



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
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December, 1983

Drive to Boycott Soviet Cars

HELLP Association has appealed to Australians not to buy a Russian car now being imported into Australia for sale to the public. The Baltic human rights body (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association, based in Hobart, Tasmania) has voiced moral objections to the Soviet use of slave labour, as the grounds for its appeal.

The vehicle is the LADA-NIVA which comes out of the Soviets' huge Zhiguli, alias Fiat, stable. The central factory was built twenty years ago by the Italian Fiat company, in the city of Tolyatti — named after Palmiro Togliatti, the Italian Communist leader. The Soviet factory now produces about one million vehicles a year; these include troop carriers and other military vehicles.

Factual Evidence

Avraham Shifrin reports that the Soviet car industry relies heavily on components made by innocent prisoners of conscience and other captives. (There are at least 2,000 known prisons and concentration camps in the USSR at present).

Rubber tyres are made by some 1,000 prisoners from Camp No UZh-15/2 in Bobruisk (Byelorussia). Steering wheels and chassis are manufactured at Sosnovka, one of the seven strict-regime camps on the notorious "Dubrovlag" route, east of Moscow, in Mordovia.

Steel springs and metal fittings are made by 1,500 prisoners from the intensive-regime camp of Kochatovka (Tambov region). 800 to 900 children in a top security camp at Votkinsk (Udmurt ASSR) are used to make locks and springs. A range of spare parts is manufactured by 1,200 prisoners from an ordinary-regime camp in Arzamas, south of the city of Gorki.

Prisoners of conscience also make wheel rims, steering columns, shock absorbers, sump pans and axle parts.

Australians, Too

The Soviet "prisoners of conscience" who work in motor parts manufacture have committed no crime. They are detained because of their beliefs or ethnic origin. Available Soviet prisoners' lists (which contain only a small fraction of all victims) show 47 Anglo-Saxon names, at least two of whom are believed to be Australian.²

Living conditions in the Soviet prisons and camps are atrocious (see eyewitness report from Trofimovsk, Page 5). These prisons are closed to the Red Cross or any independent scrutiny.

Underpaid

The prisoners who build car components are paid very poorly — about 15 rubles (\$23 Australian) per month. The Soviet law (Article 39 of the RSFSR Corrective Labour Code) states that prisoners are to be paid for their work at normal rates. However, Amnesty



● How many slave-built components are in this Soviet car, now on sale in Australia?

International has established that most of the prisoners' wages usually disappear in automatic deductions for their upkeep.³

Protests

When LADA-NIVA made its debut on the Australian market in mid-1983, HELLP Association wrote to LADA's Tasmanian agent and asked him to stop selling this four-wheel-drive car. An approach was also made to the salesmen's trade union (Shop Distributive and Allied Employees Association).

The sedan version of LADA, alias Zhiguli, alias Fiat 124S, has been on sale in Canada since 1978. It has been the subject of constant public controversy, ever since its introduction. Canadians have protested against LADA's artificially low price (\$4,000 in Canada, compared to \$15,890 in Russia); its effect on Canada's own automobile industry; and against the continued use of forced labour in Soviet export industries.

Still To Answer

A very real question remains to be answered: are LADA imports also manufactured in part by slave labour? This question must be answered before a licence is given to import LADA into our country.

● Against Australian Law, Page 2.

FOOTNOTES

1. Mr Shifrin is Executive Director of the Research Centre for Prisoners, Psychoprisons and Forced Labour Concentration Camps of the USSR, in Zikhzon Ysakov (Israel).
2. See: *Baltic News*, June 1983 (p1) and Sept 1983 (p2).
3. *Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR. Their Treatment and Conditions. An Amnesty International Report* (2nd edition), London, 1980, p 140.

Australian Expelled

An Australian visitor was recently expelled from Russian-occupied Latvia, after he discovered a listening device in his hotel room. The Australian, who has asked us not to publish his name, was on a conducted tour of the Baltic States, arranged by a Sydney travel agency.

On arrival in Riga, capital of Russian-occupied Latvia, the Australian tourist was accommodated in *Hotel Latvija*. Having previously read about bugging devices (see: BALTIC NEWS, June 1982), he checked his room and found an unusually large number of wires coming out of the wireless set. He unscrewed the "radio" from its mountings, but was unable to put it back into place.

On the following morning, Soviet authorities told the Australian guest that his holiday was cancelled and put him on the next plane to Australia. No reason was given for the expulsion, and the balance of tour money was not refunded.



● Old and new buildings stand side by side in Riga, the capital city of Russian-occupied Latvia. Local Latvians joke that Soviet hotels for foreigners are built of 60 per cent glass, 30 per cent reinforced concrete and 10 per cent microphones

Breach of Australian Law?

● From Page 1

The moral issue of Soviet-built LADA-NIVA cars was raised in Australian parliament by Independent Senator Brian Harradine (Tasmania) on November 10, 1983. Senator Harradine said that many Russian car components were manufactured by non-union Gulag labour in Soviet prison camps. He asked the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Senator John Button, how this squared with Australian customs law prohibiting the import of articles made in whole or in part by slave labour.

Senator Harradine's action was applauded at the Annual General Meeting of HELLP Association, held in Hobart on November 11. "Lucrative trade pacts with Russia carry the price-tag of our moral conscience — a price Australia can ill afford to pay," a spokesman for HELLP said. "If we really support the principles of freedom and human rights, let our actions and business dealings prove it!"



● Senator Harradine: "How does this square with Australian customs law?"

Apartheid, Soviet-Style



Mrs Elfriede Niklus (pictured), mother of Estonian human rights worker Mart Niklus, is not allowed to receive any parcels or money from the West. The names of Mrs Niklus and the families of several Baltic prisoners of conscience (Gajauskas, Skuodis...) appear on a "black list" issued by the Soviet authorities to gift parcel agents in the West. Although this ban has no legal basis, the Western Businessmen are complying with the Soviet directive.

In the Soviet concentration camps, supervisors have been reminded to enforce Paragraph 31 of the *Internal Regulations for Corrective Labour Institutions*. Paragraph 31 prescribes that every letter a prisoner posts from the institution must be counted as part of the quota of letters stipulated in the Corrective Labour Code — even if the letter is confiscated and does not go forward.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Discrimination in Higher Education

Known Christians of all denominations, Moslems, Jews and other believers, are refused admission to universities and other institutions of higher education in Russian-occupied Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Enrolled students are expelled, if they are caught practising their religion or supporting Baltic freedom movements.

In addition to the cases reported previously (BALTIC NEWS, September 1982, p 3), new evidence has now reached Australia.

On January 4 this year, four first year history students were expelled from Tartu University (in Russian-occupied Estonia): Priit Heinsalu, Aivar Raidla, Mart Sarapuu and Indrek Tarandi. The students' only "transgression" was that, on Christmas Eve 1982, they had lit candles on the grave of Julius Kuperjanov, an Estonian national hero. The university's rector, Arnold Koop, condemned the students' action as "unworthy behaviour". Seven other students received reprimands.

In mid-April 1983, Lauri Vahtre, a fifth year history student, was expelled from Tartu University on similar grounds. He was accused of participation in a patriotic club, *Noor Tartu* (Young Tartu) and of visiting the graves of Estonian national heroes.

Young Lithuanian woman Dalia Tamutyte was refused admission to the State Conservatorium of Vilnius because she is a practising Christian. Dalia has since been forced out of several jobs, because reports of her discrimination had been published in the underground journal, *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, Nos 45 and 48.*

Ironically, the oldest university inside the present USSR boundaries — the University of Vilnius, in Russian-occupied Lithuania — was founded in 1579 by a Catholic religious order, the Society of Jesus (the first Russian institution of higher learning, the State University of Moscow, was not established until 1755.

— Lithuanian Information Centre/USSR News Brief.

* English translations of the *Chronicle* are available from Lithuanian Information Centre, 351 Highland Blvd, BROOKLYN, NY, 11207, USA; at \$1 per issue plus postage.



● Dalia Tamutyte: Denied admission to Vilnius Conservatorium because she is a believer. Significantly, this photograph was taken on the Hill of Crosses — the symbol of Lithuanian Christians' peaceful resistance against the Soviet Russian occupation.



● The grave of Julius Kuperjanov, an Estonian national hero. The man who lit the lone candle in this picture, Tiit Madisson (33), was arrested in 1980 and sentenced to four years in strict regime camp plus two years exile. He is now in Perm concentration camp No 389/36 at Kuchino.

Tiit's wife, Mrs Elviira Madisson, travelled 5000 kilometres from her home in Parnu to Kuchino in May, 1983, only to be told that her once-a-year meeting with her husband had been cancelled. She is still hoping to see him before the end of this year.

— Eesti VVA.

Conscripts Beaten for Beliefs

Two young Lithuanian conscripts, Robertas Grigas, a Catholic, and Oskaras Gumanas, a Baptist, have often been beaten by order of Soviet army officers, according to a recent issue of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*.

In a letter quoted in this authoritative underground newsletter, Grigas mentioned his conscientious objection to taking an oath of allegiance to the Soviet State, at a ceremony held at his army camp in Kazakhstan.

When he declared, "I refuse to take this oath as it is contrary to my religious and patriotic convictions," he was sent to brigade headquarters in Chimkent. There, under the supervision of a Major Mielnik, he began a course of "re-education" which included his being assaulted by soldiers who were charged with criminal offences, awaiting trial.

The two Christians told the major that their strength lay not in themselves but in Jesus Christ. The officer retaliated by mocking them in front of the other troops. For example, in the mess-hall he ordered them to stand up while the others ate, saying, "Let Christ feed you."

Grigas was then handed over to a Colonel Chutiyeu, who told him that anybody wearing a cross should have it pushed down his throat. Another officer threatened to send Grigas either to a psychiatric hospital or a uranium mine. However, he was posted to another battalion where he was beaten every day.

— The Guardian.

LETTERS

Kidnapped

Thank you for recording the real-life story of Johannes R. Lapmann (BALTIC NEWS, Letters — Sept 1983).

The Soviets had a special reason for kidnapping this man from international waters. Before the Second World War, Lapmann was very active in the American Communist Party. In 1939, he returned to his native Estonia and witnessed the Russian takeover of that country in 1940.

In spite of his Communist persuasion, Lapmann was arrested and sent to Soviet concentration camps. By the time he was set free, he was cured of his "great Communist dream". Lapmann decided to break out to the West and tell the world of his experiences. But the Russians were equally determined to stop him.

Lapmann is now believed to be held in Voisiku Hullumaja psychiatric hospital, in the district of Jogevea. Sydney, NSW.

A. LAPLACE.

Pope and Lithuania

My wife and I find it very strange that the Pope won't go to Russian-occupied Lithuania (BALTIC NEWS, Sept 1983). So far, he has visited every country that invited him.

Are you sure, the Lithuanians had asked the Pope in the first place? Or is it just a figment of your imagination?

Melbourne, Vic

A. MURPHY

EDITOR'S REPLY: Pope John Paul II was invited by a senior Lithuanian clergyman, Bishop Liudvikas Povilonis, during the latter's official visit to Rome last April. The text of Bishop Povilonis' invitation speech was published in the Vatican's L'Osservatore Romano, albeit only in Latin.

Courage.

It is only recently that I have come to know the plight of the Baltic countries. In my limited reading time I hope to learn more of the courage of the believers in those lands. I did enjoy the BALTIC NEWS you sent me.

(Rev Fr) J. WHITING Editor, Contact Magazine.

New Prisoner of Conscience



● Latvian human rights campaigner Ints Calitis (pictured, with his wife and children) has been imprisoned for six years in Soviet strict regime camps.

A witness at Calitis' mock trial, Gunars Astra, has also been arrested by the KGB.

In August 1979, Calitis and forty-four other Balts travelled to Moscow to ask for a repeal of the Molotov — Ribbentrop Pact. This secret Nazi — Soviet agreement, signed nine days before the start of World War II, divided Poland and the Baltic States between Germany and Russia.

On October 10, 1981, Ints Calitis joined 37 other Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians and publicly called for the Baltic States to be declared a nuclear-free zone.

The Soviet court found these "offences" grave enough to imprison Calitis for six years. Before his trial, the *Lawyers for Defence of Ints Calitis Committee*, headed by Robert B. Zozula (141 Tremont St, 8th Floor, Boston, Mass. 02111, USA), sent photocopies of the 1939 Treaty of Non-aggression between Germany and Soviet Union and its secret supplements to the chairman of the Latvian SSR Supreme Court, Boleslavs Azans; and to Yuri Andropov, the President of the Soviet Union. The documents proved the existence of Nazi — Soviet agreements, and that Calitis could not be charged with slander against the USSR.

However, this evidence was not mentioned, at any stage of Calitis' trial.

Ints Calitis has been adopted by Amnesty International, group 83, Paris, France.

— WFFL.

Australia's Stance

The following statements have been extracted from an official letter received by the Baltic Council of Australia (32-34 Parnell St, Strathfield, NSW 2135) from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs on August 3, 1983:

Before addressing the main question of whether the (Australian) Government will support submission of the issue of the Baltic States to the UN Special Committee on Decolonisation, it may be useful to clarify the Government's stance on the Baltic States.

The position of the Government with regard to recognition of the incorporation by the Soviet Union of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was the subject of a recent Ministerial Submission to which Mr Hayden agreed. Since 1975 Australia has not acknowledged *de jure* the Soviet Government as the Government of the territory covered by the former Baltic States, but has continued to recognise *de facto* the Soviet Government's control over the territories of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. This attitude is to be maintained by the present Government.

You suggest that the issues of the Baltic States and the restoration of the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should be submitted to the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonisation of the United Nations. These issues, however, are not ones which fall into the category of decolonisation questions considered by the Special Committee. Any call, therefore, by a Member State of the United Nations on the Committee to take up issues such as those concerning the Baltic States would be unsuccessful given the terms of reference which apply to the work of the Committee. These terms of reference are found in Resolution 1654 (XVI) of 1961, which set up the Special Committee and directed it to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Canberra, ACT

C. R. S. RODGERS,
Assistant Secretary, Europe Branch,
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs.

Yuletide on Trofimovsk

Barren and uninhabited, its only vegetation the moss that grows in the permafrost, Trofimovsk lies well within the Arctic Circle, a tiny island at the mouth of the river Lena, not far from Tiksi. Late in 1942, as the winter ice was closing in, four hundred Lithuanian women and children were dumped on Trofimovsk. And dumped with them were the bricks and lumber from which they were to build their camp.

Most of the 400 died on Trofimovsk, of cold, hunger, exhaustion and scurvy. They could nearly all have been saved. But nobody cared — and they were left to die.

Once winter set in, prisoner details would drag friends' bodies from the leaky huts and pile them up some distance from the camp. When their parents died, children were transferred to "the orphanage". Their bodies were carried out in sacks and thrown on to the pile. There may have been several little bodies in a sack; nobody could tell.

Blizzards made it impossible to leave the huts: the dead might lie for days beside the living. And when the time came for them to be taken out, their hair would often remain caught in the ice that had formed around them.

Much of what we know of Trofimovsk comes from the personal testimony of Dr Dalia Grinkeviciute (pictured above). It is from her account that we reconstruct an incident in which she was personally involved.

★ ★ ★

There were forty women in our section. Only four of us were able to stand up and go to work.

We had to go and find logs brought down by the Lena some miles from the camp. When we found them, we chopped them out of the ice and hauled them back ... to heat the guards' quarters. Our shoulders were covered with sores from the chafing of the sleigh-ropes.

Every night I used to creep out of our hut and steal a few bits of wood for our brazier (*barabona*). This was the only way we had of melting snow and ice into the water the sick women wanted, and of heating bricks to warm their feet.

But when the brazier was alight, the ice on the ceiling melted, too, and dripped down on us. We lay under a sheet of ice.

Seized on Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, 1942, guards burst into our hut. They had picked up my footprints in the snow and caught me red-handed. I was up for trial.



● Dr Grinkeviciute.

Seven people appeared in court, counting me — five charged with stealing firewood, two with taking bread. (These two fainted in the warm bakery!).

I was the last to plead. I pleaded guilty.

The court withdrew.

Not long to wait now, I thought; for with the court's verdict our suffering would be over. They would march us all off to the punishment camp 30 km away ... and not one of us would reach it. We would all freeze to death on the way. With the spring thaw, any of our friends who happened to survive would see the ice-floes carrying our bodies out to sea.

Sentenced

The court returned. Its sentence: three years each for those who had stolen timber, one year for those who had stolen bread.

A few days later, the condemned were taken off to prison. A blizzard blew up on the way. We heard of one party that got lost: they probably all perished with their guards.

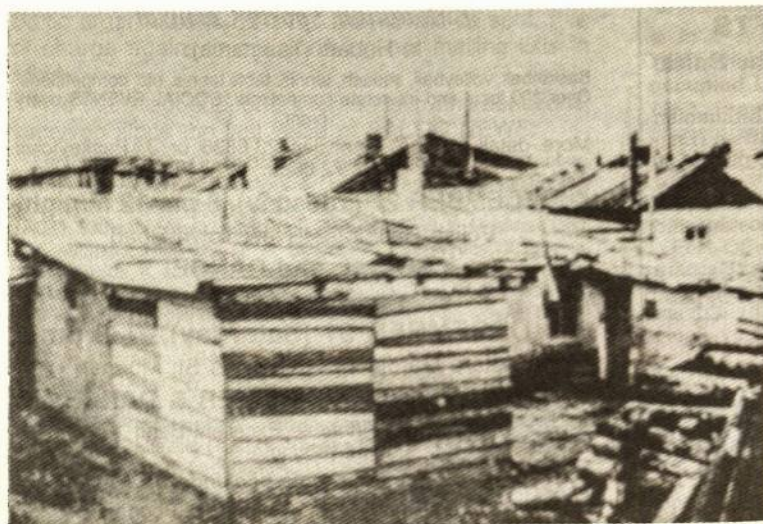
But I was not among them. I had been acquitted because of my "sincere confession"!

I returned to the hut.

It was freezing. My mother was still lying there unconscious, her face so bloated that you could not see her eyes. She was lying on a board, with a sack for a blanket. There was no water. The brazier was out.

I went back to steal more wood.

— Adapted from *Frozen Inferno* (NY: 1981), by John W. DOYLE, S. J.



● Sub-standard "housing" for Baltic deportees in Siberia (this photograph was taken in Irkutsk). Former prisoner Dr Dalia Grinkeviciute testifies, "We were left on the uninhabited island of Trofimovsk without any roof over our heads, without warm clothes, without food. The few men and older boys were all seized and sent to nearby islands to catch fish for the state. Then we, women and children, hurriedly began to build barracks. The barracks had no roofs, just plank ceilings through which the blizzards would blow so much snow that people lying on their bunks turned completely white. A space 50cm wide was allotted for each person — a big ice grave!"

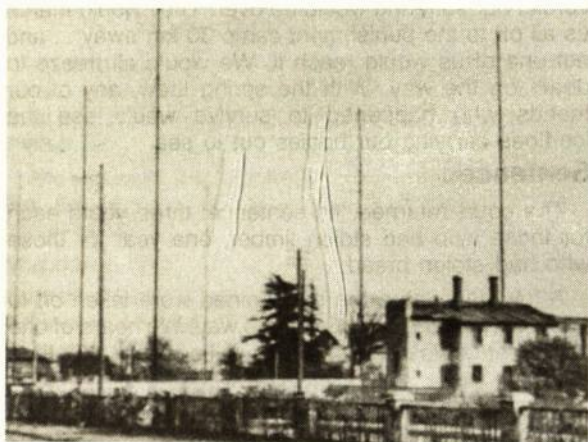
NOTES ON BOOKS

Allies Still in Gulags

Willy Fautre is a Belgian, whom Baltic News readers should know. He is editor of EGLISI, published by the *Christian Association for the Church of Silence* (Rue de l'Enseignement, 40; B-7490 Braine-Le-Comte, Belgium).

Impressed by BN, he has sent us his "Our Prisoners in the Gulag" (1980, Brussels, 152 pp, US dollars 3.50). This book, written in French, describes the thousands of Allied and other Europeans, forced labourers and POW's who survived the Red Army's brutal 'liberation' in 1945, only to find themselves in Soviet labour camps, shrouded in a curtain of silence. He tells how they survived, died, were repatriated after campaigns for their release, declared dead by the Soviets, disappeared...

Excellent documentation which should be made available in English.



● Soviet radio "jammers" in Tiigi Street, Tartu, Russian-occupied Estonia. These transmitters broadcast noise over the frequencies of Western radio stations — contrary to Article 48 of the Montreux International Convention and other international agreements. Mart Niklus, who sent this photo to the West, was imprisoned for eight years.

BOOKS:

PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

This Christmas, give 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 \$1.50 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 \$1.80 postage and packing.
- **THE BALTIC DILEMMA**, Vols 1 and 2, by Edgars Dunsdorfs, \$11 plus \$2.50 postage (Vol 2 is also available separately, at \$8 plus \$1 postage and packing).
- **THE BALTIC STATES, 1940-1972:** Documentary background and survey of developments, 121pp. — \$5, 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.

Shackled, but Undeclared

MART NIKLUS, JURI KUKK: KAKS KES EI ALISTANUD
Two who did not surrender

Stockholm: E.V.V. Relief Centre, 1983. (In Estonian).

In this book, the biographical details of Mart Niklus and Juri Kukk are presented against the background of court proceedings, descriptions of Soviet prison camps and copies of personal letters and documents.

Mart Niklus was first arrested in 1958 and spent the following 8 years in prison camps. His second round of KGB investigations and arrests started in 1976 and culminated in a 10 year sentence passed by a court in Tallinn on January 8, 1981. Juri Kukk, a former lecturer in Chemistry at the Tartu University, was sentenced together with Niklus.

Both men were accused of anti-state activities. These activities included protest letters against the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan. Juri Kukk died in Vologda prison camp on March 27, 1981; but Mart Niklus is still continuing his suffering in Soviet prison camps.

The book is obtainable in Australia from Mrs E. Annuk, 12 Sorlie Ave, Northmead, NSW, 2152. Please send \$31 with your order (this includes \$3 postage). The book will also be on sale in the Estonian Houses in Adelaide and Sydney.

Make Your Message

Stick —

With these letter-stickers, designed by V. Sarkans.

\$2 per sheet of 25 stickers.

Available from: Latvian Relief Society, PO Box 488, BANKSTOWN, NSW, 2200 — Australia. Please send payment with your order.



COMING EVENTS

● DECEMBER 27-31

Lithuanian Sports Carnival

in Hobart (Tasmania):

Basketball, volleyball, squash, tennis, table tennis, etc, competitions. Over 200 local and interstate competitors. SOCIAL EVENTS every night.

More detail from A. Kantvilas 23 6836 or J. Paskevicius 72 6360.

● DECEMBER 27 (Tuesday), 8 pm-12 m/night

Polish Hall, 22-24 New Town Road

SOCIAL and DANCE

Admission \$5 single

● DECEMBER 31 (Saturday), 7.30 pm

Laetare Gardens, 37 Hopkins St, Moonah
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER & DANCE

3-course dinner — Excellent Band
\$18 single

Tickets & table bookings:

B. Siksnius, 43 Easton Ave, Springfield. Phone 72 4628

World Council of Churches Remains Silent

The 6th Assembly of the World Council of Churches — held in Vancouver, Canada from July 24 to August 10 — remained silent on the plight of churches and believers in Russian-occupied Baltic States. The active persecution of Christians in this part of Europe was ignored by the Council, in spite of a detailed and well-documented written submission from the Baltic Women's Council, 958 Broadview Avenue, Toronto, Ont, M4K 2R6.



● Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius (in the forefront, left) has been exiled to Zagare in Northern Lithuania, since 1961. Two other priests in this picture, taken in 1982 — Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas (centre, partly obscured) and Fr Sigitas Tamkevicius (right) — were arrested and gaoled this year. The World Council of Churches has not spoken out in defence of these or any other Baltic "prisoners for Christ".

Bishop Steponavicius' address in exile is: Vysk Julijonas Steponavicius, 235467 ZAGARE, Zdanovo 5, Joniskio Rajonas, Lithuania, USSR.

BALTIC NEWS

In addition to the postage on the forward journey, Australia Post now charges us 50 cents extra for each Category B article returned undelivered. Please help us cut this additional cost.

Please notify BALTIC NEWS promptly, if you change your address. Or, if further mailing is not wanted, please let us know, too; and enclose the latest wrapper.

With continued support from our readers and some Baltic organisations, BALTIC NEWS will be sent, free of charge again, to everyone on our mailing lists in 1984.

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

Lithuanian Co-Op Credit Society "Talka", Melb, \$300; Anonymous, D. Putvinas (NSW), \$50 each; N. J. Murray (Tas), Lithuanian Society For Human Rights (Sydney), \$40 each; O. Skirka (Vic), Z. Medikis (ACT), \$30 each; M. O'Leary (Vic), C. Ford (NSW), K. Moelder (Tas), \$25 each; H. Riga (ACT), A. Bogins, A. J. Milvydas, V. and G. Makaravicius, K. and J. Simkunas, J. Sniras (Vic), E. J. Galloway, H. E. Baltins (NSW), P. Lazdauskas, J. Salyklis (Tas), V. Ilgunas (SA), \$20 each; J. Ruzgys (Qld), E. Bernhards (Tas), Anonymous couple (NSW), \$15 each; G. Krumins (NZ), \$12; J. Kradzins, C. Liutikas (NSW), Lithuanian (SA), Dr K. Kruup, I. Andrikonis, K. Rand, O. Mieztis, J. Luker, W. Craig, M. Welsh, A. Saulis, H. Michelsons (Tas), V. Skrolys (WA), \$10 each; B. G. King (Vic), \$7; L. Kalasim (Tas), \$6; P. Costea, V. Vitkauskas, P. Sahagian (USA), T. Dempsey, E. Mieztis (Tas), V. Thenas (WA), J. Cooley, H. Randal (NSW), \$5 each; S. Larkham (ACT), Leo-Lie Ent (USA), L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2 each

**Thank You All,
and a Happy Christmas!**

The submission described the present situation and listed 140 verified case studies, as examples. The more recent cases included the KGB-inspired dismissal of Rev Villu Jurjo, a Lutheran minister in Voru/Estonia; arrests of Latvian Baptists Doronina, Rozkalns and Melngailis; and the brutal murders of Fathers Sapoka and Laurinavicius, in Lithuania. The final example described Juris Bodnieks, arrested at the age of 5 and ultimately driven to suicide.

The World Council of Churches was reminded of the principle established by Nikita S. Khrushchev and still maintained by the Soviet leadership today, "Peaceful coexistence with the churches abroad, but unrelenting struggle against religion in our own country".

The final resolutions of the 6th Assembly made no mention at all of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Christians. Their desperate struggle has remained unnoticed by the world body.

In the meantime, the Soviet authorities have stepped up the persecution of Baltic believers. The appointment of bishops is controlled from Moscow, candidates for priesthood are screened by the KGB.

The Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights is the next target of the KGB in Russian-occupied Lithuania.



● In a silent protest against the arrest of Fr Sigitas Tamkevicius, the parishioners of Kybartai in Russian-occupied Lithuania staged this procession on June 6, 1983. Praying for their priest, they moved around the church on their knees.

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.

Baltic Sea Threatened

Massive reduction in the once flourishing plant and animal world may mean an alarming early biological death of the Baltic Sea. The sea eagles, at one time domiciled there, have disappeared altogether. Only about 200 seals are said to be left. And a quarter of 422,000 square kilometres of Baltic Sea is already regarded as biologically dead or at great risk.

The Baltic has been having hard times for about 15,000 years because it is an inland sea.

It was created following the retreat of the glaciers during the last Ice Age and the subsequent ground elevations virtually cut it off from other seas. As a result, there are no tides and no regular exchange of water.

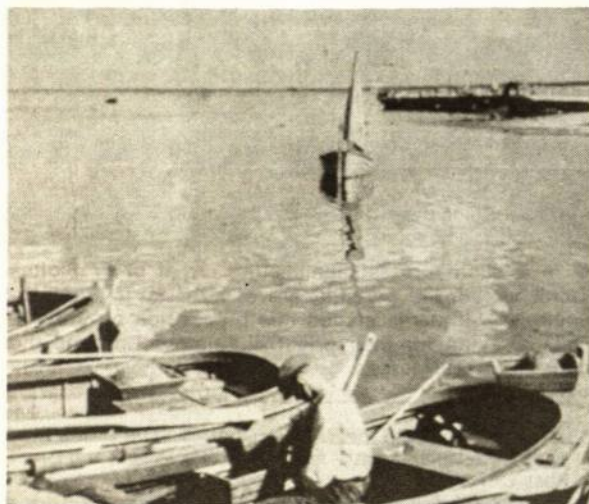
The only link to the North Sea is via the Kattegat between Denmark and Norway. A complete replacement of water by new seawater takes 25 years. The salt content varies in different parts of the Baltic.

Gradual Destruction

The sea has been moving towards a gradual biological death for many years. The countries bordering it (Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russian-occupied Baltic States, Poland, and both parts of Germany) have been speeding things up during the last few decades. The 125 million people living in the coastal regions use the sea for sailing, military training, transporting tankers, fishing and dumping toxic waste.

Toxic wastes pose a great threat. A Stockholm University authority has pointed out that the balance between the plankton and the benthos, that is between the micro-organisms on the water's surface and those at the bottom of the sea, is in great danger of being upset. An imbalance is to be expected in many parts soon.

But this isn't all. Another great danger is a vast increase in algae, which rob the sea of oxygen, thus gradually killing the fish.



● The Baltic coast off Estonia: Haapsalu Bay. The sea bed is covered in medicinal mud which has brought fame to Haapsalu as a health resort.

The toxic waste dumped in the sea, such as DDT, mercury and lead, also finds its way into the human body via the fish we eat.

The refuse deposited in the sea by human beings is not the only threat to the future of the sea and its fish.

Excessive Fishing

Industrial fishing methods, which are only interested in quantity, are a danger.

As a member of the Swedish Fishing Authority's research laboratory explained, although the Baltic only covers 0.2 per cent of the world's total sea area it accounts for 1.2 per cent of total fishing.

The fishing rate has increased nine times within only 80 years, currently 900,000 tons are caught each year.

Following an extremely dry summer it is hoped that the first storms expected at the end of September will improve the dramatic situation at least a little.

In the long run, however, the oxygen-rich seawater squeezed into the Baltic from the North Sea by the autumn storms will not provide noticeable relief or improve the quality of the water.

Rescue Plan

The seven coastal states have only been working together on rescue measures since 1974. An environmental protection convention was drawn up in Helsinki that year. This convention obliges the coastal states to meet once a year in Helsinki to discuss ways of keeping the Baltic clean.

Although the different social systems in the countries affected would seem to question the workability of such a commission, there have already been a few agreements (albeit mainly symbolic) on action to be taken.

There is no exclusive capitalist or socialist way to keep the sea clean.

Until now, there has been a ban on cleaning oil tankers on the high seas. They now have to let out their dirty water into special tanks in the ports.

Pessimists regard the commission as more of a "moral watchdog" than anything else, pointing out that in the final analysis economic interests have greater priority than environmental protection efforts.

Emmanuel IMATTE.

— Frankfurter Rundschau/The German Tribune.



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

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