

Vol. XV, No 2 (62)

Complimentary Copy

June, 1989

Victory at the Polls — What Next?

Baltic voters have clearly spoken out for national independence, and against Moscow rule, in this year's elections for the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies. Given a choice of candidates for the first time since the Russian occupation in 1940, the Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians swept aside many candidates nominated by the ruling Communist Party, in a series of voting rounds that started on Easter Sunday.

In occupied Lithuania, the broadly based patriotic movement *Sajūdis* won 36 out of a total of 42 seats. *Sajūdis* deliberately did not contest three seats; this enabled the First and the Second secretaries of the Lithuanian Communist Party — Brazauskas and Beriozovas — to be elected.

Representatives of the democratic movement in occupied Latvia won at least 25 out of 40 seats, with the Communist candidates securing 8 places. 7 outcomes remain to be finalised.

Estonians, mostly members of the Popular Front, gained 26 out of 30 seats. Intermovement candidates were successful in four electorates. They scored better only in North-Eastern Estonia where there were no Estonian candidates. The remaining six results are still to be decided. The leader of Intermovement, Yevgeni Kogan, failed to receive 50% of the votes in the first round.

For the first time this year, voters throughout the USSR were able to choose from a list of candidates instead of being presented with the name of a single party-approved nominee. Elections were conducted by secret ballot. A candidate had to receive over 50 per cent of the votes to win a seat, even if standing unopposed. Where no candidate achieved the majority in the first round, a run-off was conducted on April 9, followed by another round in May where necessary.

The successful contestants, plus 750 persons nominated by certain Government-approved organisations, form the 2,250-member central Congress of People's Deputies. The Congress then elects from its own number the USSR's top governing body, the



● *Sajūdis* candidates campaigned widely in Russian-occupied Lithuania. At the mass meeting in Vilnius on March 8 (pictured), women held up posters demanding that their conscript sons should not serve outside Lithuania.

544-member Supreme Soviet.

It remains to be seen, how much influence the comparatively small group of Baltic representatives will be able to exercise in the empire's capital. Coalitions are likely to be formed. For example, the Democratic Union, an independent political party formed in Moscow to oppose the Communist Party, has vowed to support Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians in their goal to achieve political independence.

On April 9, representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania joined Poland in requesting membership of the conservationist European Green co-ordinating group in Paris.

The Scout movement, banned since 1940, has been revived in all three Baltic States; so have the national Olympic committees — much to Moscow's displeasure. Standard Baltic time is now in operation, one hour apart from Moscow time.

The Soviet Estonian government has resurrected its reform programme, which goes far beyond the ideas contemplated by the Kremlin. The latest Estonian plans repeat last year's proposals that were resolutely rejected by President Gorbachev at the time.

They include full economic autonomy, recognition of private property and the assertion that Estonia's land, air and mineral resources all belong to Estonia, not to the Soviet Union.

● **New Parties, Old Worries: Page 5.**

The LITHUANIAN FREEDOM LEAGUE is represented in Australia by Mrs Giedré Kaladienė, Mr Vytautas Salkūnas Jr, Mrs Nijolė Žvirzdinaitė - Salkūnienė (all in Melbourne) and Dr Genovaitė Kazokienė. They, together with Dr Kazys Ėringis and Dr Algirdas Statkevičius, form the League's National Council in Exile.

The group is campaigning for full independence — not only for Lithuania, but for all three Baltic nations. It also publicises other important Baltic issues, such as environmental destruction, toxic waste disposal and separate Olympic teams.

The League needs donations and voluntary workers. It can be reached at this address: PO Box 429, Heidelberg, Victoria, 3084. Telephone (03) 842 2113.

Independent Baltic Movements

For more than four decades, the Communist Party ruled the occupied Baltic States alone, without opposition. Then, during the last two years or so, a number of independent movements started emerging and have since gained wide acceptance. This list is by no means complete; it merely shows some of the better known groupings.

Estonia

1. Popular Front. (Rahvarinne). *Founded:* Unofficially on April 13, 1988; the founding congress held on 1 and 2 October, 1988. *Claimed membership:* 60,000. *Objectives:* To speak out for Estonian national interest and support Gorbachev's perestroika as well as the ECP leadership. *Leading personalities:* Marju Lauristin, Mati Hint, and Edgar Savisaar.

2. Internationalist Movement or Intermovement (Interrinne). *Founded:* 1988. *Claimed membership:* approximately 16,000. *Objectives:* To represent the interests of Russian workers in Estonia; and to support "internationalism." *Leading personality:* Evgeny Kogan.

3. National Independence Party (Eesti Rahvusliku Soltumatu Partei or ERSP). *Founded:* Unofficially in January 1988; founding meeting held in August 1988. *Claimed membership:* 150. *Objectives:* To demand secession from the USSR. *Leading personalities:* Lagle Parek, Mati Kiirend, Juri Adams, Tune Kelam, and Eve Parnaste.

4. The Estonian Group for the Publication of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (Molotov Ribbentropi Pakti Avallikumise Eesti Grupp or MRP-AEG). *Founded:* 1987. *Membership:* Unknown. *Objectives:* The publication of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. *Leading personalities:* Tiiu Madisson and Heiki Ahonen (both exiled in 1987).

5. Young People's Independent Forum (Noorte Soltumatu Foorum). *Founded:* Exact date unknown. *Membership:* The group has no real membership; it is a loose association of young people who organize meetings to discuss problems of young people. *Objectives:* To offer an alternative to the Communist Youth League. *Leading personalities:* Unknown.

6. Young People's Independent Information Centre (Noorte Soltumatu Info Keskus). *Founded:* Exact date unknown. *Membership:* Unknown. *Objectives:* To disseminate information on events in Estonia that does not appear in the official press. *Leading personalities:* Unknown.

7. Greens (Rohelised). *Founded:* Exact date unknown (probably in 1988). *Membership:* Unknown. *Objectives:* The advocacy of environmental protection. *Leading personalities:* Juhan Aare, Peeter Liiv, Vello Pohla, and Tiiu Made.

8. The Estonian Historical Preservation Society (Eesti Muinsuskaitse Selts). *Founded:* December 1987 (founding congress); semi-official status. *Estimate membership:* 15,000. *Objectives:* The restoration of the Estonian flag (has been accomplished); and the restoration of the war of independence monuments. *Leading personality:* Trivimi Velliste.

9. Wellesto. *Founded:* February 1988. *Claimed membership:* 30. *Objectives:* To promote national culture and language (the members are active in the cultural press and exert heavy influence on the nonparty intellectual scene). *Leading personalities:* Sirje Ruutsoo, Olev Remsu and Mati Hint.



10. Cultural Council (Kulturinoukogu). *Founded:* Exact date unknown. *Claimed membership:* 18. *Objectives:* To lobby for changes in the leadership's positions on the language, nationality issues and economics. *Leading personalities:* Ignar Fjuk and Lennart Meri.

11. The Word of Life (Elu Sõna). *Founded:* Exact date not known. *Estimate membership:* Several hundred, but has much wider support. *Objectives:* The pursuit of Christian and nationalist causes; release of political prisoners. *Leading personalities:* Unknown.

12. The Boy Scouts. (Skaudid). *Founded:* Exact date unknown (The original boy-scout movement was disbanded by the Soviets in 1940). *Estimate membership:* Thousands. *Objectives:* The same as those of Boy-Scouts around the world. *Leading personalities:* Unknown.

Latvia

1. Popular Front of Latvia (Latvijas Tautas Fronte). *Founded:* The founding congress was held in Riga on 8 and 9 October 1988. *Claimed membership:* More than 240,000 plus supporters. *Objectives:* To promote the interests of the people of Latvia and support restructuring. *Leading personality:* Dainis Ivāns (Chairman).

2. Informal Popular Front (Neformālā Tautas Fronte). *Founded:* 10 September 1988. *Claimed membership:* 1,552. *Objectives:* Defending Latvian interests. *Leading personalities:* Juris Ziemelis, Ints Cālītis, Imants Kulinskis, Jānis Cakstīšs, Miervaldīs Lācis, and Sergei Egoryonok.

3. Environmental Protection Club (Vides Aizsardzības Klubs). *Founded:* 25 February 1987 in Riga. *Estimate membership:* In the thousands (exact figure unknown). *Objectives:* Environment protection. *Leading personality:* Arvīds Ulme. *Publication:* Staburags.

4. Latvia's National Independence Movement (Latvijas Nacionālās Neatkarības Kustība). *Founded:* July 1988. *Claimed membership:* 8,000. *Objectives:* The promotion of Latvian independence. *Leading personality:* Eduards Berklavs (former high communist official, purged by Krushchev in 1959).

5. Helsinki 86. *Founded:* July 1986 in Liepāja. *Claimed membership:* 90-100 in 13 branches. *Objectives:* To foster the observance of human rights. *Leading personality:* Dr Juris Vidiņš.

6. Helsinki 86 — Riga Branch (Helsinki 86 — Rīgas Nodaļa). *Founded:* May 1988 in Riga by a group of human rights activists who wanted to work in their own organization. *Claimed membership:* About a dozen. *Objectives:* To foster the observance of human rights. *Leading personality:* Ms Līta Ečēlāja (Juris Ziemelis died on 28/12/1988).

7. Rebirth and Renewal (Atdzīmšana un Atjaunošanās). *Founded:* 14 June 1987. *Claimed membership:* 19 (predominantly Latvian Lutheran Clergymen). *Objectives:* To defend religious rights. *Leading personalities:* Pastors Juris Rubenis and Modris Plāte.

8. Social Activists Club. *Founded:* In Riga, the date unknown. *Membership:* Unknown (mostly Russians). *Objectives:* To hold open discussions. *Leading personalities:* Vladimir Bogdanov and Sergei Egorovonok.

Lithuania

1. Lithuanian Restructuring Movement (Lietuvos Persitvarkymo Sajūdis). *Founded:* 3 June 1988; founding congress held in Vilnius on October 22 and 23. *Claimed membership:* 180,000 with chapters in all the major cities and regions. *Objectives:* Support for restructuring; advocacy of Lithuanian national rights and interests; and promotion of environment concerns. *Leading personalities:* Romualdas Ozolas, Kazimiera Prunskienė, Vytautas Landsbergis, and Arvydas Juozaitis. *Publications:* Atgimimas, Sajūdžio Žinios, Kauno Aidas, Mažoji Lietuva, Sajūdžio Žodis, Alytaus Sajūdis, and others.

● Continued on Page 6

Estonia Resurgent

by Sir Arvi Parbo

For some 4,000 years Estonians lived in independent communities ruled by elected Elders. Taken over by the Teutonic Knights in 1227, the country was occupied and re-occupied by Danes, Swedes, Germans and Russians until 1918, when the Estonians fought and won the War of Independence against the Soviet Union and the German Free Corps.

Independent Estonia signed the Peace Treaty of Tartu with Russia in 1920.

The secret clauses of the Molotov - Ribbentrop pact (only now published in the USSR) brought Soviet occupation in 1940, German in 1941, and Soviet again in 1944. Mass deportations to the Soviet slave-labour camps occurred in June 1941 and again in 1949. Some 80,000 Estonians escaped the occupation by fleeing to Germany and Sweden.

Estonia's population today is 1.5 million, but only 900,000 (60%) are Estonians. The remaining 600,000 are immigrants from other parts of the Soviet Union — evidence of a threatening russification program.

But resistance has been growing over the last 20 years. In 1980, five years before Gorbachev, forty Estonian cultural leaders publicly demanded an end to russification. They were interrogated, detained and put out of employment.

Again, in 1987, it was writers who brought to public notice a Moscow phosphate scheme that had the potential to destroy and depopulate a large part of the 47,000 square kilometre country — about the size of Denmark.

With *glasnost* and *perestroika*, patriotic activity increased rapidly. In August 1987, police broke up an 'anti-Soviet' demonstration in Tallinn. In September, a plan was published, showing how Estonia could handle its own economy while remaining a member of the USSR.

A major turning point was the April 1988 Conference of Estonian Creative Artists, followed by the formation of the Estonian Popular Front, a political body with official approval; of the Estonian Heritage Society; and of the Estonian National Independence Party.

Vaino Valjas, a Gorbachev supporter, replaced the old-style leader of the Estonian Communist Party and 150,000 people farewelled the ECP delegation to Moscow, urging it to argue for self-government and economic independence.

300,000 people attended a peaceful rally in Tallinn in September. Vaino Valjas applauded speakers from Estonian groups, but did not speak himself.

When Moscow published proposed changes to the Soviet constitution and electoral laws, a petition with nearly 900,000 (!) signatures asked for more time for public discussion and re-drafting of the document. The Estonian Parliament rejected the proposed changes by 258 votes to 1 and declared Estonia 'sovereign'.

Sir Arvi Parbo is the Chairman of Australia's largest public company, BHP Ltd. Born in Estonia, he left his native country at the age of 18, and has often visited his family there during the last 20 years.

Baltic News is most grateful to Sir Arvi for a copy of his address to Pacific Institute on February 27 and for permission to summarise it.



● The Estonians belong to the Finno-Ugrian family of peoples, of which the other main members are the Finns and the Hungarians. In language and origin, they are totally unrelated to any other ethnic group.

Estonia should control its own affairs, they said, except for defence and foreign policy; the right to private property should be written into the Estonian constitution.

In December 1988, the Supreme Soviet approved the proposed changes to the Soviet Constitution, ignoring requests for re-drafting and public discussion. The Estonian Parliament again resolved that Soviet law should run in Estonia only with its approval.

In January this year, Estonian was declared the language of the country, and on Friday February 24 — the 71st anniversary of the Declaration of Independence — the blue-black-white national flag, which has been widely flown for some time, replaced the red flag of the Soviet Estonian Republic in the tower of the ancient fortress dominating Tallinn.

There is a new spirit in Estonia. The media, all owned and controlled by the state, are freely discussing the events of the last 70 years. Patriotic memorials destroyed by the Red Army in 1944 are being restored and street names changed back. Opportunities are opening up for cultural and economic contacts with the West, and they are seized avidly.

An estimated 200 writers, singers, musicians and journalists came from Estonia to the Fifth Estonian World Festival in Melbourne last Christmas. They reported their experiences on tour when they returned to Tallinn — in a hall that seated 8,000 — and received good media coverage.

There is great uncertainty, though, about the future. Every Estonian wants full independence. But many think this is quite unrealistic at present and are hoping for internal freedom in the first instance.

Even less optimistic is the view that Gorbachev might have to back-pedal; that he might even be deposed. Or perhaps it is all a 'let a hundred flowers bloom' period. It is very doubtful whether even Gorbachev knows where his policy will lead.



Deported and Dehumanised

By Elena JUCIŪTÉ

On August 23, 1939, Nazi Germany and the USSR secretly divided Eastern Europe between them. Less than two years later, in June, 1941, the Soviets began mass deportations from the Baltic states they had occupied.

By 1949 the number of their victims had risen to at least 655,000 — 10% of the entire population. Indeed, the figure may be as high as a million and a half.

In this factual account Elena Juciūtė tells something of what she and her fellow deportees had to suffer.

There were two kinds of deportees, Elena says, 'exiles' and 'prisoners'. Though treated differently, both suffered incredible hardship. It is doubtful whether a quarter of the 1941 contingents survived.

The Exiles

Whole families were snatched from their homes without trial and without warning. By the end of the War people had learned to prepare food and clothing against sudden arrest: 'You never knew when they would come for you.'

When they reached their Siberian destination, exiles had to build their own accommodation and find their own food and clothing. Unlike prisoners, they were free to move about without armed guards; but they had to report regularly to the local commandant. To prevent them returning home, they were deprived of the internal passports without which travel was impossible. The very few who did escape were soon apprehended and punished.

Officially, exile was 'voluntary re-settlement'.

The Prisoners

'Prisoners' were first taken to an interrogation centre where they were held and tortured, sometimes for months, while waiting for their sentences to come from Moscow. (Now they are tried locally.)

Tall picket fences capped with barbed wire surrounded the camps they were sent to. Inside these fences was a second fence of barbed wire. Between the two was the 'death zone', watched by armed guards in watchtowers at every corner. Escape was impossible.

Though they lived in separate barracks, women had to do the same work as men. When they were out in the country working, the prisoners had to put up 'Prohibited Zone' signs: to move out of the zone was to be shot. And the guards used their own discretion, as they did while the prisoners marched to and from work five abreast.

Hobart Commemoration

Baltic deportations will be commemorated at an ecumenical service in St Joseph's Church, corner Macquarie and Harrington Streets, Hobart on FRIDAY night, June 16 at 7.30 pm.

The service has been organised by Help the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian People's Association (HELP). All are welcome.

A candlelight vigil will be held outside the church, from 6 pm to 7.30 pm. Please make sure your candles are in glass jars or similar wind-proof containers.

Services will also be held at other major centres, throughout Australia. Please contact your local Baltic committee for details.



● Lithuanian exiles accompanying Andrius Sinkevičius to his final place of rest in the district of Krasnoyarsk, Siberia. Andrius died in 1952.

Any attempt to communicate with free citizens or exiles meant solitary confinement underground (in permafrost conditions) on 300 gm of bread and 500 ml of water a day.

Inability to meet the quota meant reduced rations; refusal to work, solitary confinement or an extended sentence.

Their sentence expired, prisoners became exiles. It was not until 1954 that some were allowed to return to their family homes. Others were allowed to live only in other parts of the USSR.

Once a Prisoner, Always a Prisoner

This changed in 1956. The Soviets reviewed politicals' files and released many of them — a) the rehabilitated — they had been held unjustly; b) the amnestied — all rights restored but still considered guilty; and c) sentence completed.

Members of this third group have suffered discrimination ever since. Their internal passports are endorsed 'former prisoner' and they find it very hard to get a job or live in a large town. Foreign travel is completely barred.

Can we justify raking up this 'ancient history'? We can; for the Baltic states are still occupied by a foreign power, and the deportation laws are still on the statutes, even if they are not at present being enforced.

— Extracted from *Lithuanians in Siberia*, by J. Pruszkis. English translation by *Baltic News* (Tas).

(Advertisement)

Lithuanian Co-operative Credit Society

TALKA Ltd

Registered Office: Lithuanian House, 44 Errol Street, North Melbourne, 3051. Tel: (03) 328 4957

POSTAL ADDRESS: GPO Box 4051, BRANCHES in SA and NSW MELBOURNE, 3001

TASMANIAN REPRESENTATIVE: A. Kantvilas, 57 Strickland Ave, SOUTH HOBART, 7004. Tel: (002) 23 6836

TALKA supports BALTIC NEWS — Give your support to TALKA!

New Parties, Old Worries

New political parties keep springing up in the three Baltic States. They are yet another kind of development, in contrast to the popular People's Fronts which do not see themselves as being in direct opposition to the governing Communist Party.

The Lithuanian Christian Democratic Party, originally founded in 1904, was revived in Vilnius on February 10 this year, under the chairmanship of Viktoras Petkus.

Lithuanian Democrats is another political party that demands sovereignty for Lithuania and a return to independent farming. At a public meeting in Vilnius on February 16, a spokesman for the party, Povilas Pečeliūnas, called on Lithuania's Communists to break away from the all-Union Moscow-dominated Communist Party and form their own local Party.

The Workers' Association, formed in Vilnius on March 14, is quickly spreading to other centres. It is widely believed that this Association will ultimately form the nucleus of a new Lithuanian Labor Party. There are active branches in Kaunas, Klaipėda, Molėtai and Kretinga. Membership is around 5,000 and growing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More Politicians' Views

The plight of the Baltic States is of great concern to me and I appreciate very much receiving news of current events.

It was encouraging to hear of the Mass being celebrated at the Cathedral of Vilnius and it is to be hoped that this is a step towards the independence being sought by Lithuania, and the other Baltic States.

Dr Michael WOOLDRIDGE, M.P.,
Federal Member for Chisholm.

I have, of course, taken a great deal of interest in what is happening in the Baltic States generally. I had the opportunity recently of visiting Lithuania myself.

Whilst I am cautiously optimistic that some progress is being made, it will be some time yet before we know with any certainty what will be the long-term outcome. It did become very clear to me, however, that the Soviet leadership sees Gorbachev as providing opportunities in the Baltic States for economic development, but certainly not for self-government or independence.

Like you, I pray for change but regret that the Jury will no doubt be out for many years yet.

Philip RUDDOCK, M.P.,
Federal Member for Dundas.

Would you please take my name off your mailing list.

My aim is to make a tiny contribution to slowing down the amount of forests and energy we are all using.

Dr Bob BROWN,
Green Independent MHA,
Parliament House, Hobart, Tas.

New Parties, Old Worries

Shortages Continue

While the political excitement may be running high in activist circles, everyday life has hardly changed in the three Baltic States. Shortages of food and consumer goods persist. In Latvia and Lithuania, sugar has been rationed since last year. There are long waiting lists for housing, cars and other necessities. The black market flourishes as before, only the word "black" is no longer mentioned.

Sugar rationing has been caused by the illegal production of home-made alcohol. Mr Gorbachev's 1985 restrictions of vodka sales were virtually lifted at the end of last year, but sugar supply difficulties continue.

Baltic *glasnost* optimists were shocked in April when the Soviet authorities took brutal action against demonstrators in Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. Soldiers used sappers' spades, truncheons and gases to kill at least 19 and injure many more peaceful protesters.

"Will the Soviet crack troops be sent to the Baltic States next?" is the question on everyone's lips.

Congratulations!



I was delighted to see an accurate map of the Baltic region, in *The (Melbourne) Herald* on May 1 (reproduced above).

Such cartography is to be applauded and made universal.

Melbourne, Vic K. BRUCE.

• The Editor welcomes letters, especially brief ones, at PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005.



• "And now . . . the Georgian fever!"

Some Present Baltic Movements

● Continued from Page 2

2. Lithuanian Freedom League (Lietuvos Laisves Lyga). *Founded:* Unofficially in 1978, it began operating publicly on 3 July 1988. *Claimed membership:* 803 (as of 15 October 1988); it has a council of 18 members, two of whom live in the United States and are the league's representatives abroad. *Objectives:* The re-establishment of national independence in a confederation with free European states; the advocacy of changes in the Lithuanian Constitution, such as making Lithuanian the official language of the republic and granting economic sovereignty to Lithuania. *Leading personalities:* Vytautas Bogušis and Antanas Terleckas. *Publication:* *Vytis*.

3. Lithuanian Helsinki Group (Lietuvos Helsinkio Grupė). *Founded:* 25 November 1976. *Claimed membership:* Seven members living in Lithuania, and four in the West. *Objectives:* To foster human rights as guaranteed by the Helsinki Accords. *Leading personalities:* Vytautas Petkus, Rev Gustavas Gudanavičius, Mečislovas Jurevičius, Vytautas Vaičiūnas, Gintautas Ješmantas, Vytautas Bogušis, Balys Gajauskas, Tomas Venclova, Dr Algirdas Statkevičius, and Vytautas Skuodis. *Publications:* Individual documents on cases of concern, the last, No 51, dated 16 October 1988.

4. The Catholic Committee for the Defence of the Rights of Believers (Tikinčiųjų Teisių Gynimo Kataliku Komitetas). *Founded:* 13 November 1978. *Membership:* Unknown. After the arrest in 1983 of its members, the Reverends Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevičius, the group went underground. At that time it had nine members.

5. The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania (Lietuvos Kataliku Bažnyčios Kronika). *Founded:* 19 March 1972. *Membership:* Editors. *Objectives:* In view of the absence of any Catholic press in Lithuania to publish information about the situation of the Catholic Church in the USSR. *Leading personalities:* Unknown. *Publication:* *Lietuvos Kataliku Bažnyčios Kronika* (This journal has the longest

uninterrupted publication of any unofficial journal in the USSR.) The latest available issue No 80 was dated 8 December 1988.

6. Greens (Žalieji). *Founded:* After operating unofficially in 1988, the group held its first national meeting on 15 and 16 October 1988. *Membership:* Unknown. *Objectives:* To prevent unnecessary pollution and oppose all officials who do not recognize the importance of protecting nature. *Leading personalities:* Vaidotas Antanaitis, Arūnas Aniulis, Saulius Grigcius, and Juozas Dautartas.

7. Lithuanian National-Democratic Movement (Lietuvos Tautinis-Demokratinis Judėjimas). *Founded:* Date unknown (an umbrella group for Lithuania's dissident movements). *Membership:* Unknown. *Objectives:* The release of all political prisoners in the USSR; full freedom of religion and expression in the USSR; establishment and clear definition of citizenship in each republic; granting the status of state language to the native language in each republic; the creation of national military units within the Red Army; and opposition to the expansion of nuclear energy in the USSR. *Leading personalities:* Andrius Tučkus, Antanas Terleckas, Vytautas Bogušis, and Nijolė Sadūnaitė.

8. Committee To Rescue Political Prisoners (Politinių Kalinių Gelbėjimo Komitetas). *Founded:* 16 August 1988. *Claimed membership:* 4. *Objectives:* The release of all Lithuanian political prisoners. *Leading personalities:* Povilas Pečeliūnas, Petras Cidzikas, Jadviga Bieliauskienė, and Birute Burauskaitė.

9. Lithuanian Human Rights Association (Lietuvos Žmogaus Teisių Asociacija). *Founded:* 4 September 1988. *Claimed membership:* 4. *Objectives:* To monitor the human rights situation in Lithuania, inform the world about it, and fight for the freedom of all political prisoners. *Leading personalities:* Valdas Anilauskas (chairman), and Teodora Kazdalienė (secretary), Eugenijus Krukovskis, and Algimantas Andreika.

— Adapted from *Help & Action* (Paris).

We Thank You!

Baltic News leads a hand-to-mouth existence: no sooner do we publish one issue than it's time to start raising finance for the next one.

We thank you very much for the following subscriptions and donations, received since our last issue:

Vic: Federation of Latvian Organisations in Victoria, \$150; H. Loudon, Melbourne Lithuanian Catholic Women's League, \$100 each; Fr B. Tobin, \$60; P. Dranginis, \$50; V. Dulmanis, \$40; L. Hassett, F. Monaghan, \$20 each; E. Cekulins, L. Mortimer, \$10 each; H. Kolin, \$5.

NSW & ACT: Lithuanian National Foundation — Australia, \$100; Estonian Society of Sydney, \$125; Anonymous, \$100; O. Grosiene, J. Makunas, LKVS Ramove (Sydney Branch), V. Venclova, \$50 each; E. J. Galloway, \$25; M. J. Crowe, E. and L. Kask, O. and A. Leveriai, V. and J. Ramauskas, P. Randma, A. Rudka, Mrs S. Zablockis, \$20 each; L. and B. Stasionis, \$15; Dr H. Salasoo, \$12; M. Butkus, S. Y. Edmonds, G. Grybas, O. Jarmalaviciene, R. and P. Juozapaitis, P. Kusleika, V. Staneviciene, J. and E. Velins, \$10 each; M. Statkus, \$5; V. Miezinis, \$2.

Various: Anonymous, \$1,000; Aust Latvian Information Centre (SA), \$500; Lithuanian Foundation Inc (USA), \$297.93; Adelaide Lithuanian Catholic Women's League, Anonymous (NSW), Lithuanian Community of WA, Lithuanian Sports Club "Varpas" (Vic), \$100 each; Lithuanian Community Latrobe Valley, \$85; Anonymous (Tas), \$70; Baltic Women's Association of SA, Rev J. F. Girdauskas, SM (WA), Latvian Relief Society Daugavas Vanagi Inc Melbourne Branch, \$50 each; M. Gavars (NZ), \$30; B. H. Repecka (USA),

\$26.35; F. & R. Wallace (USA), \$20.52; A. Anderson (Vic), Anonymous (Qld), I. Augstikalns (SA), V. Alisauskas (Vic), Baltic Council of WA, J. Bruozis (Vic), Daugavas Vanagi (Qld), S. Geste (WA), V. Hawkins (Vic), A. Kaitinis (Tas), R. Kubiliene (SA), J. Langevicius (SA), V. M. Milla (NSW), L. & I. Z. Rudajis (SA), J. Slepys (Tas), \$20 each; P. Dickinson (Vic), \$15; B. V. Gedvilene (USA), \$12.22; Anonymous (Tas), J. Babarskas (WA), M. Burneikiene (WA), A. E. Cizeika (WA), J. Cyzas (WA), Doniela (SA), V. & D. Francas (WA), F. Garnys (WA), V. Gestautas (Vic), J. Jarusevicius (SA), J. Jonavicius (SA), A. Kateiva (WA), J. Keblys (Vic), A. Kontvainis (ACT), R. L. Mataitis (NSW), V. K. Mezaks (SA), E. Mulvinkas (SA), V. Navickas (Tas), Z. Ozols (Qld), J. & E. Petrukenas (WA), J. Remess (Tas), V. & J. Repevicius (WA), J. Sirgunas (Tas), Z. Stankus, M. M. & Z. Strazds (Qld), \$10 each; A. Malinauskas (WA), \$6; J. Astrauskas (WA), A. Balakauskas (WA), B. Butkys (WA), F. V. Cibulskis (WA), B. Francas (WA), V. Garnys (WA), Q. Grinbergs (Vic), J. Jasas (WA), K. Jasas (WA), J. & E. Jaudegis (WA), A. & I. Kaminickas (WA), T. Kaspustiene (WA), P. Kiskis (WA), M. V. Klimas (WA), I. Kreismanis-Joyce (SA), P. Laurinaitis (NSW), A. Laukaitis (NSW), M. Lingiene (WA), D. McGlashan (Tas), J. Naudzius (Qld), L. Paisiunas (SA), C. Paulenais (SA), V. Patupas (SA), P. & E. Plucas (WA), E. Stankevicius (WA), Stankevicius (WA), A. & B. Steckis (WA), A. Vyniauskiene, S. Zilinskas (WA), \$5 each; D. Lord (Qld), \$2.34; AP, J. Masvytis, Snickas, J. Stankevicius, F. Starvys (USA), \$2 each; N.N., 50c.

To: **BALTIC NEWS,**
PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania 7005 (Australia).

Please send me *Baltic News* at the address shown below.

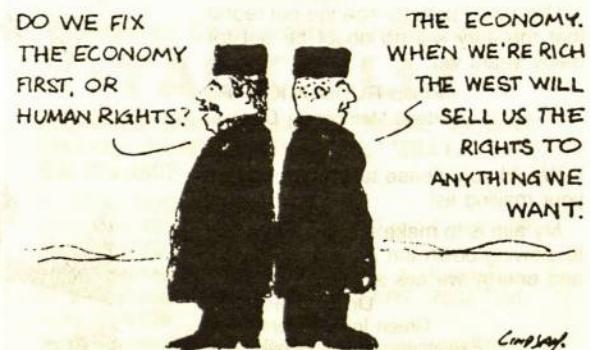
I already receive *Baltic News*.

NAME

ADDRESS

.....POSTCODE.....

I enclose my donation of \$.....Cash/Cheque/MO



— Reprinted with permission from *The Bulletin*.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You and your friends are asked to write to West German politicians and ask them to repeal the 1939 Hitler-Stalin agreement, also known as the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact.

Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov and German foreign minister Joachim von Ribbentrop signed this non-aggression treaty in Moscow on August 23, 1939, nine days before the start of World War Two. In a secret additional protocol (reprinted below), the USSR and Nazi Germany divided between them Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Poland. This notorious agreement, now 50 years old, has not yet been revoked.

Latvian organisation *Daugavas Vanagi* and the Lithuanian Freedom League have appealed to all people of goodwill to rush letters to West German leaders and urge them to annul the 1939 Hitler-Stalin agreement. The following are the addresses of the leading politicians in West Germany:

Bundespräsident
Dr Richard von Weizsäcker
Kaiser-Friedrich-Str 16, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

Bundeskanzler
Dr Helmut Kohl
Bundeskanzleramt
Adenauerallee 141, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

Bundesminister des Auswärtigen
Hans-Dietrich Genscher
Auswärtiges Amt
Tempelstr 1-3, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

Vorsitzender der CDU/CSU Fraktion

Dr Alfred Dregger
Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

Vorsitzender der SPD-Fraktion
Dr Hans-Jochen Vogel
Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

Vorstandssprecher der Fraktion Die Grünen,
Dr Helmut Lippelt

Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.
Vorsitzender der FDP
Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff

Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.
Präsident des Deutschen Bundestages

Dr Rita Süßmuth

Bundeshaus, 5300 Bonn 1. West Germany.

You may write in your own words; or you may follow this sample:

Dear Sir, (Madam, Mr. . .)

As a result of the notorious 1939 Hitler-Stalin agreement, the Baltic States were illegally occupied, 600,000 people deported to Russia and within 50 years conditions have been created which seriously threaten the very existence of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian nations.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin pact I request you to do your utmost to achieve the



● The USSR and Nazi Germany divided the Baltic States and Poland by a secret treaty signed in August, 1939, shortly before the outbreak of World War II. Foreign ministers Molotov (USSR, seated) and von Ribbentrop (Germany, right) personally signed the document, in Stalin's presence (second from left).

annulment of this agreement and to ensure that the Baltic States regain their right to self-determination.

Yours sincerely,

Please help the occupied Baltic people press for immediate cancellation of the secret 1939 Hitler-Stalin agreement.

New Name in the Air

Korean Air and Aeroflot officials have agreed in principle on a new air service between Moscow and Seoul. The new route will probably be assigned not to Aeroflot, but to a new Soviet airline, Avialat.

Avialat is a joint venture established last year in the enterprising Baltic republic of Latvia. The latest move will provide a face-saving way for officials in Moscow to get to countries, like South Korea, with which the Soviet Union has no diplomatic relations.

— Based on a report in *The Economist*.

The Secret Protocol of 23 August, 1939

On the occasion of the signature of the Nonaggression Pact between the German Reich and the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the undersigned plenipotentiaries of each of the two parties discussed in strictly confidential conversation the question of the boundary of their respective spheres of influence in Eastern Europe. These conversations led to the following conclusions:

(1) In the event of the territorial and political rearrangement in the areas belonging to the Baltic States (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), the northern boundary of Lithuania shall represent the boundary of the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR. In this connection the interest of Lithuania in the Vilna area is recognized by each party.

(2) In the event of the territorial and political rearrangement of the areas belonging to the Polish State, the spheres of influence of Germany and USSR shall be bounded approximately by the line of the

rivers, Narev, Vistula, and San.

The question of whether the interests of both parties make desirable the maintenance of an independent Polish State and how such a state should be bounded can only be definitely determined in the course of further political developments.

In any event both governments will resolve this question by means of a friendly agreement.

(3) With regard to South Eastern Europe attention is called by the Soviet side to its interest in Bessarabia. The German side declares its complete political disinterestedness in these areas.

(4) This protocol shall be treated by both parties as strictly secret.

Moscow, August 23, 1939.

For the Government of the German Reich: Plenipotentiary of the Government of the USSR:
V. Ribbentrop. V. Molotov.

KGB: Business as Usual

Soviet leader Gorbachev's policy of openness ("glasnost") has not affected the vast machinery of the KGB, Russia's secret police. In the occupied Baltic States, the KGB continues operating at full strength. Only the tactics have changed.

Plainclothes agents still attend, photograph, film and tape-record every meeting or event organised by any "anti-Soviet" group. In practice, this means any group not run by the Soviet government. But arrests are now more selective, and people are usually detained for shorter periods.

On February 23, 1989 (Soviet Army Day), three Latvian groups — Helsinki '86, the Club for the Defence of the Environment, and the Democratic Union — staged anti-war pickets outside the headquarters of the Baltic Military District.

KGB operatives detained a number of pickets. Andris Pauls-Pavuls was beaten, taken to the police station and thence to hospital. He suffered concussion. Eižin Airis, who had been filming the event, had his camera taken away and smashed. One of his fingers was broken.

Valdis Pičiks and Boris Sokolov were taken to a "special reception centre" and held there until the following day. Also detained were Rita Ecitāja and Robert Klimovic.

The KGB received extra teeth on April 8, when the Supreme Soviet in Moscow issued an order listing additional punishable offences against the State. This move coincided with the recent Soviet onslaught against the civilian population in Georgia.



● Eight members of the Latvian Helsinki-86 group picketed the KGB headquarters in Riga, on March 30 (pictured). They demanded the right to protest freely. The KGB responded by detaining Ralf Niedre and three other protesters.

The Soviet State is tightening its controls in other areas, too. It is now illegal to export from the USSR any book published before 1925 or any periodical printed before 1945. The Lithuanian procuracy (State prosecutor's office) instructed all its branches, on February 8, to curb "the uncontrolled distribution" of independent publications with allegedly "anti-socialist tendencies".

A Man of Faith and Peace



● Sister Gertrude (left) with Father Svarinskas in Sydney.

A humble Lithuanian priest, who had spent 21 years in Soviet prisons, visited Australia in March — and inspired all who met him. Father Alfonsas Svarinskas, 63, had no bitterness at all. Instead, he radiated a profound faith, refined by the long years of suffering and torture.

"I love all people, including my persecutors," Fr Svarinskas told his audience at the University of Tasmania. "But we must take a firm stand against evil — the evil that holds the Russian people in its grasp."

"He spoke not on political issues, but on the values of the human soul," commented Mr John Bernotas, who heard Fr Svarinskas in Brisbane. "According to him, it is the freedom from within, from the selflessness of sin, that will bring true freedom to Lithuania and to other enslaved countries."

Before Father Svarinskas' release and expulsion to the West last year, Sister Gertrude of St Therese Convent, Manly NSW, wrote to him each month, under the *Friends of the Prisoners Scheme* (PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005).

Sr Gertrude's perseverance was rewarded on March 17 this year, when she met Fr Svarinskas face to face in Sydney (pictured). Her letters had been stopped by the prison authorities, he told her. Nevertheless, the constant flow of mail from abroad did have an effect: it improved the way the prisoners were treated. "You were a Saint Veronica to me and I did not know", Fr Svarinskas said.

BALTIC NEWS is published four times a year, by Baltic Research Foundation (Tas), in Hobart, Australia. The Foundation is a non-profit group of volunteers who study human rights in the Baltic States, and promote knowledge of the existence, history and plight of the Baltic nations. BALTIC NEWS aims at providing authentic news and pictures from the Baltic region. To maximise reliability, all details are double-checked against independent sources before they are published in BALTIC NEWS.

Subscription: by donation. Circulation: 9,000. Advertising: limited space only. Rates on application.

Postal address: Baltic News, PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania, 7005 (Australia). Phone (002) 25 2505.

Victorian representative: PO Box 118, CHELSEA, Vic, 3196.

NSW/ACT representative: PO Box 414, CAMPSIE, NSW, 2194.

Material published in BALTIC NEWS (except items marked "Copyright") may be reproduced in whole or part, without any charge or obligation. If use is made of this material, publishers would appreciate receiving clippings at PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tas 7005.

Printed by The Print Centre Pty Ltd, 140 Elizabeth Street, Hobart, 7000. Phone (002) 23 3518.