

... Russia without any prejudice recognizes the self-rule and independence of the State of Lithuania with all the juridical consequences . . . and for all times renounces with good will all the sovereignty rights of Russia, which it has had in regard to the Lithuanian nation or territory.

Peace Treaty with Russia
Moscow, July 12, 1920

April 15, 1943
Lithuanian National Council
M. Mažvydas
biblioteka

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill:
1. Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;
2. They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;
3. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.

Atlantic Charter
August 14, 1941

Lp

LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

Published by the Lithuanian National Council

73 West 104th Street, New York, N. Y.

This Bulletin contains information on current events in Lithuania and neighboring countries from both neutral and German controlled press.

Vol. I

April 28, 1943

No. 2

LITHUANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE LITHUANIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL

Judgement can best be formed concerning the relative importance of the Lithuanian political parties on the basis of the results of the four free elections of the Lithuanian Seimas (parliament). Suffrage was equal for all classes and sexes; representation was proportional and ballots were cast secretly. During these four democratic elections, the election of 347 members of Seimas took place. The party affiliations of these members of parliament were as follows (1920-1927):

Christian Democrats	167 or 48%
Liberals	88 or 26%
Social Democrats	39 or 11%
Jews	18 or 5%
Poles	13 or 3.7%
Germans	11 or 3.0%
Communists	5 or 1.5%
Nationalists	3 or 0.9%
Farmers' Party	2 or 0.6%
Russians	1 or 0.3%

The Lithuanian National Council represents the four largest Lithuanian political groups: Christian Democrats, Liberals, Social Democrats, and Jews. To sum up, their associate members in Lithuania amount to about 90% of all citizens of the Lithuanian Republic.

The Lithuanian National Council, consisting of 12 members, was elected at the Conference of Lithuanian Citizens', held in Chicago on April 8th and 9th, 1942. At present, it consists of 10 members. Of its former members, Mr. H. Rabinavicius, former charge d'affairs in Washington, Moscow and London, recently acquired American citizenship and retired from the Council; Mr. A. Vaiciulaitis, prominent novelist and writer, entered the United States air corps.

LITHUANIA

Krakauer Zeitung, Nov. 25, 1942.—According to a new decree, all horses which are to be slaughtered in Lithuania must be surrendered, in which case the cattle delivery quotas will be reduced by half.

Lithuanian Farm Seized for Aid to Soviet Prisoners

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 15, 1942, reports that for sheltering, feeding and supplying clothes to two Soviet prisoners-of-war to enable them to escape, the farmstead belonging to the peasant Jonas Jaglauskas and Michalina, his wife, of the village of Sodeliai in District Vabalninkai, Kreis Birzai, has been seized by the authorities.

German Colonisation of Lithuania

Dagens Nyheter, Dec. 19, 1942.—The Germans have discreetly but methodically begun to colonise Lithuania which means the disappearance of Lithuania as an independent state. Instead of 17,000 real Germans, 50,000 "Volksdeutsche" left Lithuania for Greater Germany. These "Volksdeutsche" allowed themselves to be so described in order to qualify for repatriation, fearing Russian persecution. On repatriation they were not treated as real Germans and were divided into two categories "A" (Altreich) and "O" (Oster) and these letters are stamped on their passports. The former are now not allowed to return to Lithuania while the latter may do so and their ranks are joined by Volksdeutsche Roumanians and Dutchmen of Mussert's Party.

Their return to Lithuania caused much unrest among the Lithuanians who feared they would be driven from their farmsteads. However the German authorities reassured them that it would not involve such consequences and put the blame on the enemy's propaganda for spreading such disquieting rumors. Nonetheless, many Lithuanian farmers have been ejected from their property under pretext that they were either communistically inclined or of Polish origin. Germans have been put in their places on the farms. Although a declaration states that Lithuanian farmers may "entertain hopes" that after the war they may be reinstated as owners of their farms, for the time being they must pay the debts due on their properties.

German colonisation extends only to western Lithuania. According to the latest decree about 70,000 more industrial and agricultural workers will be recruited before May 1st, 1943, for work in Germany; these will include 20% women. This, despite official German state-

THE LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

ments that Lithuania has no compulsory labour force. Furthermore, all Lithuanian students of the 1921-1924 classes have been ordered to volunteer for the Reich Labour Service failing which they would forfeit the right of entering universities. All those who volunteer must proceed to Germany, otherwise they are considered as deserters. In the whole of Lithuania less than 500 students obeyed the summons to leave for Germany last October. As the summons applied to over 3,000 students only about 15% paid attention to the threat. In connection with this insubordination, tuition at the Universities of Kaunas and Vilna has been discontinued. **About 50 professors and students were sent to concentration camps.** Past and future deportations are reminiscent, at least in extent, of those carried out during Soviet occupation when some 57,000 Lithuanians were removed to the Siberian steppes, deportations which were so picturesquely called by the Soviets "Voluntary Evacuation."

The leaders of the two largest Lithuanian Parties, the People's Socialist (Liberals) and the Christian Democrats have taken the risk of protesting in writing to the German Commissioner General against the methods of the occupation. In the absence of a Lithuanian Government or a responsible Lithuanian organ, **the former President of the State, Grinius, and the former Minister of State, Krupavicius, considered it their duty to raise their voices.** From mouth to mouth there now passes the national watchword: **"All Lithuanians are equally good. Therefore no differences may exist among them. German decrees must be complied with but with the greatest possible reserve."**

Exhibition in Vilna

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 21, 1942, reports that an exhibition entitled "Europe's struggle in the East" was opened in Vilna on November 19th.

Surrender of Sheep-Skins in Lithuania

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 22, 1942.—In response to the Commissioner General's appeal, over 53,000 more sheepskins have recently been surrendered in Lithuania at moderate prices and against a premium of 500 gr. of salt for each. All the sheepskins were earmarked for the Front. These results confirm the population's willingness, by continually providing the soldiers with warm clothing, to do its part in contributing to the anti-Bolshevik struggle and also confirm no less the energy of the many helpers who untiringly visited farmers, doing propaganda among them regarding the necessity of surrendering sheepskins.

A committee of seven were in charge of the campaign for the collection. This was the third campaign of its kind. During December, 1941 and January and February, 1942, the number of skins collected was 43,383 and 5,219 respectively. Dr. Pense thanked the committee for the results they had achieved, emphasizing the necessity of providing the armed forces with everything they needed in the way of food and clothing. He stated: It is primarily in this spirit that all the work is being performed

here in Lithuania. The aim of the German authorities is also undoubtedly to overcome the not inconsiderable agricultural difficulties. It goes without saying that both the German and the Lithuanian authorities will do their utmost to satisfy as much as possible the needs of the rural population, as it is only natural that the farmer must be given preferential treatment, although war requirements must be given primary consideration.

Speculator in Memel (Klaipeda)

Sentenced to Death

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 23, 1942.—A 60-year-old merchant, Fritz Abendrot, of Bajohren, in the Memel district, who in 1939 took over a former Jewish business has been sentenced to death by the German Special Court in Memel for speculation.

An investigation proved that wagon loads of various goods, including 51,250 kg of salt, 35 centners of yeast, 10.5 centners of caustic soda, 6,560 packets of dye flints worth 5,038 marks, 63 doz. packets of playing cards, etc., ran to Bajohren which had only 500 inhabitants, after which they disappeared. It is out of the question that Abendrot sold these quantities of goods only on this side of the frontier. Cases of price excesses of 900% have been established. Some witnesses gave evidence that Abendrot preferred Lithuanian customers to Germans. Experts estimated Abendrot's monthly net profit was 25,000 marks. To induce Memel firms to supply him with goods he gave the managers and responsible employees geese, ducks, fats and spirits.

In his verdict the judge pointed out that there was an acute shortage of the goods involved, not only in Lithuania but also in the Reich, and that the offender had caused monstrous losses to the Reich's economy and by his base conduct made himself liable to be excluded from the German community.

German Policy in the Baltic Countries

Dagens Nyheter, Dec. 28, 1942, publishes an article from an authoritative source: The Germans occasionally appear to treat the Baltic people with more consideration. Such a period has now set in when the Germans have restricted reference to these countries as "our eastern space" and the word colonisation both in speech and writing is dropped. Whether this is due to the changing fortunes of war or to disappointment last winter in attempting to get more volunteers and material help from the Baltic peoples, it is difficult to say. The fact, however, remains that ever since the incorporation of the Baltic peoples into the "New Europe," they have only been getting half as high wages as the Germans, smaller food rations and no access to manufactured goods. Nor has any change occurred in the relations between the Germans and the Baltic "volunteers" on the eastern front. Comradeship-in-arms is simultaneously strengthened by smaller allocations to the latter and possibly also by such detail as German soldiers not being obliged to salute Baltic officers.

About the strife against the common enemy, Communism, the Balts may talk and write as much as they like. The Lithuanians may also dwell on their history and even discuss their last years of independence. The country's great writers and pioneers of freedom may also be honoured even if they were known to be Socialists. When Professor Kuzma, a well-known left-wing Socialist (who, owing to his popularity in Soviet times, was appointed to the national Soviet in Moscow) died some time ago, his burial developed into a national demonstration without the German administration being able to interfere.

It is obvious that it is forbidden to mention Lithuania's centuries of long and hard strife against the Lebensraum policy of the German crusaders in the east. "National" propaganda, therefore, is directed against the Russians, but more against the Poles who are marked as the enemies of the Lithuanian people. In order that Polish-Lithuanian differences, which had already diminished before the war, should not disappear after the Russian and German work of liberation, they are fanned as much as possible. It is noteworthy that the German administration is much more accommodating to the Lithuanians in the Vilna district than in other parts of Lithuania. The Germans by their own initiative have also taken measures to diminish the Polish-speaking population in the Vilna district. It is not known whether the occupying authorities had a hand in the game when the Pope in October appointed a Lithuanian as Archbishop of Vilna. The new Archbishop, Reinyš, was in 1924 foreign secretary in the Christian Democratic government and was considered in Lithuania as one of the Church's best brains. Before his appointment, Reinyš deputised for over a year for the Polish Archbishop, Jablzykowski, who soon after the entry of the Germans was interned in a monastery.

LATVIA

Latvian Military Formations

Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland, Dec. 17, 1942, reports that on December 9th 35 junior members of the Latvian Schutzmannschaft have been promoted to the rank of lieutenant.

Blackout in Riga Inadequate

Deutsche Zeitung im Ostland, Dec. 22, 1942.—Despite repeated warnings, instructions and explanations by the press and the police on the importance of thorough blackouts, the standard of blackouts in Riga is getting increasingly worse and offenders are now warned that failure to comply with these orders will entail severe punishment and the cutting off of supplies of electricity.

Propaganda and Administration in Latvia

Lecturing at Radorst on reconstruction in Latvia, Jens Mueller said, inter alia:

"German administration in Latvia is behaving perfectly generously, theatres and cinemas are functioning

as in peacetime. Altogether cultural life plays a particularly important role in wartime. This is necessary since the Latvians' intelligence stands far above the ordinary level. For propaganda purposes, only those Latvians who have proved themselves true are employed. Last year over 400,000 leaflets, 79,000 brochures, 170,000 pictures of the Fuehrer and 52,000 postcards of the Fuehrer were distributed. Our watchword for the week appears also in Latvian. Six daily papers are published in Latvia, one of which, in German, has 120,000 subscribers.

"Some 140,000 Latvians are organised in 141 associations. Latvians enjoy self-government to a wide extent and the German official staff is ridiculously small in number: only 15 Reich Germans occupy posts in the "Fuehrungstab" in all four Latvian General Bezirken. The 19 Landraete are without exception Latvians, though each assisted by a German expert."

ESTONIA

Revaler Zeitung, Nov. 8, 1942, reports that a consignment of 1,500 cows was recently imported into Estonia, from Germany.

Revaler Zeitung, Nov. 28, 1942.—In view of the insufficient quotas of sawn timber that are being delivered for shipping and the urgent necessity to save raw materials vital for the conduct of the war, it is recommended to handle the loading and unloading of the material with utmost care, avoiding damage also to the wooden parts of ships. Also the greatest speed in dispatching timber to and from ships, in loading and unloading is necessary to avoid delays in the sailing of ships.

Cooperatives in Estonia

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 7, 1942.—The losses suffered by Cooperative Societies in Estonia during 1940 and 1941 are estimated to be over 100 million Estonian Kr. As a result of the work of reconstruction which began in December, 1941, the number of cooperatives now again functioning is about 1,950.

WHITE RUTHENIA

Forests and Timber in the Occupied East

Krakauer Zeitung, Dec. 19, 1942.—The German forestry officials have to deal with a comprehensive task in order to improve conditions in the forest land of the Commissionership General of White Ruthenia, which extends over an area of 2.5 million ha. About 19% of all the White Ruthenian forests were formerly owned by the State, 70% were private property and Church property, and 11% were in the hands of the peasants.

In the first place German foresters will have to carry out afforestation in the waste and marshy areas before they can start on the cultivation of the forests. Export officials and a class of forest workers have to be trained.

Blp(LWA)1331
1943, N. 2

The exploitation of timber (Nutzholz) will in the first place serve war-essential purposes, but it will also be a source of valuable by-products for the home industry.

There are about 120 sawmills available, but the works require a great deal of repair.

OSTLAND

Missionaries in the Occupied East

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 15, 1942, reports that priests and missionaries will be sent to Occupied Russia to direct religious life. Hitherto most of the missionaries were Latvians, but it is now intended to employ Estonians also.

Jewish Property in the Ostland

Kauener Zeitung, Dec. 16, 1942, reports that the date for the registration of former Jewish property in the Ostland has been deferred from November 30th to December 31st owing to the fact that very few have been registered so far. Those concerned are finally warned that if they do not register such property, they are liable to suffer penalties, since the beneficiary of confiscated property rights and claims on Jewish debts is the Reich. Failure to register is tantamount to flagrant fraud against the Reich.

Public Health

Berliner Boersen-Zeitung, Dec. 18, 1942.—In order to pass and to co-ordinate measures in the interest of public health, Health Chambers have been established in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Ostland News Service

Ostland Zeitung, Dec. 18, 1942.—An Ostland News Service was started in Riga, Reval, Kaunas and Minsk, which will provide, from January 1st, 1943, the Ostland Press with news and articles. It will replace the German News Service in the Ostland. D.N.B. offices will, however, continue to exist to report news from the Ostland.

NEW BOOKS ON LITHUANIA

The Economic Reconstruction of Lithuania after 1918. By Anicetas Simutis. 148 pp. New York: Columbia University Press, 1942; \$1.50.

Outline History of Lithuanian Literature. By Antanas Vaiciulaitis. 54 pp. Chicago, 1942; 0.40 c.

The Lithuanian Language (A Characterization). By Alfred Senn. 49 pp. Chicago, 1942; 0.40 c.

Orders for copies of these books should be addressed:

Lithuanian Bulletin
73 West 104th Street
New York City

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TELEGRAM OF THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL

March 13, 1943.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENT OF UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

IN VIEW OF THE REPEATEDLY VOICED CLAIMS BY THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PUBLICATIONS TO THE BALTIC STATES AS ALLEGEDLY SOVIET TERRITORIES, WE, THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, WISH TO STRESS THE FACT THAT LITHUANIA AS WELL AS LATVIA AND ESTONIA HAD BEEN FORCEFULLY ANNEXED TO THE SOVIET UNION IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE SOLEMN INTERNATIONAL TREATIES BETWEEN USSR AND EACH OF THOSE NATIONS. AS TO THE COUNTRY OF OUR BIRTH WE KNOW VERY WELL THAT HER PEOPLE HAD NEVER CONSENTED TO OR ACQUIESCED IN THE SOVIET RULE FASTENED UPON THEM BY THE RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES WITH THE HELP OF AN OVERWHELMING FORCE OF THE RED ARMY AND THE DREADED OGPU. THE SUBSEQUENT INVASION OF LITHUANIA BY HITLER'S ARMIES AND HER PRESENT OCCUPATION BY THE NAZIS ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR CRUEL OPPRESSION AND EXPLOITATION OF THE PEOPLE DO NOT IN ANY WAY CONSTITUTE A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE WRONGS SUFFERED BY LITHUANIANS AT THE HANDS OF THE SOVIETS. THE PEOPLE OF LITHUANIA ARDENTLY LONG FOR THE LIBERATION FROM THE GERMAN YOKE, BUT THEY WANT TO REGAIN THEIR NATIONAL FREEDOM AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND NOT MERELY TO CHANGE THEIR FOREIGN MASTERS. IN THE NAME OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OF LITHUANIAN DESCENT WHO WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THE WAR EFFORT OF THIS COUNTRY, WE EXPRESS OUR FULL CONFIDENCE AND FAITH IN YOUR LEADERSHIP IN THIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE AXIS AND WE HOPE THAT THE DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST WILL NEVER BE PARTIES TO ANY COMMITMENTS THAT WOULD DEPRIVE LITHUANIA OF HER RIGHT TO BE RESTORED AS A FREE AND INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC.

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