



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP).

POST OFFICE BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA 7005 (AUSTRALIA).
Registered by Australia Post — Publication No TBH 0543.

Vol IX, No 2 (38)

Complimentary Copy

June, 1983

How Many Australians?

At least two Australians were among the thousands of victims of the first wave of deportations from Russian-occupied Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, on June 14 - 22, 1941. By 1955, over 655,000 people* had been killed or deported from the three Baltic States to the far reaches of Russia, Siberia and the Arctic Circle. What remains to be answered is, how many more Australians were among this 655,000?

Voluntary BALTIC NEWS researchers have traced forty-seven deportees with English names, from just one sample of 19,285 persons banished from Lithuania on June 14 - 18, 1941:

Felix Bennett with wife and 11-year-old daughter Wanda; Richard Berger; George Bond, with 7-year-old daughter Lily; Victor Bush, deported with wife Mary and three children (died in Siberia); Edward Dodge; Alex Dubble; Julian Elsberg (died in Siberia); Falk (last heard of in Sverdlovsk concentration camp); M. Gordon, deported separately from his wife and two children; George Hunn; Charles Jacobson; S. de Z. Jordan; Michael Cripps; Martin Crook; Miss E. J. Lang; Michael Lawrence, with son George and daughter Mary; Eva Long; Muller; Theodore Monk, with wife Mary, son Roman and daughter Irene; John Peck with wife Anne; Vincent Peters; Michael Riley; Martin Salmon with 11-year-old son; John Simson; Victor Scabb; Julian Sturt (13); George Tapper; Albert Tinter; Anthony Baker; Anne Lennard.

The latter two were Australians. Little is known about Anthony Baker: it is believed he left Australia in the 1930s and lived in England for some time before moving on to Lithuania.

Talked of Australia

Anne Lennard was a nun and was deported from Vilnius (capital of Lithuania) in June 1941. An eyewitness who knew her in a Siberian camp recalls Sister Anne as a particularly kind and gentle woman, "She used to tell us about her country, sunny Australia — where people were free to speak their minds, without being imprisoned for it. And, when a fellow prisoner kept confusing Australia with Austria, Sister Anne patiently gave her a geography lesson."



● Young Lithuanian girls felling trees in a Siberian forced labour camp.

Planned in Advance

The Kremlin started planning these large-scale deportations eight months before seizing the independent countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. On October 11, 1939, the day after Lithuania had signed a peace and mutual assistance treaty with the USSR, Soviet State Security Deputy Commissar Serov issued detailed secret instructions on the deportations of "undesirable" inhabitants from the Baltic States.

The victims did not have to be guilty of any specific offences or active opposition to the Soviet authorities. The aim was, rather, to eliminate certain segments of society that could potentially oppose the Soviet regime.

With the help of local collaborators, lists were drawn up to include fourteen classes of "unreliable elements": (1) members of non-Communist parties, including Socialist Left and heretical Communists; (2) members of patriotic or religious organisations; (3) former police and prison officials; (4) former officers of the Czarist and other armies; (5) former officers of the Baltic and Polish armies, and members of military courts; (6) former "bandits" (freedom fighters and anti-Soviet guerillas); (7) expelled members of the Communist Party and Young Communist League; (8) political refugees and smugglers; (9) citizens of foreign countries, employees of foreign firms or foreign

● Continued on next page

* This is a very conservative estimate. Some Western historians and demographers have suggested that the total toll to date may be as high as 1,500,000. The exact number of victims is a closely guarded State secret of the Soviet Union.

42nd ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST MASS DEPORTATIONS FROM THE BALTIC STATES

Friday, June 10:

7.30 pm:

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

in St Joseph's Church,
corner Macquarie and Harrington Streets, Hobart.

All Welcome

Candles representing the deportees will be lit outside St Joseph's, 5 pm-7.30 pm. Please place your candles in glass jars or similar wind-proof containers.

NUCLEAR-FREE BALTIC: UK Support Promised

Miss Cathy Ashton, vice-chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in Britain, has publicly promised to speak up for the Baltic people who are trying to rid their countries of Soviet nuclear devices. Miss Ashton gave this undertaking at a Hobart rally on March 22, 1983, when she was handed a copy of the **Open Letter on Nuclear-free Baltic**.

The letter, signed by 38 Baltic residents on October 10, 1981, had called on the governments of the USSR, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden to create a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe which would include the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

The Soviet authorities reacted at the time by arresting one of the organisers of the Open Letter, Mr Heiki Ahonen, on November 20, 1981; and by harassing several others. On learning of Mr Ahonen's arrest during her visit to Hobart this year, Miss Ashton pledged to publicise Ahonen's plight and to press for his release.

New Arrests, Raids

Meanwhile, the KGB (Russian secret police) has again cracked down on Baltic anti-nuclear campaigners. This time, three signers of the October 10 Open Letter have been arrested. Six other signatories have been searched and questioned; further arrests may be imminent.

Heiki Ahonen, first gaoled on November 20, 1981, was released for a while; then imprisoned again in



● Arrested by the Soviets: Lagle Parek, one of the 38 Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians who had openly called for a nuclear-free Baltic.

How Many . . ?

● Continued from Page 1

embassies; (10) persons who wrote letters to foreign countries, or to the consulates of foreign countries; Esperanto fans and stamp-collectors; (11) former high-level ministerial officials; (12) Red Cross workers and Polish migrants; (13) clergymen of various religions and members of minority sects; (14) former noblemen, bankers, well-to-do farmers and land-owners.

On June 14, 1941, the Kremlin ordered the start of large-scale deportations from the Baltic States. 700,000 persons were to be banished from Lithuania alone (as testified by former Soviet Commissar J. Glusauskas). This number would have amounted to almost one-fourth of Lithuania's total population.

However, the plan was interrupted by the outbreak of the German-Russian war on June 22, 1941 and German troops' rapid advance eastward.

The Soviet armies returned in 1944-45, only to trigger off new waves of deportations: November 1944, August-September 1945, February 1946, August-September 1947, May 1948.

More than a decade later, during the brief literary "thaw" after Stalin's death, a few Soviet writers openly admitted "the tragic fate of the innocent Baltic deportees".

But the Soviet Government has not changed its stand to the present day. The deportation orders have not been renounced, the surviving deportees — as a group — have not been rehabilitated.

And our question remains unanswered: how many more Australians were there among these deportees?

Tallinn on April 13, 1983. During his spell of freedom, Ahonen had worked as a chimney-sweep.

The three new prisoners were not guilty of any crimes or violence, either. Arvo Pesti (27), lost his freedom on April 13. A former student, he was expelled from Tartu university (in Russian-occupied Estonia) for distributing Estonian underground publications. Pesti then worked for a fire brigade. His wife lives in Tartu.

Lagle Parek was arrested on March 5, 1983, following massive KGB raids in several parts of Estonia. Parek's belongings were scrutinised on March 1, both at her Tartu home and at the Design Institute where she worked. Personal correspondence, poems, photographs and note-books were confiscated. She was then interrogated by KGB Major Heino Kruusmaa.

Ints Calitis (52) was arrested in Riga (capital of Russian-occupied Latvia) in April, together with another unnamed dissident.

Independent Papers Seized

Large quantities of Estonian underground publications were found and confiscated when KGB Major Ants Ots and KGB Captain Somer searched the homes of Karin Inno (44), Urmas Inno (34) and Eve Parnaste on March 1 and 2. Eve Parnaste's typewriter was seized on March 10.

Both Innos were employed at a creative art studio in Tartu. Eve Parnaste, a trained psychologist, had been working as a typist, in Tallinn.

Three other anti-nuclear Estonian campaigners were searched and questioned by KGB officials on March 1 and 2: Eva Ahonen (52) who is Lagle Parek's sister; Ulle Einasto (37) and 54-year-old nurse Ilse Heinsalu, of Parnu.

From March 1 to 16, all persons under investigation had their telephones cut off — both, at home and at work.

NEWS FROM THE BALTIC STATES

Terror Campaign in Latvia

Since Yuri V. Andropov's rise to the Kremlin leadership, new waves of terror are sweeping across Russian-occupied Latvia. Special KGB activities started in connection with the Latvian Independence Day on November 18, and were intensified after January 6.

A wooden fence was built around the Freedom Monument in Riga on November 17, to prevent Latvians from placing flowers at this symbol of independence. People who paused in front of the monument on November 18 were arrested by uniformed police and plain-clothes KGB agents.

On January 6 and during the days that followed, at least fifty private residences were searched in Riga. Books published in the West, bibles and copies of the Helsinki human rights accord were seized.

Alfreds Levalds (69) died of a heart attack on January 6, as KGB agents broke into his flat at Artilerijas iela 66-28, Riga. In spite of her bereavement, Mrs Levalds was then questioned for hours by KGB officers.

Baptist nurse Lidija Doronina, champion rower Janis Veveris (29) and labourer Gederts Melngailis (32) were among those arrested. The total number of people detained is not known.

KGB captain Peteris Strautmanis and KGB lieutenant-colonel V. Dembovskis figured prominently in the interrogations of dozens of Baptist activists, former prisoners of conscience and members of Latvian folklore groups.

Petition to United Nations

After the January 6-7 house searches and questionings, Janis Rozkalns (34), electrician and a member of the Baptist church in Riga, sent a petition to the United Nations on behalf of 22 Latvians. The petition sought Western support in these people's efforts to obtain an exit visa "to save our families from anxiety and threats."

For this, Rozkalns was questioned by the secret police almost daily, and was finally arrested on April 20. His wife Gunta (34) and infant twins — son Markus and daughter Rita (born on January 13, 1983) — live at Lenina iela 209-13a, Riga, Latvia, USSR.

52-year-old amber jeweller and electrician Ints Calitis was arrested immediately after his discharge from hospital on April 11. In 1979, he was one of the 45 Balts who signed a public memorandum demanding immediate repeal of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact which had sold out the Baltic nations to the Russians. In 1981, Calitis joined 37 other concerned Balts in the call for a nuclear-free Baltic (see Page 2).

Calitis' wife Inara, two boys and one girl (aged 6 to 11) live at: Latvia, Riga, Rupniecibas iela 13-15, USSR.

What Can You Do?

You can help by writing to the prisoners, their families and to the Soviet officials (addresses below). Express sympathy and encouragement to the prisoners and their families; ask how you can help. When writing to Soviet officials, express concern and enquire after the well-being of the arrested. Tell the officials



● Germany's representative Dr Otto von Habsburg (pictured) has repeatedly raised the Baltic question in the European Parliament. He played a prominent part in the January 13 resolution calling for free Baltic States.

that the prisoners, to the best of your knowledge, have done nothing more than exercise their right to freedom of information and of free speech guaranteed in human rights documents: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Agreement.

This is the address of the KGB headquarters and prison where the persons named in this report are presumably held: Latvia, Riga, Lenina iela 61, USSR. Chairman Boriss Pugo, tel 70325 or 290541; V. Dembovskis, tel 290625; capt P. Strautmanis.

Influential Soviet officials are: A. Voss, First Secretary, Central Committee of the Latvian Communist Party, Kirova iela 2, Riga, Latvia, USSR, tel 321166; and P. Strautmanis, Chairman, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian SSR, Komjaunatnes iela 11, Riga, Latvia, USSR, tel 226650.

Listed below are the addresses and telephones of some Moscow officials:

Procurator-General of the USSR A. Rekunkov: Moskva, ul. Pushinskaya 15a, Prokuratura SSR, Generalnomu Prokuror A. Rekunkov, USSR. — Tel 229 97 14/296 94 04.

Minister for Internal Affairs (MVD): 103009 Moskva, ul. Ogarieva 6, Ministerstvo Vnutrennikh Del SSSR, Ministru N.A. Shchelkovu, USSR. Tel: information 294 65 72, reception 222 66 69.

USSR Minister of Health (incl psychiatry): Moskva, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya SSSR, Ministru S. Burenko, USSR. — Tel 228 44 78/225 28 48. Head of Psychiatric Section of the Ministry of Health: Moskva, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Ministerstvo Zdravookhraneniya SSSR, Doktoru Churkinu, USSR.

THE BALTIC STATES: Forty-three Years Under Foreign Rule

Nearly four years ago, on 23 August 1979, 45 Baltic nationals — Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — issued a joint declaration in Moscow calling on the United Nations to recognise the rights of the Baltic States to self-determination and independence, and demanding a referendum in the three Republics to decide whether they wished to remain part of the USSR.¹ (At least eight of the signatories were later arrested; one escaped to the West).

A supporting statement signed on the same day by five prominent Russian dissidents, including Dr Andrei Sakharov and Mrs Malva Landa, stated:

"The Baltic Republics . . . have become incorporated into the USSR independently of the expression of the will of the peoples of these countries . . . in consequence of the occupation by armed forces of the USSR . . . We support the call by the representatives of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to examine the violation of the right of the peoples of these countries to self-determination and to independent free determination of their own destinies."

The 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact

The declarations were timed to mark the 40th anniversary of the Secret Protocol to the Nazi-Soviet Pact, which assigned Latvia and Estonia to the USSR's sphere of influence and was followed just over a month later by a similar agreement over Lithuania. These secret protocols enabled the Soviet Union to annex the three States by means of diplomatic pressure supported by the threat of armed force.

At first, the Soviet Union imposed mutual assistance pacts on the three countries, the agreements providing, among other things, for the stationing of certain Soviet military facilities on their territories. Then in June 1940, it accused the States not only of violating the pacts but also of entering into an anti-Soviet military alliance with each other, and demanded the formation of governments more friendly to the Soviet Union as well as free access for Soviet troops. As soon as the States had accepted the Soviet terms they were occupied by the Red Army and pro-Soviet caretaker governments were installed.

The Soviet Union claims that the incorporation of the Baltic States into the USSR in August 1940 was in response to requests made by their Parliaments. However, the parliamentary elections held in the three countries in July 1940 were supervised directly by the Red Army, and on the eve of the poll all non-Communist candidates were declared ineligible as "public enemies" or because their electoral programs were "insufficiently specific". (The local Communist Parties were in fact very small; a Soviet source admitted in 1978 that the Latvian Communist Party only had 200 members in 1938 and 420 in 1939 and 1940). This and other aspects of the elections were clear violations of the constitutions of the Baltic States and their electoral laws. It was against this background that the newly-elected National Assemblies, on 21 July 1940, declared their countries to be Soviet Socialist Republics and resolved to seek admission to the Soviet Union.²

Incorporation into USSR

By decrees of the Supreme Soviet, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became constituent Republics of the USSR in August 1940.³ (Most Western States have withheld *de jure* recognition of their incorporation into

the USSR to the present day). The former Presidents of Estonia and Latvia were deported to Central Russia and died in exile. In June 1941 — before the outbreak of war between Germany and the USSR — about 100,000 Baltic nationals were deported to Siberia.

When the Red Army returned in 1944 after the Nazi occupation (1941-44), Soviet rule was re-imposed. However the Soviet authorities met with considerable resistance in all three Republics. Organised resistance activities in Lithuania lasted for eight years, and in 1944-48 the partisans were in effect an active underground army conducting guerilla-type operations.⁴ As in the other Baltic Republics, resistance was particularly strong during the forced collectivisation of agriculture. Mass deportations of Lithuanians to distant parts of the USSR took place between 1944 and 1949, and though active organised resistance had ceased by 1952 it was not until November 1956 that the Lithuanian party First Secretary could claim the final liquidation of a "nationalist bandit underground".

In Estonia guerilla fighting, supported by the rural population, resulted in the deportation of thousands of farmers in 1949.⁵ In Latvia, where Soviet sources referred to "bourgeois nationalists" and *kulaks* engaging in sabotage and arson so as to frustrate collectivisation, more than 100,000 people were deported to distant parts of the Soviet Union, including Siberia, between 1946 and 1950.

The dissident movement

For non-Russian dissenters the campaign for human rights is inseparable from the struggle for national rights. This campaign began to gain momentum in the mid-1960s when it became clear that Khrushchev's successors would permit no relaxation of ideological discipline. In the Baltic Republics there was particularly deep resentment at the Soviet russification policy which involved promotion of all things Russian, discrimination against the Baltic languages, traditions, cultures, literatures and religions, and the officially-sponsored settlement of Russians in the Republics.



● Russian tanks in Riga (Latvia), on June 17, 1940.

In **Lithuania**, where the human rights campaign and movements of national dissent are at their most vigorous, the Roman Catholic Church claims the allegiance of about 75 per cent of the population and is closely associated with national aspirations. The dissident movement began in the late 1960s with an upsurge of militancy among groups of Catholic priests, and by the early 1970s the clergy had become the Republic's principal unifying force, not only on religious issues but for national and human rights as well. The clergy have continued to act in an outspoken manner.

Five priests formed the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights in November 1978.⁶

In early 1972 the clandestine publication, *Chronicle of the Lithuanian Catholic Church*, began to appear, covering the defence of national and human rights as well as religious liberty. Fifty-six issues have been circulated to date despite strenuous official attempts at suppression. It has been followed by at least 18 other underground ("samizdat") journals.⁷

Helsinki Groups

After the 1975 Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in Helsinki, dissent grew more rapidly within the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe than at any time previously, and groups were established to monitor Soviet and East European compliance with the Helsinki accords. Some were dedicated to particular aspects of the agreements; some were local or regional in character.

Like the others, the Lithuanian monitoring group, founded in December 1976, has been subjected to harassment and gradual destruction by the authorities.

In 1978 one of its founder-members, Viktoras Petkus, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment plus five years of internal exile for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". This was followed by the expulsion to the West of one member (T. Venclova), three arrests (M. Jurevicius, V. Vaiciunas, A. Statkevicius) and the mysterious death of Rev B. Laurinavicius. Only one member is still free (Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene).

Dissatisfaction in Lithuania can be measured by the number of signatures on petitions and protests. In the 1970s several documents with more than 10,000 signatures were circulated. In mid-1979 an appeal for the return of a church in Klaipeda was signed by 148,149 Catholics and sent to President Brezhnev, bound in a book of 1,589 pages. The church had been built, with official permission, by voluntary labour and with funds collected from believers. As soon as the church was completed in 1960, however, the authorities took it over and turned it into a concert hall.

A feature of dissent in Lithuania which the authorities must find particularly alarming is the active part played by the younger generation. Young people took to the streets in disturbances during 1972, 1977 and 1982.

National Resistance

National movements in **Estonia** and **Latvia** exist but are weaker than those in Lithuania. Although both have a tradition of Lutheranism, religion has not been a unifying factor within these two Republics. They have a much higher proportion of Russian settlers (27.9 per cent and 32.8 per cent respectively) than Lithuania (8.9 per cent). The extensive immigration of Russians into Estonia and Latvia since the war, the general russification process and an unfavorable demographic



● Andrei Zhdanov (waving) was sent from Moscow to supervise the Soviet takeover of Estonia. This photograph was taken on the balcony of the Soviet embassy in Tallinn, on June 24, 1940.

position in the two Republics have promoted the emergence of underground nationalist and civil rights groups. (In 1978 the party First Secretary in Latvia deplored the resistance to Russian immigration.)

The Estonian National Front and Estonian Democratic Front made joint appeals to the United Nations in 1972 and 1974 and to the World Baltic Conference in 1975 for self-determination and the implementation of human rights in Estonia. The four authors of the appeals to the UN were subsequently convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced to five and six years' imprisonment. The nationalist movement in Latvia is the least developed among the Baltic Republics, but dissident groups have been formed, particularly among the creative intelligentsia, teachers and students. They include the Latvian Democratic Youth Committee and the Latvian Independence Movement. Their supporters have rarely been involved in open demonstrations in recent years because of harassment by the security police.

The indigenous Baltic populations, used to one of the highest standards of living in the USSR, have been particularly resentful of food shortages in recent years. Some strikes have reportedly taken place and there have been rumours of assassination attempts against the Estonian and Lithuanian party First Secretaries.

— Based on a Briefing Paper by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTES

1. Full text of this Declaration is available from: BALTIC NEWS, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005. Australia. Please send a stamped, addressed envelope.
2. For a factual account of the events that led to the Soviet takeover, see: *The Baltic States, 1940-1972*, Stockholm: The Baltic Committee in Scandinavia, 1972, especially pp.5 - 42.
3. cf. TARULIS, Albert N., *Soviet Policy toward the Baltic States, 1918-1940*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1959.
4. DAUMANTAS, Juozas, *Fighters for Freedom: Lithuanian Partisans versus the USSR (1944-1947)*. New York: Manyland Books, 1975. — A first-hand report on this David-and-Goliath battle.
5. VIIRLAID, Arved, *Graves Without Crosses*. Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Co., 1972. — A powerful novel set against the factual background of post-war Estonia.
6. *Catholics in Soviet-occupied Lithuania*. (Translated from Chretiens de l'est, No. 27, 1980). El Toro, Ca.: Aid to the Church in Need, 1981. — This succinct and informative 119-page document surveys the situation of the Church in Lithuania "today and yesterday" (1251-1980).
7. The *Chronicle* is translated into English and published as soon as it reaches the West. Current and back issues are available (at \$1 per copy, plus postage), from: Lithuanian R.C. Priests' League of America, 351 Highland Blvd, Brooklyn, NY 11207, U.S.A.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Escapes to Freedom Foiled

Soviet patrol boats snatched four Estonians in international waters last year, as the men were trying to cross the Baltic Sea to Sweden. Charged with "illegally leaving the Soviet Union", all four are now awaiting trial in Tallinn central prison, at this address: Estonian SSR, 200001 Tallinn, Kalaranna 2, Uchrezhdenie Yum-422/1, USSR.

A message smuggled out of Russian-occupied Estonia has identified the first three refugees as Ingerhold Arr (19), Arnold Kiirend (36) and Arusoo (25, Christian name unknown), all from the isle of Saaremaa. They were captured on a small raft, well outside the Soviet territorial waters, on August 14, 1982.

The fourth Estonian tried to sail to freedom in a rubber boat last November, but was seized by Soviet police before he could reach Sweden. He was Allan Alajaan (born on August 25, 1956), a hospital orderly and a practising Catholic. His parents live at: 200010, Estonia, Tallinn, ul. Teras 8, kv7, USSR.

Heavy Sentence

In Russian-occupied Lithuania, Jonas Pakuckas was sentenced last summer to twelve years' imprisonment in a strict regime camp. He was charged, under Article 62 of the Lithuanian Criminal Code (Art. 64 of the RSFSR Crim.Code) with attempting to escape abroad via Finland.

Pakuckas was also accused of assisting V. Sakalys who did succeed in escaping to Sweden in the summer of 1980.

Campaign Against Priests



● The official Soviet newsagency Tass announced on May 8 that criminal charges had been brought against another priest in Russian-occupied Lithuania, Father Sigitas Tamkevicius (pictured). Father Tamkevicius is well known for his peaceful work with the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, and for his precise documentation of the Soviet transgressions against their own Constitution (see *Baltic News*, Aug-Sept 1980).

In the meantime, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas (see last issue of *Baltic News*) was convicted on May 6 of slandering of the State and received a seven-year prison sentence plus three years in exile.

Pakuckas' brother Petras and his wife Nadezhda were tried with him. They expressed repentance and blamed Jonas for organising the getaway. Their verdicts are not known.

Jonas Pakuckas had been previously recruited by the KGB, but gave false information to the KGB. This may have been another reason for his severe sentence.

Blackballed

It is extremely difficult to emigrate from the Soviet Union, especially if the applicant is a non-Jew. From 1971 to 1983, around a quarter million people left the USSR, but the majority of these successful migrants held Israeli visas. The peak was reached in 1979 when 51,330 persons left on Israeli visas — compared to 9,447 in 1981 and 2,692 in 1982.

On the other hand, increasing numbers of would-be migrants are receiving "final rejections" of their applications from the Soviet authorities, with no right to re-apply. There are now forty-three known cases of such "final rejections".

Some persons who had unsuccessfully applied to migrate to the West are later discriminated against, or even jailed on trumped up charges. Pentecostal E. Bulakh, who wished to resettle in the free world, is now being tried by the Supreme Court of Russian-occupied Lithuania. Charges have been laid against Bulakh's wife Svetlana and another Vilnius Pentecostal, T. Boyarovskaya.

As reported in the last *Baltic News*, Estonian Mart Niklus had unsuccessfully tried to migrate to Australia or Sweden; he is now serving a ten years' sentence in Perm labour camp No 389/36 plus five years in exile.

— USSR News Brief/Eesti VVA.

BOOKS: PERFECT GIFTS

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 \$1 postage and packing.
- **LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW**, by Barbara Armonas, 222pp. — \$5, plus \$1.50 postage and packing.
- **THE BALTIC STATES, 1940-1972:** Documentary background and survey of developments, 121pp. — \$5, plus \$1 postage and packing.
- **THE BALTIC DILEMMA**, vols. 1 and 2, by Edgars Dunsdorfs, \$11 plus \$3 postage (Vol 2 is also available separately, at \$8 plus \$1 postage and packing).

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help from Japan

Three Japanese newspapers recently reprinted *BALTIC NEWS* reports on Baltic prisoners in Soviet concentration camps. The articles created a lot of interest: *BALTIC NEWS* was flooded with letters, and more than 30 Japanese decided to join the *Friends of the Prisoners* (PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005) — an Australian-based group of concerned people who regularly write to Soviet prisoners of conscience, and pray for them.

Extracts from a few letters are published below.

I was greatly moved when I read about your activities in *Sekai Nippo*. I am very much interested in helping those (Soviet) prisoners out. I would therefore appreciate it if you could introduce me to a few (or at least one) prisoners of conscience.

I am a thirty-two-year old Buddhist priest and English teacher.

Ryoji MORI.

I learned from the February issue of *Jl* magazine that writing letters may be very effective tactics. Please allocate five prisoners to me and my friends.

Kanagawa (Japan).

Mariko YAMANA.

Many acts against prisoners in the Soviet concentration camps are disregarded. It is a challenge for the human beings to try and retain the rights and good things which we have known through history. We can't just let them go.

Tokyo (Japan).

Haruo SUGIZAKI.

I am a 29-year-old steel worker. I just couldn't believe, this is happening today, in the 20th century. Please let me help. I have friends who wish to help too.

Kanagawa (Japan).

Yushiyuki ARIGI.

I am a Japanese woman. Please forgive me writing in Japanese. I am not very good at English.

I heard about you in a broadcast by *Radio Nippon*. I shivered when I heard former Soviet prisoners' testimony. I know how precious freedom is — freedom that I enjoy here, in Japan.

I wish to help all people who are deprived of freedom in the Communist society.

Niwasaka (Japan).

(Miss) Kyoko OGAWA.

Pastor Salum

In your March 1982 edition, an article appeared on the imprisonment of Pastor Salum in a psychiatric hospital in Estonia. Have you any up-date news concerning this Pastor?

I would like to involve the folks in our Church in some interest and action to assist this unfortunate Pastor.

Wellington (New Zealand).

E. C. LEGGETT.

• After incarceration in several psychiatric prisons, Pastor Salum was finally released as an invalid in May 1981. He worked as a pastor in Ambla and Jarva-Madise for a while, but his pastoral permit was revoked by the Soviet authorities in April 1982. Pastor Salum's last known address (toward the end of 1982) was: Vello Salum, Jarva-Madise kula, Albu sidejsk, 202 834 Paide rajoon, Estonia, USSR. (This information has been supplied by Friends of the Prisoners, PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005 — Australia).

● The Editor welcomes letters, especially brief ones, at PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, 7005; and reserves the right to condense.



Russification

Your article on Russification (March 1983 issue) was "right on the ball".

You substantiated Yuri Andropov's pre-Christmas promise, "Our final goal is clear. As Lenin said, the aim is not only to draw nations together, but also to merge them" (*Radio Moscow*, December 21, 1982).

Sint-Niklaas (Belgium).

S. W. MORGAN.

BALTIC NEWS

Once again, we gratefully remember our benefactors. Thanks to their generous support, *BALTIC NEWS* continues to be sent, free of charge, to all who ask for it.

The following donations have been received since the last issue of *BALTIC NEWS*:

Australian Latvian Information Centre, on behalf of the Latvian Community of Australia, \$750.

Lithuanian Community Melbourne, Rev Dr K. Trimakas (USA), \$100 each; Lithuanian Society for Human Rights (Sydney), \$80; J. Miller (Tas), \$50; Q. King (Vic), \$40; Latvian Society "Daugavs Vanagi" Qld Branch, S. Jarembauskas (NSW), \$30 each; M. Kond (NSW), A. Eskirtas (Vic), A. Taskunas (Tas), \$25 each; J. Rubas, L. Barkus, V. Sidabra (Vic), C. Ford (NSW), \$20 each; L. & N. Tidey (Qld), B. Barsteika (USA), B. G. King, Anonymous (Vic), J. Paskevicius, E. Kujatah, A. Viknius, P. Banelis, R. Tarvydas, Anonymous (Tas), \$10 each; T. Zukowski (SA), A. Bogun-Berzins (ACT), \$5 each; W. M. Ryan (Vic), \$4.25; R. Evans (Vic) \$4; L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2.

Many Thanks!

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.

PROFILE OF A PRISONER: Mecislovas Jurevicius

Mecislovas Jurevicius, a Roman Catholic from Lithuania, was born on 23rd October 1927. He was sentenced in 1950 to 25 years in prison camps, accused of taking part in the Lithuanian guerilla movement against the Soviet occupying powers in Lithuania.

Because of an amnesty following the death of Stalin, Jurevicius was released and eventually found a job with the Institute for the Blind in Siauliai, where he worked in the crafts workshop. He was, however, dismissed for refusing to work on Christmas Day and other religious festivals and for carrying crosses in pilgrimages to the Hill of Crosses shrine near Siauliai.

Known as an open critic of atheism, Jurevicius attended lectures on atheism to ask questions. He was attacked by the Soviet press for his views and activities and, after being threatened by the KGB with charges of "parasitism", he obtained work as a sexton at Zarenai church.

Helsinki Group

In 1979 he joined the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring Group, but was arrested on 25th March 1981 and tried on 25th June 1981 by the Lithuanian Supreme Court in



● Mecislovas Jurevicius, a Lithuanian labourer and church sexton, was sentenced to 3 years strict regime labour camp on June 25-26, 1981 for "organising group activities which violate public order." A member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, Jurevicius was punished for allegedly organising religious processions.

Vilnius for organising religious processions in 1979 and 1980. He was sentenced to 3 years' strict regime camp under article 199-3 of the Soviet Lithuanian Criminal Code (Organisation of, or active participation in, group actions which disrupt public order).

At his trial, Jurevicius refused a defence lawyer and pleaded not guilty. He said, "... I am prepared to suffer in order that all people begin to believe in God and that my trial opens the eyes of many an atheist."

When the verdict was read he said, "Thank you! This does honour to God and Lithuania."

Jurevicius is married with one daughter. He is at present serving his sentence at the following address:

456870 Chelyabinsk obl.
g. Kyshtym,
uchr. YaV-48/10-3.
U.S.S.R.

His family lives at:

235400 Lietuva,
Siauliai,
Spindulio g. 6/10
U.S.S.R.

— Keston News Service

Israel Honours Lithuanians

One of the many Lithuanians who aided in the rescue of the Jewish people from the Nazi concentration camps, during the Second World War, was honored in Toronto last year.

Stasys Jucevicius, who had been a pharmacist in Kaunas during the war, transported many Jewish people into the woods and hid them in the forest of Lazdijai. Jucevicius considered this to be his duty and never claimed any honours. But he was searched out by one of the families he had aided. Mr Wulf Michnovskis, now of Israel, wanted to thank his benefactor.

An Israel institution found Stasys Jucevicius residing in Canada. Last May, the Israel Consul in Toronto, Mr David Ariel, and the representative of the Jewish Congress in Canada, Mr Leipziger, awarded Stasys Jucevicius a medal and a certificate for his heroic act.

— Bridges.

Tourists Harassed

Increasing numbers of Western tourists are questioned and harassed when they visit Russian-occupied Baltic States.

Swedish citizen Mrs Baiba Vitolas and her daughter Ilga were separated from a tourist group on January 6, and were detained for three days in Riga, capital of Latvia. They were interrogated for up to 12 hours non-stop and, amidst frequent threats, were asked questions about persons living in the West.

At first, Mrs Vitolas was not allowed to contact the Swedish Consulate in Leningrad; she was told, the telephone line was out of order.

She finally managed to telephone Swedish authorities and was released on January 9.

— ALIC/LNA.

All news items and historical reports are double-checked against independent sources before they are published in BALTIC NEWS.

In some cases, this may delay the news — but it is a small price to pay for greater authenticity.

BALTIC NEWS is published four times a year, by HELLP (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association) in Hobart, Australia. HELLP is a non-denominational and non-party-political group of concerned Australians, who (1) do not recognise Russian sovereignty over the three Baltic States; and (2) are working to publicize the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian people's continuing struggle for survival and freedom.

Postal address: Baltic News, P.O. 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 P.O. Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas. 7005.

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