



# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT FROM ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA (THE BALTIC STATES)  
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March, 1988

## Demonstrators Dispersed by Police

Promises of democratisation were suddenly forgotten on February 14, when Soviet police and militia wielding rubber truncheons broke up a peaceful gathering in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city.

About 500 people had met at the Maironis monument to commemorate Lithuania's Independence Day. Speeches were made calling for full restoration of Lithuania's freedom. The demonstration reportedly lasted for about one hour, before the Soviet policemen moved in and dispersed the crowd. At least 12 persons were arrested, according to a report in Hobart *Mercury* (Feb 18).

Earlier that day, 4,000 Christians assembled in the Cathedral of Kaunas. Special prayers were offered for religious and national freedom.

### Police Intervention

In Vilnius, Lithuania's capital, the faithful assembled in Saint Nicholas church. Some sang the banned Lithuanian anthem and prayed for Lithuania's freedom. Police intervened and several dozen people were said to have been arrested.

The official Soviet news agency Tass has confirmed that "several citizens" were arrested in Vilnius and Kaunas. Tass said those arrested had committed "anti-social acts" and been involved in "hooliganism".

Further demonstrations had been planned for Tuesday, February 16, the actual date of the 70th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence Day. Early reports suggest, however, that heavy police and civilian militia patrols managed to prevent crowds forming in Vilnius.

### Estonian Demonstrations

Other clashes between demonstrators and police occurred in Tartu, Estonia's university city, on February 2. Security forces turned out in full riot gear and soon subdued the helpless civilians.

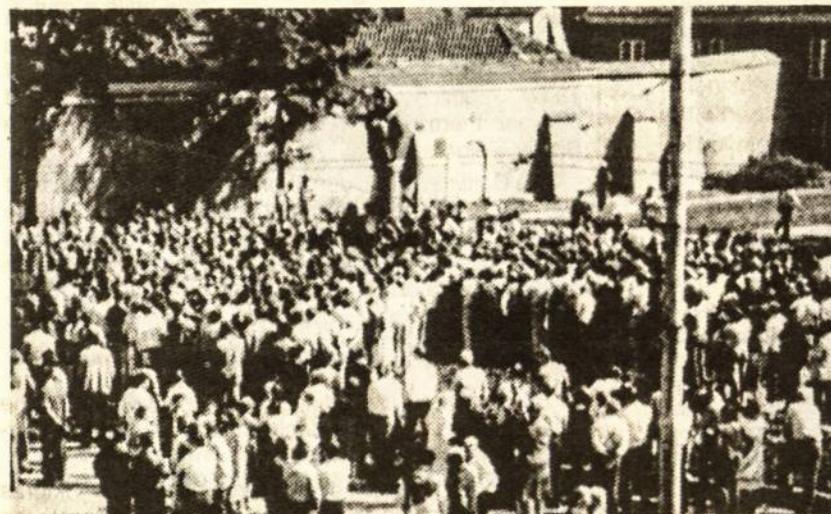
On February 19, the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev called for a special plenary session of the Communist Party's ruling Central Committee to discuss ways of tackling the rising tide of nationalism in the Soviet Union.

In the past year, all three Baltic States — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — have seen repeated demonstrations marking anniversaries. To gag this opposition, students have been warned by Soviet officials that participation in protest meetings would lead to immediate expulsion from universities and colleges. Similar threats have been issued to workers.

On February 19, the Estonian Communist Party newspaper *Sovietskaya Estonia* published an appeal for calm on February 24. The appeal carried the signatures of 48 prominent Estonians, including intellectuals critical of the Soviet authorities.

As this issue went to print, we received the first report that Estonians did demonstrate on February 24. In Tallinn, people chanted, "Get the Russians out". Soviet authorities moved in and ordered an end to the unrest.

Sources: ELTA/The Mercury/The Herald/The Australian/Reuter.



Left: An earlier demonstration by the Lithuanians in Vilnius. Some 500 people gathered in the plaza in front of St Anne's church on August 23, 1987, to protest against the 1939 Nazi-Soviet pact. Right: Lithuanian human rights worker Nijolė Sadūnaitė (right, with glasses) was beaten up by two "unknown men" in a Vilnius street, on February 6. Nijolė was one of the main organisers of the February 14-16 demonstrations.

# Estonians Object to Kremlin's Plans

Europe's biggest phosphorite lode is putting the Soviet Union's policy of *glasnost*, or openness, to a severe test. The lode is in the Baltic republic of Estonia and was first discovered a decade ago, but Soviet authorities have only recently found out how big it is.

They now believe that the lode contains almost 2 per cent of the world's known resources of a mineral that is in heavy demand as a fertiliser.

The authorities are keen to start extensive mining of the lode, but the plans have run up against unexpectedly strong opposition from local scientists and even party officials.

## Fear of Consequences

The lode is situated in the Pandivere highlands in the north-east of Estonia. The area is underlain by a vast aquifer which supplies 40 per cent of the republic's water. Critics fear that the reservoir would be damaged irreparably by mining.

The highlands also contain uranium deposits, and there are fears that mining the phosphorite would release unacceptable amounts of radioactivity into the environment. The Soviet Union is traditionally secretive about its uranium resources and seems unwilling to concede this allegation.

Estonia and the other two Baltic republics, Latvia and Lithuania, function to an extent as experimenting grounds for Gorbachev's twin reform policies of *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost*. Now, *glasnost* about the phosphorite seam has turned into a widespread protest movement. The chairman of the Writers' Union denounced the project when Gorbachev made a visit to the area.

## Leadership Criticized

Members of the party's youth organisation, the Komsomol, have criticised their leadership strongly for supporting the plans to mine. On 1 May, an occasion which is usually carefully controlled by the Communist Party, there were many reports of people holding placards and sporting badges with the messages "Why Phosphorite?" and "Protect the Baltic Sea."

The local press is printing letters protesting about the project, while the editor of the magazine *Sirp ja Vasar*, was reprimanded by the party for publishing a critical cartoon about the phosphorite.

Until now the party has refused to climb down. It has earmarked those parts of the highlands which are to be



● The Estonians fear that mining may contaminate their essential water supplies. Pictured above: the Keila River.

excavated. According to a report in a Finnish newspaper, Estonian students are determined to occupy the area when digging starts.

— This first appeared in *New Scientist* magazine, London. Reprinted with permission.

P.S. The Soviet central planning committee in Moscow has agreed to postpone phosphorite mining in the disputed Estonian areas for 2 to 3 years. Comprehensive studies will be carried out in the meantime at Rakvere, Kabala and Toolse.

Rahva Haal/NBIC.

## Soviet — Swedish Agreement

Sweden and the USSR reached an agreement on 13 January, 1988, fixing the boundary between the two countries in the Baltic Sea. After 3½ days' talks in Stockholm, Soviet Prime Minister Ryshkov and his Swedish counterpart Carlsson divided an area of 13,500 square kilometres east of Gotland island between them: 75% went to Sweden and 25% to the Soviet Union.

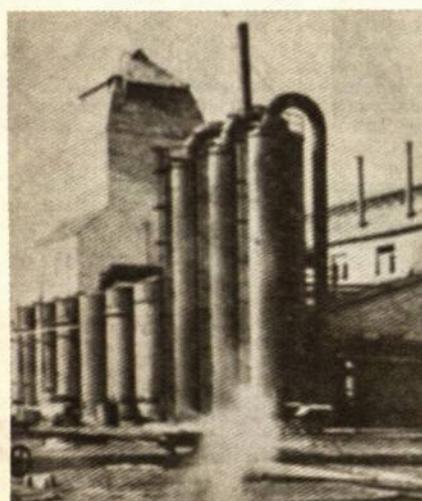
The Baltic World Council protested strongly against this action. In notes sent to both negotiating parties, the Council pointed out that some of the territories belonged to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. These countries were occupied illegally in 1940 by the USSR, after the secret Nazi - Soviet pact — Frankfurter Allgemeine.

## Obituary

Erich Weiss, an untiring longtime worker for the Baltic cause, died suddenly in Bochum (West Germany) on September 4, 1987.

Erich was the main driving force behind the Viktoras Petkus Committee and *Suehne-Aktion*, an appeal to the German Government to make up for the disastrous consequences of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

May he rest in peace. Our sincere sympathy to Josefa, and to all relatives and friends.



● Oil shale refineries are already operating in north-eastern Estonia (pictured). The local people want no further pollution.

# Latvia: The Forgotten Land

"Australian journalists and private tourists should now visit Latvia — and stay there long enough to witness the human rights breaches by the Soviets." This was the impassioned plea of 22-year-old Latvian freedom campaigner **Rolands Silaraups**, who visited Tasmania briefly last month.

In an exclusive interview with *Baltic News*, Silaraups said that some of the free world's attention ought to be diverted to the gross injustices in the Baltic States — instead of concentrating on a few countries such as Chile and South Africa.

The young Latvian knows what he is talking about. On June 14, 1987, he defied Soviet authorities and led some 5,000 Latvians to a protest meeting at the Statue of Liberty in Riga. "The Russians brought thousands of their own policemen," Silaraups comments dryly. "Support for the Latvian freedom movement was so widespread they could not rely on the local militia."

For his activities, Rolands Silaraups was expelled from Latvia in July, 1987. He has been touring the major centres of the free world ever since, under the sponsorship of the World Federation of Free Latvians.

Silaraups' first brush with the Soviet secret police came on March 19, 1986 when he was arrested on charges of "anti-Soviet propaganda." He and other young Latvians had publicly asked for the annulment of the 1939 clandestine pact between Nazi Germany and Soviet Russia that led to the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States.

Silaraups spent part of his sentence in the notorious Mordovian labour camp complex, and was released in February 1987.

He then joined the Helsinki '86 group in Latvia. This grassroots organisation monitors Soviet transgressions of the Helsinki accords of 1975.

For Rolands Silaraups, the fight has only begun. "I'll continue to fight for the restoration of a free Latvia," he told us, "and against current Soviet policies of russification. Gorbachev is out to stamp out the Latvian national identity, culture and language for all time."

● **Latvian Communist joins Helsinki '86 group:** Page 7.

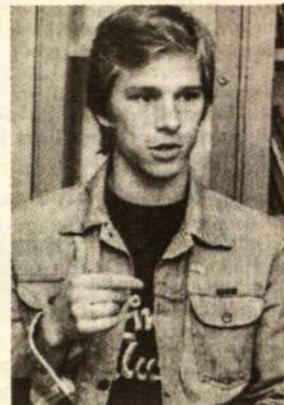
## No Sign of Relief

Rolands Silaraups' sentiments were echoed by Miss Gintė Damušis (pictured below), during a lecture she gave at the University of Tasmania on January 13. Speaking on "Glasnost — the opportunities and traps of it", Miss Damušis pointed out the double standards of the Western world. Human rights are an important issue for some countries, she said, but, when it comes to the oppression in the Soviet Union, people turn a blind eye.

Miss Damušis is well versed in the topic. She is a Director of the Lithuanian Information Centre in New York, and also the Director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, which is a relief agency for persecuted Catholics in the USSR.

"Western society is enchanted by Gorbachev's wit and charm", Miss Damušis told her Tasmanian audience. "However, we know that *glasnost* is not being implemented in areas of the Soviet Union. Repression is still continuing, and people are still imprisoned for their beliefs. All this talk about democratisation is strictly for Western public consumption".

— Photo: *The Mercury*, Hobart. Story: condensed from Louise Bower's report in *The Mercury*.



● Rolands Silaraups.

## Opposition Party Formed

A new political party, the Estonian National Independence Party (ENIP), has been established in Russian-occupied Estonia. The ENIP maintains that the Communist Party has failed to represent the interests of the Estonian people.

In a party programme signed by 16 Estonians and announced on January 22, 1988, the ENIP has pledged to:

- Demand the restoration of historical truth.
- Struggle for the predominance and increased influence of the Estonian nationality, which is indigenous to the nation state of Estonia.
- Oppose the destruction of the natural environment of Estonia.
- Restructure Estonia's present inflexible planned economy.
- Guarantee basic human rights under law.

The new party's central goal is to restore free and independent Estonia. The ENIP demands free elections and Estonian representation at the United Nations. It wants Estonian conscripts to serve in Estonian-speaking units and only inside the Estonian territory.

The multiple-party parliamentary system was abolished in Estonia in 1940, when the country was overrun by the Soviet troops and was incorporated into the USSR soon after.

— Eur. Liet/BANC.

● **Heiki AHONEN** (pictured), one of the founders of the new Estonian National Independence Party, was arrested by the Soviet authorities on February 1, 1988. The 32-year-old engineer had previously served four years (1983-1987) in Russian concentration camps, on charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda".



# Photocopiers in the Era of *Glasnost*

by Viktor Yasmann

The appearance of photocopying machines in the Soviet Union has given rise to a problem that is particularly Soviet in nature. To this day, all photocopying and duplicating equipment is kept literally "under lock and key". Photocopies are made by specially selected employees, who, in turn, are under the surveillance of a special department.

Such departments are to be found in practically every Soviet enterprise or institution and are staffed by people connected in one way or another with the KGB. In addition to routine checks carried out within organizations, the work of photocopying equipment operators is also periodically subjected to inspections by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and by the state censorship board (Glavlit).

## Restricted Production

Fearing that some photocopying machines might find their way into the hands of the general public, the Soviet authorities restricted the production of copying equipment almost exclusively to one factory.

The resulting lack of specialization applied to the manufacturing of individual components was bound to have an adverse effect on the quality of Soviet photocopying equipment. Indeed, when the Kaunas experimental factory, for example, brought out a prototype model of a desktop photocopier, it transpired that the factory was not able to manufacture or to procure from elsewhere a suitable motor for the machine and instead installed a washing-machine motor.

Of course, under the present policy of *glasnost*, this secretive approach to photocopying appears to be something of an anachronism.

At the recent annual assembly of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the Academy's vice president, Pyotr Fedoseyev, complained that in 1985 institutes of social sciences, for example, had received only four or five duplicating machines. The advancement of science was quite impossible, he said, as long as ordinary photocopiers continued to be regarded as "a class enemy".

## High Cost of Copying



● Lithuanian worker Ona Pranckūnaitė (pictured) spent nearly two years under arrest and in Russian prisons, 1977-79, because a photo-copying machine was found in her flat, in the town of Panevėžys. Ona explained that she had sub-let a room in her flat to two men who used the *Era*-brand copier and a typewriter for their own purposes. Nonetheless, the Soviet court decided that Ona had a hand in copying the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. She was sentenced under Article 199 of the Soviet Lithuanian Penal Code: "Circulation of deliberately false concoctions that slander the Soviet state and social order".

Part of Fedoseyev's speech is cited in *Nauchno-tekhnicheskaya revolyutsia* (=NTR), No. 15, 1987; and part in *Vestnik Akademii Nauk SSSR*, No. 7, 1987.

## Shield from Information

A well-known Soviet physicist, Academician Vitaliy Goldansky also complained about the lack of access to photocopiers: "There are very few duplicating machines, the operating instructions are extremely complicated, and the quality of the copies is often very low. Some unknown bureaucrats . . . are, for some reason, at pains to shield us from professionally important and urgent information that is fully accessible to our colleagues in other countries."

There is no Soviet law explicitly forbidding the copying of nonofficial material; the restrictions are imposed only by departmental directives.

One directive requires photocopiers to be located in a lockable room, though this rule is senseless for desk and personal models. Another requires the signature of a specially designated employee before copies of a document may be made. In special cases this employee must first consult with the personnel of the department dealing with classified material. In practice, as many as seven signatures may be required before a copy can be made!

With the exception of a few libraries and notaries' offices, there is nowhere in Moscow or in other large cities where private citizens can make copies (or, at least, not legally).

## Tallinn Centre

In 1982, a duplicating and copying centre opened in Tallinn (Estonia) and began taking orders from customers. Sometime later, similar centres opened in Lviv, Novosibirsk, and Tyumen. Unlike the Tallinn centre, however, these provided services only to organisations.

Colonel M. Pobedimsky from the Ministry of Internal Affairs recently told the correspondent of NTR that the ministry was not against expanding the network of photocopying centres accessible to the public. Pobedimsky revealed that many instances of illegal photocopying had been discovered. The duplicated material fell generally into two categories: scarce Soviet literature, which was then sold; and Western publications.

Officials of Glavlit have also said they would not be averse to the idea of making photocopying a legitimate consumer service, at least for material published in the Soviet Union.

## Copyright etc

M. Voronkova, head of the board of the Soviet copyright agency (VAAP), drew attention to another aspect of the problem. She pointed out that if 200 photocopying centres were to open in the Soviet Union, each of them could make, say, ten copies of Anatoliy Rybakov's popular novel *Deti Arbata* (Children of the Arbat), without the author receiving a kopek.

Finally, yet another authority — the Ministry of Consumer Services — requested that photocopying and duplicating centers should be transferred to its jurisdiction in much the same way as the already existing typing pools have been.

It would appear, then, that access to photocopying and duplicating equipment is to be made easier.

This does not mean, however, that the Soviet authorities will be eager to relax their control over photocopying. Like personal computers and video equipment, photocopying and duplicating machines belong to the category of individual information media. The policy of glasnost being pursued so ardently by Mikhail Gorbachev is based on the assumption that all criticism and controversial debates are voiced through the state-controlled mass media.

— Condensed from *Smoloskyp*.



● Lenin Library in Moscow. Every morning a queue forms outside this building, to obtain tokens for photocopying. After half an hour the queue disappears, not because there are no more customers but because all the coveted tokens have been given out.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Estonian "Unions"

The subject of reciprocal visits between Soviet bloc "trade unionists" and Australian trade union delegates, has arisen a number of times in the Trades and Labor Council of Western Australia.

Once again on 4th August 1987, the Council received advice from the Estonian Trade Union Council that the Estonians were prepared to send a three-member delegation plus an interpreter to WA in October or November 1988.

The West Australian TLC Officer's recommendation to the assembled trade union delegates was that "the advice be noted and Council seek financial support from affiliates to defray any expense involved and, if financial support is forthcoming, the delegation's tour be endorsed."

A speaker from the Federated Clerks' Union opposed the recommendation and urged that no trade union funds be used in support of the so-called Estonian Trade Union Council, an affiliate of the Soviet-line World Federation of Trade Unions. The speaker described the recent history of Russian-occupied Estonia, conscription for Afghanistan and Chernobyl, and total absence of free trade unions.

He concluded by saying that the expenses of the Soviet interpreter could be saved by engaging one of 300 Australians competent to do the job in Perth.

The President of the Trades and Labor Council, Mr Clive Brown, supported the Officer's recommendation; but said that the levy for the Soviet Estonian tour expenses was expected only from those unions that were in favour of it.

On a show of hands, the recommendation was carried 68 to 28. The unions that opposed the visit of the bogus trade union were the Federated Clerks' Union, Hospital Salaried Offi-

cers' Association, Shop Distributive Association, and portions of other unions.

How would your union vote on this matter?

Perth, WA. P. CEKANAUSKAS.

● An article on Estonian trade unions was published in the June 1986 issue of *Baltic News*.

### No Handouts

My congratulations!

In a country such as Australia, where to my regret people increasingly seem to expect a Government hand-out, your decade of independent efforts to produce this publication is a credit to your supporters and an inspiration to us all.

Please henceforth regard me as among the former, and accept my donation and unequivocal rejection of Russian sovereignty over the Baltic States.

Greg CORNWELL.

Canberra, ACT.

### Baltic News

We have been receiving the *Baltic News* for some years and have found it an excellent and informative publication. We think that it supplies a need lacking in other newspapers, in that it gives up-to-date, detailed and documented information about conditions of people in the Baltic States, and we consider that it is very necessary to keep this information before the community.

We enclose our donation and hope that the *Baltic News* will continue.

Bayswater, WA. T. & H. CHILD.

I congratulate you on your efforts to keep Australians abreast of developments in the Soviet-occupied Baltic States.

Please accept my small donation to assist you in continuing to publish *Baltic News*.

Spence, NSW. G. D. PHILLIPS.



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*Worcester Telegram* (U.S.).

SULMAN

## NEW BOOK:

**At Least 454 Innocents Still Imprisoned**

When Soviet leader Gorbachev started talking about prisoner releases, the world rejoiced. Then the first 200 prisoners of conscience were freed by the USSR Supreme Soviet's decrees and by the amnesty of June 18, 1987. The Soviet move was welcomed in the West — but not without a note of caution, "What about the rest of those imprisoned without guilt?"

It seems the Soviet leaders are in no hurry to let them go.

At least 454 dissidents were still imprisoned in the Soviet Union on October 30, 1987, according to the latest *List of Political Prisoners in the USSR*. Compiled since 1978 by Dr Cronid Lubarsky, a former Soviet prisoner, this is the ninth *List* of persons in detention, in psychiatric hospitals or exile, or serving sentences of "corrective" labour.

October 30 was chosen as the date for Dr Lubarsky's annual survey, because this is the Day of the political Prisoner in the USSR. The day was originally established in 1974, by the political prisoners in the Mordovian camps. It has been observed annually, ever since. On October 30, wherever they may be Soviet prisoners go on strike, fast or engage in other acts of protest.



● Still imprisoned: Gederts Melngailis (left) and Žanis Skudra.

Over the years, Dr Lubarsky has built up a reputation for accuracy and reliability. Once again, his latest *List* is factual, easy-to-read and without embellishments. It is this stark simplicity that makes Dr Lubarsky's book even more impressive.

**Baltic Prisoners**

The *List* includes the following Baltic prisoners of conscience. In every case, the surname is shown first, in capitals:

ARAKAS, Imre; ASTRA, Gunārs; BOTKER, Peeter; BŪMEIS-TERS, Juris; DEBICH, Mikhail; GAJAUSKAS, Bals; GRANTINS, Linards; IEŠMANTAS, Gintautas; KARALIŪNAS, Voldemaras; KERESS, Imants; KIIREND, Olev; KÖIV, Vambola; KOTKAS, Tauno; KRUUSMÄGI, Kaido; KUMA, Teovils.

LAUR, Reih; LAUSKA, Janis; LIZIUNAS, Boleslovas; LUKOŠEVICIUS, Petras; MELNGAILIS, Gederts; M(I)EŠKINAS, Albertas; MILLER, Andres; MULTINS, Vitolds; MURAUSKAS, Stanislovas; MUZIKEVIČIUS, K; NIKLUS, Mart-Olav; NOTTA, Riho; NURM-SAAR, Erik; ORAS, Urmas.

PADAR, Valdo; PAKUCKAS, Jonas; PETKUS, Viktoras; RAAB, Bruno; RAVINS, Maigonis; SKUDRA, Žanis; STEINBERG, Valdis; SVARINSKAS, Rev Alfonas; TAMKEVIČIUS, Rev Sigita; TARTO, Enn; TOHV, Taimo; TREINBERG, Hannes; VAITMAA, Robert; VÄRAV, Ivo; ZVEREV, Yuri.

While Dr Lubarsky's latest *List* is by no means complete, it provides more than enough evidence that heartless persecution of the innocent has not ceased in the USSR.

*List of Political Prisoners in the USSR*, October 30, 1987. Published by Das Land und die Welt e.v., Schwanthalerstr 73, 8,000 MÜNCHEN 2, Federal Republic of Germany. Price DM 45 (approx \$37.50 Aust) includes airmail postage to Australia or New Zealand.

**Literature Restrictions**

The Lithuanian Information Centre in New York has obtained a list of Roman Catholic religious material published in Lithuania with government permission between 1944 and 1987. The list, released by Soviet authorities, shows that, in 43 years, government permits have been issued for the publication of 37 items, including holy cards. Of these 37, six have yet to appear.

— Help & Action.

**Banned Novel Published**

The Estonian literary monthly *Looming* has recently printed the first instalment of a long-unpublished novel about the fate of Estonians deported to Siberia in 1949.

Written by Heino Kiik, a novelist whose realistic novel about kolkhoz life in Estonia during the Stalin era, *Tondiöömaja* (The Overnight Shelter for Ghosts) caused a sensation in 1970, this "new" novel, *Maria Siberimaal* (Maria in Siberia), describes how a group of 16 Estonian families, primarily women and children, were rounded up and shipped to a remote corner of Siberia in unheated cattle wagons in the middle of winter.

The publication of *Maria Siberimaal* was fraught with difficulties up to the very last minute. Completed some 10 years ago, it remained unpublished until July, 1987. In an attempt to take advantage of the current *glasnost* campaign, there were moves to publish the novel in *Looming* last May. Rein Ristlaan, the Estonian Communist Party's Central Secretary for Ideology, had managed to block publication for two months, but the editorial board of *Looming* threatened to resign unless permission was granted. Even after permission was given, Ristlaan is said to have tried to prevent publication by interfering at the printing stage.

The Soviets may wonder why the mass deportation of Balts still bothers people, and they express surprise that Balts harbour resentment against Russians. The reasons are not hard to find, however, as long as large-scale exterminatory policies directed against Estonians are referred to in such dismissive terms as "In the course of mass collectivisation, the question arose of the liquidation of the kulaks as a class"; and as long as no attempt is made to rectify these "errors of the past." Heino Kiik's *Maria Siberimaal* is a first attempt to begin to explore such "errors" in the open.

— Based on RFE & Toomas Ilves.

## News in Brief

### Communist Joins Helsinki '86

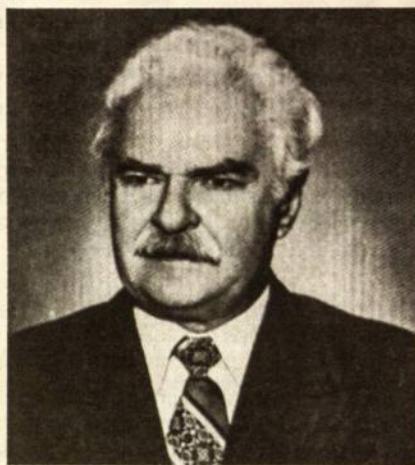
A member of the Communist Party since 1974 has joined the Latvian human rights group, Helsinki '86. He is Dr Juris Vidiņš, until recently the chief medical officer of Rēzekne.

On January 20, Dr Vidiņš was visited by a senior Party official, Jānis Vasermanis, who suggested a compromise if the Helsinki '86 group ceased its "anti-Soviet" activities. Dr Vidiņš refused to co-operate.

### Estonian Underground Press

In a remarkable development, an official Soviet journal has published a survey of the Estonian *samizdat* (underground) publications. The article, signed by short-story writer Tõnn Sarv, appeared in a recent issue of *Vikerkaar*, a Soviet Estonian monthly. Sarv's survey concentrates on literary *samizdat*s over the past 20 years, but also covers political publications, such as *Vigilius* and *Poolpäevalahet*. Several dissident writers are mentioned, including Arvo Pesti, whose *samizdat* activities ultimately led to his imprisonment.

— Toomas Ilves, RFE/NBIC.



● DEATH OF ALLEGED TRAITOR: Professor Juozas Albinas Markulis, alias Erelis, died in Vilnius, Lithuania recently. Dr Markulis joined the Lithuanian resistance after World War II, then allegedly betrayed the underground leaders to the Soviets.

### Shortage of Garages

In Riga, capital of Russian-occupied Latvia, with a population exceeding 800,000, there are now only 12 petrol stations and 5 auto repair shops. The rest of Latvia — about the size of Tasmania — has 38 petrol stations and 12 garages with car repair facilities.

This information has been extracted from the latest edition of the Soviet road atlas, published by the Soviet Geodetic and Cartography Office. 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.

● LEAVE YOUR TEARS IN MOSCOW, by B. Armonas. \$8 posted. Order now from: Friends of the Prisoners, PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005.



● BACK FROM AFGHANISTAN: The remains of Arnis Gulbenietis, a young Latvian conscript, have been returned from Afghanistan to his hometown of Gubene, in Russian-occupied Latvia. Arnis is one of thousands of young people from the formerly independent Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, who had to die so that Russia could expand.

— Photo: *Laiks/truth*.

### Thank You!

We thank you for the following donations, received since our last issue:

NSW & ACT: Mrs C. Jurskis, \$50; Z. & A.R. Medikis, \$40; \*A. D. Burneikis, \$35; \*J. Kusleika, \*A.O. Leveris, \$20 each; \*J.E. Erzikov, G. Garda, \*B.E. Kiveris, Dr A. Mauragis, S. Norvilaitis, \*A.J. Sidlauskas, \*V.V. Sliogeris, J. Vencloviene, J. Zitkeviciene, \$10 each; V. Miezis, \$2.

Vic: Federation of Latvian Organisations in Victoria, \$150; Baltic Council of Victoria, \$100; A. Ziedars, \$50; Apolonia, \$25; A. Bogins, \$20; V. Bieliauskas, \$15; L. Nobelius, \$2.

Various: D. P. Cullen (WA), \$200; Adelaide Lithuanian Catholic Women's Association, Baltic Women's Assoc of SA (SA), Canberra Lithuanian Community (ACT), Melbourne Lithuanian Catholic Women's Society (Vic), Paguoda-Lithuanian Pensioners Group (ACT), \$100 each; L. K. V. S. "Ramova" Adelaides St (SA), \$76; M. Barbarich (WA), J. Cervinas (NSW), J. Cibulskis (SA), J. Zalkauskas (Vic), \$50 each; D. Brovedani (Vic), \$45; Dr K. Trimakas (USA), J. V. Vosylius (SA), \$40 each; J. Repecka (USA), \$30.51; M. Kirsinis (USA), \$30.84; H. Gudas (SA), T. Raudama (NSW), \$30 each; M. L. Fuller (ACT), A. Grigepelis (Vic), L. A. Kubilius (SA), Latvian Relief Soc of Adelaide Davgavas Vanagi Inc (SA), Dr S. Pacevicius (SA), R. and L. Smales (SA), \$25 each; anonymous (Can), \$21.80; T. Anderson (Vic), anonymous (Vic), anonymous (SA), anonymous (Tas), P. Bimba (Vic), I. Broze (Vic), R. Ciuras (Qld), E. Dainiene (SA), J. Dehn (ACT), M. Gavars (NZ), V. and L. Janovs (Qld), M. Mauragis (ACT), b. Mockuniene (SA), T. Paskeviciute (USA), R. Radvila (WA), E. Rozitis (Vic), Juozapas Rupinskis (SA), J. and V. Rupinskis (SA), Z. Stankus (SA), \$20 each; D. P. Jancauskas (USA), \$17.13; Juhasz (Vic), Fr G. Maher (Vic), M. A. Sawyer (SA), J. Sirgunas (Tas), \$15 each; P. Dardzans (USA), \$13.60; F. Adomonis (SA), anonymous (Tas), K. Alseika (SA), I. Anderovics (SA), A. Beresneviciua (SA), K. Diciuniene (SA), C. Ford (NSW), A. G. (SA), Rev S. Gaidelis, S. J. (Vic), R. Hirst (Vic), S. Jablonskis (SA), M. Kaitinis (Tas), P. Kuisys (SA), Latvian Sydney Credit Union (NSW), B. Launikaitiene (SA), A. Maciukas (SA), C. Maineliene (SA), E. and P. Matiukas (SA), W. and R. Mataitis (NSW), L. Mortimer (Vic), A. and M. Mukans (NSW), Kun J. Petraitis (SA), E. Petraciene (Tas), M. Petruniene (SA), K. Pocius (SA), J. Poskus (SA), V. Purmalis (Vic), A. Serelis (SA), B. Siksnius (Tas), V. Skrols (WA), L. Slaustas (SA), J. Staciunas (SA), V. Stalba (SA), I. Taunys (SA), J. Terry (Tas), G. Tomkins (NSW), L. K. Trestrait (SA), C. Viknus (SA), A. V. Vitkunas (SA), A. Zamoiskis (SA), \$10 each; P. Andrijaitis (SA), Aleksandrovicius (SA), J. Aleksandrovicius (SA), J. Balsys (SA), N. Bakaitis (SA), I. Baksys (SA), I. I. Benris (Vic), L. Braniska (Vic), B. Clancey (NSW), E. Dawson (Tas), J. O. Grinbergs (Vic), G. Guseia (SA), A. Jucius (SA), V. Kiveriene (SA), H. Korsunovs-Vanags (Vic), J. Kutiene (SA), Jon Lapsys (SA), B. Masionis (SA), A. Mikelionas (SA), V. Musteikis (SA), M. Pareigis (SA), C. Paulenais (SA), V. Patasius (SA), N. Puodzis (SA), A. Pocius (SA), M. Renke (SA), L. Silis (Qld), S. Skiparis (SA), P. Stasaitis (SA), B. Straukas (SA), O. Sudintiene (SA), V. Vasiliauskas (SA), J. G. Vasiliauskienė (SA), R. Zukelis (SA), \$5 each; J. Stakaitis (SA), \$4; J. Abukevicius (SA), O. Bridziuviene (SA), V. Janulis (SA), Juo Lapsys (SA), A. Morkunas (SA), G. Opulskiene (SA), V. Opulskis (SA), \$2 each.

\* Mr and Mrs.

# Australia's First Link with Lithuania

Just over two hundred years ago, in 1787, Johann Georg Adam Forster, a professor at the University of Vilnius (Lithuania), wrote two highly influential papers on Australia: a biography of Captain Cook and a study of Botany Bay. Almost overnight, Georg Forster was hailed as Europe's "Pacific expert". In this way the first link was formed between Australia and faraway Lithuania.

Born in Poland in 1754, Georg Forster was a restless, gifted and colourful person. At the age of 11, he accompanied his father on a scientific exploration of the Volga basin. A year later we find him translating French, Swedish and Russian books.

Then, in 1772, Georg's father, Johann Reinhold Forster, secured the post of scientist on the *Resolution* and accompanied James Cook on his second voyage. Georg, then 17, travelled as his father's assistant.

On his return to Britain, Johann Reinhold became involved in a long dispute with the Admiralty, and was forbidden to publish an account of the voyage. This account was finally written by his son Georg and published under the title *A Voyage round the World*.

## Famous

*A Voyage round the World* was soon acclaimed as one of the most popular travel books of the time. Georg Forster became famous. He was made a fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 23.

With his father committed to a debtors' prison, Georg went to Germany in 1779 and worked as a professor at the *Collegium Carolinum* in Kassel until 1784.

He then moved to Lithuania and became the Professor of Natural History at the old University of Vilnius (founded in 1579).

While in Lithuania, Georg Forster turned the University of Vilnius into the main European source for publicising Australia.



• Georg Forster

His essay, *Cook the Explorer*, was published in 1787 as a preface to Forster's translation of Cook's account of his third voyage. Forster spoke of Cook's great care for his crew, and of his even-handed dealings with the natives.

Forster stressed that James Cook's voyages were pre-eminently scientific — something quite new in the history of discovery.

## New Holland and Botany Bay

Georg Forster's other article, *New Holland and the British Colony in Botany Bay* was of major importance. Written in Vilnius before December 1, 1786, the essay was probably the first detailed report on Australia for the German-speaking public.

Forster outlined the history of Australia's discovery and described the botany and zoology of the new continent. He spoke of strange marsupials, the kangaroo and the opossum, of venomous snakes and strangely-shaped ant-hills. He mentioned the abundance of fish and pearl-oysters off the Australian coast, the possibility of growing tropical plants on big plantations, the utilisation of New Zealand hemp and timber in Australia.

Writing from distant Lithuania, Forster predicted the rapid growth and final emancipation of all colonies. He believed that a flourishing, highly civilised Australian community would have a decisive effect on the whole area of the Pacific, and especially on the development of the Asian nations.

*This article is based on a talk given by Mr A. P. Taškūnas to the Lithuanian Studies Society at the University of Tasmania last year. Full text will be published shortly in the Society's year-book, LITHUANIAN PAPERS, obtainable from PO Box 777, Sandy Bay, Tas, 7005, at \$5 plus \$2 postage.*



• The University of Vilnius (Lithuania): Forster's articles on Australia's future were written here 200 years ago.

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