



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
 POST OFFICE BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA 7005 (AUSTRALIA)
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Help for Prisoners

This year's Prisoner of Conscience Week (October 17-23) will once again draw the free world's attention to the thousands of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians languishing in Soviet prisons, concentration camps and psychiatric prisons. These people have committed no crime. They merely want their basic human rights.



● Victims of Soviet Russia's 2,000 prisoners and concentration camps have not remained silent. Lithuanian Dalia Grinkeviciute, MD (pictured) is one of the prisoners who managed to write down her experiences and smuggled them out to the West. Dalia's memoirs, entitled *Frozen Inferno*, are now available in English translation.

COMING EVENT

● **NOVEMBER 11 (Friday), 7.45 pm**
 at Migrant Resource Centre,
 222 Elizabeth St, Hobart

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 of H.E.L.L.P. Association

Guest speakers — Slides

Members are reminded that written nominations for the Executive Committee (up to 12 members) are to be sent to the Secretary of Association, P.O. Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005, not later than November 4, 1983. The nominations must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee.

Lithuanian woman Zita Salaseviciute has been forcibly held in a Soviet psychiatric prison for the past two years, because in 1981 she stood in Red Square, Moscow and held a placard reading "I demand my right to emigrate."

Latvian Ints Calitis (52) is facing charges, because he and 44 other Balts had publicly called for a repeal of the notorious Molotov — Ribbentrop pact (a secret Soviet-Nazi friendship pact, signed on the eve of World War II which sold out the three Baltic States to Russia).

Three Estonians — Heiki Ahonen, Arvo Pesti and Lagle Parek — are in gaol, because they had peacefully asked for their country to be declared a nuclear-free region.

New Hope

But these prisoners are no longer alone or forgotten. An Australian Christian ecumenical society, **Friends of the Prisoners**, has come to their aid. Each "Friend" adopts a prisoner and writes to him at least once a month. The "Friend" also publicizes his prisoner's plight and campaigns for his early release.

The aims of Friends of the Prisoners are:

1. To respond to the suffering of prisoners of conscience in the USSR in an authentically Christian way.
2. To inform ourselves and others of the lot of prisoners of conscience in the USSR.
3. To befriend Soviet prisoners of conscience, to write to them and to pray for them, and do anything that may help or comfort them and may hasten their release.
4. Similarly to befriend prisoners' families.
5. To pray for the persecutors.

If you can accept these aims and would like to join Friends of the Prisoners, write to Post Office Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

There is no joining or membership fee. The society exists entirely on voluntary donations. The President is Fr G. Jordan, S.J., Rector of St John Fisher College, University of Tasmania — Telephone (002) 34 8955.

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First Response

In the June 1983 issue of BALTIC NEWS, we published forty-seven Anglo-Celtic names of people deported to Soviet concentration camps, from Russian-occupied Lithuania in June 1941. A West German reader has since identified one of the victims. She writes:

"Julian Sturt was 13 when Russian soldiers seized him and packed him into a cattle-wagon for a forced journey to Kazakhstan. Julian was in a youth camp in Palanga, a seaside resort in Russian-occupied Lithuania at the time (June 1941). He had no prior warning that, as a foreign-born boy, he would be branded an "enemy of the State" and imprisoned for four years.

"Born in Chicago, U.S.A., Julian Sturt moved to Lithuania with his parents in 1939. The country was annexed by Russia in 1940, and mass arrests of the local people followed within less than a year.

Overcrowded

"After his capture, Julian shared his cattle-wagon with forty other prisoners. Overcrowding, poor rations and a lack of basic facilities took their toll. On the fifth day, a middle-aged man collapsed and died before Julian's eyes; medical aid was refused by the guards. Another man, separated from his wife and two children, went mad and eventually committed suicide.

"This 'rail journey to uncertainty' took four weeks. Exhausted and depressed, Julian finally arrived at Chkalov prison camp, on the River Ural, in Kazakh SSR. He spent the next four years there.

"In 1945, Julian Sturt returned to Russian-occupied Lithuania. In 1946, he moved to Germany."

Wanted: More Information

Voluntary BALTIC NEWS researchers are still seeking information on the following persons, deported from Russian-occupied Lithuania to Soviet concentration camps on June 14-18, 1941:

Anthony Baker; 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; Anne Lennard; 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; George Tapper; Albert Tinter.

Readers who can assist with information about these people, or any Australians in Soviet prisons, are asked to write to: BALTIC NEWS, Post Office Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia.

Confidentiality is assured.

Eyewitness



● Menachem Begin: A living witness of Soviet mass deportations.

Menachem Begin, until recently Israel's Prime Minister, was among the first foreigners to be deported by the Soviets from the Baltic States, in 1940.

Begin lived in Poland until 1939. When Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia jointly attacked Poland, Begin fled Warsaw and, accompanied by his family and a party of Polish Betar members, he made his way, mostly on foot, to Vilnius (the capital city of Lithuania).

Begin's hopes of leading this group on to Palestine were dashed in June 1940, when the Soviet Union annexed Lithuania and the other Baltic States. Begin was arrested in September 1940 and after a lengthy interrogation, he was sentenced to eight years as a slave labourer in the Arctic wasteland along the Pechora River.

After Nazi Germany broke its alliance with Russia and attacked the Russians in 1941, thousands of Polish prisoners, Begin among them, were released under the terms of the Stalin-Sikorski agreement, to form a new Polish army on Soviet soil.

Begin's unit was sent to Amman, Transjordan, giving him his long-awaited opportunity, in May 1942, to enter Palestine.

Menachem Begin has published an account of his experiences as a prisoner in Siberia, in his book *White Nights* (MacDonald, 1957).

— Ack: Current Biography 1977.



● Mass deportations from the Baltic States were re-enacted by Tasmanian volunteers, outside GPO Hobart on June 9. The symbolic play attracted a lot of attention from passers-by and from the media.

— Photo by courtesy of "The Mercury" (Hobart).

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Pope for Lithuania?

Pope John Paul II has been invited to visit Russian-occupied Lithuania, preferably on March 4, 1984. This date would coincide with the 500th anniversary of the death of Lithuania's patron saint, St Casimir. The invitation was extended by four Lithuanian bishops in April this year, during their first visit *ad limina apostolorum* to the Vatican since the imposition of Soviet rule in 1940.

Per capita, more Catholics have been persecuted for their faith in Russian-occupied Lithuania than in any other part of the world. A visit by their chief pastor would be a great encouragement to these people. Western observers think, however, that the Pope is unlikely to go to Lithuania.

Leo Wieland of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, a major German daily, went to Lithuania in June and interviewed a spokesman for the Soviet Lithuanian Foreign Ministry. The spokesman denied any knowledge of the Pope's travel plans or the invitation. He added that the head of the Catholic Church who is also a head of state, would not be able to make even a private visit without Moscow's approval. The Soviet spokesman mentioned two major hitches: a lack of diplomatic relations with the Vatican and "unresolved administrative questions". He blamed the Polish-born Pope for his reluctance to negotiate on these hitches.

Meanwhile, in neighboring Latvia, Bishop Julijans Vaivods (87) of Riga was made the first Latvian cardinal ever. Vaivods told UPI that he believed he was chosen to be a "bridge" between the Vatican and Moscow.

Of Latvia's 2.5 million population, about 400,000 are Catholic. There are about 170 Catholic priests, but they are restricted by the Soviet State and are not allowed to teach Catechism.

— LIB/Newsweek/Frankfurter Allgemeine Z.

Sentenced

Gederts Melngailis, a Latvian factory worker and national rights advocate, has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment by the Supreme Soviet Court in Riga.

The court decided that, before starting his prison term, Melngailis must submit to compulsory psychiatric treatment until he is "cured".

Gederts' mother and sister, Dace, live in Apartment 1, at 49 Liela Altonavas Street, in Riga. — ALIC/WFFL.

Alarming Statistics

The proportion of Estonians living in their own capital city, Tallinn, has dropped to 51.2%, according to the official Soviet census of 1979. Most of the remainder, 48.2%, are Russian-speaking colonists.

In some Estonian towns, the Russian element is even stronger. Of Narva's 75,000 residents, only 3,500 are Estonians. As a result, the last Estonian-language high-school in Narva was closed down recently.

The oil shale mining centre of Kohtla-Järve has 19,000 Estonians, out of a total 73,000 residents. Sillamae's population of 16,000 includes only 689 Estonians.

For the country as a whole, there are about 64% Estonians in Russian-occupied Estonia today; while 36% are people of a different, mainly Russian-language, origin. Only 40% of the workforce (aged 20 to 60) is Estonian. However, Estonians still predominate in rural areas. — Newsletter from Behind the Iron Curtain.



● Bishops are expected to visit the Pope every 5 years. It took the Lithuanian church administrators 43 years before the Kremlin allowed them to go to Rome last April. From left to right: Canon A. Gutauskas (Archdiocese of Vilnius), Bishops V. Sladkevicius (Kaisiadorys), L. Povilonis (Kaunas), Pope John Paul II, Bishops A. Vaicius (Telsiai), R. Kriksciunas (Panevezys, since resigned), Fr V. Michelevicius (Bishop Povilonis' secretary). Lithuanian Bishop Julionas Steponavicius, exiled since 1961, was conspicuous by his absence from this gathering.

Escaped

On the evening of May 27, a 28-year-old Latvian piloted a small biplane from Riga, capital of Russian-occupied Latvia, to Sweden, landing on the Isle of Gotland. The pilot gave his name as Valdis Vanags and sought political asylum. He was worried about his wife and his 5-year-old child, both of whom remained in Latvia.

The flight in a 1949 Aeroflot AN-2 took two hours. Vanags avoided detection by Soviet radar, by flying at very low altitude.

— Laiks/LIB.

Soviet Buildup in Latvia

Evidence is mounting that the Baltic Sea, where Golf-class submarines lurk with long-range missiles, is being transformed into a Soviet base for operations in the North Sea and the Atlantic.

Swedish planes have confirmed especially intensive activity at Liepaja in Latvia where up to 20,000 Russians have been drafted into building the biggest port in the Baltic. To make way for the project, the region's largest collective fishery is being re-located further north.

Bunkers have been built near Liepaja for nuclear submarines, and the new harbour should be deep enough to cope with the 20,000-ton Typhoon submarines.

Figures compiled by the International Institute for Strategic Studies show that the Soviet Union has 30 submarines, 50 major and 292 minor surface combatants, and 25 amphibious and 21 auxiliary support ships at ports between Kronstadt (near Leningrad) and Baltijsk, HQ of the Baltic Fleet near Kaliningrad.

— Donald Fields (The Sunday Times).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Korean Air Tragedy

The Korean Jumbo 007 was not the first civilian airliner to be shot down by the Russians.

On leafing through a back copy of BALTIC NEWS (June 3, 1978), I note that a Finnish Airlines plane was downed by Russian fighter planes on June 14, 1940, 35 km out of Tallinn and still inside the Estonian air space. The crew and all passengers died.

How convenient — there is nobody around to remind us of these cold-blooded murders.

Sydney, N.S.W.

R. J. NEWMAN

Kidnapped

The incidents reported in your June issue are not the first cases of Soviet kidnappings in the Baltic Sea.

Eleven years ago, Estonian Johannes R. Lapmann tried to escape from the Soviet Union by crossing the Baltic Sea. He was picked up by Danish fishing vessel R-126. However, on September 8, 1972, while in international waters close to Swedish territory, the Danish vessel was stopped by a Soviet patrol. Guards climbed on board and forcibly took J. Lapmann away with them.

Back in Russian-occupied Estonia, Lapmann was subjected to psychiatric examination, but was cleared. He was then re-examined and interned in an Estonian psychiatric hospital for compulsory treatment.

On February 22, 1977, Lapmann managed to escape from his psychiatric hospital. He went into hiding for 2½ years, but was arrested on August 8, 1980 and returned to a PH (psychiatric hospital) where he remains to the present day.

Munich (Germany)

Cronid LUBARSKY.

Otto von Habsburg

Dr Otto von Habsburg (whose photo you featured in the last issue of BALTIC NEWS) has stated publicly that the fate of the Baltic States is causing him great concern. Apart from political reasons, he is worried about the Russification of the Baltic nations and the systematic stamping out of their national-religious customs.

Earlier this year, Dr Otto von Habsburg was awarded a gold St Benedict medal, for his outstanding work in the preservation of people's traditions and national customs. In response, he wrote, "You can depend on me in the future, too. And, if we unceasingly go on demanding our rights, our dreams will be fulfilled — sooner or later."

Duesseldorf-Wersten
(W. Germany)

R. GUMULIAUSKAS

Freedom: Inalienable Birthright

My position is consistent and constant and I will continue to press to the utmost of my ability to ensure that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania regain the basic freedom which is their inalienable birthright.

Australia should be firm and resolute in its opposition to Soviet crimes against humanity.

Michael HODGMAN, MHR,
Shadow Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs.

Useless Conglomerate

The Federal Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs recently compiled and distributed demographic material on the combined population of ethnic Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians in Australia.

I feel that we should initiate vigorous protests on this work and time wasted on irrelevant and useless data. Correct data, compiled on each of the nationalities, would be of immense value in recognising our community needs. However, this mixture of dissimilar data only emphasises the complete lack of understanding of the nature of ethnic minorities in Australia.

St Marys, SA.

E. VOITKUNS

Australian Latvian Information Centre.



● The undertaker is ready for new business.

Nuclear-Free Baltic

Miss Cathy Ashton's public promise (*Baltic News*, June 1983) would have been a positive step forward, toward a nuclear-free Baltic.

However, I heard her speak twice, after March 22 this year. On neither occasion did she mention Heiki Ahonen. She also remained silent on the nuclear buildup in the Baltic region.

Canberra, A.C.T.

J. NICHOLS.

Too many of those who call for nuclear disarmament seem to believe that the Soviets are sincere people whose word is trustworthy and whose only wish is peaceful co-existence.

That is not the experience of the Lithuanians. Anyone who is negotiating with the Soviets should know the Soviets understand only one thing: power. Brooklyn, N.Y.

(Rev) Casimir PUGEVICIUS.

Noble Cause

Thank you for sending me BALTIC NEWS. Please accept the enclosed, though very small, as a token of gratitude.

Congratulations on the success of the mission you have undertaken for such a noble cause. God bless your efforts and give you the courage to persevere against such great odds.

Auckland (New Zealand). (Sr) Eileen DEVEREUX.

PROFILE OF A PRISONER:

Brother Sentenced, Too

Jonas Sadunas, the brother of Lithuanian Human Rights activist Nijole Sadunaite, was sentenced on May 24 to eighteen months of "deprivation of freedom." According to sources, Sadunas was convicted for "personal libel" under paragraph 132 of the Criminal Code of Russian-occupied Lithuania.

The Sadunas family has been the subject of KGB harassment since 1974, when Nijole Sadunaite was arrested for typing an underground human rights publication.

Harassment of Jonas Sadunas began in 1980 when Nijole, his sister, returned to Lithuania after serving a sentence of three years in a Soviet labour camp, followed by three years in exile. At that time, Jonas Sadunas gave his sister a room in his house. The Soviet authorities began to interrupt his mail. Since then, the tactics used against him have grown progressively more severe:

- On the morning of September 26, 1981, Sadunas discovered that his basement had been broken into and that letters written to him by Nijole from labour camp had been stolen. Despite repeated requests, the militia did not investigate the break-in until three days later.

- On October 11, 1982, Sadunas' house was searched and several books and religious items were confiscated.

- On November 1, 1982, Sadunas, who suffers from myocarditis, had to leave the hospital where he was receiving treatment, to attend an interrogation.

- On November 18, 1982, Sadunas was forcibly interned in the Naujosios Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital. He was released two weeks later.

- On January 24, 1983, Sadunas was summoned to the Prosecutor's Office of Vilnius. He was interrogated about some letters he had allegedly written criticising the Lithuanian Farm Director, Petras Dukstas, and was threatened with a libel suit. The suit was later initiated, resulting in Sadunas' present sentence.

Jonas Sadunas' wife Maryte and their eight-year-old daughter live in Vilnius. Their address is: Lithuanian SSR, Vilnius, Architektu 27, Apt 2, Saduniene Maryte. — U.S.S.R.

— LIC.



● Jonas Sadunas, photographed with his wife and daughter, shortly before his arrest in May, 1983.

Plea for Petkus

The Chicago-based National Inter-religious Task Force on Soviet Jewry has issued press releases urging action on behalf of political prisoners, in the U.S.S.R., including Lithuanian prisoner Viktoras Petkus. The Task Force recommends sending letters to the Kremlin and to the local U.S.S.R. Embassy.

Petkus, a Lithuanian Catholic activist, expert on Lithuanian literature and founding member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, was sentenced in July 1978 to fifteen years' imprisonment and exile. In a recent letter made public by the Task Force on Soviet Jewry, Petkus writes from prison:

"... I had a uniquely beautiful experience. Following the death of Pope Paul VI, some forty thieves and other individuals suffering a common fate asked me to tell them about the Popes and explain the difference between the Catholic and Russian Orthodox faiths ... How they would grow silent and listen to me for hours, totally absorbed, and then would shower me with questions! And I shall never forget how several of them got together in a corner and worked on something the entire afternoon. After supper, they presented to me a cross which they 'knitted' from an unravelled nylon stocking, in gratitude for my sharing the information with them. I probably never had a more precious gift in my entire life ..."

— Smolaskyp

New Member

A 38-year-old priest in Alytus (southern Lithuania), the Rev Kazimieras Zilys, has joined the Lithuanian Catholic Committee for the Defence of the Believers's Rights. His address is: 234580, LitSSR, ALYTUS, Panemunelio 5, U.S.S.R.; telephone 51737.

The Committee was established on November 13, 1978. Two foundation members — Fathers Svarinskas and Tamkevicius — were imprisoned by Soviet authorities earlier this year.

— ELTA/USSR News Brief.



Nijole Sadunaite, after being released from labor camp during her Siberian exile (1977)

AROUND THE WORLD

Baltic Freedom Day

On March 23, 1983, U.S. Senate passed S. J. Resolution 43, proclaiming 14th June as the Baltic Freedom Day. The Senate and the House of Representatives announced this "as a symbol of the solidarity of the American people with the aspirations of the enslaved Baltic people."

— Latvian News Digest (LND).

Hunger Strike

Earlier this year, Dzidra Vevere held a three week hunger strike on the steps of the Uppsala Cathedral in Sweden, in protest against the arrest of her cousin in Russian-occupied Latvia. The cousin's only crime was his refusal to renounce his religion.

— LND.

New Principal

Mrs Ilga Grava of Seattle, Washington, has been named as the new Principal of the Latvian High School in Munster, West Germany — the only full-time Latvian high school in the free world.

— LND.

Released — But Not Free



● Former Lithuanian schoolteacher Petras Paulaitis (79) has survived thirty-five years in Soviet prisons and is back in his native country (pictured, above). However, Paulaitis is banned from leaving the city limits of Kretinga, is confined to his quarters from 9 pm to 9 am and has to register with the police every Sunday.

Persecuted by the Nazis as well as by the Russians, Petras became a living legend amongst his fellow prisoners. His moral strength, clear mind and human compassion won him many friends.

On the eve of Petras' release from Soviet labour camp, KGB agents asked him to admit guilt. "My only guilt is that I am the son of a small nation — a nation that was unable to defend itself from the Russian army of occupation," Paulaitis replied.

He was removed from labour camp secretly, so that he could not say farewell to his fellow prisoners. Paulaitis' friends in Lithuania were threatened with court action if they organized any meetings to welcome him back.

Nevertheless, two members of the Catholic Committee for Defence of Believers' Rights, Fr Vincas Velavicius (left) and Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (right) met with the gulag veteran on November 4, 1982. Two months later, Fr Svarinskas was arrested and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, to be followed by three years in exile.

Send a letter of encouragement to this unforgettable man today: Lietuva, KRETINGA, Vytauto 90, Paulaitis Petras, USSR.

Seven Years' Journey

Donated by the Catholics of Ireland seven years ago (1976), a statue of Mary, Christ's Mother, has finally reached the shrine of Siluva, in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

The statue was bought by Community Concern, an Irish organisation headed by Lawyer T. C. Gerard O'Mahoney who wanted to take it directly to Lithuania. However, an entry permit was refused by the Soviet authorities and the statue remained in Britain. For a while, it found refuge in the Lithuanian parish church in London, was moved around several other churches and finally came to Lithuanian Centre in Nottingham.

Earlier this year, the parish priest of Sakiai (in Russian-occupied Lithuania), Mgr J. Zemaitis, came to London with a group of visiting Soviet clergy. He agreed to carry the statue back to Lithuania. However, he could not get past Moscow: customs officials detained the statue, and the priest returned home empty-handed.

After four weeks' negotiations, he went back to Moscow together with the parish priest of Siluva, Mgr V. Grauslys. They finally secured the statue's release and took it to its ultimate destination.

— Europos Lietuvis.

Pastoral Licence Cancelled

The official State licence has been withdrawn from Estonian Pastor Villo Jurjo, reports the Swiss research centre, *Glaube in der 2. Welt*. Pastor Jurjo, from the town of Voru in the south of Estonia, was summoned together with the Estonian Lutheran Archbishop, Edgar Hark, to the office of the Council for Religious Affairs (CRA) in Tallinn. The CRA official responsible for Estonia accused Pastor Jurjo of breaking every regulation and law regulating church life and took back from him his certificate of registration as a clergyman.

Pastor Jurjo had been involved in Christian youth work.

— Keston News/Eлта.

BALTIC NEWS

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.



Probe into Postal Abuse

Soviet Union's violation of international postal agreements is under investigation by the U.S. Congress.

Representative **Benjamin A. Gilman** (N.Y.) has described some of the evidence accumulated by the Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee on Investigations and by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He speaks of a "calculated and systematic attempt" by the Soviet authorities to isolate non-Russian nationality groups by denying them their mail and so depriving individual members of those groups of a "lifeline" to outside freedom.

Soviet postal officials falsely sign registered mail and then confiscate it. Recipients of mail from the U.S. are harassed through surcharges on parcel post items; and are denied foodstuffs and other "exempt" items. Legitimate mail from the U.S. is sometimes returned, marked "addressee unknown", when the addressee actually lives at the stated address.

The citizens of Russian-occupied Lithuania are completely at the mercy of the postal authorities, who are "counselled" by the KGB. Mail is arbitrarily intercepted and complaints are of no avail. Postal discrimination is especially pronounced in the case of

the members of the political, religious and human rights movements.

Representative Gilman urges all who know of such interference with the mail to forward any documentation promptly to his office: 2160 Rayburn Bldg, Washington, D.C. 20515, U.S.A. Full scale committee hearings on this important issue are due soon.

— ELTA.

Visit by Latvian Consul



The honorary Consul for Latvia in Melbourne, **Mr Emils Delins** (pictured), whose jurisdiction includes Tasmania, came to Hobart on an official visit on 27 and 28 June. His visit, arranged by the Premier's Department in Hobart, included calls on the Governor of Tasmania, His Excellency Sir James Plimsoll, AC, CBE, the Chief Justice the Hon Sir Guy Green, the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Hobart, Alderman, D. R. Plaister, AO, MBE, and the Leader of the Opposition, the Hon K. S. Wriedt, MHR.

On June 27 Mr Delins was guest of honour at a reception for the Baltic Communities, given by the Vice-President of the Latvian Federation of Australia and New Zealand, Mr E. Baulis, MBE. The Hon Michael Hodgman, MHR, Federal Member for Denison, also attended.

The existence, since 1931, of the Latvian Consulate in Melbourne is one of the demonstrable proofs of the Australian Government's non-recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R. This policy of non-recognition is shared by all major political parties in Australia and is in line with the stand taken by most other Western countries such as U.S.A., Canada, Great Britain, France and others.

Annexation Not Recognised

Denmark does not recognise the forced annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the U.S.S.R. Denmark's Minister for Foreign Affairs Uffe Ellemann Jensen told a reporter of the Social Democrat Party paper *Aktuelt* (Dec 23, 1982, "It is true that we do not wish to write to the Russians about Baltic matters. We do not want them to have anything in writing from us that could be interpreted as a recognition of the annexation of those three countries."

Similar sentiments have been expressed by the Federal German Republic. In a letter to the World Baltic Federation (May 23), an official spokesman for the German Foreign Ministry, Dr Alexander Arnot, reiterated West Germany's stand: it has never recognised the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States and has no intention of doing so in the future.

— Europos Lietuvis.

THANKS!

We are indebted to the Baltic Women's Association of Victoria whose generous donation of \$1,230.75 has paid for the production and postage of this issue.

For future editions, BALTIC NEWS will still depend on individual readers' support. We therefore thank the following donors for their financial contributions, received since June.

Lithuanian A. S. Adelaide, RSL Estonian Sub-branch (NSW), \$50 each; Mr Liepins (NSW), \$40; A. Jakstas (NSW), L. Galdins (Can), \$30 each; A. Zamoiskis (SA), \$25; V. Navickas, E. Kuplis, E. Lasis, E. Baulis, Sen B. Archer (Tas), A. D. and A. B. Damper, H. Kalade, J. and V. Rekesius (Vic), \$20 each; C. Ford, R. Peedo (NSW), \$15 each; E. Bernhards, E. Loozits, Rev E. M. Webber (Tas), D. Hogan (NZ), M. Kanas (SA), M. Belezio (Qld), W. Peat (Can), V. Bartuska, P. Mazyllis (Vic), \$10 each; P. Sudmeyer, Mrs Trus, J. Watchorn (Tas), T. and H. Child (WA), B. Vaicaitis (Can), Koksunovas Vanags (NSW), Refugee Council of Australia, \$5 each; M. Wisoky (Tas), \$2; W. P. A. Cook (Qld), \$1; Book Sales (A. Butkus), \$60.

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.

RUSSIA'S LATEST "EXPORT": Nuclear Hazards

More and more Soviet atomic power plants and other new nuclear installations are being sited in the non-Russian regions of the U.S.S.R. This is an important victory for the Russian environmental lobby, inside the soviet decision-making machinery. For years, these lobbyists have argued that, as a nation, the Russians have shrunk to a mere 50% of the total Soviet population. They cannot afford any further losses of Russians by radiation or nuclear accidents. So risky installations must be located outside Russia-proper.

In line with this policy, the largest nuclear power plant in the world is scheduled to start operations this year at Ignalina, in the north-eastern part of Russian-occupied Lithuania. At 6,000 megawatts, the new plant will double the capacity of Brown's Ferry, Alabama, the largest nuclear facility in the United States.

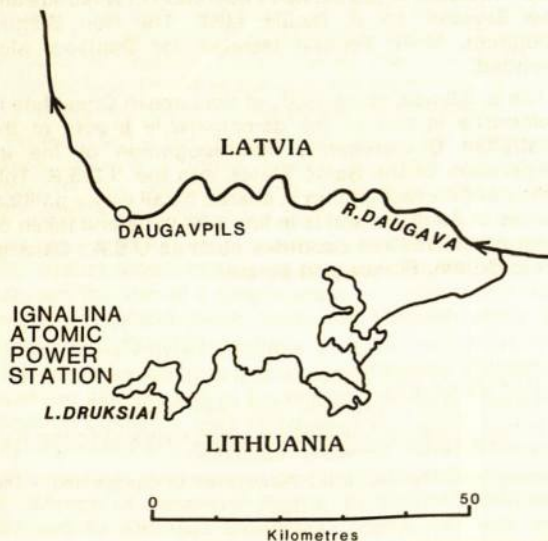
However, the Russians do not seem to worry about nuclear safety outside Russia. Research by Lithuanian journalist Algis Ruksenas and geographer Augustine Idzelis has revealed that the Ignalina atomic power station has been constructed without the benefit of cooling towers. Massive amounts of hot water come into contact with pipes conveying radio-active steam in a nuclear plant, and cooling towers normally prevent this water from being discharged directly into an open environment.

Destruction Inevitable

At Ignalina, hot water from the plant's cooling system will be discharged directly into Lake Druksiai. The resultant destruction of the entire eco-system of Druksiai, Lithuania's second-largest lake, is inevitable.

Furthermore, water from the lake empties into the Daugava River which winds its way through the population centres of neighbouring Latvia, on its way to the Baltic Sea.

Should there be a leak of radioactivity — an event quite possible in nuclear power plants — the discharge will flow directly into Lake Druksiai, instead of a cooling tower where it could be contained and controlled.



● Lake Druksiai: condemned to nuclear contamination.

Local Concern

The only published concern about the Lake Druksiai came from a group of Lithuanian scientists who succeeded in having a cautionary note published in a Soviet scientific journal of limited circulation.

"This problem should be investigated more thoroughly", they wrote, "and appropriate action should be taken before it is too late".

Central planners in Moscow have ignored the scientists' plea. In fact, Ignalina construction has been intensified, to place the first unit on line before the end of 1983.

— Bridges/The Denver Post.

Vacation Work Available

The Baltic Council of Australia is seeking two suitable young graduates or undergraduates available for six weeks' work during university vacations.

The applicants should be able to demonstrate an interest in politics, an aptitude for research work and be well presented.

It is envisaged that the appointees will do research work regarding the guaranteeing of human rights to people in occupied territories and colonies; and will visit Federal Parliamentarians in Canberra to generate support for the Baltic peoples.

The appointees will be offered suitable accommodation in Canberra, return fares to Canberra and a stipend of \$600 each.

Suitable persons are requested to indicate their interest in writing to the Secretary of the Baltic Council of Australia, Mr J. Liepins, LL.B., 14 The Boulevard, Strathfield, N.S.W. 2135, before 20th October, 1983.

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

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