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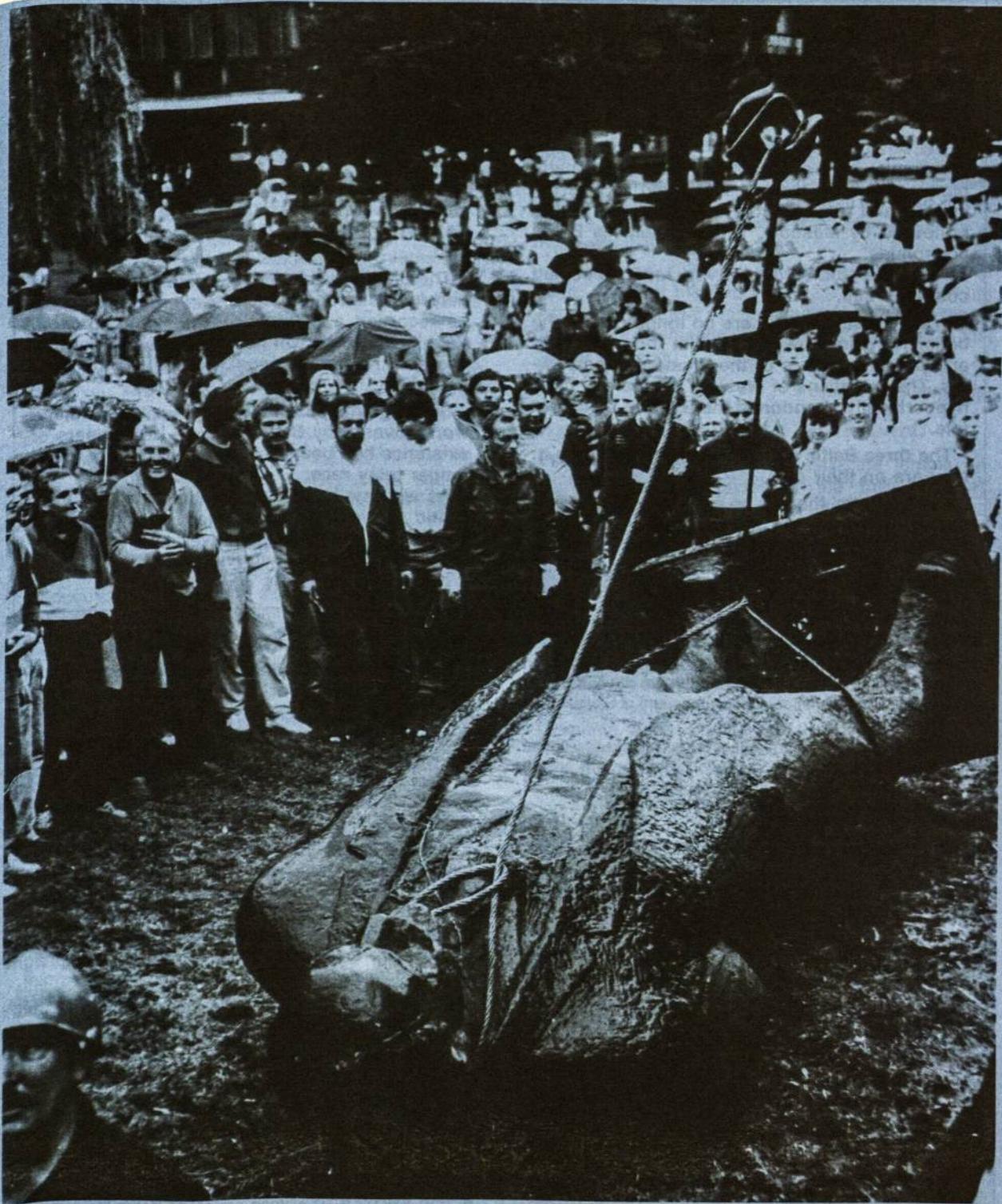
# BALTIC NEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS REPORT FROM ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA (THE BALTIC STATES)  
POST OFFICE BOX 272, SANDY BAY, TASMANIA, 7005 (AUSTRALIA)  
Circulated throughout Australia and 25 countries overseas

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Final Issue

December, 1990



**Down, but Not Out — Editorial, Page 2**

# EDITORIAL

Eastern Europe's communism may be down, but it is certainly not out.

The tearing down of the Berlin Wall has done nothing to reduce the stranglehold Moscow has on the Baltic peoples. An estimated half million Soviet troops, equipped with the latest nuclear and chemical arms, are now stationed in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, ready to obey Moscow's orders. The KGB (Soviet secret police) is very active filming public events, compiling dossiers on Baltic people and infiltrating local organisations.

The Soviets have sealed off all Baltic borders, and have imposed banking and diplomatic blockades on the three Baltic countries. Internal import and export contracts are no longer honoured by Moscow. This destabilises Baltic economies.

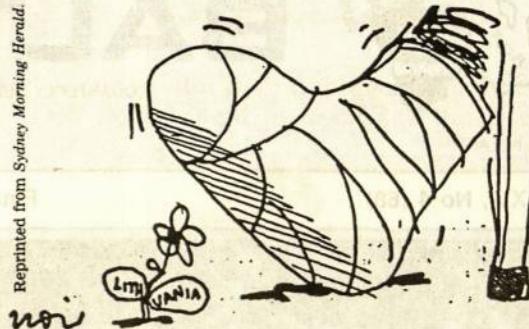
Yes, the Baltic States are very much occupied countries still.

In the West, the reds are no longer under the beds. They are now in bed with the presidents and prime ministers of the Western superpowers. The guardians of Western democracy have hypocritically abandoned the Balts to their own fate.

The three Baltic nations might as well face it: they are on their own.

For the Balts, there is no way back. They came out of their trenches, so to speak, when they declared their desire for independence. Now, they must keep moving ahead towards full independence: economic, social and political.

Reprinted from *Sydney Morning Herald*.



And they must move fast, to survive.

We believe that, in spite of these problems, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will finally re-establish themselves as self-governing European states. However, the road to freedom may be longer and more difficult than it seemed at first.

The Baltic media will have an important part to play in this struggle. Historic events will have to be recorded and injustices must be exposed. People who care will need to be kept informed and the indifferent ones will have to be converted.

Seen against this challenging background, the work covered by *Baltic News* in its 16 years of existence has been only the first lap in a much longer relay race.

As we now hand over the baton to the other Baltic periodicals published at home and abroad, we wish them perseverance, the best of luck — and the ultimate victory.

**FREEDOM FOR THE BALTIC STATES!**

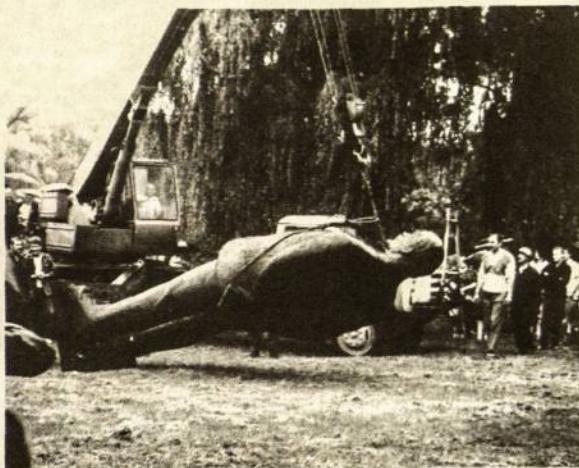
## From Page 1:

**Cover Photo:** On July 12, Lenin's statue was removed from a central position in Vienybés Square, in the city of Kaunas, Lithuania. It will find shelter in a new museum of Stalinism, to be established soon.

The Soviet occupation authorities were displeased with the Lithuanians' action. Armed occupation soldiers were posted to guard the remaining monuments of Lenin and other Soviet dignitaries around the clock in Vilnius and in provincial centres.

Red symbols may be down, but not the Red power.

Photos: Visvaldas Sidlauskas.



## Gulf Double-Talk

Soviet President Gorbachev has been campaigning, for several weeks now, for a peaceful solution of the Persian Gulf crisis.

At the same time, Iraqi combat forces continue to be trained inside the Soviet Union. For example, a group of Iraqi officers and sailors — sufficient to crew two small missile ships — are now being instructed at Bolderaja, just north of Riga in Soviet-occupied Latvia.

On September 13, the Latvian Parliament's Presidium condemned the use of Bolderaja facilities for the training of Iraqis. The Latvian Parliament demanded that Moscow withdraw all Iraqi soldiers from the Latvian territory and that in the future the Latvian government be consulted prior to similar foreign military incursions.

In reply the Kremlin told the Latvians that the Iraqi training program will not be interrupted.

— Source: ALA, Martins Zvaners. Phone US (301) 340 8174.

## News in Brief

● **DEARER FOOD:** Food prices in Estonia jumped steeply on October 15, after the Estonian Supreme Soviet (parliament) eliminated most government subsidies for meat, dairy and bread products.

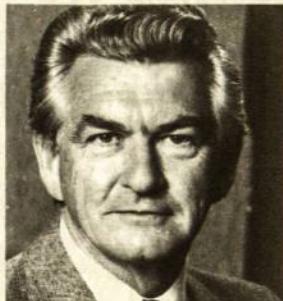
● **TOP SHOT:** KGB woman employee Katya Mayova has been named this year's Miss KGB. She was chosen for her top performances in dancing, cooking and shooting.

# Farewell Messages to Baltic News

This is the final issue of *Baltic News*. We thank our well wishers who wrote and commented on this newsletter's achievements. Extracts from some letters are reproduced below; a few others are on Page 7.

## From the Prime Minister:

It is a pleasure, though tinged with a sense of loss, to send greetings to members and friends of the Baltic community on the occasion of the final edition of *Baltic News*.



Australia has recognised for many years the right of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to exist as independent states. Like many other Western governments, Australia has refused to accept in international law their incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940, rejecting self-proclaimed Soviet sovereignty over them.

I am heartened by prospects of negotiations between Moscow and the Baltic States, and I hope that these will lead to a settlement that will meet the aspirations of the Baltic peoples to achieve economic and political independence. I look forward to a just and peaceful resolution of this long-standing issue.

Although *Baltic News* is ceasing publication, this decision ought to be seen in a positive light as reflecting the vastly changed circumstances in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

I congratulate the group of volunteer staff who have given so much of their time over many years to produce *Baltic News* each quarter. I am sure they will feel very pleased with the sense of a job well done.

**R. J. L. HAWKE,**  
Prime Minister of Australia.

## From the Leader of the Opposition:



The final edition of *Baltic News* is a sad occasion for all those associated with it. But it is also an occasion which justifies a sense of fulfilment in a job well done.

It is sad, of course, that after sixteen years of regular publication by unpaid volunteers, we are now reading the last edition of *Baltic News*. But the paper has achieved an important purpose and played a valuable community role in informing so many people about developments in the Baltic States.

We hope that the momentum towards political independence can build in an orderly and peaceful way and that it will be the basis for expanding economic opportunities for the people of the Baltic States.

The members of Australia's Baltic community have contributed significantly to Australian society. They have promoted their own cultural and historic traditions within the framework of an overriding and unifying commitment to Australia.

*Baltic News* has played a valuable role in that achievement.

**Dr John HEWSON, MP.**

## From the Premier of Tasmania:

The Tasmanian Government notes with regret the final edition of *Baltic News* in Tasmania.

Over many years, *Baltic News* has provided the community with independent articles on events in the Baltic region.



The paper has been a source of information drawn from not only international news agencies but also from eye witness reports from residents of and visitors to the Baltic region. As such, it has given a most valuable service to this community.

As Premier, I thank the editors and publishers of *Baltic News* for their work over the years and I share with them optimism for the future of the Baltic region given the fundamental changes now occurring in that part of the world.

**Michael FIELD,**  
Premier of Tasmania.

## From the Archbishop of Hobart:



Please God the terrible decades of the Baltic peoples' sufferings are ending.

During my years at Melbourne University, then as Bishop of Sale and now as Archbishop of Hobart, I have received and read *Baltic News*. On every single reading, without exception, I have been deeply moved, and often found myself in tears.

I have known many Lithuanians in Victoria and Tasmania, and a number of Latvians and Estonians. They have amazed me by their acute awareness of the sufferings of their people back on the Baltic, yet efficiently and successfully growing into Australian life.

Despite all, they made me marvel at their certainty of being in the sure hand of God. May His Providence lead these noble people into times of peace and freedom; and may He keep them faithful and generous always.

**+ Eric D'ARCY,**  
Archbishop of Hobart.

## Last Chance

This is your last opportunity to obtain a set of all *Baltic News* published from 1985 to June 1990; or a complete set of all 68 issues, 1975-1990.

*Baltic News* will be a great source of knowledge for you and your children in the years to come. Act quickly, as the number of full sets is limited.

Please mail your request to the centre nearest you and enclose a donation to cover the forwarding costs: BALTIC NEWS, PO Box 272, SANDY BAY, Tasmania 7005, Australia; or BALTIC NEWS, PO Box 118 CHELSEA, Victoria 3196, Australia.



## The Great Challenge Ahead

by Harry G. Gelber\*

The passing of *Baltic News* is an occasion for very mixed feelings. On the one hand, that passing comes at the end of a particularly rigorous and brutal period of Soviet Russian imperial power, one that imposed great suffering on the peoples of the Baltic States as well as on the inhabitants of other "Soviet republics".

That historic turning point in European and world affairs, caused by the collapse alike of Soviet capabilities and Soviet will, clearly ushers in a period of great hope and opportunity, but also of some new dangers.

On the other hand, the retreat of the Soviet Empire cannot but leave the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe — Poles and Czechs no less than the peoples of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — with problems at least some of which are dauntingly reminiscent of those they have faced throughout modern history and all of which are difficult and complex.

How not merely to achieve independence but how to maintain it, how to balance major powers like Germany and Russia, how to make very real Western sympathy into effective political and strategic assets, these have always been very difficult questions. They become no less difficult in a period when developments in technology, communications and, not least, economic and financial flows, make it increasingly hard for small states to be "independently" viable, to have, and maintain, control of "their own" economic affairs.

It is simply no longer clear that the nation state, however passionately supported as the embodiment of separate and independent cultural traditions, or of hopes and aspirations of various kinds, can any longer or in every respect be the party principal in economic or technological or communications affairs; or even that small states can have much freedom of political action in the post-Cold War world.

It is, of course, not yet clear even that the Baltic States will achieve full political independence from the Empire which had engulfed them. The present uneasy situation remains to be resolved.

However, it is undoubtedly also true that the Baltic States have made notable contributions not just to European culture but to the politics, the sciences and economies of Germany, Poland, Russia. They have supplied statesmen, soldiers, writers and artists whose works have had impact far beyond the borders of their own countries. They have kept faith in their own separate traditions in spite of great suffering and oppression. They can count on sympathy, and on some help, from many parts of the European and Atlantic world.

What seems certain is that whatever the political and economic future of these small nations, it will call for at least as much patience and fortitude, willingness to confront hard and difficult choices, and unremitting toil as has any period of their past, often turbulent history. Their friends everywhere will wish them good fortune in facing the huge difficulties of restoration and revival.

Insofar as *Baltic News* may in its own small way have kept determination and hope alive during the worst of times, even in a far corner of the world, it has been a job well done.

● Photo above: Environmental pollution was one of the issues the Baltic people used in their early demonstrations against the Soviet rule. This picture was taken during the "Baltic Embrace" on September 1, 1988, when thousands of concerned Balts assembled on the shores of the Baltic Sea to protest.

\* Professor Harry G. Gelber, MA (Camb), PhD (Monash) is Professor of Political Science at the University of Tasmania.

# Baltic News: An Assessment

by Tom McGlynn\*

When *Baltic News*' 10th anniversary issue was published in March 1985, it was inconceivable that by 1990 millions around the planet would be familiar with the televised images of a popularly elected non-Communist Baltic President and Prime Minister.

Equally improbably, discussions about Baltic autonomy are now proceeding with a General-Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union who may be the last occupant of that position.

Despite certain obvious dangers, current expectations are that most of the captive nations of post-1944 Europe will march, or stagger, over coming decades towards a market economy, the rule of law and constitutional pluralism. Authentic national histories may also be anticipated, published in independent East European nations with autonomous universities.

## Battle Against Forgetting

Milan Kundera has observed from exile that the battle of a people against overwhelming power is the battle of memory against forgetting. In the 50-year struggle against Soviet imperialism the fight to preserve human memory has also involved countering monstrous lies, not all of them Soviet.

NKVD archives should furnish copious primary data for future Baltic historiographers of our epoch. However, the literary and propaganda output of the post-1940 Baltic diaspora — of which *Baltic News* is a distinguished example — will likewise form a valuable element in the public records of the Baltic peoples, both in the homelands under occupation and in exile and emigration.

While at home tens of thousands were murdered and millions silenced by Stalinism, the exiled communities strove to preserve the memory of Soviet crimes and of the 'sunlit interlude' of sovereignty and independence between the wars.

On 23rd August 1989, when fifty years of suffering at the whim of Hitler and Stalin were commemorated in a two million strong human chain stretching from Vilnius to Tallinn via Riga, the planet sat up and took notice.

## Another Chain

Before and since that event, *Baltic News* has also been creating a human chain by adding its specific contribution to Baltic and world memory. Starting soon

Tom McGlynn studied East European history at London, Vienna and Bucharest universities. A specialist on Roumania, he has visited every East European republic apart from Albania and has published on several of them. In 1975 he successfully sued Mr Whitlam for defamation and for slandering the Baltic States for having allegedly been Fascist.



after Edward G. Whitlam's lamentable recognition blunder of 1974, *Baltic News* expanded to attain a worldwide reputation for content and objectivity. Many contributors, donors and helpers were involved, while judicious editorial policies guaranteed stringent verification of material published. *Baltic News*, accordingly, was widely cited.

The status of many contributors of articles and reviews from academia, particularly the University of Tasmania, enhanced *Baltic News*' reputation. The principal foundation of the magazine's success and endurance, however, has been the dedication of its volunteer editorial staff.

In bidding farewell to *Baltic News*, all readers salute, therefore, a host of contributors of whom, sadly, many did not live to see the first signs of the thaw. I think with sorrow of my friend Paul Lanno of Perth in this regard.

We also acknowledge a significant contribution towards preserving memory against the worst efforts of brute power to make us forget. *Baltic News* may now be ceasing publication, but the memory will live on in the human chain created over the years 1975-1990.

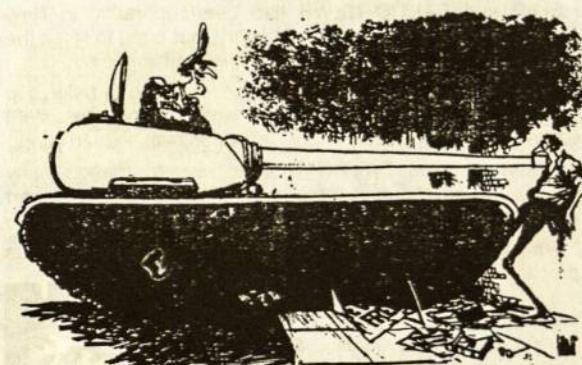
## News in Brief

● **SUPPORT:** The Baltic independence cause received strong support from Nordic delegates at the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly. Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen told the UN delegates on September 26 that Denmark supports the efforts of the Baltic republics to give "real content to their formal independence."

Speaking to the General Assembly on September 24, Iceland's Foreign Minister Jon Hannibalsson said independence was the only solution to the dispute between Moscow and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. "Military occupation and annexation cannot be allowed to change this fact," he said.

● **JEWISH EXODUS:** Some 3,000 Jews will leave Lithuania for the West this year, according to the Lithuanian weekly *Gimtasis Kraštas*. Considering that only 10,000 Jews reside in Lithuania now, a mere handful may be left in 3-4 years. "It is not Lithuania's fault that the Jews are leaving," says Grigorijus Kanovicus, writer and chairman of the Lithuanian-Jewish Cultural Association. "During the last 30 years the Soviet empire has done everything to deprive the Jews of any confidence in the future. The Jews are being accused of everything . . . (because) Russia needs scapegoats."

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:** We are indebted to the following sources for the news published in this issue: ELTA, The Independent Estonian, Keston New Service, *Europos Lietuvis*, ALA, Jurga Baltrukonyte, *Respublika*, USSR News Brief, Lithuanian Information Center.



"If you have any complaints, just speak into the opening."

*This cartoon was first published in BALTIC NEWS on May 5, 1975 and is still topical today.*

# Many Hands Make Light Work

Over the years, literally hundreds of volunteers have helped Baltic News in so many ways: writing, editing, pasting up, wrapping up, distributing, and assisting financially. WE THANK YOU ALL most sincerely; our only regret is that it is impossible to name you individually.

The pictures on these pages show some of the activities needed to produce *Baltic News*. From its inception in 1975, this newsletter has been edited and printed in Tasmania. However, as the number of readers grew (from 75 in March 1975 to 9,000 now), four distribution points were established in Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Hobart. The decentralised system has worked very well, thanks to the devotion of our representatives in those centres: Albinas Giniūnas, Mrs Giedré Kaladé, Mrs Gražina Katauskas and Joe Paškevičius. Many thanks for a job well done!



• From left: Patricia and Al Taškūnas (editor), John Watchorn (chairman of the publishers, Baltic Research Foundation), Eris Smyth (secretary of BRF).



• Part of the "pasting-up group." Seated, from left, Genovaitė Kazokas, Kris Orro-Terts, Vytas Eskirtas, Loreta Eskirtas. Back row, from left, Al Taškūnas, Steve Smyth (treasurer), Dr Kalev Kruup.



• Three of many *Baltic News* stalwarts (from left): Alex Kantvilas, Dr Jan Pakulski, Joan Watchorn.



• The computer programs for central circulation of *Baltic News* were written and initially maintained by Simon Greener (left). His work was later continued by James Coleman (photo not available), Ervins Miezitis (centre) and John Miezitis (right). Interstate, our mailing centres were helped by Dr Algis Kabaila and other volunteers.

## Bulwark of Democracy

Small publications are part of the very stuff of democracy. The press often pretends to the role of guardian of the truth and enemy of corruption. Media defenders point to investigative journalism such as led to the Watergate revelations as an instance of the media's true and necessary role.

Unfortunately, as we all know, the media can come to be dominated by cliques of image-makers whose consensus as to what is important in society is regarded as sacred dogma, containing all that is needed to be eligible for election to *Hall of Approved People*.

There have been famous cases of it long before this, notably the deliberate silence of the Western media on the Ukrainian famine of 1932-3, or the blanket of sepulchral silence that enveloped a quarter of a million corpses of Cossacks, Yugoslavs and White Russians, in 1945, forcibly repatriated into Communist hands by the Western powers.

When the Whitlam Government in 1974 gave *de jure* recognition to Stalin's invasion of the Baltic States thirty years before, the Australian media's performance was to remain silent, and even approve this "reasonable, wise, pragmatic step".... To this day, New Zealand retains that odious stance. Will its new government decide to do something about it?

It is the pressure of moral indignation at crimes against humanity that drives smaller, independent publications, which are often amateur, struggling, even one-man/woman-band productions, to fight on — so that the prevailing dogmas can be challenged and even overthrown. They create a grassroots climate of opinion that is essential for a political decision to form at a higher level.

I wonder if Malcolm Fraser would have found it easy to withdraw recognition of Soviet hegemony in the Baltic if HELLP had not produced *BALTIC NEWS* regularly?

I wonder if Sir Robert Muldoon might not have reversed Norman Kirk's copycat *de jure* recognition in New Zealand if HELLP and *BALTIC NEWS* had been operating in New Zealand. These are the "ifs" of history, but even to raise the question confirms the role of the small publication.

*BALTIC NEWS*, I salute you for never failing to believe in the justice of your cause and the worth of your persistent battle against apparently impossible odds over sixteen years.

When I salute *BALTIC NEWS* I salute many, many volunteers, contributors, researchers, distributors in Hobart especially, but elsewhere, too.

Above all, I salute the Editors whose love of freedom was practical, positive and never despairing.

**Greg F. Jordan.**

Rev Fr Greg F. Jordan, SJ, BA, is Vice-President and former President of Friends of the Prisoners, an Australia-wide ecumenical group caring for Soviet prisoners of conscience. Since 1980, the Friends have played an important part in publicising the Baltic prisoners' plight in Soviet gulags.



# More Tributes to Baltic News

## Congratulations

I have just read the September issue of *Baltic News* in which you announce the imminent cessation of publication. I am writing to thank you for sending me *Baltic News* and to congratulate you and rejoice with you in a sense of mission accomplished.

Every blessing for the future.

+ W. BRENNAN,  
Bishop of Wagga Wagga

## Oldest in the World

Your Board's decision to cease publication is a landmark in our post-war history. Accolades are due to you for your work and successes. The *Baltic News*, the oldest such publication in the world, served as a model for many Baltic newsletters that followed.

Your information sources and willingness to cooperate were personally appreciated by me as former editor of the *Baltic Bulletin (USA)* and *Latvian News Digest*.

Agris PAVLOVSKIS,  
Vice-President (Public Information),  
American Latvian Association in the US

## Accomplished

You say that it is with a sense of "mission accomplished" that the *Baltic News* will cease publication.

This certainly is true and you are to be congratulated for keeping both fact and principle constantly before the eyes of both public and decision makers.

Senator Brian HARRADINE,  
Hobart, Tas.

## Will Be Missed

How very sorry I am that *Baltic News* must fold up. I shall miss the publication.

I'm enclosing a cheque to help in a "wee bittie" — as we Scots would say.

May God bless you and yours and your dear Baltic folk.

"QUEEN" (Miss I. W. King),  
East Brighton, Vic

## Flame of Freedom

I read with some surprise that *Baltic News* is to cease publication and expect your decision was made with very mixed feelings. However, no-one can seriously doubt that you have helped keep the flame of freedom burning for those suffering under the yoke of Soviet imperialism.

Chris POWNALL,  
Editor, *The Dove*.

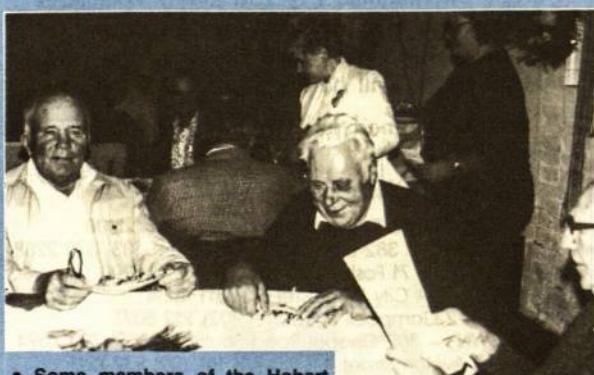


• In Sydney, Albinas Giniūnas (Baltic News administrator for NSW, right foreground) has been helped by some 25 volunteers in the quarterly despatches of *Baltic News*. In this picture, front row from left: O. Karkauskienė, I. Daniškevičienė, Z. Cilvinienė, J. Muščinskienė. Second row: P. Doneliénė, A. Brunkienė, A. Savickienė, E. Giniūnienė, A. Mikutavičienė. Background: Mrs E. Lipacis, N. Kapins, M. Roots, A. Looberg, N. Linsi, L. Loover.

— Photo: B. Genys.



• The Melbourne circulation team included (from left): Jonas Šeštokas, Giedré Kaladé (Baltic News administrator for Victoria), Valerija Šeštokienė, Antanas Kaladé, Andra Miglis, Claire and Bruce King.



• Some members of the Hobart mailing team in action, under the watchful eye of circulation manager Joe Paškevičius (left).  
— Photo: A. Kantvilas.



• Another consignment of *Baltic News* on its way: Circulation manager Joe Paškevičius (left) and his predecessor Dr Kalev Krupp hand over the September issue to Mick Wildbone (right), at Sandy Bay Post Office.

## Informative

Sorry to hear you are ceasing production. I have been a reader and supporter of your magazine for some years now and have always found it to be informative.

I thank you for the effort you have put into keeping us ignorant Australians informed.

Neil MURRAY,  
Hazelwood Park, SA.



• The type-setting of *Baltic News* was pioneered by Barbara Tweedie (photo not available). This task was later taken over commercially by *The (Hobart) Mercury*. Shown working on the final issue are, from left, Tony Cook and Bruce McGuinness.

## At the Pearly Gates

A printer stood at the Pearly Gate,

His face was wan and old.

Meekly he asked St. Peter

For admission to the fold.

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,

"To seek admission here?"

"I printed 'Baltic News' on earth,

For many, many a year".

The gates swung sharply open

As St. Peter touched the bell.

"Come in," he said, "and take a harp,

You've had enough of Hell."

— Adapted from *Annals Australia*.



Staff at The Print Centre. Proud to have been involved with *Baltic News*



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## Our Common Language

by John W. Doyle

Immigrants should certainly be encouraged to use and promote their own national languages. At the same time, it is not unfair of us native English speakers to ask them to learn our language and make it their own. English is the language of the community to which immigrants now belong.

The cohesion and stability of a community depend very much on the way all its members speak and write their common language. The future of Australia depends on how well we all use English. New arrivals and long settled alike must see to it that we establish a standard Australian speech we can all follow easily without having to be translating all the time."

Mention of English-language Baltic periodicals in the September issue of *Baltic News* prompts me to make a plea I hope will not be misunderstood: it does not refer to any particular book or magazine.

My earnest plea is that material to appear in English should be translated or rewritten in such a way that the book or paragraph will seem to English-speakers to have been written in English and not translated. Like a strange pronunciation, unEnglish is a barrier to communication and to communion.

\* The most practical help I know is Mrs Joan Tucker's *English Pronunciation: A Practical Aid*, available only from the author, 21 York St, Sandy Bay, 7005. Price \$12.50, plus postage (about \$3 per copy).

Rev Fr John W. Doyle, SJ, BA, MACE, is Assistant Principal and Dean of Studies at St John Fisher College, University of Tasmania. For the past seven years, he has also been Honorary Sub-Editor of *Baltic News*.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT

- SADŪNAITÉ, Nijolé, *Song in Siberia*. Sutton, Surrey: ACN, 1988 (This book is available from *Baltic News*, at the special price of \$3 plus \$2.50 forwarding charges).

*Send for our complete book list.*

BALTIC NEWS,  
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# Sovereign State or Hostile Captive?

By Vytautas Landsbergis\*

There's no shortage of advice for solving the Lithuanian question these days. But to solve the problem, one has to understand it.

The latest trend, in both Soviet and Western circles, is to urge "a fair and objective" way out of the stalemate for all parties concerned — the Soviet Union, Lithuania and the Western governments, who are under public pressure to support our drive for independence. However, some of the solutions offered are neither fair nor objective.

Lithuania is not seeking to establish independence, it is working to restore an independent state that has been legally suppressed by a foreign power and its army. It is not calling for secession from the Soviet Union because it never legally joined the Soviet Union. This is not just a legal nicety but the basic and non-negotiable premise of our March 11 declaration of independence.

Membership of the USSR had been forced on the Baltic states by the notorious Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, a pact which the Congress of People's Deputies of the Soviet Union had itself recognised to be invalid last December.

If the Soviet Union enjoyed a system of checks and balances similar to the US system, then a "Soviet Supreme Court" would approve the restoration of independence in the Baltic States because their



● Vytautas Landsbergis

Photo: A. Žiliūnas.

forcible incorporation contradicts the "voluntary union" clause of the Soviet Constitution and not permit the retroactive application of a punitive law.

But that is precisely what the USSR Congress of People's Deputies has tried to do by declaring our March 11 vote invalid because it contradicted a secession law that did not even exist at the time.

We have no illusions about our economic dependence on Moscow. But we find it hard to understand why in this day and age, a master-slave relationship should continue or even be encouraged — surprisingly enough, by some Western friends — as the solution to the problem?

Our elections of February 24 were democratic and legitimate. Pro-independence candidates proposed by Sajudis swept the elections under the campaign slogan of democracy and independence for Lithuania. The breakaway Lithuanian Communist Party leadership still spoke ambiguously of Lithuanian sovereignty "within the U.S.S.R."

In addition to elections, the will of the Lithuanian people has been expressed many times at mass demonstrations and in at least two major petition drives. In 1988, 1.8 million out of a population of 3.5 million rejected Soviet constitutional amendments that restricted the republic's sovereign rights. In 1989, 1.8 million called for the renunciation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Lithuania.

If the military takes over the parliament and imposes martial law, if Gorbachev attempts to keep Lithuania in the Soviet fold as a hostile captive, we will all lose.

But if Gorbachev extends democracy to his own back yard and recognizes the democratically elected government of neighbouring Lithuania, if he presides over the peaceful dissolution of the last living empire on this Earth, if he deals with us as equal, friendly partners, we will all benefit. And he would go down in history as a great man.

Our vote for freedom is forcing Moscow to take a stand — for democracy or for preservation of the holy Soviet empire.

Condensed from the translation by Gintė Damušis, Lithuanian Information Center. The full text was originally published in *Vytis*.

## Strange Choice

Earlier this year, Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis was nominated for the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize by the office of the US Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee, at the initiative of Senator Jesse Helms. The nomination stressed that Dr Landsbergis always insisted on peaceful solutions of problems.

When Mr Gorbachev sent additional troops into Lithuania this year, Dr Landsbergis sought a peaceful dialogue with Moscow. When Mr Gorbachev imposed a total blockade on Lithuania, Dr Landsbergis appealed to his people to remain calm and help each other. And so on.

Ironically, the Nobel prize was awarded not to Landsbergis, but to Gorbachev.

This is how well-known Australian cartoonist Tanner reacted to the Nobel committee's choice:



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Postal Dilemma

Since the declarations of independence of the Baltic States, a problem has arisen regarding how to address letters and parcels to our home countries.

I think that the names should be Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania, without SSR and without mentioning USSR at all. Possibly the French name could be added in case Moscow mailmen pretend not to understand English.

Also, could we organise from here that mail goes directly to our countries, rather than through Moscow? The large number of articles stolen at Moscow should be a good reason by itself.

The USSR is in no position to argue, after owing 100 million dollars to Australian woolgrowers.

Adelaide, SA.

A. VIGNERS

**REPLY:** Australia Post acts on information supplied by the Universal Postal Union which in turn relays information to and from member nations.

There has been no recent change

to the information in respect of the Baltic countries; that is, they are still listed for postal purposes under the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with identical conditions, restrictions and prohibitions.

We would, of course, act to pass on any changes to addressing or other conditions advised by recipient nations.

W. P. RAE, Tasmanian State Manager, Australia Post.

## Staunch Supporters

The Baltic Women's Association of Adelaide have always been staunch supporters of the *Baltic News*.

Some 10 years ago we even packaged them and sent them out from here. We also have many faithful people who, through our efforts, have supported the *News*. We all will be sad not to receive the little paper any more.

(Mrs) V. SCHEUCHER,  
Secretary, The Baltic Women's Association of South Australia.

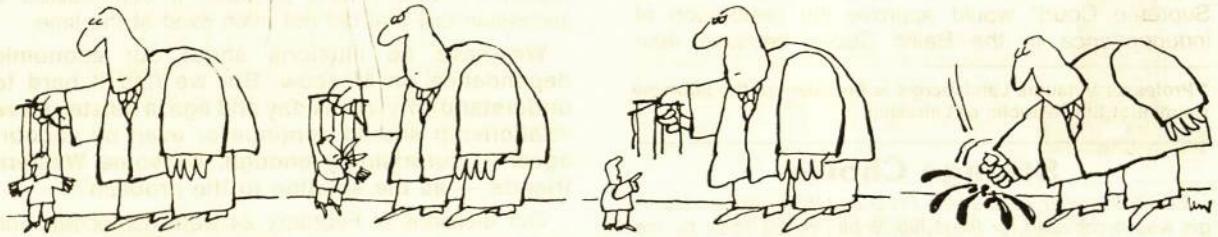
## Sincere Thanks

On behalf of the Hon Darius Kuolys, the Minister for Culture and Education of Lithuania, I wish to express our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to the following Ministers of Education: the Hon Peter Patmore of Tasmania, Paul Braddy of Queensland, Tom Harris of the Northern Territory, Greg Crammer of South Australia and Federal Minister John Dawkins who so generously responded to the plea for educational resources for the schools in Lithuania.

We are also encouraged by the response of Ministers who so kindly agreed to circulate the lists of Lithuanian schools, teachers of English and students wishing to correspond with people in Australia.

Isolda I. POŽELAITĖ - DAVIS,  
President, Education Council of the Australian Lithuanian Community.

— Cartoon (below) reprinted from *Amnesty International Australian Newsletter*.



## Many Thanks

We thank our readers for the following donations, received since the September 1990 issue of *Baltic News*:

**Vic:** Federation of Latvian organisations in Vic, \$450; Q. King, \$200; J. L. Lukaitis, LKVS Ramove (Vic), \$50 each; M. O'Leary, \$25; V. Pinnis, Z. Stills, \$20 each; Dr Niteckis, Dr A. Vernieks, \$15 each; Anonymous, \$13; A. Anderson, M. Kucers, N. Neiburgs, K. Turnbull-Svinne, E. Vainags, \$10 each; G. Adamsons, A. Balodis, D. Cirulis, A. Hochbergs, Z. Jokubaitis, A. Jurjans, A. Liepins, J. Miglis, K. Miglis, P. Miglis, M. Mitrevics, L. Nobelius, M. Putra, E. Siedurs, N. Vairogs, A. Vanadzins, \$5 each; E. Eglite, \$4; Z. Pranckunas, \$2. **Sub-total \$994.**

**NSW and ACT:** N. N., G. Kaladiene, \$100 each; Sydney Lithuanian Pensioners' Assoc, \$50; Mrs S. Zablockis, \$25; A. Jakstas, E. Laurinaitiene, P. Penkaitiene, B. Roser, M. Statkine, \$20 each; A. Ancans, V. Gaidzonis, V. Kardelis, Mrs C. Protas, M. Vaskeviciene, \$10 each; V. Miezis, \$3. **Sub-total \$428.**

**Various:** Daugavas Vanagi Inc (V), \$600; Australian Latvian Information Centre (SA), \$500; The Latvian Relief Society of Australia, "Daugavas Vanagi," \$250; I. W. King (V), \$200; The Baltic

Women's Association of Australia (SA), D. P. Cullen (WA), D. Putvinas (NSW), \$100 each; "Paguoda" Lithuanian Pensioners ACT Group, \$76; anonymous (SA), anonymous (V), Senator B. Harradine (T), Latvian Relief Society (ACT), J. Lukaitis (V), N. Murray (SA), A. Reinfelds (V), N. Salkunas (V), \$50 each; Latvian Relief Society of Queensland, Lithuanian Community of Sale (V), \$40 each; E. Eskirtas (V), A. Holberg (Canada), G. Tomkins (Q), \$30 each; A. Bogins (V), L. and D. Dragunaits (Q), C. Ford (NSW), E. J. Galloway (NSW), E. Kuplis (T), O. Öllino (SA), \$25 each; A. Brugzulis (NSW), B. Byrne (V), A. Clancy (V), R. Heussler (NSW), M. Keown (V), J. Madigan (V), L. Murphy (Q), R. Pound (V), B. Prasmutas (V), J. Prendergast (V), \$20 each; anonymous (T), \$18; A. Urnevicius (SA), \$15; anonymous (T), anonymous (V), F. Auld (T), R. Bajoriuniene (SA), M. Birss (V), M. Birze (NSW), L. Bonbam (V), Mr and Mrs I. Croft (NZ), G. and K. Hassall (V), E. Matiukas (SA), V. Navickas (T), G. O'Callaghan (T), A. Pitts (Q), H. Ramma (V), P. and C. Sahagian (USA), J. Surjan (V), \$10 each; B. Dzenovskis (Q), A. Hager (NSW), I. Levele (Q), L. Trestrail (SA), M. Trus (T), \$5 each. **Sub-total \$3,064.**

**Total donations \$4,486.**

Some further donations are likely to arrive after the issue has gone to the printers. We apologise to such donors that their names will miss this page, but their support is very much appreciated, nonetheless.

### We thank you very much!

Two other periodicals will continue to be published in Tasmania: The Dove and Lithuanian Papers.

The DOVE is sent free to members of Friends of the Prisoners, an ecumenical Christian society that cares for the Soviet prisoners of conscience. Its address is: Friends of the Prisoners, PO Box 12, Sandy Bay, Tas 7005.

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— Charles Meynell, Editor  
Eastern Europe Newsletter, London

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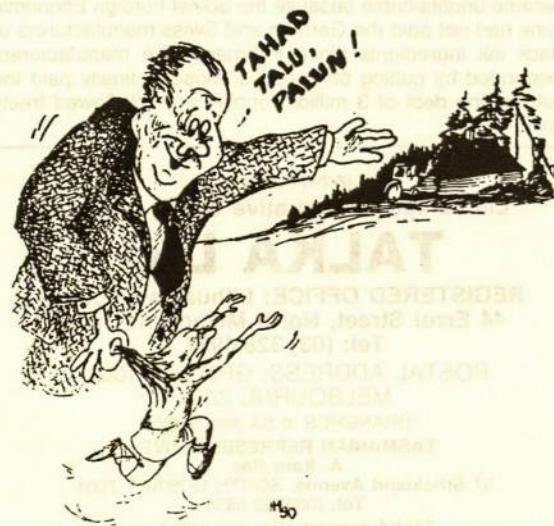
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#### HOLDING BACK THE RUSH:

"You want a farm? Be my guest!"

From Maaleht (Rural Paper), May 3, 1990.

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# Baltic States' Economic Future

Have 50 years of communist rule destroyed the Balts' productive power and ability to survive as independent entities? William Hough, an attorney specialising in international law, calls this idea "absolutely ridiculous."

Were the Baltic states to disunite from the Soviet Union, Hough believes, they would suffer some short-term dislocation, as they did at the end of World War I, but would quickly recuperate.

The parallels between the interwar period and the situation today are fascinating. The Baltic states emerged from WWI independent, but economically destroyed. Yet they quickly redeveloped by drawing on their farming and trading heritage and creating an export economy based on agricultural products.

They specialised in poultry, dairy products and meat. New types of cattle were brought in to improve milk production, and dairy co-operatives were set up on the Danish model. Germany and Britain became the Baltic states' major export markets.

## Productive

Hough says that Lithuania became the most fertile and productive agricultural state in Europe, producing 110% of the food products necessary for feeding its population; 89% of its rural population became landowners.

By 1939 Estonia and Latvia had a standard of living on a par with Finland; Lithuania was only a little behind. Were it not for the totalitarian treachery of the Hitler-Stalin pact, the Baltic states would today probably be on a par with Scandinavia.

Latvia, Hough notes, is the most industrialised republic of the Soviet Union, and is a major supplier of railroad cars and electronic goods. Estonia has huge



● Colonial inspection: Soviet chief Mikhail Gorbachev and wife examine knitwear fashions in Tallinn, Estonia, in February 1987. Since then, the Estonians and their Baltic neighbours have decided to stand on their own feet, politically and economically. — TASS from Sovfoto.

shale-oil mines; its largest export to the rest of the Soviet Union is energy. Lithuania has a large nuclear power plant. Unlike the Soviet Union, all three states are agriculturally self-sufficient.

Situated near the high-wage area of Scandinavia, the Balts could well attract manufacturing investment in search of relatively cheap skilled labour. It is true that these states would face a larger oil import bill without subsidised oil coming from the Soviet Union, but they could start trading agricultural goods to the Middle East in exchange for oil.

Perhaps most important of all, the nationalistic Balts would remember how good things were during their brief years of independence between the two world wars!

— From Spyros Manolatos, "Baltic Separatism — Another View," *Forbes*, February 19, 1990.

## News in Brief

● **NEW CHAIRMAN:** At the third congress of the Latvian Popular Front, held in Riga on October 6 and 7, delegates elected a new chairman, Romualdas Rasukas. The former chairman, Dainis Ivans, was not eligible to seek a third term, according to the movement's statutes.

The election of Mr Rasukas, observers say, is likely to strengthen co-operation between the Popular Front and the non-Soviet Latvian Citizens' Congress. The Congress, elected by citizens of the pre-war Latvian Republic and their descendants, has accused the present Latvian government of not dismantling the old Soviet system fast enough.

● **OUT OF INK:** For the first two weeks of October, all major dailies in Estonia appeared in brown print. Black printing ink became unobtainable because the Soviet Foreign Economic Bank had not paid the German and Swiss manufacturers of black ink ingredients since February. The manufacturers responded by cutting off supplies. Moscow finally paid the outstanding debt of 3 million roubles and ink flowed freely once again.

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