

RESOLUTIONS

Conference of the Delegates of Lithuanian American Societies in the States of New York and New Jersey, held on the 20th day of May, 1945, at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, after a due deliberation of the various reports, voted the following RESOLUTIONS:

1. The War Effort

The Conference expresses its full satisfaction with, and appreciation of, the high patriotic standards and vigorous participation of Lithuanian American organizations in promoting the campaigns for War Bonds, National War Fund, United Lithuanian Relief, and Red Cross, and requests all Lithuanian American Committees to maintain these high standards in the continuing war effort.

2. Treatment of Displaced Populations

The Conference noted, with grief, the reports to the effect that the Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians formerly enslaved in Germany are being rounded up in the areas occupied by Russian troops for deportation into the interior of Russia, and that Baltic citizens liberated by American and Allied troops are being compelled, in some instances at least, to wear a foreign symbol of the red star, are being treated as Russian nationals and surrendered to Russian officials for transportation to Russia against their will. The French Government, in particular, is tolerating a strange privilege for armed Soviet officials to hunt down Lithuanian refugees for transporting them to Soviet-managed concentration camps in France and, eventually, to exit in Russia.

These reports disclose a shameful violation of the right of asylum of the citizens of neutral Baltic States, and of the official policy regarding the treatment of liberated displaced populations as pronounced by the Government of the United States and by the Supreme Allied Command in Europe.

This Conference APPEALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

(a) to re-define in express terms the policy with respect to displaced populations, by SPECIFICALLY directing American military authorities to treat citizens of neutral sovereign republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as freemen to tag no foreign symbols disgraceful to liberated freemen; and not to surrender citizens of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to Russian authorities for a new enslavement and extermination;

(b) to enable the Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia accredited to the Government of this country to DESIGNATE CONSULS TO BE ACCREDITED WITH THE AMERICAN MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN EUROPE, and to direct that passports issued by such Consuls be honored in the AMERICAN zones of occupation;

(c) to direct that dislocated Baltic nationals be removed from the concentration camps, established under the control of Russian NKVD officials in Western Europe, and from French-controlled zones, into the American zones of occupation;

(d) to use good offices with the British and French Governments to follow a similar arrangement; and

(e) to permit the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc., to extend its relief work to citizens of Lithuania and other sister Baltic nations in the areas under the control of the Allied Military Government.

Finally, this Conference appeals to Lithuanian-language press of this country to pool their resources for dispatching a Lithuanian-speaking accredited correspondent to report on the true situation of Lithuanian refugees in liberated Western Europe.

3. Restoration of Freedom

The Conference gratefully recalls the enunciation of the American policy on the right of the Peoples of the Baltic States to political independence in the face of an attempted annihilation of their liberty by one of their more powerful neighbors. More particularly, this Conference recalls the statement of the Department of State dated July 23, 1940, the words of the late President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, to the Lithuanian American Councils delegation at the White House on October 15, 1940, the Atlantic Charter, and the recent reaffirmation of the continuing recognition of the Baltic States.

Delegates at this Conference reiterate their firm belief in the inviolable integrity of the principles of the Atlantic Charter in its original form.

With the war in Europe recently concluded, we presently call upon the Government of the United States to put the promise of the Atlantic Charter, and the promise of the Yalta declaration to liberated European peoples, into operation and effect in the liberated European Baltic countries by making firm representations, backed by American moral leadership and military-economic might, to the following effect:

(a) That the Soviet Union immediately withdraw its military and police forces presently in occupation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia;

(b) That provisional government powers in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia be immediately vested in an Inter-Allied Military Control Commission to be set up with effective participation of the United States and Britain;

(c) That interim civil governments, broadly representative of all democratic elements, be formed in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia under the joint auspices of the United Nations;

(d) That, following the withdrawal of Russian occupational forces and police agencies from the Baltic countries, deported citizens of those countries be repatriated from Siberia and from the liberated European countries under a joint Allied guarantee of their freedom and security;

(e) That free and unfettered elections thereafter be held in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, free from terrorizing influence of the Russian communist agents and from participation of infiltrating Russian settlers, to restore political freedom and democratic self-government of those countries;

(f) That the Governments of the Republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia be granted the recognition of their rights to seek indemnity from Germany and Russia for the damages and destruction caused in the neutral Baltic countries, and to punish both German and Russian war criminals for the atrocities committed by them against the peaceful Baltic peoples and for the violation of neutrality of the Baltic States;

(g) That American press representatives, including the correspondents of the Lithuanian-language press, and agencies of

the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc., be immediately admitted to Lithuania and permitted to extend relief and report true facts free from political foreign censorship;

(h) That American military and naval forces be not weakened by withdrawals in large numbers from Europe, pending the clarification of the political situation provoked by unilateral and arbitrary actions by our former Russian ally in the European war just concluded.

4. International Cooperation

The Conference voices its vigorous objections to an attempt to underwrite in the United Nations International Organization the vetoing power of a prospective aggressor state to military measures in curbing its own aggression, and to the principle among the sovereign states.

The Conference requests that, pending the restoration of democratic self-government in the Baltic States, the Government of the United States move for immediate admission of the Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to participate in the San Francisco Conference.

In view of the trend of affairs in Russian-occupied countries of Europe, this Conference calls upon all American friends of the oppressed voiceless peoples of North-Eastern, Central and Southern Europe to unite in a common bond for the work of completing the liberation of Europe. In particular, Americans of Finnish, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, Czech, Croat, Slovene and Serb extraction should coordinate their joint efforts at bringing the brutal truth about the Russian domination to the attention of fellow Americans not as well informed.

Casimir V. Baltramaitis, Chairman
Joseph Jokubavicius, Secretary

AN OPEN BALTIC—A VITAL BRITISH INTEREST

Of our good and friendly pre-war customers, Soviet Russia... has annexed Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania...

With the extinction of the independence of all the countries from Finland to Poland, we are told that these countries, as part of Russia, will trade with us just as before, and that the volume will be even greater. Experience does not endorse this rosy view.

We cannot live without our export trade, and we cannot export unless we have customers to buy our goods. We shall have lost many of our markets...

The intention of the Soviet Government is undoubtedly to make Russia self-supporting and self-sufficient, and this is possible... We shall be glad of the smallest contribution to our foreign trade. What did the Baltic countries contribute to that?

In 1938, the last year of which statistics are available, the three Baltic States, with a combined population of 6 millions, bought from us goods to the value of four and a half million pounds, while Russia, with a population of 170 millions, bought from us goods to the value of exactly the same amount... These figures show the anxiety of the Baltic States to deal with us, and the lack of such anxiety on the part of Russia.

In the same period the Baltic States sold to us goods to the value of ten million pounds, mostly food, timber, and timber products... The united foreign trade of the Baltic States, Finland and Scandinavia, amounted, in 1938, to 585 million dollars, 72 million dollars more than the foreign trade of all Soviet Russia with

LITHUANIAN ACTIVITIES HERE AND ELSEWHERE

Reports from Lithuanian colonies in other countries indicate that commemorations of Lithuania's Independence Day were numerous.

In CANADA mass meetings were held, both in Toronto and in Montreal. The Toronto meeting was addressed by Professor Kirkanel, mayor of that city, and by Colonel G. Grant-Suttie, Consul-General of Lithuania. At Montreal the mass meeting adopted an appropriate resolution supporting Lithuania's right to independence.

In ARGENTINA special church services, with Rev. Jakaitis, an American of Lithuanian descent, officiating, were held in the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church in Buenos Aires. Representatives of the Baltic States attended the service and participated in a mass meeting which was addressed by Dr. K. Grauzinis, Lithuanian Minister to the Argentine. On the eve of the anniversary, the Center of Lithuanian Liberation issued a statement protesting the Sovietization and national extermination of the people. The statement, which appeared in many Spanish-language papers in the Argentine and in Uruguay, read in part:

1. The "Ostland" created by Nazi Germans as well as the Russian - Bolshevik "Soviet Lithuania" now being created, are equally unacceptable to the Lithuanian nation.

2. The Lithuanian nation under German occupation resisted the policy of enslavement, a fact admitted by the Soviets themselves in publications of their institutions.

3. Today the Lithuanian nation protests and resists the sovietization and extermination of the Lithuanian nation now being carried out by the Bolsheviks. The Lithuanian nation protests against the illegal mobilization of Lithuanians into the Red Army, against the introduction of collective farms, the mass executions of the people and the forced mass deportation of the population of entire towns and villages into the depths of Russia.

4. The Lithuanian nation is united in the struggle for the restoration of Independent Lithuania. Until this can be carried out, she asks that Lithuanian territory be placed under the temporary administration of an international Allied Commission.

In Montevideo, URUGUAY, and in Sao Paulo, BRAZIL, commemorative ceremonies also took place.

In ENGLAND special church services were held at the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Church of St. Casimir in London. The service was attended by the ministers of all three Baltic States. A luncheon was given, and a mass meeting took place later at St. Monica's Hall.

Appropriate celebrations took place also in SCOTLAND, SWEDEN, FRANCE, ITALY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRALIA, and elsewhere.

No word has been received concerning the commemoration of Lithuania's national holiday in the homeland. It is certain

its population of 170 millions, and the trade of these small countries under their own governments could easily be doubled within a dozen years. They would always have a surplus of meat and dairy products, timber and fish. The natural market of all these, economically and geographically, is Great Britain, with the cheap, short sea carriage... (The Weekly Review, London, February 8, 1945.)

LITHS IN THE SERVICE

EDWARD OBERAITIS RETURNS FROM PACIFIC

Edward G. Oberaitis, aviation ordnanceman 2/c, 44 Jones St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa., has returned from a tour of combat duty in the Pacific where he was attached to the Navy's Patrol Bombing Squadron 44.

The famed Catalina "Black Cats" of Squadron 44 plastered Japanese installations in the by-passed islands of the Pacific combat areas for 15 months before returning to the United States for leave and reassignment. The sturdy flying boats piled up more than 1,250,000 miles of flying and covered the last million without the loss of a man or a plane.

For almost a year the "Black Cats" operated from an isolated bulge of coral which once was a main stop-over for enemy barges supplying and reinforcing Japanese troops trapped on Bougainville and Buka in the Northern Solomons. Extermination of this barge traffic was the assigned objective of Squadron 44.

In addition to these harassing missions, the squadron crews flew thousands of hours on shipping and submarine search patrols, convoy and task group coverage, passenger-freight hauls and rescue missions.

LT. RECKUS IS HERO OF STORY

Writer Tells How Lyndwood Marine Died Fighting on New Guinea

Concluding the story of U. S. Marines on Cape Gloucester, New Guinea, as they pressed in a climax for their battle for supremacy in the jungle, as a Bordages, Technical Sergeant, Marine Corps, in the issue of Collier's thrillingly, yet endearingly, writes of his comrades in an important epic of the South Pacific.

Men of the Marines fell and other Marines took over. It was that kind of a fight, men dulled with battle weariness, too dull to think or care, but they hung on. It was this day that an attack on a ridge had been ordered.

"One of the first who discovered the ridge was Dutch Schantz-enbach, of Macungie, Pa., writes Bordages. Then he goes on, "Dutch was 22, but he was one of the veterans, a noncom regular. Now he lay behind a log with bullets drumming on it, lay there with another Pennsylvanian, 1st Lt. William R. Reckus, Hanover Township, Pa.

"Major Dillard came crawling up. The Marines couldn't push forward another foot. But they had to push forward. They had to straighten out the line at this point or the whole position was endangered. It was one of those things. It couldn't be done, but it had to be done. It was up to Lt. Reckus."

"He could have ordered his middle squad forward, of course. He could have stayed behind the log and ordered them to attack; to go forward until the line was straight; but those men were exhausted, the hope drained out of them. It was up to him."

4. "Jurgis Baltrusaitis 1873-1944," article by Antanas Vaičiulaitis in *Books Abroad*, winter, 1945.

5. "Lithuania's Right to Independence," article in the *Michigan Catholic*, February 1, 1945.

6. "Lithuania," article in *Folha Paulista*, Sao Paulo, Brazil, No. 35 and 36, February-March, 1945.

"He heaved a grenade. He stood up. 'Come on Dutch' he said. 'Let's show 'em how the boys from Pennsylvania do it.'"

"Reckus was stepping out. He turned to see if the men were moving up. Maybe Bill Reckus saw the others starting up. Or maybe he was hit too quickly. He fell and Dutch pulled him back behind the log."

"Well, Dutch... It don't look like the boys from Pennsylvania did so good."

"But they'd done all right. The men had seen him fall. They'd seen proof, if they needed it, that no man could go forward until the line was straight."

"A corpsman was dressing the lieutenant's wound. Bill Reckus said, 'Give me the straight dope. How bad am I hurt?'"

"The corpsman tried to tell him he'd be okay. 'Don't kid me,' Bill Reckus replied."

"They dragged in a stretcher and put him on. He said, 'So long Dutch.' A sniper shot at them. Later he died."

Lt. Reckus enlisted August 14, 1940. With the rank of corporal he was sent to the Solomons with the first contingent that landed at Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942. He was wounded in action the following October, received the Purple Heart and a promotion to sergeant. When the Marines were relieved he was transferred to Australia and promoted to first lieutenant.

Lt. Reckus's family has received the Navy Cross which was awarded by the Navy Department after the details of his valor were revealed through official channels.

MASLOWSKI FREED FROM NAZI CAMP

A cablegram received by Mrs. Anna S. Maslowski, 388 West Main street, Plymouth, Penna., from her son, First Lieutenant Edward J. Maslowski, a fighter pilot, gave her the glad news that he has been freed from a German Prisoner of War Camp. Lt. Maslowski bailed out over Reims, France, on May 11, 1914, after his fighter plane had been destroyed by German anti-aircraft fire. He was taken prisoner and confined to Stalag Luft No. 3.

Last January Mrs. Maslowski received a card from her son, reporting that he was being moved from the camp and that was the last she heard from him. The cablegram did not give any details.

Lt. Maslowski has been in service since before Pearl Harbor and was serving with the Eight Air Force in England.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that the Accountants in the following estates have settled their accounts in the Office of the Register of Wills of Luzerne County and that the same will be presented to the Orphans' Court of said County for confirmation nisi on Monday, June 18, 1945 at 10:00 o'clock a. m.

Estate of James B. Whitlock, Emma McKaig and Russell Whitlock, Exrs; David Fowler, Elizabeth Fowler and Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exrs; Thomas A. La-well, Hoyt E. Heller and Miriam I. Heller, Adms; Mary A. Kanopki, Hazleton National Bank, Hazleton, Exr; John Simbalidi, Angelo Volpicelli, Admr; Jessie L. Morgan, Walter L. Morgan, Exr; Jemima M. Law, Miners Savings Bank, Pittston, Trustee; Minnie L. Hoskins, First National Bank, Avoca, Exr; Joseph Mullin, T. J. McLaughlin, Admr; Joseph D. Fluri, Jennie D. Fluri, Admx; J. K. Griffith, Winifred Griffith, Exts; Dora Ellsworth, George S. Wilcox and Coray B. Ransom, Exrs; Annie McCoil, Anna M. Mahoney and Carl Miller, G. Burke, Exrs; Elizabeth Metchnick, Charles Permot, Exr; Nicola Dillallo, Dr. W. J. Kosik, Admr; Millard F. DeMun, Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exr; Stanley Iracki, Joseph Iracki, Admr; Jane McPadden, J. Campbell Collins, Admr; Joseph Pasatola (2 Accounts), Second National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exr, and Trustee.

JOHN SHIVELL, Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court.

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