



# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP)  
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## Balts Consulted before Summit

For the first time in the history of the United States, Baltic representatives were recently consulted before a superpower summit meeting. On November 7, 1985, eight spokesmen for Baltic organisations in the free world were invited to a meeting with Ambassador Jack Matlock, US National Security Council co-ordinator for the Geneva Summit which was held on November 19 and 20.

The Balts reminded Ambassador Matlock that the question of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is an international problem, and not an internal Soviet matter. They urged US President Reagan to press for the withdrawal of Soviet military forces, police, and other personnel from the three occupied Baltic Republics.

### No Conscription

Free elections should then be held, under the supervision of the United Nations, the Baltic representatives said. In the meantime, the Soviet Union should cease the illegal conscription of Baltic nationals into the Soviet armed forces. No Balt should be expected to fight, and die, in Afghanistan or anywhere else in the world, in furtherance of Soviet imperial interests.

The Baltic delegation suggested that the Soviet leaders could show their goodwill by removing all offensive weapons and Soviet troops from the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; and join in an American-Soviet declaration that the Baltic Republics are a nuclear-free zone.

This is an expressed wish of the Baltic residents. However, the Soviets have so far reacted only in a negative way: at least four Balts who had peacefully campaigned for a nuclear-free Baltic are now languishing in Soviet prisons: Heiki Ahonen, Ints Calitis, Lagle Parek and Arvo Pesti.

— BAFL

### Released

Estonian prisoner of conscience Allan Alajaan is free. After spending 2½ years in a "special psychiatric hospital" in Leningrad, he was released on March 12 last.

Alajaan was an adult convert to Christianity. In 1982, he was refused admission to the Riga seminary. Alajaan then tried to flee in a rubber dinghy to Finland, but was caught by the Soviet police.

— G2W



● Pictured at the White House on November 7 (from left): J. Simonson, President of Estonian-American National Council; Dr Dom Krivickas, Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania; Gintė Damušis, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid; Ojars Kalnins, American-Latvian Association; Avo Piirisild, President of Baltic-American Freedom League; US Ambassador Jack Matlock; Al Gureckas, Lithuanian-American Community, Washington; M. A. Rikken, Estonian-American Council; Dr Olgierds Pavlovskis, President, World Federation of Free Latvians.

— Photo by Baltic American Freedom League.

### Lithuania's Popieluszko

A kidnapping has just been reported from Lithuania that is uncannily similar to last year's tragedy of Jerzy Popieluszko in Poland. Fortunately, the Lithuanian victim, Father Vaclovas Stakenas (51), managed to survive the assault on him.

On the night of August 22 last, Father Stakenas was falsely summoned to the bedside of a sick parishioner. En route, two men forced their way into the taxi, bound and gagged Fr Stakenas, then dragged him into a forest outside the town of Kriokialaukis. When the taxi driver called out, "Enough", the assailants dumped the priest by a pond and drove away.

The priest managed to free himself and crawled to the main road for help. Many cars passed by without stopping. He was finally assisted by a motor cyclist and his mother.

— Diethild Treffert/KNA, LIC.

May the peace and joy of Christmas  
be with you now  
and throughout the coming New Year

# Latvia's Gift to the World



Historians exploring the origins of the Christmas tree find their answer in Riga, Latvia.

The earliest recorded references to Christmas trees appear in journals from Riga dated 1510 AD. It is probable that Germany, the country associated in most people's minds with the Christmas tree, imported the idea from Latvia, via merchants or missionaries.

In the Baltic port city of Riga, tree celebrations were recorded in 1510. On Christmas Eve, Latvians gathered around a Christmas tree for a festive dinner. After the meal, black-hatted members of the local merchants' guild carried the evergreen, decorated with artificial roses, to the market place where, in a seeming vestige of an early Latvian pagan custom they set fire to the tree.

— From *The Christmas Tree Book*, by P. V. SNYDER/LND.

## NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

### Afghan War Condemned

A new underground newsletter from Soviet-occupied Lithuania urges young conscripts to refuse to take the military oath of allegiance, as a gesture of conscientious objection to the Soviet war in Afghanistan.

Entitled *Juventus Academica* (Academic Youth), this 26-page publication is at least the seventeenth clandestine periodical to appear in Lithuania since 1972. The newsletter condemns the Soviet war in Afghanistan and appeals to young Lithuanians to stop "killing innocent citizens of a sovereign nation, and burning their villages and towns."

"For five years, our colleagues have been dying in Afghanistan for nothing", it pleads. "Let us not become the timid instruments of our oppressors." The journal give examples of Soviet atrocities. In the autumn of 1984, it says, "four live, nude Afghani women were flung out of a helicopter above Kabul."

This issue of *Juventus Academica*, numbered 2, also reveals the founding of a secret Lithuanian Youth Association. Established on the occasion of the International Year of Youth, the new association has chosen human rights and national self-determination as its platform.

— KNA/lic.



• Afghan Mujahideen: young Balts refuse to kill them.

### Service Stations Scarce

With a population exceeding 800,000, Latvia's capital Riga now has only 12 petrol stations and 5 auto repair shops. According to the latest edition of the official Soviet road atlas, the rest of Latvia — about the size of Tasmania, but with 5 times more people — has 38 petrol outlets and 12 garages with car repair facilities.

The Latvian average works out at one petrol station per 50,000 people, and one auto repair centre for every 147,000 inhabitants.

— Latvija/Latvian News Digest.

### Independence Sought

28-year-old Latvian Maigonis Ravins has formally asked the Supreme Soviet Committee in Moscow to legalise the Latvian National Independence Movement. This would be the first step toward Latvia's secession from the USSR and the establishment of a peace corridor (cordon sanitaire) along the Baltic Sea. The Soviets have not yet replied.

For a number of years now, Ravins has been openly working for the unofficial peace movement in Latvia. He was gaoled from 1975 to 1980 for his attempt to cross the Soviet border into Finland.

— Latvian News Digest.

### Spying on Religion

Three confidential Soviet documents have been smuggled out to the West, detailing surveillance procedures for monitoring churches and religious associations in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

One document provides specific information about Catholics and various other religious groups in the country. Another document summarises 40 sermons delivered by Lithuanian priests.

The third document, "Regulations of the Control Commission on the Observation of Cult Laws", sets out the procedures used by the Soviet Council for Religious Affairs which closely supervises all church activities in Lithuania.

According to the documents, the provisions for administrative surveillance were laid down in a statute issued on September 20, 1974, by the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic.

— ELTA/lic.

# Nuremberg War Trials Still Unfinished

Romas Vastokas, a Canadian-Lithuanian author, recently called for a re-opening of the Nuremberg trials. Key Soviet criminals had still to be brought to justice, he said — criminals who had committed the brutal killings and mass deportations of hundreds of thousands of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian citizens between 1940 and 1952.

Speaking at the commemoration of the 67th anniversary of Lithuania's independence in Toronto, Canada, Professor Vastokas enumerated a number of crimes committed by Soviet forces during the war and after.

The liquidation of the Lithuanian population began in July 1940, with the disappearance of 2,000 men, women and children in one night into Soviet prisons.

While Soviet statistics are not available, Professor Vastokas believes that about 350,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia.

## Crushed

In addition, 50,000 men and women died fighting against the Soviet invasion, but their struggle finally ended when the Red Army deployed two divisions to crush the guerrillas.

Pointing out that the same story could be told of Estonia and Latvia, which were occupied in the same way, Professor Vastokas emphasised that for justice to be done on the issue of war crimes, there needed to be public knowledge of what the Kremlin had done.

He said that while Joachim von Ribbentrop had been tried, found guilty and hanged in Nuremberg in 1946, Vyacheslav Molotov, who engineered the cynical pact with Ribbentrop to occupy the Baltic States in 1940, is alive in the USSR and was awarded the Order of Lenin last year.

## 'Free' for a Week

Father Jonas-Kastytis Matulionis (see *Baltic News*, March '85) was released from Smolensk labour camp on June 19 and spent a few days in his native Lithuania. Weighing only 40 kilograms (90 lbs), he was greeted enthusiastically by the parishioners of St Michael's, Vilnius, and in Kybartai.

On June 26, Father Matulionis was arrested by two KGB agents, and was taken to Lukiskes prison. His present whereabouts are unknown. — LIC.



● Rear view of the notorious Lukiskes prison in Vilnius, capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania. The front is impossible to photograph: it is guarded constantly, with the guards' machineguns pointing to the street outside.



● World War II was started by Nazi Germany, in collusion with the Soviet Union. This partnership was sealed by the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact which the Foreign Ministers of the two countries signed on August 23, 1939 (pictured).

Germany's Joachim von Ribbentrop (at left, next to Stalin) was later brought to trial in Nuremberg and was executed on October 16, 1946. Russia's Molotov (shown seated, affixing his signature) is alive and well today. His complicity in the war crimes has remained unchallenged.

## Jamming Condemned

On October 10, the Parliament of Europe condemned deliberate jamming of Western radio transmissions. The Parliament named the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Poland as the main offenders.

— *Europos Lietuvos*.

## Separated Families

The Iron Curtain is keeping thousands of Baltic families apart. What can be done about bringing them together again?

The International Society for Human Rights (ISHR) in Frankfurt/Main, West Germany, is planning to take action on two occasions next year: in April (Bern, Switzerland) and in November (Vienna, Austria). In both cases, the 35 countries that signed the CSCE final agreement in Helsinki will meet again for further talks. A major topic on their agenda will be respect for Human Rights, including that of family reunions.

Solid documentation is essential if the ISHR is to make an impact. Years of experience have shown that publication of specific cases helps to solve them.

If you have relatives in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania who wish to be reunited with their family or visit them, send full particulars to:

International Society for Human Rights,  
Postfach 2965,  
Kaiserstr. 72  
6000 Frankfurt/Main 1  
West Germany.

A donation of 40-50 US dollars would help defray the Society's high expenses. However, if you are unemployed, a pensioner or cannot afford a financial contribution, your case will still be included in the documentation.

The following information will be helpful: full name, date of birth, address and occupation of the persons wishing to leave the country; a short description of the problem; your own name, address and relationship to the separated members of family.

## UPDATES

**New Victims**

Compulsory army training in Soviet-controlled Latvian schools (see *Baltic News*, June 1985) has claimed new victims.

Two 14-year-old girls were killed and others were injured when a hand grenade exploded during military exercises at No 41 high school in Riga, last September. Victims' parents were warned not to publicise the incident.

In a report on this tragedy, German newspaper *Braunschweiger Zeitung* (26/9/85) points out that Latvian schoolchildren are forced to use not only light firearms, but also RPK M-60 type high-speed machine guns and live RG-42 type hand grenades. After training on the campus, Grade 10 and 11 students are formed into battalion-size units for field exercises.

— EM/Australijas Latvietis.



● Army training in the school of Aluksne/Latvia.

The Soviet Army Command has recently directed that the compulsory military training in Latvian schools is to be extended by another four hours per week.

Children in the other Baltic States have to undergo similar instruction, too.

**Prisoner Bashed**

Sentenced to three years' imprisonment (*Baltic News*, Sept 1984), Latvian physics teacher Zakhary Zunshain (pictured) was brutally beaten on arrival in the labour camp in Irkutsk. His ribs were broken and his kidneys were damaged.

Zunshain's mother, on hearing of her son's condition, died of either a stroke or of a heart attack.

**Premature Death**

Estonian prisoner of conscience Dr Johannes Hint (see *Baltic News*, Sept 1982) died in Tallinn prison hospital on September 5, 1985. He had been moved to the Estonian capital from Vasalemma concentration camp shortly before.

Dr Hint had a heart disease, but was repeatedly refused medical attention.

— USSR News Brief.

**Sentenced**

Estonian pastor Harri Motsnik, whose persecution was reported in the last *Baltic News*, has since been condemned to 3 years strict regime camp.

Motsnik was found "guilty" because he had been outspoken in his sermons, and because he had written open letters to the Lutheran Bishop of Tallinn, Edgar Hark, and to Karl Kortelainen, the Chairman of the Estonian KGB.

— USSR News Brief.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR****Tenth Anniversary**

On our tenth anniversary this year, we received over 200 congratulatory letters and telegrams. Here are a few extracts:

Please receive my best wishes for your work and may it never stop until Russification stops and our nations are free.

I congratulate you on your good work. (Prof.) J. PRIEDKALNS, Linden Park, SA

Your 10th Anniversary issue reached me rather belatedly, but I trust that there is still time to send you my sincere congratulations. May the *Baltic News* long continue to perform such an excellent information service to friends of the Baltic republics until freedom returns to your homelands, and then ever after.

London (UK). J. JOSTEN, MBE.

Australians and Baltic people unite to say, "God bless you."

M. HODGMAN, QC, MP.

I wish you well with the *Baltic News*.

I have urged our (Latvian) Federation and our readers to continue to give full and unequivocal support to the *Baltic News* which has proved its value during 10 hard years.

I have no doubt as to the outcome. Persistence will prevail.

Kew, Vic. E. DELINS, Editor, *Australijas Latvietis*.

With pleasure I enclose a cheque for \$200, to help you in your fine work.

Capel, WA. D. CULLEN.

It's good to know that there are people who care about the fate of those in the Soviet empire: that the proud nations of the Baltic are not entirely lost in the Orwellian "memory land."

The University of Paul KOVESI, Western Australia.

You are doing important work. I congratulate you, and I am proud of your achievements.

Chicago, IL (Rev Dr) J. PRUNSKIS.

**Blanket of Silence**

I refer to your report "Protest Ship chased by Soviets," in the September issue of *Baltic News*.

If any people were in doubt about the Australian media's attitude towards the Baltic question, the total blanket of silence about the peace cruise of the *Baltic Star* should satisfy your readers' doubts. Let them also compare that with the publicity given to the *Rainbow Warrior*, and visiting American ships.

It seems that publications like the *Baltic News* are the only way Australians can ever hope to hear what's important. I take this opportunity to thank you.

Mandurah, WA. (Mrs) P. HALLIGAN.

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



Adapted from  
*Science Dimension*, Canada

# They Burnt Down Our Church

**God is not dead in the Soviet-controlled Baltic States. People there are determined to keep their faith, even if this means standing up to the gigantic Soviet State and its fellow-travellers.**

**The report below was written by a very ordinary Lithuanian, and took twelve months to smuggle out of Lithuania. The writer's simple style adds to its dramatic effect.**

At 3 am on December 4, 1953, they set the parish church of Ryliškiai on fire and burnt it down to the ground. This church destruction was organised by prominent officials of the day: collective farm chairman Gapšys, headmaster Bernatonis, ex-Soviet mercenary ("stribas") Naudžiūnas, party organiser Paltarackas and others. Driver Vytas Milius supplied the fuel.

People guessed what they were up to, and kept watch. Once the church burst out in flames, people rushed to put out the fire; but the atheist officials would not let them.

Only the presbytery and the parish centre remained. To the present day, they are used by the Education Department.

## "House-Churches"

People started meeting for prayers in private homes, in the various villages of the parish. At first, Father Voverė was the parish priest. When he died, he was not replaced. People then had to turn to other parishes for Christian burial and other religious services.

On November 1, 1983, believers gathered for the last time at the home of Vytautas Pakala. Soviet authorities stopped them. Vytautas Pakala was fined 50 roubles for organising prayer meetings. His retired collective farmer's monthly pension was 28 roubles. From January 1984, they started deducting the fine from his pension, at the rate of 5 roubles a month. This left him a mere 23 roubles a month.

The people of Ryliškiai parish then started meeting for prayer in the cemetery of Bugoniai. On March 5, 1984, deputy chairman Makstutis, of the Alytus district executive committee, and his assistants demolished a shelter in the cemetery which people had built to protect them from rain, snow and wind. The officials took away Mrs Albina Karbauskienė's table, a family heirloom, which had been used in place of an altar.

They snatched up benches and chairs which belonged to pensioners and invalids.

The same Makstutis came back on June 17, 1984. For the second time, he tore down the people's shelter — this time, made of plastic sheets. And so, to the present day, the people of Ryliškiai are meeting in the open air, to praise the Lord on Sundays and holy days.

## "Let Us Pray"

Throughout 1982, 1983 and 1984, the people of Ryliškiai kept asking the district executive committee of Alytus, orally and in writing, for permission to practice their religion without interruption. They also approached the Commissioner for Religious Affairs, Petras Anilionis, in Vilnius, the capital. But Anilionis refused to see them — the deputations were dismissed by his deputies. And so, back to square one.

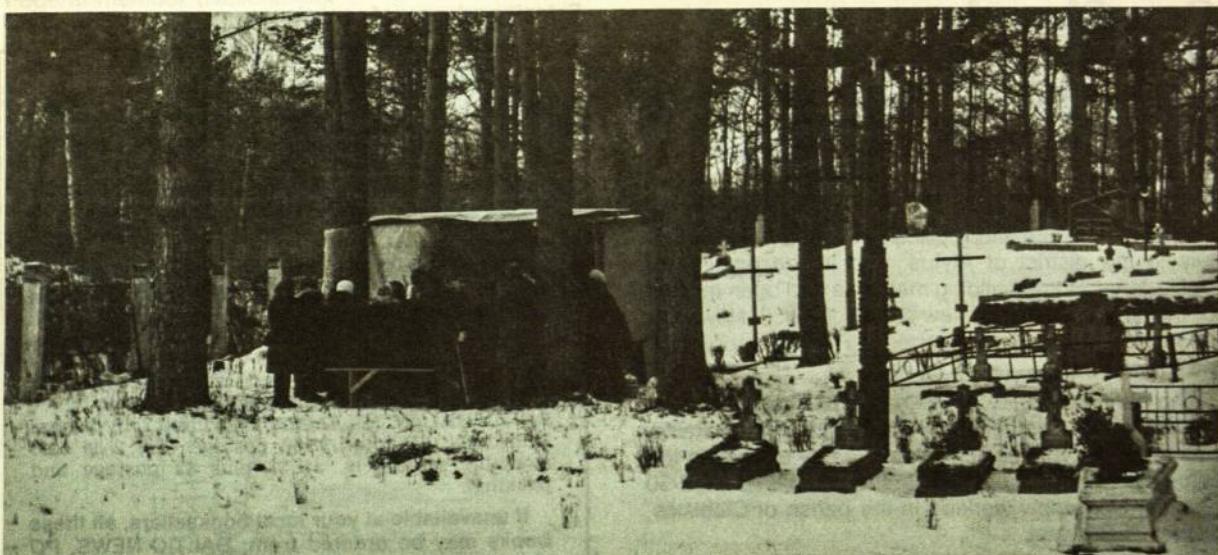
Applications for permission to build a new church or buy a suitable house were squashed by the authorities. "Ask your grandchildren to drive you in their cars to the neighbouring parishes," they would reply. Or, "Sorry, such permits are not on." Or, "You can always catch a bus to another parish church".

It's all right if you are young and strong. But the old people and invalids find it difficult to bus, they find it easier to worship in their own parish. After all, they have not deserved this kind of treatment, having given their whole life's work and strength to the Communist state.

## Appeal to Moscow

A petition, signed by the Ryliškiai parishioners, was sent in 1984 to Kuroyedov, the top Council for Religious Affairs official for the whole USSR (before he was replaced in January 1985 by Konstantin Kharchev), as well as to Bishop Sladkevičius.

● Continued on next page



● "They deliberately destroyed our church. We went to the cemetery to pray, but they harassed us there, too". (See report on this page).

# Baltic Women's Plea in Nairobi



● Babette Francis

The plight of Baltic women under the Soviet rule was reported to a large international gathering in Africa this year.

The UN Decade for Women World Conference (July 15-26) and the Non-Government Organisations Forum (July 10-19) were two separate but linked conferences in Nairobi, Kenya. The NGO Forum alone was attended by over 13,000 women and men from 159 countries, liberation movements and various organisations.

The Baltic issue was raised by a non-Government delegate from Australia, Mrs Babette Francis (pictured left), who chaired the workshop on *Women and Freedom*. Mrs Francis read a paper by Lithuanian women in Australia protesting the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States.

Describing the burden of life in Soviet-occupied countries, the long hours of employment, household duties and queueing for groceries, the Lithuanian women emphasised that their chief concern was that their maternal role in the transmission of religious, traditional and cultural values to the next generation was frustrated. Baptism and religious teaching have to be in secret. Otherwise, jobs and promotions are denied and penalties imposed.

The workshop was attended by Ukrainian women who also held public demonstrations — the only ones protesting against the USSR as against dozens of protests aimed at the USA.

## Former Spy Honoured

Albert Liepa, former spy and now chairman of the Soviet Committee for Developing Cultural Ties with Latvians Abroad, has received the title of "Meritorious Cultural Worker of the Latvian SSR," at a ceremony in Riga.

Liepa was third secretary of the USSR Embassy in Stockholm when he was expelled from Sweden in 1981 because of illegal espionage. Soon after his return to Riga, he was appointed chairman of the Committee for the Development of Cultural Ties, a subsidiary of the central "Rodina" organisation master-minded from Moscow.

— Sovetskaya Latvia/NIC.

## Black Market for Books

Riga's Sunday black market, closed by the Soviet police in early 1983, has been revived in a suburban forest. Up to 200 individuals deal in pre-Soviet and emigre books, art works and periodicals.

## Our Church ...

### ● From Page 5

This action was spearheaded by parishioners Vladas Jazukevičius, Antanas Padegimas, Vytautas Pakala, Ieva Karbauskienė, Salomė Anusejienė, Vincas Priškienis, Miškinienė, Kirvelevičienė, Veckys and Baranauskas.

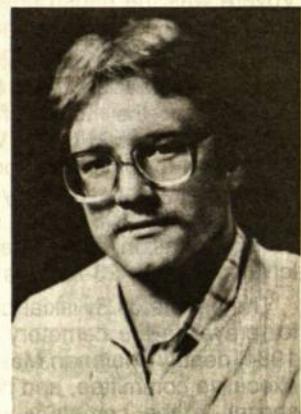
Ryliškiai is a provincial parish in southern Lithuania. It is in the district of Alytus, and in the diocese of Kaišiadorys. Some building materials had been allotted for the construction of a new church in 1958. However, the materials were later diverted to Pūnia, for repairs to the church there.

The parish of Ryliškiai still has no resident priest. A visiting priest, Father Kastytis-Petras Krikščiukaitis, was asked by the local residents to say a Mass in the cemetery of Bugoniai. For this, the priest was fined 50 roubles. He is now working in the parish of Ciobiškis, district of Širvintai.

The people of Ryliškiai are not giving up. Our next move will be to appeal to Moscow again.

## Jail for Human Rights

● The Soviets have imprisoned yet another peaceful human rights worker in the Baltic States. Estonian Robert Vaitmaa, 26, (pictured) has been condemned to 3 years' ordinary regime camp, on a charge of "resisting the authorities" (Art. 182 of the Estonian Criminal Code = Art. 191 of the Russian Criminal Code). The sentence was passed by the "people's court" in Rakvere (Estonia) on July 19, 1985.



Vaitmaa, a qualified mechanic, had not been allowed to work in his trade for some time. He was arrested on May 7 while on his way to visit Tiit Madison, another Estonian prisoner of conscience.

— USSR News Brief

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS

This Christmas, give presents that are different and educational — books about the Baltic people:

- LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW, by Barbara Armonas, 222pp. Friends of the Prisoners' 1985 Book of the Year. Limited stocks. — \$5, plus \$2 postage and packing.
- AN INFANT BORN IN BONDAGE: 44 Lithuanian prisoners' meditations on liberty. Bi-lingual edition (English and Lithuanian), 99pp, large format. — \$7, plus \$2 postage and packing.
- CATHOLICS IN SOVIET-OCCUPIED LITHUANIA (Faith under persecution), 120pp. — \$2, plus \$1.50 postage and packing.
- THE BALTIC DILEMMA, Vols 1 and 2, by Edgars Dunsdorfs, \$12 plus \$3.50 postage (Vol 2 is also available separately, at \$8 plus \$2 postage and packing).

If unavailable at your local booksellers, all these books may be ordered from: BALTIC NEWS, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas, 7005.

# WA Shelves Soviet Proposal

Western Australia's Premier Brian Burke is not proceeding with a Soviet proposal to build a dry-dock at Albany or Bunbury, in the south of the State. The latest development follows strong representations made by Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Peoples Association (HELP) in Hobart, and by other Australian patriotic organisations.

Support for the Soviet dry dock has been vigorously promoted by certain Australian business interests and by a few left-wing trade unions in WA. The two unions primarily involved were the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union and the Maritime Workers' Union of Western Australia, with support from the WA Trades and Labor Council.

In its submission to Premier Burke, HELP Association pointed out that "the Soviet fishing fleet includes vessels whose function is naval intelligence gathering. To have such vessels in WA will provide cover for other subversive activities."

The State governments of Tasmania and Victoria rejected similar Soviet proposals in recent years, partly because of considerable public opposition.

## Non-recognition Continues

AUSTRALIA is continuing its policy of not recognising *de jure* the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the USSR. Prime Minister Hawke reiterated his Government's stand in a letter he wrote to Latvia's Honorary Consul in Melbourne, Mr E. Delins, on November 15, 1985, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Republic of Latvia.

SWITZERLAND has never recognised the Soviet annexation of the three Baltic States which originally took place in 1940 and was repeated after temporary occupation by Germany. This statement was made by the Swiss Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Eidgenössisches Department des Aussenvertrages) on October 14, 1985, in reply to an enquiry by Mr Peter Sager, a Federal member (Nationalrat).

Earlier this year, on June 17, CANADA reaffirmed its policy of not recognising the incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. In a letter to the chairman of the Baltic Veterans' convention, Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr Joe Clark, undertook to "continue to take every opportunity to press Soviet authorities on our human rights concerns."

— Aust latvietis/ELTA.



● The number of Soviet warships in the Indian and Pacific Oceans keeps escalating each year. A spokesman for HELP Association warned this week against deals with the Soviets. "Once they get a leg in under any pretext, they stay forever," he said.

## Many Thanks!

7000 copies of this Baltic News have been mailed to our regular readers in all States of Australia and overseas. A lot of work was carried out by unpaid volunteers; printing and postage cost over \$2,400.

We thank supporters whose generous donations have helped to finance this issue:

Lithuanian Community in Sydney, \$300; V. Patasius (NSW), \$60; Anonymous Lithuanian Lady (NSW) \$50; Dr G. Kazokiene, W. C. Wentworth, G. Cornwell, MHA (NSW), \$20 each; S. Norvalaitis (NSW), \$10.

Latvian Federation in Melbourne, \$300; Lithuanian Community, Melbourne, \$150; Baltic Council of Victoria, \$100; J. Valaitis, R. Pound (Vic), \$20 each; V. Putnins (Vic), \$10; P. Mazylis (Vic), \$5; L. Nobelius (Vic), \$2.

Latvian Federation of Australia & New Zealand, \$500; Lithuanian Co-op Society "Talka" (Vic), \$400; Baltic Committee of Qld, \$250; Tasmanian Latvian Community, \$100; Young Estonian (Singapore), \$60; A. Z. Dunsis, J. Rubas (Vic), \$50 each; A. Jarembauskas (NSW), Dr P. Darzins (SA), \$50 each; A. Pomerings (Qld), \$40; Baltic Council of WA, \$30; V. and M. Kanas (SA), \$25; A. Bogins, Z. Augaitis, V. J. Dulmanis, B. Gaidelis (Vic), B. Zilberts (Tas), V. T. Tehnas, P. and J. Kovesi, J. and P. Halligan (WA), M. J. Crowe (ACT), Australian Croatian Club (Tas), \$20 each; C. Ford (NSW), \$40; T. S. (NSW), D. Hogan (NZ), G. Krumins (NZ), A. Zvejnieks, P. Krauja, J. Mezaks, V. Purmalis, J. Zars, S. and J. Sikožskis (Vic), J. Clements, S. H. and D. E. Hosking (ACT), D. Jancauskas, B. Gedvilas (USA), B. Burbo, Rev E. M. Webber, E. Looritis, Mrs Sobczak, W. Craig, K. Rand, E. Bernhards, Mrs Michelsons (Tas), \$10 each; D. W. Burr (Tas), E. Aide (Vic), \$15 each; R. Barzdo (Qld), \$12; J. Luker (Tas), \$8; P. Dz (Qld), I. Racinius (SA), G. Patyka (Tas), \$5 each; J. C. Egan (Vic), \$10; V. A. Eskiztas (Tas), \$20; V. Martisius (ACT), \$20.

Thank you — and a very happy Christmas!



To: Baltic News,  
Post Office Box 272,  
SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia).

I do not recognise 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/Money Order.

# Peace: Nominal or Real?

Mail is slow between Russian prisons and Australia — especially if the writer tries to avoid the censor. This essay, written in jail by Lithuanian prisoner of conscience Balys Gajauskas, took three years to reach Tasmania. But his thoughts are just as topical today as they were when he put them down on paper.

War is the bane of humanity. It creates havoc for the warring parties. As conventional arms grow more sophisticated, civilian casualties increase. Nuclear arms, however, imperil the very existence of entire nations. It is for this reason that people have become so concerned about the preservation of peace.

Yet peace is sometimes illusory. It can be a war in disguise, when the government wages merciless warfare on the nation because of people's beliefs. The government does not declare this war, but tries to conceal it. It sends its victims not to prisoner-of-war camps, but to concentration camps and prisons.

**The Bolsheviks have been at war longest with the nations they rule. From the very day of the creation of their empire, this harsh war has not let up. The victims number in the tens of millions, with Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians, Chechins, Tartars and Germans exiled to Siberia and Central Asia. Is this peace for those nations?**

A peace movement is systematically spreading in the West now. It is aimed against US and Western European armaments, but it completely overlooks the Soviet arms.

## Arsenal of Nuclear Arms

Can they forget that the Soviet Union has a great arsenal of nuclear arms, not to mention traditional weapons? Then why are the "peace proponents" not protesting against Soviet nuclear arms? One is forced to conclude that the peace movements, being emotional, do not distinguish between a real quest for peace and its political use to suit the ends of the Bolshevik empire.

Peace proponents in the West walk from city to city and plan international marches. They carry posters and other means of agitation directed against the military policy of Western countries. In the Bolshevik empire, protests against military expansion would be considered as damaging to the nation's security and would be punished.

**The militia would disperse such people immediately. If that were not enough, the army would come in. They would arrest the most active and ship them off to concentration camps.**

In the USSR, the official "proponents of peace" are a government organisation, auxiliary to Bolshevik propaganda. At a signal from the government they shout at "America and the NATO militarists" and support Bolshevik "peace offers".

The Bolshevik empire is seeking military advantage over the West, trying to establish itself in the world and finally to take it over. From its creation, it is moving toward this goal step by step, using various means to



Balys Gajauskas, the author of this article, is a 59-year-old Lithuanian Helsinki monitor. He is now serving a fifteen-year sentence in the notorious special regime camp at Perm. Gajauskas has spent much time recently in the punishment cell, ostensibly because the articles he has written in camp have been published in the West.

The USSR *News Brief* (Munich) and *Help & Action* (Paris) report that Gajauskas's health has sharply deteriorated in recent months. You can help him, by writing to: CCCP/Moskva/Generalnomu Sekretariu CK KPS i Predsedatelyu Presidiuma Verkhovnovo Soveta SSSR, M. Gorbachev/— USSR.

attain it: deceitful treaties, ideological expansion, subversion, and military attack. The most important weapon of the Bolsheviks is propaganda. They use it especially widely within the country, but they also give it great weight abroad.

A special place in their scheme is held by the so-called peace proponents.

The Bolsheviks take advantage of such people's noble aspirations. They constantly speak of peace, while at the same time preparing for war. They have turned the whole country into a military camp and have expanded military training in schools.

The peace of the Bolshevik empire is the peace of the concentration camps. That is what we have now.

Peace cannot be bought at the price of freedom. Peace must be honourable and humane, without chains, without prisons, without concentration camps, without physical or moral terror. This is the only peace to seek.

**Balys GAJAUASKAS,**  
Kuchino concentration camp,  
Permskaya oblast/Chusovskoi rayon, 1982.

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