

. . . . 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

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

# LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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## BALTIC FREEDOM AND LASTING PEACE

Were it not for the fact that some American columnists, radio commentators, editorial writers, and journalists, who, in their wishful thinking and ignorance, believe that lasting peace can be established by sacrificing the independence, freedom, and the right of self-determination of other nations, or of yielding this, that, or the other territory to some adversary or ally as a bribe or blackmail, — there would be no need for this series of articles.

Since "there is no darkness but ignorance," these articles will be written with complete honesty, frankness, and sincerity in order to eliminate the effects of malicious propaganda at its inception. Propaganda which is aiming to torpedo the legal and moral principles upon which this nation was founded, and as restated by our State Department as recently as July 23, 1940.

### Our Birthright

The United States of America was born and built upon the principles of the inalienable rights of national self-determination and individual freedom. Out of the three million people who revolted against tyranny and oppression of the "Divine right of kings", the mightiest and most prosperous nation developed. Within one generation this nation has been called twice by the old and numerically greater empires to come to their rescue.

It is little wonder that our official policy throughout our existence has been, and is today, as restated by our State Department on July 23, 1940:

"The policy of this government is universally known.

"The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities, no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force.

"They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one state, however pow-

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erful, in the domestic concerns of any other sovereign state, however weak.

"These principles constitute the very foundation upon which the existing relationship between the twenty-one sovereign republics of the New World rests.

"The United States will continue to stand by these principles because of the conviction of the American people that unless the doctrine in which these principles are inherent once again governs the relations between nations, the rule of reason, of justice and law, — in other words the basis of modern civilization itself — cannot be preserved."

Thus, advocates of our compromise with the Baltic freedom are in reality not only enemies of American morality and justice, but traitors to the cause of human progress and civilization itself. There is no moral, legal, or economic ground upon which to raise even a question as to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and full national independence, of the Baltic nations, regardless of fabricated excuses and outright lies concocted by the enemies of human rights and the high priests of Communism.

### American Interest in Baltic Freedom

Since every American, naturalized or born, is bound to support our way of life, which includes the fundamental doctrine of "no entangling alliances," and "no taxation without representation," — our government cannot ask its citizens to contribute their blood, sweat, and tears for the benefit of some nations and races in order to enslave others. A government of the people must by its very nature be: "Justice to all, special privileges to none."

In this spirit the United States was born. In this spirit we participated in the first World War with our blood and wealth, and required from our allies and from our adversaries the right to na-

tional self-determination. In the same spirit the declaration of our State Department was made on July 23, 1940, and in the same spirit American citizens of all races and national origin spend their past savings, present income, future earnings, their sweat and their blood at home, on the seven seas and five continents. Amongst them are many millions of citizens that spring from roots of Baltic origin — Finland, Sweden, Norway, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

These citizens most certainly would not have much heart in working, paying, and fighting to promote conquest and tyranny in the ends of their ancestors, especially since none of these countries has ever been a menace to the United States or any other nation. It is just not logical. There is enough American common sense and intelligence among these people to realize that American security cannot be purchased with the silver pieces of Judas, and that any appeasement of tyranny will eventually only menace our own security, as is pointed out by our State Department. We must see to it that this nation shall never be forced to become a partner in crime, or become contaminated with the spirit and practices of tyrants and oppressors.

America's interest in Baltic freedom is direct and two-fold:

1. Nations of the entire world are watching our attitude toward Baltic independence. They realize that therein lies the test of our moral fibre. Should we yield to temporary expediency and to strong-arm methods in this case, it will be recognized immediately as a weakness in our moral fabric, since it will establish a precedence for further acts of aggression and will serve as placing our stamp of approval on imperialistic and aggressive policies. Under these conditions all nations will abandon their faith and their friendship, as well as their trust in the American nation. Their hatred toward us will be equal to that of their oppressors, and we will have no friend in the entire world. To think that those whom we tried to appease, by enslaving other human beings, will bear any love for us in the face of such cowardice, is absurd, as witnessed by the deeds and transaction which took place in regard to Ethopia, Czecho-Slovakia, and Manchuria. It is a historic truth that every compromise of moral principles with vice and crime only deteriorates morality and promotes vice and crime.

2. If we should sanction, approve, or permit the destruction of Baltic freedom under the flimsy pretext of "strategic boundaries," — on what grounds can we at any future time oppose the extension of those boundaries until they have reached the entire length of the Atlantic coast of Europe and Africa? The nations of the Baltic and of Scandinavia realize full well that once the gates of aggression are opened at the expense of the territory and sovereignty of any one of these nations at any time, the same fate will ultimately await the rest. Can the world be made safe for the United States through the defeat of German tyranny, only to replace it with the tyranny of

Communism? The question of Baltic freedom and independence is exactly that very question. The destruction of Baltic sovereignty and independence would be only a down-payment for further aggression, as was the case at Munich and in Manchuria.

### Absurdity of "Strategic Boundaries"

The prophets of high treason against humanity and the basis for modern civilization have become so void of arguments in their attempt to "sell out" the Baltic nations, that they have grasped at the straw of "strategic boundaries" as a justification for their cowardly plans. Such expressions follow the principles of propaganda advocated by Hitler, namely, that if lies are told often enough they will become truth in the minds of the ignorant public. Ever since 1939 when the Communists started this absurd propaganda, a number of the more intelligent editorial writers, radio commentators and columnists have been "taken in" and have joined the temple chorus of Baal: "The Baltic nations must be sacrificed in order to provide strategic boundaries for Russia."

Let every real American ask himself the question: "Against whom or what nation does Russia require the 'strategic boundaries?'" Throughout the entire history of Russia, not once has Russia been threatened by aggression, either by the Baltic nations or through the Baltics, except when Russia, itself, went out and attacked. Twice in the history of Russia the Baltic nations have constituted so-called "strategic borders" for her, — and twice she has been attacked, not by the Baltics but through the Baltics as a general front. There never has been a Baltic nation which, when independent, did not take up arms in its self-defense. It was only when Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania accepted Russian "help", — a help which culminated in their economic and political paralysis, when Russia had the "strategic borders," — that the second German attack on Russia took place. There is not a Baltic nation which contains a single inch of Russian territory. They have never even attempted to acquire it. There is not an inch of territory of the Baltic nations which was not inhabited and occupied by them centuries before any Russian ever saw the Baltic sea. And, let me repeat, there was never a single attack on Russia which originated from the Baltic nations.

Twice in one generation Russia has had the Baltic nations as her "strategic boundaries," and twice she has been messed up through the forces and causes originating entirely from different directions. Under these conditions it would be just as logical to demand the Atlantic coast of America, and the Indian coast of Asia as "strategic boundaries." There is not one iota of difference between Hitler's claims and attacks on Norway, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland, Russia and other countries, and the Communistic claim on the Baltic nations.

Germany "sold" the Baltic nations "down" to the same customer. It did not save Germany or Russia. Why could there be any better benefit

to the United States through the same sacrificial goat? An earlier America, three million strong, voiced the sentiment: "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute." Do the Pharisees of human freedom expect the present day America, now one-hundred-and-thirty-five million strong, to seek their salvation through the sacrifice of the blood and life of small nations which have been as peace-loving, intelligent, educated, industrious, law-abiding, and advanced as any of the larger nations? Must this nation unconditionally surrender to ignorance — an ignorance which must have its witches to burn? Can we as a nation be happy and secure in a world order purchased at such a price?

If there be mutual trust and sincerity amongst the four great powers of the world, as the results of the Moscow conference are given to indicate, there is no need for "strategic boundaries" for any nation. Under conditions of full cooperation, all nations — large and small — can live at peace with each other — politically, each within the boundaries of its respective territory; economically, complete freedom of production and distribution within and without national boundaries.

On the other hand, if there be mistrust amongst the four great powers, if there be other than honest intentions amongst them, — then the destruction of the Baltic sovereignties will serve only as a stepping stone to further aggression and conquest. When these stepping stones are carried to the Atlantic coast of Europe, will England be secure? Will America be secure? Should such a policy be promoted with the aid of American labor, equipment, armaments, and food? Any government acceding to these terms would be a government of fraud, most recreant to its trust, and not a government of, by, and for the people, — since the spirit of fairness, justice, and morality is still the ruling principle of the vast majority of the American public. And therein lies the hope of the occupied countries in particular at present and of the world of tomorrow.

### Other Absurdities

Some of the high priests of Communism prate that the Baltic nations have no right to independence because they have been oppressed during most of modern times anyway. That sort of reasoning is as logical as the reasoning of the British Tories during our Revolutionary war. They, too, reasoned that the inhabitants of America were not entitled to sovereign rights for the reason that they had always been in subjugation. Under this sort of reasoning the entire American continent should abdicate all her sovereign rights, and be satisfied to exist as colonies of European empires.

Some editors of our metropolitan newspapers have gone so far as to state that the Baltic nations should become subjects of Communist Russia because so many of them favored Communism. One only wonders where such editorial writers have been living or educated, when they ignore the

fact that the Baltic nations have fought for their independence for seven centuries against all sorts of tyrants, and that their last battles of 1918-1920 were against Communism. Of this last assertion in their fight for freedom, American military observers have stated to congress that the Baltic front was a Baltic Verdun, and the men fighting truly had the spirit and endured the hardships of Americans at Valley Forge. Proportionately there were less numerous Communists in the Baltic nations than there are in the United States. That is what makes the American agents of Communism so active and anxious to annihilate the Baltic sovereignties and to torpedo the established policy of our State Department.

Lacking every moral, legal, and humanitarian reason for the wanton designs upon the Baltic sovereignties, Communist agents here and abroad have resorted to the prevarication that the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania became provinces of the Soviet Union through election. Naturally they do not mention the fact that the election carried out in these Baltic states was at the point of the bayonets of the Red Army and OGPU, and that only a communist ticket was presented to the public. These elections were as much an oppression of the public will as would be an American election under a German army of occupation, with only the German Bund ticket presented.

The attack upon the Baltic States and Finland has as much justification as would a Japanese attack upon the United States simply because we should refuse to yield San Francisco, Portland, the Panama Canal, and New York harbor to the Japanese, who might think it to their advantage to gain possession of these points. Can a just and lasting peace or security of the United States be established on the basis of immorality, and injustice?

The Baltic nations and the rest of Europe well realize that whatever justice or injustice is dealt out to the Baltic nations, will eventually affect them all.

### Needed American Leadership

Since Russian and American appeasers of Russian aggression are constantly telling us what Russia's stand and demands are, it is necessary that the United States, which is spending more than all the rest of the United Nations on the defeat of the Axis powers, will make its policy definitely understood in no uncertain terms, as to the conditions of a just and lasting peace. Since lasting peace and American security cannot be purchased at the price of any one nation or group of small, honest, and peace-loving nations, but only through American leadership in a world order based upon the principle of "live and let live", and recognizing the act that "diplomatic peace and economic warfare can not live side by side," the topic of my next article will be: "World Security through American Leadership."

## FACING THE FACTS

(THE BALTIC PLEBISCITES OF 1940)

In a recent speech, Prime Minister Churchill said: "If facts have to be stated, let them be stated without heat or bitterness. We have to give our mind in full to the vast task."

However, it is probably permissible to nationals of a small freedom-loving nation, which is giving her mind in full to the vast task, to state, without heat or bitterness, some facts causing anxiety that, as far as the tragic fate of their nation is concerned, this war will not bring it the freedom desired by all humanity.

The title of a "lover of truth" is never earned by a partisan hewing to a party line, when that party line is a patent falsehood. This is the unhappy situation of all who seek to make the 1940 Soviet plebiscites in the Baltic states morally or legally valid.

To a sincere and honest democrat any election carried out under the domination of a military force, be it foreign or not, is suspect and smells to high heaven. Therefore, it seems strange to hear apologists paint the Baltic plebiscites as milk and honey.

Anna Louise Strong hit the nail on the head when she testified: "I had the tremendous luck to arrive in Lithuania in July, 1940, just after the Red Army marched in... The Soviet Union was building in the Baltic States **its border defense against the war that was shaking Europe.** (The Soviets Expected It, p. 140, the italics are ours.)."

The plebiscites were, in reality, just some more bricks put into its "border defense" by Soviet Russia.

"It was only when it was over, and Lithuania had entered the Soviet Union that I — and the people with whom I talked in Kaunas — could see that **it had been planned by Moscow,**" Miss Strong goes on, and then hoists the banner followed since by all apologists for Soviet actions in the Baltic by claiming that all this was "accomplished though the free choice of the Baltic people, which Moscow knew how to arouse."

However, another eye-witness of these events, the American Minister to Lithuania, Mr. Owen J. C. Norem, addressing a large audience in Chicago on Oct. 16, 1940, said that he saw with his own eyes that the invading Red Army was not welcomed in Lithuania. It would be surprising if any nation, not only Lithuanians, would welcome 20 armed divisions coming to ruin their liberty. Vera Micheles Dean in "Russia at War" writes:

"While Russia does not need additional territory, she has not hesitated to occupy the territory of other countries on the ground that she needed to improve her defenses. But this does not make it any easier for Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians to accept Russian domination."

But there are people who applaud the loss of liberty by others. The editors of Soviet Russia

VYT. SIRVYDAS

Former editor of the oldest Lithuanian newspaper in the United States, the *Vienybė*

To-Day, for instance, quote approvingly statements by the Soviet press that the Baltic states are "legally incorporated" constituent republics of the Soviet Union, into which they entered after "plebiscites of their people" (March, 1943). The Moscow Pravda, be it remembered, wrote: "the basic law of our country — the Constitution of the U. S. S. R. — has fixed the ties between the Baltic republics and the other Union republics." (Febr. 8, 1943).

And (to quote another example) Mr. Corliss Lamont, the Chairman of the American Council on Soviet Relations, discourses:

"The three Baltic states voted, in the summer of 1940, to become Soviet republics and to become incorporated within the U. S. S. R. I am convinced that the overwhelming majority of the people in these nations were in favor of joining the Soviet Union, and that no valid purposes would be served by having another plebiscite on the matter at the close of the war." (Soviet Russia Today, Sept. 1942).

Nobody doubts that Russia knew "how to arouse the people."

"On June 15, 1940, at noon, the Soviet troops in huge numbers began pouring into Lithuania and Vice-Commissar Dekanozov arrived by plane in Kaunas to supervise the formation of a new pro-Soviet Government." (Lithuanian Situation, published by the Lithuanian Legation, Washington, D. C., June, 1941).

Naturally, no attention was paid to Lithuanian constitutional procedure or democratic practices. "The Diet (seimas) was dissolved. All political parties and organizations were closed." A Communist party was immediately formed, and took all political and police power. After the necessary "purifications", the famous elections were called for July 14-15, 1940. Vera Micheles Dean says:

"Before the plebiscites, the Kremlin arrested or put into concentration camps many of those who, for one reason or other, were opposed either to the Soviet system or to Russian domination, or both." (Foreign Policy Bulletin, Feb. 26, 1941). According to the "Lithuanian Situation", about 2,000 were thus arrested in Lithuania.

A very curious feature of the election was the stony silence during the pre-election campaign about Lithuania joining the Soviet Union. This came out only five days after the deputies were elected. Then the Communist controlled press blossomed with unfounded assertions that the Baltic states cannot exist as separate economic entities because their industry has no raw materials and their agriculture no markets. This press failed to point out that during 1938 (the last normal pre-war year) the foreign trade of the Baltic states with England was larger in pound sterling than that of the giant Soviet Union.

A well-known Lithuanian American of Newark, N. J., Mr. Staknys, who was forced to participate

in the plebiscite, describes it somewhat as follows to the readers of the Lithuanian weekly *Amerika*, in Brooklyn, N. Y.

The Russian Red Army occupied Lithuania on June 15, 1940. The elections were called for July 14-15, 1940. During the intervening month the Russian NKVD police, under the personal direction of Commissar Dekanozov, confiscated all the Lithuanian newspapers, closed all Lithuanian organizations and political parties, appropriating their resources, and took over all business, trade and commercial establishments. After this purification, the elections were prepared by the hastily created Lithuanian Communist party, guided by special counsellors from Moscow. This party appointed all the candidates.

For instance, in Kretinga, the local official candidate was chosen at a special mass-meeting to which only the non-Lithuanian workers of the local flax factory and a handful of local Lithuanian Communists were invited. The rest of the 3,000 inhabitants were ignored. This candidate had to be approved by the County Committee whose duty was to debar all non-reliable candidates.

The strength of the Lithuanian Communists may be surmised from the situation at Palanga having 3,000 inhabitants. The Communists numbered only 17, of whom only 8 were Lithuanians. Only one was a High School graduate, the rest being simple graduates of primary schools. But this 17 was supported by the Russian police and the Red Army.

There were no opposition candidates. Believing that the people will stay away from the polls, Soviet authorities decreed that those whose passports will fail to show the "balsavo" (voted) stamp, will be deemed "enemies of the people". During the pre-election campaign, nothing was said about incorporating Lithuania into the Soviet Union. This was insisted upon at the first session of the newly elected Diet by Commissar Dekanozov. By the way, according to a dispatch to the New York Daily Worker, of the 79 deputies, 49 were former prisoners.

No diplomatic representative of Lithuania abroad accepted the results of this plebiscite. In a message to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Kaunas, Mr. B. K. Balutis, the Lithuanian Minister at London, wired July 25, 1940:

"In view of the fact that the Soviet Union violated the independence of Lithuania, occupying it by armed force, and in view of the fact that the elections were made under pressure of foreign occupation forces and directly by a foreign power, thus depriving the Lithuanian people of every possibility to express their free will, I cannot consider such elections legal."

The Lithuanian Minister in Washington, Mr. P. Zadeikis, wired: "To restore legality, it is necessary to recall the military forces of occupation and conduct new elections."

The results of these elections were not accepted by the Government of the United States, by Great Britain, by the Vatican, by Switzerland, by Ar-

gentina, and some other countries. Acting Secretary Welles issued a remarkably strong condemnation of the entire procedure, terming it a "predatory activity" achieved by "devious processes".

The results were not accepted either by the American or British press. The New York Times called it a "Burglary on the Baltic" and demanded whom do the totalitarians "Expect to fool with their compulsory elections and their 99.51 percent majorities?" The staid British Nineteenth Century and After wrote: "The incorporation of the Baltic states in the Soviet Union was accomplished by armed conquest. It has not received de jure recognition either in London or in Washington" (April, 1942).

A rather suggestive fact about this election is mentioned by Bernard Newman in his "The New Europe": "It was an unfortunate slip by which a London newspaper published the official results from a Russian news agency twenty-four hours before the polls were closed!" (p. 159).

If the results of these "plebiscites" will be validated by the United Nations, then the fate of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia is sad indeed. The British *Fortnightly* aptly writes:

"Are the English speaking nations going to help the nations of Europe to create their own particular commonwealths? The test case will come when the frontier of Soviet Russia in the West will be decided. **The Baltic states are symbolic. No people trained in the European traditions can accept the Russian way of life.** To hand over any European population to the U. S. S. R. will mean their eventual liquidation as Europeans." (April, 1942).

Russian style liquidations are thorough. James E. Brown, in "Russia Fights", thinks that, on the basis of what he heard about Baltic occupations, if the Russians are given a free hand in Germany even for a few weeks, there will be no disturbance of peace from Berlin for 50 years.

However, there is hope that saner counsels will prevail. Foreign Commissar Molotov, in a speech on Oct. 31, 1939, described the then existing Baltic-Soviet relations as follows:

"The relations of the Soviet Union with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are based on peace treaties concluded with the respective countries in 1920... This was a reflection of a **radical difference** between the policy of the Soviet Government and the policy of Tsarist Russia, which brutally oppressed the small nations and denied them every opportunity of **independent national and political development.**"

What was once a noble policy of the Soviet Government, may become so again when that Government shall not be threatened any more by European wars. The London *Economist* has expressed this sensible view:

"One might ask what land frontier on earth is strategically 'sound' enough in an era of deep armoured sweeps and unrestricted air warfare; and it may be, perhaps, that, even from the Russian standpoint, co-operation with federated small

neighbors with no grievances against Russia might be of a higher military value than a 'sound' strategical boundary with injured national feelings and fresh resentment aroused all along it." (March, 1942).

In this connection the program of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition, as defined by Stalin, comes to mind: abolition of racial exclusiveness, equality of nations and integrity of their territories, liberation of enslaved nations and restoration of their sovereign rights, the right of every nation to arrange its affairs as it wishes, economic aid to nations that have suffered, restoration of democratic liberties." (New York Times, Nov. 7, 1942).

## LITHUANIAN CLAIMS ON POLAND

**Stokholmer Social Demokraten**, 17. 9. 43. publishes a long article by Ignas Scheynius (a Lithuanian emigre in Stockholm) on Polish-Lithuanian relations. He discusses the consiliatory declaration of Lithuanian emigres in the U. S. and claims that the improvement of relations with the Poles dates from the German attack in 1939. Lithuanians, sympathising with the fate of the Poles, began to understand that the existence of their country was bound up with the independence of Poland.

There follow facts about Lithuanian charitable activities towards the Polish refugees, especially those of the Red Cross, in particular by transporting and sending sick people to hospital; the subsistence allowance for 27,400 people amounted to 2,540,000 lites taken directly from Lithuanian organisations, and 5,550,000 coming from abroad. This assistance, according to Scheynius, after the incorporation of Vilna, included a further 100,000 Poles. Altogether, Lithuanian hospitality made a good impression on the Poles and increased their mutual understanding. Scheynius admits that after the German occupation certain irresponsible Lithuanian elements made common cause with the occupying authorities and entered their service, but this was not the general attitude. He

## THE FATE OF THE BALTIC STATES

From different sources we are giving some comments on the subject of the fate of the Baltic States.

**Dagens Nyheter**, 26. 10. 43. The Helsinki correspondent reports that the chief item of interest in Helsinki is the political and military future of the Baltic States. **Helsingin Sanomat's** editorial finds the situation at present darker than at any time since 1940. It says: "The German arrival in 1941 put an end to Bolshevik rule in the Baltic States but did not give these people the freedom for which they longed, and which would have made it possible for them to muster the internal power to cope with their future difficulties. War is never distant from their frontiers, and of late it

In his latest speech, Mr. Churchill said: "There is no doubt that full and frank discussion (at the Moscow conference) has had the effect of making our Russian friends feel, **as they have never felt before**, that it is the heartfelt wish of the British and American nations to fight the war out with them in loyal alliance and afterward to work with them on the basis of mutual respect and comradeship for resettlement and rebuilding of this tormented and distracted world."

Herein lies a real hope of the Baltic peoples that the Soviet Government will return to the policy announced in Molotov's speech quoted above. In a friendly world, Soviet Russia need not revert to Tsarist policies.

gives as an example of the opposite attitude the protest of President Dr. Grinius, Professor Aleksa and Minister Krupavicius, addressed to von Renteln in November, 1942, against the anti-Polish colonization methods introduced into Lithuania. The authors of the declaration were deported by the Germans and the colonization methods were equally directed against the Lithuanians. Admitting that the great effort of the Poles for the Allied cause deserves rewards, Scheynius nevertheless demands the voluntary cession of Vilna after the war in the name of "the no less great sacrifices made now and previously by the Lithuanians."

**Editor's note:** From a reliable source we are informed that up to last July the Germans have already settled in Lithuania 4,700 German families, totaling 18-20,000 people.

28,000 more German Settlers had to be located in Lithuania within the second half of this year, without mentioning still growing flow of homeless Germans from bombarded areas. It is quit obvious that the German settlers are located in the richest parts of the country and are taking over the best Lithuanian farms.

Lithuanian farmers, on the shortest notice, are simply thrown out.

has come nearer. So far the Germans have held the northern front, but one must reckon with the possibility of military evacuation, which means that these States will come under the Bolshevik regime once more!"

The paper states that the political situation is also dark and reminds its readers of the positive attitude and promises of the great democracies while the Baltic States were under Bolshevik rule. "We have been reminded of this as there is reason to fear that under the present circumstances the Allies will not regard themselves as bound by their former principles. The reason for this pessimism is the unwillingness of the Soviet Union to discuss the future of the Baltic States otherwise

than as a part of the Soviet Union. So far there has been no indication that the Allies are yielding to the attempts of the Soviet Union to prevent the realization of the principles of the Atlantic Charter with regard to the Baltic States. Possibly the Moscow Conference will answer this and other important questions."

The Baltic States are important to all neighbouring countries in the Baltic, says the paper, and concludes: "Estonia is very close to us Finns for reasons which are unnecessary to explain. We cannot do much for our brother people, but it is possible that more than the desire to help will be expected from us in the future. However weak and insecure our own position is, it cannot prevent us from raising our voice for the right to live of our brother peoples."

**Svenska Pressen** 26. 10. 43. comments on Reuter's Moscow report that Moscow's policy is to hold reasonable frontiers and to prevent the building of hostile coalitions in Europe: "It is never easy to know what is meant by expressions like 'sphere of interest,' 'zone of influence' and 'zone of interest'. They may mean anything, from friendly interest to military occupation. Finland is included in the expression 'the Russian sphere of interest.'

"Hitler said on June 19th, 1940, that neither Germany nor Russia had gone outside either country's sphere of interest. Here we got another impression of the meaning of the Russo-German treaty in August, 1939. We also remember how Russia regarded Finland as a sphere of interest after the Peace of Moscow."

Concerning the building up against the Soviet Union of coalitions of small States, the paper states that the Finns do not desire such coalitions: "If there is any group that can be regarded as neutral by the Russians, and with no intention of attacking Russia, it must be Scandinavia. Scandinavia will not become a sphere of interest influenced by foreign Powers, and will not direct a spearhead against anyone."

The Finnish publicist Rantakari has an article in October issue of **Kauppa-lehti**, headed "The Baltic States and Russia," saying that Soviet war aims have never changed since the time of Peter the Great and Nicolas I. These aims would result in the occupation of the ice-free coasts of the Arctic Ocean. **Rantakari** emphasises that a special danger to Europe is hidden in the apparently quiet part of the Soviet Union, i. e., in the north and the north-west, where the Soviet Union expects to meet the last resistance.

## ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF THE BALTIC STATES

### Lithuanian Estate Handed Over to Van Tonningen

Following the German controlled Lithuanian paper "**Ateitis**" from September 15, we are learning that during a ceremony at the Vaka estate near Vilnius, the Commissioner-General von Renteln handed over on September 12th, the estate to M. Rost van Tonningen, the President of the Dutch East Company. This estate is to be used as a training estate for young Dutch farmers and gardeners, who have already completed an agricultural course in Holland. On this estate they will, during three months, get insight into agricultural conditions in the Eastern areas. On completion of the training, they will be appointed as assistants to the district agriculturalists and economic managers of the "**Landbewirtschaftungsgesellschaft Ostland**."

The ceremony was attended among others also by Commissioner-General Wulf and the Dutchmen. In connection with the arrival of Rost van Tonningen, a wreath was laid on the grave of the two Dutchmen in Kaunas who were killed by Bolsheviks.

### Inferiority of Baltic War Contribution

Following a German statement from August 16, the total agricultural output of the Baltic States only amounts to about 50% or 55% of the German production per hectare. But other factors also play a part in this, e. g. the unfavourable climate, which allowed the Estonian farmer last year an average of 158 working days as opposed to 185 days in East Prussia, 210 days of the Reich average and 283 days in the bay of Cologne. Also

the division of land into small and medium agricultural enterprises, that was achieved by the 20 years of agricultural reform, may in this respect, have had a hampering effect on production. These enterprises are, on the whole, exceptionally self-sufficing, they produce for their own use, not the world market; thus the farmer's willingness to market his goods (Markebereitschaft) has been exceptionally small up to the present days.

Such was the state of affairs when the Bolsheviks liquidated the Baltic States and... began turning them to their own ends. The Baltic agriculture has not even today recovered from the after effects of this intrusion as well as the war which then whirled the States into its orbit. A series of novel problems arose and it was the task of the German administration to solve them.

### Bad Hay Harvest in Lithuania.

Giving a description of the preparations for the harvest on an estate in the neighborhood of Vilna, one of German controlled paper dated August, 1943, writes that in view of the failure of the hay harvest in the country, silos had to be built on the estate to secure sufficient fodder for the coming winter. Referring to the cattle problem, the paper says it was decimated by war events to such an extent that the consequences are still bad all over Lithuania. There are only a few estates where the minimum number of cattle required per hectare, i. e. one cow for every three hectares, has been actually reached, but the greater part of them show a less favourable proportion; for example, on one large estate there is only one cow available to every 43.1 hectares.

## SIDELIGHTS OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION

### German Conduct in the Baltic Rapidly Deteriorating

Swedish *Aftontidningen*, 17. 9. 43, quotes *Ostland Zeitung* as having published a leading article entitled "A Last Warning," in which it reprimands Germans evacuated from German to the Baltic Countries, who, instead of giving a good example, have been breaking the law. Previously only Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians were mentioned in the local criminal record which now contains the names of many Germans who have been sentenced to death and executed for various war crimes. The patience of the authorities is now definitely exhausted and Germans breaking the law will in future be sentenced not only to imprisonment and fines but also to deportation from the Baltic countries. It is not a gentlemanly crime to enrich oneself at the expense of others, but simply a war crime which undermines the morale of the inhabitants.

### Death Sentences in Lithuania —

From a news from Vilnius (Lithuania) dated 15. 10. 43. we are learning that the Lithuanians, Kostas and Vaclovas Raginskas of Uzugir, have been sentenced to death by the German Special Court in Kaunas, for illegal possession of a large number of arms and ammunition, including a light machine gun, several rifles and pistols.

### LITHUANIAN CHILDREN ENSLAVED INTO "HITLER YOUTH"

We are informed that the registration of boys and girls of the 1925 to 1933 classes, whether members of the HJ or not, has been ordered for service in the HJ. The registration is to take place in the Kapitool Cinema in Kaunas at 9 a. m. on October 31st. Parents and guardians will be held responsible for the children's reporting. No further announcement will be made.

### BALTIC STATES ANXIOUS FOR THEIR FUTURE

*La Suisse*, November 18, 1943:

If the Soviet Revolution had not occurred, Tsarist Russia would certainly not have consented to abandon successive conquests which had brought her to the Baltic coast, and if Germany had won in 1918, would she not have been tempted to extend her territories eastwards? Bismarck and Hindenburg also had this plan for German colonisation to the east. This was so obvious that Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia were obliged to fight against both the Germans and the Red Army. After her occupation in 1941, Germany did not restore the independence of the Baltic Republics. She placed them, together with White Russia, with whom they have nothing in common, under German administration. If victorious, Germany, according to all appearances, would not modify these arrangements. The Balts would have liked to hear what was said about them at the Moscow Conference, but the only echo was Cor-

dell Hull's appeals for patience. The advice is good, if it announces coming changes, but it should not be necessary to wait until the conquered are weary of hearing resignation preached at them.

## FORCED COLONISATION OF LITHUANIA

### "Unpatriotic" Volksdeutsche Farmers

SS-Sturmabfuhrer Dr. Duckart writes, inter alia: It has time and again been pointed out by the *Ansiedlungsstab* that those re-settlers who returned to Lithuania must bear in mind that the Germans who returned to this country have to comply with all regulations of German public offices joyfully and with the greatest possible care. Above all, this applies to the surrender of agricultural products. All German authorities are perfectly aware that German re-settlers on their arrival at farms placed at their disposal have found quite unfavourable conditions. A large number of these farms were stripped by former managers, so that many a re-settler had to begin all over again. This, however, must not lead to a re-settler imagining that after he has put his farm into proper order, he need not surrender anything. Germany is today waging a war of life and death. The fate of every single German re-settler depends decisively on whether or not the Bolshevik menace is stamped out. The front will see the struggle through successfully, this is our firm belief. Our duty, however, is to supply the front with all the foodstuffs it needs. With this in view, the orders concerning the surrender of products were issued. Each re-settler who does not deliver his agricultural quotas fully and if possible, beyond the quotas assessed, will be considered a traitor to the German front and the German soldier.

In the case of a resettler, who is by force of circumstance, not in a position to surrender his quota, the local *Kreislandschaftsfuehrer* may revise the previous assessment after examining the case. As difficulties sometimes occur in the threshing of the harvest, it is necessary to collaborate closely with neighbors in order to overcome the shortages of machinery and fuel. "I warn everyone concerned that the severest penalties will be imposed on everyone of the re-settlers who does not obey the order, and that the *Ansiedlungsstab* will not hesitate even to deprive the guilty ones of the opportunities recently afforded them in this country, to make a living.

## GERMAN POLITICS IN THE BALTIC

*Feuill d'Avis*, (Neuchatel), November 24

If Germany today declares her readiness to restore independence to the Baltic States, it may be asked whether it is not in the plans of the High Command to evacuate these territories. Russia would thus play once more the unpleasant role of a conqueror unscrupulously suppressing the independence of little nations. For this manoeuvre to succeed fully, it should have been attempted rather earlier.