



# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT FROM ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA (THE BALTIC STATES)  
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## "The Baltic Spring" of 1988

Tens of thousands of Lithuanians swarmed through Vilnius, their capital city, during the weekend of October 22-23. Excitement was in the air. Posters proclaimed, "Freedom for the prisoners of conscience," "Independence for Lithuania" ...

While the people in the streets were waving the newly legalised yellow, green and red flags of independent Lithuania, 1,127 delegates from 300 Lithuanian localities met in the Sports House of Vilnius. It was the inaugural congress of a grassroots movement known as *Sąjūdis* (The Movement in Support of Perestroika/Restructuring). Set up four months ago, *Sąjūdis* is claiming 180,000 supporters in Lithuania's 3½ million population.

"After 50 years of repression, our nation is seeking to regain its liberty," historian Jurgis Oksas told the emotion-charged gathering. Another delegate, Antanas Terleckas, demanded, "The Soviet Government must withdraw its occupational military forces from Lithuania."

During the two-day meeting, the delegates adopted the *Sąjūdis* policy platform, considered a new Constitution and elected a 220-member Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas), as well as an Executive Council of 25.

### Remarkable Gatherings

The meeting in Vilnius, which was shown live on Lithuanian television, was but one in a series of remarkable political gatherings in recent months, in the Russian-occupied Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Encouraged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's call for democracy and restructuring (*perestroika*), thousands of people in the three countries have established independent movements that are challenging the Communist Party's monopoly on power and want greater national and economic autonomy.



● While the *Sąjūdis* delegates met elsewhere in the city, Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius celebrated the first Mass for 38 years in the Catholic cathedral of Vilnius (pictured in the background), on Sunday, October 23. About 5,000 people overflowed into the square in front of the cathedral, carrying flags, torches and dancing for joy.

— Photo: A. Ziziunas.

### Letters Bring Results

While the ecstatic hope for a better tomorrow is sweeping across Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, some Baltic prisoners of conscience are still languishing in Soviet jails.

To jolt Soviet leader Gorbachev's memory, the tiny Lithuanian community in Tasmania has conducted a letter-writing campaign, seeking immediate release of one particular prisoner, Viktoras Petkus (pictured).



As this issue goes to print, Soviet sources have announced that Petkus's case has been reviewed; he is expected to be released soon. Two other prisoners, Voldemaras Karalūnas and Jonas Pakuckas, are free already. Journalist Gintautas Iešmantas and priest Fr Sigitas Tamkevičius have been notified that they are free to return home from Siberia. Balys Gajauskas has not yet received word that he is to be freed, but there is reason to hope that his release is imminent.

In Estonia, the first national congress of the Estonian Popular Front was held in Tallinn on the weekend of October 1-2. The meeting called for Estonia to adopt a capitalist-style economy, with genuine free-market incentives. The Estonians also demanded more political independence from Moscow, except for defence and diplomacy.

The Estonian Popular Front wants the Soviet Constitution to be amended, to make Estonian the only official language of the republic. It is now used in conjunction with Russian.

The Popular Front is also pressing for local control over the press, TV and school curricula. Immigration of non-Estonians must be stopped, and the Russian colonists now in Estonia should be encouraged to leave.

### Russian Reaction

About 90% of the Popular Front members are ethnic Estonians. This has prompted the Russians who live in this Baltic republic to form their own "international" movement.

Little has been heard so far of this Russian movement's aims and activities.

● Continued on Page 2



## Baltic Spring . . .

● From Page 1



● Some of the 150,000 people who came to show their support for the Latvian Popular Front on October 7. The placard reads, "People, be alert!"

The **Latvian Popular Front (LPF)** was born on June 21, 1988 when 17 well-known persons from a broad cross-section of the Latvian society issued a public statement urging radical reforms. In just three months, this appeal for change was transformed into a nationwide movement.

On Friday, October 7, some 150,000 people turned out at Mezaparks near Riga, to show their support for the inaugural congress of the Latvian Popular Front which opened on Sunday, October 9.

At this meeting about 1,000 delegates, representing various Latvian national organisations, elected television journalist Dainis Ivans as their chairman. They also selected a steering committee of 100 whose task is the "democratisation" of Latvia, protection of the Latvian language and culture, and establishment of economic autonomy.

Next day about 2,000 people attended a religious service in the Doms church, where the Rev Janis Vanags and other clergy demanded the return of this church, which has served as a concert hall for past 30 years. They also called for freedom of religion for all Latvians.

### Leadership Changes

At the same time, changes were made to the Supreme Soviet Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia. The previous first secretary, Boris Pugo, was moved to Moscow and replaced by another reactionary Brezhnev-style functionary, Jānis Vagris. However, one of the popular reformists, Anatolijs Gorbunovs, was elected to the position of President of the Supreme Soviet, which is more of a titular role. The first secretary has most of the power.

The **Lithuanian** party leader, Rimgaudas Songaila, was replaced on October 20, two days before the *Sajudis* congress opened in Vilnius. The new appointee, Algirdas Brazauskas, quickly offered sympathy and cautious support to the new political force.

The Vilnius congress elected him chairman of the new 25-member national executive council. In his

response, Brazauskas left the impression that the Communist Party was prepared to tolerate considerable change, but not outright independence, of the Baltic region. He appealed to all Lithuanians to stick together, and "not to step on one another's toes."

In **Estonia**, Mr Karl Vaino, the First Secretary of the Communist Party, was removed from office on June 16. He was succeeded by Vaino Väljas, 57, a former Soviet diplomat and party secretary for ideology.

Väljas has the reputation of being more flexible and reform-minded. He is the first native Estonian to hold the top party post in Russian-occupied Estonia. Born in 1931 on the island of Hiiumaa, and a graduate of Tartu University, Väljas speaks Estonian fluently. This is in sharp contrast with his predecessors, who were "Estonian" only by descent. The last party boss, Vaino, was born and raised in Tomsk, Russian SSR. Only after his appointment as first secretary in 1978 did Vaino try to learn Estonian, albeit with little success.

### First Step to Secession?

The resolutions adopted by the Lithuanian congress in Vilnius aimed at giving Lithuania wide powers in managing its own economy, establishing a separate Lithuanian currency, setting up Lithuanian diplomatic missions abroad and making Lithuanian the official language. However, the congress stopped short of trying to cut Lithuania's links with Moscow.

The three Baltic countries have an excellent record of successful self-government between the two world wars. Will they try and break loose from Russian hegemony once again?

Baltic spokesmen are cautious with their replies. The new Latvian party chief, Janis Vagris, claims that the Popular Front is not opposition, but an ally.

Anatolijs Gorbunovs, the President of the Latvian Supreme Soviet, believes that complete economic independence for Latvia is possible within two years. Separate citizenship and a new constitution will come next. "After that, the other problems will resolve themselves," Gorbunovs told Swedish newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* (Oct 9).

Arvydas Juozaitis, a leading Lithuanian activist, summed up the situation in an interview with *Financial Times* writer Quentin Peel on October 21, "Constitutionally, Lithuania has the right to secede from the Soviet Union. At the present moment it is not politically realistic."

— Sources: ELTA, LIC, EurLietuvis, Angus Roxburgh/The Australian, Philip Taubman/SMH, Financial Times, Adel.LZ, eom/Aust.Latvietis, Estonian Information Centre, The Record.





# End of Glasnost, or Mere Slip-up?

Soviet riot squads wielding clubs broke up a peaceful rally in the main square of Vilnius, Lithuania, on September 28. Some 10,000 people had gathered to demand the withdrawal of all Soviet forces from Lithuania and greater independence.

Wearing helmets and carrying shields, the riot policemen charged into the crowd and made several sweeps through Gediminas square. They beat dozens of people, mostly young men. Some older women who tried to protect the younger bystanders were pushed and slapped by the Soviet troops.

At least 10 people were injured, and 20 were arrested.

Algimantas Andreika, who was taking part in a hunger strike on behalf of Baltic prisoners of conscience at the time of this incident, was brutally bashed by militia captain Bernotas. Andreika suffered brain damage and had to be hospitalised.

The crowd responded by throwing bottles, eggs and rocks at the police, amid cries of "Fascists, go home" and "Beasts, Stalinists".

## More Attacks, Arrests

Later on the same day, Soviet paramilitary police, formed to control crowds and keep order at demonstrations, charged four times to disperse another peaceful meeting in a nearby park. The Soviets arrested about 40 people there.

The rallies were organised by a group called Lithuanian Freedom League. They marked the 49th anniversary of the signing of the first of the three secret protocols of the Ribbentrop - Molotov pact. This clandestine agreement gave the Soviet Union a free hand to enter the then independent Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

After a relative thaw over the previous 18 months or so, this was the first time that Soviet Interior Ministry forces had forcibly broken up a rally in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

**"Is this the end of glasnost (openness)?" was the question on everyone's lips.**

At first, the Soviets said no, it was a mere slip-up, a grave mistake. The First Secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party, Mr Rimgaudas Songaila, took the blame and was dismissed three weeks later.

However, it was discovered later that the police were acting on orders from Moscow. Adopted by the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet on July 28-29, a new hardline decree had banned all demonstrations not registered 10 days in advance and not approved by the authorities. (*The legal code of the Russian Federation is used as a standard for all Soviet republics*).

The second part of the decree makes unauthorised demonstrating punishable by heavy fines and the organisers liable to labour-camp terms.

Under the decree, people attending unauthorised meetings face fines of up to 300 roubles (\$A600) — one-and-a-half times the average monthly wage in the USSR — or arrest for up to 15 days.

A second offence within one year is punishable by a fine of up to 1,000 roubles (\$A2,000), "corrective" (forced) labour for up to two months or arrest for 15 days.

Organisers of demonstrations who are arrested for a



● Some of the Lithuanians who staged a peaceful hunger-strike in Vilnius from August 17 to September 29. The group was attacked and bashed by the Soviet police, in the early hours of September 29. Algimantas Andreika (left in the picture) suffered severe head injuries.

second time face up to six months in prison or labour camp, corrective labour for up to a year or a 2,000-rouble (\$4,000) fine.

The Soviet mass media have made no mention of another July 28 decree which came to light only recently. It empowers Interior Ministry troops to suppress demonstrations, enter homes without a warrant and intervene to halt strikes.

## Latvian Vindicated

In the meantime, a Soviet Latvian court has exonerated Modris Lujāns. This factory worker was arrested on July 27, 1988 because the placard he was carrying at a Riga demonstration was "threatening the state".

Lujāns spent five weeks in jail. There were several demonstrations demanding his release. On one occasion, a 16-year-old girl, Sintija Ledzkalne, was beaten up by security police.

Lujāns was released from prison on September 5 to stand trial on September 30. All charges were dismissed, and the judge ordered compensation.

**Where does this leave glasnost? Is it dead? "It was never alive in the first place",** former Soviet prisoner, Vytautas Skuodis, told *Baltic News* in Hobart recently. "Glasnost is phony and Russian ideology simply hasn't changed."





# Poland and Lithuania

by Jan Pakulski \*

Since the formation of the independent trade union, Solidarity, Polish democratic opposition has gradually transformed into a broad reformist movement. One aspect of this change is an increasing awareness of the importance of co-operation with other democratic and reformist movements in the Soviet Bloc.

Lithuania has always been regarded as a close ally in the attempts to form a reformist coalition of all Soviet-dominated nations. The themes of Polish-Lithuanian co-operation could be found in the underground publications, especially in the Catholic journal *Spotkania* (Encounters) and the *KPN* (Confederation of Independent Poland), throughout the late 1970s and early 1980s.

The most dramatic expression of this theme was the famous "Message to the Working Peoples of Eastern Europe" (including 'all the nationalities of the Soviet Union') issued by the first National Congress of Solidarity in September 1981. But the renaissance of these international concerns has occurred mostly in the last eight years.

Since 1982 at least six underground journals devote their main attention to the co-operation between Soviet-dominated nations. In addition to the Catholic *Spotkania*, there are many new popular publications. *Lithuania*, published since 1984 by the clandestine publishing house *Liber-tas*, is bi-lingual: in Polish and Lithuanian. It contains documents, appeals and articles on political and religious issues. The second issue included an article on Simas Kudirka and appeal 'To Lithuanian Brothers', which calls for the formation of independent Lithuanian state:

"Let us remember about our Lithuanian Brothers who watch with hope the events in Poland, especially since the election of the Polish Pope and the formation of Solidarity. We should know more about them and assist them as much as we can. We should send books, seek personal contacts, help them to keep up their spirits. We have to forget about things which divide us, and we must stop treating Lithuania as a part of Poland.

"Each nation has the right to independent existence. If we want to be sovereign and free, we have to respect the independent aspirations of nations with which we maintain historical and cultural links. The heroic struggle for national survival by our Lithuanian, Ukrainian and Byelorussian



● Poles and Lithuanians prayed side by side at the Shrine of Czestochowa (top left in the picture) on the Feast of Assumption (August 15) this year.

*Brothers earns our respect and admiration. Their independence is the best guarantee of our security."*

## Co-operation Urged

Similar sentiments are echoed by the journal *Oboz* (The Bloc), founded in 1980, *ABC* and *Nowa Koalicja*, founded in 1985. They advocate East European co-operation based on respect for the aspirations of each nation. The editors of *Nowa Koalicja* aptly summarised the rationale for such co-operation:

"Each nation used to fight separately, single-handedly, in isolation. Could it not be different? What tremendous opportunities and expectations co-operation would produce. After all, the peoples inhabiting the vast areas from the Baltic to the Balkans are united by the community of geo-political interests. Their aims are identical: regaining their independence... Together it is possible to achieve what was impossible in isolation. Despite Moscow's policies of 'divide and rule', we must overcome conflicts, prejudices and bad traditions."

Appeals like that can also be found in the emigre publications: Paris monthly *Kultura* (which publishes a regular 'Lithuanian Review'), *Kontakt*, *Aneks*, as well as the English language *East European Reporter*, *Voice of Solidarity* and the new *Uncaptive Mind*.

For me the most dramatic evidence of the Polish-Lithuanian dialogue were the banners and posters carried by the pilgrims coming to the Shrine of Black Madonna in Czestochowa, on August 15 this year. A huge banner with a Lithuanian and Polish prayer hung on the iron gate in front of the open-air altar (pictured, below).

The strategy of East European co-operation helps to build new nationalism — one which asserts rights to political autonomy and cultural identity by respecting the rights of others to do the same. Only this form of nationalism can form the basis for an effective programme of democratization.

\* Dr Jan Pakulski, MA Warsaw, PhD ANU is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Tasmania. He writes about Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, and he recently attended the International Conference on Human Rights in Cracow, Poland.



● Lithuanian pilgrims to Czestochowa displayed this huge banner, printed in Polish and Lithuanian.



# Australia Welcomes Former Prisoner

Vytautas Skuodis, an exiled Lithuanian dissident, visited Australia last September to thank those people who supported him during his seven year imprisonment in a Soviet Labour camp. The 58-year-old associate professor of geology was released in 1987, along with 150 other political prisoners, as part of "Glasnost" and "Perestroika."

Speaking on Adelaide radio, he said that these two political phenomena were not brought about by a shift in ideology but by pressing economic and political reasons. In the same broadcast he stated that, despite Perestroika and Glasnost, "religion is repressed unless it can be used for propaganda purposes," and that the Church was still persecuted in Lithuania.

While in Australia Skuodis visited Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Canberra and Sydney. He was welcomed warmly wherever he went. Major media, including SBS-TV and ABC radio, interviewed him in all cities.



Photo: by courtesy of "The Mercury" (Hobart).

● Skuodis' message to Australians was: "Enjoy the precious fruits of democracy and, please, do not forget the Baltic countries, my fatherland."

## More Eyewitnesses

Two other eyewitnesses of Soviet prisons and psychiatric malpractice will visit Australia in the New Year. Both will give public talks in Hobart.

Dr Algirdas Statkevicius, a Lithuanian psychiatrist, was arrested by the Soviets on February 14, 1980, because he had joined the Lithuanian Helsinki human rights group and because he wrote essays on social ills in the USSR, e.g., alcoholism. For 7 years Dr Statkevicius was confined to "special psychiatric hospitals", most recently in the city of Tashkent, in Uzbekistan. After considerable pressure from the West, Dr Statkevicius was released last year and was allowed to migrate to the United States.

In Hobart, Dr Statkevicius will be the guest of *Friends of the Prisoners*, an ecumenical Christian society that "adopts" Soviet prisoners of conscience. Dr Statkevicius will speak on the Soviet misuse of psychiatry and on his own experiences. His talk will be in the University Centre, Churchill Ave, Sandy Bay, on Wednesday, February 8, 1989, at 8 pm. All are welcome to come and hear him.

\* \* \*

Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, also a Lithuanian, was released from Perm labour camp 35 in July, after serving half of a 10-year sentence. The Soviets freed him on the condition that he emigrate to the West. Because of failing health, Svarinskas agreed to move to West Germany as the guest of the Bishop of Augsburg, Josef Stimfle.

Father Svarinskas will give a public talk, "I was a Soviet prisoner," in the University Centre, Churchill Ave, Sandy Bay, on Monday, March 13, 1989, at 8 pm. Keep this date free and tell your friends.

● Do not miss these two speakers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our Maps and the Baltic States

I note that Canada has taken action to depict the Baltic countries as distinct entities, on their maps.

It would be excellent if we can get the suppliers of school atlases to do likewise on their next reprints. After all, (1) new countries emerge almost annually in Africa or the South Pacific; and (2) the West Bank, Golan Heights etc are presently shown as "under Israeli occupation".

We should ask: are cartographers and other enlightened progressive minds who are involved in the production of atlases REALLY keen to preserve in their pages the last vestiges of Nazi-dom?

More constructively, I do not know how one might, in the academic world, achieve this. I look to your readers for guidance.

Mount Waverley, Vic.

Bruce KING.

### Glasnost

I am amazed at the number of people who have been fooled by Gorbachev's *glasnost* myth.

The fact is: nothing has changed fundamentally — in the Baltic States, or elsewhere in the Soviet Union.

Ordinary people are still queuing up for their basic requirements. The big bosses still get preferential treatment in their exclusive, unmarked shops. Soviet tanks and missiles are still deployed all over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

People may wave their new flags and speak out more freely, now. But they have been told in no uncertain terms that there shall be no seceding from Moscow.

Churches are still controlled by the State, and their lot has not changed markedly over the past decade or more. And so on.

Darwin, NT.

B. McSHERA.

### Cheap Human Life

At \$1 per Baltic head, human life has never been so cheap ("Timeline of Russia's invasion", *Baltic News*, September 1988).

Is this why we have stopped caring?  
Fremantle, WA.

Beth COOK.

When they "bought" the Balts, the Russians certainly got a bargain. But didn't their cheque bounce?

Bankstown, NSW.

M. J. NEWMAN.





## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PCs at Sky-high Prices

Personal computers (PCs) are unobtainable from normal retail outlets in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. A similar shortage exists in other parts of the USSR, too.

Baltic computer enthusiasts buy their PCs on the black market. The under-the-counter price for an IBM PC TX, or its clone, ranges from 17,000 to 25,000 roubles (\$A34,000 to \$A50,000). The same XT computer sold in Australia for around \$5,000, before it was superseded last year.

The AT model fetches 30,000 to 40,000 roubles (\$A60,000-80,000) on the black market in Riga, Latvia's capital. An AT with a hard disc drive may push the price as high as \$A200,000 (Last year's Australian retail price was \$8,000).

In spite of several joint ventures with Western partners, the Soviet's own computer industry is seriously lagging behind. According to a recent report in *Melbourne Age*, the most commonly available Soviet computer, Elektronika BK 0010, uses a TV set for a monitor and a tape recorder for a memory unit.

### Freedom Fighter Here

Arvi Orula who had helped establish the Estonian National Independence Party in January, was expelled by orders from Moscow two months later.

After seven months in Sweden, Mr Orula, 32, and his wife Merike flew into Sydney on October 19. They are planning to settle in Australia.

Mr Orula told Sydney reporters, "Our party wants total independence for Estonia. The officially-sanctioned People's Front, on the other hand, has been careful not to challenge the Communist Party."

### Released with Warning

Juris Ziemelis, the de-facto leader of the unofficial Riga Helsinki human rights group that separated from the mainstream Helsinki 86 earlier this year, was released from Soviet police custody on August 16. However, the charges against him were not dropped, which means that he may be re-arrested again at any time.

Ziemelis was detained on August 13 and charged with illegally organising picketers to protest against the arrest of Modris Lujans, another Latvian freedom worker (see separate report in this issue).

— Baltic Helsinki Group News.

### Latvians Oppose Metro



● A few of the 12,000 Latvians who demonstrated on April 27 against the Soviet plan to build an underground railway (Metro) in Riga, the capital of occupied Latvia. The proposal came from the Defence Ministry in Moscow. The Metro's main purpose is to serve as a bomb shelter. In spite of the mass protests, the Ministry has stated that it will go ahead with the construction, at any cost.

The April demonstration was organised by the unofficial Environment Protection Club. Shortly before the event on April 22, one of the more active members of the Club, Konstantins Purpurs, was called to the Soviet Latvian visa office and offered an Israeli exit visa for a speedy departure to Vienna. Purpurs declined the offer.

— oem/Aust. Latv.

### Nazi-Soviet Deal Disclosed

Estonians have been told for the first time by the Soviet press of the secret agreement between Stalin and Hitler that paved the way 49 years ago for the Russian takeover of the three independent Baltic States.

Details of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, signed on August 23, 1939 were disclosed by the Estonian-language Soviet daily newspaper *Voice of the Nation*, August 10 and 11 this year, and during an Estonian Radio broadcast the following day. — The NY Times/AP.

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# Latest Housing Statistics

In a daring move, the popular Moscow newspaper *Argumenty i fakty* has published a table showing the number of people on the waiting lists for housing, in thirty Soviet cities. The table also shows the average per capita living space available to people in those cities.

The Soviet Union's most spacious accommodation is enjoyed by the dwellers of Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, with 11.8 square metres (= about 1¼ Australian squares) per person. Riga's people live in 10.8 sq metres per head; while Vilnius averages 9.7.

In Soviet terms, this is sheer luxury. The residents of Ashkhabad, by comparison, manage with 6.8 square metres per person. A few other averages are: Dushambe and Erevan, 7.5; Baku, Kishinev and Kharkov, 7.9 each.

The "sanitary norm" or public health standard for living space in the Soviet Union was set at nine square metres per capita in the 1920s. However, this does not mean that everybody with less than that amount is automatically entitled to better housing.



● A housing block in Tallinn, capital of Russian-occupied Estonia.

The executive committee of the local Councils of People's Deputies have the right to decide the amount of living space which qualifies people to be placed on the waiting list for housing. These minimum standards vary widely. In Ufa and Novosibirsk, for example, people with less than eight square metres of living space are considered to be in need of better housing; in Odessa, the cut-off is four square metres. The list norm in Tallinn is six, and in Riga and Vilnius, five.

In the Baltic States as in the rest of the USSR, housing is still in desperately short supply. Early in 1988, 75,700 families and single persons were on the waiting lists in Riga, according to *Argumenty i fakty*. They represented 26% of all Riga families.

Figures in the other Baltic capitals were: Vilnius, 36,300 (21%) and Tallinn, 25,400 (16%).

● If the Soviet standards were adopted in Australia, at least 12 persons could be accommodated in each suburban 12-square home.

RFE Bulletin

## Well Done, ABC!

When the Soviet basketballers came for an Australian tour in August, the first report by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC-TV) described the visitors as "Russians."

*Baltic News* immediately contacted Mr David Hardie, the chief-of-staff of ABC's TV news in Hobart, and explained that about a half of the Soviet team consisted of Balts.

Thanks to Mr Hardie's efforts, the error was corrected immediately. In all subsequent reports the ABC identified each basketballer's nationality or referred to the players collectively as "Soviets."

Well done, ABC!

Please remember *Baltic News* in your will. Your bequest will extend the life of this newsletter.

## Thank You, Thank You!

Subscription to *Baltic News* is by donation. The amount of donation is not fixed, but we are very grateful that our readers continue to give generously. Thank you!

The present cost of producing *Baltic News* is about \$16,000 per annum — and rising. Inflation and growing circulation are the main reasons for the escalating costs.

We are therefore indebted to several organisations that have come to our aid. Their gifts are acknowledged with thanks below, together with the personal donations received since our last issue:

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## Victories under False Colours

When Korean athlete Kee Chung Sohn (then known as Kitei Son) won the marathon race at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, his gold medal went to Japan, because Korea was under foreign occupation at the time.

The people of the three Baltic States — Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — are in the same situation today. They are not allowed to wear their own colours at international sporting events. And when they win, their victories are attributed not to their own countries but to their foreign masters.

This happened again at this year's Seoul Olympic Games when the small Baltic contingent performed most impressively, but remained *incognito*.

The Estonian group of eleven competitors won at least four medals. Cyclist Erika Salumäe (sprint) and basketballer Tiit Sokk captured a gold medal each. Silver went to Tõnu and Toomas Tõniste who were sailing in the 470 class. Hammer thrower Jüri Tamm collected a bronze medal.

Latvian basketballer Miglinieks gained a gold medal in Seoul. Volleyballer Raimonds Vilde won a silver medal. Other Latvian participants included J. Klementjev, A. Kuzmin, N. Laščionova, A. Rapoport, S. Šakurov, S. Stone.

### Amazing Performance

26 Lithuanians competed in Seoul and won 14 Olympic medals. It was an amazing performance for a small nation of 3½ million — but it went unnoticed by the mass media. (*Australia, by comparison, also won 14 medals*).

Lithuanian cyclists Gintautas Umaras (2 medals) and Arturas Kasputis beat all comers and walked off with the gold. In the individual pursuit, Umaras defeated Australian Dean Woods comfortably in the final.

Other gold medals were gained by Lithuanian basketballers Valdemaras Chomčiūsis, Rimas Kurtinaitis, Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiulionis; handballer Voldemaras Novickis; and soccer players Arvydas Janonis and Arminas Narbekovas.

Silver medals were won by Lithuanian woman athlete Laimutė Baikauskaitė (1500m race, 4 mins 00.24 sec) and discus thrower Romas Ubartas (67.48m).

Two Lithuanians — woman cyclist Laima Zilporytė and woman basketballer Vitalija Tuomaitė — won bronze medals.

Lithuanian basketball superstar Arvydas Sabonis masterminded the Soviet Union's gold medal winning 76-63 game against Yugoslavia in Seoul. The 223cm, 122-kg giant scored 20 points in the final game. His Lithuanian team mate Marčiulionis added another 21 points. The media described Sabonis as "intimidating and unstoppable", "a colossus of a man".



● Double gold medallist Gintautas Umaras, from Russian-occupied Lithuania (above), defeated Australian cyclist Dean Woods by three seconds in the Olympic 4000 metre individual pursuit. Umaras completed the course in 4 minutes and 32 seconds.

### Good Sportsmanship

In the 1500m final race, Lithuanian woman Baikauskaitė streaked past her rivals, all but one — with only P. Ivan, the Roumanian retaining the lead. Baikauskaitė came second, but was announced third, in error. Without a sign of protest, the Lithuanian woman took the stand marked 3 and smiling shook hands with T. Samolenko who had really come behind her.

Lithuanian woman cyclist Laima Zilporytė dead-heated in the finals and was placed third.

At the cycling presentations, Lithuanian Gintautas Umaras handed his second gold medal on to his brother Mindaugas. The real significance of this unusual gesture was not made public.

The official Soviet explanation read, "Mindaugas was a member of the official USSR team and, on the way to the finals, he helped defeat the Italians". But that was not the real reason. Mindaugas Umaras was scheduled to cycle in the finals, too; but he was replaced at the last moment by an ethnic Russian.

### Triumphant At Last

Kee Chung Sohn, the Korean marathon champion of 1936, finally celebrated his true triumph this year when he carried the Olympic torch into the Seoul stadium, to the cheers of thousands from all over the world. At last, he was recognised for what he really was: a Korean, and not a slave of a foreign power.

The day of triumph will come for the forgotten Balts, too: Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians.

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