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... 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

Lietuvos  
nacionalinė  
M. Mažvydo  
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

# LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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No. 1

## THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIA

On the 16th day of February the thoughts of freemen of Lithuanian descent turn to the People of Lithuania who are physically enslaved, but whose courage and determination to regain their freedom are undaunted.

A small western nation of three million inhabitants, Lithuania has suffered the ravages of unprovoked aggression by Russia and Germany, and the havoc of war. More than 100,000 Lithuanian youths were impressed for slave labor in the crumbling factories of Germany. Some 50,000 men, women and children are helplessly and silently dying in the snow-swept tundras of Russia, beyond the reach of a helping humanitarian hand. The survivors in the homeland are suffering the humiliation and the hardships of requisitions, executions, imprisonment, regimentation and arson at the hands of the alleged "master race", and fear the approaching threat of extinction at the hands of the Soviet "liberators".

We humbly bow our heads and say "Requiescat in pace" to those of our fellow countrymen whose earthly sufferings are ended — either in exile or in the beloved soil of our ancient homeland. Their sacrifice, we hope, has not been in vain. Our underground fighters are paying, and exacting, the supreme price in blood and suffering in their struggle for the liberation of themselves, of their neighbors and of the mankind. This relentless fight for their human rights and for their national liberty will not be deterred by the growing interference of ever greater numbers of German colonists, refugees, and retreating troops. Our People is sustained in this heroic fight by a firm faith that the Atlantic Charter is the Charter of Liberty for Lithuania and her good Baltic neighbors, and not a piece of propaganda to be scrambled for the convenience of an imperialist neighbor.

Descendants of an ancient liberty-loving nation, the Lithuanians will not fail for a lack of patience in living through historical cataclysms. The new threats to the liberty of small nations are hardening our People's will to preserve its sovereignty in the postwar family of independent nations. As daylight never fails to succeed darkness, so a happier tomorrow is certain to be our heritage after the present period of torments.

With a supreme confidence in the justice of our cause and in the ultimate victory of the Democracies, of the principles of self-determination and of government of the people, by the people and for the people, the sovereign People of Lithuania will continue to fight for its heritage of freemen, well deserving the benefits of the Atlantic Charter and of the Four Freedoms.

Long live independent democratic Republic of Lithuania! Tegyvuoja laisva, demokratinė ir nepriklausoma Lietuvos Respublika!

## ELAGU EESTI VABARIIK!

Since prehistoric times the ancestors of the Estonian and the Lithuanian peoples had peacefully lived side by side, mutually sharing in their cultural achievements, traces whereof are found in agricultural, maritime and political terminology in otherwise non-related languages.

For a time, southern Estonia had been a part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and, later, a condominium of Lithuania and Poland. Estonian national renaissance was related to the Lithuanian movement in the XIX century, in that a number of Lithuanian intellectuals had, after the closing of the University of Vilnius, studied at the University of Tartu whose scientists had contributed much

to historical research into the Lithuanian past. Mass singing festivals as one form of a national movement first developed in Estonia and likewise became a feature of the Lithuanian movement. Our fraternity of arms, first initiated in common battles against the Teutonic Order of the Sword and developed through our joint resistance to Muscovite aggression, was consummated in 1919, when Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian armies jointly fought for their common liberty against the Red and the White Muscovite armies and against the German armies. The same problems of survival and of freedom are common to all three Baltic Peoples.

On the 26th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence by the Sovereign People of Estonia, the Lithuanian National Council extends its fraternal felicitations to the Estonian People whose very existence is presently jeopardized by a third invasion within as many years. May the year 1944 crown our joint struggle for freedom and independence with success! Long live the Baltic Union of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in a happy family of independent nations! May the hopeful rays cast by the Atlantic Charter bring happiness and liberty to all three good neighbors on the free shores of the Baltic Sea!

## DR. ANTANAS SMETONA

## An Obituary

### First President Of The Lithuanian Republic

In writing of the tragic death of Antanas Smetona, who perished when his house in Cleveland, Ohio, caught on fire on January 9, 1944, the Chicago Lithuanian Daily DRAUGAS said, "He ran from fire, — he perished in fire."

Antanas Smetona, one of the most distinguished Lithuanians of our times, an exile in this country since Spring, 1941, escaped from Lithuania on June 15, 1940, when his native land, as caught by a wild fire, was being overrun by an unprovoked attack of the Red Army.

Antanas Smetona, one of the most picturesque figures in Eastern Europe, lived a life of struggle intermingled with tragedy. Like any great fighter for a cause, he had his moments of joy as well as disappointment.

Born in a simple peasant hamlet on July 28, 1874, in Lithuania in the district of Ukmerge, Antanas Smetona from his early school days was known as a passionate fighter for the human rights of Lithuanians oppressed by the Czarist regime. He fought his way through highschool, college, and university, both having to support himself as well as struggling against Czarist persecution of secret Lithuanian groups striving for the rights of the people to use their own language, print their own prayer books or other innocent publications. On several occasions Smetona was under arrest for these "crimes".

Antanas Smetona graduated in law in 1902 at the University of St. Petersburg and settled in Vilnius.

During the Russian Revolution in 1905, when the smaller peoples under the Czars were given a chance of a breathing space, A. Smetona became editor of the Lithuanian publication LIETUVOS UKININKAS (The Lithuanian Farmer). In the same year, 1905, he actively participated in and was a member of the presiding body of the historic Great Lithuanian Congress of Vilnius. In 1906 A. Smetona collaborated considerably with the wellknown Vilnius paper VILNIAUS ŽINIOS.

Mr. Smetona already in those days showed specific ideological leanings and he left these two newspapers in 1907 because of their too liberal tendencies. He later became associated with the paper VILTIS and remained on the editorial committee for over 7 years, but he also left that paper because he could not get along with the Lithuanian Catholic Democratic leaders participating in the paper. He then organized his own paper VAIRAS at the beginning of 1913 which he edited until the outbreak of war in 1914.

Antanas Smetona was one of the staunchest and ablest fighters for the cause of Lithuanian Independence; the outbreak of war in 1914 gave him a chance for more intense political activity. Though the Liberals and the Catholics found it difficult to work with him because of his political creed, nevertheless because of his personal ability his collaboration was of importance. Lithuanian national activities were not easy under German occupation. Having been elected the Chairman of the Lithuanian Council, Taryba, Antanas Smetona distinguished himself by his tact in evading pressure from the German occupational authorities who endeavored without success to turn the Taryba into a political tool of their own.

When the Taryba, under the leadership of A. Smetona, on February 16, 1918, declared the complete independence of Lithuania as a Sovereign State the German authorities confiscated the Lithuanian papers in Vilna which published the Proclamation of Independence and dispersed the Council. On April 4, 1919, Antanas Smetona was elected by the Taryba President of the Lithuanian Republic and remained in this office until June 13, 1920, when the Constitutional Assembly elected Alexander Stulginskis President.

One of Antanas Smetona's greatest disappointments was the fact that during the election to that Assembly he failed to get sufficient votes to become a member. After that time he became a consistent and bitter enemy of Democracy as a suitable system of government for Lithuania.

Only after several subsequent elections of the Lithuanian Parliament (Seimas) in which he fail-

ed to secure a mandate, Smetona was elected a member of the Seimas in the Spring of 1926, as a member of the Nationalist Party, which had only 3 members out of 85 seats in the Assembly.

Supported by the even more personally ambitious politician, A. Voldemaras, Antanas Smetona in the night of December 17, 1926, overthrew by force the Lithuanian Democratic Government of Slezevicius, arrested President K. Grinius, and put himself in power as President of the Republic. He then dispersed Parliament. Later he arrested his collaborator, A. Voldemaras, who had helped him get to power, because of the latter's plot to put himself into the presidential palace.

Antanas Smetona during his rule between 1926-1940 endeavored to steer his Government in a manner that, while it remained authoritarian, it could not be accused of Fascist practices as known in the totalitarian countries such as Germany or Italy. Smetona's authoritarianism was a distinct type of government under which, in the early days, even the opposition parties existed with limited functioning rights. These majority parties, however, were eliminated from the polls by known totalitarian methods. The papers of these two major parties, the Catholic Christian Democratic Party and the Liberal Populist Party, were permitted to be published. There was, however, complete suppression of the Social Democratic though anti-Communist Party and its newspaper, much to the distress of all democratically minded people in Lithuania. Vigorous censorship of the press remained in the country during the entire period of Antanas Smetona's regime.

In spite of all this, the late President was given a sincere welcome by all groups of Lithuanians

## THE BALTIC STATES UNDER GERMAN YOKE

### BOLD ACT OF A LITHUANIAN BISHOP

On November the 2nd of last year a memorial service for Lithuanians fallen in the defence of their country was conducted by Bishop Brizgys in Kaunas. Wreaths were placed on the tomb of the unknown soldier. The ceremony ended with the Lithuanian National Anthem.

### POTATO SHORTAGE

**Kaunas Radio**, 11, II, 43, exhorted listeners to deliver potatoes, which have become very scarce in Lithuanian towns. It even appealed to the compassion of the rural population for their fellow-countrymen in the towns and assured them that these potatoes will be distributed among the Lithuanian townspeople only, and not used for the German army.

### LOOTING OF THE BALTIC STATES

**Svenska Dagbladet**, 24, II, 43. According to announcements in the Baltic press, partially able-

irrespective of party or creed when he arrived in the United States as an exile pushed out of Lithuania by a foreign cruel invader and later pushed out again by the Nazi authorities from Germany to Switzerland.

All Lithuanians, except the Communists, were grateful to the American authorities for having applied the century-old tradition of the United States of rendering a haven to political exiles of no matter what creed and permitting Antanas Smetona to live in peace and freedom on the soil of this great country where hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians have come to find a better life.

The last few years of his life in this country, however, were again marked by tragedy. Antanas Smetona could not understand the Democratic ideals of the wide Lithuanian masses in this country. It was probably too late in his life to change his own philosophy and to go with the stream of the majority of his people. Thus he remained here isolated and practically alone.

In spite of his political creed and exaggerated political ambition, Antanas Smetona was highly respected in all sections of the Lithuanian community as an honest and fascinating man, modest in his personal demeanor. A highly cultured and aesthetically sensitive person, Antanas Smetona was a leading figure in Lithuanian belles-lettres. He was famous for his fine style both as a journalist and publicist. These qualities as well as his achievements as a Lithuanian patriot will outweigh in times to come Antanas Smetona's political errors, and his name will go down in Lithuanian history as that of a gallant fighter for the fundamental rights of the Lithuanian people.

bodied invalids are also affected by the recent total mobilisation for the war effort of all able-bodied female labor in the Baltic countries.

The occupation authorities have launched another campaign to collect warm clothing, blankets, felt boots, skiing boots, etc, in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. All these countries are thus being combed for woollens and every kind of clothing suitable for supplementing the winter equipment of troops at the eastern front.

### CRITICAL SITUATION IN THE BALTIC

**Social Demokraten**, 25, II, 43 (Swedish) writes *inter alia*: Numerous Estonians continue to flee towards Finland. The German authorities are taking preliminary steps for the evacuation of Estonia. Liquidation of the Jews is being carried out by most brutal methods. Numerous men, women and children have been sent to do forced labor in Germany.

The food situation in the Baltic countries is unendurable for those not cooperating with the

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Germans or who are unable to purchase in the black market. The ever growing influx of fugitives driven westward by the retreating Germans causes alarm, and starvation and sickness are widespread among the fugitives. Meanwhile the German evacuation of Ingermanland is progressing in anticipation of a retreat from Leningrad, and Finnish and non-Finnish Ingermanlanders are also being driven westwards, the Finns exclusively to Lithuania.

Abandoned villages are being laid waste, so that the inhabitants become vagabonds, a life which the majority will soon find intolerable. The seeds of hatred which the Germans are sowing by employing these methods are certain to bring forth a terrible harvest.

### LITHUANIAN WORKERS

From *Suomen Sosialdemokraatti*, 27, II, 43

According to Ignas Seinius (a Lithuanian writer in exile in Stockholm. — Ed.), who is at present on a visit to Helsinki, 100,000 Lithuanian labour conscripts are now working in Germany.

### GERMAN TERROR IN LITHUANIA

Last November, Special Court in Kaunas sentenced to death 3 young men for attempting to hinder one of their fellows, who was on leave of absence in Lithuania, from returning to the Reich's Labor Service in Germany.

### TWO-WAY EVACUATION IN THE BALTIC

According to the *Svenska Dagbladet* from 7, 12, 43, emigration from Germany to the Baltic States has increased to such an extent that special bureaux have been established to provide work for Reich German evacuees. The mass evacuation of Balts to Germany is not proceeding

without serious frictions, the authorities have taken further measures to deal with opposition elements; the death penalty can be imposed just for opposing the evacuation.

### BALTIC UNDERGROUND MAKING LIFE UNSAFE FOR THE GERMANS

*Goeteborgs Handels — och Sjöfarts-Tidning*, 8, 12, 43, reports from a private source: Typhus, diphtheria, an epidemic of influenza and different deficiency diseases are raging in the Baltic States, causing deaths; due to the shortage of doctors, illness cannot be properly treated. The rat problem is most annoying; measures taken to annihilate the vermin have proved unsuccessful and their number has increased rather than otherwise. Newly arrived Germans are given preference over the local inhabitants, who are expelled from their homes to provide accommodation for them. The result is an evergrowing hatred against the Germans. After dark, no German is safe, nor for that matter, in the daytime. Germans are assassinated daily without the perpetrators being traced.

### BALTIC POPULATION FIGURES

*Svenska Dagbladet*, 20, 12, 43, writes: According to recent official statistics, there is a fantastically large surplus of women in the Baltic States, for example in some localities there were over 250 women to every 100 men before the total mobilisation. The birth rate is steadily decreasing, particularly in Estonia, for example in Rakvere, no marriages have been registered for over a year, and only three children have been born in the same period. Due to the large number of Germans arriving in the Baltic States, the number of German born children has considerably increased, particularly in Lithuania.

## REMINDER OF THE SOVIET OCCUPATION IN LITHUANIA

### ONE YEAR SOVIET RULE IN LITHUANIA

During the one year of Bolshevik rule in Lithuania (1940-1941) murder and terrorism resulted in 15,000 Lithuanians being made to endure the torments of Bolshevik prisons, over 5,000 people being killed and over 40,000 being deported to Siberia.

Private ownership was abolished and all the working people came under the yoke of Bolshevism.

It is to be seen how many people would perish from the German terror?

### LITHUANIAN BISHOP ON THE SOVIET INTENTIONS TO ANNEX LITHUANIA

Rev. V. Brizgys, the Catholic Bishop of Kaunas, last November made the following comment on Stalin's plans of annexation of Lithuania:

"It is difficult to find words to express the feeling of indignation by which one is overcome when Moscow's rulers talk about their intention to "liberate" the Lithuanians..."

### New Book On The Baltic States

According to *Stockholms Tidningen* from December 7, a book called "Have they a right to live?", dealing with the claims of Soviet Russia and Germany to annex the Baltic States, has been published by a Baltic Committee in Sweden.

Contributors to the book include the former President of the Estonian Republic, Rei, the Lithuanian writer Scheinius and the Latvian Professor Balodis.