



# BALTIC NEWS

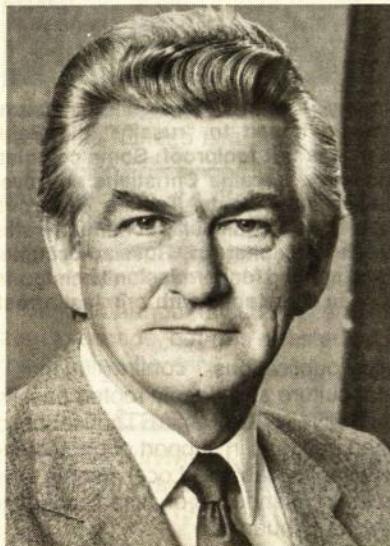
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP)  
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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER: Incorporation not recognized



● Robert (Bob) Hawke, Australia's Prime Minister: Remains committed to the United Nations Charter, and to the cause of peace and freedom in the world.

I am pleased to be able to convey, through the *Baltic News*, my best wishes to all members and friends of the Lithuanian and Estonian communities on the occasion of their Independence Days on the 16th and the 24th of February.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that the Australian Government does not recognize *de jure* the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. In doing so, we demonstrate our continuing commitment to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and to the cause of peace and freedom in the world.

The contribution of your communities to our multicultural society is a valued one. Multiculturalism depends on the respect, by all groups, of the political, religious and cultural aspirations of others in the community. The Australian Government is committed to policies promoting human rights in Australia, in our region, and throughout the world.

Robert J. L. (Bob) Hawke.

*Latvian Independence Day is on November 18. On that occasion last November, Mr Hawke sent a similar message to the Honorary Consul of Latvia in Melbourne (Mr. E. Delins).*

## Firm "No" to Russian rule

After more than four decades of foreign rule, the Baltic nations — Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — are still refusing to accept Russians as their legitimate masters. The Balts keep inventing new ways of peaceful resistance, and the Soviet authorities admit officially that there are serious "deficiencies" in the loyalties of the three non-Russian peoples.

During his brief reign (November 11, 1982 to February 9, 1984), Soviet leader Yuri Andropov cracked down on dissidents in the Baltic States, but surviving protesters remained defiant.

Reliable sources now fear that new arrests may follow among a group of loosely linked nationalist and unofficial peace activists in Latvia and Estonia. And in Lithuania, arrests of Roman Catholic priests have resumed after a break of 12 years.

Official Soviet articles on "ideological diversions" in the Baltic region show that widespread contempt for the Soviet system is alive among youth two generations after the "establishment of Soviet power."

In Latvia, for instance, Communist Party chief A. E. Voss attacked the weekly *Literatura un Moksla* for publishing "ideologically weak" material. The journal often published articles about social and environmental problems.

● Continued on Page 2



● In protest against the Russian rule, Baltic people often lay wreaths or light candles on the graves of their national heroes. This ceremony took place at the tomb of Lithuanian patriarch J. Basanavicius in Vilnius, on February 16, 1980.

# Russians Persecute Defiant Balts

## ● From Page 1

Gunars Astra, a 51-year-old radio engineer, is the latest victim in Russian-occupied Latvia. Accused of possessing Latvian literature from abroad, including a translation of George Orwell's 1984, Astra was sentenced on December 14 to seven years' strict regime imprisonment, followed by five years' internal exile — the harshest sentence allowed by Soviet law for such "offences".

Gunars Freimanis, a poet accused of conducting unauthorized Latvian poetry readings and circulating uncensored poems with nationalist themes, was gaoled for four years, plus two years exile, on December 19.

## Movement for Independence

Two young Baptists, Janis Rozkalns and Janis Veveris, were tried in the Supreme Court of the Latvian SSR on November 21 - December 7. They were charged with distributing leaflets, letters, appeals, and literature which the court called "anti-Soviet". They were also charged with belonging to an underground organisation, the "Movement for the Independence of Latvia." Rozkalns was sentenced to 5 years in strict regime camp and 3 years in exile; Veveris was sent to a strict regime camp for 3 years.

In Estonia, anti-nuclear campaigners Endel Ratas, Erik Udam and several human rights activists fear imminent arrest. They signed an appeal for a nuclear-free zone including the Baltic States as well as an open letter from Estonians to Finns warning that expansion of the capital port of Tallinn by Finnish companies will bring more Russians into Estonia.

## Escalation of Repression

Lithuania, too, has seen an escalation of repression. Priests have been sent to prison for the first time since 1971: Rev. Alfonsas Svarinskas was sentenced last May to seven years in a labour camp and three years' exile, for membership of an unofficial Catholic committee to defend believers' rights; and Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, arrested after testifying at Svarinskas' trial, was sentenced to six years in a strict regime camp, to be followed by four years in exile.

In Estonia, there are many incidents of nationalist demonstrations. On August 13, 1983, 16-year-old Hannes Treinberg and an unidentified companion were arrested for destroying a Soviet flag and hoisting the old Estonian national flag in the town of Juuru.

## Two Years for Flag

It came to light only recently that Ojas Vitins (then 19) and another 17-year-old youth were arrested in Limbaze on August 28, 1982. They had removed the Soviet flag from the top of the CPSU City Committee building and replaced it with the Latvian national flag. Both were sentenced to two years' ordinary regime camp. They are now imprisoned in camp OTs-78/7, at this address: Latvia, Riga, Krustpils 63, USSR.

Last September, tourists reported that a poster of Yuri Andropov, labelled "Wanted" in English, was put on the notice board of a police station in the seaside resort of Jurmala, near Riga.

In Lithuania, 16 underground periodicals circulate.



● By re-settling many Russians in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Kremlin hoped to "russify" the Baltic region. But the plan was not foolproof: Some colonists adopted the Baltic ways, became Christians and even helped the resistance movements. Tamara Boyarovskaya (pictured) joined the Pentecostal community after her arrival in Vilnius (capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania). Later, she applied for permission to emigrate. For this, she has been threatened with criminal arrest.

The clandestine publications confirm that a democratic political culture and deeply rooted passive resistance are still alive in Lithuania. Thousands of citizens have signed petitions in support of persecuted priests or other religious causes. Local people give Russian colonists the cold shoulder or, when spoken to in Russian, answer in Lithuanian.

## Deliberate Russification

Most Western analysts agree that national tensions in the Baltic States are mainly caused by the rapid influx of colonists from other Soviet republics, mainly Russia. The demographic changes — brought about by mass escapes to the West and by Soviet deportations — are widely perceived as a policy of deliberate Russification.

Statistics from the 1979 Latvian census show that, of the seven largest cities and towns in Latvia, only one had a majority of ethnic Latvians. In Estonia, the proportion of non-Estonians increased from just over 25 per cent in 1959 to 35.3 per cent in 1979.

Two inter-related excuses are usually given for the influx of Russians to the Baltics: The deliberately rapid industrialisation of the region under the Russian rule; and severe debilitation of the local population.

It is estimated that, between 1940 and 1953, the Baltic nations lost around 30 per cent of their pre-World War II populations to deportations, flight to the West, and deaths in conventional and postwar guerilla combat.

In the meantime, the Soviet regime — under its new leader, Konstantin Chernenko (72) — continues to suppress any open discussion of the past and portrays the periods of Estonia's, Latvia's and Lithuania's independence in pejorative terms.

Yet the Balts are determined not to give up — and they refuse to accept Russians as their masters.

— Adapted from Erik Lettlander's features in *The Christian Science Monitor*, with additional information from LIB, ELTA, USSR News Brief, EVVA.

## NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

# New Baltic Refugees

In spite of improbable odds, some Baltic residents still keep trying to escape to the free world.

Estonian Andrew Prokopovic, 31, recently fled from a Soviet fishing vessel based at Las Palmas in the Canary Islands. And a Lithuanian fitter named Zukauskas escaped from Soviet vessel "Seda" in the port of Santa Cruz, shortly before Christmas.

Prokopovic told journalists that he came from Parnu (in Russian-occupied Estonia) and had been previously stationed at the Tallinn submarine base of the Soviet Baltic fleet.

Hillar Prunnsild, an Estonian worker, was not so lucky. He managed to sneak past the Soviet border guards and into the Finnish territory near Kuusamo, but the Finns handed him back to the Soviets.

Estonian Folk singer Tarmo Urb tried for 3½ years to emigrate from the Soviet Union, after marrying an Italian citizen, Daniele Marseppi, in 1979. The Soviet authorities kept saying no. In desperation, Urb crossed the Finnish border, but was caught and imprisoned.

Vello Vaartnou, a Buddhist artist from Estonia, also tried to escape, but was arrested in Soviet Karelia near the Finnish border.

— EVVA/Dziennik Polski/Europos Liet.

## Last Monitor Dies

The last survivor of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring group, Mrs Ona Lukauskaite-Poskiene, died on December 4, 1983, in Siauliai (Russian-occupied Lithuania).

Since the establishment of the group on November 25, 1976, two other committee members have died (Rev K. Garuckas, Rev B. Laurinavicius), two came to the West (E. Finkelstein, T. Venclova) and six are languishing in Soviet prisons and psychoprisons (V. Petkus, V. Skuodis, Dr A. Statkevicius, M. Jurevicius, V. Vaiciunas, B. Gajauskas).

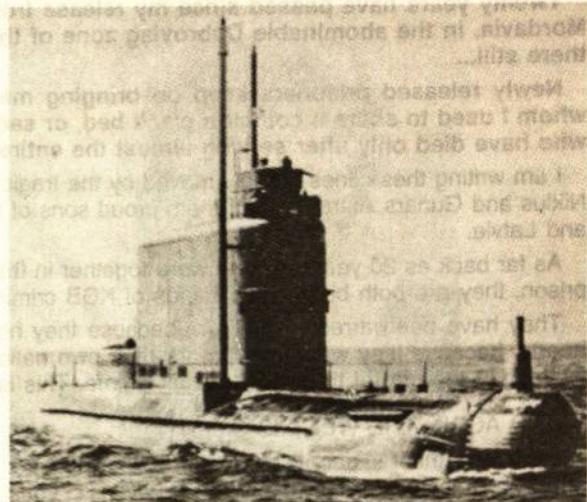
## Health Deteriorating



● Mrs. Elena Terleckiene (pictured, left) travelled from Lithuania to Magadan in the Far East, to visit her exiled husband, Lithuanian economist Antanas Terleckas. He is serving an 8-year sentence for underground publishing activity (pictured, right).

Terleckas' health has deteriorated dramatically; his legs are swollen due to poor diet and harsh living conditions.

— Lithuanian Information Center.



● Missile-carrying Golf-class Soviet submarines (pictured) are now stationed in Baltic ports. According to escapee Prokopovic, these submarines routinely patrol the entrances to Swedish ports to monitor traffic.

## Russification in Universities

At a recent Moscow conference of Soviet scientists and educators, the representatives of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian universities raised an important issue. They wanted to discuss plans for the development, along with new technology, of scientific terminology in their national languages.

The conference leadership dismissed the proposal as a "non-essential problem today". The Balts were referred to Chernenko's policy directive that "an environment must be created to necessitate the learning of the Russian language by the populations of the Soviet republics".

Total Russification of the higher educational system in the Baltic countries would limit access to higher education to the Russian-speaking elite only.

— Latvija-Latvian News Digest.

## Punished for Invitation?

Soviet authorities barred all Baltic representatives from the World Synod of Catholic bishops which concluded its sessions in Rome on October 29, 1983. 220 bishops took part in the Synod, representing all countries of the world except Latvia, Lithuania, Laos and Czechoslovakia.

Back in July, Pope John Paul II had invited Latvian Cardinal Vaivods and two Lithuanian Bishops, J. Steponavicius and L. Povilonis, to this Synod. Vaivods and Steponavicius notified the Vatican that "the (Soviet) government would not give us permission to go to the Synod". Bishop Povilonis did receive a Soviet travel permit at first. Then, on the eve of the Synod, his permit was cancelled; the Soviets gave no reason for their change of heart.

Western observers believe, Bishop Povilonis was stopped because, in April, 1983, he had invited Pope John Paul II to Lithuania without first checking with the Kremlin (See report in: BALTIC NEWS, September, 1983).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Your Silence Is Their Doom**

Twenty years have passed since my release from the concentration camp in Mordavia, in the abominable Dubrovlag zone of the USSR. Friends of mine are there still...

Newly released prisoners keep on bringing me greetings from people with whom I used to share a common plank bed, or sad news of the deaths of some who have died only after serving almost the entire 25 years of their sentences.

I am writing these lines, deeply moved by the tragic fate of two of my friends, Mart Niklus and Gunars Astra, both of them proud sons of their once-free nations, Estonia and Latvia.

As far back as 20 years ago we were together in the camps. After two decades in prison, they are both back in the hands of KGB criminals.

They have been arrested again ... because they hold the idea of freedom in their hearts, because they want freedom for their own nations as well as for other nations writhing in the grip of the brutal Soviet regime. This is their only crime!

**AND AGAIN THE WEST IS SILENT!**

I appeal to the free people of the West. How long are you going to be satisfied with mere *declarations of your disagreement* with the tyranny that reigns in the USSR? How long — in this still-free world — are you going to meet with *words instead of action* the illegal acts of USSR gangsters? Your WORDS do not stop the Soviet rulers KILLING people!

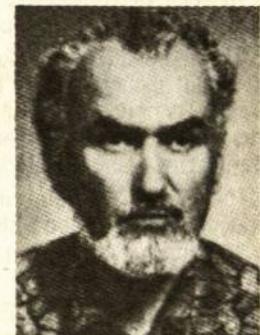
I call on governments and individuals all over the free world. Boycott the USSR completely: **no trade, no scientific and cultural exchanges, no credits or technological assistance, no diplomatic relations.**

Let the criminal Soviet rulers see that the peoples and the governments of the world are ready to oppose despotism and tyranny by real action.

I am an Israeli, I am living in my own free, God-blest country. But it is not only for Jews suffering in the USSR that my heart bleeds. I demand freedom for my brothers in the spirit, Mart Niklus and Gunars Astra.

I am appealing to everybody who enjoys the luxury of freedom: Demand of your government ACTION against the Soviet killers, not just ineffectual DECLARATIONS.

Freedom is indivisible; and it is in your hands!



● Avraham Shifrin today.

Let Gunars Astra, Mart Niklus, Yosif Begun, Raul Wallenberg and countless thousands of innocent martyrs in Soviet concentration camps see the light of Freedom!

By keeping silent you are collaborating with the Soviet criminals.

PO Box 32,  
Zikhron Yaacov  
(Israel)

Avraham SHIFRIN,  
Director,  
Research Centre

for Prisons, Psychprisons and  
Forced-labour Concentration Camps of the USSR.

**Important Evidence**

I was recently involved in an appeal by a Croatian living in Australia against an order for his deportation to Yugoslavia. There are many aspects of that case which are similar to certain items appearing in the BALTIC NEWS, particularly in relation to the dangers which our client would have faced had he been returned to Yugoslavia.

Judgment was delivered on the 9th September 1983 in our client's favour, the case reference being entitled: re Nikola Ostojic — Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs No S82/37.

One of the most important matters raised on behalf of our client involved producing substantial evidence of the problems and harm which would be encountered by him in Yugoslavia, as obviously the court would not easily be persuaded to make a finding to that effect for a variety of reasons — not the least of which we assume would be the effect it may have upon international relations.

The writer was struck by the similarities involved in the Croatian case and the problems highlighted in the BALTIC NEWS, and considered it worth mentioning as there may well be occasions in the future where a certain number of your members may find themselves in a similar predicament.

Adelaide, SA

NAME WITHHELD

because of ethical constraints.



● Gunars Astra (left) and Mart Niklus.

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

# AROUND THE WORLD

## Reversal

The Baltic map amendment (S.1721) passed by the US Senate on October 21, 1983, was later rescinded after a request for removal was made by the Budget Office of the Department of State. The original amendment, introduced by Senator Alfonso D'Amato (R-NY), prescribed that the pre-occupation borders of the Baltic States were to be shown on all maps produced by the Department of State.

— Laiks/LND.

## Latvian Studies

The Janis Riekstins Latvian Studies Center at Western Michigan University now has one of the largest libraries of Latvian books and periodicals in the United States. Western Michigan University offers a degree programme in Latvian language and literature.

— Latvian News Digest.

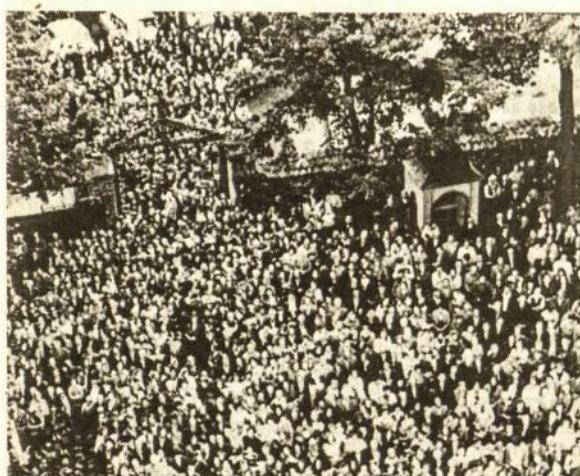
## US-Soviet Plot Denounced

A US Federal judge has found that the US Government "collaborated" with the Soviet Union in their recent efforts to prosecute a former migrant accused of participation in Nazi war crimes. The judge ruled that there was no credible evidence to support the charges.

The ruling cleared Juozas Kungys (67) of charges that he helped German occupation forces slaughter Jewish residents of Kedainiai, his native town in Lithuania.

US District Court Judge Dickinson Debevoise said, evidence presented in the case demonstrated that the KGB (Russian secret police) actively participated in the preparation of the witnesses, and that the Soviets have maintained a longstanding campaign to discredit Eastern European emigres by characterising them as war criminals.

— Robert Rudolph in Star Ledger/BB.



● In spite of persecution, Baltic people openly profess their religions. This photograph, taken in 1982, shows part of the huge congregation of Catholics gathered for the Confirmation ceremony at the church of Kretinga (in Russian-occupied Lithuania).

## Opposition Is Growing



● According to Sergey Soldatov (pictured), the protest movement in the Baltic countries is on the increase. Soldatov, one of the organisers of the Estonian Democratic Movement, had been jailed in Soviet prisons for six years and was then expelled from Russian-occupied Estonia. He now lives in West Germany.

Food shortages are seen as the most acute problem by the young people today, Soldatov said. This is ironical, because during their years of independence the Baltic States exported butter and bacon to other European countries; now, they cannot feed their own people.

— The Soviet Analyst.

## Louise's Ordeal

Actress Louise Pajo, who plays Margery Carson in the Ten Network series *Carson's Law*, was recently detained and questioned at Moscow Airport.

"When they discovered there was no stamp on my passport photo, they held me for an hour", Louise said.

The ordeal happened while Louise was en route to Estonia to visit relatives. Her late father was Estonian.

— Jenny Cooney/TV Week.

## Pope's Armies

Stalin's heirs must be sorry he once said, "The Pope! How many divisions has he got?"

More than 130,000 names are now posted outside churches in Russian-occupied Lithuania to protest the hard labour sentences of two Catholic priests for "anti-Soviet activities". That many Lithuanians would be roughly equivalent to 13 Soviet divisions. These Balts are not armed, but they are equipped with a strong resentment of Moscow.

This means that years of "nationalities" policy have yielded little benefit to the ruling Soviet Communist Party. Increased repression, as represented by the jailing of the two priests, is a mark of that failure.

Even a government with 183 military divisions cannot rest easy when it is hated by large numbers of subjugated peoples.

— The Wall Street Journal.

## NOTES ON BOOKS

## Baltic Invasion In Retrospect

**REBEL IN A WRONG CAUSE**, by S. W. ("Sid") Scott (former General Secretary of the New Zealand Communist Party). Published by Collins, Auckland. No date.

Sid Scott was in Moscow early in World War II, working in the Comintern. On Pages 113-114 of this book, he recalls his views of events that shook the world for all Baltic people. Scott writes,

The war on Finland was difficult to swallow. The story that Finnish cannons had fired across the frontier I just could not take seriously. But I did accept that it was a potential jumping-off ground for an attack on Northern Russia. Great play was made with the name and record of Field Marshall Mannerheim and his coup, in conjunction with the German Army, at the end of the European War.

I did not know then of the protocol to the Soviet-German Pact, which gave the Soviet Union a free hand in Finland and the Baltic countries (Latvia, Estonia (sic) and Lithuania). Nor was I informed that the thirty Soviet divisions which crossed the Finnish frontier following the alleged "incident" did so despite the Finnish appeal for a commission of inquiry to be set up to investigate the matter.

There is no doubt that I was completely "taken in" over the seizure of the Baltic countries which occurred while I was in Moscow. I accepted the story that the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians desired to enter the Soviet Union and of course there was the accompanying idea of defence against aggression from the West.

As for the plebiscites, with their enormous votes for incorporation in the Soviet Union, it was not until long afterwards that I knew of the circumstances suggesting crude frame-ups — for instance, the fact that the figures were announced in the Moscow press twenty-four hours before the poll was actually closed in Lithuania. Moscow was the very last place to be if one were to know the truth about contemporary events.

## Nijole's Memoirs



● The memoirs of former Lithuanian prisoner of conscience Nijole Sadunaite have been smuggled out to the West and will be published in English translation, later this year.

The photograph (above) shows Nijole at the time of her Siberian exile. After her release in 1980, Nijole was continuously harassed by the KGB (Russian secret police) and was finally forced to go into hiding. Her present whereabouts are a closely guarded secret.

— LIS.



● When Russian troops invaded the three neutral states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in June 1940, (pictured above), many people in the West — including New Zealand's Sid Scott — mistakenly believed that the majority of Balts wanted to join the Soviet Union.

Sid Scott, the brains of the New Zealand Communist Party was reported in the *New Zealand Herald* of November 20, 1956, attacking at length the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

On November 18, he was suspended from the party.

His inside account of the Communist attitude to momentous events in world history, and his revelations of Communist methods and practices, are eloquent witness to the evil of Communism, and a sharp rebuke to those who have let themselves be taught to live comfortably with it.

G. F. JORDAN, S. J.

## COMING EVENTS

● JUNE 15 (Friday)  
43rd ANNIVERSARY  
of First Mass Deportations from the Baltic States.  
Please keep this date free — more details in the next issue of BALTIC NEWS

● JULY 8-15  
Estonian World Festival  
**ESTO '84**  
in Toronto (Canada).

## BOOKS:

- 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.
- 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.

# Boycott of Slave-Made Goods

While HELLP Association is urging Australians not to buy Soviet cars (see: BALTIC NEWS, December 1983), there are increasing pressures in the United States to extend black bans to all Soviet-made goods.

Last July, moved by the Soviet downing of KAL flight 007 and the killing of 269 civilians, the Baltic American Freedom League rallied to block the unloading of Soviet ship *Novokuibishevsk*, at the Californian port of Long Beach. The League was supported by Local 13 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union who refused to unload the ship. After eight days of picketing, the Soviet freighter sailed to Mexico. It was unloaded there, but Teamsters Union refused to truck the cargoes to the US.

In September, Soviet ship *Novimirgorod* was unable to unload its cargo of Baltic birch plywood (consigned to Allied Plywoods of Charlestown, Mass.) for 4 days, because Boston longshoremen refused to handle it. The vessel sailed to Canada, was refused at Yarmouth, Nova Scotia; proceeded to Montreal where, despite Baltic pickets, it was finally unloaded.



• Russian freighter *Novokuibishevsk* leaves Long Beach harbour with cargo still on board.

In October, Soviet container ships could not dock in Baltimore due to the threatened mass pickets of the Joint Baltic American National Committee which urged local dockworkers to join those in Boston, New York and Wilmington, NC, and refuse to service Soviet vessels.

## Boston Vodka Party

In Boston, restaurateurs and liquor store owners gathered at the historical Boston Tea Party site and dumped Stolichnaya vodka (imported by Pepsi Cola) into the sea.

According to an analysis by a US Congressional group that monitors the Helsinki accords, \$138.2 million worth of the \$228.6 million of 1982 imports from the Soviet Union were made by industries "which partially rely on forced labour."

The US Commissioner of Customs (Mr William Von Raab) is now trying to enforce the Smoot-Hawley Tariff

Act of 1930 which would stop US importation of Soviet goods made with forced labour. However, he has encountered strong opposition from US Trade Representative William Bock, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mark Palmer and senior administration officials of State, Commerce and Treasury Departments and the CIA.

—NY Times/Boston Globe/LA Times/BB/LND.

## BALTIC NEWS

Australian mass media seldom report on the current events in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. *Baltic News* aims to fill this gap, by providing authentic news and pictures from the Baltic region.

All details are double-checked against independent sources before they are published in *Baltic News*. Consequently, *Baltic News* is enjoying high credibility ratings, and is widely quoted in Australia and abroad.

Now in its tenth year of publication, *Baltic News* is mailed free of charge to all who wish to read it. Editorial, art-work and circulation work is performed by volunteers; printing, postage and other unavoidable expenses are paid from readers' donations. In this regard, *Baltic News* may be unique in the whole of Australia: it is free, carries no advertising, has had no government grants and exists solely on its readers' voluntary gifts.

We sincerely thank the following donors for their contributions, received since the last issue of *Baltic News*:

Baltic Council of Australia (NSW), \$500; LKVS "Ramoto" (SA), \$200; Lithuanian Sports Carnival - Hobart, \$100; Lithuanian Society for Human Rights (NSW), \$80; S. B. Jarembauskas, I. Krastins, KIVB (NSW), Lithuanian Catholic Women - Melbourne, A. & G. Kalade (Vic), Rev Dr A. Savickas (SA), \$50 each; J. Normantas and S. Stropus (Vic), C. Ford (NSW), N. J. Murray (Tas), \$40 each; A. R. Alyta (ACT), J. Ceponas, P. Morkunas (Vic), Baltic Council of WA, \$30 each; O. Liutikiene (WA), I. Davis (SA), \$25 each; L. Havryliv, S. C. Vecchini, V. Narusis, A. Laukaitis, J. Karpavicius, C. Liutikas (NSW), A. Grikepelis, S. Valaitis (Vic), O. Cwalinska (Tas); J. L. Bean (SA), R. Sutcliffe (Qld). E. Minitas (Can), A. Gustaitis (USA), \$20 each; A. Beale, O. Grinbergs (Vic), N. B. Balton, J. A. Dirgincius (NSW), A. G. Skuja (Tas), \$15 each; Dr A. Stepanas (ACT), T. Andersen, J. Remess, Prof Dr J. H. Tisch, M. Gratz, anonymous (Tas), V. and A. Bieliauskas, H. A. Johansons (Vic), M. Kond, M. Kenny, L. Mirlieb, J. Blumanis (NSW), O. Maciukas, O. Haas, F. Adomonis, V. Pledzinskas (SA), B. Barsteika (USA), A. Jablonskis (NSW), \$10 each; A. V. Kuliukas (UK), \$7; R. J. Voss, P. G. and J. Wilkes (Tas), P. and E. Matiukas (SA), C. V. Novak (USA), \$5 each; Aldins (Vic), \$4; D. and E. Madden (Tas), V. Hulligan (Qld), L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2 each.

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.

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

Read **BALTIC NEWS** —  
then pass it on  
to your friends and neighbours!

# Psychiatry as Tool of Torture

*The use of Soviet psychiatry as a means of controlling political dissidents has been documented in previous issues of "Baltic News". For the first time we are publishing extracts of psychiatric reports which resulted in a Latvian being detained against his will in a mental hospital.*

Ivan Yakhimovich, a Latvian, was born in 1931 and worked as a teacher. He lived at Jurmala near Riga and in 1960 became the chairman of a farm collective after a model Komsomol and Party career. Yakhimovich was praised by the Soviet press as one of the best collective-farm chairmen in the country. He gradually became dissatisfied with the Soviet government and began to publicly express ideas about agricultural reform, better treatment of political prisoners and opposition to the invasion of Czechoslovakia. For this, Yakhimovich was expelled from the Communist Party in 1968 and lost his job shortly afterwards.

On April 23, 1969, he was arrested on the basis of Article 183.1 of the Penal Code of the Latvian SSR. In June 1969, Yakhimovich was examined by doctors at a Riga psychiatric hospital. They reported symptoms of a "paranoid system in a psychopathic personality," based on his intention to combat "allegedly existing injustice in the USSR."

"His outward appearance is odd: he has a beard and wears unusual clothing," the reports read, "while his attitude is presumptuously superior." Yakhimovich appeared at farm meetings in "neglected, dirty clothes," and he spoke in an "odd, inappropriate and narrowminded way." The Riga doctors made the idealism of a reformer sound like mental illness,

## No Mental Disorder

The report reveals no signs of any real mental disorder, let alone diagnosed schizophrenia that should have produced delusions or other perceptual and emotional aberrations. The Riga doctors found Yakhimovich "well-oriented," "polite, gentle," without "evidence of delusions and hallucinations."

In December 1979, Yakhimovich was sent to Moscow to be examined at the Serbsky Institute. (This centre of Soviet psychiatric abuse was the subject of a television documentary last year.) He was found "correctly orientated in his surroundings" and "relaxed," though he later became "more on guard, tense" — no doubt with good reason, considering the Institute's reputation. In the observation wards his behaviour was described as "outwardly orderly" but it was noted that his "statements could not be changed by corrective comment."

The four examining psychiatrists summarised him as follows:

"Approximately since 1963, in the conditions of unfavourable circumstances, the examinee developed morbid ideas about reforms pertaining to problems of economic and public life, and these ideas were accompanied by marked affective preoccupation and obsession uncritical appraisal of the situation and his own behaviour, with obviously overinflated self-appraisal, and the latter has determined the examinee's behaviour in its entirety."

On the strength of these reports, Yakhimovich was declared insane and interned in April, 1970 in the Riga



● Ivan Yakhimovich: Two years in psychiatric hospitals for criticising Soviet policies.

Republican Psychiatric Hospital for compulsory treatment. After "recanting" he was released in April, 1971 as an invalid of second category.

## Documents

The above material is based on what were claimed to be exact copies of the official forensic psychiatric reports on Yakhimovich and five other Soviet dissidents. The documents were sent to the West by Vladimir Bukovsky and are publicly available.<sup>1</sup> The Soviets have always denied that any psychiatric abuse occurs in the USSR; but at no point in their rebuttals have they questioned the genuineness of the Bukovsky material.

The Yakhimovich case illustrates the readiness of Soviet psychiatrists to diagnose dissent itself as a symptom of mental illness. This follows from an unusual concept of normality, in which political factors are transmuted into medical criteria so that mental health is defined as adjustment to a repressive regime.

The major difference between the views of Yakhimovich and a substantial part of the Soviet intelligentsia is that he expressed his ideas publicly while others restrict theirs to private gatherings. His penalty for this act of courage was a ruined career and two years in the psychoprisons.

## ● In the next issue: More Evidence of Psychiatric Abuse.

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

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