



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)
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December, 1984

Move to Protect Balts' Bequests

Many a Balt who escaped from the Soviet terror in the 1940s and started a new life in Australia, has ended up unwittingly leaving his life's savings to his erstwhile foe — the Soviets. This happens when a former migrant of Baltic origin dies intestate (without a will), leaving no known heirs outside the Soviet Union.

Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELLP) has asked the Premier of Tasmania, Mr Robin Gray (pictured, right) to remove this anomaly, by modifying the appropriate laws.

The HELLP action was prompted by two recent instances in which Tasmanians of Baltic origin died intestate. *Baltic News* understands that one of these two Balts had indicated over the years that none of his family was alive.

Under the present Tasmanian law of intestate succession, the administrator of these two estates (the Public Trustee) will have to determine whether next-of-kin of the deceased are still living in the Soviet Union. They could be cousins several times removed.

If next-of-kin of either of the deceased are located, the Public Trustee will be obliged to transmit the net estate of that person to the next-of-kin.

It is impossible to transfer money to the Soviet Union without the Soviet authorities having a hand in it. This means that even if *bona fide* next-of-kin are discovered, the Soviet Union will abstract a significant portion of estate money on the way through, whether in poor exchange rates, taxation or restrictions on use of the money.

Relatives Made to Order

Several years ago, *Baltic News* received a report that the Soviets had apparently manufactured ready-made next-of-kin for a Tasmanian intestate who claimed to have had none. The Soviet authorities have complete control over records of births, deaths and marriages in the three occupied Baltic countries. "Only an upright conscience would prevent them from



● Two Australians of Baltic descent have inherited their parents' home in Russian-occupied Lithuania (above). Under the Soviet law, however, they are not allowed to sell this house and transfer the money to Australia.

HELLP Association considers, a reciprocal ban should be imposed to stop the outflow of Australian dollars to the USSR.



● Robin Gray,
 Premier of Tasmania

creating whatever documents are required to gain possession of estate moneys," a spokesman for HELLP commented last week. "There is much evidence that the Soviet apparatus is not troubled by difficulties of conscience."

These latest two instances of Tasmanian intestacies benefitting the Soviet Treasury have been brought to the attention of Premier Gray with the request that the law of intestate succession be altered to provide that persons who live in countries which do not allow Tasmanians to inherit property there are not entitled to inherit property located here.

In 1982, when this matter last surfaced, it was reported that an average of two to four migrants from Soviet bloc countries died intestate in Tasmania each year, leaving no known next-of-kin in the West. The total of all estate moneys being transferred to the Soviet bloc from Tasmania was then estimated at \$100,000 to \$300,000 annually.

The Premier has not yet responded to HELLP's representations.

A Will is Important

Meanwhile, however, these cases are a reminder to all that a concerted campaign is needed to prevent former migrants who opposed the Soviets in life from benefitting Moscow through their deaths.

Baltic News has previously* outlined the need for everyone to make a will and thus avoid dying intestate. Unfortunately, it is often the lonely ones, those not reached by notices and papers, who inadvertently leave their life savings to the Soviets.

* See: CRAIG, W. D., "How is your will?", *Baltic News*, February 11, 1978, pp 6-7.

Estonians Flee to Sweden

Four Estonians who feared being called up to serve in the Soviet army in Afghanistan, fled across the Baltic Sea and slipped into Sweden, a relative disclosed recently.

"They fled to Finland in a rubber dinghy and crossed into northern Sweden to avoid detection by Finnish authorities," said Margareta Hildebrand, a relative of one of the refugees. The escapees have since been identified as: Harry Gelstein (19), Aleksander Lepajõe (23), Andre Hildebrand (20) and Raivo Roosna (20).

The flight took place in the early hours of May 20, when the four set out from a river on the northern coast of Estonia in an inflatable rubber dinghy with a large outboard engine.

"Twenty yards from the sea there was an underwater obstacle. We crossed it, but lost the bow-line overboard. It got wrapped around the engine reducing speed and maneuverability," they said.

Constant Lookout

During the four-hour trip to Finland — roughly 50 miles across the Gulf of Finland — they kept constant lookout to avoid detection. The refugees said they knew of 20 Baltic escape attempts, only two of which have succeeded.

The four Estonians walked to Helsinki, from where they caught a train going to Sweden via northern Finland. "It was necessary to get through Finland quickly to avoid being sent back," Aleksander Lepajõe said in an interview.

The main reason for their flight was that they feared being conscripted for Afghanistan where Soviet troops are fighting Moslem natives, all four said unanimously.

High Official Escapes

Two Estonian defectors, Valdo Randpere and his wife, Leila Miller, made the headlines in August. Randpere, aged 26, was a senior aide to the Estonian Minister of Justice and a member of the republican Komsomol Central Committee; Miller, aged 23, was one of Estonia's most popular singers.

Having made the decision to defect two years ago, the couple got their chance last Northern summer during a visit to Finland, as part of an official delegation attending the city of Kotka's "Baltic Sea Days." Because of Finland's unwillingness to grant Soviet



● Estonian refugee Aleksander Lepajõe: "I refuse to fight for the foreigners who have conquered my country".

escapees political asylum, Randpere and Miller made their getaway by taking the ferry to Stockholm. They left their 13-month-old baby daughter Kaisa behind, with their grandmother in Estonia.

A similar defection shook the Estonian political establishment two years ago, when Aarne Vahtra, of the Ministry of Culture, jumped boat in Paris.

Uncensored TV

Estonians speak a language similar to Finnish and watch Finnish television from across the Gulf of Finland. Because of this, Estonians are said to have been the only Soviet citizens able to follow the Los Angeles Olympics in full despite the Soviet boycott.

Estonian travellers have reported large number of their countrymen moving up to the coast to get better reception of Finnish television's exhaustive coverage.

The Soviet Communist Party on August 1 published a decree ordering Estonian party officials to use television and other media more effectively. Western diplomats in Moscow said this showed the Kremlin's concern about the influence of the Finnish broadcasts.

— Soviet Nationalities Survey/Eesti Haal/Baltic Bulletin/UPI/The Mercury (Hobart).

Western Books Banned

"Tourists who carry prohibited goods in their suitcases are no friends of ours", writes *Rahva Haal*, the main Communist party newspaper in Russian-occupied Estonia. The "goods" attacked by the paper are Western books and periodicals.

According to *Rahva Haal*, some visitors hide printed matter in coffee bags, cigarette packs or in food tins with misleading labels. One woman from Finland had five copies of *The Life of Jesus* in secret skirt pockets. Another carried fifty-nine copies of the same book plus religious cassette recordings in a specially constructed rucksack, the newspaper claimed. W. Pratney's *Creation or Evolution* was confiscated from a Canadian tourist, because the book's contents were "scientifically suspect".

— Newsletter from behind the Iron Curtain



● Something to sing about; Estonian defectors Leila Miller and Valdo Randpere, now safe in Sweden.

Light in the Darkness

"The Lord will come, he will not delay. He will bring to light that which is in darkness, and reveal himself to all the world."

So runs an antiphon in Advent, as Christians prepare for the Feast of Christ's Nativity.

Those who endure the long Siberian nights within the Arctic Circle, those who live in an environment that is truly a dark night of the soul, will appreciate the Scripture's use of the images of light and darkness in a way we in the free world do not.

And from the suffering prisoners, comes a Christmas message for us: It is a Christmas Prayer, composed by four Lithuanian girls in Siberia:

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

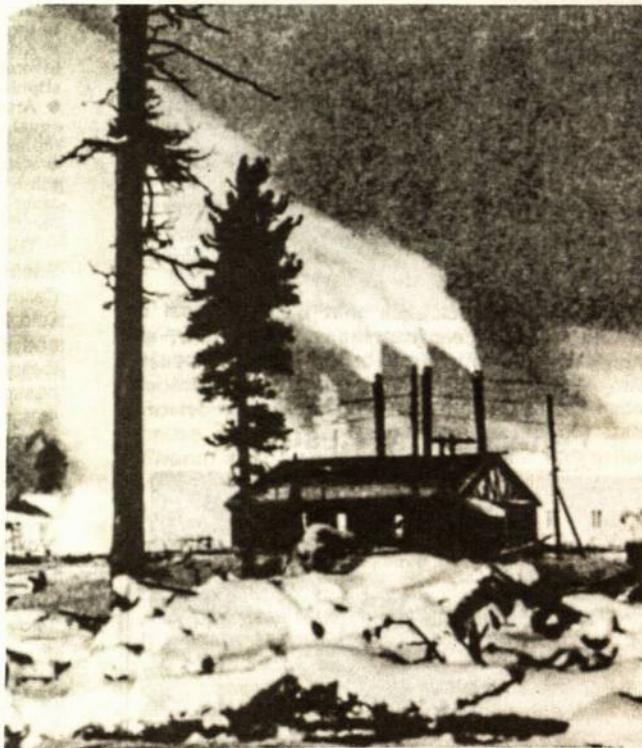
With icy lips
with tear-filled eyes,
tormented by despair, we fly
to your straw-covered crib,
O Holy Babe!

Accept our petitions
and prayers,
accept our longing
and resolves.
Accept the sacrifices of our
freedom-fighters.

Accept the tears
of our loved ones,
their prayers, their grief
and their anxieties.

Preserve us all
for a bright future.
Grant heavenly bliss
to those who have died
from hunger and hardship
in foreign lands.

With a bruised heart,
I implore You —
cut short the days of our trials.
If sacrifice is needed,
take it from me,
but give me
the courage and fortitude
of martyrs. Amen.



● A Soviet concentration camp in Siberia: one of 2,000 prisons, camps and psychiatric prisons now in operation in the USSR. A new source of spiritual inspiration for the materialistic West.

Baltic Resolution

On 8th October 1984, Senator P. Baume gave notice in the Australian Senate that he proposes to move a resolution on the Baltic States.

This resolution recommends that Australia should fulfil its obligations as a member of the United Nations and encourage respect for human rights in the occupied Baltic States as well as support the resolution on the situation in the Baltic States adopted by the European Parliament.

The attitude of the Australian Labor Party and the Hawke government on this matter was not yet clearly defined when this issue of BALTIC NEWS went to print. Readers are urged to write to:

The Hon. R. Hawke, A.C.,
Prime Minister,
House of Representatives,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600. and

The Hon. W. G. Hayden,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
House of Representatives,
CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Brave Women

Congratulations to the three brave women who offered to work for the Soviets, in exchange for two imprisoned priests. (*Baltic News*, Sept 1984). May I have these women's addresses, so that my family could write to them?

Perth, W.A.

M. RUSSELL

● The addresses are:

CCCP/Lietuva (Liet. SSR),/ BIRŽAI, /Vytauto 16-8, /ŠUKYTĖ, Aldona, Povilo./-U.S.S.R.

CCCP/Lietuva (Liet. SSR),/ Kapsuko rajonas, /SASNA-VA, / VALAITYTĖ Bronislava, Jeronimo./- U.S.S.R.

CCCP/Lietuva (Liet. SSR),/ KAPSUKAS, / Sporto 14-6, /JUDIKEVIČIŪTĖ Janina, Jurgio./- U.S.S.R.

Vanished Without Trace

Some months ago, I wrote to Collins Book Publishers in Auckland, NZ, asking for the book *Rebel in a Wrong Cause* by S. W. (Sid) Scott. They replied that they had no knowledge of this book (quoted in your March '84 *Baltic News*).

I have also paid two visits to their Sydney offices; they cannot help me.

Randwick, NSW.

G. W. COURTNEY

EDITOR'S REPLY: According to the State Library of Tasmania, *Rebel in a Wrong Cause* was published by Collins in 1960. The book is now out of print, but at least one copy is held by the State Library of NSW.

It is a strange coincidence that books critical of Moscow tend to disappear from the book trade; or — as in this case — even vanish from the publisher's records!

Letters Bring Results



● **BALTIC NEWS** readers responded warmly to the latest reports on Gunta Rožkalns and Alfreds Zarins which appeared on the back page of our September issue. All requests to "adopt" prisoners have been passed on to the interdenominational Christian association, specialising in this work: Friends of the Prisoners, Post Office Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005, Australia.

We apologize that, in our last issue, the Rožkalns twins were incorrectly described as girls. They are a boy (Markus) and a girl (Rita) — pictured above, with their mother. The twins were born on January 13, 1983, a week after the KGB ransacked their parents' home and confiscated 53 Bibles, 40 religious publications and the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Invasion in Retrospect

Sid Scott has learned a lot but, regrettably, not the whole truth (*Baltic News*, March, 1984). He writes, "As for the plebiscites, with their enormous votes for incorporation in the Soviet Union [of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania], it was not until long afterwards that I knew [...] that the figures were announced in the Moscow press twenty-four hours before the poll was actually closed [...]."

The plain fact is there has never been a plebiscite in Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania about the incorporation of these three states into the Soviet Union.

The Latvian Constitution (adopted by the Latvian Constituent Assembly on 15 February, 1922 and effective from 7 November, 1922) provides,

- Article 1: Latvia shall be an independent democratic Republic.
- Article 2: The sovereign power of the Latvian State shall belong to the Latvian People.
- Article 3: The territory of the Latvian State shall consist of Livonia, Latgale, Courland and Zemgale, within the boundaries stipulated by International treaties.
- Article 6: The Saeima [Parliament] shall be elected by universal, equal, direct and secret vote, on the basis of proportional representation.
- Article 77: If the Saeima [Parliament] modifies the first, second, third or sixth Article of the Constitution, such amendments, in order to acquire the force of Law, shall be submitted to a referendum.

The Soviet government proclaimed elections of the Saeima in Latvia on 14 July, 1940. Only one party (fellow-travellers of the Communist Party) were permitted to field candidates, so there was no proportional representation and there was no ballot as provided by the Constitution. Everyone who voted received a stamp in his or her internal passport (so, no secret vote) and the rumours had it, "No stamp in passport, deportation to Siberia". In addition, members of the Russian occupation forces were marched to the polling place to cast their votes too; and finally the ballot papers were not counted.

There was nothing even to resemble a plebiscite as provided in Article 77 of the Constitution.

Melbourne, Vic.

(Prof.) Edgars DUNSDORFS.

Pusillanimity*

It is sometimes tacitly or explicitly expressed that, because the Baltic nations (and other Soviet satellites) have been subjugated for 45 years, they should accept that they will always be under Soviet domination

That is reasoning characterised by pusillanimity and double standards. Please note:

- Greece was under various foreign rulers from Roman times to the 1820's.
- Italy was ruled from 410 to 1859-66 by a hotch-potch of local princelings, warlords and other empires.
- Eire was under the English thumb from 1154 to 1922. Coincidentally, these three countries have produced the largest ethnic groups in Australia; and no one ever suggests, they should revert to colonial status.

The hour may be closer at hand than it appears for the decline and fall of the Soviet empire.

"The wicked shall not always rule over the land of the righteous..." (Psalm 125, vs 3-5)

Mt. Waverley, Vic.

Bruce KING.

* *Pusillanimity* = faint heartedness, mean-spiritedness, timidity, no guts.

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

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Baltic Scientist Gagged

Writing your own autobiography is now a criminal offence in Russian-occupied Baltic States. On October 3, Lithuanian chemical scientist Liudas Dambrauskas (63) was sentenced to 3½ years' imprisonment in a strict regime camp, to be followed by two years' exile.

Dambrauskas was arrested on March 20, 1984 after KGB officials had searched his home in Vilnius and confiscated his memoirs of a ten-year term of imprisonment which he had served during the Stalin era. This time, he was charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" (Article 68). According to Amnesty International, no one is known to have been acquitted of this charge yet.

Liudas Dambrauskas's health is frail. In April, 1984, during the investigation of his case, Dambrauskas was admitted to hospital after suffering an infarct. While in hospital, doctors are reported to have diagnosed that he has also contracted tuberculosis.

Liudas is the nephew of the late celebrated Lithuanian national poet, A. Jakštas-Dambrauskas. Before his arrest, he was the head of a laboratory at the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Institute of Thermo-insulation. Liudas Dambrauskas was one of many thousands of Lithuanians arrested by the Soviets in 1945, on suspicion of opposing Lithuania's incorporation into the USSR. Lithuania passed into the Soviet sphere of influence under the terms of a secret German-Soviet friendship and non-aggression pact in 1939.

— Amnesty International/Lithuanian Information Center

Russian Indoctrination

According to Central Committee Secretary I. Anderson, Latvia's ruling Communist party is pursuing a two-track nationality policy, involving respect for Latvian language and culture, but simultaneously promoting everything Russian (*Pravda*, July 9, 1984).

The Party's main goal, says Anderson, is to "reach every individual and help him develop respect for other peoples". Above all, "conditions are being created for the universal study of Russian, as a language of international interaction." The State University of Latvia has a new department specializing in the preparation of Russian-language teachers for Latvian schools. Mass political rallies are always conducted in Latvian and Russian. And, Anderson adds, "we are especially concerned that the names of streets, state and public organisations, and trade and cultural enterprise always be in both languages".

— Soviet Nationality Survey

Teacher in Captivity

● Lithuanian teacher Mrs Jadvyga Bieliauskienė is now serving a 7 year sentence (4 years in strict regime camp and 3 years exile) for circulating petitions and for teaching children religion.

Under the Soviet law, persons other than parents are not allowed to give religious instruction to minors under the age of 18.



Constantly on the Move



● This is the latest photograph of Nijolė Sadūnaitė, taken "somewhere inside the USSR." This Lithuanian woman was arrested in 1974 and served six years in Soviet strict regime camps and Siberian exile because a page from the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* was found in her typewriter.

After her release and return to Lithuania on July 9, 1980, Nijolė and her brother Jonas were harassed by the KGB (Russian secret police). Delivery of letters and foreign gift parcels was stopped. Nijolė's flat was raided repeatedly.

Finally, after receiving threats of new arrest from Dr Ražinskienė (of Vilnius Psychiatric Hospital), Nijolė went into hiding towards the end of 1982. She has been constantly on the move ever since, caring for prisoners of conscience and their families. Nijolė often changes her appearance and has so far escaped detection by the KGB. She was in Moscow this year, and in Vilnius.

When asked if she would like to migrate to the West, Nijolė shook her head, "Definitely no! My task is to remain here and care for the least fortunate of our brethren."

Jewish Appeal Rejected

The *mikvah* (ritual bath-house) attached to the Vilnius synagogue will remain closed.

A group of Jewish women in the Lithuanian capital appealed a year ago to the Soviet authorities, seeking permission to re-open the *mikvah*. On 19 September this year, they repeated their appeal. In October, the women also contacted the head of the Council for Religious Affairs in Russian-occupied Lithuania, pointing out that they now have to travel all the way to Moscow for access to a *mikvah*.

Their appeals were rejected on the grounds that "due to poor sanitary conditions", the Vilnius *mikvah* cannot be used.

— Keston News Service.

Barbara's Book Available Again

Completely sold out 12 months ago, Barbara Armonas's book *Leave Your Tears in Moscow* is now available again — but the supply is limited. The book is an unforgettable account of an ordinary woman's struggle for survival in a police state, for nearly twenty years. It shows that being born in Lithuania — or Latvia or Estonia, for that matter — is sufficient to land you in Siberia for two decades or more.

Barbara Armonas was an ordinary farmer's wife, living simply in a remote part of Lithuania. After the Soviet takeover in 1940, she and her baby son were forced to remain in Lithuania, while her American-born husband and daughter went to the United States. "Don't worry", her husband said then, "In a few months you can join me".

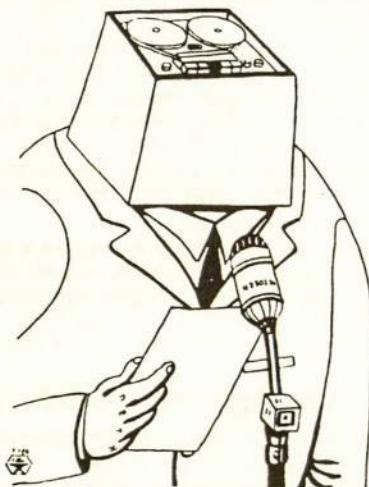
But the family was not to be reunited for almost 20 years — until after Nikita Khrushchev, during his 1959 visit to the United States, promised that Mrs Armonas and her son would be allowed to leave the USSR.

In her book, Barbara Armonas tells what those years were like and how she survived them. In everyday details, she describes the war years when the Armonas farm was literally a battlefield; her long, bitter exile in a Siberian labour camp; her imprisonment for unspecified "political crimes"; and, finally, the last nerve-shattering days before she returned to freedom.

This is human tragedy, told in a simple language and with an almost incredible restraint — but culminating in the amazing twist of a happy ending.

Leave Your Tears in Moscow is now available from Friends of the Prisoners, Post Office Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tasmania — Australia, at \$5 plus \$1.80 postage and packing. If you wish to order it as a Christmas present, you may enclose a gift card with your order — and your card will be forwarded with the book.

The New Soviet Man



• The man who drew this cartoon, 47-year-old Vyacheslav Sisoyev, is now serving a two-year labour camp sentence in Arkhangelsk, near the Arctic Circle. A Soviet court found him guilty of producing and distributing PORNOGRAPHY!

Two books of Sisoyev's drawings have been published in France: *La vie est devenue meilleure*, published by *La Decouverte*, 1 Place Paul Painlevé, 75005 Paris, price 55 FF; and *Silence Hospital*, published by *Scarabee & Compagnie*, 21, rue Drouot, 75009 Paris, price 79 FF.

BOOK REVIEW

LA WIEDRA by Genevieve Carion-Machwitz. Paris, Denoel: 1984, 346 pp.

La Wiedra is the title of the novel which describes the fortunes of the Machwitz family both in Lithuania and in France. It starts from the time of Napoleon when Zenon, the first Machwitz, plays an important role in the



reconstitution of the duchy of Varsovie. The novel then takes the reader all the way to Charles, who between the two world wars is instrumental in creating the port of Gdynia.

Based on family records consisting of letters, portraits and notebooks, the author Genevieve Carion-Machwitz details the history of a country continually martyred by war and occupation. These events, described from the point of view of a landowning family at Drabczuny, tell of the suffering of the Lithuanian people under the successive regimes of Poland, Russia, Germany and the Bolsheviks.

The character of Constantin, his exile in France, his meeting and marriage with Stephanie and his eventual return to Lithuania with his wife and family are well drawn. Stephanie becomes truly Lithuanian. She suffers separation from Raphael, her youngest son, who has to remain in France because he is too young to travel; she is torn between her love for him and her life with her husband.

The real drama of the novel is the love of Martha and Raphael, brother and sister: it is all soul consuming but never overtly incestuous. It is these two characters who make the book a living reality and one is able to live with Martha the tribulations of changing governments, occupation and loss of family.

Raphael goes to Tunisia and marries there. His youngest son, Charles, combines the characteristics of both his father and Martha, and is embued with a sense of national identity. Charles visits his aunt once and hopes to return to re-establish the family estate — but in vain.

The book is well worth reading. In a vivid and realistic manner, it gives the reader, through the life of the Machwitz family, the background of a most turbulent national history.

— Reviewed by Sylvia MURRELL.

Playing with Fire

Authorities in Russian-occupied Latvia are worried that songs with politically loaded texts in Latvian are a possible source of social unrest among youths.

Pop and rock music have been officially accepted for more than a decade.

So far, Soviet Latvian authorities have kept "suspicious" musical ensembles in check. Since 1981, Latvian rock groups have had their performances screened by a special jury that can restrict where groups may perform.

Early Songs in English

A Latvian rock guitarist who emigrated in 1973 recalls that in the early 1970s English used to be the preferred language for Latvian rock musicians taking a provocative stance. Some would even sing English phonetically without understanding the language, he said.

But the newer, semi-official rock groups choose to sing in their native language. This tendency surfaced simultaneously with a renewed, grass-roots interest in Latvian folklore that authorities fear may be a cover for nationalist feelings.

A recorded album of Latvian rock music, created from tapes smuggled out of the country, was issued in late July by Latvian emigres in Hamburg under the "KGB" label, an abbreviation for "Cultural Preservation Society" in Latvian. The label is obviously intended as a jab at the Soviet secret police (KGB), which sets the standard for music censorship.

Alcoholism, Pollution

The main group on the albums is "Perkins" (Thunder), which is considered to be the most popular rock group amongst Latvian youth.

Perkins' songs on the record deal mainly with alcoholism and environmental pollution, subjects which

THANKS!

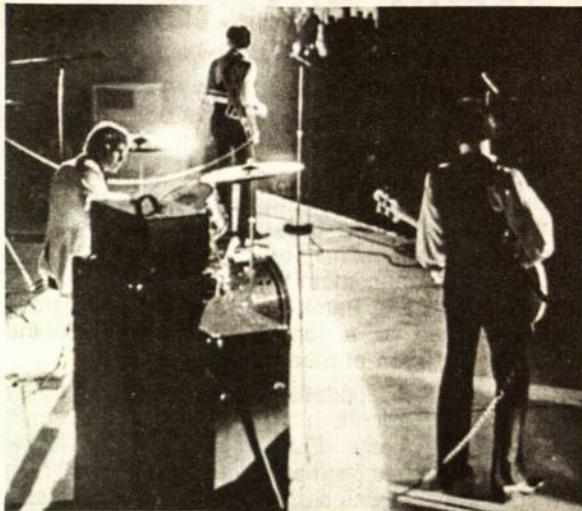
Baltic News is mailed, free of charge, to all who wish to read about the Baltic States. This wide distribution (over 5,000 copies to 25 countries) is financed entirely by donations.

We thank our supporters for their continued generosity. The following donations have been received:

Mrs V. Sestokas (Vic), \$200; Lithuanian Community in Melbourne, \$170; Estonian Community in Melbourne, \$160; Latvian Community in Melbourne, \$150; Baltic Council of Victoria, \$100; Miss I. Broze, \$10; L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2.

Baltic Council of Australia, \$500; Lithuanian Co-op Society "Talka," \$300; Lithuanian Catholic Women's Society in Adelaide, Latvian Relief Society of Australia, \$100 each; Lithuanian Community Canberra, Lithuanian Community Adelaide, Australian Lithuanian Society Sydney, \$50 each; Lithuanian Community Latrobe Valley, V. Rudewych (Vic), \$40 each; P. Lazdauskas (Tas), \$30; V. Vitkauskas (USA), V. Lipping (NSW), \$25 each; C. Ford, I. Milasas (NSW), Woolongong Estonian Society, \$20 each; J. Kraolzins (NSW), \$12; J. Darby (NSW), \$11; D. Cerkulins (Vic), A. Mauragis, J. Cooley, M. Zakaras (NSW), B. Barsteika, J. Kilmartin (USA), J. Mockunas (SA), Mrs E. Smyth (Tas), Estonian Central Council Canada, \$10 each; E. Lewinski (Tas), J. Zonuis, D. and C. Westmore (Vic), H. W. Randal (NSW), C. Viknius (SA), \$5 each; M. J. Smyth, Nijole (NSW), A. Herman (Vic), S. V. Gross, A. R. Felsman, A. W. Pitts (QLD), \$2 each; J. Kesner Kahn (USA), \$1.

Many thanks — we wish you a Holy Christmas and a peaceful New Year!



are not banned officially. But, although Perkins got a certificate of merit for "social and political themes" in mid-July at an official rock festival in the port city of Liepaja, the authorities have ambivalent feelings with the group.

And so Perkins is restricted to performing in small concert halls in Latvia. At the Liepaja event, the official programme didn't contain the group's popular name, but listed it under the collective farm that sponsors it.

"Nothing Is Fatter . . ."

According to a reliable source, Perkins has played to an audience of 20,000 — in Estonia, where very few listeners could understand the Latvian language. Such lines as "Nothing in this life is fatter than the pigs that we must honour" passed without recognition.

Perkins often performs in odd costumes and uses fireworks on stage to accentuate its music. Perkins is an uncompromising group, committed to its own music and uninterested in being a commercial success.

Commercial success, in Soviet terms, means an official record album, bookings in the best concert halls, and publicity in the State-controlled Press.

This is not to say that Latvian groups do not make records inside the USSR. "Zodiac," an electronic music group that is one of the most popular groups in the Soviet Union, has cut two records. And most of the music from a rock opera by a group called "Dralderi" has recently been recorded.

— The Christian Science Monitor/LIB

TO: H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association),
Post Office Box 272,
SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

I do not recognize the Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

Please send me the *Baltic News*, free of charge and without any obligation.

Name.....

ADDRESS.....

..... POSTCODE

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

PROFILE OF A PRISONER

Anti-Nuclear Activist Silenced

Woman architect Lagle Parek had one wish: she wanted to keep her native Estonia free of nuclear contamination. But she made a crucial mistake: she recorded her wish on paper. For this, Lagle has been deprived of the best nine years of her life. Lagle's case is a typical example of what it is like to grow up and live in a Soviet-controlled non-Russian country.

Lagle Parek was born April 17, 1941. Her father Karl Parek, a captain in the Estonian army, was murdered by the Soviet invasion forces when Lagle was a few months old. Her mother, art historian Elsbet Parek (b1902), her grandmother actress Anna Markus (b1878), sister Eva Parek (b1931) and Lagle herself were deported to a forced labour camp in the Novosibirski region of Siberia, in March 1949.

Soon after the deportation, some books banned by the Soviets were found hidden in the Pärnu museum where Lagle's mother Elsbet had worked. A fellow worker testified that she had helped Elsbet Parek hide the books. Elsbet was brought back from Siberia and gaoled for having concealed the books. In the general amnesty granted to female prisoners in 1953, Elsbet was released from the central prison in Tallinn. However, it was not until two years later (1955) that Anna Markus and her grandchildren Lagle and Eva were allowed to return to their native Estonia.

Lagle graduated from the Tallinn Technical College and prior to her arrest worked as an architect for a government agency.

Noticed by the KGB

As a national and human rights activist, Lagle Parek did not escape the notice of the KGB. One March 4 and 5, 1981, Lagle was interrogated by the KGB's 'Investigator of Especially Important Cases', major Heino Kruusmaa, she was linked with the 'anti-Soviet activity' charges laid against fellow dissidents Tiit Madisson and Viktor Niitsoo.

On October 10, 1981, Lagle Parek and 37 other Balts signed an open letter to the leaders of the Governments of the USSR, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden. The letter called on these nations to establish a nuclear-free zone which would include the Baltic Sea and the three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania). Sweden, Denmark and Norway remained silent. The Soviet Union responded by arresting five of the 38 signatories, and interrogating several others.

Throughout 1981 and 1982, KGB agents continued their investigation of Lagle, collecting "incriminating" material and interviewing Lagle's fellow workers.

No Evidence Found

Early in March 1983, when KGB forces carried out a nation-wide series of searches and interrogations against suspected national and human rights activists in Estonia, Lagle's workplace and home were searched.

During the search of her workplace, Lagle's workmates Kaur Alttoa, Ulla Einasto and Ulla Järve were



● Road of no return: There is no room in Russian-occupied Estonia for outspoken people like Lagle Parek (pictured above).

also arrested and detained for questioning. Among the items confiscated were copies of poems by the internationally known Estonian poetess Marie Under, 1982/83 Christmas and New Year's greetings from friends and several photos. The search produced no incriminating material.

Lagle Parek was formally arrested March 5, 1983 at 9.30 am in a street in Tartu and was taken to Tallinn central prison. 'Preliminary' investigation was carried out by Major Kruusmaa. Lagle, along with Heiki Ahonen and Arvo Pesti, was charged under article 68-1 of the Estonian SSR criminal code with 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda'. She was sentenced on December 16, 1983, to six years ordinary regime labour camp and three years internal exile.

Letters to Lagle may be sent to:

431200 Mordovskaya ASSR,
Tengushevsky raion,
Posyolok Barashevo,
Uchrezhdenie ZhKh-385/3-4,
PAREK Lagle,
USSR

Lagle's mother (Elsbet Parek) and her husband (Lembit Rasta) are also in need of letters of encouragement. Both can be reached at the same address:

Eesti NSV, 202400 TARTU,
Tahe 82-7,
Elsbet PAREK (or: Lembit RASTA),
USSR.

— Eesti VVA.

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