



BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HELP THE ESTONIAN, LATVIAN AND LITHUANIAN PEOPLES ASSOCIATION (HELP)
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September, 1986

Monument To Be Built in Hobart

It often takes an outsider to see the obvious. For the Baltic people of Australia, this realisation came on June 13, 1986 when His Grace Sir Guilford Young, the Catholic Archbishop of Hobart, proposed that a lasting monument be built in memory of the 1941-48 mass deportations from the Baltic States.

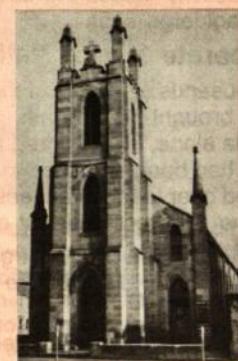


• Archbishop Sir Guilford Young, D.D.

Speaking at the Hobart ecumenical service of prayer for the deportees, Sir Guilford pointed out that no monument has so far been erected in Australia for the oppressed victims of the Soviet occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Sir Guilford's suggestion has been received enthusiastically by the people of Hobart. The executive committee of HELLP Association has agreed to take charge of the project. Several locations are now being considered, and a Tasmanian artist has been asked to advise the committee.

Progress reports will be published in future issues of *Baltic News*.



• St Joseph's, Hobart: possible site for monument.

No Baltic Babies This Christmas?

Baltic people are still paying dearly for the world's biggest civilian nuclear tragedy, which occurred on April 26-27 this year at Chernobyl, in Soviet-controlled Ukraine, sending radiation across Europe. The full effects of this accident will not be known for many years to come. However, the early reports from the Baltic area show that the people have been hit in at least four different ways: radiation, mass abortions, Russification and deportations to endangered areas.

Soviet officials have been tardy in releasing Chernobyl information to the local Balts. And, when officials did talk, they were extremely vague.

Questioned by Western reporters weeks after the event, Bronius Žalkauskas, head of Soviet Lithuania's economic planning organisation, admitted that "small increases in radiation were detected in Southern parts of Lithuania, but had posed no danger to local people." The sale of milk to children was halted temporarily and dairy products were checked to ensure they had not come from the affected area, he said. No other precautions were taken.

However, residents in Vilnius (capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania) became concerned when they picked up radiation warnings on official Polish radio and television, which can be easily received in Vilnius. Some Estonians gleaned similar information from Finnish TV.

In the meantime, all Baltic women pregnant for 3 months or less were called into Government-run clinics and were advised to have abortions. This reinforced people's fears that something serious had happened.

In a letter received by *Baltic News*, an Estonian woman writes, "No warning or information of any kind has been given to the Baltic people, let alone medical

help of any kind. I am especially depressed at the thought of all those abortions, the idea that no babies will be born in Estonia in December, January or February. Can you imagine the enormity of it?"

• More on Page 2.



• Chernobyl children playing war games in a Latvian summer camp. Latvian youngsters had to stay at home, to make room for the evacuees (See Report, Page 2).

In the Aftermath of Chernobyl

● From Page 1

In the weeks immediately after the Chernobyl disaster, some Lithuanians heeded advice in the Polish media and gave iodine solutions to children. Others drank red wine, believing it to be a cure.

Then, on June 8, a new panic wave swept across the Baltic States: a sudden jump in radiation levels was recorded at Kotka, a southern Finnish port. The source was not traced. However, a French radio report pointed to a stricken Soviet nuclear submarine in the Baltic.

In Russian-occupied Estonia, no-one can now test the radio-activity levels in the air. According to a Swedish scientist who visited Estonia early in June, all radio-activity measuring devices in that country have been soldered shut.

Deliberate Mix of Nationalities?

Thousands of victims of the Chernobyl disaster have been brought to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In Estonia alone, five hundred flats in new living areas — which had been promised to Estonian families — were handed over to the evacuees. These new arrivals from Ukraine also received first choice of jobs.

Baltic children could not go to summer camps at all this year. Their places were taken by youngsters from Chernobyl.

Local Balts have accepted the newcomers warmly and with compassion. They fear, however, that the guests from Chernobyl may be there to stay. "Is this another ruse in the Russian plan to russify the three Baltic nations?" they ask. Many of the evacuees are not Russians, but Ukrainians. Nevertheless, Russian is the only language they can communicate in, in the Baltic region — and so they unwittingly contribute to the Russification process.

New Deportations

To clean up and rebuild Chernobyl, the Soviets have rounded up large numbers of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians and have deported them to the stricken area.



The captives include truck drivers, engineers, tradesmen, tractor drivers, students and even pensioners. Each Balt earmarked for forced labour in Chernobyl was

- Chernobyl party chiefs' wives (pictured) enjoyed a break from it all, at Baltic beach resorts.



initially called up on the excuse of army mobilisation. After a medical checkup, he was told to sign up for six months' service in a "voluntary work brigade" and whisked away within a day or two.

According to a report in Swiss *Neue Zuercher Zeitung*, these deportations started in southern Estonia on May 7, and later extended to all three Baltic States.

Fear of Repetition

People in Lithuania and their neighbours are scared that a Chernobyl-type disaster could happen again — and this time, closer to home.

The Soviet Union's biggest nuclear power station is under construction near Ignalina, in north-eastern Lithuania (see earlier report in *Baltic News*, September 1983, p8). This four-reactor plant will have a capacity of 6,000 megawatts, making it 50 per cent larger than Chernobyl and one of the most powerful plants in Europe.

Ignalina's first reactor went on stream two years ago and has continued operating since the Chernobyl accident. The second reactor was due to be finished by the end of the year, and two more will probably be working by 1990.

Western experts say that Ignalina plant uses the same kind of graphite-moderated reactors as the one which caught fire at Chernobyl.

Lithuanian Communist party Chief, Petras Griškevičius went to Ignalina in May to see if extra safety measures should be taken. No details have been released of his findings.

Ignalina is some 500 km north of Chernobyl and 250 km from the Polish border. Construction of the nuclear plant began in 1977.

New Hope

An Estonian who has asked not to be named, has added a new reason for hope. "We have to cope with the knowledge that in ten years' time, thousands of countrymen and women will begin dying of cancer", she says. "But, when these deaths begin on such a large scale, they may cause a mass revolt. After all, everyone will be affected."

— Sources: John Kampfner, Reuter/*Neue Zuercher Zeitung*, East European Solidarity/Europos Lietuvos/PRD.

“Latvian Faith Must Not Die!”

Latvians must keep Christianity alive in their children in spite of atheistic and materialistic influences, Pope John Paul II said on June 26 this year.

The Pope spoke at a Vatican ecumenical service to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the establishment of Christianity in what is now the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

“The name of Christ should not be erased from the hearts of the younger generation which all over the world is threatened by atheistic ideologies and materialistic attitudes,” the Pope said to 350 Latvians and people of Latvian descent who travelled from the four corners of the earth for the anniversary celebrations in Rome.

There were people from Western Europe, North America and Australia. However, not a single representative could come from Latvia itself: the Soviet authorities refused to grant visas.

Lutheran Archbishop

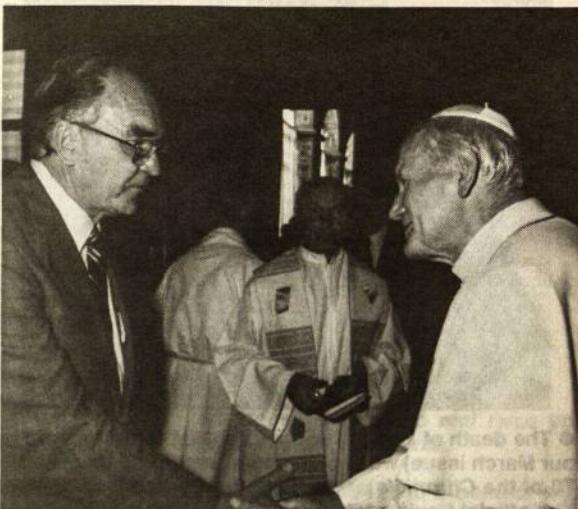
Archbishop Arnolds Lusis of the Latvian Lutheran Church came specially from Toronto, where he now lives, to participate in the ecumenical ceremony. Since the 16th century Protestant reformation, Lutheranism has been the main Christian religion in Latvia.

Before the Soviet occupation in 1940, a quarter of Latvia's 2.5 million people were Catholics. Since then, mass deportations and deliberate “Russification” have sharply reduced Latvia's Catholic population.

During the ceremony which spanned two days, June 26-27, the Pope encouraged ecumenical ties among Christian churches. “The new ecumenical relations which are being forged among Christians and which tend, step by step and according to the natural dynamism of communion, towards the fullness we long for, open the door to new forms of collaboration,” the Pope said.

The ceremony was organised by the World Federation of Free Latvians, with headquarters in Muenster, West Germany.

The event received wide coverage in the European press: *L’Osservatore Romano*, June 27; several other Italian papers; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, etc.



● Greetings from the Australian Latvian community were conveyed to Pope John Paul II (right) by Mr Emīls Dēlinš, honorary Consul of Latvia in Australia (left), at a reception in Rome on June 26, 1986. The reception was given by His Holiness to Latvians from Europe, the Americas and Australia, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of the evangelisation of Latvia by Bishop Meinards in 1186.

— Photo © *L’Osservatore Romano*/Arturo Mari.

The Christianisation of the area on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea now known as Latvia is closely linked with the name of monk Meinhard from the German town of Bremen. Meinhard was consecrated Bishop in 1186, and established the first Diocese on Latvian soil at Ikskile.

The Diocesan seat was soon transferred to Riga, later the capital of Latvia. Bishop Meinhard died in 1196 and his remains are buried in the Cathedral of Riga.

— NCNS/FAZ

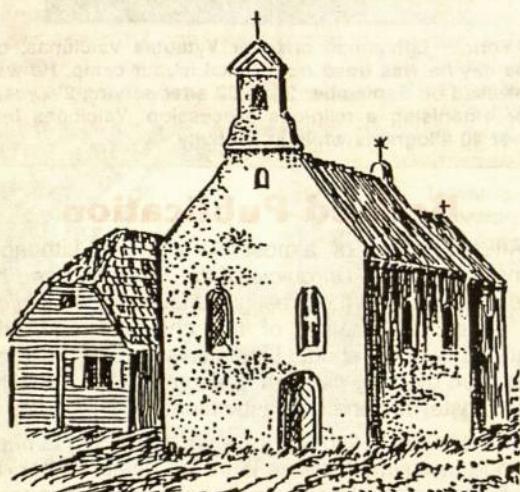
Lithuanian Jubilee

Latvia's southern neighbours, the Lithuanians, were the last Europeans to adopt Christianity. They were baptised in three stages: 1261, King Mindaugas with his household; 1387, Aukštaicių (the Highlanders); and, finally, in 1413, Žemaičiai (the Lowlanders or Samogitians).

Next year, Lithuanians throughout the world will celebrate the 600th jubilee of the Christianisation of their country, because the 1387 Baptism of Lithuanian Highlanders was of decisive importance in regard to the entire nation's religious, national, cultural and political life. With the Baptism of 1387, Lithuania successfully severed herself from Slavic cultures and the political influence of Moscow, forming a closer contact with Western Europe.

The peak celebrations will be held in June 1987, in Rome and in Vilnius, the capital of Russian-occupied Lithuania.

Pope John Paul II has been invited to visit Lithuania on this occasion, but it is doubtful whether the Soviets will grant him a visa.



● The first church built on Latvian soil, at Ikskile. It still existed till World War II.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Foul Play?



© 1986, Lithuanian Information Center.

● The death of Father Juozas Zdebskis (first reported in our March issue) was no accident, according to issue No 70 of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. The official Soviet statement claimed that the priest died when the car in which he was a passenger collided with a milk truck.

However, unconfirmed reports from alleged witnesses maintain that Fr Zdebskis was stabbed and beaten to death on the street. This photograph, apparently taken at the scene of the fatality, is inconclusive.

Zdebskis, a founding member of the banned Catholic Committee for the Defence of Believers' Rights, had several other close brushes with death under suspicious circumstances.

—LIC.

Shortages Explained

In an official Soviet publication entitled *A Look Toward the Future*, Soviet Latvian educator Z. Eiduss offers an explanation why food is still hard to obtain.

Eiduss writes, "In answer to the question asked by foreign visitors why our stores do not have enough meat and milk products, we respond that there is no shortage. The amount of foodstuffs sitting on store shelves is not an indication of their consumption levels. People in capitalist countries do not earn enough money to buy such products and therefore their groceries remain on store shelves. The income of Soviet citizens has been steadily rising so that they now can buy everything they desire. It is the buying power of the Soviet people that keeps the store shelves empty."

—Latvian News Digest/Laiks.

Still Missing

There is still no trace of Latvian cellist Viesturs Večbastiks, his harpist wife Dagnija Zilgalve or their 6-year-old daughter. The family disappeared mysteriously in the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, in November 1985.

Algerian friends believe that the KGB (Russian secret police) kidnapped the three Večbastiks and took them back to the Soviet Union. Neighbours overheard strangers saying that Večbastiks would not be needing his cello where he was going.

Viesturs Večbastiks and his wife were employed as lecturers in the Algerian National Institute of Music. They had come in 1982 as members of a Soviet group of cultural advisers.

—WFFL.

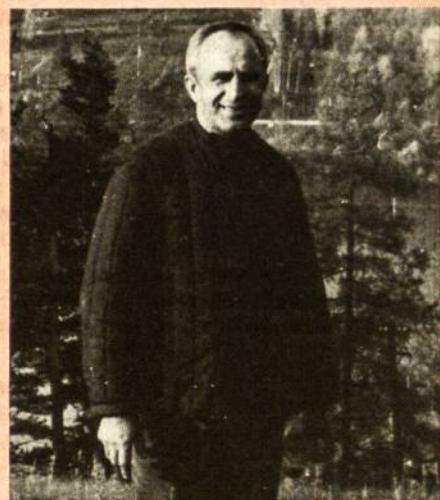
Accident in Latvia

Close on the heels of the Chernobyl tragedy, another environmentally disastrous accident hit Russian-occupied Latvia.

On the night of May 10, at 2025 hours, the oil pipeline linking Pollock in Soviet Russia with Ventspils on the shore of the Baltic Sea, was breached, releasing an immense quantity of crude oil into the River Lielupe catchment area. The automatic shutdown procedures were activated at the two control stations at Biržai in Lithuania and Džukste in Latvia, isolating the broken section of pipeline.

However, on the morning of May 11, the oil escaped to the surface and flowed into the River Ceraukste and from there into the River Musa which, in turn, empties into the River Lielupe — one of the major rivers in Latvia. Makeshift dams were hastily built by local residents, using logs, bales of straw and dirt to stem the flow of oil down the river.

It was not until 28 hours later that the situation was brought under control with the help of special oil-spill control equipment brought in from Riga. A section of faulty pipeline was replaced and, after thorough testing, pumping has been resumed.

—Report from *Soviet Youth* of 15/5/86 in *Australian Latvian*, — EOM.

● Former Lithuanian prisoner Vytautas Vaiciūnas, on the day he was freed from Bakal labour camp. He was released on September 24, 1983 after serving 2½ years for organising a religious procession. Vaiciūnas lost over 40 kilograms while in captivity.

Belated Publication

After a delay of almost 10 years a Lithuanian translation of *The Chronicle of the Prussian Land* has been published in the prestigious *Lituaništine Biblioteka* series. Publication of the chronicle and other planned works about Lithuania's past had been forbidden by party censors, presumably because they could foster nationalistic aspirations.

There is no reason to believe that a fundamental change in cultural politics is in the offing; rather, the publication of the book was probably justified in terms of its utility in the propaganda campaign against the Catholic Church.

—RFE-RAD/Girnius.

Sale of the Century

The man who pulled off the greatest slave bargain of the 20th century is well and safe today. The world has known of his evil deed for the past 40 years, but nobody has bothered to bring him to justice.

The man, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, paid Hitler 7.5 million gold dollars on January 10, 1941, for "the German interest in the southwestern strip of Lithuanian territory." The jargon meant that the Soviets gained full control over 3,000,000 Lithuanians. At \$2.50 a head, these people were the buy of the century.

The \$7.5m deal was the final chapter in the Soviet-German negotiations which started before World War II and led to the Nazis and Soviets fighting together against the Allies.

The Baltic people had no idea at the time that their fate was sealed eight days before the outbreak of the war, on August 23, 1939. A non-aggression treaty was signed in Moscow by Molotov, who was then the USSR commissar of foreign affairs, and by his Nazi German counterpart, Joachim von Ribbentrop. In a secret supplement to this treaty, Poland, Finland and the three Baltic States were divided between Nazi Germany and the USSR.

The spoils were reviewed in further secret protocols of September 28, 1939 and January 10, 1941 — until the Soviets had the whole of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in their clutches.

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact has so far cost one



"I'll match your bet for half of Poland and raise you Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania."

million Baltic lives: tortured, deported to Siberia or shot outright. Yet the Pact has not been repealed. One of its creators, von Ribbentrop, was executed after the Nuremberg war trials in 1946; but the other co-author Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Molotov, is still living in Russia, in luxurious retirement.

This year, Baltic people throughout the free world remembered August 23, by wearing black ribbons.

Baltic Woman Saved Jews from Nazis

A Lituanian woman has been posthumously honoured by the Israeli government for saving two Jewish children from Nazi firing squads.

Mrs Konstancija Braženienė (below left), who died in 1970 at the age of 79, has been awarded the Medal of the Righteous. A tree will be also planted in her honour in the Alley of the Righteous in Yad Vashem, Jerusalem.

At a ceremony in New York City, Laura Kam, a spokeswoman of the Israeli Consulate, said, "Literally thousands and thousands of Jews were saved by non-Jews. We don't forget".

Sara Shilingovsky was four when

a Lithuanian family friend smuggled her in a potato sack to Mrs Braženienė's home, back in 1943.

Sara (now Mrs Capelowitch) still recalls the risks involved in sheltering Jews in war-torn Lithuania. From her home in Israel, she said, "I am grateful, and I miss my Tetulė (Auntie). She put her own life on the line. The SS did not spare Christians who helped Jews."

The second child saved by Mrs Braženienė from the Nazis was a nine-year-old boy, Alex Gringauz. Mrs Braženienė's son, Mindaugas, bribed a German officer and took Gringauz into his mother's home. Alex spent much of the next two years hidden away in the attic. There were a couple of close calls with German patrols.

Towards the end of the German occupation in Lithuania in 1944, Alex was handed over to a group of Jesuits in Kaunas, who were part of an underground railroad for Jews. Alex was transported secretly out of Lithuania with other Jews, and reunited with his father.

But the story does not end here. For Mrs Braženienė, her troubles had only begun.

Her son Mindaugas died of kidney disease in 1948, at the age of 22. Lithuanian doctors knew how to treat the disease, but had no drugs.

Then, in November 1948, Russian soldiers came to Mrs Braženienė's home and, without warning, took her away to Siberia. For eight years, she battled against inhuman conditions, cold and starvation — but managed to survive. Her health collapsed in September 1956, and she was allowed to return to Russian-occupied Lithuania. Harassment and interrogations continued.

Eventually, on May 20, 1966, Mrs Braženienė arrived in the United States and, after 22 years separation, joined her daughter in New York City.

Mrs Braženienė lived to see the two Jews she saved during the war (pictured below, right).

— The Observer.



• Affectionately known as "Tetulė" (Auntie), Konstancija Braženienė risked her own life to save two Jewish children.



• Konstancija Braženienė (centre) reunited with Alex Gringauz and Sara Capelowitch in New York City in 1966.

BOOK REVIEW

An Unforgettable Leader

ARCHBISHOP JURGIS MATULAITIS 1871-1927, An Apostle of the Living Church, by Juozas Vaišnora, MIC. Published by Christiana-Verlag, Stein am Rhein. 48pp. DM/SFr 4.50 (In German).

Both the elevation of the Slavic apostles Cyril and Methodius to patrons of Europe by the Polish Pope, and the canonisation of Maximilian Kolbe in October 1982, have demonstrated to the Western public that Eastern Europe also has its share of great saints.

In the period between the two world wars the figure of a saintly Lithuanian stands out, and his people are now working for his canonisation: Archbiishop Jurgis Matulaitis, the former leader of the Lithuanian Catholic Church. Pope Pius XI, who knew him personally, said of him: "He was a man of God, he was truly a saint."

Born in 1871 under Russian rule, the young Jurgis studied in St Petersburg for the Polish diocese of Kielce. He graduated in Fribourg in Switzerland, was professor at seminaries in Kielce and St Petersburg, and rejuvenated the Marist Congregation, whose provincial he became. He was appointed Bishop of Vilnius against his will in 1918, at a time when he was still devoting himself fully to his congregation and to the renewal of women's religious orders.

During the battles for Vilnius that were waged between Russians and Poles, and then between Lithuanians and Poles, he was caught in a very difficult situation and finally had to resign as Bishop when the Poles occupied the city. He went to Rome, but Pope Pius XI sent him back to Lithuania as Apostolic Visitator with the task of setting new diocesan borders with prudence and tact. On 27 January, 1927, he died unexpectedly in Kaunas.

The brochure in question paints a vivid picture of this shepherd and it is a valuable guide to an understanding of the contemporary situation in Lithuania. It is a great pity that there are not more similar biographies of past and present Church personalities from Eastern Europe.

Reviewed by INFO,

Kirche in Not/Ostpriesterhilfe e.V. Internat. Informationsdienst, Postfach 1209, D-6240 Königstein 1 (West Germany).

Congratulations!

Our regular contributor Diethild Treffert (pictured) has won the honour of being chosen the West German Catholic Journalist of the Year, for 1986. Mrs Treffert is editor with the Catholic News Service *kna* (Katholische Nachrichten-Agentur) in Bonn, West Germany.

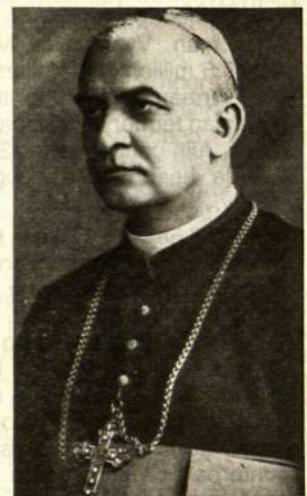
Her prize-winning entry was a report entitled *The Field That Was Ploughed Up*. It described the breaking up of religion in the Soviet Union.

Lithuanian Research

A Lithuanian Research Foundation is now being formed in Tasmania. One of its main aims is to promote scholarly research in all areas connected with Lithuania.

The Foundation urgently needs a house, for its library and other resources.

Further information is available from the Secretary, Lithuanian Research Foundation, PO Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005 (Australia).

**NEW RECORD****Estonian Waltzes**

Some diehard sociologists claim, the last of the true ethnic minorities vanished when the Australians started to leave Earls Court in 1968.

But in many cases, the corruption of the purity of some minority groups by cultural contact with their neighbours or environment can be beneficial. The music stands witness.

OLD ESTONIAN WALTZES (Estoterix YPRX 2309) is a collection, mostly, of Estonian folk songs played on what seem to be assorted synthesisers by Olev Muska.

He kindly provides a translation of the lyrics. One song, *The Pub Was Askew*, goes "Hooley dooley, the highway was crooked across from the pub the church was crooked inside the church the pulpit was crooked reverend father behind the pulpit was crooked" . . . and so on.

Even given the somewhat SBS-like liberties translating into the Australian idiom, it is obvious that the Estonian muse is a remarkable creature.

The gem of the collection (though I may be exposing my own ethnic Achilles heel here) is the old Delltones hit *Hanging Five*, much loved by the surfies of the early 1960s.

The vocal, in Estonian, by Juhani Lubek, gives a new dimension to the classic, though which dimension that is I am not prepared to disclose at this time.

Credit must be given to the music board of the Australia Council, which funded the recording.

No threat of artistic compromise has faced Olev Muska. Thanks to the all-too-frequently maligned Australia Council, he has been free to express his Estonian visions in his individual way, and by his contribution make Australia just that much more interesting a place in which to waltz.

This record is available from major record stores; or from PO Box 230, Pyrmont, NSW, 2009, at \$12 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

— **Reviewed by Bob HUDSON in *The National Times*.**
(Reprinted with permission).

COMING EVENT:

Annual General Meeting

This year's annual general meeting of HELLP (Help The Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian People's Association) will be held in Migrant Resource Centre, 222 Elizabeth St, Hobart, on Friday, October 24, 1986, at 8 pm.

Senator R. W. B. (Brian) Harradine will be the guest speaker.

A video film on the 1985 Baltic Peace and Freedom Cruise will be also shown. The cruise was organised in conjunction with the Baltic Trial in Copenhagen and the Baltic Futures seminar in Stockholm; and was highly successful. Reports on all three events were published at the time, in the September 1985 issue of *Baltic News*.

Members are reminded that written nominations for next year's HELLP Executive Committee are to be sent to the Secretary of the Association, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tas, 7005, not later than October 10, 1986. Nominations must be signed by two members of the Association and by the nominee.

Baltic Freedom Day

● US President Ronald Reagan signing Baltic Freedom Day proclamation on June 12, 1986, in the White House. He is flanked by senior representatives of the Baltic communities in the United States.

For a number of years now, the United States of America has officially celebrated one day each year as Baltic Freedom Day.

New Consul

Mr Jaak Treiman has been appointed Estonian Honorary Consul for California, from March 28, 1986. He succeeds Consul Ernst Laur who died late in 1985.

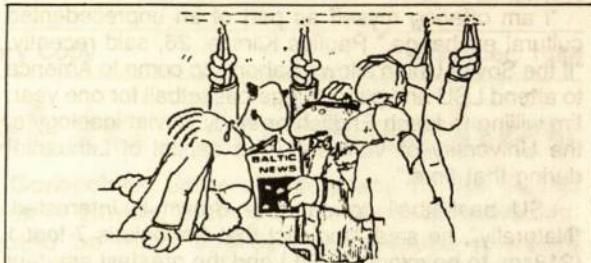
The appointment has been approved by the US Department of State. This reflects the continued US policy of non-recognition of the illegal Soviet annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940.

As a child, Mr Treiman had lived with his parents in Sydney, Australia from 1947 to 1951. — WAFL

Krishna Fan Persecuted

Latvian freedom campaigner Maigonis Ravins (see *Baltic News*, Dec '85) was forcibly sent to a psychiatric hospital last year, but has since been released. It has now come to light that Ravins is connected with the Hare Krishna movement.

In other parts of the USSR, several Hare Krishna members were forced into psychiatric hospitals in 1985. At least five names are known.

**Thank You!**

Earlier this year, our income started falling short of the quarterly target of \$3,000 — the amount needed to pay for each issue of *Baltic News*.

Just then, our supporters came to the rescue. Mr V. Stalba initiated a funds drive in Adelaide. Mrs A. Matukeviciene-Mature, assisted by the Lithuanian Community of Sale, organised a fishathon at Strathford (Vic). The proceeds are marked with an asterisk* in the list below. And readers in all States of Australia and overseas sent in their personal donations.

We thank you all for your spontaneous generosity:

VIC: Sale Lithuanian Community, \$225; Baltic Council of Victoria, \$200; National Lithuanian Foundation Support Group, \$100; P. O'Shaughnessy, Q. King, \$50 each; L. K. V. S. Ramove, A. Bimba, \$40 each; J. C. \$30; Geelong Lithuanian Assoc club, \$25; S. E. Eimutis, A. G. Miglis, G. V. \$20 each; P. Verbyla, \$15; L. Jansons, Mrs Jablonskis, J. M., *A. Kontvinis, \$10; J. Tamosiunas, G. Jokubaitis, D. V. Cain, \$5 each; Z. Pranckunas, \$3; Anon, Anon, L. Nobelius, \$2 each; E. Dainutis, \$1; J. S. 20c.

NSW: Lietuviai, \$100; Lietuve, \$50; B. Sidlauskas, \$25; A. Venclovas, V. Venclovas, J. Ramanauskas, M. & A. Statkus, Rev G. Canova, Mgr P. Butkus, J. Zinkus, D. J. Cooper, A. Reitzgys, S. Zablockiene, Mrs J. Williams, \$20 each; A. Ancans, E. Arady, \$15 each; A. Sliogeris, \$11; O. Jarlamaviciene, O. & J. Jonusas, V. Narusiene, J. Gatavicius, P. Ryan, Rev P. E. Wicks, J. Reitelalitis, F. M. Hanlon, V. Kardelis, \$10 each; O. Osiniene, J. Sutas, Mrs A. Skene, \$5 each.

Mr & Mrs A. Leveris, \$25; Mr & Mrs J. Resigys, \$20.

ACT: Canberra Lithuanian Community, \$300; ACT Doordand (N. Pilka), \$50; Dr G. Danta, Andruska family, \$25 each.

Various: Young Estonian in Singapore, Latvian Community in Tasmania, Daugavas Vanagi Sydney Branch, \$100 each; O. Liutkiene (WA), \$75; P. Siauciunas (Tas), J. Krastins (NSW), Lithuanian Community (WA), Dr J. Kunca (Vic), Lithuanian Caritas Inc (SA), Daugavas Vanagi-Canberra & Anon West Australian, \$50 each; N. J. Murray (Tas), \$40; Baltic Council, West Australia, Anon V. B. R (Vic), A. & J. Jirgens (NSW), \$30 each; A. Zamoiskis (SA), R. Samsonas (Vic), A. P. Taskunas (Tas), \$25 each; P. Randma, M. T. Tomkins, J. D. Browne (NSW), J. Cibulskis, M. J. L. Bean, J. & R. R. (SA), E. Lacin, E. Kuplis (Tas), E. Whelan, S. & S. Karpalavicius (Vic), J. & B. Treimanis (ACT), Mrs Ruzgiene (Qld), \$20 each; Anon Tasmanian \$13; A. Lendraitis, A. Morkunas, V. Stalba (SA), H. Mikelsons, E. Bernhards, W. Craig (Tas), T. J. Walsh, C. M. Misell, B. E. Pelly (Vic), C. Ford (NSW), M. Smyth, J. Austinaitis (WA), Fr J. Girdauskas, P. Dz., L. & N. Tidey (Old), M. Manning Lobb (UK), Eugene, \$10 each; J. Janusevicius, J. Abukevicius, P. Satkus, J. Vebrys, P. & E. Matiukas (SA), M. Johnson (NT), P. Cepuraitis (Vic), A. Andrikonis (Tas), \$5 each; L. Slaustas (SA), \$4; R. Jablonskis, B. Nemeika (SA), P. Reijan-Dillon (SA), \$2 each.

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Swap Offer: Teacher for Basketballer

A Brighton (US) man has volunteered to "trade" himself to the Soviet Union if it will help bring 22-year-old Lithuanian Arvydas Sabonis to Louisiana State University to play basketball for one season.

"I am offering myself as part of an unprecedented cultural exchange," Paulius Klimas, 26, said recently. "If the Soviet Union allows Sabonis to come to America to attend LSU and play college basketball for one year, I'm willing to teach English or study Soviet ideology at the University of Vilnius (in the capital of Lithuania) during that time."

LSU basketball coach Dale Brown is interested. "Naturally", he said, "the fact that Sabonis is 7-foot-1 (218cm, to be exact, — Ed.) and the greatest amateur player in the world is a factor. But I also want him as a person. Sabonis playing for LSU would be the greatest sports story of the year and would promote world peace."

Soviet Refusals

Over the past 12 months, several Western basketball clubs have tried to sign up Arvydas Sabonis — but, so far, without success.

Since the forced takeover of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940, Moscow closely controls all movements to and from these Baltic countries. Travel abroad is the exclusive privilege of the chosen few.

Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians are not allowed to field their own international basketball teams — even though Latvia had won the European championships in 1935 and Lithuania achieved the same honour in 1937 and 1939. The best Baltic basketballers now have no choice but to play for the USSR!

Last year, the US Atlanta Hawks had invited Sabonis to play for them in the US national competition. The Russians said, "Nyet".

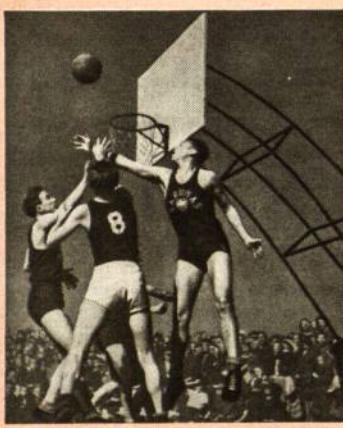


• Arvydas Sabonis: not allowed out of the USSR, to improve his basketball skills in the US.

But Louisiana State University coach Dale Brown is not giving up so easily. Sponsored by industrialist Armand Hammer and author and retired minister Norman Vincent Peale, Brown visited Moscow recently. He sought a meeting with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, to discuss Paulius Klimas's offer of a cultural exchange. The outcome of Dale Brown's moves is not yet known.

— Source : Bob Matthews in Rochester Times-Union.

Balts: The Backbone of Soviet Team



• For Latvians and Lithuanians, basketball is the national sport — linked with repeated European victories in the 1930s.

Since entering the international basketball arena after World War II, the Soviet Union has regularly relied on the tiny Baltic nations, Latvia and Lithuania, to provide key players.

Lithuanian V. Kulakauskas was one of the earlier Soviet national coaches. He also wrote a text-book on basketball, for use by the Russians.

The captain of the 1956 Soviet men's basketball team was Petkevičius, a Lithuanian.

For a number of years, Rupšienė was the captain of the Soviet women's basketball team.

This year's men's world championship, played off in Spain in July, was no exception. The Soviet team featured

four Lithuanians: Arvydas Sabonis, Valdemaras Chomičius, Rimas Kurtinaitis and Marčiulionis; and three Latvians: Valdis Valters, Andris Jekabsons and Igors Miglinieks.

Sabonis was the top scorer in most matches. Chomičius received special mention in the grand final when the US wrestled the men's basketball crown from the USSR, with a narrow victory, 87-85. At one stage in the second half, the US basketballers had stretched their advantage to 18 points. Spearheaded by Chomičius and backed by Sabonis, the Soviet team fought back to within 2 points, with 55 seconds to go.

For Latvians and Lithuanians, their excellence in basketball is no coincidence. It is their national tradition.

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