



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
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BALTIC DEPORTATIONS:

An Eyewitness Tells

Innocent people packed into cattle wagons that would not pass an RSPCA test — then transported away, without adequate food or medical aid. Husbands torn away from their families . . . women and young girls forced to fell trees . . . children and adults dying of cold and malnutrition. Torture, deprivation and utter despair . . .

This is the testimony of the 79-year-old Mrs Ann Lehtmets (pictured, right). She is one of the few lucky survivors of the Soviet mass deportations from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania which started in June 1941 and left their indelible scars to the present day.

In the 1960s, with the help of Australia's Prime Minister, Mrs Lehtmets managed to leave the USSR, came to this country and now lives in a suburb of Adelaide. When people remark on how well she looks for her age, Mrs Lehtmets quips with a smile, "It must be those 17 years in the Siberian 'deep freeze' and my controlled diet".

The following extracts are from Mrs Lehtmets's unpublished memoirs.

Just before dawn on June 14, 1941, there were shouts outside and a sharp knock on our door. I guessed it, at once! I urged my husband to jump out the window; but he shook his head silently, knowing the house would be surrounded.

They burst into the house, searched it, then told us to pack — fast. We grabbed whatever happened at hand. But I kept thinking of our two children — a daughter, 9, and a son, 13 — who were holidaying on a farm.

"May I please phone my children? I am worried about them", I asked the NKVD captain in charge.

"No. Forget your children!"

His harsh refusal shocked me then, but it turned out to be a blessing in disguise in later years. Many other mothers died of starvation in Siberia, because they had given their meagre rations to their children. Yet these loving sacrifices helped only the Soviet state: the



● Mrs Ann Lehtmets

orphans were collected and taken away to become state-trained disciples of the regime that killed their parents.

Last Kiss

My husband and I were marched off at bayonet point to a waiting army truck. We were driven to the nearest railway station. A long, dark goods train stretched out against the red morning sky — a mobile prison of square cages. White knuckles and desperate human faces crowded out of the tiny, barred windows. Some were frightened, some defiant, some already without hope.

On the platform, they ripped my husband away from me.

"May we please stay together?"

"No".

"What about my children?" I was desperate.

"No."

One last kiss, and my husband was led away. I never saw him again. Years later, a survivor remembered him being taken from his prison quarters in 1942, and he did not come back. Some gunfire was heard in the night. After more years of uncertainty, I received a Soviet death-certificate, stating that my husband had died of a "liver disease" in 1942.

For four weeks, twenty-five humans shared our wagon: eleven women, one young man and thirteen children. The men's wagons were separated soon after crossing the Estonian-Russian border. They ended up in slave camps near Sverdlovsk. There are only 4 or 5 known male survivors.

In those four weeks, we received only a few buckets of water. We were allowed out three times, to walk alongside the train under armed guard. The wasteland seemed endless!

Once past Moscow, we received our first food — some bread and pea soup.



● Cutting and carrying timber — for 500 grams of bread per day.

● Continued on Page 2

Mother and Twin Babies Destitute

Gunta Rozkalns, living in Russian-occupied Latvia, is in a desperate situation since her husband Janis was imprisoned last year by the Soviet authorities. She has sent an urgent appeal to the International Red Cross, begging for help in obtaining her husband's release.

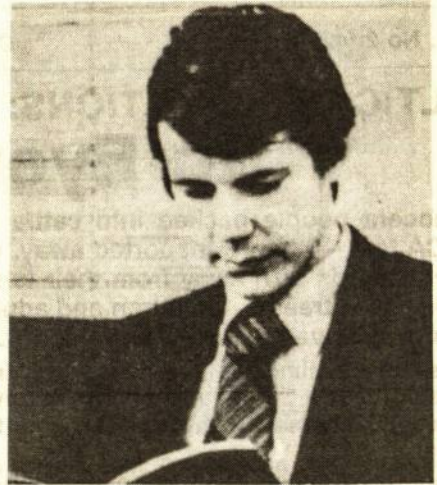
The Rozkalns are practising Baptists. They wanted to emigrate because of the suppression of religious and national rights in their country (Latvia).

Since her husband's arrest, Gunta (27) and her twin children, born on January 13, 1983, have had no means of support. Her monthly mother's allowance of 35 rubles barely provides for the babies' kefir (a cultured milk product) which costs 28 rubles. Even this is often denied her, although payment has to be made in advance.

Gunta's neighbours who tried to help her, were summoned to the security office and threatened with persecution if their help continued. On several occasions Gunta was refused medical attention, or received unsuitable medication for her children. These tactics are used in Russian-occupied Latvia to intimidate persons considered "unreliable" by the regime.

Before his arrest, Janis Rozkalns wanted to leave his occupied country. He applied for an exit visa for his wife and children, his mother, his wife's brothers and sisters and their relatives including three babies. "Unable to accept the ideology that denies the existence of God," Janis said, "we want to live, to think and to value life differently."

Last December, Janis Rozkalns was sentenced to a total of 8 years in prison and exile, on trumped-up "anti-Soviet" charges. The chances of emigration for the remaining members of his extended family remain uncertain.



• Baptist Janis Rozkalns: imprisoned, wife and small children discriminated against.

Meanwhile, Janis's wife Gunta is still hoping to hear from someone in the West — if not the International Red Cross, then perhaps from someone else who cares.

Her address is: CCCP, Latvia, Riga 39, Lenina iela 209-13a, Rozkalna Gunta.

—Canadian Committee for Human Rights in Latvia.

DEPORTATIONS

• From Page 1

At Novo-Sibirsk we were transferred to a barge that was even more crowded than the train. The barge took us to the most inaccessible parts of Siberia, along the river Ob and its tributaries.

Tragedies

While still on the train, Peter, a 6 month-old baby, died of malnutrition. A young girl died on the barge. After holding her dead child in her arms all night, her mother attempted suicide by jumping into the water. The girl's body was taken to the riverbank by the guards. They returned far too soon to have dug even the shallowest grave.

Most of the thousands deported that night were taken to forced labour camps. But we were dumped in small communes along the river. The enormous vastness of Siberia confined us more tightly than any barbed wire fence ever could. These primitive settlements had been established by the descendants of earlier deportees, mainly from Ukraine.

We were put to work in the so-called communal farms which had never progressed beyond the barest existence. Time worked was recorded. Payment came weeks later, in the form of rations: supposedly 500 grams of bread, but more often 300 or 400 grams, or even less, flour per day worked. At the outset, we survived by exchanging our clothes for food.

No Charges or Trial

Several months after my arrival in Siberia, I suddenly discovered that I had been condemned to 25 years of "resettlement". No charges were read, no trial, no appeal. I was simply told by my masters. My "crimes"? I was a girl guide in Estonia, a member of the RSPCA, had foreign pen-friends and was married to an Estonian journalist and member of parliament.

For the next seventeen years, I worked at a hundred different jobs. I cut giant cedars in waist-deep snow. I broke holes in thick ice to reach water. I carted water for our commune, with a sled drawn by a blind horse. I tended furnaces to make larch-wood oil for the Red Army's and NKVD guns. I paddled a canoe for 25 kilometres, to pick berries for the commune.

After seventeen years, I was released and returned to my native Estonia. In the meantime, both my children had managed to escape to the West; and my daughter married an Australian. A five-year wrangle with Soviet authorities followed. After three refusals and the personal intervention by the then Prime Minister of Australia (Mr Menzies), I finally received my visa to leave the largest prison ever known to mankind — the USSR.

My experiences could fill a book. In fact, I have written them down, but no Western publisher seems interested in publishing them. In this fun-seeking world of today, who wants to hear of an ordinary woman's sufferings, agony and ultimate triumph over evil?

Ransom Not Yet Fixed

The Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko has not yet fixed his price for the release of Lithuanian prisoner of conscience Viktoras Petkus who is seriously ill and needs medical attention.

Nine months ago (on August 31, 1983), the International Viktoras Petkus Committee delivered a petition to Mr Semyonov, the Soviet Ambassador in Bonn (West Germany). Bearing 3,200 signatures and addressed to Mr Chernenko's predecessor (Yuri Andropov), the petition asked for Petkus's immediate release — in return for a cash payment to be determined by the Soviets.

As an alternative offer, the Committee repeated its earlier pledge to lend ten able-bodied men who would be willing to work without pay in Soviet camps, for a year, in exchange for Petkus's freedom.

So far, the Kremlin has not replied.



● Viktoras Petkus: seriously ill in Soviet prison.

The 3,200 signatories also demanded that two Lithuanian priests be set free: Fathers Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigita Tamkevicius. "They have done nothing that is punishable according to the penal code of the USSR", the petition read.

Petkus Committee

The International Viktoras Petkus Committee (which sponsored this petition) was chaired by Mr Erich Weiss, of Praesidentenstrasse 23a, D-4630 Bochum, West Germany. Other prominent members include Rev Winifried Pietrek, Koplinsstrasse 5, D-4780 Lippstadt, West Germany; and E. & H. Schuch, K. Hoeller-Strasse 10/7, A-5020 Salzburg, Austria.

Viktoras Petkus is one of the foundation members of the Lithuanian Helsinki Monitoring group (since eliminated by the KGB). He was born in 1929, on a small farm in Lithuania. During the period 1945-1965, Petkus spent sixteen years in Soviet prisons because of his Christian convictions. In 1978, he was sentenced to a further 15 years.

Petkus had studied at the University of Vilnius, but was barred from all professional employment. He then worked as a builder's labourer and a hospital orderly. Petkus's spare-time work with Christian youth was misused to fabricate charges of homosexuality, when he was arrested in 1978. However, no youngster

testified against him. A KGB employee then intoxicated a young soldier who gave false evidence against Petkus. Later, the soldier admitted having told lies, but the Soviet authorities chose to ignore his repentance, for Petkus was already in gaol.

Failing Health

In mid-1982, Viktoras Petkus underwent a cancer operation in his prison hospital. The doctors discovered, rather belatedly, that they were short of *Novocaine*, and the operation was completed without any anaesthetic at all.

For the past twelve months, Petkus has been suffering from skin sores; they cover his entire body. The sores are caused by a lack of vitamins and proteins, aggravated by constant hunger and inhuman prison conditions.

In addition, his eyesight has started deteriorating and, without specialist treatment, could lead to total blindness.

Viktoras Petkus is now held in the notorious Perm concentration camp 36-1 (Vsesvyatskaya), on the Western slopes of the Ural mountains. Temperatures fall to -45°C during the six-months-long winter. Apart from 36-1, twenty-three other prisons and camps are known to exist in Perm region; they all supply cheap labour for logging, petroleum, mechanical engineering industries and for potassium mines.

The commander of camp 36-1 is major A. G. Zhuravkov. Dr Yushakov is the camp physician; and Petrov — medical superintendent. Petkus's concentration camp address is:

618263 Permskaya oblast,
Chusovskoy raion,
Posyolok Kuchino,
Uchrezhdenie VS-389/36-1
PETKUS, Viktoras
USSR

At least five other Baltic prisoners of conscience are incarcerated in the same camp: Tiit Madisson, Juris Bumeisters, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, Balys Gajauskas and Henrikas Jaskunas.

You Can Help

You, too, can help Viktoras Petkus:

- Write to Mr Evgeny Samoteikin, Embassy of the USSR, 78 Canberra Avenue, Griffith, ACT 2603 — ask him to request Mr Chernenko to release ailing Viktoras Petkus immediately.
- Write to Mr Konstantin Chernenko, The Kremlin, Moscow, USSR — with the same request.
- Ask your family and friends to write similar letters.
- Organise petitions.
- Publicise Petkus's plight through radio talkback programs, your TV newsrooms, and by writing letters to the editors of your local and church papers.
- Join Friends of the Prisoners, Post Office Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 8 pm, in Migrant Resource Centre, 222 Elizabeth St, Hobart (upstairs). — IVPK/FOP.

STOP PRESS: An SOS just received from behind the Iron Curtain is urging the International Red Cross to send immediate medical help to Petkus. His sores are not healing and are suspected to be cancerous.

More Evidence of Psychiatric Abuse

● Continued from last issue

What are conditions like in Soviet psychoprisons? Firstly, dissidents may be held in either of two different institutions: Special Psychiatric Hospitals (SPH) or Ordinary Psychiatric Hospitals (OPH).

SPH's are stark, punitive, prison-like institutions. Their function is to house, compulsorily, persons who have committed serious crimes: murder, rape, arson and who have been diagnosed as suffering from a mental illness and declared not responsible. They are held for an indeterminate period until their mental condition improves. Comparable institutions exist in other countries, too; but the treatment of inmates is significantly different.

Drugs for Punishment

In the USSR, "medical" treatments are given which have no therapeutic value but are used as punishments. An injection of Sulphazine (sulphur in oil) leads to a high fever and distressing pain. Sulphazine is not used in Western medicine.

Soviet inmates are sometimes wrapped in wet canvas that shrinks and causes intense pain. "Orderlies" at these places are usually criminals serving shorter sentences.

There are dozens of SPH's in the Soviet Union, but none are known in the Soviet-controlled Baltic States.



● The Oryol special psychiatric hospital, housed in a former prison building and administered by the MVD (Ministry of Internal Affairs) — rather than by the health authorities.

However, dissidents from the Baltic States are frequently transferred to SPH's elsewhere. For example, Estonian Jaak Leivond was arrested in August 1971, for his attempt to cross the border to freedom. Accused on the basis of Article 64, he was held at the Leningrad SPH in 1972. His further fate is unknown.

An OPH is a genuine psychiatric facility for the local community. It is controlled by the Ministry of Health. However, some dissidents have been known to be held in OPH's in each of the Baltic capitals, Riga (as was Yakhimovich), Tallinn and Vilnius as well as in Tartu and Kaunas. These institutions are reasonably accessible to the relatives of those being treated.

However, prisoners of conscience must undergo "treatment" there against their will and are only released when the KGB deems it possible.

In general, treatment at OPH's depends on the inclination of the clinicians in charge. If a psychiatrist is seeking to increase his standing with the KGB, he will allow them to dictate how his patients are "treated."

In 1974 Mindaugas Tamonis, an engineer and poet, circulated a statement calling for democracy and national rights in Lithuania as well as advocating a monument to the victims of Stalinism. He was interned in a Vilnius OPH for three months and given "treatment" which induced chronic insomnia, seriously affected his sight and led to a gain in weight of 36 pounds. In 1975 Tamonis went through the same cycle of protest, internment and release. Two months later, he was found dead under a train, having suicided under the relentless pressure from the KGB.

Antanas Jankauskas, a Lithuanian worker born in 1942 was arrested in Simnas in 1971 for circulating leaflets and placed in a Kaunas OPH. After his release in August 1971, he wrote a letter to the first party secretary in Lithuania. In October Jankauskas was re-interned in an OPH in Naujoji Vilnia near Vilnius where he was given Aminazin (Chlorpromazine) injections. It is not known if and when he was released.

Psychiatry has been used for religious persecution, too. Birute Poskiene, a school cleaner and a native of Kaunas in Lithuania, became a Protestant believer. Her husband objected and in September 1974 obtained a court order to deprive her of any influence over her children. In October 1974, the Supreme Court of Soviet Lithuania heard Mrs Poskiene's appeal and rejected it. Her friends had asserted her normality and the procurator at the first trial had stressed her good health but to no avail.

Birute Poskiene was forcibly detained in the OPH at 75 Kuzmos Street. There, she was held in Ward 3 (normally reserved for severe cases) and given strong drugs which temporarily caused loss of sight and impaired her ability to walk. The doctors and her husband insistently demanded that she renounce her Protestantism before she could be freed as being "well." Her further fate is unknown.

Different Lifestyle: Not Acceptable

Having an unconventional lifestyle can be a danger, Victor Salaty, a radio technician born in 1948 and living in Tartu, Estonia, was referred to a military draft board for psychiatric examination. Because of his long hair and passion for jazz, he was diagnosed as a schizophrenic.

Later, in 1972, Salaty tried to emigrate by crossing the frontier into Finland. Caught, charged and ruled not responsible as a result of his earlier diagnosis, he was interned by court order in an Estonian OPH in Tartu. However, his psychiatrist there could not detect any psychopathology except for a sullenness and Salaty was held for only six months. His previous case notes justified the original diagnosis in one word: "hippieism."

The following psychiatrists from Riga are known to have participated in punitive medicine, as documented by Podrabinek:



● Two victims of Soviet psychiatric abuse in Lithuania: Petras Cidzikas (left) and Voldemaras Karaliunas.

RIGA REPUBLICAN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL: Rus-sinova, Z. G. (Chief Physician); Markis, L. A. Professor (Deputy Chief Physician).

RIGA REPUBLICAN PSYCHONEUROLOGICAL CENTRE: Brishka, A. A. (Chief Physician); Ligure, L. A. (Psychiatrist); Vitenberg, Z. R. (Psychiatrist).

RIGA DEPARTMENT No 1 PSYCHIATRIC UNIT FOR INVESTIGATION: Krasnyansky, O. A. (Head).

Psychiatric Abuse Condemned

Doctors and psychiatrists outside the USSR were cautious at first to react to the allegations made, but have become increasingly vocal as the evidence mounted.

In May, 1976, the Royal College of Psychiatrists (a British-based organisation) passed a resolution condemning the abuse of psychiatry in the USSR.

Two years later, the Manila Assembly of the World Medical Association in 1978 passed a similar resolution. This move was described in the *Medical Journal of Australia* 1979; 1:77 as a "simple, strong statement supporting the firm stand taken by the World Psychiatric Association in 1977."

In 1981, Dr John Marks, a British Medical Association delegate to the 34th World Medical Assembly, said it was disgraceful that the matter had to be raised again. He moved a motion which condemned "the use of psychiatry for political purposes, with particular reference to the Soviet Union". The Assembly adopted the motion without dissent.

Several Soviet psychiatrists have protested against abuses of their profession in the USSR. One of the best known is Anatoly Koryagin, who prepared a paper before his own arrest on February 19, 1981. This appeared in "The Lancet" of April 11, 1981 under the title "Unwilling Patients". In it Dr Koryagin analysed the condition under which healthy people in the USSR are pronounced mentally ill and are condemned to exist as such. He writes from first-hand knowledge and cites in detail cases which illustrate what has happened to hundreds of people.

In 1983, at the World Congress on Psychiatry in Vienna, moves were made to expel the Russians for using psychiatry to punish dissidents. The Soviet delegates pulled out of the Congress and charged that the World Psychiatric Association had become "a tool of the West".

LETTERS

Aware and Factual

I have seen your excellent publication *Baltic News*, and I wish to be on your mailing list. I subscribe to similar other publications; I find your *Baltic News* superior because it is a more serious, politically aware and factual publication, and it is concerned with all three Baltic States.

Kirkby-in-Ashfield (UK).

A. V. KULIUKAS.

World Council of Churches

At the last World Council of Churches assembly in Vancouver (*Baltic News*, December, 1983), not a word was spoken for the persecuted Christians. For them there was not a tear, not a prayer, not a cent. Why not?

The principal Lutheran speaker was Mrs Dorothee Solle, known for her assertion that "God is dead, red and a woman".

Ottawa (Canada).

M. OLIVER.

Eyewitness

I am very much interested in the present situation of the Baltic States and hope to see them shake off the Soviet yoke. I say this for I know quite well the inhumane nature of the Communist police State which I have experienced for over 20 years before finally making my way to the Free World.

Keep up the good work you are doing, for if you don't, no one else — unfortunately — will or would care to. Please accept my small gift as a token of admiration.

San Antonio, Texas (USA).

PETER COSTEA.

Suppression of Crosses

Re crosses being suppressed in Poland and in other countries like Lithuania.

I have just cut out a cardboard cross, taped it to my wall and written on it, "A cross standing in for a cross taken down".

Others might like to do the same.

Scottsdale, Tas.

V. HELLBERG.

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



● The grave of Romas Kalanta in Russian-occupied Lithuania. Kalanta immolated himself in the city of Kaunas on May 14, 1972, calling for freedom for Lithuania. His death touched off spontaneous demonstrations and riots at the time. Children of high-ranking Communists were among the participants. Soviet authorities have been keeping a discreet watch on Kalanta's grave ever since. Regular visitors are questioned, sometimes detained.

"Faceless KGB" Unmasked

Erich Vallimae was the perfect neighbour: always helpful and cheerful, gentle with children, kind to animals. A devoted family man, loved by his wife and children and by the entire neighbourhood.

Immaculately groomed, Erich Vallimae looked and talked like a banker. And, since he kept typical bankers' hours — nine to five — nobody bothered asking Erich where he worked; it was automatically assumed that he was employed by the central State Bank in the city of Tallinn.

Then, on July 19, 1980, Estonian prisoner of conscience Mark Niklus exposed Erich Vallimae for what he really was. In a letter smuggled out of Tallinn prison, Niklus named Vallimae as the chief investigator for the KGB (Russian secret police). Vallimae had interrogated Niklus several times in Tartu and Tallinn prisons. And, when Niklus refused to answer questions or collaborate with the KGB, Vallimae retaliated by refusing Niklus visitors — not even Niklus's own parents were allowed to see their son again.

The Vallimae incident is but one of many cases where native Balts have managed to track down and expose KGB operatives. This robs the KGB of its greatest strength: total secrecy and anonymity.

Several senior KGB officials who defected to the West in recent years, have also revealed the identities of scores of "faceless" Soviet agents in the Baltic States as well as in Australia and other Western countries.

Former Agents talk

When Latvian-born Soviet spy Karl Krumins and his wife Katarina Nummert were gaoled in Zurich for their activities in Iran, Krumins told the Swiss district court, "Former agent Werner Stiller is wholly to blame for our arrest. My wife and I are the 36th and 37th victims of his disclosures."

Imants Lesinskis, a Latvian KGB officer for more than 20 years and a former senior UN official in New York, escaped in 1978. His revelations have since described ingenious KGB schemes for the infiltration of Baltic emigre organisations and for promoting "cultural" ties with Russian-occupied Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Personal Identification

Back in the Baltic countries, uncensored underground publications continue disclosing the names of KGB officials responsible for the arrests and interroga-



● Erich Vallimae.

tions of Baltic prisoners of conscience. Every issue of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* publishes several pages of such documentation; sixty-one issues of the *Chronicle* have appeared so far.

The latest uncensored reports of arrests and interrogations in Estonia and Latvia are also accompanied by personal identifications of the KGB operators involved.

In the late 1970s, a daring Latvian stood in front of the main entrance of the KGB headquarters in Riga, and filmed all who entered and left the building. The resultant film footage revealed the identities of many important KGB officials. Some of them were generally known by their assumed cover names only. This film is now available in Australia, and may be viewed by arrangement with HELLP Association (PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005).

Internal Leaks

Leaks from inside the KGB bastions, once unthinkable, are beginning to occur with increasing frequency. In 1975, Lithuanian woman Nijole Sadunaite was imprisoned and exiled for a total of six years, because a page from the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* was found in her typewriter. Nijole was tried in a closed court, yet the full text of her defence speech appeared in the West within a few weeks. The KGB was outraged.

Four agents were sent from Vilnius to the Barashev labour camp in Mordovia with the task of finding out when Nijole had passed on her speech. "We're not asking you to whom you gave the transcript of the closed trial, but *where* you managed to hand it over? Was it while you were still at the Vilnius KGB prison, or on the way to Barashev, or at Barashev itself?"

The agents grilled Nijole in vain and returned home without accomplishing anything. Nijole said, she knew nothing of this incident, and she spoke the truth; the full text of her remarkable speech had been leaked directly from the KGB files.

— Neue Zuercher Zeitung/The Times/Latvian News Digest/EVVA/LIS/Social Survey.



● Headquarters of the KGB (Russian secret police) in Lenin Street, Riga (capital of Russian-occupied Latvia). Note the TV camera mounted above the corner entrance.

● Come to the Hobart Commemoration of Baltic Deportations, Friday night, June 15 (see Back Page for more details).

Another Peaceful Group Suppressed

Severe KGB pressure has resulted in the resignation of Fathers Algimantas Keina and Kazimieras Zilys from the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

Two founders of this Committee were imprisoned for long terms last year, although they had not transgressed the Soviet Constitution or Soviet laws: Fr Alfonsas Svarinskas was sentenced to seven years in strict regime camps and three years in exile; Fr Sigitas Tamkevicius — to six years in strict regime camps and four years exile.

Soon after, three other members of the Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights — Frs Keina, Zilys and Kalinauskas — were subjected to lengthy interrogations at KGB headquarters by KGB major Rainys and investigator Pilelis. The three priests refused to incriminate Frs Svarinskas and Tamkevicius.

After threats and blackmail, Frs Keina and Zilys signed statements of resignation from the Committee.

Father Leonas Kalinauskas refused to withdraw from the Committee, in spite of repeated KGB interrogations on June 29, August 12 and on other occasions.

Other members of the Catholic Committee, their friends and relatives, parishioners and even schoolchildren have been constantly interrogated and variously blackmailed, since last August.

Mass Protest

By August, 1983 over 123,000 Lithuanian believers signed a petition to Yuri Andropov and the Procurator-General of the USSR, asking that Fathers Svarinskas and Tamkevicius be released from gaol. Four lay Catholics — Aldona Sukyte, Albina Zemaityte, Alfonsas Bumbulis and Juozas Kazapuskas — were chosen to take the petition to Moscow, together with other declarations from Lithuanian believers deploring the repression of religion in their country and calling for the right to establish a religious press, hold processions and build new churches.

On arrival in Moscow, the four representatives were stopped by a group of militiamen. They searched the believers, took away their internal passports and confiscated the documents. No search warrant was shown. After some harsh lecturing by Colonel A. Filimanov and Major Shiumak, the four Lithuanians were finally put on a train back to Kaunas, accompanied by two armed guards.

On September 15, the four representatives tried again, taking the texts of the papers signed by 123,000 people and others, including a protest against their unlawful detention on August 25. This time, they reached the Procurator's Office in Moscow and were received by the Procurator V. B. Golov. However, Golov spoke to them in a disdainful and hostile tone. He said, "That priest Svarinskas is our enemy and you and all believers are the enemies of the Soviet government."

On the next day, the Lithuanian Catholics tried to appeal to the editors of *Pravda*, protesting at the way they had been treated by the militia on August 25 and Procurator Golov on September 15. The editors of *Pravda* refused to respond.

Keston News Service.



● Founding members of the Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, formed in Russian-occupied Lithuania on November 13, 1978. From left: Fathers Jonas Kauneckas, Juozas Zdebskis (no longer in the group), Alfonsas Svarinskas (gaoled in 1983), Sigitas Tamkevicius (gaoled, 1983), Vincas Velavicius.

Three other priests — Fathers A. Keina, L. Kalinauskas, K. Zilys — and prisoner Vytautas Skuodis (not in this picture) joined the committee later on, in 1980-Jan. 1983.

BALTIC NEWS

We now have twice as many readers as last year. To keep pace with this growing circulation, a second despatch centre — staffed entirely by volunteers — has been established in Melbourne. Our Victorian readers are asked to send their future requests for additional mailings, changes of addresses, etc, to BALTIC NEWS (Vic), Post Office Box 207, Chelsea, Vic. 3196.

To continue the publication of *Baltic News*, we rely entirely on our readers' donations. We thank them for the following financial contributions, received since the last issue of *Baltic News*:

D. Cullen (WA), \$100; Lithuanian Community of Sale, Q. King (Vic), G. Dehany, C. Ford, K. Simonas (NSW), \$50 each; V. Hawkins (Vic), \$30; I. Augstkalns, A. Zamoiskis (SA), R. Cervin (NSW), \$25 each; V. Petkunas (SA), F. Borumas (ACT), Anonymous (NSW), \$20 each; T. Rummelkooz (Canada), \$15; O. Liutikienė (WA), \$14; B. G. King, G. Kaminskas (ACT), J. Jonavicius (SA), A. Wiedebaum (NSW), 2 Anonymous Tasmanians, \$10 each; I. J. Thorn (WA), \$6; P. Mazyliis, S. Lipcius (Vic), \$5 each; P. Dardzans (USA), \$3.

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.

Balts Are Needed — but Not Trusted

Fear of mass defections by the Soviet Olympic competitors especially the non-Russians — was one of the main reasons why the USSR withdrew from this year's Olympic Games in Los Angeles, due to start on July 28. According to a reliable unofficial source in Moscow, the Kremlin leaders were upset that 165 voluntary organisations in the United States had combined in the "Ban the Soviets Coalition", to offer physical security for Soviet escapees.

The last straw came in April when Tony Mazeika, vice-president of the Baltic American Freedom League (BAFL), announced that plans were ready to create as many as 500 "safe houses".

Balts Win Medals for USSR

Because of rising alcoholism and falling birth-rate in Russia, Moscow is increasingly depending on non-Russians to win sporting glories for the Soviet empire. At the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, Baltic athletes — as individual participants or as team members — won 24 medals for the USSR:

Estonians	4 gold	1 silver	1 bronze
Latvians	3 gold	4 silver	
Lithuanians	7 gold	1 silver	3 bronze



● Winter Olympian Algimantas Salna: a gold medal for his country's conquerors.

The Baltic people's contribution to the "Soviet" victories at this year's Winter Olympics was equally impressive (see table above).

The bronze medal-winning Soviet bobsled team was made up almost entirely of Latvians. "The only reason Russians were added to our team, was to make sure we don't defect", was a comment overheard in Sarajevo. The controversial Soviet "shark" bobsleds were designed and built by Latvian Rolands Upatnieks in Riga, Latvia.

Re-instatement Overdue

Baltic people believe that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania should be re-instated as independent members of the international Olympic fraternity. The three

BALTIC RECORD AT THE 1984 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

Gold Medal	Algimantas Salna	Lithuanian	Men's 4x7.5 km Biathlon Relay
Silver Medal	Zintis Ekmanis	Latvian	Two Man Bobsled
Fourth Place	Janis Kipurs Aivars Snepts Ingrida Amantova	Latvian Latvian Latvian	Two Man Bobsled Two Man Bobsled Luge, Women's Single
Fifth place	Vera Zozulia Algimantas Salna	Latvian Lithuanian	Luge, Women's Single Men's 10 Km Biathlon
Sixth Place	Janis Kipurs	Latvian	Four Man Bobsled
Seventh Place	Juris Eiskas Einars Veska	Latvian Latvian	Luge, Men's Double Luge, Men's Double
Twelfth Place	Zintis Ekmanis	Latvian	Four Man Bobsled

countries joined the International Olympic Committee in the 1920s and used to compete in the Olympics under their own flags. Ironically, independent Latvia's first Olympic medal was won 52 years ago at the site of this year's Summer Games, when Janis Dalins won the silver medal in the 50 kilometre walk in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. Latvians won two more medals in the 1936 Olympics, as well as numerous world-class championships.

When Soviet armed forces occupied the Baltic States in 1940, the three countries lost not only their freedom, but also their right to be recognised as nations in the so-called non-political Olympic Games.

— NY Times/Chicago Tribune/Latvian News Digest
Pasaulio Lietuvis/Olympic News (BAFL).

43rd ANNIVERSARY OF BALTIC MASS DEPORTATIONS

Friday, June 15

7.30 pm

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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

All Welcome

Estonian World Festival

ESTO '84

*in Toronto, Canada,
July 8-15, 1984.*

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