

GARBAS • Lithuanian U.S. Alliance of America

English Section

DEDICATION AND BLESSING OF THE MSGR. JOHN F. BOLL PAVILION

A solemn dedication and blessing of the Monsignor John F. Boll Memorial Pavilion took place Sunday morning, 11 A.M. on November 4, 1979, at St. Mary's Villa, Elmhurst, Pennsylvania.

Preliminary remarks were made by Mr. Frank Blewitt, Vice-chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Mary's Villa Nursing Home. Among other things he spoke of the accomplishments of the late Monsignor Boll in behalf of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified and of his valued contributions of time and talent to the building and construction projects of the Diocese of Scranton.

Rev. James E. McGahagan, assistant pastor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Peckville, who, in the past had been assistant pastor to Monsignor Boll at Holy Trinity Parish in Wilkes-Barre, was called upon to bless the newly built pavilion. The prayers and chosen readings emphasized the love of God and neighbor reflecting the Christian spirit pervading the works of the Villa personnel.

The Sacred Liturgy of Thanksgiving following the dedication services was celebrated in the Nursing Home Chapel by Monsignor Joseph Madden, Vicar General, and pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Wilkes-Barre. He was assisted by Rev. James McGahagan. Relatives of the late Monsignor Boll participated in the readings and in the offertory procession. The assembled guests and relatives, together with the Sisters of Jesus Crucified, sang the familiar hymns of the Liturgy.

During Rev. Monsignor Joseph Madden's homily it became apparent that the day's celebration was centered in honoring two outstanding personalities, Msgr. John F. Boll, and his close friend and co-worker, Attorney Sidney Grabowski. After reading verses 29 to 34 from St. Mark, Chapter 12, on the great commandment of the love of God and of neighbor, he explained that Monsignor Boll was to have been here for the special occasion. Because Monsignor Madden had been hospitalized and was therefore unable to attend Msgr. Boll's funeral, he was deeply grateful for the privilege of saying a few words of appreciation at this dedication service in honor of Msgr. Boll and Attorney Grabowski.

Referring to the words of Moses, the great law-giver, Monsignor Madden explained that the true love of God, which envelops the heart, soul and physical strength to the fullest, expresses itself in concern for one's fellow man and woman. It is the uncomplicated concept of love which changes a person, gets one involved here and now in what needs to be done. Jesus also tells us the kind of love He not only invites us to have but commands us to practice, a love which reaches into our whole selves, a love which shows what Power is at work in you, — where it counts, — in the treatment of your neighbor.

He went on to explain that the Sisters of Jesus Crucified want us to look briefly into the lives of two people who loved God and poured out that



Msgr. John F. Boll

love on all with whom they came in contact. Two such men of charity, Monsignor Boll and Attorney Grabowski, have their names linked together because they worked side by side in extending assistance to the Sisters at St. Mary's Villa. Attracted by their lives, they recognized God at work in them. They both wanted a share in this enterprise, in their first fervor, for it would mean their ultimate in satisfaction, namely, eternal salvation.

Soon after his ordination to the priesthood, Monsignor Boll became interested in this struggling but active Lithuanian Community of Sisters. They needed someone who would not interfere with them, yet be on hand to encourage, guide, and take up their cause. He obtained Bishop Hafey's permission to sweep through highways and byways to garner financial and spiritual support for this wonderful group of women. When he needed the legal aid of an outstanding Catholic Attorney he enlisted Sidney Grabowski to guide him through waters not easily sailed. Both men enjoyed the challenge presented to them through their years of faithful service.

Monsignor Boll, as spiritual director and financial advisor, was in every major move of the Community for the past forty years. He prayed for vocations to increase its numbers, he afforded invaluable assistance in transferring the motherhouse to the Archdiocese of Boston. Aware that better facilities would enhance the service given to their guests, he contributed time and energy in making this Nursing Home a reality.

This very building we worship God in today was the object of the solicitous care and expertise of Monsignor Boll and Attorney Grabowski, not once, but time and time again. They nursed it, they aided it, in fact their help was such that it should be classified as so substantial that without it none of this would be here today.

Surely it is no small wonder then, that moved by a memory full of gratitude, that this marvelous Community of Sisters of Jesus Crucified, its guests, its

staff, want to dedicate this newest part of itself, the pavilion, to Monsignor John F. Boll.

How do we measure our love for God — or anyone's love for Him? The only measuring cup we have is "the cup of cold water given in His Name". Could these hills of Elmhurst speak, or these corridors re-echo with the voices of the people who held out their plates for food or their bowls for soup, they would be heard singing the praises of so many dedicated persons who lightened the burden of their years and ushered them into the presence of God.

Among these many people imbued with God's love and pouring it out on God's people stands Monsignor Boll. When he comes into the bursting glory-light of God he will be thankful for the opportunity given him to serve his fellowman with such a fine instrument of salvation as was afforded him in the Community of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified.

On this day of thanksgiving we have much for which to be grateful. All of you, many of you who are here today, will find that the greatest thing to

be thankful for was to have had the opportunity to be associated in any way with Monsignor Boll and Attorney Grabowski. May God bless all of you. It is a genuinely happy experience to be here with the friends and relatives of these great men. Today is a day of rejoicing for all of us. We must look upon this occasion not as a completion or culmination, but as a starting point to do ever greater works for God. May He bless you all and increase your love for Him and for each other.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, before the guests filed to the banquet hall, Attorney Thomas Mack and his wife confided to the organist that they will donate a larger organ to the Nursing Home Chapel. Their generous announcement increased the joy of the occasion.

The Superior General of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified Sister Marie Annunciata, had flown in from Boston to participate in the Dedication and Blessing Ceremony. When called upon by the Villa Superior, Sister Verna, to say a few words, she recalled that since 1930 Monsignor Boll was identified with our Community as Confessor to the Sisters. Then, after our Founder, Father Alphonsus Maria Urbanavicius, was transferred to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, we were "adopted" by Monsignor Boll.

Sister Marie Annunciata compared Monsignor Boll to Joseph of Egypt upon whom the Pharaoh depended in all his domestic affairs. He would say, "Go to Joseph" whenever there was need for advice or direction. She recalled that in the past Monsignor had raised \$40,000 which was to be used for a new motherhouse in Elmhurst. Learning of a spacious red-brick home in Brockton available to the Sisters for \$50,000, he negotiated successfully to have the motherhouse of the Sisters of Jesus Crucified centered in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Sister Marie Annunciata looked upon the lives of the sisters and the aged whom Monsignor John F. Boll had influenced as living memorials to his charity. She was confident that he intercedes for us as a Community now that he has entered into eternity.

She also mentioned Attorney Sidney Grabowski as a staunch friend of our Community since the early 1940's. He helped us attain economic stability and security, he advised us in legal and financial matters, and, as God's gift to us, he touched the lives of many with his acts of kindness. He will be remembered by the Sisters in their many prayers.

Sister Baptista, administrator of the Nursing Home, unveiled a plaque dedicated to Attorney Grabowski as a sign of the

NEW LITHUANIAN UNDERGROUND PUBLICATIONS

Chronicle No. 39, Te Dawn No. 16 and Perspectives No. 9

Issue No 39 of the oldest Lithuanian unofficial journal, *Lietuvos Katalikų Bažnyčios Kronika* (The Chronicle of the Catholic Church of Lithuania), is 52 pages long and is dated July 22, 1979. The Chronicle provides disturbing information about the increasingly brutal treatment of religious believers by the militia. On May 15, 1979, Roman Catholics in Petrašiūnai sent a letter to the First Secretary of the Lithuanian CP, P. Griškevičius, protesting against the beating of R. Catholics who tried to protest a newly erected cross. On June 28, Catholics who came to attend a trial of the Rev. S. Tamkevičius in Varėna were "mercilessly beaten and kicked." In a counterattack against the "civil disobedience" of R. Catholics who refuse to obey the discriminatory laws governing religious associations, the Commissioner of the Council for Religious Affairs in Lithuania has summoned deans of all dioceses and all ordinaries in June and July to impress on them the importance of "obeying the laws" and to attack religious activists. Some clergymen "courageously defended the cause of the Church". Documents 15 and 16 of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of the Believers are included. Document 16, addressed to the Procurator General of LSSR and to the Ministry of Education protest against the terrorization of students in Lithuanian schools.

Perspektyvos (Perspectives, No. 9, 1979) publishes an extensive account of a meeting between Lithuanian political activists and three Western correspondents in Vilnius, on February 5-8, 1979. The Lithuanians reproached the Western press for its silence on the "national resistance" and the "violation of the most elementary human rights" in Lithuania. They also said that it was inaccurate to speak of a "dissident" movement in Lithuania, since only a handful of Lithuanians were collaborators and the "yearning for freedom and hopes for it are alive in the entire nation". Two articles in *Perspektyvos* were received from the "Lithuanian Communist Alliance" (for Lithuania's secession from the USSR). The articles deal with the murder of Russian dissidents, the "boomerang" effect of the Soviet anti-Chinese propaganda, and the Russification of the Lithuanian-inhabited areas of East Prussia. The Russification of the Lithuanian areas of Belorussia is also discussed. There are also translations of an article by A. Sakharov, as well as of interviews with A. Sakharov and A. Solzhenitsyn.

The "new flood of Russification" is the main theme of the new issue of *Aušra* (The Dawn). Texts of confidential Soviet instructions on the promotion of the Russian language are presented. Dated May, 1979, the underground periodical is 68 pages long. It features excerpts from the letters of P. Paulaitis, who is spending his 32nd year in a concentration camp. The late Karolis Garuckas, former member of the Lithuanian Helsinki Group, subjects the 39 years of the Soviet system in Lithuania to a scathing criticism in his open letter of March 15, 1979, to the First Secretary of the Lithuanian CP, P. Griškevičius. In another open letter of March 25, 1979 to the editor of the Party daily *Tiesa*, the Rev. Garuckas rebuts the slanders against Balys Gajauskas, the Lithuanian political activist sentenced last year to 15 years of camps and exile. Additional biographical information on Viktoras Petkus, another noted Lithuanian political prisoner, is given. Also included is a protest by 246 Lithuanians living in Belorussia to the First Secretary of the Belorussian CP.

LCA MEMBERS' DEATHS

Lodge 222 — Penna. Mrs. Petronė Jasinauskas, 62 New Road, Ridgefield, Conn. 06877. Died: October 22, 1979. Buried: October 24, 1979 St. John's Cemetery, Norwalk, Conn.

Lodge 133 — E. Vandergift, Pa. Paul Nasetka, Box 252 Kiski Ave. Ext., Apollo, Pa. 15613. Died: November 1, 1979. Buried: November 5, 1979, Riverview Cemetery, Apollo, Pa.

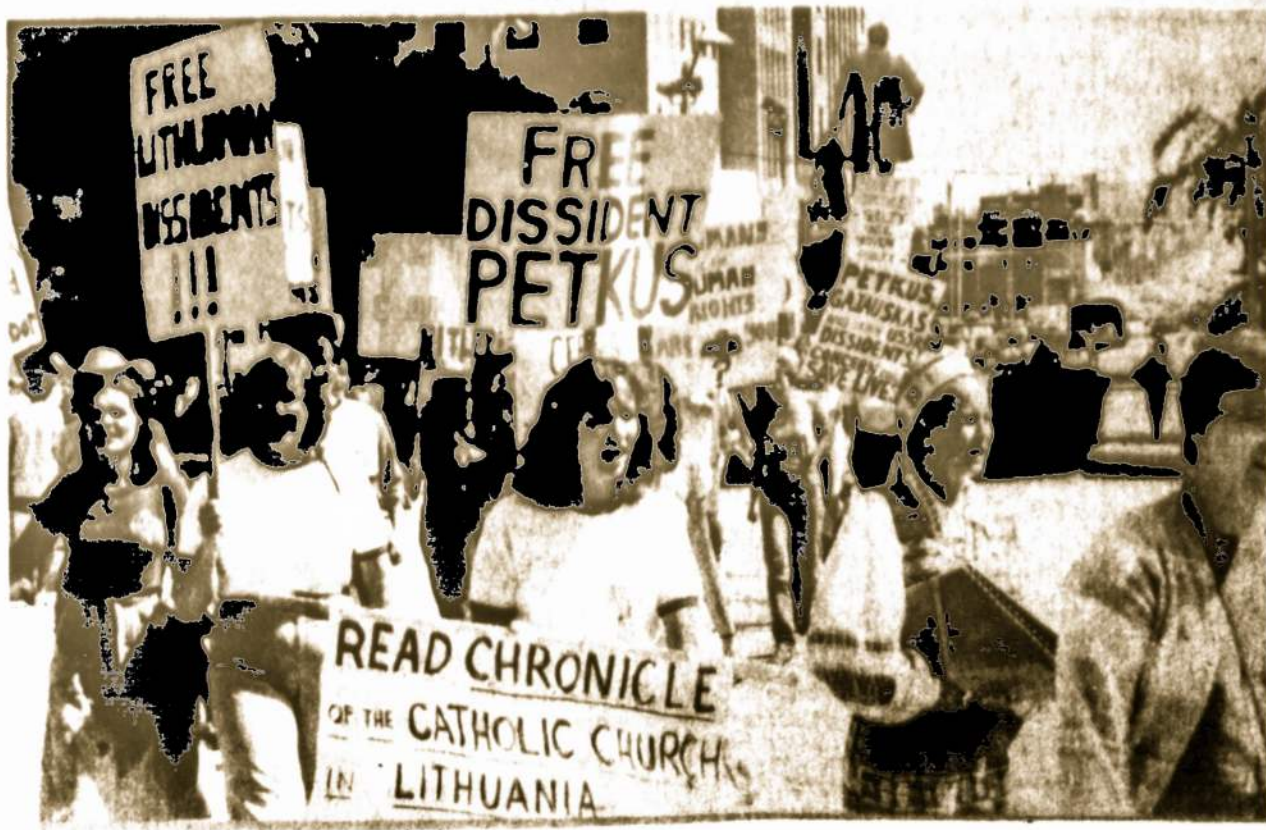
FROM "CHRONICLE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LITHUANIA" NR. 32:

It is difficult to explain what we are fed. Bread for the prisoners is specially baked. I do not know the ingredients. Sawdust is certainly added. This bread is given not only to prisoners — people also feed it to pigs. The gruel tastes somewhat different from twenty years ago. Our suits are made of robe material. We are also given rough boots and a quilted overcoat worn by fifteen republics. Before, it used to be different — I could wear my own clothes. I remember that during my first sentence I was given felt leggings: one black and the other white. The black one was too tight. I slit its sides with a knife and thus enjoyed them for four years. And now, although we are "temporarily" in solitary confinement, not everyone can bear this isolation. It isolates most people from all the "pleasures" of this world.

Ona Franckšnaitė



Memorial pavilion, erected in honor of late Msgr. John F. Boll at St. Mary's Villa, Elmhurst, Pa. on November 4, 1979.



Lithuanian students in Lansing, capitol of Michigan, demonstrating near State Capitol building. They are asking for help to liberate Lithuanian conscience prisoners in Soviet Union's labor camps. Photo by K. Sonta

LITHUANIANS AND THE NEW POPE

Since the election of Pope John Paul II, more attention has been paid by the Western press to the situation of Catholics in Lithuania. For ex., in the July 26th issue of *The New York Times* (page 2!) appeared Craig R. Whitney's article titled "In Lithuania, Too, Catholics Look Hopefully to New Pope". He describes interviews with two representatives of Government's State Committee for Religious Affairs—Petras Anilionis Commissioner, and Edvardas Juosenas, his deputy; and one priest, Rev. Vaclovas Aliulis, pastor of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Vilnius. Whitney also discusses the possibility of the new Cardinal chosen by the Pope without naming him openly—of being a Lithuanian. He writes: "Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius, the Apostolic Administrator of the Vilnius Archdiocese, was banished by the Government to the town of Zagare in 1958. Mr. Anilionis says the bishop had called on the faithful to resist Soviet laws that subject the church to government regulations and had agitated for the right to conduct organized catechism lessons for the young."

The Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei A. Gromyko, had an audience with the Pope in Rome on Jan. 24, and Soviet officials say the Pontiff asked about Bishop Steponavicius' status. At the time, Mr. Gromyko may have been more preoccupied with the Vatican's influence on Poland...

On May 26, the Pope appointed 15 cardinals, but kept the name of one of them secret. Most priests here assume that if the secret one is Lithuanian he could only be Archbishop Steponavicius.

In an interview at the State Committee for Religious Affairs, Mr. Juosenas said of the Archbishop, "He could return to Vilnius, if he reflects on the reasons for his punishment and conducts himself accordingly." But, he went on, "a lot will depend on what influence the Polish clergy has on the Lithuanian clergy. They have increased their ties considerably since the Pope's visit in June."

Meanwhile, reliable sources in Rome say that since John Paul II's election as Pope, tension has increased in the church-state situation in Lithuania, with a renewal of local Catholic resistance to Soviet repressive measures. The election of a Pole to the throne of St. Peter in October appears to have strengthened the bonds between Lithuanian catholicism and the Holy See. Pope John Paul II has not

changed the open Vatican Ostpolitik of his predecessors, but because of his Polish nationality he has a greater closeness to Catholics there.

His visit to Poland, just across the border from Lithuania, could only increase the degree of rapport. In several speeches while in his homeland, he stressed Polish catholicism's ties with neighboring peoples. In May, shortly before his departure for Poland, Pope John Paul II took the occasion of the death of a Lithuanian prelate to impart his benediction to Lithuania daily, according to the Vatican daily *Osservatore Romano*, "All his heart".

During his Vatican meeting in January with Soviet foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, the Pontiff most likely discussed, among other subjects, the church situation in Lithuania, where about three quarters of the population of four million is Catholic.

The results of that first encounter between the newly-elected Pope and the Kremlin's senior Foreign Policy Specialist are difficult to assess and could be still to come. Since the meeting, Msgr. Liudas Povilonis has become Apostolic Administrator of Kaunas and Vilkauskis following the death in May of the previous incumbent, Msgr. Joseph Matulaitis-Labukas. But, Msgr. Povilonis had an automatic right of succession and in June he was prevented by state authorities from attending a symposium in Rome of European Bishops.

The general bleak church picture persists in Lithuania, whose annexation by the Soviet Union has never been recognized by the Vatican. None of the six dioceses has a fully empowered residential bishop. Despite the rather stationary situation of the hierarchy since Pope John Paul met with Gromyko in January, at about that time state officials began to move more firmly to enforce a decree on worship that had been promulgated in 1976.

This apparent violation of commitments was among the points made in a series of protests against the enforcement of the 1976 decree that were signed by Lithuanian priests. A protest from each of the six Lithuanian dioceses was issued, with 522 priests aggregately signing the separate declarations. Two things about the protests surprised knowledgeable sources in Rome—that the overwhelming majority of Lithuania's estimated 700 to 800 priests took part in the protest; and that it was possible to organize so extensive a protest in an area under Soviet control.

The effect of the protest is

perhaps more significant. Reliable sources in Rome say that shortly after it was launched three or four months ago Moscow dispatched an official to Lithuania who instructed the Lithuanian Religious Affairs Authorities to postpone enforcement of the decree. However, the restrictive measures were not formally revoked. This reported Soviet reversal of religious restrictions in Lithuania may or may not be related to John Paul the II being Pope, but another recent development could have a more direct connection.

It is reliably reported that, upon election as Pope, John Paul the II sent his red Cardinal's hat to the shrine of Aušros Vartai (the Dawn Gate). The dispatch of the hat appears more a sign of esteem for the Madonna of the Dawn Gate than a clear indication that Pope John Paul intended to name a cardinal for Lithuania. In his first consistory to appoint new cardinals, the Pontiff indeed reserved to himself the name of one prelate elevated. This method of appointing cardinals in pectore, meaning without immediate disclosure of the name, was used by Pope Paul the VI exclusively for prelates from countries under communist government. The ancient practice serves to protect the Church or the prelate himself if publication of his name might jeopardize either. Certainly, the Church situation in Lithuania is delicate enough to make such an in pectore appointment possible—and it has been for years. In addition to this year's protest declarations from the clergy, other occasions have been taken to object publicly to the abridgements of religious freedom in Lithuania. Between 16,000 and 17,000 signatures were affixed to a series of such protests at the beginning of this decade. They include one to Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Dec. 1971, another to United Nations Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim in Feb. 1972, and a third and fourth to Soviet Education and Religion officials in March 1973. Against such a background, the current heightened tension of the Lithuanian Church situation cannot be called a new departure. The advances made this year toward broader freedom are open to varying interpretation and in any case are limited when the wide range of pending problems is recalled.

How much Pope John Paul II can do to expand freedom for Lithuanian Catholics is hard to predict, given Soviet intransigence demonstrated in the past. But the Pontiff's concern and interest for Lithuania and his experience of the East are undeniable.

(UBA-BATUN)

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT

"On August 23rd 1939 the Soviet leaders concluded a 'non-aggression pact' with Hitler (Molotov-Ribbentrop pact). According to a secret protocol to this pact Estonia, Latvia, and a part—later the whole—of Lithuania, Finland and some other areas of Eastern Europe were given over to the Soviet 'sphere of influence'. While World War II was absorbing the whole attention of the world, the Soviet Union thought it proper to collect its rewards."

(Council of Europe Reports on the Baltic states, Doc. 1173)

Let us remember: September, 1939—Soviets forced by military threats all three Baltic Nations to sign "Mutual Assistance Treaty" with Moscow and to grant military bases to Soviet armed forces in their territory.

Soviets occupied by force Lithuania on June 15, 1940, Latvia and Estonia on June 17, 1940. Moscow sent top emissaries to the Baltic states: Vishinsky to Riga, Zhdanov to Tallinn, Dekanozov to Kaunas. In all three Baltic states similar puppet governments were formed by the Moscow emissaries, and similar puppet parliaments were elected. By mistake the "results" of these "elections" in Latvia were published in London the day before they even took place.

All three parliaments immediately, without a single opposing voice voted for the resolution: to renounce independence and to ask admittance into Soviet Union! All three Baltic states were unanimously "accepted" into the Soviet Union: Lithuania on August 3, 1940, Latvia on August 5, 1940, and Estonia on August 6, 1940. The Iron Curtain fell between the Baltic states and the free world.

In a striking doctrinal innovation, Moscow is now presenting the forceful Red Army takeover of the three Baltic republics in 1940 as a shining example of peaceful revolution. The change in line on the Baltics appeared in a book review in the leading Soviet theoretical journal *Kommunist* (No. 3, 1979) of a study of the Baltic takeover published last year after a claimed ten-year research effort. According to *Kommunist*, the book described a growing revolutionary situation in the Baltic countries following the outbreak of the second World War and in consequence of popular dissatisfaction with ties between the existent regimes and Nazi Germany which coincided with a worsening economic situation and increased political repression. Accordingly, the review explained:

"Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia proved to be the weak link in the imperialist chain. The victory of the 1940 revolutions marked a new breach within the imperialist system and one more step in the development of the world's revolutionary process initiated by the Great October Revolution."

These revolutions, *Kommunist* said, were the "first victorious revolutions in history not accompanied by armed risings or civil war" and confirmed Lenin's predictions of the "possibility for a peaceful yielding of power by the bourgeoisie under circumstances in which its opposition has been doomed to failure in advance." At this point, *Kommunist* added the significant comment that "under present circumstances such a course of events has become more realistic."

While contending that the basic impetus came from domestic forces the book was quoted as assigning a decisive albeit "peaceful" role to the Soviet Armed forces:

"Soviet forces did not inter-

fere in the domestic affairs of the Baltic countries, strictly observing the stipulations of the mutual aid pacts concluded between them and the USSR. Meanwhile, the presence of Soviet troops on Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian territory protected the Baltic from the interference of foreign imperialists. This demoralized the forces of the bourgeoisie and inspired the revolutionary masses to this struggle for the overthrow of the fascist dictatorship."

By putting forward the 1940 Baltic developments as a model for a peaceful takeover, Moscow appears to be extending into a new dimension the increasingly emphasized "external role" of the Soviet armed forces in support of the worldwide revolutionary cause.

In order to balance the pessimistic reading above, let us consider another emerging model for the future, by quoting excerpts of Geoffrey Godsell's four-part article on "Tomorrow's Big Powers" that appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor* July 24th issue titled "New Nations Challenge the Old Order". Inter alia, Godsell quotes "a top-level international civil servant, with three decades of experience in world diplomacy" attributing the turbulence and shifting in the world that makes it so hard to govern to one simple fact: what he describes as the erosion of the concept of principle in human relations, at both the national and international level. Contributing to this, he reflects aloud,

LITHUANIAN DEFECTOR KIDNAPPED

Vladas Česionas, a former Olympic and world champion canoeist, vanished without a trace in West Germany on September 13, 1979. He had defected on August 18, 1979, in Dusburg, West Germany where he had come as a tourist to follow the world championship races in rowing.

The defector, 39, asked the West German authorities for political asylum. He took temporary residence in the town of Altena, near Dusburg, and attended German-language lessons at the Goethe Institute near by. He left for school on September 13, but never arrived there. One week after his disappearance, some West German newspapers and the radio began discussing the possibility that he was kidnapped by Soviet agents.

The disappearance of Vladas Česionas sent tremors through the Lithuanian community in West Germany. Community leaders made inquiries with West German parliamentarians and security organs. Andrius Šmitas, chairman of the Lithuanian community in West Germany, discussed the Česionas case by phone with Helmut Schmidt, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of West Germany. Schmidt was asked if West German security organs provided Česionas with adequate protection. A thorough

investigation by the West German government was requested, since the case of Česionas affected many persons of East European descent residing in West Germany.

The German Press Agency (DPA) reported that Česionas was brought to Moscow against his will and is in a Vilnius, Lithuania, security hospital (psychiatric, of course).

Česionas' illustrious athletic career includes a gold medal in the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, where he came in first in the 1000 meter race for two-seater canoes, together with a Russian, Lobanov. He also won four world championships. In 1973 and 1974 he was elected by the sports fans as the top Lithuanian athlete.

(UBA-BATUN)



Vladas Česionas

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RUSSIAN INFLUX INTO BALTIC COUNTRIES: HURTING BUT NOT LETHAL

Dr. Rein Taagepera (University of California, Irvine), analyzing the obtainable data of the all-Union census held in USSR earlier this year, has come to surprising conclusion. Dr. Taagepera writes:

"The 1979 Soviet census results suggest that the decreasing Russian birth rate is making the Soviet population policies in Latvia and Estonia doubly counterproductive: Russian immigration has slowed down to the point where hopes of Russifying these countries are fading, but the threat is still strong enough to create opposition to Moscow rule.

Since the time when Stalin, in collusion with Hitler, annexed Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in 1940, there have been periods when deportations of the Baltic population and influx of Russians seemed to make the awkward Baltic Question to be of short duration. The United States and many other western countries do not recognize the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States. However, this policy would become an empty shell if and when Russian immigrants could outvote the Balts in a referendum on independence. The 1979 census results show that such a time will not come during this century, if ever. Yet the influx of bossy Russians is sufficiently extensive to make it hard for the Balts to forget that they are subject nations.

Latvia has been the most threatened of the three nations. Russian immigration reduced Latvians to 62% of Latvia's population by 1959, and to 57% by 1970. Could the 1979 census show another 5% point decrease to the bare majority of 52%? Nationality figures have not yet been released but published data on Latvia's total population indicate that Latvians still represent 54 or even close to 55% of Latvia's population.

The Russian birth rate dropped suddenly in the early sixties. This drop has already cut down the number of young Russians available for emigration. By 1990 the net influx into Latvia may reach zero level. Immigration (and its irritating effect on Latvians) would not stop, but it would be cancelled out by an equal emigration of those Russians who are hunting for the "long ruble" (the fast buck) throughout the Soviet Union. Already in 1963 there were 72 departures for every 100 new arrivals in Baltic cities. (In 1969 there were 82.) This ratio is likely to have increased.

The Latvians' percent share of their country's population may stabilize around 53%. As immigration slows down, cultural and linguistic integration has more time to have an effect. More than one half of the offspring of Latvian-Russian mixed marriages opt for Latvian nationality. (The figure was 57% in Riga, for 1960-68). If such a trend continues, integration may eventually lead to an increase in the percentage of Latvians.

In Estonia the share of Estonians decreased from 75% in 1959 to 68% in 1970. Could it be 62%

by 1979? The early census results suggest 64 or even close to 65%. The uncertainty hinges on the unknown growth rate of the Estonian population since 1970. The 65% figure preassumes the same modest yearly growth which took place from 1959 to 1970. The 64% figure preassumes one half of the previous growth rate for Estonians. The age distribution of Estonians, with relatively many old people, may in the long run bring a population decrease. It is not likely to have already happened. It seems that the Estonians will have a firm majority in Estonia by the end of the century.

Both in Estonia and Latvia the fastest-growing population group in 1959-70 were neither the republic nationality nor the Russians but various others such as Ukrainians and Belorussians. This tendency is likely to have continued beyond 1970. Most of these immigrants tend to join the local Russian community and thus become agents of Russification. Their influx is also likely to have decreased lately, though less than in the case for the Russians.

In Lithuania immigration was low even before 1970, since the relatively high Lithuanian birth rate resulted in plentiful local supply of labor. The share of Lithuanians in the country's population actually increased from 79% in 1959 to 80% in 1970. The Russian share remained stable around 8.5%. The main losers were the Poles. The total population figure for 1979 indicated that the Lithuanians' natural increase has slowed down by a third. They still form 80% of Lithuania's population, assuming that the growth rate of the non-Lithuanian population has not in-

creased. (Such increase is unlikely in view of decreasing growth rate of the non-Latvian population in neighboring Latvia).

Throughout the Soviet Union the Russians are loosing ground. Their share of the Soviet population decreased from 54.6% in 1959 to 53.4% in 1970. This seemingly small change hides a more ominous one, from the viewpoint of continued Russian domination within the Soviet Union: only 47% of the zero-to-ten age bracket was Russian in 1970. By now it might be down to close to 40%, since the Russian birth rate is lower than it was in the early sixties. If so, then the Russians may now be down to 51% of the Soviet population and they certainly are not more than 52%.

The demographic retreat of the Russians was well in evidence by 1970 in all Asian Soviet republics. It is now spreading to the western republics. Soviet generals have voiced concern about the increasing number of soldiers who does not know Russian. Rather than organizing national units for the supposedly sovereign union republics, the Soviet leadership has responded with an increased push for Russification of education, ranging from Uzbek high schools to Estonian nursery schools. It is likely to prove too much too late. Unable to achieve Russification, the push may on the contrary enhance national consciousness. Russian immigration into the Baltic countries may have entered a similarly counterproductive stage. From mortal threat to the survival of at least Latvia and Estonia, it has degenerated into a painful and irritating nuisance. (UBA-BATUN)

STATEMENT ON NEW SOVIET CITIZENSHIP LAW

A new Soviet citizenship law came into force on July 1, 1979. According to Soviet clarification of this law, naturalized American citizens born on the present territory of the USSR, including the Baltic States whose forcible incorporation into the USSR the United States does not recognize, are regarded as citizens of the USSR by the Soviet Government. This includes offspring — albeit born outside the USSR — of such individuals.

The United States Government is opposed to dual nationality as a matter of policy. However, we recognize as an established principle of international law that each sovereign state has the right to decide under the provisions of its own laws who are and who are not its citizens. Accordingly, the Department of State requested clarification of the new law from the Soviet Government. We made it clear to the Soviet Government that in accordance with U.S. law we consider all United States citizens, whether by birth or naturalization, to possess full

United States citizenship despite any entitlement the person may also have to Soviet citizenship under USSR law. We also informed the Soviet Government that the United States Government expects all United States citizens who enter the USSR bearing United States passports and Soviet entry/exit visas to be regarded as United States citizens by the Soviet Government for purposes of their visits to the USSR, regardless of whether the Soviet Government might also consider such persons to be Soviet citizens. Finally, we informed the Soviet Government that United States citizens cannot lose their United States citizenship because of automatic acquisition of dual Soviet citizenship under the new USSR citizenship law.

The Soviet Government has now responded to our request for clarification of the new USSR citizenship law. In its reply, the Soviet Government states that it has not and does not prevent American citizens visiting the USSR in possession of United States passports with Soviet entry/exit visas inserted therein from returning to the United States or to their country of permanent residence even though, under Soviet law, they are considered citizens of the USSR. As of the date of this statement, the Department of State has had no reports of difficulties experienced by United States citizens as a result of the new USSR citizenship law. We will, however, seek further clarification, especially on the question of the effect of the new law on naturalized American citizens who may have been liable for Soviet military service at the time of their departure from territory now controlled by the USSR.



Iš okupuotos Lietuvos šią vasarą pabėgo Rimgaudas Emilis Kasiulis. Chicagoje jis dalyvavo Balfo sukviestoje spaudos konferencijoje. Nuotraukoje — svečias su Balfo direktoriais ir centro valdybos nariais. Iš k. Juozas Mackevičius, Laima Aleksienė, Rimgaudas E. Kasiulis, kun. Ansas Trakis, Aldona Daukienė ir Albinas Dzirvonas. Nuotr. V. Noreikis

BIRBYNĖS IR BALFO PAGALBA KASIULIS PASIEKĖ LAISVĘ

Praejusios vasaros pradžioje Vakarų Berlyne, kai vyko darbininkų streikai, Vakarų Vokietijos komunistų partija organizavo šventę, norėdama padeonstruoti partijos bendradarbiavimą su kitų kraštų komunistų partijomis ir partijos stiprumą. Kultūrinėms programoms atlikti buvo pakviesti komunistinių kraštų meniniai vienetai. Sovietų Sąjungai atstovavo okupuotos Lietuvos ansamblis "Lietuva". Ansamblis į Vakarų Berlyną atvyko iš rytinio.

Vakarų Vokietijos komunistų partijos rengta šventė ir demonstracija buvo blanki. Į dienos metu atliekamas programos parke nei praeiviai, nei parko lankytojai nekreipė dėmesio. Surengtas didysis mitingas buvo palaikyti organizuoti ir netvarkingas. Jį stebėjo jaunas "Lietuvos" ansamblio dalyvis. Ansambly jis grojo birbyne. Nuo grupės jis atitrūko, nors vadovybė draudė po vieną vaikščioti, kad nepaklystų.

Jaunuolis nesidomėjo aplinka ir mitingo vyksmu. Jo galvoj buvo mintis, kaip pasiekti anksčiau iš tolo matytą aerodromą, kur turėjo būti amerikiečiai, ir rasti kelią į laisvę.

Aerodromą pasiekė, rado amerikiečius, buvo išvežtas į Vakarų Vokietiją, gavo politinio pabėgėlio teises ir prieglaudą Jungtinės Amerikos Valstybėse. Balfo rūpesčiu ir globa atvyko į Chicago.

Spalio 25 Balfo centro valdyba sukvietė spaudos ir radijo atstovus susipažinti ir pasikalbėti su iš okupuotos Lietuvos pabėgusiu "Lietuvos" ansamblio nariu Rimgaudu Emiliu Kasiuliu.

R. E. Kasiulis prieš 22 metus gimė Karaliaučiuje. Čia augo ir mokėsi. Vėliau mokėsi Įsruty, Klaipėdoje ir Kaune. 1978 Kaune baigė muzikos mokyklą. Groja akordeonu ir birbyne. Pateko į muzikinį "Lietuvos" ansamblių. Tas ansamblis turi

To avoid any possible inconvenience or uncertainty to American travellers in the interim, however, the Department of State strongly urges any American citizen who is, or believes he or she may be a citizen of the USSR under the new Soviet law, to renounce formally Soviet citizenship before visiting the USSR. For information on how to renounce Soviet citizenship, please telephone (202) 632-8671 or write to the Office of Soviet Union Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

The decision to travel to the USSR, of course, is one which the individual traveller must make for him or herself.

Department of State
October 1979

progos išvykti į kitas sovietines respublikas, o šį kartą vyko ir į Vakarų pasaulį. Koncertai buvo numatyti Vakarų Berlyne ir Paryžiuje.

R. E. Kasiulis Kaune neilgai gyveno, bet jo pasakojimai ir atsakymai į iškeltus klausimus nušvietė tą okupuotą Lietuvos gyvenimą, dalį jo pats Kasiulis pergyveno, pažįsta ir žino.

Lietuvių Rytprūsioose Sovietiniai šaltiniai praneša, kad Rytprūsioose gyvena apie 25,000 lietuvių. Klausimas, kaip jie Rytprūsioose atsirado.

R. E. Kasiulis pasakojimu, buvo taip. Po karo okupuotoj Lietuvos geresnius darbus paglemžė rusai ar kitų tautų iš Sovietų Sąjungos atvežti komunistai pareigūnai. Jo senelė, o jau paaugusi, nors dar gana jauna, jo motina, dirbo prie statybos.

Nešiojo plytas ir dirbo kitus sunkius darbus. Jos, geresnio gyvenimo sąlygų ieškodamos, patraukė į Karaliaučių. Motina kilusi iš Suvalkijos, tėvas iš Žemaitijos. Karaliaučiuje gimė ir Rimgaudas.

Taigi tuos 25,000 sudaro lietuviai, kurie dėl darbo sąlygų iš Lietuvos buvo išstumti.

Karaliaučiuje ir aplamai Rytprūsioose jokio lietuviško pasireiškimo nėra. Nėra ir lietuviškų mokyklų — tik rusiškos. Nėra jokios lietuviškos organizacijos, ir lietuvių težino tik apie artimoj kaimynystėj gyvenančius kitus lietuvius ir tik su jais susitinka.

Daugumą gyventojų sudaro rusai. Viešumoj kalbama tik rusiškai. Namuose yra kalbančių lietuviškai ir vokiškai, bet, kai nėra jokios tautinės veiklos, or

(nukelta į 8 psl.)

COMMITTEE FOR DEFENSE OF BELIEVERS UNDER ATTACK

The Lithuanian CP daily Tiesa (Sept. 5, 1979) reports that two members of the Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Believers, the Revs. A. Svarinskas and S. Tamkevičius, were summoned to the LSSR chief procurator's office on August 29. They were "officially warned for using the Church as well as their position as cult servants to spread obviously mendacious fabrications, slandering the Soviet state and social system, and not only to violate the laws governing religious associations, but also to incite the believers to violate them". Tiesa writes that the Revs. Svarinskas and Tamkevičius were told that if they continued violating Soviet laws, they may face more severe legal consequences.

Reliable sources from Lithuania report that chief procurator Kairėlis warned the Rev. Tamkevičius and demanded that he stop his "anti-Soviet activity". The procurator leveled the following accusations against Tamkevičius: 1) He is

a member of the Lithuanian Catholic Committee for the Defense of the Rights of Believers, which has been established "at the initiative of the United States Congress"; 2) He "slandering Soviet reality" by claiming that the authorities are "showing insufficient zeal in the struggle against alcoholism"; 3) He is inciting Soviet citizens to disobey laws governing "cult associations"; 4) He has published Document 5 of the Catholic Committee. The procurator threatened the Rev. Tamkevičius with punishment in accordance with article 60 of the Soviet Penal Code and demanded that the priest sign the document of warning. The Rev. Tamkevičius refused to sign it. Similar charges are said to have been leveled against the Rev. Svarinskas.

The above moves obviously represent a counterattack of the Communist authorities against the Catholic Committee, which during the past year has successfully campaigned against the discriminatory "laws governing religious associations".

SVARBUS PRIMINIMAS

Visiems nariams reikia mokesčius mokėti iš anksto. Mūsų Susiv. taisyklės nustato, kad nariui atsilikus su mokesčiais už tris (3) mėnesius jis yra suspendavimo padėty, gi atsilikęs už šešis (6) mėnesius — pervedamas į pratęsto termino apdraudą — Extended Term Insurance. Deja, daugelis narių su duokliju mokėjimu laukia iki metų pabaigos, kas būna priežastimi nesuspėjimui ir nemalonumų patlems nariams, jų pašalpagaviams ir centrui.



Romas Giedra, newly arrived from soviet occupied Lithuania, speaks at the convention of Knights of Lithuania. At the right Mrs. Loretta Stukas, editor of "Vytis". Photo by E. Sujatis.

