

INSURRECTION AGAINST THE SOVIETS AT THE BOUNDARIES OF TWO WORLDS

by JUOZAS BRAZAITIS

(The End)

The Execution

The fateful hour arrived on June 22, 1941, with the outbreak of the long expected war. Groups of underground activists immediately began executing their assignments, with the main operations centered in the city of Kaunas.

Around 11 p. m. on June 22 one of these activists details, executing the assignment to interrupt telephone communication, seized the main Russian military telephone exchange in Vilijampolė, a suburb of Kaunas, and the city exchange in the main post office. Immediately the group leader notified the Soviet military commandant that German paratroopers had been dropped in the vicinity of Kaunas. After this intentionally misleading message the military telephone center was demolished and the telephone service in the city was discontinued, thus leaving the Russian troops in the city without telephone communications. Further progress of the insurrection is described as follows by Dr. Adolfas Damušis, one of the officers of the LAF headquarters:

"At 3 a. m. of June 23rd, we gathered at the headquarters, located in the Kaunas home for the aged... and prepared the declaration of the restitution of Lithuanian independence and a short statement which were to be broadcast later that day. In the meantime throughout the night our men were at work in the studios of the Kaunas radio station.

Secretly stored spare parts were collected and delivered to the broadcasting studios by Red Cross ambulances. Then the roads leading to the transmitter were mined by Mr. J. V., an engineer, with his home-made land mines.

At 9 a. m. we were notified that broadcasting could start within a half hour and immediately left for the broadcasting studios. At our destination gate was guarded by a group of activists and we were admitted after an exchange of passwords. The defensive strength of our group at the studios was very moderate, since we had no machine guns. Only later an airplane machine gun was installed at one of the windows.

Undoubtedly, a larger group of the Reds could have destroyed our group very quickly, but our strength at that moment was in determination and not in weapons. The carefully planned assignment had to be carried out, and there was no time wait for reinforcements.

At 9:20 a. m. we arrived at the broadcasting studios of the Kaunas radio station, and after a few

short tests we contacted the transmitter (located in Ažuolynas, a suburban park of Kaunas, Ed.), by telephone. The leader of the group of activists at the transmitter then informed us that Ažuolynas park was full of Red soldiers and warned that his group would not be able to defend that transmitter in case of an attack after the broadcast had started.

After a short conference, we decided that a postponement was impossible but decided not to use loudspeakers in the streets in order to reduce the possibility of an attack.

Mr. Levas Prapuolenis then notified the group at the transmitter of the decision at the headquarters as follows: "... Request not to prepare transmitter for immediate use; broadcast will start within a few minutes..." The order was immediately acknowledged and executed.

Then speaking for the headquarters of the LAF L. Prapuolenis announced the restoration of independent Lithuania and formation of the Provisional Government. Then a short statement by L. Prapuolenis as the representative of LAF was read and the broadcast was concluded with the singing of the Lithuanian national anthem.

We shook hands, having successfully concluded our main assignment.

Around 6 p. m. of June 24 the entire city of Kaunas was completely in the hands of LAF. (Information taken from "I Laisvė", 1954, No. 3-40).

However, now it was necessary to hold the city against the troops of the Red army and armed local communists who did not flee the city, and these operations demanded numerous heroic sacrifices from the Lithuanian insurgents.

Following the example of Kaunas, the insurrection quickly spread throughout Lithuania. Out of the estimated 90,000 armed participants in the revolt, about 4,000 fell in fighting against the occupants. However, the ultimate sacrifice by these men carried high significance for the entire Lithuanian nation, since their blood testified that the propaganda of the occupant contending that Lithuania had voluntarily joined the Soviet Union was an absurd lie.

To the western world of today, which is beginning to notice more and more the resistance movements on the other side of the Iron Curtain, this insurrection, as well as the present underground movement of the Lithuanian nation, may well serve as an indication where to find dependable and effective allies in the struggle against world communism.

Lituania

by SAULIUS SIMOLIONAS

SAULIUS SIMOLIONAS received his B. A. in 1954 at the Wayne University in Detroit, Mich. There he was chairman of the Socratic Circle, the philosophical club. He is now a graduate student in physiology at Wayne University.

The Lithuanian nation has undergone a long struggle with environment in order to maintain its cultural freedom. Influences from both East and West threatened to extinguish this national expression, but in spite of wars, foreign invasions, and occupations, Lithuania evolved its own rich national culture.

However, philosophy achieved little in Lithuania during the centuries preceding the twentieth. The reason for this is due in part to the late awakening of nationalism. We have to remember that the first Lithuanian books were published in 1547. When Lithuanians were ready to express themselves in their mother tongue, the Lithuanian press was forbidden to do so by Tsarist Russian occupants in 1863.

Lithuanian philosophy really started only in the free independent Lithuanian state in the twentieth century. With the organization of Lithuanian university at Kaunas (2.16.1922), there was established the faculty of Philosophy-Theology. Philosophy and theology were linked in this Lithuanian University partly because of the cultural tradition of Catholicism and partly because of practical considerations, since priests and students preparing for priesthood, Catholic and Protestant alike, were expected to take certain philosophy courses. Although the faculty combined the two disciplines mentioned, they nevertheless functioned independently with regard to their educational activities and aims.

It is interesting to note that this practical union of philosophy and theology is reflected in the grand philosophical synthesis of Stasys Šalkauskis. Also it was at the Kaunas University that the three great Lithuanian philosophers created their philosophies. These three philosophers are: Adomas Jakštas-Dambrauskas, Pranas Kuraitis, Stasys Šalkauskis. The fourth notable Lithuanian philosopher, Vydušas, lived in Tilsit, a town in East Prussia just outside the State of Lithuania.

Adomas Jakštas-Dambrauskas, a prelate in the Catholic Church, was a very versatile figure. His versatility hindered the full development of his talents. He was very much interested in esthetics, mathematics, theology, and politics. His legacy in philosophy is not impressive in size or scope, but he left quite a few brilliant articles and essays on philosophical subjects. For example, he developed his own notation in symbolic logic; he even wrote a treatise on logic. His contribution to Lithuanian philosophy consists of the shaping and development of philosophical analysis. His philosophy is, in fact, a penetrating philosophical analysis of a great number of subjects.

Pranas Kuraitis, also a prelate in the Catholic Church, presented Thomism in Lithuania. He was not in the line of Thomistic existentialists, who came later in France and then rejuvenated Thomism throughout the world, but was a solitary individualistic philosopher wrestling with unsolved metaphysical issues of the conflict between medieval and modern philosophy. He believed that the cause of this conflict was in the ontological commitment. In solving metaphysical problems, the ontological becomes of crucial importance. A vicious circle may be established as one may not get away from ontological commitment. Hence, there would not be any possibility for metaphysics. Pranas Kuraitis solved this problem by introducing the principle of parity. All ontological commitments should be re-

garded on a par. Truth and falsehood in metaphysics should be decided on the basis of consistency and scope of attack. His contribution to Lithuanian philosophy is the first great attempt at philosophical synthesis, a synthesis which stressed intellectualism.

The greatest Lithuanian philosopher is Stasys Šalkauskis. If Jakštas-Dambrauskas was concerned only with philosophical analysis, Pranas Kuraitis already arrived at philosophical synthesis in the Thomistic tradition, then Stasys Šalkauskis created his own philosophical synthesis, which may be properly called the philosophy of human person. He thought that the nature of philosophy is synthesis. The need for synthesis is not to extend man's scientific knowledge about the world, but to develop a human person. The synthesis, however, was not to be limited to culture alone but was to include nature and religion as well. The aim of philosophy must be the objective wisdom of personal self. Enlightened personalism must supervene blind subjectivism of the self. It is impossible to outline Šalkauskis' philosophy in a short general article. Here I shall give only a brief summary of his theses.

1. Culture is man's spiritual development.
2. Individual man can arrive at culture only through the synthesis of its elements.
3. The synthesis is always progressive, dynamic.
4. The synthesis is philosophical.
5. The synthesis is necessary for society.

To illustrate Šalkauskis' philosophy I shall take his synthesis of the Lithuanian problem and his notion of the living spirit. Lithuania has been for long the bridge between East and West. Historically Lithuania was always a physical and spiritual victim of these aggressive forces. Instead of being the battlefield Lithuania should become the bridge between East and West.

Lituania

THIS WEEK IN AMERICAN HISTORY

(August 30 - September 5)

On August 30, 1784, Captain John Greene, commander of the American ship *Empress of China*, reached Canton after a six-months' voyage from New York around the Cape of Good Hope. The cargo of tea and silks which Captain Greene brought back prompted merchants of Philadelphia, Boston and Providence to fit out ships for trade with China. American businessmen needed new markets, because after the Revolutionary War England banned importation of meats, fish and dairy products from the United States into the West Indies and closed trade in all other products to all but British ships. Captain Greene's voyage, therefore, opened new possibilities of trading with the Orient. Trade with China began to flourish after 1785, and despite the long and hazardous voyages, the profits were very high. Cargoes comprised silver bullion, furs, machinery and certain farm crops for which the Americans received tea, chinaware, silks, teakwood, handicrafts, enameled ware, carpeting and spices.

The idea of setting apart the first Monday in September, in honor of labor, originated with

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Lithuanian culture should reflect the best in the other two cultures. Šalkauskis outlined the program for the integration of these two cultures in his first outstanding philosophical work, written in French, "At the Boundaries of Two Worlds". The predominant qualities of the two cultures to be integrated are Eastern reflectiveness and Western dynamism. The notion of the living spirit is the answer to spiritual evolution of man. When man has achieved synthesis, he should direct all his energy and wisdom to the perfection of society.

Something may be said about the colorful life of Stasys Šalkauskis: He was the son of a Lithuanian doctor, a law student in Moscow, a lawyer in Turkestan, a philosophy student in Switzerland, a professor of philosophy in Lithuania, and finally the rector of the Lithuanian University. He had tremendous influence on later Lithuanian philosophers, such as Antanas Maceina and Juozas Girnius. Together with Wladimir Szykarski (Šilkarskis) he helped to introduce the great Russian philosopher Soloviev to the Western world.

The fourth important Lithuanian philosopher is Vydušas. His philosophy is ethical. He outlined also his philosophy concerning the Lithuanian problem. The suffering Lithuanian nation must be ethical. Man's true evolution is the ethical one. The suffering individual, as well as a nation, can make the best of an unhappy lot by being ethical in life. Vydušas has also done brilliant research in the philosophy of language and philosophy of nature.

The characteristic spirit of Lithuanian philosophy is to be found in the emphasis on the improvement of man and society. Today when the improvement of man and society is just a question of the improvement of the masses, the emphasis on the improvement of the individual man through himself breathes through life with a new force. However, the world is not acquainted with the dynamism of Lithuanian philosophy. The Lithuanian nation has to struggle against adverse conditions, and even if Lithuanian philosophy could not have the chance to reach the collective consciousness of our Western culture, still it will remain one of the most precious treasures of the Lithuanian nation.

Lituania

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Also see "Waterfront" WNBZ-TV Every Wednesday, 7:00 P. M.

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- FOREST CITY, Pa.—2-os kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Antano parapijos svetainėje.
- WATERBURY, Conn.—11 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 1 P. M. Sv. Juozapo-parapijos mokyklos kambary.
- PITTSBURGH, Pa.—7-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Kazimiero parapijos svetainėje.
- CHICAGO, Illinois.—15-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 2 P. M., Sv. Jurgio parapijos svetainėje. (Visos narės-nariai, dalyvaukite susirinkime.)
- CHICAGO, Ill.—16-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, Sv. Mykolo parapijos salėje.
- NEWARK, N. J.—19-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumai, Sv. Jurgio Dr.-jos svetainėje, 180-2 New York Ave.
- SO. BOSTON, Mass.—21 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumai pobaznytinėje Sv. Petro ir Povilo parapijos svetainėje.
- MINERSVILLE, Pa.—24 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 1 P. M., Sv. Pranciškaus parapijos svetainėje.
- SCRANTON, Pa.—30-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Juozapo parapijos svetainėje. (Visi nariai-narės, dalyvaukite.)
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- ANSONIA, Conn.—32-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos Sv. Antano parapijos svetainėje.
- ROSELAND, Ill.—33-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumai, Visų šventų parapijos svetainėje.
- KINGSTON, Pa.—34-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Marijos parapijos svetainėje.
- PITTSBURGH, Pa.—35-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Vincento parapijos pobaznytinėj svetainėje.
- CICERO, Illinois.—48-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 1 P. M., Sv. Antano parapijos mokyklos kambary.
- CLEVELAND, Ohio.—50 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, Lietuvių svetainėje, 6835 Superior Ave., 7:30 P. M.
- NEW PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—51 susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumai parapijos svetainėje.
- EXETER, Penna.—57-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 1 P. M., Lietuvių Piliečių Klubu svetainėje.
- NORWOOD, Mass.—81-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 13-tą dieną, 7:30 P. M. Sv. Jurgio parapijos svetainėje, St. James St.
- WATERBURY, Conn.—91 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 13-tą dieną, 1 P. M., Sv. Juozapo parapijos svetainėje.
- ROCHESTER, N. Y.—103 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 9 val. ryto, Sv. Jurgio parapijos svetainėje.
- NEW BRITAIN, Conn.—109 kp. susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 7:30 vakaro, Sv. Andriejaus parapijos svetainėje.
- CLEVELAND, Ohio.—142 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 13-tą dieną, Sv. Jurgio parapijos mokyklos patalpose. Pradžia 7:30 vakaro.
- CASTLE SHANNON, Pa.—172 kp. susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 1 val. P. M. pas kuopos pirmininką Motiejų Abraitį, 1311 Groveton St.
- E. ST. LOUIS, Ill.—179 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, Nekalto Prasidėjimo P. V. parapijos svetainėje tuoj po 8 val. Mišių.
- KINGSTON, Pa.—209-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 2 P. M., Sv. Marijos parapijos svetainėje.
- NASHUA, N. H.—228-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po paskutinių Mišių parapijos svetainėje.
- AMSTERDAM, N. Y.—243 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, bažnytinėj salėj.
- PITTSBURGH, Pa.—254 kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, 2 P. M. Mykolo Cieponio namuose, 3945 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh.
- DETROIT, Mich.—265-tos kuopos susirinkimas bus rugsėjo 11-tą dieną, tuoj po sumos, Sv. Antano parapijos mokyklos patalpose, W. Vernos ir 25-ta gat.

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