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BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT FROM ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA (THE BALTIC STATES)
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September, 1989

Cautious Optimism

by Senator Jim SHORT

After 50 years of brutal repression and denial of basic freedoms and human rights, genuine major change seems to be under way in both the Baltic States and the Soviet Union itself. There is still a long way to go, however, before we can be confident that this change will actually occur, and be permanent.



• Australian Senator Jim Short (pictured) recently visited the occupied Baltic States. His exclusive report for *Baltic News* readers starts on this page. "The West must remain on its guard," Senator Short warns, "whilst expressing cautious optimism about the future."

In the meantime, the West must remain on its guard, whilst expressing cautious optimism about the future.

This is the main impression I have brought back from my recent 18-day visit to the Baltic States and to Ukraine, Moscow and Leningrad.

In the last year so so important developments have occurred in the Baltic States. National languages have been reinstated. The national anthems can be sung freely, and the national flag flown. There is a great resurgence of religious worship. Churches, which were closed for decades, are re-opening, although the process is still too slow.

In Riga, on June 30, I laid flowers at the Freedom Monument with representatives of the Latvian National Independence Movement (LNNK), and separately with members of the Helsinki-86 Group.

The following day there was a large parade through the main thoroughfare of Riga as part of a major Latvian youth song-and-dance festival. The strength of Latvian nationalism was evident in the parade. It was intense and inspiring. Many of the thousands lined along the route of the parade cried with emotion.

In Vilnius I attended Mass at the Cathedral. There were several hundred fellow worshippers.

While in Vilnius, I also attended a performance of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*. The original setting for *Fidelio* was a Spanish prison. In the Vilnius performance the setting was a Soviet forced labour camp! The Russians in the audience had walked out on opening night, but otherwise there had been no recriminations.

• Continued on Page 2

Promise of Economic Autonomy

The three occupied Baltic republics have been promised wide economic autonomy by the end of the year.

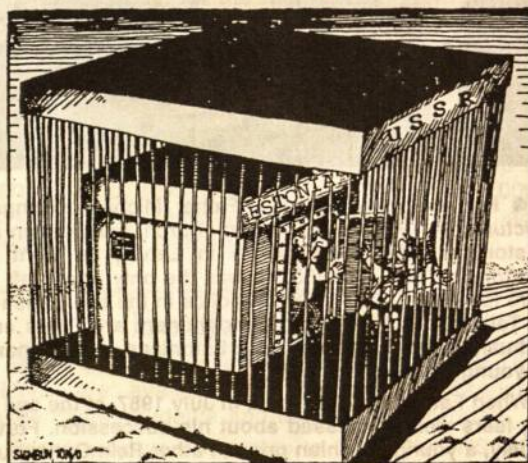
On July 27, 1989, the Soviet Parliament endorsed a landmark plan by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania that they control most of their industry, transport, trade and natural resources.

But the Supreme Soviet, the USSR's inner parliament, failed to take a vote on a Bill submitted to the chamber which was to enshrine the Baltic economic autonomy plan in law. Instead, deputies are to discuss and approve by October a draft law on regional economic cost-accounting for the entire empire.

The distinction between "economic autonomy" and "accounting autonomy" reflects a continuing debate over the sovereignty of the Baltic States.

Economic autonomy would allow the republics to have free rein in the management of their natural resources. Accounting autonomy means that production targets are set from Moscow, and the States are allowed only to decide how to achieve them.

— Reuter/AP/Newsweek.



• "Congratulations, Estonia! You are free!"

Cautious Optimism

• From Page 1

In the Baltic States, and in Ukraine, I met leaders of the popular front movements. I also met many brave people who for their undying belief in freedom and democracy had been imprisoned for periods of up to 20 years. These people are in the forefront of the moves for greater independence for their nation.

The only legitimate end result of these movements in the Baltic States is the restoration of the sovereignty that was brutally and illegally crushed by the Soviets in 1939 through the infamous secret protocols to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact.

There is strong support for Mr Gorbachev in the Baltic States, and in Ukraine. Glasnost and perestroika have provided a window of opportunity for the pursuit of some of the basic freedoms and democratic processes that we in the West take for granted.

The difficulties that lie ahead for Mr Gorbachev are very considerable.

His approach is driven by necessity, not by any philosophical change of heart. That necessity is primarily economic. It is obvious everywhere you look. The economy is in a dreadful state of decay and disarray. Even the most basic necessities of life are in desperately short supply. The queues for these basic necessities remain as long as ever, or longer.

Pollution and environmental destruction are also major problems.

The task of restructuring the economy is immense.



● Senator Jim Short with Einars Repse, a prominent figure in the Latvian National Independence Movement (LNNK), at the Statue of Liberty in Riga, on June 30, 1989.

The living standards of ordinary people have fallen in recent years. They will likely fall still further before the benefits of restructuring emerge.

The risk is that there will be a reaction to this fact within the Soviet Union, and that glasnost and perestroika will be the victims.

We can only hope this will not be the case. Mr Gorbachev has given the people of the Baltic States reason to have greater hope for the future than at any time since 1939. This opportunity must not be lost. The future of the Baltic States is at stake.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Estonia's Priest



● For over two decades, Father Michael Krupan (pictured in 1986, in his Tallinn church) was known as "Estonia's only priest". Born in Latvia, he went to Estonia in 1952. By 1965, he was the only priest left to care for some 3,000-4,000 Catholics in the two parishes of Tallinn and Tartu. Many parishioners are Poles and Lithuanians; only about 600 are Estonians, predominantly young intellectuals.

When Father Krupan died in July 1987, at the age of 71, fears were expressed about his succession. Fortunately, a young Estonian priest, Father Rein Ounapuun, was ordained in 1986 and has taken over Fr Krupan's work in Tallinn and Tartu.

— G2W. Photo: KIN/OPH.

Victims of Pollution

In the shale-oil fields on the occupied Baltic coast of Estonia, more than 90 children have lost their hair since January because of an ailment apparently caused by environmental contamination.

The Estonian newspaper *Kodumaa* said 92 children and two adults living in and around the town of Sillamae, population 20,000, lost their hair from January to mid-April.

It said the oil-shale layers around the town contained high concentrations of radium. A government commission found increased levels of lead and antimony in the fingernails and saliva of the hair-loss victims.

Church Support

The leadership of the Latvian Lutheran Church has issued a statement expressing its "full support" for "the aim of national independence for Latvia" as proclaimed by the Latvian Popular Front on May 31. The statement is signed by the recently elected new Consistory of the Latvian Lutheran Church and appeared on the front page of the newspaper *Padomju Jaunatne* (Soviet Youth) on July 13.

The Lutheran Consistory's statement is part of a general wave of support for the idea of national independence being expressed by Latvian organisations such as the creative unions and the doctors' union. It is also undoubtedly influenced by the views of the new Archbishop Gaillitis, a member of the Latvian Movement for National Independence.

— Keston

Alarming Pollution of Ventspils

Established in the 10th century, Ventspils was once a neat Latvian port and seaside resort. Today, it is a quagmire. In a hair-raising report just received by *Baltic News*, Mr Girts Kristovskis, President of the Ventspils Environment Protection Club, describes the desperate situation confronting the people of occupied Latvia, the citizens of Ventspils in particular.

As one of the few ice-free harbours on the western flank of the Soviet Union, Ventspils has become a major shipping gateway for Soviet imports and exports. As a consequence, Ventspils has also the dubious "privilege" of being the most environmentally degraded city in the USSR.

The city centre of Ventspils is now crammed with plants manufacturing chemicals, explosives and plastics, refining oil and processing biological raw materials. The effect on the environment is highly damaging, to say the least.

Standards Breached

There are many glaring breaches of state building regulations, for example: No more than four oil pipelines of maximum 150mm diameter or no single pipeline greater than 500mm should be laid in built-up areas. In Ventspils, there are trenches carrying as many as 12 pipelines each; two of them are 1000mm, five 900mm, four 630mm in diameter. The risk of disaster is increasing daily, as the 26-year-old plant and machinery deteriorate.

The 55,000-tonne-per-day effluence treatment plant cannot reduce the contamination to safe levels. As a result, 3 million tonnes of effluent, exceeding the safe limits 60-100 fold, are released in the Baltic Sea annually. These activities also contribute about 70% of the air pollution. Accidents during loading are estimated to release at least 100 tonnes of crude oil into the harbour every year. This has produced a 1-metre-thick layer of sludge covering the entire bottom of the harbour.

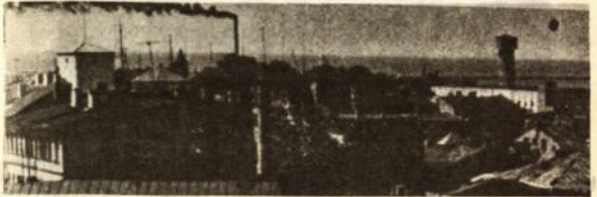
It has been estimated that, in the case of an explosion of one of the methanol storage tanks (as happened in Jonava, Lithuania, this year), an area of 3 km radius would be totally devastated.



The railways traversing Ventspils carry such products as ammonia, methanol, vinyl cyanide (an explosive, flammable, toxic and suspected carcinogenic liquid used in plastics manufacturing), ethylene, glycol etc. At any one time there could be in storage 58,000 tonnes of ammonia, 4,000 tonnes of vinyl cyanide, 35,000 tonnes of methanol. The storage tanks are located only 1/2 km from the geographical centre of the city.



● Ventspils in the days of Independence. The castle (centre) was built by the Teutonic Order in 1290.



● A view of Ventspils today.

Tree-killing Dust

The port of Ventspils is used for the import and export of both bulk and containerised cargoes. The most damaging of these cargoes is the 2 million tonnes of potassium salts, passing through the bulk loading facility every year. The dust clouds created during loading operations have destroyed many trees, contaminated the soil and caused chronic bronchial complaints among the population. This facility is situated right next to one of the oldest inhabited sections of the city, without any kind of a buffer zone.

To add to the disaster potential, a military tank unit, complete with its own ammunition depot, is quartered alongside the oil processing and export plants.

During the 12 year period 1977 to 1989, the incidence of childhood bronchitis has doubled; pneumonia cases have risen by 25%. In 38.7% of births during 1987, there was congenital impairment of development. The incidence of Downes Syndrome is almost double that for the rest of Europe. Premature births have increased by 50% since 1978. Birth defects now occur in 2.1% of cases, which is 2.5 times the rate 10 years ago.

The citizens of Ventspils have formed an Environment Protection Club and have begun other activities to force the authorities to do something positive to clean up their environment. They staged a 10,000 strong protest demonstration in June 1988 and collected 16,000 signatures to a petition.

Back Copies

Single back copies and complete sets of *BALTIC NEWS* are available, on request, to libraries, researchers, students and interested individuals.

Please send your requests to *BALTIC NEWS*, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania, 7005 — Australia. A donation would be appreciated to cover postage and packing.

NEWS FROM BALTIC STATES

Fashion Festival



● Baltic designers emerged once again as the Soviet Union's style leaders at the latest Fashion Festival held in Tallinn, occupied Estonia's capital. Ramune Lukšiene (pictured) and other Baltic mannequins modelled this season's creations with flair and professionalism.

Strikes Stopped

The Soviet Estonian Parliament passed a resolution on August 10 ordering an end to strikes begun by resentful Russians.

This is the latest development in the systematic Russification of the Baltic region. It started in 1940 when Russia annexed the three Baltic States, deported many natives to Siberia and replaced them with Russian-speaking settlers. During the past two years, Estonia and its Baltic neighbours have openly tried to arrest this loss of their identity. They have passed local laws aimed at reasserting their language and national rights.

Estonia's Russian-speakers, who now make up some 40 per cent of the population, reacted by starting a wave of strikes. In particular, they protested against recent plans to limit their voting rights through stringent residency requirements.

The Estonian parliamentary resolution stopped the strikes and ordered the Government to "ensure that public services and the economy are functioning". The resolution was based on an Estonian Bill which legalised certain strikes but outlawed those threatening life, health or normal living. — The Australian/AFP/TASS.

Death of a Conscript

A Lithuanian conscript was among the 42 sailors who died on April 7 when a Soviet Mike-class submarine caught fire and sank in the Norwegian Sea.

He was Stasys Šinkūnas, drafted two years ago from the village of Cereškiai in the district of Moletai.

WANTED: Editor. May reside in any State of Australia. The position is honorary. Write to: *Baltic News*, PO Box 272, Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005.

Earlier this year, the Presidium of the Latvian SSSR Supreme Soviet adopted a decision that revoked the registration of eight unofficial organisations, including Latvia People's Front (with an estimated membership of about 250,000). The Presidium also abolished the governmental commission that had granted the registrations.

The principal instigator of the move was Soviet Latvian Procurator Janis Dzenitis, a Brezhnevite hardliner. In a February interview with Radio Moscow Dzenitis stated that many new organisations had come into being and that some of them openly pursued "the goal of Latvia's leaving the Soviet Union". Help & Act

The New Invasion

The Commanders of the various sections of the USSR Baltic Military Area are demanding that new accommodation be provided for their personnel in Riga, the capital of occupied Latvia.

They demand that 36 new high-rise buildings, each consisting of 75 apartments, be constructed for them in desirable city areas. This will involve the demolition of at least 11 existing dwellings with the consequent dislocation of 22 families — a total of 42 persons in one street alone.

The new buildings will accommodate some 2,700 families of say three members, thus adding 8,100 new settlers to the population this year.

Besides the serving military personnel of the Baltic Military Area, large numbers of retired higher officers of the Red Army, especially from the units withdrawn under Gorbachov's plan of demilitarisation of Europe, have settled in Latvia to spend their retirement in this "Western Colony" of the Soviet Union.

In fact, about 20% of the total housing building programme of the last few years has been for the benefit of the Soviet military.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of the demolished dwellings have been "relocated", or will join the 76,570 families whose names are on the waiting list for accommodation.

— Dace Balode in *Atmoda* (Awakening)/eom.



● Demolition in progress of the house at 10 Livciema Street, Riga, with a list of another nine soon to follow.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I was very pleased to read the report in the June 1989 edition of *Baltic News* of the results of the recent elections in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

It is pleasing to note that the peoples of the Baltic States continue to speak out for their independence and their freedom.

Recent events in China have again shown us how a Communist Government will quickly move to destroy the spirit of the people.

Parliament House,
Hobart. Ray GROOM, MHA.

At the time of writing, Mr Groom was Deputy Premier of Tasmania.



"Down with capitalists!"

Interesting

I find your publication very interesting and informative, having been introduced to it by my father. I always await the next issue eagerly and impatiently.

I hope that the financial burden does not force you to cease this magnificent publication. I therefore would like to assist in my small way.

Kentlyn, NSW. Rimas RAMANAUSKAS.

Saving Trees

Allow me to have a chuckle about Dr Bob Brown's concern that *Baltic News* destroys our forests (*B/News*, June '89).

Where was he when they took the milk bottles off the market and replaced them with vile paper cartons? Or when they are printing a booksize *Adelaide Advertiser*?

Continue your good work, *Baltic News*. I am sure the forests will not suffer greatly because of your few tiny pages.

Adelaide, SA (Mrs) V. SCHEUCHER.

★ ★ ★

One of your supporters wants to cancel the tiny *Baltic News*. My logic tells me to cancel newspapers and rubbishy magazines first. It's just not possible to find your sort of news anywhere else, not even on TV.

By the way, the Baltic States know plenty about the destruction of the environment. This is one of the issues the *Baltic News* constantly covers. The Eastern bloc is still part of this planet.

Mandurah, WA. Patricia MULLIGAN.

Remember Us in Your Will

Please remember *Baltic News* in your will. Your bequest will extend the life of this newsletter, and the Baltic message will continue to be spread.

At present, *Baltic News* has no financial reserves for its future. Will you please help, through your will?



"Thank goodness, there are some of them left."

— Frankfurter Allgemeine.

Psychiatry Abused

Your exposé of the Soviet psychiatric abuse (*Baltic News*, March '89) remains topical today.

American experts who inspected Soviet psychiatric hospitals earlier this year say the system is still wide open to abuse. Although many political prisoners have been freed from mental wards, one American specialist said the visiting psychiatrists interviewed some patients who, they concluded, were confined to mental hospitals for political reasons.

Soviet doctors still commonly use the broad-brush diagnosis, 'schizophrenic', to lock up people who would be considered healthy in the West. Also, they said, patients are still treated with large doses of pain-causing psychotropic drugs that Western doctors consider to have no medical value.

Why did the Soviets grant the Americans such unprecedented access to their psychiatric hospitals and patients? Obviously, they hoped to convince the visitors that promised reforms were well under way — and so gain readmission to the World Psychiatric Association when its full membership meets in Athens in October.

Wellington, N.Z. Wm. C. BAKER.

Baltic News

Don't stop now: we need you more than ever!

York University, Toomas KARMO.
North York Ontario (Canada).

Greens' Support

It will be of interest to you to know that the West German Greens (*die Gruenen*) are keeping a close watch on developments in the Baltic States. At the moment, a public meeting is being organised in connection with the Hitler-Stalin Pact.

If you have any question, please contact Mrs Elisabeth Weber directly. She is the East European spokesperson of the Greens' group in the West German parliament (*Bundestag*). Her address is: 5300 Bonn 1, Bundeshaus — West Germany.

Bonn, Benjamin PUETTER.
West Germany.

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

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Unity is Strength

Non-Communist groups in occupied Lithuania have joined forces to form LNS (abbreviation for *Lietuvos Nepriklausomybs Sajunga* = Lithuanian Independence Alliance). This umbrella body was established in Vilnius on May 25, at a joint meeting of Lithuanian political organisations and parties which have not been recognised by the Communist government.

The main goal of the alliance is the restoration of full independence for Lithuania. The mass movement *Sajudis*, which has official status, was not represented at the meeting.

Baltic freedom workers are also maintaining multinational links inside the USSR. Seven nations were represented when the National Democratic Movement of the Peoples of the USSR met in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius on 28-29 January: Armenia, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia and Ukraine



● A small part of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian crowds who joined forces on the Baltic shores on September 1, 1988, to protest against the continuing pollution of the Baltic Sea.

One hundred leaders of national democratic and independence movements met again in occupied Estonia on April 30-May 1. The delegates came from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia. Also represented were Crimean Tatars, the Azerbaidzhani Popular Front, Moscow's *Glasnost* magazine and the Russian Democratic Union.

Participants exposed the Soviet strategy of divide-and-rule, and denounced the State terror in Georgia. The Conference demanded the annulment of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the restoration of the independent states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Parallel with these growing opposition forces, the **Baltic patriotic mass movements** held their first joint assembly in Tallinn on May 13-14. Almost 500 leaders and activists of the Estonian and Latvian Popular Fronts and of the Lithuanian *Sajudis* agreed to press for political, cultural and economic autonomy for their countries. To maintain unity, they resolved to meet at least once a year from now on.

The Communist Party leaders of the Baltic republics stayed away from the meetings. However, 61 of the 89 Baltic deputies of the new USSR Congress of People's Deputies took part. The deputies agreed to form a "Baltic bloc" within the Congress in Moscow. The bloc's programme includes a demand that the USSR be restructured into a confederation of sovereign republics, with equal rights to determine their domestic and foreign policy.

— ELTA/Help & Action.

One Per Cent is All We Ask For

Last year we asked our supporters to remember *Baltic News* in their wills. Even one per cent of your estate would help *Baltic News* a great deal, we suggested, while your beneficiaries would hardly notice the difference.

We are grateful to acknowledge the first gift in this category. The late Mr Adolfas Eskirtas of Sale, Vic, has left \$100 to *Baltic News* in his bequest, "in appreciation of this magazine's important work in Australia."

We are equally indebted to our subscribers and donors whose continued contributions have paid for this issue of *Baltic News*:

Vic: Federation of Latvian organisations in Vic, \$150; Estate of the late A. Eskirtas, Lithuanian National Foundation; Q. King, \$100 each; V. Adomavicius, O. Dyson, R. Slapjums, \$30 each; T. Bostock, L. Pupelis, \$25 each; J. Kapsis, P. Longer, V. Rekesius, \$20 each; J. Barkus, \$15; A. Bajoras, A. Bimba, P. Bimba, Dr J. Egan, G. Rankin, Sr Theonatis, \$10 each; 2 Anon, E. Eland, Mrs Klupsas, W. Scully, \$5 each.

Various: D. P. Cullen (WA), \$200; The Baltic Womens Association of South Australia, \$150; Latvian Australian Credit Co-Operative Society Ltd (Vic), The Australian Lithuanian Community of Adelaide, \$100 each; Pagoda-Lithuanian Pensioners Group (ACT), \$65; E. Annuk, C/o EVVA (NSW), Latvian Relief Society-Daugavas Vanagi, Canberra Branch, N. J. Murray (SA), S. M. Reginald and Sister M. Jadwiga (NZ), \$50 each; E. and S. Dainius (SA), Dr A. K. Serelis (Vic), \$30 each; J. Knuiips (USA), \$25.80; Mr and Mrs J. Girdauskas (Tas), \$25; anonymous (Tas), Mrs Anderson (Tas), H. E. Baltins (NSW), Mrs Didziuniene (SA), Dr O. G. H. Gratz (Tas), A. and E. Kuplis (Tas), E. Lasis (Tas), G. McGoldrick (NSW), W. A. and A. Nuchtern (NSW), A. Pomerigas (Qld), P. Stripeikis (Vic), G. Tomkins (Qld), A. Vitkunas (SA), J. Zonius (Vic), \$20 each; E. Karabevicius (WA), J. Miciulis (Vic), \$15 each; R. Bajalis (NSW), C. Ford (NSW), Prof P. Hughes (Tas), O. Mieztis (Tas), V. Patupas (SA), A. and F. Petrikas (SA), A. Stripeikis (Vic), A. Zilinskas (Vic), \$10 each; J. Barta (Tas), B. Dz (Qld), J. and P. Halligan (WA), I. Rutenfelds (Vic), M. Trus (Tas), \$5 each. **Total: \$1,340.80**

NSW & ACT: Sydney Lithuanian Community, \$1,030; R. J. Ramanauskas, \$100; Mrs S. Zablockis, \$25; Mrs D. Burden, A. Jakstas, \$20 each; S. Abromavicius, \$10.50; W. H. Moony, V. Rusiene, B. Sidariene, \$10 each; N. Celkiene, P. Donieliene, J. Lizdelis, M. Radzeviciene, P. Turner, \$5 each; V. Mieztis, \$2. **Total \$1,262.50.**

CORRECTION: Earlier this year, Lithuanian National Foundation — Australia gave us a donation of \$1,000. In our last issue, the amount was incorrectly acknowledge as \$100. We apologise for this unfortunate error.

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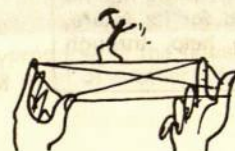
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NEWS IN BRIEF

New Hope for Invalids



● Because of a serious shortage of wheelchairs in the USSR, an Estonian factory has started manufacturing these "invalid trolleys". Note the trowel-like pad for self-propulsion.

Spreading the Word

On July 9, the first religious programme was shown on television in occupied Lithuania. Soviet news agency TASS promised that this is to become a regular feature on Sundays. It will broadcast church services and provide information on forthcoming religious events. This is a response by state authorities to recent calls by church leaders and by the newly formed national movements in Lithuania for the Church to be allowed a voice in the media.

However, the first public religious periodical published in Lithuania since 1944 has run into trouble. The fortnightly colour magazine *Kataliku Pasaulis* (Catholic World) was launched in February with state consent, but fell behind schedule because of paper shortage. Issue No 4 was delayed by three months.

Negotiations are now continuing between the Catholic publishers and the state authorities. The Lithuanian Bishops' Conference (the publishers) want to print 100,000 copies. The Soviets say there is only enough paper for 20,000.

Current Market Prices

The table below shows the current MARKET PRICES in the occupied Baltic States and in nearby Soviet cities. The list has been compiled from official Soviet sources. Prices are quoted in roubles per kilogram, except where shown otherwise.

To convert these prices into Australian dollars, multiply by two. (The official rate of exchange is approximately one rouble = \$2 Australian).

According to the latest Soviet statistics, wages in the USSR average 50 roubles per week, or 200 roubles per month. The Baltic people's incomes tend to lag behind this figure. For example, an experienced architect earns 37-45 roubles per week in Vilnius; a polytechnic lecturer is paid 40 roubles per week; and Liudvikas Simutis, a casual factory hand in Kaunas, makes 25 roubles a week.

In the occupied Baltic States, many consumer goods have four different prices:

(1) The Government-pegged price is maintained in State-owned stores, where the item is not stocked regularly, or may not be available at all. (2) The Co-op price may be up to three times higher, depending on the forces of supply and demand. ("Co-op" in Soviet terminology means: a private business enterprise.) (3) The market price — the going price in an open market.

All-day markets operate in specially reserved squares of the larger cities almost every day. (A selection of typical market prices is reproduced below.) (4) The black-market price is the price charged in private transactions for particularly scarce or prohibited goods, such as personal computers, American dollars and — until recently — Bibles. As a rule of thumb, transistors, video-players and cameras sell at 17 times the Australian retail price.



	Riga	Vilnius	Kaunas	Tallinn	Tartu	Leningrad	Novgorod	Pskov	Polotsk	Vitebsk
Beef	6.35	—	—	4.50	—	6.38	4.50	6.00	—	—
Mutton	6.50	—	—	4.50	5.00	5.75	4.00	5.50	4.00	4.50
Pork	6.40	5.00	6.00	4.00	4.50	6.20	4.00	5.00	4.50	4.50
Ham	3.50	5.00	6.00	—	—	5.25	—	3.50	3.50	3.50
Chicken (each)	7.50	6.00	8.00	5.25	5.25	7.50	—	6.00	7.00	5.00
Butter	8.00	—	4.00	—	—	7.30	—	6.50	5.50	7.00
Cheese	3.75	2.00	—	—	—	4.69	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.50
Cream	6.00	6.00	5.00	—	—	6.25	6.00	6.00	3.00	5.50
Eggs (10)	1.90	2.00	1.80	1.50	1.30	2.00	—	1.30	1.40	1.60
Honey	10.00	10.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	9.70	10.00	10.00	8.00	8.50
New potatoes	0.70	0.70	0.50	0.80	0.70	0.67	0.60	0.60	0.50	0.70
Pickled cucumbers	2.15	1.50	2.00	3.00	2.00	3.20	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.80
Garlic	5.25	3.50	3.00	3.70	8.00	6.50	4.00	8.00	3.50	8.00

Time Hasn't Healed This Wound

It is a historical fact that the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression Pact and a series of additional secret protocols paved the way for the Soviet invasion of the Baltic States in 1940. For nearly 50 years the Soviets tried to deny the existence of this secret agreement. Then, a few weeks ago, they reversed their stand.

Valentin Falin, head of the international department of the USSR Communist Party's Central Committee, confirmed for the first time on July 25, 1989, that the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany carved up Eastern Europe in their secret treaty. Speaking on West German television, Mr Falin said there was no doubt that the pact — signed 50 years ago, on August 23, 1939 — contained the controversial addition.

Baltic patriots have pressed Moscow to admit its twisted history by claiming that the Baltic States joined the Soviet Union voluntarily in 1940. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev finally gave in in June and set up a commission to study the Non-aggression Pact. Metropolitan Alexi (Ridiger) of Estonia is a member of this commission.

In the meantime, the authenticity of the Nazi-Soviet agreements has been confirmed by several scholars working independently and by US Senator Jesse Helms, who made extensive checks with the Foreign Office archives of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Historical Background

The Nazi-Soviet Non-aggression Pact — known popularly as the the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact — and its secret supplementary protocol divided Eastern Europe into Nazi and Soviet spheres of influence. The pact was amended by secret protocols signed on September 28, 1939, under which Nazi Germany turned Lithuania over to the Soviet Union, and on January 10, 1941, when the Soviets bought an additional section of Lithuania from Nazi Germany for 7,500,000 gold dollars.

The Soviet Union lost little time in taking advantage of the opportunity presented them by the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Co-ordinating their actions to coincide with the Nazi occupation of France, the Soviet Army invaded and occupied Lithuania on June 15, 1940, Latvia on June 16-17, and Estonia on June 16.



● Nicholas Garland, world-famous cartoonist, visited the Baltic States recently. This drawing sums up his impressions.

One month later, the puppet governments installed in each of these Baltic States asked to be admitted into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. These "applications" were accepted, and all three were incorporated into the Soviet Union: Lithuania on August 3, 1940; Latvia on August 5; and Estonia on August 6.

German Microfilm

A microfilm archive of some of the most sensitive documents in the German Foreign Office, concerning Germany's foreign policy between 1933 and 1944, was captured by Allied troops on May 14, 1945. The documents had been buried in the grounds of a country estate about 20 miles outside of Muehlhausen (Thuringia), Germany, where they had been hidden by Carl von Loesch, an official translator for the Foreign Office, who was acting for the Nazi Government.

Lt-Col Robert Currie Thomson, leader of a British Foreign Office field team, was approached by Mr von Loesch, who wanted to turn over the microfilmed archives to the British.

The documents were examined and it was discovered that the claims which von Loesch had made about the importance of the microfilm archives were true. Among other documents found on the microfilm were the official texts of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its secret protocols.

Two copies were later made of the microfilm, for analysis and safekeeping in Great Britain and the United States. Copies of the microfilms can be found in the Public Records Office in London and in the US National Archives. The original microfilm archive was returned to the German Foreign Office at the end of 1958, and has since been held in the Archives of the German Foreign Office.

Both parties to the agreement obtained what they desired at the time. The Germans were able to prevent the Soviets from joining the Allied powers before the opening of World War II. The Soviets, in return for their co-operation, received permission from the only continental European power that could oppose them — Nazi Germany — to seize certain territories. Soviet expansionist desires were not, as history has shown, limited to the territories referred to in the secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

What Must Be Done Now

To quote Senator Helms, "The best evidence the Soviet Union could offer of *glasnost* would be to restore the independence that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania lost due to these secret protocols."

The West German Government, for its part, must revoke the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and its supplementary protocols.

The Germans must also repay the 7.5 million gold dollars (plus interest) they collected for the helpless Lithuanians' lives on January 10, 1941. This money does not belong to Stalin's heirs — it must be paid to the victims themselves and their heirs.

• The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact was condemned throughout the free world, last month. Another full-day Italian conference, organised by the League for Solidarity with the Baltic people, will be held in Florence on September 28.

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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.

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