

GARSAS • Lithuanian R.C. Alliance of America

English Section

FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD FORD RECEIVES BALTIC FREEDOM AWARD

In a presentation at the Gerald R. Ford Library in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on February 10th, the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) honored former President Ford with the Baltic Freedom Award.

In opening remarks, Maido Kari, Estonian representative to JBANC, said the Baltic Freedom Award was created to honor those Americans who have made significant contributions to the Baltic cause. Past Americans include members of Congress, the U.S. Government, private institutions and journalists.

Olgers Pavlovskis, President of the World Federation of Free Latvians, presented the Baltic Freedom Award to President Ford. Pavlovskis noted that President Ford, during his terms as Congressman, Vice-President and President, advocated a policy of supporting the aspirations for national independence of the peoples of the Baltic states.

"President Ford's help in establishing the Baltic language services at Radio Liberty, personal intervention in the cases of Baltic prisoners of conscience and rejection of the Soviet interpretation of the Helsinki Final Act, are actions which clearly document President Ford's policy," Pavlovskis added.

President Ford responded by thanking JBANC for the honor and remarked that he is deeply concerned over what has happened to the Baltic states since World War II.

Reflecting on the Helsinki process, President Ford said, "I never condoned the Soviet interpretation of the Helsinki Accords. It's not the promises we make but the promises we keep. The Soviet Union has never kept the promises they made, and for that reason, we have to keep after them, pressure them, and be tough with them, in order to make the Soviets live up to their promises."

JBANC Chairman, John Gynys, congratulated President Ford and thanked him for his assistance in the case of Lithuanian prisoner of conscience, Si-

mas Kudirka. President Ford replied that he had spoken personally to President Brezhnev about the case, and was pleased to see that the Soviet Union allowed Kudirka to emigrate to the west.

Raimond Tralla, representing the Michigan chapter of the Estonian American National Council, congratulated President Ford on behalf of Estonians living in Michigan, and conveyed the best wishes of the Nationalities Division of the Michigan chapter of the Estonian American National Council, congratulated President Ford on behalf of Estonians living in Michigan, and conveyed the best wishes of the Nationalities Division of the Michigan Republican Party.

Also attending the award presentation in Ann Arbor was Anita Bedelis, Director of Public Relations for the Joint Bal-

tic American National Committee, Rev. Mihkel Soovik (Estonian American National Council), Viktor Raag (Commander, Legion of Estonian Liberation Michigan Chapter), Julijs Riekstins (American Latvian Association), Sigurds Rudzitis (American Association), and Raymond Sakis (Lithuanian American Council).

JBANC had initially announced President Ford as a recipient of the Baltic Freedom Award during a reception in Washington, DC, on July 28, 1982, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the recognition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the United States.

JBANC represents the three central Baltic organizations, monitors U.S. Government actions on the Baltic states, and provides information to interested agencies and congressional offices.

U.S. DELEGATE TO U.N. PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR BALTIC STATES

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which is meeting in Geneva, heard the United States delegate reiterate his country's refusal to recognize what he termed the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. On February 4, 1983, the U.S. delegate **Richard Schifter** told the Commission that "just as the people of the Baltic States have not forgotten their national heritage, neither has my country forgotten their plight." He then noted that the American delegation to the Helsinki review conference in Madrid had said on this subject that, "time does not make right, any more than might makes right".

The Commission is debating the right of peoples to self-determination, and its application to peoples under alien domination or foreign occupation. Schifter told the delegates:

"Another year has passed during which Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania continue to suffer from domination by a for-

eign occupying power. What is truly amazing is that now, more than forty years after these countries were swallowed up in the wake of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, their indomitable will to assert their national identity shines through the heavy veil of censorship. We continue to receive reports that advocates of Baltic national rights are being prosecuted in the Soviet courts, not for insurrection, not for armed resistance against the might of the State, but merely for speaking out in support of their national heritage. This repression, arrest, and imprisonment of Baltic nationals, human rights advocates and religious leaders must be of deep concern to all of us and, indeed, requires us to call the Soviet Union to account".


PARTY OFFICIAL DEPLORES ANTI-SOVIET ACTIVITY BY YOUNG LITHUANIANS

One of the most candid admissions about the nationalist and religious activities of young Lithuanians was made by N. Dybenko, the second secretary of the Lithuanian CP, in his speech on June 30, 1982. The speech was published in the monthly *Jaunimo Gretos* (August, 1982) The Russian supervisor of the Lithuanian Communist Party said:

"The world view of today's young generation was formed under the conditions of a very sharp ideological struggle. One cannot help being anxious about isolated but still recurrent instances of political naivety and nationalist-tinged actions among some young men and women, as well as acts of hooliganism. When we analyze the circumstances surrounding such occurrences, we become convinced that the fellow students and co-workers of these youths could not have been unaware of the political immaturity of these youths.

Youths Organize Anti-Soviet Groups

"I will present one example. Last May, a former communist youth Margevičius, tenth-grade student at the Žemaitė High



Lithuanian Independence Day, 1983

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Sixty-five years ago a small nation achieved freedom in the aftermath of World War I. Proclaiming the Lithuanian Republic, its founders stepped forward on February 16, 1918, to assert their country's independence and commitment to a government based on justice, democracy, and the rights of the individual.

Twenty-two years later Soviet tyranny imposed itself on Lithuania and denied the Lithuanian people their just right of national self-determination. In the intervening years, the United States has refused to recognize the forcible incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union.

An enduring belief in freedom for all people unites Americans everywhere. But we must be vigilant in the protection of our common ideal, for as long as freedom is denied others, it is not secure here.

We mark this anniversary of Lithuanian independence with a renewed hope that the blessings of liberty will be restored to Lithuania.

The Congress of the United States, by House Joint Resolution 60, has authorized and requested the President to proclaim February 16, 1983, as Lithuanian Independence Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 16, 1983, as Lithuanian Independence Day.

I invite the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and deeds and to reaffirm their dedication to the ideals which unite us and inspire others.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of February, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and seventh.

Ronald Reagan

CONGRESS ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON "LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY"

A resolution requesting the U.S. President to designate February 16 as "Lithuanian Independence Day" was unanimously adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on February 2nd and by the Senate on February 3rd. The resolution (H. and S.J. Res. 60) recalls the period of Lithuania's independence, says that the United States "supports the cause of a free Lithuania", and maintains that "the oppressed people currently living in Lithu-

ania should keep the flame of freedom forever burning in their hearts". According to the resolution, the President's proclamation should call on the people of the United States to celebrate "Lithuanian Independence Day" with "appropriate ceremonies and activities".

Voicing his support for the resolution on Jan. 26, 1983, Senator Moynihan stated that its adoption would be an "appropriate, if all too small, token of American solidarity with the

Lithuanian people's aspiration to freedom", and "would send a needed message to the Soviet Union that we in the United States will never recognize the forcible incorporation of independent nations into the Soviet empire". Representative Russo, on February 2, 1983, emphasized the "continuing determination of the Lithuanian people to be free" and added that "we are with them as they hold to the cherished hope of an independent Lithuania".

This is not because they lack effective means in their struggle against the ideology of the church, but because some (communist) activists believe that religion will disappear by itself. Yet the facts indicate the contrary. Last year in the Lazdijai raiton, for instance, 82 percent of all the newlyweds were married in church, nine of ten newborn children were baptized. It is imperative that we unconditionally follow Lenin's demand — we must always be militant atheists and take a principled stand towards Communist youths who perform religious services or participate in them. It is especially important that the young people do understand that clerical extremists do not seek religious but reactionary political goals".

"Challenge of Religion" Emphasized

"Comrades! The Party is incessantly urging us to conduct an offensive of atheist propaganda and agitation. Observations during the last several years indicate that the Catholic Church is directing the thrust of its propaganda at the young people. However, the communist youth organizations are not utilizing their full potential and do not always respond to the challenge of religion with effective counter-propaganda.

PRIEST ARRESTED IN LITHUANIA?

Reliable sources from Lithuania report that the Rev. Richardas Cerniauskas was recently arrested by the Soviet authorities. Last June 20, Cerniauskas announced from the pulpit of St. Michael's parish in Vilnius that he was refusing to comply with his transfer to a provincial parish. His transfer was instigated by the Communist officials,

who were angered by his popularity among the young people and his public criticism of the Soviet persecution of religion. The underground *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania* quoted him as saying to his flock: "If someone were to kill me, hang me, say that I have venereal disease, fake my suicide, ... commit me to psychiatric hospital, you will know whose work this is ... I became a priest to speak the truth".

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1983

Dear Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

On the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of Lithuanian independence, I am privileged to convey to you and to the Lithuanian people the best wishes and hopes of the Government and people of the United States.

On February 16, 1918, the Lithuanian people proclaimed their independence from foreign domination and in the twenty-two years which followed devoted themselves to building a democratic nation on the shores of the Baltic Sea. But as history records, this noble achievement was tragically destroyed when the Soviet Union invaded and illegally annexed Lithuania in June, 1940.

The United States unequivocally condemned the Soviet annexation of Lithuania in 1940 and does so today. We do not recognize the forcible incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union. This Administration, as previous Administrations, honors your countrymen's struggle for freedom and remains determined that the memory of what happened in Lithuania over forty years ago shall not fade and that the wrongs done then will one day be righted.

Sincerely yours,

George P. Shultz
George P. Shultz

Dr. S.A. Backis,
Chargé d'Affaires of Lithuania,
Lithuanian Legation,
2622 16th Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

A greeting by Secretary of State George P. Shultz to Dr. S.A. Backis, Chargé d'Affaires of Lithuania, on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of Lithuanian independence.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SUPPORTS BALTIC SELF-DETERMINATION

Resolution on Baltic Freedom Adopted by Huge Majority

On January 13, 1983, the European Parliament affirmed the right of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians to determine their own destinies. A resolution endorsing self-determination for the Baltic nations was adopted by 98 votes in favor, six against, and eight abstaining.

Resolution Condemns Occupation of Baltic States

The resolution makes a reference to the joint declaration of the 45 nationals of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania who in 1979 denounced the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and called on the United Nations "to recognize the rights of the Baltic States to self-determination and independence" and demanding "a referendum on this issue". Also mentioned in the resolution are the bilateral peace treaties between the USSR and the three Baltic States, signed in 1920, in which the Soviet Union guaranteed "the inviolability of their territory and eternal peace", as well as Article VIII of the Final Act of Helsinki Conference, which secures the right of self-determination of peoples. The European Parliament condemns the occupation of the formerly independent Baltic States in 1940, pursuant to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and recalls the eight-year struggle and armed resistance of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians "fighting for their freedom", as well as the deportation of 665,000 Balts since 1940. Non-recognition of the Soviet annexation by most Western powers is noted.

Baltic Issue to the U.N. Decolonization Committee

In view of the above, the European Parliament calls on the Conference of Foreign Ministers to "use their best endeavors to see that the aspirations of the peoples of these (Baltic) States as to their form of government are realized". The resolution suggests that the foreign ministers submit the issue of the Baltic States to the Decolonization Subcommittee of the U.N. and that it should be the subject of review during the conferences to monitor the implementation of the Helsinki Final Act.

Baltic Exile Representatives Attend as Observers

It was the first time that the plenary session of the European Parliament took up the Baltic issue. Representatives of the Baltic exile organizations from Europe and the United States attended the session as observers. (The Lithuanian delegation, as well as the Baltic World Conference delegation was led by Dr. C.K. Bobelis, chairman of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania).

Rapporteur von Habsburg—Baltic States Belong to Europe

The rapporteur on the situation in the Baltic States, Dr. Otto von Habsburg, emphasized that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia belonged to the domain of European culture. In his earlier explanatory statement, he pointed out that after the disappearance of most of the overseas colonies, the Soviet Union was the last colonial power in the world. The classic example of this European political problem were the Baltic States, which were not only forcibly robbed of their independence, but were also exposed to a "brutal policy of extermination and Russification". Otto von Habsburg reminded the representatives that the Soviet Union has violated all the treaties it had signed with the Baltic countries and in which it had obligated itself to respect their freedom and independence.

British Conservative — If the Balts Could Vote...

R. Simmonds, representative of the British Conservative Party, said that the people in the West take their democratic system as granted and often fail to appreciate it properly. If the Balts would be allowed to vote freely, they would know how to pick a system under which they could have a free use of their own languages, enjoy religious freedom, and would not be afraid of being exiled or deported. He also drew the attention of the representatives to the fact that in the West there was much talk about human rights in distant lands, but the viola-

tion of these same rights in East Europe was sometimes forgotten. He urged all the members of the European Parliament to demonstrate their unity by voting in favor of the Baltic resolution.

Human Rights Are Indivisible, German Socialist Says

Speaking in the name of the Socialists in the European Parliament, Hans-Joachim Seeler of Germany expressed his satisfaction about the fact that the European Parliament, which has been keeping close watch over the human rights situation in the entire world, now has found time to make a clear statement about the destiny of the Baltic nations. The Socialist fraction, he said, would vote for the resolution, because in their eyes human rights were indivisible. If the Helsinki Final Act is not to remain a mere piece of paper, then it must be applied to the Baltic nations as well. Therefore the Socialist fraction demands that the European governments place this question on the agenda of the next following meeting of the Helsinki conference.

Soviets still Ruling Tsarist Empire — Seeler

Seeler also pointed out that the Soviet Union was still ruling over all the lands that had been annexed by tsarist Russia. In contrast to the West European States, the Soviet Union has not granted independence to these nations. The U.N. Decolonization Subcommittee could acquaint the former colonial dependencies in Asia and Africa with this situation, Seeler said.

Italian Liberal — Injustice to Baltic States Must Not Be Forgotten

The representative of the Italian Liberal Party, Gawronski, spoke of the Russification campaign, which he had occasion to observe during his visit a year ago in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius. He also witnessed the "dirty tricks" of the KGB against the dissidents. Gawronski said that for the principle's sake alone, the injustice against the Baltic States should not be allowed to be forgotten, although that injustice was inflicted forty years ago. Otherwise, he stressed,

it would be useless to speak of the independence of Afghanistan and Poland.

French and Greek Communists Echo Moscow's Line, Denounce Resolution

According to the Frankfurter Allgemeine (January 15, 1983), there were some "tumultuous" scenes right before the voting, when the Greek Communist representative Adamou denied the European Parliament the right to discuss the Baltic question and dismissed the reports about the situation in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as "fairy tales for little children".

The resolution was also angrily denounced by the French Communist representative, R. Chambéiron, who thus demonstrated that the French CP under Marchais has again become an ideological loud-speaker for Moscow.

A New Chapter Begins for Baltic Struggle

The Baltic resolution of the European Parliament opens a new chapter in the Baltic nations' long struggle for their basic rights. It brings them nearer to their end goal - full liberty and independence.

BROTHER OF FORMER PRISONER INTERNED IN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

Jonas Sadūnas, the brother of Miss Nijolė Sadūnaitė, a former prisoner of conscience who served six years for dissident activities, was forcibly interned in a psychiatric hospital in Lithuania on November 18. According to unconfirmed reports, he

was released two weeks later. Human rights activists in Lithuania, annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940 profess that Jonas Sadūnas' internment is only one of many retaliatory measures and scare tactics undertaken by the KGB against the

Sadūnas family, especially his sister, who still maintains a large following of loyal supporters in the West.

Miss Sadūnaitė's story sparked interest in the religious press in 1974, when she was arrested for typing issue 11 of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. The *Chronicle* is an underground publication, which documents religious persecution and other human rights violations in the Soviet Baltic republics. The trial of Nijolė, a clandestine nun, was closed to all but militiamen, security agents and her brother Jonas.

Since Nijolė's return to Lithuania on July 9, 1980, a campaign of harassment against her brother has been intensified. All mail has been interrupted between the Sadūnas family and friends in the West. Registered letters and parcels to Sadūnas and his sister have either "disappeared" or have been confiscated by Soviet officials.

Sadūnas has protested non-delivery of his mail repeatedly to the Ministry of Communications. On October 27, 1981, Sadūnas and his sister inquired as to whether or not seventy-four registered letters conveying Easter greetings to friends and relatives abroad had been delivered. G. Samoilovich of the Vilnius Post Office falsely claimed that "... the registered letters being traced were expedited in due course and delivered to the proper addressees".

Contrary to the official report, visiting tourists informed Sadūnas personally that his private communications to friends abroad were not being delivered and they themselves discovered that nor were their letters to him being received, in contravention of international postal covenants. Sadūnas' claim to indemnity for expenses incurred in sending registered letters deliberately impeded by Soviet officials, has gone unheeded as well. In another case, only five of twenty-six Christmas greetings sent to eighteen foreign countries reached their intended destinations.

Besides these aggravations, Sadūnas has been subjected to other forms of harassment. On the morning of September 26, 1981, he discovered that his basement had been burglarized and all of Nijolė's letters from labor camp had been stolen. For two days, Sadūnas pleaded with the militia to come to the scene of the crime, but they arrived only on the third day.

In a search of his home last October 11, a search party confiscated books and religious items. A yellow, green and red toy (colors comprising the flag of independent Lithuania) found on the premises drew the wrath of security agents, who accused him of harboring it illegally.

Jonas Sadūnas resides in Vilnius, Architektų Street 27, Apt. 2 with his wife Marytė Sadūnienė, their seven year old daughter and his sister Nijolė.

SIMAS KUDIRKA TO U.S. BISHOPS — SELF-DEFENSE IS MORAL OBLIGATION

"I was shocked to read of the political stand taken by many American Catholic bishops regarding nuclear arms. I understand that a pastoral letter criticizing U.S. possession of nuclear arms is scheduled to be published next spring, if two-thirds of the U.S. bishops endorse it.

"If the bishops' letter reaches the pulpits of the Catholic churches, the bishops will not only lose credibility with American Catholics but with the persecuted Catholics of all captive nations ...

"Military strategists say we must produce nuclear arms to defend our own freedom. To defend yourself, your family and your country from an attacker is not a moral problem, but a moral obligation.

"I am a practicing Catholic, and I know Communism. I grew up in Soviet occupied Lithuania, where the ideology of Communism is now being forced upon the people. I belonged to the Communist youth organization myself, and I know how the Communists use the prestige

of religion for their own purpose.

"In 1970, I tried to escape from Communist tyranny by jumping from a Russian fishing vessel onto the American Coast Guard cutter, *Vigilant*, but I was forced to return to the Russians.

"Subsequently, in Russian prisons and Siberian concentration camps I had an opportunity to meet the most brilliant imprisoned Catholics and other believers, and I can tell the bishops of the free world that the most pressing moral issue in the world today is the Gulags in the Communist dominated countries. The Catholics and other Christians are being tortured and murdered in psychiatric hospitals, prisons and concentration camps ...

"Please, American Catholic bishops, do not close your eyes and ears. The oppressed people in the Soviet Empire, especially the Catholics, are looking at you and waiting for help. Silence is betrayal."

(Simas Kudirka, in "Catholic Twin Circle", January 30, 1983)

From "The Lithuanians" by Anthony D. Yuknis.

EL SALVADOR: CERTIFICATION PROCESS

Background

In passing the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1981, Congress found that "peaceful and democratic development in Central America is in the interest of the US" and that "substantial assistance to El Salvador is necessary to help alleviate suffering and to promote economic recovery within a peaceful and democratic process". The act makes the provision of military assistance to El Salvador in fiscal years 1982 and 1983 contingent upon the President's certification, at 180-day intervals, that the Salvadoran Government is:

— "Making a concerted and significant effort to comply with internationally recognized human rights";

— "Achieving substantial control over... its own armed forces";

— "Making continued progress in implementing essential economic and political reforms, including the land reform program"; and

— "Committed to the holding of elections at an early date."

The first certification was transmitted to Congress by the Secretary of State on January 28, 1982; the second, July 27.

The third certification, affecting the \$26.3 million in military assistance for fiscal year 1983, was made on January 21, 1983. The certification report found progress — although uneven — in all areas specified by law and in the efforts the Salvadoran Government is making to investigate the murders and disappearances of US citizens and bring to justice those responsible. Nonetheless, the report also expressed particular concern over the continuing ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system and the need to extend further discipline to all units of the military and security forces across the country.

US Policy

US policy is to support the Salvadoran Government against guerrilla military activity, while encouraging reconciliation

based on a democratic political process and economic reform. During 1982, US economic assistance was \$189 million, while military assistance totaled \$82 million. This policy, which includes strong support for human rights, was reinforced by President Reagan during his visit to Central America in December 1982.

Human Rights and the Armed Forces

Abuses of human rights continued to decline during 1982. Civilian deaths did not exceed 200 a month during the last 6 months compared to an average of 500 a month the year before, according to press reports in both periods. To reduce abuses further — such as the unresolved disappearance in August of a human rights activist and an opposition political figure — the government on December 2 established a new human rights commission with senior representatives from Catholic Church, security forces, and labor and farm unions. Shortcomings in internal military discipline are being corrected slowly by human rights training by the Red Cross, law-of-war instruction in military training by the US, better communication, and government orders that emphasize respect for civilians. In January 1983, 141 military personnel and 16 civil defense commanders were under detention for abuse of authority.

Agrarian Reform

Substantial progress has been sustained throughout the past 6 months, particularly in the "land to the tiller" program, which offers sharecroppers and renters an opportunity to obtain title to the land they work. The number of beneficiaries (title claimants and their immediate

families increased 16.2%; acres affected, 5%. The total number of beneficiaries reached 414,594 (an increase during this period of 57,828) and acres affected, 709,547 (an increase of 34,131). Unemployment is about 40%, in part because of guerrilla attacks

against bridges, transportation, utilities, production facilities, and farm lands.

Political Reforms

The democratic process marked by the Constituent Assembly election in March 1982 has continued. The country is committed to holding presidential elections and a referendum on a new constitution not later than March 1984. The principal parties joined the president in the Pact of Apaneca in August 1982 to form a plan for promoting peace and human rights and strengthening democracy. As called for in the pact, the high ranking Human Rights Commission and one on policy have been formed and a peace commission is expected to be established soon. The government has experienced its first cabinet crisis, with the president establishing his authority to change ministers. While the parties initially protested the president's proposed changes, compromise and consensus ultimately prevailed. Similarly, the insubordination of a senior officer, who refused an order transferring him overseas, was resolved in a manner that strengthened the president's hand as the chief executive and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. On October 4, El Salvador joined seven other democratic states in the Final Act of San Jose, Costa Rica, in a formal commitment to a regional process of peace negotiations, democratization, demilitarization, nonintervention, and respect for human rights.

Cases of American Citizens

Prosecution is underway of five National Guardsmen accused of murdering four American churchwomen; two National Guardsmen who confessed to the murder of two US land reform consultants are in jail pending appeals and trials. Difficulties have plagued both cases, illustrating the need for an honest and effective system of criminal justice in El Salvador.

(GIST)



The 65th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's independence was commemorated at ceremonies outside the Luzerne County Courthouse on February 16. Joining with various Lithuanian organizations for the program under a bright sun were officials of the county and various local communities and members of the country judiciary. Nellie T. Bayoras, program chairman, served as master of ceremonies. Due to the snow on the courthouse lawn, the Lithuanian flag was not raised, but the flag was borne on a standard by Edward Stankus. Resolutions marking Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Independence Day were read by Edward Brominski, chairman, Luzerne County Board of Commissioners; Robert Prawdick, program coordinator and Wilkes Barre City councilman; Paul McGarry, Pittston City clerk; Congressman Frank Harrison; Ann Challan, president, Knights of Lithuania, and Charles Lisosky, executive director, Lithuanian Catholic Alliance. Acknowledgements were given by Daniel Stadulis, president, Taurus Club, and remarks were given by Mrs. Bayoras. Singing of the national anthems of Lithuania and the United States was led by Vaclovas Romanas. Prayer was given by Rev. Joseph J. Lasky, pastor, St. Mary's Church, Kingston. Following the ceremony, coffee and cake were served in the courthouse rotunda.

AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT BALTIC SELF-DETERMINATION

On December 14, 1982, the Parliament of Australia unanimously adopted a resolution on the self-determination of the Baltic States. Introduced by Senator Austin Lewis, State of Victoria, the resolution calls upon the Australian Government to urge the United Nations General Assembly to (a) "heed the voice of the oppressed peoples of the Baltic States; and (b) recognize the right of these previously independent States to self-determination and the free pursuit of their economic, social and cultural development".

In the resolution, the Australian Senate also notes that "under their colonization by the Soviet Union the peo-

ple of the Baltic States, comprising Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, have suffered serious deprivations and loss of human rights".

In a reply to a Human Rights Appeal by the Baltic Council of Australia, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, A.A. Street, emphasized that the Australian Government "in no way regards Soviet rule there (in the Baltic States) as legitimate". In his letter dated December 17, 1982, Mr. Street writes that his Government "has strongly deplored the Soviet Union's poor record on human rights, including in the Baltic States. The Soviet Government is in no doubt as to the strength of feeling in Aus-

tralia about this matter".

"Although the Baltic States do not fall neatly within the customary definition of a colonial situation", the Foreign Minister continues, "the Government's concern about the position of the Baltic States is clear. As a matter of policy it does not recognize the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union, *de jure*. While it is acknowledged that the Soviet Union at present exercises effective control in the Baltic States, the Australian Government in no way regards Soviet rule there as legitimate. Needless to say, the Government has no intention of revising or altering its policy toward the Baltic States".

NEW LITHUANIAN "CHRONICLE" (NO. 55) REACHES WEST

The 55th issue of the underground journal *The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, dated November 1, 1982, has slipped through the Iron Curtain recently. The new issue provides additional proof of the determination of the great majority of the Lithuanian clergy to press for the fundamental rights that are now denied to the Catholic population. The recent "angry attacks against religion" by the Lithuanian Communist officials are criticized, and basic demands in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act and other international documents, are listed in a statement (July-August, 1982), in the Telšiai, Vilkaviškis and Panevėžys dioceses, and in the Kaunas archdiocese; only 15 priests have refused to sign it, while nine were not approached. The signatories include Bishop Julijonas Steponavičius removed to have been nominated a cardinal in pectore by Pope John Paul II. Officials of the curia and priests associated with the Theological Seminary were not asked to sign. Signatures are still being collected in the diocese of Kaišiadorys and in the archdiocese of Vilnius.

Thirty members of priests' councils have addressed a similar statement in July-August, 1982, to the Lithuanian bishops and administrators of dioceses. The statement covers a broad field of discrimination and abuses to which the Lithuanian Catholic Church is subjected.

The continuing interference of the Communist officials into the internal affairs of the Kaunas Theological Seminary is the

subject of a protest statement by nine priests, members of the Vilnius archdiocese, which was addressed to the Lithuanian Bishops on September 2, 1982. The *Chronicle* adds that the KGB is conducting an intensive campaign to enlist seminarians as "spies". The communist establishment's view of the religious rights' movement is presented in detail.

In its section on "Searches and Interrogation", the new *Chronicle* describes the harassment and brief incarceration of Jonas Sadūnas, the brother of the "prisoner of conscience" Nijolė Sadūnaitė. Eduard Bulakh, a pentecostal believer, was rearrested on September 9, 1982. Jadvyga Bieliauskienė, a resident of Garliava, was arrested on October 29, 1982, for religious activity with young people. 200 Catholics accompanied the Rev. Antanas Beniušis to his interrogation by the procurator's office in Tauragė.

An extensive report on last August's great religious festival in Šiluva documents the authorities' efforts to harass and terrorize the participants; a clash between a crowd, including workers, and a group of militiamen, on September 12,

is described. Excerpts from the letters of the "prisoners of conscience", Anastazas Janulis and Vytautas Vaičiūnas, are published. The continuing maltreatment of Viktoras Petkus, candidate for the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize, is recorded. There is a survey of vandalization of churches, destruction of crosses, and harassment of priests. Discrimination against Catholic students is described in the section "In the Soviet School". The new *Chronicle* also documents the persecution of religious believers in Latvia, Belorussia and the Ukraine.

BRIDGES — a monthly newsletter in the English language, published by the Lithuanian American Community, is geared for those Lithuanians, who do not understand Lithuanian but are interested in Lithuanian culture. The newsletter is published monthly and the subscription rate is 5 dol. per year. The readers of *Garsas* are urged to recommend it to the Lithuanians in their communities to subscribe it for their children, who are interested in their heritage. Write to: Bridges, 341 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207.



The Christian Mothers Altar and Rosary Society of St. Casimir's Church, Pittston, met recently for the first meeting of the new year. Rev. Peter Alisauskas installed the newly elected officers prior to the Mass. President Helen Nagy welcomed new members Theresa Smith and Mary Chorba. A social tea, honoring past presidents, followed. Preliminary plans for the Spring Card Party to be held March 23, were discussed. Stella Poder and Anna Walatkas were named chairman and co-chairman respectively. The 50-50 drawing will be directed by Marian Tribendis and Marian Chepalis. Shown, seated from left, Mary Sites, past president; Frances Mercincavage, treasurer; Marian Tribendis, vice president; Rev. Peter Alisauskas, moderator; Helen Nagy, president; Judy Legg, secretary; Marian Chepalis, past president. Standing, Ann Rose, Mary Gillis, Mary Luke, Eleanor Sakalauskas, Marie Lauck, Helen Sennick, Stella Poder, Jule Keder, Mary Waiksnis, Ann Gerosky, Helen Drew, Rosalie Kizis, Ruth Rinkavage.



Installation of officers was held recently by the Lithuanian Citizens Club. Pictured seated from left, Stanley Abramovage, financial secretary; Joseph Francik Jr., recording secretary; Atty. R. James Kamage, club solicitor and installing officer. Anthony Akulonis, president; John Kwasniak, vice president; Adam Montville, treasurer. Standing, Bernie Yanalis, Paul Lauch, Frank Puscevage, Dennis Palladino, Joe Krapovich, Jim Zambetti, Robert Hidgen, Stephen Perry.

Centrinėje Lietuvių Katalikų Susivienijimo įstaigoje, 71-73 S. Washington Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701, galima įsigyti lietuviškų kortelių su pasveikinimu Šv. Kalėdų proga, o taip pat Šv. Velykų ir gimtadienių progomis.

