP Association, promising that the existing policy of the previous Fraser Government would be maintained: "We will not extend de jure recognition to the incorporation of Latvia, Estonia or Lithuania into the USSR."

While leader of the Opposition last year, Bill Hayden showed interest in the case of Latvian prisoner of conscience, Juris Bumeisters; a leader of the Latvian Social Democratic Party, banned by the Soviets.

No political parties other than the official one are tolerated in the USSR. Indeed socialist-like parties are especially repressed because they may advocate a more benign form of socialism and act as a force for ideological reform of the one totalitarian Communist party in power.



● From left to right: Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, the new Labor Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

## Hayden and Button act

On April 13, 1982, Mr Hayden wrote to Juris Bumeisters in prison and expressed concern about his well-being, informing him that the matter would be raised with the Soviet Ambassador in Canberra. He assured him that the matter would continue to be pursued to ensure that Bumeisters' legitimate interests were protected.

John Button, the Leader of the Opposition in the Senate at that time also wrote to Bumeisters expressing his concern that the fellow Social Democrat was imprisoned in the Soviet Union. Bumeisters is still in Soviet prison.

## BOOKS

- 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.

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

Leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Don Chipp.



Senator Don Chipp, Leader of the Australian Democrats on February 11 this year issued a press release in which he stated that Australia was not doing enough for human rights in the Baltic States of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. He challenged both the Liberal/National and Labor Parties to adopt a policy of submitting the Baltic States issue to the United Nations subcommittee on colonisation at the earliest opportunity.

At a pre-election press conference in Sydney, a Liberal spokesman did agree to such a proposition when the question was put to him.

## Australian Senate Action

On December 14, 1982, Senator Austin Lewis addressed the Baltic question in the Australian Senate. He pointed out that exactly 22 years earlier the UN General Assembly passed without a dissenting vote the "Declaration on the granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples" and that the people of the Baltic States under Soviet colonisation has suffered serious deprivations and loss of human rights.

It was agreed on the motion of Senator Austin Lewis that the Australian Senate "Calls upon the Government to urge the United Nations General Assembly to: (a) heed the voice of the oppressed peoples of the Baltic States; and (b) recognise the right of these previously independent States to self-determination and the free pursuit of their economic, social and cultural development.



● The outgoing chairman (Mr Pocius) and secretary (Miss Saulys) of the 1982 Baltic Council of Australia. The Baltic question was raised in the Australian Senate largely through the BCA's efforts.

## NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

# Media Ban on “Kremlin-TB”

Tuberculosis is quietly sweeping across Eastern Europe. Nicknamed “Kremlin-TB,” the disease is caused by new-generation bacilli that are immune to streptomycin, isoniazid and other modern drugs. Doctors have no choice but to resort to old-fashioned treatment, such as good food, fresh air and complete bed rest.

Soviet authorities have ordered a total media ban on the “Kremlin-TB.” However, the secret is difficult to hide: new multi-storey TB-sanatoria keep springing up, all over the Soviet Union.

The latest giant sanatorium in Druskininkai, in Russian-occupied Lithuania (pictured) is causing concern to local residents. Hundreds of patients are brought from the depths of Russia, they say, and, when recovered, these Russians will remain in Lithuania — to take away native Lithuanians' jobs and homes.

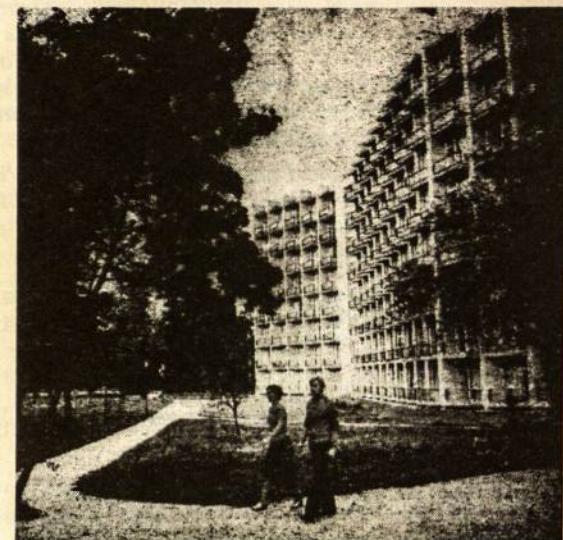
“This is Yuri Andropov's latest trick in trying to 'russify' us, the three Baltic nations,” comments a reliable Baltic resistance source. “And we don't know how to stop it.”

## Cow's Milk on Prescription

Food is still in short supply in Russian-occupied Baltic States. In Latvia, milk for children and babies is now sold on doctors' prescriptions.

The prescription reproduced here was issued by a Riga polyclinic last June. It entitles a nine-month-old baby's parents to buy 200 grams milk and 400 grams of other dairy products daily, from a predetermined store. (The recipient's and doctor's names have been deleted, to protect them from reprisals).

Meanwhile, Russian colonial authorities are urging the Baltic people to increase their once-famous agricultural output. For example, the September 8, 1982 issue of “Skolotaju Avize,” an official Soviet teachers' magazine published in Riga (capital of



● Dual-purpose sanatorium in Druskininkai (Russian-occupied Lithuania): health-care and russification.

Russian-occupied Latvia), reminds its readers that all children in Grades 1 through 11 are expected to work after school. “The youngsters must be employed on the land to raise production and so fulfil our food programmes,” the magazine urges.

— Die Welt.

## Baltic Workers in Siberia

The Russian occupied Baltic States have been allocated specific development tasks in Siberia by Moscow planners. All the workers, materials, equipment, medical supplies, clothing and housing must be obtained and shipped over 3,000 kilometres from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. These resources are by decree diverted from the development of the Baltic States themselves.

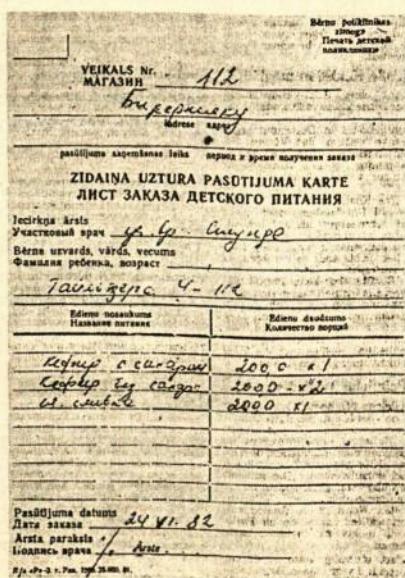
One of the Baltic workers' tasks is construction of the road to the border of the Yamal Peninsula or “land's end” in the language of the native population. There begin the gas pipelines which are to be completed under the Soviet five year plan for 1981-85. A total of six pipelines will be built, of which one will lead to Western Europe.

Last summer, the village of Pim, situated on a river with the same name, served as the central base for road builders recruited in Estonia. The surface of the highway they create is made of concrete slabs produced in and shipped from Tallinn. Prior to this, a foundation of sand and gravel must be put on the swampy ground. This is a very time consuming and tedious task.

## Average Pay Announced

In 1982, the white and blue collar workers in Russian-occupied Estonia earned an average of 193 roubles (about \$278 Aust) per month. In 1981, the average pay was 189 roubles per month.

— Estonian Information Centre.

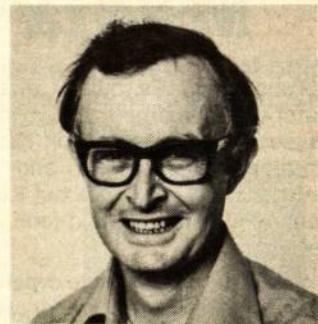


# The Baltic States and the USSR, 1982

Tom McGlynn

*In 1974, Moscow revealed that Australia had recognised Soviet rule over the Baltic nations. Prime Minister Whitlam's self-justification included (26th June, 1975) describing the independent Baltic governments (c1920-1940) as having been "fascist". When Tom McGlynn queried Whitlam's decision, facts and arguments, Prime Minister Whitlam called Tom "a disgrace to his profession", a mistake for which Mr Whitlam was later to sign an apology and retraction and pay damages for defamation.*

*Formerly a student of London, Bucharest and Vienna Universities, Tom maintains an interest in Baltic and Soviet affairs and in September 1982, with his wife, visited the Russian, Ukrainian, Moldavian and Baltic Republics.*



## The Baltic Capitals

Before flying from Kiev to Vilnius, passengers were thoroughly searched by tense officials. Our Intourist guide's comment was "Perhaps, somewhere, something has happened . . ." In Vilnius we were taken to the dilapidated Gintars (Amber) Hotel. A replacement, begun years ago, has remained unfinished because it would overlook a political prison's exercise yard.

Old Vilnius is mediaeval, more Scandinavian in appearance than Russian. Many churches, even the cathedral, have been converted into art galleries, concert halls or "museums of scientific atheism". Open churches were crowded. Dozens of older women climbed the steps of the Carmelite Chapel of the Icon on their knees. Outside some begged.

We tried touring Riga using a Moscow-produced map. Not only did buildings appear misplaced on the map but the soaring spires of the old city, which even in 'Intourist' posters define Riga's skyline and character, were 'identified', indistinguishably, as "Ancient Building". Not content with denying that churches are churches, the Soviets must suppose that the tourist will:- (a) use them as landmarks, yet (b) not wish to know which "Ancient Building" is which (c) not wish, therefore, to know where he is (!) and (d) above all, not notice that these towering buildings proclaim loudly "This is not Russia. This is part of Occupied Europe".

Near Riga, we were shown a previous occupier's handiwork at the Nazi death-camp of Salaspils where,



● "Dollar shops" are the Soviet Union's horns of plenty, out of bounds to all except foreign visitors and the Soviet ruling class. All purchases have to be paid for in Western currency. This photograph shows the entrance to the dollar shop in Vilnius (capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania).

between 1941 and 1944, 100,000 died, 7,000 of them children. Women prisoners, between being worked and starved to death, were delivered to German regiments . . . When I said I hoped that all such camps on the territory of the USSR would eventually be open to public view, the guide was silent.

Outside the (Finnish-built) Hotel Latvija, Lenin's statue, decked with flowers by visiting fraternal delegates from Rostock (DDR), was guarded, presumably lest something regrettable occurred. In central Riga, coffee was unobtainable that week (year?) because there were no spare parts for 'espresso' machines.

In Tallinn we stayed at the (Finnish-built) Viru. Many guests were Finnish "vodka tourists". Meals were excellent; black marketing was evident. Estonians were keen to tell us that there were too many Russians in Tallinn. Attempting to visit Paldiski by train, we were politely deposited at Laokula until the train returned from the naval base where 'politicals' maintain the power plants of nuclear submarines without protective clothing.

## Unexpected aspects of Soviet life

### (1) The Lenin cult

Lenin's embalmed corpse in Red Square and countless statues elsewhere are foci for quasi-religious homage. Infants and brides lay flowers at his stone or brazen feet. The extraordinarily lavish Kiev Lenin Museum, with its 'Buddha-statue' of Vladimir Ilyich, is an Oriental shrine.

### (2) The lack of hygiene

Why do flies crawl all over the food in Russian shops? Why are Soviet public lavatories everywhere filthy and degrading? And why is neither mentioned by travellers?

## Positive aspects of Soviet society

For old, loyal, Soviet citizens life is 'good' today. Stalin is 30 years dead. The short-term foreign visitor can also gain good impressions since conditions, superficially, resemble those of southern Europe. If he neither visits an average flat nor calculates labour-time, accommodation and clothing may appear adequate. Unemployment, being illegal, is absent. Without unions, strikes are impossible too.

The streets are far safer at night than in the West. Television never suggests that quarrels should be settled by violence. Vandalism is rare. Smoking in public places is prohibited. Cities lack distinctive slum areas while parks, trees, museums and cultural and sporting centres abound.

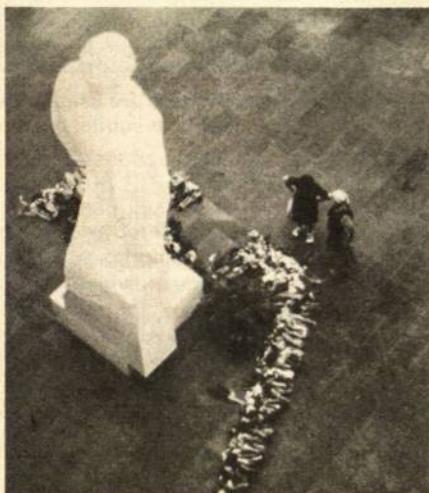
## The Baltic States . . .

### ● Continued from Page 4

Despite censorship, education is in some respects excellent. Small portraits of Stalin are available but more conventional pornography, and sex and violence-laced 'literature', are absent.

### A war economy in peacetime

Consumer goods are scarce, dear and poor in quality, like in war-time. Shops are huge but few, crowded and incompetently run. Moscow sociologists calculate that housewives (who must also work, keep house and bring up the children, if any) have to queue two hours per day all their lives. The permanent militarisation of society is reflected in the swarms of soldiers and police and—in Russia and the Ukraine—of proudly be-medalled civilians. 'Careless talk' is more risky than in (say) England in 1943.



● God is on the prohibited list; so, people worship a pseudo-god: Lenin.

Repeating, or not reporting to police, any criticism of the regime can lead you or your close relatives to lose jobs, school-places or flats. So, out of fear, everyone conforms and informs. However, many of the rules do not apply to the powerful — top communists and wealthy black marketeers. They can frequent foreign-currency shops which do not accept roubles as money but sell otherwise unobtainable goods for dollars. Despite, or perhaps because of, the 'war economy' for the masses, the privileged few can even visit Western countries.

In the Baltic Republics the most privileged are mainly the foreigners — the Russian controllers. It is here that the wartime analogy is strongest because the World War II occupation troops have never left. Instead, deportation and massacre of the Baltic elites was followed by annexation and a mass invasion of Russian and other civilians. It is as if Japan had conquered Australia and New Zealand in 1942 and had held us down ever since while the rest of the world chose to forget.

At the time of the 1940 Soviet invasion of the Baltic nations only one voice was heard to condone it — Adolf Hitler's. In the ensuing 42 years, only two remote, provincial echoes have been heard, the voices of (Whitlam's) Australia and of New Zealand.

## NEWS

### Lithuanian Conscript Captured

Two Red Army soldiers, including a Lithuanian conscript, have been handed over to the International Red Cross by the Islamic guerillas in Afghanistan. From Pakistan, they were sent to Switzerland. Officials of the Red Cross, who made this known, said that both soldiers were captured some months ago.

The Lithuanian has been identified as Rimas V. Burba (about 22). When interviewed by French television on November 20, 1982, Burba condemned the Soviet regime and expressed his hope for positive changes in the USSR. He wore tattered clothes, and seemed exhausted and frightened.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian underground press has published reports on the impact of the Afghanistan war in Lithuania. Antagonism is mounting to the use of young Lithuanian conscripts as cannon fodder in Moscow's colonial thrust.

— ELTA.

### Russians Predominate

Speakers with Russian names predominated at a Komsomol (Communist Youth) conference held in Tallinn — capital of Russian-occupied Estonia — last year.

They were: Oleg Karpukhin, member of the Komsomol central committee and acting department head; Vladimir Lokov, responsible worker (a title used for central committee members with special assignments); Leonid Savvin, second secretary of the Komsomol central committee; Nikolai Vasyutin, second secretary of Tallinn's Komsomol city committee; Arkadi Nikolayev, second secretary of the Komsomol in the Voru rayon; Dmitry Kubyshkin, department head of the Komsomol organisations in the Hiiumaa rayon; and a number of minor functionaries with Russian names.

EIC/Nooret Haal.

### More Priests Murdered

Another Catholic priest has been murdered in Russian-occupied Latvia. The body of August Zilvinskis, a 59-year-old parish priest, who had been missing since December 1981, was found in the woods near Daugavpils. This was learned through the Catholic underground of Latvia.

One year prior to Zilvinskis' disappearance, Catholic priest Andrejs Turlajs was murdered. KGB agents had threatened other clergymen with Turlajs' fate. Turlajs' body was also found near Daugavpils.

The deaths of the priests are hitting the Latvian Catholics particularly hard. In the past 12 months the murders of at least 12 priests have become known — that is 10% of the clergymen active in Latvia.

— Foreign Broadcast Information Service/LIB.

### No Reunion of Family

Lithuanian musician Aloyzas Jurgutis, who defected to the West in 1974 and who now lives in Chicago, is still waiting to be reunited with his wife, Marija Jurgutiene.

— Bridges.

# Russification Condemned

Non-Russian nations inside the U.S.S.R. are systematically russified and exploited, contrary to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These conclusions were reached by the Conference on the European People's Rights and Self-determination, held in Lucerne (Switzerland), on October 10-11, 1982. The conference called upon the Soviet leadership to stop its russification policies. It also condemned the Soviet's exploitative colonial measures.

## Language

Russification of the non-Russian nations (who form nearly a half of the U.S.S.R.'s total population) is promoted by imposing Russian upon the natives, from the kindergarten up. Scholarly dissertations must be written in Russian.

Large numbers of foreigners, primarily Russians, are settled in these countries, to dilute the native population. "The central planning agencies in Moscow have singled out the large cities for denationalisation," the conference resolution states. "As a result, the numbers of Russians settled in the capital cities are so large that they constitute the majority of people."



● In true colonial tradition, higher-ranking Russian officers are pensioned off to the conquered lands. Red Army veteran colonel Pavel Bogatyriov (pictured) is now enjoying his retirement in Vilnius, capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania.

## What is "Russification"?

1. Forced relocation of Baltic people away from their homelands.
2. Colonization of the Baltic by Russian immigrants.
3. Gradual elimination of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian languages and all ethnic traditions.
4. Establishment of Russian as the official language in government, employment and place names.
5. A prohibition against artistic portrayals of ethnic themes.
6. Job discrimination against Baltic people.
7. Reduced financing of Baltic schools.
8. Erosion of traditional mores and values.

— Baltic Bulletin (U.S.)



● Russian-language teaching aids are used in Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian schools: a subtle, but persistent tool of russification.

## "Gigantomania"

The resolution comments on the Soviet "gigantomania" — the erection of huge factories which are far in excess of the real needs of the individual nations. This creates a "colonial dependence" for raw materials and for the sale of finished products. Central planning agencies in Moscow exploit the natural resources of the non-Russians "without any consideration for the natural environment."

The territories of the non-Russian nations "are frequently used as military bases directed against Western Europe." All foreign currency earned by the non-Russian nations is channelled to the central Soviet armaments budget. This, in turn, perpetuates the "colonial regime."

## Fighting Back

In the Baltic States which have their own languages and cultures of very long standing, English is sometimes cultivated not only as a useful language *per se*, but also as a political expression against russification. Western visitors who speak Russian have been known to be answered back — reproachfully — in English.

When U.S. Consul General Culver Gleysteen visited a model secondary school in Tallinn (Estonia) in 1974, the principal volunteered — to the chagrin of the official Soviet escort — that English was a more popular foreign language there than Russian.

ELTA/Latvian Info. Bulletin.

## Underground Press Is Alive

In spite of persecution and arrests by the KGB (Russian secret police), the underground press is flourishing in the Baltic States, especially Lithuania.

Thirty-two issues of *Ausra* (The Dawn) and fifty-five issues of *The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* have so far reached the West. Other periodicals arrive less frequently, some do not penetrate the Iron Curtain at all.

# BALTIC EVENTS

## June Commemoration

Mass deportations from the Baltic States will be remembered again in Hobart, on Friday, June 10, 1983. PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE.

A candlelight vigil will start late in the afternoon, followed by an ecumenical service in St Joseph's Church, Macquarie Street, at 7.30 pm. Leading churchmen and prominent citizens will be present, to pay respects to the Balts deported from their homes since 1941.

Please come and bring your friends.

## Baltic Conference in Scandinavia

The 7th Baltic Studies Conference in Scandinavia will take place in Stockholm, on June 10-13. The conference theme will be, "National movements in the Baltic countries during the second half of the 19th century."

These conferences are periodically organised by the Baltic Institute in Stockholm, in conjunction with the Centre of Baltic Studies at the University of Stockholm. The conferences receive substantial financial assistance from Sweden's Ministry of Education, The Swedish Institute and the municipality of Stockholm.

The previous (6th) conference was also held in Stockholm, last June. Scholars from nineteen countries took part, representing 90 universities and institutes of higher learning. The conference was opened by Sweden's Minister of Education; and over 100 papers were presented on a wide range of Baltic topics.

## THANKS!

BALTIC NEWS is now the only English-language Baltic periodical in the entire Southern Hemisphere. Published since 1975, it has built up high credibility and is frequently quoted by journalists and academics, throughout the free world.

BALTIC NEWS is mailed, free of charge, to all who ask for it. Private donations are the only source of income.

We therefore thank our supporters for the following contributions, received since the last issue of BALTIC NEWS:

P. Siauciunas, \$150; Australian Lithuanian Community, Melbourne, \$50; Lithuanian Society for Human Rights, Sydney, \$40; LAS, Adelaide, P. Kvieciunas, jnr (Vic), F. Borumas (ACT), \$30 each; Tasmanian anonymous, \$25; P. Andriukaitis (NSW), \$21; V. Petkunas (SA), A. Juozenas (Vic), P. Obelius (Vic), C. E. Petracivicius (USA), P. Lazauskas, M. Bicevskis (Tas), \$20 each; V. Bieliuskas, J. A. Varkalis, A. Grikelis (Vic), C. Ford (NSW), \$15 each; G. Courtney (NSW), \$12; J. Stepys, E. Kujath, J. Sirgunas (Tas), Sister Eileen Devereaux (NZ), Dr H. A. Johansons, Dr R. J. Rosentals, I. Sosnovski (Vic), A. Wiedebaum, M. Steinbergs, M. Gailiunas, Friend from Nowra (NSW), A. Cerekavicius, J. V. Rubis (Qld), B. Lazauskas (USA), O. Maciukas (SA), Fr W. K. Glover (WA), Anonymous Tasmanian, \$10 each; E. Hanhiniemi, R. Ciuras (Qld), A. Kursinskis, J. Zonius (Vic), E. Matiukiene, H. Semenov, C. McPherson (SA), Rogers Family (Tas), Anonymous from Blackburn, \$5 each; H. T. Casanova (NSW), \$3; N. Underwood, E. Dawson (Tas), L. Nobelius, J. Virsik (Vic), \$2 each.

— MANY THANKS!

## Blocked by the Russians



● Baltic scientist and human rights worker Mart Niklus (pictured, left, with Academician Sakharov) has been prevented by Soviet authorities from migrating to Australia. Niklus was sponsored by the Estonian Relief Committee, and the Australian Government had approved his entry. However, the Russians refused to let Niklus go, because he is under detention.

A graduate of Tartu University, Mart Niklus (48) is serving a ten years' sentence in Perm special regime labour camp No 389/36, to be followed by five years in exile. He was arrested on April 29, 1980 and, eight months later, was convicted on the charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." He has been in ill health lately.

Once before (early in 1980), Niklus had unsuccessfully applied for permission to migrate to Sweden. Was this the real reason for his arrest a few months later?

## Heritage Camp

A Lithuanian Heritage Camp is run each Northern summer, at youth camp Dainava in Manchester, Michigan (U.S.A.). Qualified staff instruct the campers in Lithuanian language, history, culture and allied topics.

More information from: Lithuanian Heritage Camp, c/o Mrs J. Damusis, 25830 Forestview, Southfield, MI 48034, U.S.A. Tel. (313) 354 0746.

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

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

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

Name .....

ADDRESS .....

..... POSTCODE .....

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

# Soviet Orders Rejected

More than half of all Lithuanian Catholic priests (468 out of 701) have openly rejected the highly restrictive Soviet Regulations for Religious Associations. Exiled Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius and a parish priest from Leningrad were among the 468 who refused to implement the Regulations last summer, in a letter sent to the then Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Leonid Brezhnev.

"The Regulations do not square . . . with the Constitution of the USSR, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (or) the Helsinki Final Accords," the priests said.

For instance, the Regulations prevent priests from administering sacraments to the sick and dying if they live outside the priests' assigned territories. The Soviet Government chooses the candidates for the last surviving seminary in Lithuania, in direct contravention of the canon law which makes the Church responsible for the selection of its seminaries.

## Reprisals

The Lithuanian priests' firm stand has triggered off harsh reprisals from the new Soviet leader, former KGB chief Yuri Andropov.

Father Alfonsas Svarinskas (58) has been charged with "illegal anti-constitutional and anti-State activity" and with preparing "slanderous materials" which he then "sent abroad through illegal channels." He is parish priest of Vidukle, in the district of Raseiniai and a member of the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights. Over the past few years, the Committee has released a number of papers, documenting the Soviet authorities' blatant breaches of the basic human rights in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

Fr Svarinskas had previously served two terms in Soviet prisons (1946-1956 and 1958-1964). He took holy orders while in camp, at the end of his first term of imprisonment.

The announcement of criminal proceedings against Father Svarinskas coincided with the arrival in Rome of Latvian Bishop Julijans Vivods to attend a Vatican ceremony in which he became the Soviet Union's first resident cardinal since the revolution. The 87-year-old Bishop of Riga was one of 18 new cardinals named in January by the Pope.

According to unconfirmed reports from Lithuania, another priest, Father Ricardas Cerniauskas, has also been arrested. The 28 year old priest drew the wrath of the KGB on August 20, 1981 for conducting a spiritual retreat for a group of young people near Moletai, Lithuania.

On that occasion, Soviet militiamen harassed and interrogated the fifty participants, threatening young women with rape. Fr Cerniauskas was detained for six days.



● Rev Svarinskas: Gaoled again.

## Transfer refused

Last summer, Soviet authorities informed Fr Cerniauskas that he was being transferred from St Michael's parish in Vilnius to another church in the provinces. Last June 20, Fr Cerniauskas announced from the pulpit that he was refusing to comply with the new appointment. His statement was met by thunderous applause from the congregation.

He was, nevertheless, transferred to St Peter and Paul Church in the capital city. There he was denied the right to preach.

A popular preacher among the youth of Lithuania, he is renowned for boldly citing violations of the Soviet Constitution, especially against the guaranteed right to freedom of conscience. For this reason, he has been repeatedly threatened with arrest and even death by Soviet authorities.

On December 20, 1981, Fr Cerniauskas announced that the security police warned him to keep quiet or else he would die an "extraordinary death."

Since October 1980, three priests have been murdered in Lithuania. The KGB has been implicated in all three deaths.

"I feel that if someone were to kill me, hang me, say that I have venereal disease, fake my suicide, . . . commit me to a psychiatric hospital, you will know whose work this is . . . I became a priest to speak the truth . . .", said Fr Cerniauskas, according to the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. The Chronicle is the leading underground publication in Lithuania, on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea.

— LIC/USSR News Brief/Washington Post.

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 the publicise the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian people's continuing struggle for survival and freedom.

Postal address: Baltic News, PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 — Australia.

Material published in the BALTIC NEWS (other than acknowledged reprints) may be reproduced in whole or part, without any charge or obligation. If use is made of this material, HELLP Association would appreciate receiving clippings at PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas, 7005.

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