



# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELLP)  
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● Funeral procession of Povilas Plukas, in Krasnoyarsk district (Siberia) on January 19, 1958. Plukas was deported from his native Lithuania in 1948. Like thousands of other Baltic prisoners, he had committed no crime. He was deported because colonists from the East wanted his home and his job. And the free world remained silent...

Photo from the book "Lithuanians in Siberia" by Rev J. Prunskis, PhD.

## ...But the Spirit is Alive

The Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians have suffered a lot, but their national spirit remains strong and alive. This is the message that keeps coming through, loud and clear, from the three Russian-occupied Baltic countries after 45 years of foreign rule.

The Baltic Tragedy started in June 1940 when — without declaring war — Soviet troops seized Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Twelve months later, in June 1941, the Soviets started mass deportations of innocent Balts to Siberia and other distant places.

At least 655,000 — and quite likely over 1 million — Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians had disappeared from their own countries by 1950 (this was 10%-15% of the total population of the three Baltic States). The deportees' homes and jobs were taken by Russian-speaking colonists.

With the cream of the three nations skimmed off, mass deportations gave way to the rule of fear, discrimination and constant oppression.

Arrests are continuing to the present day, but they are more selective now. As regular reports in *Baltic News* show, the latest victims tend to be active or potential leaders of opposition to the Soviet rule: journalists, artists, scientists, ministers of religion and patriots from other walks of life.

All these Balts have one characteristic in common: a steadfast determination to preserve their national identity and to press for the ultimate restoration of independence from the USSR. These sentiments were summed up by Lithuanian Nijolė Sadūnaitė who spent 6 years in Soviet prisons and exile because of her involvement with the clandestine *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*.

"I am not a criminal," she told her interrogators and judge Kudriašovas, at her mock trial on June 16, 1975. "It is you, the masters of this trial, who are the criminals, because you are disregarding basic human rights protected by the laws of the land, by the Constitution and by the (UN) Charter of Human Rights. You are condoning lies, brute force and violence: You have condemned innocent people and are torturing them in prison and in concentration camps."

"This is the happiest day of my life. I am being tried for the *Chronicle*, which is a protest against the physical and spiritual tyranny to which my people is being subjected. I am privileged: not only have I fought for human rights and for justice, but I am being punished for doing so. My condemnation will be my victory!"

- Dear God, I Wanted to Live: Page 4.
- June Commemorations: Page 7.



# UPDATES

## Baltic Resolution

The "Baltic Resolution," described in the last two issues of *Baltic News*, was adopted by the Australian Senate on February 28, 1985. The resolution calls on the Australian Government to bring the question of human rights and self-determination for the Baltic States before all appropriate forums of the United Nations.

## New Chairman

After 19 years' service, Vladimir A. Kuroyedov (pictured) has been relieved of his duties as Chairman of the USSR Council of Religious Affairs. His successor is Konstantin Mikhailovich Kharchev (50), a former engineer, economist and Soviet ambassador.



Mr Kuroyedov was last mentioned in the Sept. 1982 issue of *Baltic News*, when he admitted that the Soviets had illegally seized the Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Klaipėda, Lithuania. In the presence of a ten-member delegation, Mr Kuroyedov promised "to rectify the wrong done to believers and grant permission to build a new church in Klaipėda".

The promise was not kept.

— G2W.

## Slave-Built Cars

Mr Tim Moore, member for Gordon in the NSW Legislative Assembly, asked the NSW Minister for Transport to re-examine the registration approval for Lada-Niva motor cars (see *B/News*, Dec 83).

In reply, Mr Moore was told that "control over the importation of any goods into Australia is a matter for the Commonwealth. As the Lada-Niva vehicle has been approved by the Australian Motor Vehicle Certification Board, and bears Compliance Plates, the [NSW] Department of Motor Transport is obliged to register such vehicles."

## Memoirs

Lithuanian scientist Liudas Dambrasukas (*Baltic News*, December, 1984, p5) has since been sentenced to 3½ years strict regime camp and 2 years exile for writing his memoirs of Soviet prison life.



It is feared that Dambrasukas, who has a heart condition and is suffering from tuberculosis, is much too weak to withstand harsh camp conditions.

— Lithuanian Information Center

## Siberian Death Camp

No drinkable water; two beds for every five prisoners; cells infested with lice; cold; hunger; troublemakers sent as punishment to the "homosexual quarter" — such is the situation of 2000 prisoners held "between life and death" in the Siberian Camp No UK 272 40 near Irkutsk.

Facts about this camp were contained in a letter recently smuggled out to the west by Latvian Jew Zakhar Zunshain, condemned to three years' detention, and who managed to get a letter to his wife. (Previous report in: *Baltic News*, September 1984, p. 3).

— Annals (Aust.)

## Found "Guilty"

Father Jonas Kastytis Matulionis (see *B/News*, March 1985, p 8) has been sentenced by a Soviet court in Vilnius to 3 years in strict-regime camps. He was found guilty of "group activities which offend public order", under Article 199, Section 3 of the Soviet Lithuanian Criminal Code.



At the same sitting, the Vilnius court condemned 19-year-old Romas Zemaitis to 2 years in concentration camp. Zemaitis was found guilty of "having resisted a police officer", under Article 201, section 1.

— LIC/Europos Lietuvis.

## Home — At Last

Dr Sergei Kovalev (pronounced: Kovalyov), an eminent Russian biologist and close friend of Andrei Sakharov, was released on December 3, 1984 after serving ten years in Soviet forced labour camps and exile. Kovalev was arrested in Moscow in December 1974 and was tried 12 months later in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The Soviet court found him guilty of possessing three issues of the clandestine *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* which he allegedly used in the Russian *Chronicle of Current Events*. He was also charged with distributing Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago*. For all these "offences," Dr Kovalev was incarcerated for a whole decade.

Throughout his trial, many of Kovalev's friends — including Sakharov, Orlov, Litvinov, Petkus and Terleckas — were forcibly refused admission to the courtroom. ● This photograph of Dr Sergei Kovalev, his wife and daughter was taken during the Russian scientist's exile in Magadan region, in March 1982.





# Estonian Conscripts in Afghanistan

"In the smaller villages everyone who came before us was to be shot. Before you proceed into a side street or courtyard, you must fire a volley into dark corners. Only then can you jump inside. Similarly with houses: first a burst of gunfire, then you enter."

These are excerpts from an interview with a demobilized Estonian conscript who served in Afghanistan in 1981-82. The interview has appeared in the second issue of a new Estonian "samizdat" (underground) publication, *Self-Letter*.

"Villages in Afghanistan are completely different from our Estonian villages," the first-hand witness continues. "First of all, they are populated much more densely. Houses are attached to other houses; the village is like a clay labyrinth with small houses and inner courtyards. It is difficult to orient yourself, and you never know what awaits you around the next corner."

"In such villages, there is a lot of bloodshed. A village can hardly sustain life after this."



● Baltic conscripts in Kabul, Afghanistan: Reluctantly, they die for their countries' oppressors.

"For a general punishment operation, the Soviet tactics were basically the same," the former soldier testifies. "All, even slightly suspicious, individuals were to be shot immediately. Generally, all men who appeared capable of fighting were considered suspect."

"Similarly, all those individuals whose appearance aroused suspicion [were shot], for example, people clothed in chadors, which are generally worn by women, although men can also go about wearing them. A chador covers the face, and so it is easy to conceal oneself . . . Those who started running or tried to hide in any way were shot immediately."

"That's what we conscripts were required to do — it was made clear to us before the beginning of operations," the Estonian witness concludes.

## General Dissatisfaction

Baltic people are increasingly unhappy about the war in Afghanistan. In 1982, a Lithuanian underground journal, *Ausra*, published a revealing article entitled *Our Young Men Are Dying in Afghanistan*. Later issues described how the funerals of Lithuanian conscripts occasionally turned into protests "against oppression and the sort of politics that compels our brothers to die for the interests of foreigners."

In Estonia, a declaration of the Unofficial Peace Group referred to the "hundreds of young Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians who have already met a cruel and shabby fate in the dirty imperialistic war being waged in Afghanistan." — RFE-RL/TK - SovNat Survey.

## Defected

Bronius Venclova, a Lithuanian-born employee at the Soviet Embassy in Congo, defected to the West earlier this year and has since been granted political asylum in the United States of America.

A historian and linguist by training, Bronius is a relative of Tomas Venclova, the exiled co-founder of Lithuania's Helsinki Monitoring Group. Tomas visited Hobart and other Australian centres in December, 1977.

— Europos Lietuvis.

## Young Life Lost

A 16-year-old Latvian girl Iveta Zutere was accidentally shot during compulsory army training in Riga high school No 41, on December 18, 1984. A live bullet penetrated an artery in Iveta's neck. By the time a nurse arrived on the scene, the Grade 10 student had bled to death.

Last year, the Soviet Union stepped up its programme of military training in schools. According to the official Soviet newspaper, *Skolotāju Avīze*, the number of war game camps for children was increased from 7 to 34. This year's curriculum for high schools includes 2 hours' military training a week for all Grade 10 and 11 students. Practice in marksmanship with live ammunition is part of the course. Most schools have firing ranges on the campus.

The Soviet basic military training programme is designed to prepare new soldiers for active duty in Afghanistan. About 15 million students take part in the annual Soviet military games.

— WFFL.



● A Red Army officer training children at P. Stučka high-school in Riga (capital of Russian-occupied Latvia). Note: The wall posters are printed in Russian, not in Latvian.



# Dear God, I Wanted to Live

*These words sum up the tragedy of Ruta, a Latvian veteran of Soviet deportations to Siberia, who died of tuberculosis in 1957, at the age of 31. Her health was ruined by years of forced labour, and perhaps by sheer grief at the rape of her people.*

*Before her death, Ruta wrote about her first five years in Siberia. Written simply (her education was cut short), Ruta's account is evidence of an innocent child's appalling suffering. A few extracts follow:*

It was rainy and dismal, the morning of that fearful day — June 14, 1941. I was fourteen; my sisters, twelve and nine. Our mother was with us, but father was away.

All night long we had heard trucks, many more than usual, coming and going, and kept wondering about them. After breakfast a truck stopped right at our front gate. On the roof of the cab, crouching with a rifle, was a gaunt young man, his dark hair dishevelled, his coat open and flapping. He barked a command, and all his men jumped out of the truck.

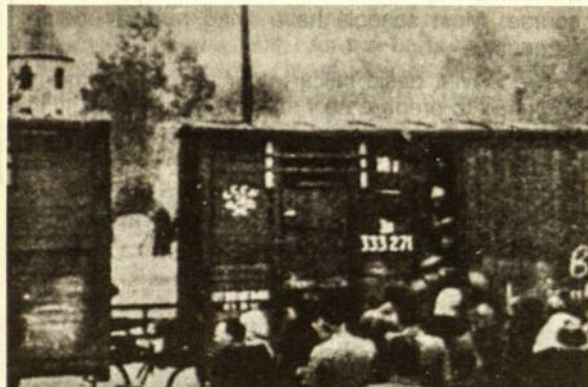
They told us to pack a few necessities and get ready to leave. They didn't say where we were to be taken. There were eight men guarding us, only one of them a Latvian.

We filled suitcases and sacks with our belongings, stuffed wicker baskets with food. The chekists (Soviet secret policemen) kept urging us to finish packing and get into the truck.

On our arrival in Riga, we saw that an enormous organized deportation was taking place. Truck after truck carried unfortunate people under heavy guard.

They drove us to the rail junction Skirotava and told us to get out of the truck. A long train with barred windows stood there waiting for us. People from many trucks were herded into cattle wagons.

Our wagon was fitted with four bunk beds, two at each end. There were more than thirty of us. Since the best spots had already been taken, we settled on a bottom bunk and put all our bags underneath it.



● Innocent men, women and children were packed into cattle wagons for a long haul to Siberia.

Suddenly the doors of our wagon were pushed open. Chekists entered and read a list of names of all the men to be transferred to another train. Many were protesting, loath to leave their families behind.

## On the way to Siberia

Riga — Daugavpils — Velikiye Luki — Rzhev — Moscow — Scherbakov — Yaroslavl — Ivanovo — Gorkiy — Kirov — Molotov — Sverdlovsk — Chelyabinsk — Kurgan — Petropavlovsk — Omsk — Novosibirsk.



● Ruta (left), with her sisters Malja (centre) and Dzidra. This picture was taken in 1939, two years before the girls were deported to Siberia.

Along the way, we encountered trainloads of prisoners from Lithuania and Estonia. Through the small, barred windows only women and children were visible. We proceeded very slowly, because countless regiments of armed troops were coming from the opposite direction — from Central Russia and Siberia.

Many small children died on the way, unable to endure the miserable conditions. Their bodies were removed and buried near the railroad tracks.

All of us suffered most from want of water. The food was too salty, and we were constantly plagued by thirst. Sometimes we got some clean drinking water, but more often it was the dirty yellow ditchwater scooped up along the way.

After three weeks on this overcrowded train, we reached Novosibirsk, the capital of Siberia. Here they transferred us to a cargo barge, and a huge tugboat towed us up the River Ob for a week.

People were packed so tightly that it was almost impossible to get to the gangways. Because of overcrowding, we could not keep clean. There were a few cases of typhoid, but no medical help was available. Nor could the sick be quarantined; they lay burning with fever, in unspeakable filth, together with the rest of us.

## Turning Soil by Hand

Finally, we reached our destination: Big Chigaz kolkhoz (collective farm) in the depths of Siberia. We were some six thousand kilometres from home. It was July 10, 1941.

We worked hardest in the spring. Then the soil had to be dug up, to plant potatoes. Nearly all the horses had died from hunger. That was why we had to turn up the soil by hand. Everyone had a certain output quota to fill. It was difficult, monotonous work. Our hands were covered with blisters and callouses. The skin cracked, and it hurt terribly.

● Continued on the next Page



## Dear God ...

### ● From Page 4

In the evenings we wandered about the fields, picking thistles, nettles and swamp vegetables for soup. It was a disaster when sometimes we had no salt. But even with salt, swallowing this herb soup was an ordeal.

Suddenly, on May 27th, 1943, we received news that Latvians were being moved to a new destination. The island where we were expected to settle was named Bilin. It was in the middle of the Ketya, a tributary of the Ob River.

We were led to a makeshift lean-to shelter built of boards, with only one wall under the roof. This was the place where we were to live. There were four small cabins as well. The biggest one was the recently built fish cannery, though it wasn't operating. Fishermen lived in the other cabins.

### Dead Corpse for Food

One morning the brigade leader sent me and some others to cut grass in the meadow. This was marshland, and the grass grew tall, reaching my waist. Later we wove the grass into rugs to cover the window holes and keep in the little warmth we had.

At midday, while walking down to the river to fetch water for tea, we found a drowned horse that had been washed ashore by the waves. The animal had become enormously bloated. The half-starved among us decided to eat the horse. Without giving it much thought, they grabbed their knives and carved out the best parts. Cut up in small pieces, the horsemeat was boiled in a kettle. But it was barely cooked when already the famished people tore into it with hands and teeth. Even though I was extremely hungry, I couldn't bring myself to put a piece of this repellent, bluish meat into my mouth. I was nauseated and moved aside. Hunger turns men into beasts.

The lack of food caused people to suffer from abscesses. The ill sat in the sun like lepers — emaciated, dirty and infested with lice. They were unable to work; the abscesses were too painful. Pus, stuck to their garments, dried up so that they couldn't be removed. Of course, there was no doctor available.

### Dropsy, Death and Despair

By December, starvation reigned in Bilin. Who could survive on the meagre rations of food? Those who had saved a few garments of better quality set out on Sundays for the nearest village to trade them for edibles. The hungriest would rummage through the villagers' garbage, hoping to find potato peels to cook and eat.

Several women became ill with dropsy, swelled up little by little and died. There were five such deaths within a week. The swelling was caused by lack of nourishment, and by freezing. It started in the legs so that walking became difficult, then spread through the whole body.

Starting with December, there was not a week without another life lost. We got up in the mornings wondering who would be next to go.

In the first days of December I received a message from some Latvian friends in Kolpashev that my mother, ill with dropsy, had passed away on October 17, 1943. I myself was in such a state of apathy that even this news did not upset me.

### Girls Used as Horses

In December 1943, I took ill and spent three weeks in bed, with an infected ear. A kindly Russian woman nursed me back to health. In January 1944, I moved to Kolpashev, a larger town on the River Ob.

Soon I joined an artel — an association of labourers for collective work — at a knitted goods workshop. After being apprenticed for three months, I became an expert at knitting mufflers, cardigans, jerseys and other things.

Since the artel had no horses or oxen available, we were used instead. Harnessed and pulling the big sleds behind us, we marched some ten kilometres to the nearest forest to fetch firewood. Each sled was to be loaded with one cubic metre of large logs — a heavy load to pull. When the road went uphill, we called out, and girls from the other sleds all helped to pull and push the first load. Then we all pushed the second sled, then the third, and so on.

★ ★ ★

### Post Scriptum

After five years of hunger, cold and hard labour, Ruta was allowed to return to Latvia on July 14, 1946 — only to be deported again on January 21, 1951. This time, she went with her two sisters and her father.

In Tomsk and Koryukin, Ruta fell ill and TB was diagnosed. Streptomycin was available only to members of the Communist Party. Conventional treatment at Kolpashev TB hospital did not help.

The family finally came back to Latvia in mid-1956, too late for Ruta to recover. She died on April 23, 1957. Her younger sister Maija died in 1968.



● Baltic deportees' graves in Siberia: People reduced to mere numbers in the snow.

Ruta's memoirs were not published until 1978, because of threats of reprisals made against her father. Yet, in the end, even he threw caution aside and directed the publishers to go ahead. He did not live to see the book in print: he died in the summer of 1978.

The book gives only the initial of Ruta's surname — "Ruta U". However, *These Names Accuse*, a 678-page catalogue of Latvian deportees, lists her full surname as Upite.

— Adapted from *Dear God, I Wanted to Live*, by Ruta U. Published by Gramatu Draugs (a division of the Latvian newspaper *Laiks*), 7307 Third Ave, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11209, 1978. This book is available in Australia from Latvian Arts and Crafts Co-op, 98 Elizabeth St, Melbourne, 3000; and from Victoria Co, 148 Rundle St, Adelaide, S.A. 5000.



BOOK REVIEW by John WALL\*

# Stronger than Death

NELAISVĖJE GIMĖS KŪDIKIS, Sibiras-1955, vasa-  
rio 16 /*An Infant Born in Bondage* (Brooklyn, NY:  
Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, 1982).

A small book the size of an autograph-book came to light in 1981. The wooden covers inside and out were carefully inlaid with bits of straw in yellow, green and red, the Lithuanian national colours. The inscription read:

A wreath of our dreams, longings and hopes, to remember February 16, 1955.

Lithuanian prisoners in the Kazakhstan camps. We have called it: "An Infant Born in Bondage."

So it was really a birthday-book containing brief messages of hope, love, sometimes vengeance, but above all of endurance and loyalty to the women of the homeland from whom the writers were separated. One concluding piece is a reply in the name of the women addressed, joining themselves to the men they had lost.

The Soviet Communist occupation of Lithuania that began just before World War II has lasted with only the interruption of the German invasion of 1941-44. From 1945 until the composition of the book, some 30,000 men and women — one in every hundred of the national population — died in guerilla warfare against the overwhelming Red Army. Several hundred thousand more were deported to concentration camps in the Arctic.

## COMING EVENT

### Baltic Tribunal

The Baltic World Conference will be accusing the Soviet Union of criminal actions in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at a public *Baltic Tribunal against the Soviet Union*, to be held on July 23-25, 1985, in Copenhagen. The Baltic World Conference, based in Washington, represents the World Federations of Free Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians.

An Inquiry Board consisting of prominent, internationally known persons will act as investigating jurors. Among the witnesses will be former high ranking Soviet officials.

Estonian and Latvian youth congresses will precede the tribunal. Starting immediately after the tribunal, representatives of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Youth Associations have organised a Baltic Peace and Freedom Cruise in the Baltic Sea.

— ELTA/WFFL.



● Some Baltic deportees — men and women alike — had to work as loggers in harsh Sub-Arctic regions. This photograph shows a group of young survivors at Mina (Siberia), ready to despatch another batch of logs to a downstream saw-mill.

The individual entries in *An Infant Born in Bondage* are a moving act of defiance. Since the purpose was patriotic, the range of literary expression is restricted, although the present reader had to rely on the translations which are modest. Nevertheless the mind's eye responds to

#### Homeland!

In the whirring of the spinning wheel  
And in my sister's ornate weaving,  
In the grey dust of the highways and by-ways  
Like a vital spirit You live.

(p 38)

The achievement lies in the sum of the fragments, as is hinted in one simple comment:

Dear Sister,  
They're all writing lots of beautiful words;  
But I — just twelve letters:  
Prisiminkite! — Remember!

(p 76)

What has happened to the particular men in the 27 years between writing and publication is not revealed. Their real names in any case were cloaked by *noms de plume*. I was surprised that nowhere does the crucified Christ or his suffering mother provide any overt inspiration for the writings, since the final message must be that love is stronger than death.

This book is available from BALTIC NEWS, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005, at \$7 plus \$2 postage and packing.

\* Rev John W. Wall, ThL, DD (Pontif Urb), MA (Camb), is Senior Lecturer in English at the University of Tasmania.

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by Barbara Armonas

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## COMING EVENTS

## June Commemorations

The 44th anniversary of the first mass deportations from the Baltic States will be commemorated throughout the free world this June.

In HOBART, there will be two peaceful functions on Friday, June 14.

A daytime vigil will be held in Hobart City, from 12 noon to 3 pm. All participants are asked to gather outside St David's Cathedral, 125 Macquarie Street. (Similar vigils are also planned for the other capital cities).

On the same evening (June 14), an ecumenical service for the deportees will be held in St David's Anglican Cathedral, Hobart, starting at 7.30 pm. As in previous years, senior representatives of all churches have been invited to take part. Everyone is welcome to join in this service — Please spread the word.

Candles representing the deportees will be lit outside St David's from 5 pm to 7.30 pm. Please place your candles in glass jars or similar wind-proof containers.

## Other States

Commemoration concerts or ceremonies will be held in the other States of Australia, at the following times:

● ADELAIDE: Sunday, June 16, at 3 pm, in Adelaide Town Hall.

● SYDNEY: Sunday, June 16, at 2 pm, in Latvian Hall, 32 Parnell Street, Strathfield.



● One who survived Siberia: Lithuanian priest Rev Liudvikas Rekašius, photographed on his return from Kazakhstan in 1954. Father Rekašius was 70 when arrested and spent 7½ years in Soviet gulags. His only "crime": He heard the confessions of Lithuanian freedom fighters.

● MELBOURNE: Sunday, June 16, at 2.30 pm, in Lithuanian House, North Melbourne.

● PERTH: Sunday, June 16, 3 pm, in Latvian Hall, Belmont Ave, Victoria Park.

● BRISBANE: Sunday, June 16, 12 noon — Ecumenical service in St Stephen's Cathedral, Brisbane City.

## BALTIC NEWS

We thank our supporters whose moral and financial help has kept us going. The following donations, received since March, have helped to pay for this issue:

Lithuanian Community, Melbourne, \$175; Baltic Council of Victoria, V. Grigonis, \$100 each; Miss Q. King, \$50; J. C. \$30; Anonymous (Vic), Mr & Mrs Varkalis and Mrs Sosnowski, \$25 each; Mrs J. Barkus, V. Sidabra, Mrs R. Tursis, H. Purvitis, \$20 each; T. Rossman, V. L. Macys, Z. Galitis, \$10 each; A. Kontvainis, \$6; T. E. Bostock, \$5; "Widow Pensioner" (Vic), L. Nobelius, \$2 each.

D. P. Cullen (WA), \$200; P. Siauciunas (Tas), \$150; Latvian Students Fraternity, Adelaide \$143; Lithuanian Society for Human

Rights, Sydney \$120; J. Liepins (NSW), \$100; A. Czelna (Vic), \$50; Sen B. Harradine, W. J. Murray (Tas), S. Andermovics (Vic), Daugavas Vanagi (Qld), \$40 each; Fr G. Jordan (Tas), \$32; anonymous Victorian, \$30; C. Ford, H. E. Baltins (NSW), O. Liutikienė (WA), A. Zamoiskis (SA), \$25 each; C. Ford, A. Kramilius, J. Blumanis, A. Briedis, E. J. Galloway (NSW), G. Stevens, M. J. L. Bean (SA), S. Domkus, J. Krutulis, P. Lazdauskas (Tas), G. G. Cornwell (ACT), Dr P. Puktins, anonymous Victorian, \$20 each; W. S. Brice (USA), M. Hodgman (Tas), \$16 each; A. & I. Cerakavicius (QLD), \$15; G. Gordo (NSW), \$12; J. W. Kuncas (USA), 3 anonymous Tasmanians, Mr & Mrs A. Jurevic, B. Burbo, M. Trus, V. Navickas, E. Baulis (Tas), V & I. Busse (NSW), L. Messer (QLD), P. Cekanauskas (WA), J. Kutka (SA), M. Gavars (NZ), J. Sliogeris (ACT) and an anonymous Queenslander, \$10 each; M. Novak (USA), C. J. Chambers (Tas), A. Hager (NSW), D. Skadulis (WA) and D. Croft (NZ), \$5 each; S. Pasiskevicius (QLD), \$2.

Latvian Federation (Vic), \$150; P. Morkunas (Vic), \$30; M. Reiters (Vic); Z. Galitis (Vic), \$10.



● The national president of Friends of the Prisoners, Rev Fr Greg Jordan, S. J. (standing) was the guest speaker at the Baltic News 10th Anniversary Dinner-Dance in Hobart on April 27. Also photographed at this very successful function were (from left): Michael Hodgman, MHR; Elizabeth Baldey; and Dr Martin Bicevskis, chairman of HELLP Association.

TO: H.E.L.L.P. (Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association),  
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# NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

## Pizzas Come to Vilnius

Lithuania's first pizza parlour "Vidudienis" (Noon) has opened in Vilnius, the capital.

In preparation for this event, chefs D. Pitrenaitė and L. Viršeliene were sent to Moscow, to learn authentic Italian cooking. They were accompanied by an official from the Head Office for Public Catering, Mrs D. Sadauskienė. (Travel to Italy and other non-Communist countries is tightly controlled by the Soviet State, and is taboo to most ordinary people).

— Tiesa/Laiškai lietuviams.

## "Baltic" Car

The Soviet Lada-motor works in Togliatti have brought out a new 1.5 litre sedan called *Baltic* which is exported to several foreign countries.

The car, built in the Volga region, has no connection with the three Baltic States. Western observers believe, this name was chosen because Baltic goods are considered to be of higher quality — both, by consumers in the USSR and by Western distributors.

— Mitteilungen aus baltischem Leben.

## Subversive

First Secretary of the Estonian Communist Party, Karl Vaino, has warned Estonia's "naive and immature" young people to keep away from Western consumer goods, because such goods are carriers of bourgeois "designs and messages". T-shirts, sweaters and plastic shopping bags can be particularly subversive.

Vaino's solution: Be on the lookout for "swings in fashion" and react to them promptly with ideologically safe Soviet-made articles. To prove his point, Vaino quotes chewing gum: once the Soviets started producing their own chewing gum in Tallinn (capital of Russian-occupied Estonia), he says "teenagers' unhealthy interest in Western tourists dropped noticeably".

— Soviet Nationality Survey.

## Disappeared

Genrikas Zimanas, a veteran Marxist-Leninist, appears to have been dismissed as editor-in-chief of *Komunistas*, the Lithuanian Communist Party's journal. Although his demotion has not been announced officially, Zimanas is no longer listed on the masthead of the official Soviet monthly.

Himself a Jew, Zimanas has been known for his virulent anti-semitic propaganda in the guise of "antizionism".

— Garsas.

Be an ambassador for  
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## More Psychiatric Abuse



● Latvian factory worker and national rights advocate Gederts Melngailis (33) has been held in Soviet psychiatric institutions since January 6, 1983.

Gederts had his first brush with the Soviet authorities as a teenager in 1967. He drew two dark red lines on a letter to his cousin which the KGB interpreted as symbolizing the red-white-red flag of independent Latvia. In another letter to the same cousin, Gederts wrote, "Long live free Latvia!" This prompted the Soviet authorities to send Gederts to the Riga Psychiatric Hospital for a two-week examination.

From March 23, 1974 to August 23, 1975, Melngailis attended the theological courses offered by the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

In the late 1970s, he established contact with two well-known Latvian dissidents, Gunars Rode and Lydia Doronina-Lasmane. The KGB responded immediately with threats and physical attacks on him.

Gederts Melngailis then asked for permission to emigrate, on January 13, 1981 and March 1, 1982. The request was refused. To publicize his plight, Gederts tried to meet David Satter, the Moscow correspondent of *The Financial Times* on December 10, 1981. The KGB seized him before he reached Satter's flat.

More information on Gederts Melngailis and other Soviet prisoners of conscience is available from: Friends of the Prisoners, PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005, Australia. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

— FOP/Christen in Not/WFFL.

## Once a Slave, Always a Slave

Former Lithuanian prisoner of conscience Algirdas Žyprė (see *B/News*, April 12, 1978, p6) continues to be haunted by the KGB.

Following representations from New Zealand, Australia and other free countries, Žyprė was released on January 14, 1983.

Žyprė took up temporary residence with relatives in Panevėžys (Lithuania). Following instructions "from above", local officials refused to register him and provide him with an internal passport. His future is uncertain.

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