

... 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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*This Bulletin contains information on current events in Lithuania and neighboring countries*

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No. 2

## TRIBUTE PAID TO LITHUANIA

*By some Leading American Personalities on the Occasion of  
26th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence*

### Proclamation of the Governor of Illinois

"Twenty-six years ago, on February 16, the Republic of Lithuania was established under a constitutional government. The formation of this modern nation was brought about in recognition of the distinctive language, culture and traditions of its people.

"Americans of Lithuanian birth or descent cherish the hope that Lithuanian freedom and independence, temporarily overthrown by the fortunes of war, may ultimately be fully restored. The anniversary of the establishment of that friendly republic is a day of especial meaning.

"Now, Therefore, I, Dwight H. Green, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 16, of the present year, as Republic of Lithuania Day throughout Illinois, and request the appropriate observance of the occasion."

### Speech of Hon. David I. Walsh at the observance of the Lithuanian Independence Day, Worcester, Mass., February 13, 1944

On February 16, 1944 the people of Lithuania and their children, scattered throughout the world, will celebrate the twenty-sixth anniversary of the independence of Lithuania. This celebration will be observed by Lithuanians not only in the United States but in Canada, Brazil, Argentine, Uruguay, Great Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, the Vatican City, even in German-occupied Lithuania, and in spirit by the many Lithuanian exiles in Siberia, in German prisons and Labor camps.

Here in Worcester we are gathered together to commemorate this anniversary by the purchasing of American War Bonds, thereby pledging our loyalty to America, and, at the same time, expressing our sentiments of love and affection for the homeland.

It was while the First World War was still raging that Lithuania was declared free and independent.

For twenty-two years prior to the tragic events of 1940 all true friends of Lithuania exalted in her triumph and looked forward confidently to her future.

We may well be proud of her record during these twenty-two years of the country's independence. During these years the political, economic and cultural life advanced rapidly; the standard of living of her people steadily increased; her ports were open to all the world; — in brief, she won favorable recognition from all nations, without exception.

Lithuania is today one of the small nations unjustly deprived by force of arms of its life and independence. On this account these days are days of sadness and serious reflection for the Lithuanian people at home and in every part of the world. Shattered, humiliated, suffering Lithuania bemoans her lost independence. You Lithuanians in exile who have availed yourselves of free American hospitality have good reason to celebrate this occasion with heads high, for your country, tortured and desecrated, is still alive and resistant. The spirit of the Lithuanian people will survive to the bitter end and will resist enmeshment in any



federations, confederations, or unions sponsored by its neighbors. Lithuania must never become another nation's vassal. It is foreign to your God-given right to be free people.

Lithuania is proof that a nation's strength is not necessarily in her size geographically or in her wealth. Her greatest might is the iron souls of her people, who refuse to surrender their souls to aggressors or to compromise with evil. The Nazi or the Soviets may conquer the lands, the possessions of your people, but never their souls. Even those who are not of your ancestry are proud in witnessing the dauntless spirit and more than human courage of your little nation.

The hope of your people for the future of Lithuania depends upon the United Nations. — their honesty and sincerity in facing the critical issues that will be settled in the Peace Treaty. On the question of national integrity both the Holy See and the Atlantic Charter have laid down supreme and guiding principles. The very first of the five principles laid down by Pope Pius XII in his Christmas speech of 1939 states: "The fundamental conditions of a just and honorable peace is to assure the right to life and independence of all nations, large or small, strong or weak. One nation's will to live must never be tantamount to a death sentence from another."

The Atlantic Charter states: "The right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they shall live . . . to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them."

God grants that these declarations and principles be fulfilled and that these truths may be gloriously exemplified in the case of Lithuania and her sister republics.

A former great citizen of this city, a nationally renowned Statesman, Senator Hoar, in 1900, when the question of Philippine independence was under consideration in the United States Senate, declared "Power, it must be remembered, which is secured by oppression or usurpation or by any form of injustice, is soon dethroned. We have no right in law or morals to usurp that which belongs to another, whether it is property or power. No people can go under the Government of any other people or any ruler without its consent. The law of nature and of nature's God entitles every people to its separate and equal states among the powers of the earth."

What Senator Hoar said on another occasion, applies aptly to Lithuania today: "You may pacify this country on the surface; you may make it a solitude, and call it peace; you may burn towns; you may exterminate populations; you may kill the children or the boys over ten, as Herod slew the first-born of the Israelites. But the volcano will be there. You will not settle this thing in a

generation, or in a century, or in ten centuries, until it is settled right."

Let it be stated, and it cannot be stated too emphatically, that the people in Lithuania and their kith and kin in America are against both Russian and German domination and are determined to fight for the restitution of independence at all cost. Russia is just as much a symbol of aggression as Germany to the Lithuanian people. Lithuanians want neither Russian nor German overlordship.

Since the German attack on Lithuania the Soviets have striven to represent their actions as one of self-defense against Germany. After long and persistent propaganda the Soviets have sought to convince the Democratic nations that everything they did in the Baltic was lawful and for the benefit of the common Allied cause, but it has been impossible to cover up the ruthless Sovietization of the small states, the thousands of executions and deportations to the remote regions of Russia. And it should be noted, that official Soviet papers, such as "War And The Working Class," stated in the most cynical manner that owing to Russia's weakness in 1918-1920 she lost the Baltic states, but as Russia is now so powerful she will simply take them back again.

But what of the recent Soviet autonomy move? I do not know of any better way of expressing what is the sentiment of the Lithuanian people than by quoting from a recent statement of the Lithuanian Minister to the United States. He refers to it "as an attempt to make the world believe that the Baltic States were willing members of the Soviet Union." The Minister asserted that "ever since the Red Army's occupation of Lithuania in 1940, Moscow has been saying that 'Lithuania voluntarily joined the Soviet Union.' As a matter of fact, he claims the Soviets have forced their rule on Lithuania and the new plan "just represents Russia's fishing for friends and her attempt to confuse the people of the world into supporting her."

Let it be said again and again, any peace which does not restore the indisputable rights of the Lithuanian people and other small nations to govern themselves will not be a just peace. Small nations are entitled also to insist that the pledge of the United Nations for equal access to free trade and raw materials be carried out. The very life of small nations depends upon moderate freedom of trade.

Small nations are also entitled to an effective postwar organization to prevent aggression and maintain justice for modern military technicality has destroyed the possibility for self-defense by small nations; but, I repeat, no effective post-war organization can be established without small nations first being given their freedom.



Let me congratulate you on the noble purposes that have prompted this gathering here tonight. You are here to mobilize all Lithuanian resources here in Worcester County for the success of our fighting forces, for complete victory in order that peace based upon the principles of the Atlantic Charter may be realized for all occupied and invaded countries.

You Americans of Lithuanian descent who have helped so much in the rebuilding of independent Lithuania will not fail, I am sure, to keep her alive during this war and make certain that she continues to live free and strong again. A real unity of the American Lithuanians will do much to help the mother land.

Take courage, Lithuania's case, as is the cause of all occupied and invaded nations, is the cause of America. In other words, it is our fight. Every life lost and every body maimed in our fight against Germany and Japan is a blow struck for all the countries in the world that love liberty and independence.

Here, assembled in this noble building erected by the free people of this city in memory of her sons who have died in the cause of freedom, we pledge our hopes, our lives and our sacred honor to the cause for which America is fighting and to the restoration of bleeding Lithuania to peace, prosperity and freedom.

### Extracts from Address of Senator James J. Davis Before the Allied Lithuanian American Organizations of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pa., February 13, 1944

Today, that picturesque and most loved of all Lithuanian cities, Kaunas, lies stilled and silent—victim of a barbarism uninvited.

The rolling farm lands, home of gallant peasant stock, now know the stench and stain of the foreign and brutal invader. Yes—this is the land of Lithuania—scorched, scarred and stilled by the haughty hordes of aggression.

But this is not the end for the people of Lithuania! They have felt the conqueror's heel before. In all their long history, these valiant and proud people have many times fought the invader in the rolling fields, and at the very walls of their historic cities.

And through all these days of trial, the indomitable will of the Lithuanians has prevailed. They have reclaimed their homeland, and they have sustained the right.

Lithuania will not die; it will rise from the ruins and will prosper again!

It was inevitable that, as people came to America from all other lands, many Lithuanians—lovers of freedom and seekers of peace—immigrated to America. And today, America may well

count herself fortunate that it now holds within its confines that industrious, capable and patriotic group of Lithuanian Americans. For in this vaunted hour, when the destinies of human progress and civilization hang in the balance, the Lithuanians in America—like their present compatriots across the sea, and like their gallant forbears of other years—have risen up in full right and wrath to oppose and repel the forces of fanaticism and ferocity which here moved forth to plague and despoil the world.

Today, as the combined forces of the United Nations move forward along that hard and rugged road to victory, today when America, impenetrable fortress and productive arsenal of the rights of man, moves forward into the white heat of battle, the American-Lithuanians can be found in the vanguard of the forces of freedom, on whatever front they may be assembled.

Today, many of these rugged, stalwart men are manning the guns and sailing the ships on the far-flung battle fronts of the world.

And here at home, on that many-sided and vital front of war production, Lithuanian-Americans can be found in the black bowels of the earth, bringing forth the vital minerals of war; they can be found on the assembly lines of plane plants, of shipyards, and in the white heat of the steel mills—manufacturing those mighty, miraculous sinews of war which shall one day overawe and destroy the enemy.

Here also, Lithuanian-Americans labor long hours with fork and plow in the fertile fields of America, fighting what may well prove that most crucial of all battles—the battle of food production.

This, then, is the war effort of Lithuanians in America. There is not the harsh and troubled lot of the compatriots of their native land, but the gallant, determined and resolute effort of an honest, hard-working people who have learned to cherish and to defend the ideals of human decency.

Those Lithuanians who have come to America to rear families, to shoulder responsibilities, and to join in the forward march of progress have made an enviable and an honorable record. Their attainments, their adjustments, and their contributions stand as living proof to all the world that men of all creeds and all races can live together in peace and in harmony, and that they can work together in a common cause.

The history of Lithuanians and those other races who abide in America stands as an example to this troubled world—an example that all men, provided that they are accorded that full recognition of human stature which is the God-given right of all men, can live together in peace, harmony, and in progress.

We who stand in the camp of righteousness



cannot foretell when this war will end. We know that the way will be hard, costly and tortuous. We know that we shall expend the priceless blood and material treasure of free men before the victory is won.

But there is one thing we do know: We know that we are going to win this war. And we are going to win it through to the complete, irrevocable and unconditional surrender of our enemies.

But this time, we shall not be content with the mere military victory. We are going forward after this war, determined to create a world in which all nations shall dwell at peace—a world in which no nation need fear the designs of its neighbor—a world in which peace will and must remain the common goal of humanity, down until the end of time.

If we should fail to win the peace this time, we shall very well have signaled the destruction of that civilization which we now know. We might well have heralded the coming of a modern "dark age" for the world of man.

But given the strength, the will, and the fiber of those who now endure the stifling, soul-searing evil of Hitler's self-styled new order, "we cannot fail." Let us look to the gallant, suffering peoples of Lithuania, of Greece, and of Norway. Let us face the coming of the new day of peace with the same firm and unfaltering courage with which we now face the coming battles of the war that shall restore this unhappy and downtrodden world.

Stand fast, you brothers of Lithuania, your star shall shine again!

### Republic of Lithuania Day in Michigan

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
Executive Office Lansing

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Republic of Lithuania was established on February 16, 1918, as a modern nation under a constitutional government; and

WHEREAS, as the result of the aggression of totalitarian forces this Nation's principles of freedom and democracy are being challenged and untold suffering created, and

WHEREAS, three million people of Lithuania for no other reason than their geographic location have seen their independence jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the future happiness and security of the world depend upon the restoration of a self-government in those nations who have felt the force of tyranny; and

WHEREAS, February 16, 1944 is the twenty-sixth anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania and this anniversary is thus an occasion of utmost importance to the Lithuanians of Michigan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Harry F. Kelly, Governor of the State of Michigan do hereby proclaim Wednesday, February 16, 1944, as "Republic of Lithuania Day" and request that it be properly observed.

(SEAL)

BY THE GOVERNOR

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan, this fifteenth day of February, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred forty-four, and of the Commonwealth, the One Hundred Eighth.

HERMAN H. DIGNAN  
Secretary of State

HARRY KELLY  
Governor

### Ohio's Tribute to Lithuania

STATE OF OHIO  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF GOVERNOR  
COLUMBUS

#### PROCLAMATION REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA DAY

WHEREAS, February 16th, 1944, will be the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania, and will be observed throughout the Country as Republic of Lithuania Day; and

WHEREAS, the people of Lithuania, like those of other occupied countries are suffering hardship, deprivation and enslavement at the hands of the Axis, and

WHEREAS, there are some eighty thousand persons of Lithuanian descent in the State of Ohio, who are loyal Americans and who are devoted to the cause for which this nation now struggles;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN W. BRICKER, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby designate Wednesday, February 16th, 1944, as "REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA DAY," in Ohio, and I do hereby call upon all interested persons, groups and organizations to cooperate appropriately in its observance.

THE GREAT SEAL, by  
JOHN W. BRICKER

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed at Columbus, this Fifteenth day of February, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred Forty-Four.

JOHN W. BRICKER  
Governor



### Statement by Governor Baldwin of Connecticut

The observance of the independence of Lithuania during the month of February by the good citizens of our state who are of the Lithuanian race, is a commemoration of respect to a deserving ancestry and to a noble nation.

Peaceful, independent and self-sufficient Lithuania, involuntary engulfed in the maelstrom of war, is at present a martyred, oppressed victim of jealous enemies of democracy and freedom.

Because Lithuania was always a nation at peace with the world, because she freely gave to the world a margin of her produce and fruits of her honest efforts, I am sure that the return of decency to international relations will again find Lithuania in the high rank of nations that her noble and honorable qualities have heretofore established for her.

### U. S. Senator Danaher for Justice to Lithuania

It seems to me that any peace agreement among nations should provide that no nation shall seek territorial aggrandizement, that territorial changes shall accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, that all people have the right to choose the form of government under which they shall live and that all nations have access on equal terms to trade and to raw materials necessary for their economic security. Such terms are equitable and fair to Lithuania and other small nations which have been caught in the vortex of the war.

February 12, 1944.

### Lithuanian Independence Day in Chicago

#### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Americans of Lithuanian descent and background have steadfastly subscribed and adhered to the principles of democracy and freedom as set forth in the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, these same citizens have at all times pledged their uncompromising loyalty to the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Lithuania, the land of their forefathers, has suffered as the victim of totalitarian domination and aggression; and

WHEREAS, the people of Lithuania have thereby undergone many years of misery, sorrow and oppression; and

WHEREAS, the ultimate victory of democracy and what it stands for is synonymous with the

bulwark of freedom throughout the civilized world; and

WHEREAS, February 16, 1944 marks the twenty-sixth anniversary of the Independence of Lithuania.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Edward J. Kelly, Mayor of the City of Chicago, do designate Sunday, February 13, 1944, as LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY IN CHICAGO, for it is upon this day that our citizens of Lithuanian birth and extraction will hold mass meetings and rallies in observance of this highly significant day in the history of their home land.

Dated this seventh day of February, A.D., 1944.

EDWARD J. KELLY,  
Mayor

### U. S. Senator Maloney Encourages Lithuanian Hopes for Freedom

The history of Lithuania is one of unceasing struggle for independence. For nearly six centuries Lithuania has proved to the world that her people would never be subjugated and would never be enslaved by warring and selfish neighbors. Throughout her long history, despite many vicissitudes of fortune and tragic reversals of history, Lithuania has risen to take her rightful place in the family of independent nations.

Twenty-six years ago this month, Lithuania signed her declaration of independence. She dedicated herself to the principles of freedom and democracy. She chose her own leaders and her own parliament. Since the last great war, Lithuania lived in peaceful collaboration with other countries. She joined the League of Nations and signed treaties of peace with her neighbors. She wanted only to live at peace with the world. And, Lithuania prospered during this period. Great agricultural reforms were instituted and commerce and industry thrived. Many cooperative societies were formed, both of producers and consumers. Lithuania realized the prosperity to which she was so justly entitled.

And now, tragedy has again struck. We need not recount the terrible events of 1940, 1941 and 1942. The hard-won independence of Lithuania has again been wrenched from her by powerful and aggressive neighbors. Lithuania again faces tremendous odds in a world now embroiled in the greatest war in history. But Lithuanians need not despair of their nation. Lithuania will again rise and shake off the fetters of slavery.

The hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians who live in America should take courage. Lithuania has never yielded and will not yield to those who oppress her today.

February 8, 1944.



### I Shudder for the Future— Hon. Clare Booth Luce, M.C.

In the last decade we have learned — if we learned anything that the tragedy of one nation is the tragedy of all nations. No people, however geographically remote or strategically secure, can remain indifferent to oppression or to the use of superior might against any other people.

The Atlantic Charter was drafted when suffering and despair had driven home to us and to our Allies the full significance of this fact. I hope that the lesson which 1941 taught us was not forgotten with the passage of that year.

There may be a few persons who can predict with accuracy the future of Lithuania and the other Baltic countries. If so, I am not one of them. I cannot predict whether each of these countries will resume its pre-World War II status, its unhappy pre-World War I status, be united in a regional confederation or become part of a world government or world federation.

All I can do is join those who hope fervently that the hideous structure of another World War will not be built from the ruins of this one. With you, I hope and pray that the future of the Baltic States and all small nations will be determined on a moral and honorable basis, in keeping with provision two of the Atlantic Charter which states that the signatory United Nations "desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned." A sham and corrupt plebiscite, incidentally, is not a free expression of the wishes of the people.

Should the decision in regard to the Baltic States be anything but moral and honorable and in accord with the wishes of the people of that region, I shudder for the future—not alone for the future of the Estonians, the Latvians, and the Lithuanians but for that of all mankind.

However, I cannot believe that the bitter lesson of the last decade, the lesson of Ethiopia and Munich, of China and Indo-China, can be so lightly and easily forgotten when we have completed the entire arduous and bloody course of this war.

Today you celebrate Lithuanian Independence as a historic anniversary. Next year, or as soon thereafter as it is militarily possible, I hope you will celebrate the liberation and self-determination of the Lithuanian people as an actual and present reality.

### Congressman Talbot on the Future of Lithuania

Lithuania has sent to the United States of America thousands of fine upright citizens. The people of Lithuania have shown a respect for law

and an independence that is all too seldom seen in the world today.

Let me extend to you and all the Lithuanian people, my congratulations on this great day of independence for your country. I assure you it is my fervent hope that in the not too distant future, Lithuania will again be a great independent nation of Europe. To achieve this end, I assure you that I will at all times be ready and willing to give all assistance that I may possess.

JOSEPH E. TALBOT, M.C. (Conn.)

### It Will Be a Happy Day— Congressman D'Alesandro, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, February 16, in the State of Maryland, is officially proclaimed Republic of Lithuania Day, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge the great contribution made to the State of Maryland and to the United States of America by citizens of Lithuanian birth and ancestry, especially the sincere loyalty which they have manifested to the land of their adoption by their wholehearted support of the war effort, both by sending their children to serve in our armed forces and by subscribing so generously to the various War bond drives.

Just as Americans of Lithuanian extraction contributed to the progress of the United States, so also, it is an established fact, did the Republic of Lithuania contribute to the cultural progress of Europe, a right which she has been deprived of by her aggressive neighbors. During her period of independence she justified the trust placed in her and proved to the civilized world her capacity to properly govern herself, true to the established principles of democracy.

Lithuanians, ethnically, are neither Slav nor Teuton. Therefore, any allotment of her territory to, or subjugation by any of her neighbors, would prove to be a disturbing influence upon the future peace of Europe.

It will be a happy day when civilized nations are rid of Nazi hordes and are rehabilitated economically and politically, and the freedom that they enjoyed before the war has been restored. A complete victory for the United Nations will assure all of the smaller nations, including Lithuania as well as the larger nations, their rightful place in the sun.

THOMAS D'ALESANDBRO, Jr., M.C.

### Total Blackout for the Baltic

Svenska Dagbladet, 3.1.44: The occupying authorities have issued a decree ordering a total blackout in the Baltic States as from January 1st. This applies to the country as well as to the towns.



## LITHUANIA UNDER GERMAN YOKE

### Lithuanian Firms to Register with Chamber of Commerce

The Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce in Kaunas announces that all kinds of undertakings in Lithuania must, in accordance with the orders of the Reichskommissar of November 29th, 1941, and May 28th, 1942, concerning the self-management of Trade and Industry in the Ostland, become members of the Chamber of Commerce irrespective of their status. The orders also apply to all public undertakings, the so-called Public Utility Works all of which must become members of the Chamber of Commerce. As public undertakings are understood such serves as the Reich railways, post, police, communities, etc., even though they are not profit-making business undertakings; furthermore, gas works and power plants as well as handicraft undertakings of all kinds, also can-tees, shoemakers' workshops, etc. All such undertakings which have not been registered in the Chamber of Commerce must do so without further delay, otherwise they run the risk of forfeiting the right of claiming membership at a later date, neither can they expect to obtain supplies of raw materials, fuel, etc. All concerned are therefore warned in their own interests to report to the Chamber with a view to becoming members.

### Training for Boy Railwaymen

Following information from German occupied Lithuania the Railway Administration in Vilna on December 30 of last year announced that boys aged from 14 to 16 are still being engaged for railway service in the General Commissionership Lithuania and appeals to others willing to enter the service to send in applications. The applicants will be trained for the machine-technical service,

## FIGHTING NEAR THE BALTIC STATES

**Aftontidningen, 15.1.44:** According to a German controlled paper, Daugavas Vanagi, a number of Latvian and Lithuanian deserters who were sentenced to death have been reprieved. Also, Baltic soldiers guilty of disobedience have received conditional sentences. These concessions are due to the seriousness of the situation, which is such that the defense of the Baltic States requires every man.

The Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian quislings Mae, Dankers and Kubiliunas emphasize in proc-

communication and traffic service (**Betriebs- und Verkehrsdienst**) as well as office work. Apprenticeship lasts three years, during which period monthly wages of up to 50 RM will be paid. Especially proficient apprentices will be able to undergo courses free of charge to qualify as technicians or engineers.

### Diphtheria

In the last ten weeks of 1943, 4,397 case of diphtheria have been registered in Lithuania. It has been established that sufficient supplies of serum will be available, and a warning is given to hoarders to release this medicament, failing which a fine of 1,000 RM or six months imprisonment or both will be imposed on the offenders.

### Harsh Suppression of Crime due to Police Shortage

**Aftontidningen, 3.1.44:** The shortage of reliable policemen and prison wardens due to the large number that have been called up for military service has resulted in the occupying authorities in the Baltic States also commencing to practise so-called "race hygiene." Therefore, according to the last information from the Baltic States a campaign has been launched to exterminate mercilessly all anti-social elements and those criminals classed as recidivists. It is maintained that, according to the statistics, crime is flourishing to an unprecedented extent; thus, during the past weeks 27 persons have been sentenced to death for various offenses. Political murders are also reported to be numerous. Attempts to assassinate members of the Gestapo, SS and other of Himmler's tools are reported daily.

lamations that the military situation in the Baltic war zone has developed so that the long cherished wish of the Baltic patriots to defend their countries near their own frontiers—the legionnaires' original task—has now been realized.

A uniform front can no longer be spoken of. A front certainly exists, but in the Baltic war zone there are no longer any limits for military operations. The whole territory is practically one battlefield, where the fighting of both the defenders and the attackers is characterized by lawlessness, brutality and cunning.



## VOICE FROM SWEDEN

**Social Demokraten**, December 29, 1943: Germany, in the event of victory, would probably incorporate the Baltic States into the Reich or make them defenseless vassals. The Russians seem to regard the incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union as obvious. The paper then refers to a book recently published by Baltic politicians and scientists, entitled "Have they a right to live" and writes that the Baltic people

cannot be denied this right. Roosevelt and Churchill have promised all nations freedom. "Are the Baltic States to be excluded? We do not like to believe it. On the contrary, we are of the opinion that the freedom of the Baltic States is a test for the freedom of the whole world. If this cruel war is to produce any results, it must first and foremost guarantee the freedom and independence of the small nations."

## EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESS

### Russia and the Baltic States

Russia's attitude towards the Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia is of major importance at the present time. In the official newspaper *Pravda* (February 8, 1943), the Baltic Republics were declared to be "parts of Soviet Russia's own territory, bound by the Constitution of the country to the other Republics of the Soviet Union." These views have also been repeated by the Leningrad and Moscow radio stations.

These claims conflict with the fact that Russia has endorsed the Atlantic Charter and the similar declaration of the United Nations of January 1st, 1942, and is pledged to "seek no aggrandisement, territorial or other." Secondly she has stated her desire to see "no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned." Thirdly she has said that "sovereign rights and self-government are to be restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them."

The Baltic States have as much right to their independence as the other small European nations. Even if Russia had not signed the Atlantic Charter her previous relations with Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were based on peace Treaties concluded in 1920, whereby these countries became separate states. Representatives of Russia under Lenin "voluntarily and forever" renounced Russian sovereignty over these territories. . . .

BRYAN BEVAN

(*The Weekly Review*, January 13, 1944)

### Sweden's Labor Press Pleads for Baltics

Stockholm, February 1 (By wireless)—Sweden's chief Labor organs, which represent the country's dominant political party, today take up the future of trans-Baltic States. "While only twenty years old as independent nations, the Baltic peoples are among the Europeans who have lived longest in

their present areas," writes today *Aftontidningen*, the new Stockholm afternoon organ of the Swedish Federation of Labor. "In 1920 the Soviet Union recognized their right to become independent states. The Soviet Union ought to feel strong enough now to respect the independence of these war-ravaged countries, which has been lost in the melee of the Great Power battle. They have the same right as other nations, great and small, to live their own lives. The Soviet Union once committed itself to this on paper. Why not grant them the same position as Czechoslovakia?"

(*News from Sweden*, February 2, 1944)

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by

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Author of the "Munich Menace to the Monroe Doctrine"

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