

1

... 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

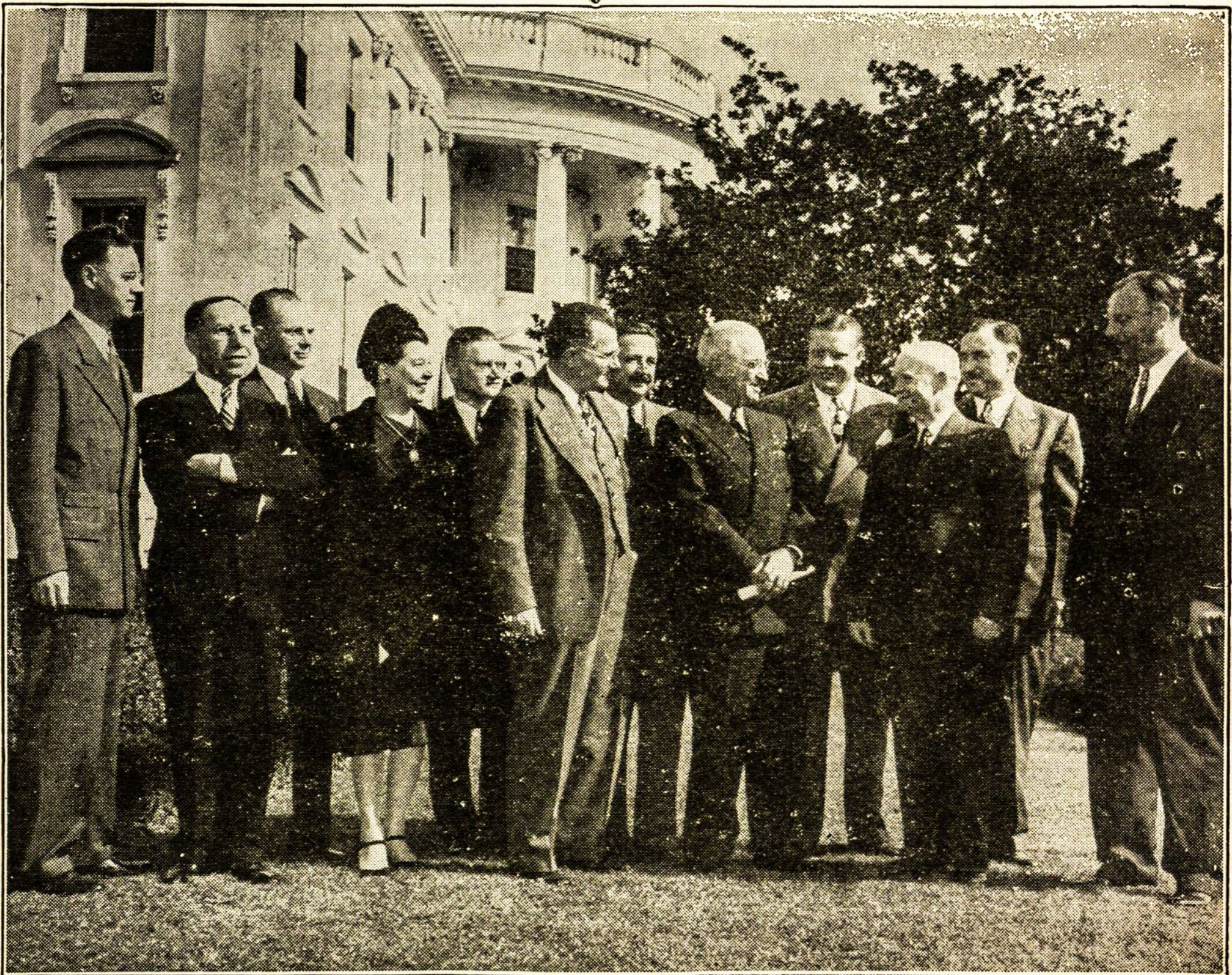
# LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

Published by the Lithuanian American Council  
233 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y.

Vol. IV

OCTOBER 1946

No. 3



LITHUANIAN AMERICAN DELEGATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Standing, left to right: John Grigalus, Stanley Michelson, William T. Kvetkas, Mary M. Kizis, Constantine R. Jurgela, Leonard Simutis, John T. Zuris, President Harry S. Truman, Al Kumskis, Pius Grigaitis, Michael Vaidyla, and William F. Laukaitis.

Lietuvos  
Nacionalinė  
M. Mažvydas



## PRESIDENT TRUMAN REAFFIRMS AMERICAN BALTIC POLICY

A delegation of the Lithuanian American Council called on President Truman at the White House on Tuesday, October 29, 1946.

Mr. Leonard Šimutis, President of the Council and editor of the Lithuanian daily *Draugas* of Chicago, introduced the members of the Delegation to the President. Dr. Pius Grigaitis, Secretary of the Council and editor of the Lithuanian daily *Naujienos* of Chicago, read the enclosed address to the President.

The President discussed the plight of refugees and displaced persons whom he had observed during his visit in Germany. He mentioned that he had seen some of the Lithuanian refugees and their condition was difficult to describe. The President expressed his great sympathy for the refugees and mentioned his plan to ask Congress to take responsibility for our share of the numbers of refugees. He recalled his recent intervention in behalf of the Estonian refugees who had come to Florida in small fishing craft.

President Truman reaffirmed his Administration's attachment to the principles of justice for all nations, large and small, and referred to his recent address to the United Nations General Assembly. The President reassured the delegates that his Administration's *policy regarding the Baltic States did not change, cannot change, and will not change*. At the same time he called attention to the difficulties of the period of transition from war to peace and expressed his hope that eventually this country will be able to appeal on the problem brought before him by the delegation.

After a fifteen minute interview the President invited the delegates to have a picture taken with him in the garden. President Truman was pleasant and amiable. On parting, he authorized the delegates to state that he discussed the problem of refugees and displaced persons, that he heard the delegation's appeal for the Baltic States and that he was very sympathetic.

Besides Mr. Šimutis and Dr. Grigaitis, the delegation included—William F. Laukaitis of

Baltimore, Md., Vice-President of the Council and President of the fraternal Lithuanian Alliance of America; Michael Vaidyla of Chicago, Treasurer of the Council and editor of the weekly "Sandara"; William T. Kvetkas of Wilkes Barre, Pa., Secretary General of the Lithuanian R. C. Alliance of America and a Republican leader; Municipal Court Justice John T. Zuris of Chicago; Alexander Kumskis of Chicago, a Democratic leader; City Commissioner John Grigalus of Boston, Mass.; Stanley Michelson of Boston, editor of the weekly "Keleivis"; Miss Mary M. Kizis of New York City and Constantine R. Jurgėla, Director of the Lithuanian American Information Center of New York City.

### MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Washington, D. C.  
October 29, 1946

THE HONORABLE HARRY S. TRUMAN  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On July 23, 1940, when the Moscow Government was bringing to a close its devious processes aimed at annexing the Baltic States, the Government of the United States issued a statement, wherein it condemned the Russian predatory activities as violating the convictions of the American People, as well as all the principles of conduct among nations.

On October 15, 1940, the late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, received in audience a delegation of the Lithuanian American Council. He declared that Lithuania had not lost its independence and re-assured that delegation that Lithuania will be free again.

We believe, Mr. President, that you subscribe to the principles referred to above and generally re-affirmed in your 1945 Navy Day Address and your recent statement to the United Nations General Assembly.



Reposing confidence in your views, we appealed to you recently, pleading for Justice for the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. These three progressive and peace-loving peoples had suffered untold hardships during the war. They are still subjected to a hostile occupation by a recent Ally of the United States. They are enduring the most cruel persecution. They are deprived of all the human rights of freemen. If the Russian Government be permitted to pursue its present policies of inhumane deportations, illegal mobilization for armed forces and slave labor, mass arrests and forcible Sovietization—within a short time there may be left but wretched remnants of once progressive nations.

We are here today to plead before you in behalf of the Baltic Peoples whose sufferings are known to us perhaps better than to any other section of the population of this country.

We are here to ask you, most urgently, to reaffirm this country's stand on Lithuania and the other Baltic States—Latvia and Estonia. And we ask you further to direct the proper agencies of this Government to initiate active

efforts in helping to restore the sovereign rights, human freedoms and self-government to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Your re-assurances on this cause will re-invigorate the hopes of the oppressed peoples that this great American Democracy will strive to effect justice, to honor its war-time declarations of policy principles.

We thank you most sincerely for receiving us, and wish you good health and strength in the arduous and trying duties of your great office.

Very respectfully yours,

THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL

Leonard Šimutis, *President*  
William F. Laukaitis, *Vice-Pres.*  
Dr. Pius Grigaitis, *Secretary*  
Michael Vaidyla, *Treasurer*

DELEGATION MEMBERS

John T. Zuris  
Alexander G. Kumskis  
John J. Grigalus  
William T. Kvetkas  
Stanley Michelson  
Constantine R. Jurgėla

## STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE

As Chairman of the Republican National Committee, I believe that peace to be permanent must be based on the principles of *justice and right* enunciated in the *Atlantic Charter* and *proclaimed by agreement of the Allies*, including the Soviet, in a joint declaration of the United Nations.

Enslavement of small nations by large nations is not conducive to a permanent peace. The situation now prevailing in Eastern and Central Europe is actually endangering the peace, in that three sovereign, peace loving and law abiding nations, *Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia*, and their helpless people, have been enslaved by the Soviet Union. *Aggressive and predatory acts* against these small nations by any dominating power should be condemned, particularly if those acts have been *banned by treaties* with those nations.

*Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia should be restored to their former status of freedom and independence.* The Soviet army and the Soviet police occupying these countries should leave. Refugees of those countries should have the opportunity to be repatriated without fear of Soviet persecution and thereafter should have the right of a *free and unfettered election*.

*The Republican Party believes in fulfilling to the greatest possible degree its war pledges to small nations* that they shall have the right to choose the form of government under which they will live and that sovereign rights and self-government shall be restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them. The party would deplore any desertion of these stated principles.

B. CARROLL REECE, M.C.

Washington, D.C.  
October 12, 1946.



# INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE PROBLEM

## UNITED NATIONS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FLIGHT

*Editorial Note:* UN General Assembly is presently in session. One of the items on its Agenda is "Report of the Economic and Social Council on the Question of Refugees and consideration of the constitution of the International Refugee Organization," which is slated to succeed UNRRA.

In view of the fact that the refugees are not consulted and are excluded from the consideration of the measures vitally affecting their destinies, the Lithuanian American Information Center prepared a survey of the observations on the subject made by Lithuanian refugees and by disinterested voluntary relief organizations.

### 1. Draft Constitution of IRO

Draft Constitution for the *International Refugee Organization*, as approved by the UN Economic and Social Council at its Third Session in October 1946, contains a number of clauses and definitions which are objectionable to any true humanitarian.

Wherein does the fault lie?

In (a) the *approach to the problem* and (b) *submission to persecutionary views* of the governments which hold the countries of origin of the refugees in enslavement.

The Draft Constitution for IRO repeatedly insists that:

"The Governments accepting this Constitution RECOGNIZING . . . that as regards displaced persons, the main task to be performed is to encourage and assist in every way possible their early return to their country of origin; that genuine refugees and displaced persons should be assisted by international action *either to return to their countries of nationality or former habitual residence or to find new homes elsewhere.*" (PREAMBLE)

"1. The functions of the Organization . . . shall be exercised with a view:

(a) to encouraging and assisting in every way possible the *early return* to their country of nationality or former habitual residence . . .

(b) . . . to facilitating (i) their *re-establishment in countries of temporary residence*, (ii) the *emigration to and re-settlement* and the *re-establishment in other countries of individuals or family units*, and (iii) . . . the investigation, promotion or execution of projects of *group re-settlement or large-scale resettlement.*" (Article II, Functions and Powers)

(c) The *main task* concerning displaced persons is to encourage and assist in every way possible their *early return* to their countries of origin . . .

(d) It should be the concern of the Organization to ensure that its assistance is *not* exploited in order to *encourage* subversive or *hostile activities* directed against the government of any of the United Nations.

(e) It should be the concern of the Organization to ensure that its assistance is not exploited by persons in the case of whom it is clear that they are unwilling to return to their countries of origin because *they prefer idleness to facing the hardships of helping in the reconstruction of their countries.*

(f) On the other hand it should equally be the concern of the Organization to ensure that no *bona fide* and *deserving* refugee or displaced person is *deprived of such assistance* as it may be in a position to offer.

(g) The Organization should endeavor to carry out its functions in respect of resettlement and re-establishment in such a way as to *avoid disturbing friendly relations between nations.* (General Principles)

A perusal of these clauses reveals that the United Nations, in setting up IRO under compulsion of their recognized international responsibility, make no reference to the principles of the UN Charter.

It may be recalled that the Preamble to the Charter boldly proclaimed:

"We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, . . .

to reaffirm faith in *fundamental human rights*, in the *dignity and worth of human person*, in the *equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small*, and

to establish conditions under which *justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law* can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,  
and for these ends

to practice tolerance and *live together in peace with one another as good neighbors*, and

to unite our strength to *maintain international peace and security*, and

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, . . ."



Chapter I of the Charter restates the Purposes and Principles.

"The *Purposes* of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and *removal of threats to peace*, and for the *suppression of acts of aggression* or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by *peaceful means*, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and *self-determination of the peoples*, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

3. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction . . ." (Article I.)

"The Organization and its Members . . . shall act in accordance with the following *Principles*:

1. . . . *sovereign equality of all its Members.*

2. *All Members, . . . shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them . . .*

3. All Members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered.

4. *All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, . . .*" (Article II.)

Let us presently examine the *Definitions* contained in the Draft Constitution of IRO.

Who are "Refugees?"

"1. . . . the term "refugee" applies to a person who has left or is outside of, his country of nationality or of former habitual residence, and who, whether or not he had retained his nationality, belongs to one of the following categories:

(a) *Victims of the Nazi or Fascist regimes or of regimes which took part on their side in the Second World War, or of the quisling or similar regimes which assisted them against the United Nations. . .*

(b) Spanish Republicans. . . .

(c) Persons who were considered refugees before the outbreak of the Second World War. . . .

These three categories clearly *exclude victims of the Soviet or "Red Fascist regimes"* "or of the quisling or similar regimes" imposed by the armed might of the Soviet Union upon a number of formerly free States, both Members and non-Members of the UN.

Are there any saving clauses?

Paragraph 2 of the Definition of Refugees adds, subject to certain reservations regarding "war criminals, quislings and traitors":

" . . . the term "refugee" also applies to a person, other than a displaced person as defined in Section B below, who is outside of his country of nationality or former habitual residence, and who, as a result of events subsequent to the outbreak of the Second World War, is unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of the Government of his country of nationality or former nationality."

This definition is obviously directed at citizens of Poland, Yugoslavia and certain other nominally independent countries. The definition, however, could not entail citizens of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, victims of Nazi-Soviet partnership in aggression, unless the Democracies were prepared to denounce the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and their declarations condemning the Soviet aggression against the Baltic States.

Paragraph 3 brings under the protection of IRO persons of Jewish origin "or foreigners or stateless persons," victims of Nazi persecution in Germany and Austria.

Paragraph 4 is worded brutally:

"4. The term "refugee" also applies to *unaccompanied children* who are war orphans or whose parents have disappeared, and who are outside their countries of origin. Such children shall be given all possible priority assistance, including in the case of those whose nationality can be determined, assistance in repatriation, to which there should be no obstacle."

One important question arises: if such war orphans or "unaccompanied children" are ascertained to be of Lithuanian, Latvian or Estonian nationality—to what "countries of origin" should they be repatriated? Their countries are under hostile Soviet occupation.

Who are "Displaced Persons?"

"The term "Displaced Persons" applies to a person who, as a result of the actions of the authorities of the regimes mentioned in Part I, Section A, paragraph 1 (a) has been deported from, or has been obliged to



leave his country of nationality or of former habitual residence, such as persons who were compelled to undertake forced labour or who were deported for racial, religious or political reasons. Displaced persons will only fall within the mandate of this Organization subject to the provisions of Part II below. *If the reasons for their displacement have ceased to exist, they should be repatriated as soon as possible. . . .*

In other words, only "*Victims of the Nazi or Fascist regimes . . . or of the quisling or similar regimes which assisted them against the United Nations*" are to be assisted.

Millions of slave laborers, prisoners and exiles forcibly deported ("voluntarily evacuated") to the Arctic, Siberian and Central Asiatic regions of the Soviet Union—are excluded.

The fact is that *the majority of "DPs" in Western Germany and Austria are refugees from Russian persecution, enslavement and oppression.* However, the verbiage employed in the Draft Constitution of IRO, *if literally interpreted, excludes all of these masses from protection*, and opens the avenues to terrorize the refugees into "returning," "emigrating" or "re-establishing" elsewhere.

Such terrorization is expressly authorized in Sections C and D.

Section C reasserts that IRO shall be concerned with the repatriation and then proceeds:

"or if they are unable to return to their countries of nationality or former habitual residence or if they have definitely, in complete freedom, and *after receiving full knowledge of the facts, including adequate information from the governments of their countries of nationality or former habitual residence, expressed valid objections to returning to those countries.*"

This clause is predicated upon the existence of "governments" in the "countries of nationality or former habitual residence." It *does not limit itself to "recognized governments" or governments freely elected by the peoples concerned.* Conceivably, among such "governments" of the "countries of origin or former habitual residence" IRO might include the Soviet quisling "governments" of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian traitors, completely dominated by Moscow. None of the "Baltic Soviet Governments" is recognized by the United States and numerous other Member States of UN. Nevertheless, *unless specific reservations are included in the IRO Constitution, Baltic refugees may be exposed to pressure, moral ter-*

*ror and intimidation by Soviet agents posing as representatives of the "Governments of their countries of origin or former habitual residence."*

Section C likewise defines *valid objections*:

"(i) *persecution, or fear,* based on reasonable grounds (French *fondée*, Russian: *obosnovany*), of persecution because of race, religion, nationality or *political opinions, provided these opinions are not in conflict with the principles of the United Nations, as laid down in the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations.*"

It may be observed that communistic principles, together with Fascist-Nazi principles, are the only ones in conflict with the principles of the UN Charter.

Section C proceeds further:

"(ii) *objections of a political nature* judged by the Organization to be "*valid*," as contemplated in paragraph 8 (a) of the Report of the Third Committee of the General Assembly as adopted by the Assembly on 12 February 1946."

Paragraph 8 (a) of said report reads:

"In answering the delegate for Belgium, the Chairman stated that it was *implied that the international body would judge* what were, or what were not '*valid objections*'; and that such objections clearly *might be of a political nature.*"

The same Section C provides that "adequate information" regarding conditions in the countries of nationality is to be communicated to the refugees "*directly by representatives of the governments of those countries, who shall be given every facility for visiting camps and Assembly Centres of refugees and displaced persons in order to place such information before them.*"

The accumulated record of experience with such "visitors" and thefts of the DP index cards, should have provided the governments subscribing to such "principles" with *moral courage to desist* and prevent such *terrorization* of the unfortunate victims of war, aggression and persecution.

Section D provides that refugees will cease to be the concern of IRO when they have returned to the *countries of their nationality "in the United Nations territory"* (*the Baltic States are not members of the United Nations*); when they have acquired a *new nationality*, or are otherwise firmly established, or "when they



have *unreasonably refused to accept* the proposals of the Organization for their *resettlement*."

What might constitute "unreasonable refusal to accept resettlement" is not defined.

Part II of the Definitions, "*Persons who will not be the concern of the Organization*," excludes war criminals, "quislings and traitors" (except traitors who are quislings to the Soviets?); persons who have "assisted the enemy in persecuting the civil populations of countries, Members of the United Nations" (ergo: *persecution of "neutral" civil populations of the Baltic States or of the enemy's satellites was quite all right?*); those who have *voluntarily assisted the enemy* forces against the United Nations, unless such assistance was "purely humanitarian and non-military"; ordinary criminals; masses of Volksdeutschen and German citizens; persons receiving financial support and protection from their country of nationality.

Item 6 of this exclusive provision is most interesting:

"6. Persons who, *since the end of hostilities* in the Second World War:

(a) have participated in any organization having as one of its purposes the overthrow by armed force of the Government of their country of origin, being a member of the United Nations, or the overthrow by armed force of the Government of any other Member of the United Nations, or have participated in any terrorist organization;

(b) have become *leaders of movements hostile to the Government of their country of origin being a member of the United Nations or sponsors of movements encouraging refugees not to return to their country of origin.*"

This clause is obviously intended *to stifle all opposition* to the Soviet Union or to the "governments" installed by the Soviet Union in a number of formerly free and independent countries. Rather than insist that the Soviets conform to the principles and obligations under the UN Charter, the IRO is directed to *suppress the freedom of expression* and to gag the people deprived of their countries, of their legitimate governments, of their property, of their human rights. There is *no hint of Four Freedoms and self-determination*. Rather, the IRO is to facilitate the servants of the oppressors in terrorizing the *people who know the true facts*,

who possess "adequate information" regarding the conditions *which compelled them to abandon their lands and homes* in their "countries of origin or former habitual residence."

Should the Draft *Constitution of IRO* be adopted in its present form—the masses of non-German refugees and displaced persons will be subjected to a continuing jeopardy of their lives and rights of freemen.

Governments of the Democracies which did not recognize the Soviet aggression against the Baltic States and the "annexation" should *re-examine their approach to the problem*, and insert certain *specific reservations* regarding the nationals of the Baltic Republics.

In this connection, the attention of the democratic member States of the United Nations is called to the following declaration of the Government of the United States made on July 23, 1940:

"During these past few days the devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three small Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been rapidly drawing to their conclusion.

"From the day when the peoples of these Republics first gained their independent and democratic form of government, the people of the United States have watched their admirable progress in self-government with deep and sympathetic interest.

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

"These principles constitute the very foundations 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 of law—in other words, the basis of modern civilization itself—cannot be preserved."

(The Department of State *Bulletin*, July 27, 1940, Vol. III, No. 57, page 48.)



This declaration, as may be readily observed, is reflected in the UN Charter—in its Preamble and the first two Articles. It may be added that the *Soviet Government violated a number of international treaties* freely entered into between the Governments of the respective Baltic States and the Soviet Union. Said treaties are, legally, still in force, inasmuch as they had not been terminated in the manner provided therein.

The proper *approach* to the International Refugee Problem is expressed in the Resolutions printed below, on pages 8-10.

The text of the IRO Draft Constitution betrays *submission to persecutionary views* of the governments which hold the countries of origin of the refugees in enslavement.

## 2. Resolution of the Lithuanian American Council

The Lithuanian American Council, at its annual meeting held on September 21st and 22nd, 1946, at Washington, D.C., taking into consideration the series of proposals recently enunciated on an international scale within the United Nations—UNRRA Conferences, the Economic and Social Council and its Committee on Refugees, and the appeal of the Commanding General of the United States occupation forces in Europe—regarding the eventual settlement of the political refugees now sheltered in Germany, Austria and elsewhere, declares:

World War II, whose actual hostilities had ceased in the Summer of 1945, was fought against international totalitarian aggressors for certain ideals which the peoples of the Democracies believed in and for which tremendous sacrifices were made.

On January 1, 1942, in behalf of all of the United Nations, a Declaration by the United Nations was signed. This Declaration obligated all of the United Nations to adhere to the principles of the Atlantic Charter and to base the future peace on said principles. The Soviet Union was among the signatories of that Declaration.

Thereafter, in behalf of the Great Powers, allies in this War, agreements of international-worldwide significance were made at Teheran, Cairo, Moscow, Yalta and Potsdam. While our

There are *no constituted governments in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania*. The Government responsible for this situation is that of the Soviet Union solely and exclusively.

It is respectfully submitted that the *Governments* of the United States and other Democracies which do not recognize the Soviet absorption of the Baltic States should reassert their views in drafting the IRO Constitution, and insert specific safeguards protecting Baltic nationals, pending the restoration of freedom and sovereignty of the Baltic Republics, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations.

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN INFORMATION CENTER

sons were fighting and dying on the various fronts, it was repeatedly stressed that the Allied Powers were firmly determined to bring about a realization of the Atlantic Charter and to restore freedom, independence and a democratic form of government to "liberated European Peoples," among whom, certainly, are included the Lithuanian People, and to safeguard under joint protection the freedom of political elections. The Soviet Union signed all of these agreements.

In the City of San Francisco, the foundation was laid for the United Nations organization. A Charter was adopted, whereby the United Nations based its aims on the principles of the Atlantic Charter, justice, and a promise to grant freedom and independence to all nations capable of self-government in the future. This Charter was signed and ratified both by the United States of America and by the Soviet Union.

As far as the United States of America is concerned, its Government on July 23, 1940, condemned the Russian aggression against Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and did not recognize the annexations. The Government of the United States faithfully adheres to this policy today.

In his 1945 Navy Day address, President Harry S. Truman announced his Administration's "Twelve Point Policy," which reaffirmed



the principles of the Atlantic Charter and justice. Within the past few days he reaffirmed the fact that the foreign policy of the United States had not changed. There is no basis to suppose that this policy could change in the future, inasmuch as both the Democratic and Republican Parties, uniformly, endorsed the principles of the Atlantic Charter, both support that policy, and any attempts to deviate from the accepted policy will be stopped by the voters in the Congressional elections.

The United States Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference likewise reaffirmed these aims and principles of the American foreign policy, and blocked the attempt "to legalize" the quislings of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia who were brought to the Paris Conference from Moscow.

Consequently, the peoples of Lithuania—also of Latvia, Estonia and other countries either already enslaved or subjected to the process of enslavement—have *the right* to demand that war victors fulfill their promises. It is *the duty* of the United Nations to restore freedom and independence to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and other nations finding themselves in a similar situation.

In view of these indisputable facts, rights and duties, the Lithuanian American Council declares, in behalf of the Lithuanian Americans, its most determined opposition to any plans to "repatriate," "colonize," or "settle abroad" against their will, the masses of political refugees—the Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Poles, Jews, Yugoslavs and others.

The duty of the United Nations is to remove the cause of the political refugee problem: to remove the occupation armies of the Soviet Union, its "government party" apparatus and police forces from the home countries of those refugees—from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, etc.

When this duty will have been fulfilled, the international problem of political refugees will automatically disappear. Pending this fulfillment, all efforts shall be put forth so that the Congress of the United States should not grant any appropriations for projects designed to deprive the refugees of their countries and to trample on their rights.

#### LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, INC.

##### *President*

Leonard Šimutis, Chicago, Ill.

##### *Vice Presidents*

William F. Laukaitis, Baltimore, Md.

Peter L. Pivorunas, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Dr. Anthony Montvydas, Chicago, Ill.

##### *Secretary*

Dr. Pius Grigaitis, Chicago, Ill.

##### *Treasurer*

Mikas Vaidyla, Chicago, Ill.

##### *Trustees*

William T. Kvetkas, Wilkes Barre, Penn.

Dr. Matas J. Vinikas, New York City

##### *Public Relations Committee*

John Grigalus, Boston, Mass.

Paul Dargis, Pittsburgh, Penn.

Alexander Aleksis, Waterbury, Conn.

Anthony Miller, Worcester, Mass.

Constantine R. Jurgėla, New York City

### 3. Resolution of the Lithuanian American Catholic Congress

The Lithuanian American Catholic Congress, held under the auspices of the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America on the 20th and 21st days of October, 1946, at the Pennsylvania Hotel in the City of New York, after due deliberation, voted the following resolution:

Today, more than a year after the military victory of the United Nations, the world is witnessing the hitherto unheard-of phenomenon of a million or more people desperately seeking shelter in American, British and French occupied Western Germany and Austria and

refusing to return to their native lands.

This amazing spectacle is an obvious reflection on the form of government of certain member States of the United Nations. In addition thereto, millions of Germans were forcibly uprooted from East Prussia and other territories tentatively assigned to Russian and Polish administration, and from Romania, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

It is even more amazing that UNRRA, the Intergovernmental Commission on Refugees, and the UN Economic and Social Council doggedly insist that their *primary* task is to "repatriate" the variously classified refugees.



To this end, the Commanding General of the U. S. Forces in Europe published a futile appeal to the refugees. The UN Economic and Social Council approved a Draft Constitution of the proposed *International Refugee Organization (IRO)*, defining *repatriation* as the main task, and *resettlement and emigration* as second objectives. This draft offers practically unlimited facilities to officials of the refugees' occupied countries to misrepresent "the facts" of life in their countries and to exert moral terror. Finally, dubious and contradictory definitions of persons eligible and ineligible for care by IRO are propounded, embodying a threat of denial of care to leaders of the movements opposing "repatriation" or opposed to the present regimes imposed upon the refugees' countries or to the government of any other member of UN.

Representatives of the oppressors of the refugees' homelands are participating in the formulation of such proposals, to be financed principally by the United States,—while the refugees themselves, as well as legitimate diplomatic representatives of their countries, are excluded and not even consulted.

On top of all this, UNRRA officials refuse to accept donations of books "of religious or political nature" for distribution to war victims.

These proposals ignore the basic truth: the fact of hostile occupation and enslavement of the countries of origin of the refugees—Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

These proposals exclude a priori the only sane solution of the problem: the restoration of free and independent homelands to the refugees.

These proposals ignore the refugees' right and the United Nations' duty to demand fulfillment of the wartime promises, viz., the Atlantic Charter, Declarations to "Liberated" European Peoples, Preamble to UN Charter, President Truman's Twelve Points, etc.

These proposals carefully avoid discussion of the cause of the refugee phenomenon: the hostile occupation of formerly free countries by the predatory Soviet Union.

These proposals refuse to face the truth that the Refugee Problem will remain as long as

any civilized Christian peoples are denied human rights and the fulfillment of the wartime promises, and as long as there will be places where freedom-hungry people could flee from oppression.

These proposals treat the refugees as rightless and voiceless slaves.

WHEREFORE, the Lithuanian American Catholic Congress calls upon the President, Secretary of State and the U. S. Delegates to various commissions and councils of the United Nations to re-examine the refugee problem and the approach thereto, and to take initiative in eliminating the root and cause of the problem.

The Lithuanian American Catholic Congress further calls on the Congress of the United States to reassert the traditional American principles of freedom, justice and opposition to all forms of tyranny, by denying any appropriations for projects envisioning moral terror, undue influence and forcible arbitrary methods in dealing with the refugees on an international scale.

Pending the restoration of freedom and sovereignty to the countries of origin of such refugees, the Lithuanian American Catholic Congress calls upon the Government of the United States and other members of the United Nations to adhere to the principles of justice and Christian morality in providing a temporary haven for the refugees.

This Congress submits that it might be practicable to assign a section of Germany, i.e., the Rhineland, for settlement by Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian and other refugees in compact masses, with self-government, freedom of gainful employment, and assistance in rehabilitation.

Finally, it is the consensus of this Congress that policy-making powers and administrative functions be entrusted and limited to the Powers directly concerned with the care of refugees—the United States, Great Britain and France—in consultation with representatives of the refugee masses, to be governed with their consent and not by imposition of the will of the more fortunate countries.

Alexander Aleksis, President  
Elizabeth Samas, Secretary



## 4. Memorandum to UN

### SUPREME LITHUANIAN COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION

Nr. 518

#### MEMORANDUM

*To:* United Nations Organization

*Subject:* Lithuanian Displaced Persons

#### I. Causes of the Mass Exodus from the Baltic States

Lithuania and the two other Baltic States, Latvia and Estonia, were the first, after Poland, to feel the effects of the global war provoked by Nazi Germany in 1939.

The secret Ribbentrop-Molotov agreements of August 23 and September 29, 1939, were concluded at the expense of the independence of Poland and of the Baltic States. In the autumn of 1939, Soviet Russia established military bases in the Baltic States, and on June 15-17, 1940, while the front of the Western democracies was passing through an unprecedented crisis in France, massive Soviet forces overran and occupied Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.

This unprovoked act of aggression on the part of Soviet Russia, with which the Baltic States had ever striven to maintain the friendliest of relations, stunned the Lithuanian nation, which had never swerved in its loyalty to the cause and the ideals of the Western democracies.

Quick orientation in the circumstances, with one momentous event succeeding another in bewildering rapidity, was wholly impossible. At that time it was even difficult to grasp the full significance of the catastrophe which had overtaken the Baltic States, especially since they had no very clear idea of Soviet plans and methods of government. There were also people who were inclined to trust the pronouncements made and the assurances given by the rulers of Moscow.

This was why only an inconsiderable number of Lithuanians, about two hundred in all, withdrew in 1940 and 1941 to Germany (it was their only choice), with the intention of proceeding overseas. Some of them, including the late President Smetona of Lithuania, and his

family, succeeded in reaching the United States; others made their way to neutral countries, but the great majority of the political refugees of 1940-1941 was forced to stay on in Germany.

Subsequent events, especially in the spring of 1941, fully proved the wisdom of their action. Aside from the horrors perpetrated by the new regime in the other countries under its occupation, the Soviet occupational authorities, in the period from June 15, 1940, to June 22, 1941, put to death more than five thousand Lithuanians and deported about forty thousand for slave labor in Siberia and the Altay. The absence of any reliable information as to their fate has aroused well-founded and very grave apprehension in the nation. Furthermore, tens of thousands were thrown into prison, and plans were laid for the deportation of seven hundred thousand more. While the deportees were drawn from all walks of life, the majority belonged to the educated classes. An equally heavy toll was exacted by the Soviet occupation in Latvia and Estonia.

Upon the substitution of the Nazi occupation for that of the Soviets, because of the stubborn resistance offered by the Lithuanian people to Nazi plans and because of the severe damage caused to the German war machine, about two thousand Lithuanians were arrested and sent to German concentration camps and prisons, while more than one hundred thousand Lithuanian citizens were deported to Germany for slave labor. A considerable number of such deportees, aided by the Lithuanian anti-Nazi resistance movement, returned secretly to Lithuania while the war was still in full swing.

In the summer and autumn of 1944, when, following the crushing blows inflicted on the German armed forces by the armies of the United Nations, Soviet troops once more poured into the Baltic States, a new wave of Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian refugees swept westward.

Some of them were forcibly evacuated by the retreating Germans; others left their homes because their own experiences, or those of relatives and friends during the first Soviet occupation, left no doubt as to the fate in store for



them. Those who were able to do so fled to Sweden, Denmark, and other neutral countries, but to the majority only the road to Germany was open. Had it not been for the difficulties placed in their way by the German frontier authorities and SS formations and the terror exercised by them, more than half a million Lithuanians would have left their country. Owing to the suddenness of military events and the difficulties of transport, a substantial portion of the Baltic refugees was stranded in Poland and in Soviet-occupied Germany.

## II. The Present Number of Displaced Lithuanians

The number of displaced Lithuanians on this side of the "iron curtain" is estimated as follows:

1. In Germany:	
American zone .....	38,000
British zone .....	27,000
French zone .....	5,000
Total .....	70,000
2. In Austria .....	2,500
3. In Denmark .....	1,000
4. In Sweden .....	450
5. In Switzerland .....	225
6. In France .....	1,500
7. In Italy .....	2,100
8. In other countries .....	500
Total .....	78,275

The figures given above differ slightly from those issued by UNRRA. The difference is due to the fact that a considerable portion of Baltic displaced persons lives outside displaced persons camps and does not benefit by UNRRA care. The continual depletion of the funds they brought to Germany and their absolute inability to find employment in the present disorganized state of German economy are bound to make the situation of these people very critical in the near future.

The Lithuanians who were displaced from their country under the circumstances which have been briefly recapitulated here are the hapless victims of the late war. We are fully convinced that the great Western democracies and the other United Nations, as well as the international organs set up by them for the preservation of peace and for the establishment of a

reign of justice in the world, will consider it their imperative duty to care for these innocent victims of the war and to take a benevolent interest in their future.

The institutions and the organizations responsible for the care of displaced persons should primarily direct their attention to the displaced persons established in Germany and Austria, not only because the great bulk of them is concentrated there, but also because their situation in those countries is very difficult, not to say critical.

## III. The Legal Status of Displaced Lithuanians

a) *In Nazi Germany.* In Nazi Germany Lithuanian refugees were outcasts with no rights whatever. Deeming the destruction of German military might but a question of days or weeks, pending the advent of the liberating armies of the Western Allies and the creation of conditions making possible a safe return to a Lithuania free from alien occupation, they scrupulously followed the directives issued by the leaders of their resistance movements so as to sabotage, in every way their ingenuity could devise, the efforts of the German *Arbeitsamt* to harness them to the Nazi war machine. They subsisted on the funds they brought from Lithuania.

b) *In Germany and Austria under the occupation of the Western Allies.* Following the occupation of western and southern Germany and of Austria by the American, British, and French armies, the Baltic refugees were given the status of displaced persons.

Up to the present time there are no hard-and-fast rules for eligibility to such status, so the legal standing of the refugees and their treatment in the three zones conform to no one uniform pattern.

In some localities displaced Baltic persons are permitted to manage their affairs in relative freedom, but in the majority of cases they are considered citizens *sui generis*, and their Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian nationality is denied them, regardless of the fact that the consequences of Soviet aggression against the Baltic States—their alleged incorporation in the Soviet Union—have not been recognized by any great power.



They are denied freedom of movement and are forbidden to have organizations and a periodical press of their own. Displaced Lithuanians feel that they are in a less advantageous position as regards the rights they enjoy than are the Germans; this is particularly true in Austria. They are subjected to continuous check-ups.

At the present time, screening operations are under way for the purpose of singling out war criminals, collaborators, and volunteers for German military services. But no such elements are present in the ranks of displaced Lithuanians, barring the inevitable exceptions. If the screening operations establish the presence of such elements among displaced Lithuanians and they are deprived of their status as displaced persons, only elementary justice will be done.

In order to avoid misunderstandings it would be only fair to consult reliable representatives of the displaced persons themselves; they could at least supply details in clearing up doubtful cases and help their fellow countrymen to present their cases.

Two categories of displaced Lithuanians, adversely affected by the screening, to which we wish to direct the particular attention of the appropriate authorities are:

a) The Lithuanian *Umsiedler*, i.e., Lithuanians who, availing themselves of the possibility offered by the Soviet-German treaty of January 10, 1941, frequently with the help of forged documents, left for Germany with the *Volksdeutsche*, in an effort to save their lives and escape persecution, or to rescue from prison incarcerated heads of families who had committed no crime against the country while living in Germany;

b) Lithuanians originating from the Territory of Klaipėda (Memel), which was brutally torn from Lithuania on March 23, 1939, by Hitler and now has again become an integral part of Lithuania.

Lithuanians of both these categories should be treated on an equal footing with other displaced Lithuanians.

The screening operation carried out in certain regions is shrouded in unnecessary mystery, and in numerous localities the impression has

been created that besides a search for war criminals or collaborators a deliberate effort is being made by the use of moral pressure and by an endless repetition of the screening process to bring about an artificial decrease in the number of displaced Lithuanians and to cause their dispersal, resulting, in numerous instances, in the breaking-up of families.

In order that the legal status of displaced Lithuanians may be defined with a greater degree of exactitude, we take the liberty of requesting you to rule:

a) That Lithuanians in exile be deemed Lithuanian citizens if they have opted for no foreign state;

b) That Lithuanians in exile, in view of the contribution made by the Lithuanian people to the fight of the Western democracies against National Socialism and Fascism, be treated on an equal footing with nations of the United Nations and be permitted to move about freely, to have organizations and a periodical press of their own, and to enjoy other elementary rights;

c) That Lithuanians, former *Umsiedler*, as well as those originating from the Territory of Klaipėda (Memel), provided they have not been identified as collaborators or war criminals, be considered as displaced persons and be given the care accorded to displaced persons, and that Lithuanians originating from Soviet-occupied Eastern Prussia be similarly treated; and

d) That no discrimination be made against those Lithuanians, quite insignificant in number, who were rounded up during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania by the occupational authorities, forcibly put into German uniform, and constrained to serve in German auxiliary military formations, and who surrendered, at the first favorable opportunity, to the Western Allies and have now been released. Refusal to care for such persons would be a grave material and moral wrong to these war victims.

#### IV. The Material Situation of Displaced Lithuanians

During the period of their independence, the Baltic States achieved a relatively high standard of living. Obviously, exile has obliged the Baltic refugees to forego certain amenities to



which they had been accustomed, and to adjust themselves to new and often harsh conditions of life. Consequently, their present requirements, compared with those in the way of life which was habitual to them, are of a modest character.

Even though the Lithuanians were forced to abandon practically all their possessions upon leaving their country and have used up whatever they succeeded in bringing to Germany and rescuing from bombs, materially and dietetically their situation is fairly good, at least for the moment, thanks to the solicitude of the Military Governments of the Western Allies and UNRRA.

The housing situation is much worse. In the camps established in former military barracks, which had been previously severely damaged by bombings, conditions approach the unbearable. Mostly for this reason, the percentage of Lithuanian displaced children with a disposition to tuberculosis is as high as 60 percent in some Lithuanian camps.

The generous aid, in the form of clothing and footwear, extended by the populous Lithuanian settlements of the United States and South America is a source of great comfort; the distribution of this aid is handled by the Lithuanian Red Cross.

We were obliged to note, however, that the work of relief initiated by Lithuanians abroad has been often handicapped by the arbitrariness of certain UNRRA authorities; through the interference of UNRRA, considerable quantities of clothing and footwear donated by the Lithuanians of both Americas have failed to reach the consignees.

## V. Cultural Needs

Through the efforts of displaced Baltic persons themselves, and with the active support and effective aid of the Allied authorities, elementary and high schools, foreign language and vocational classes, and kindergartens have been started, exhibitions devoted to folk arts have been organized, and theatrical performances have been given.

There is no lack of good will, determination, and talent, but suitable conditions are everywhere lacking. The schools lack proper accommodations, teachers and pupils work without textbooks, and there is a crying need for writing

materials. Books written in the vernacular are also urgently needed.

A very useful purpose would be served by rescinding present restrictions and by permitting displaced Baltic persons to issue news sheets of an informational character in the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian languages.

## VI. Solution of the Displaced Persons Problem

Under the present circumstances, the displaced Lithuanians will be able to stand only one more winter in the Allied zones of Austria and Germany, not only because they are an onerous charge to the occupation authorities and are often treated with ill will by the local German administration, which has too readily forgotten who bears the true responsibility for the presence in Germany of Baltic displaced persons in such numbers, but also because life in such crowded conditions has a demoralizing effect. Several families often live in a single room, without regular employment, and without prospects of a better future.

The time has come for the definite settlement of the European displaced persons problem.

Four solutions may be envisaged:

- a) Repatriation
- b) Absorption
- c) Emigration overseas
- d) Provisional resettlement in Europe

a) All displaced Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians are obsessed by a single idea—that of returning, in the shortest time possible, to their native countries and of devoting their energies to the reconstruction and rehabilitation of their war-and-occupation-ravaged homelands.

Nevertheless, they refuse to return on any other terms than those of absolute freedom from alien domination and a complete guarantee of their fundamental rights and liberties. Those who should rashly venture to return to their Soviet-occupied homes would simply risk death or torture and deportation to the desolate wastes of Siberia, which would be but a protracted living death.

This solution is, in the present political circumstances, wholly out of the question.

b) Absorption of the Baltic displaced persons in the population of those countries in



which they are now settled is another solution of the problem.

However, anyone cognizant of the situation in those parts of Germany and Austria that are under the occupation of the Western Allies, and aware of the temper prevailing there, will readily acquiesce in our view that at the present time such a solution is impracticable and, in our conviction, cannot even bear consideration.

c) Emigration to countries overseas, even if the appropriate states were to admit larger numbers of Baltic displaced persons, would entail the dispersal and eventual annihilation of the emigrees.

The ranks of Baltic displaced persons include but a small percentage of laborers and farmers; the bulk consists of intellectuals, women, and children. Without extraneous aid, they would not be able to adapt themselves to the novel and strange conditions of their new life, and even substantial assistance grants would be insufficient to help them make a success of any such venture.

Of overseas countries, the United States and Canada would be best suited for Baltic emigration. Over 25% of the Lithuanian-speaking people are already established there, and it would be a relatively easy matter for displaced Lithuanians to find there a temporary haven pending their ultimate return to their homeland. Unfortunately, the chances that the entire mass of displaced Lithuanians will reach the shores of the United States and Canada seem, at the present moment, very slight.

d) *The solution which would be best suited and most acceptable to displaced Lithuanians under the present political circumstances is their provisional resettlement in Europe.*

*That would mean that displaced Lithuanians (as well as Latvians and Estonians) would be settled in a compact mass in some area of Western Germany (e.g., the Rhineland), which would entail the transfer of the German population elsewhere.*

*The area would be administered by the United Nations Organization, or the organs set up by it for the care of refugees. Displaced Lithuanians could lead, more or less, the life of normal citizens, engage in farming, trade and industry, have an administration and a police*

*of their own, schools and other cultural institutions. Obviously, even such a provisional resettlement would need the financial aid of the United Nations Organization.*

On the other hand, the sacrifice demanded of the Germans would be but a small redress for all material, moral, and political wrongs suffered by Lithuania at the hands of Nazi Germany.

## VII. Conclusion

The problem of the Baltic displaced persons is international. It will remain such until the consequences of Soviet aggression are removed and Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are restored to the enjoyment of full sovereignty, in accordance with the dictates of right and justice and the principles of the Atlantic Charter and that of the United Nations.

Lithuanian displaced persons are direct victims of the Second World War. They feel entitled to international care in the hour of their greatest need. The stand they took during the war was irreproachable, and the price they paid for their loyalty to the cause and ideals of the Western democracies in blood, suffering, and property was heavy. They indignantly repel the charges of pro-Fascism and collaborationism leveled at them in interested quarters. The Lithuanian State, upon its reconstruction, will acquit itself honorably and adequately of the debt of gratitude which its displaced persons may contract meanwhile.

Lithuanian displaced persons voice the following requests to the United Nations Organization:

- 1) That their legal status be clarified, as formulated in Section IIIb;
- 2) That Lithuanian consuls be permitted to function legally in occupied Germany and Austria;
- 3) That the institutions responsible for the care of displaced persons be charged with the amelioration of their present conditions of life, as indicated in Section IV;
- 4) That a resolution be adopted for the resettlement of displaced Lithuanians in Western Germany, to be started in the spring of 1947, as elaborated in Section VI, d); and



5) That representatives of displaced Lithuanians be permitted to lay their case before the international institutions to be summoned for the examination of DP problems.

Displaced Lithuanians trust that their appeal for help, made in a time of great trial and distress, will be heard and acted upon by the United Nations Organization.

September 30, 1946

(signed) M. KRUPAVIČIUS  
Professor Mykolas Krupavičius  
Chairman of the

Supreme Lithuanian Committee of Liberation  
Former Lithuanian Minister

SEAL

VYRIAUSIAS LIETUVOS  
IŠLAISVINIMO KOMITETAS  
SUPREME LITHUANIAN  
COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION

## 5. Observations concerning the situation of Baltic DPs by ULRFA

The United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc., whose chief object is to provide aid to Lithuanian victims of the War, faced the urgent necessity of making an exhaustive inquiry into the grave and complex problems connected with mass displacement of the Lithuanian people.

Having been entrusted with this mission, I made a personal tour of all the major assembly centers in Europe, with the view of gaining first-hand knowledge of the conditions prevailing there, of coming into direct contact with the greatest possible number of people and of ascertaining, through personal and frank talks with them, the reasons for their mass exodus, the conditions of their present life, and their plans with regard to the future.

According to official Military Government and UNRRA figures, Lithuanian DPs are to be found in:

- |                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. The American Zone ..... | 35,000 |
| 2. The British Zone .....  | 25,000 |
| 3. The French Zone .....   | 5,000  |

In reality, the number of Lithuanian DPs is above that given by official statistics. Cases of people, who are scattered throughout the length and breadth of Germany, tracing and rejoining their families, are still numerous.

In addition, Lithuanian DPs are to be found in Austria, Denmark, Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy and other countries. Total number of Baltic DPs (Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian) in Europe is 250,000.

### 1. The Cause of Displacement

In my efforts to arrive at the true reasons of their presence in Germany and elsewhere, I put

questions to ordinary workmen, mothers, farmers, lawyers and professors, authors and former cabinet ministers, youths and older people.

The questions were answered by all much in the same manner:—they had fled for their lives after having personally gone through harrowing ordeals (some had been thrown into prison, others sentenced to death, and still others earmarked for deportation); or they had been brought here by force for their part in the anti-Nazi resistance movement, or had been deported for slave labor, or forcibly evacuated from the zones of military operations.

Their poignant stories give a clearcut idea of why relatively so many Lithuanians have joined the DP ranks.

The World War unleashed by Nazi Germany had immediate repercussions in the Baltic States.

In March 1939, Hitler had torn the Territory of Memel from Lithuania. The secret agreement signed by Ribbentrop and Molotov on August 23, 1939, was concluded at the expense of Poland and the Baltic States. In 1939, the Soviet Union forced the Baltic States to consent to the establishment of Soviet military bases on their territory. On June 15-17, 1940, at the time of the greatest crisis on the Western front, the Soviet occupied Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

This unprovoked aggression on the part of the Soviet Union, with which the Baltic States had always striven to maintain the best relations, was like a bolt from the blue to the Baltic peoples, who had been unswervingly loyal to the cause and ideals of the Western democracies.



Conscious of no guilt, the bulk of the Lithuanian people remained in the country, and the number of those who had recourse to flight was quite insignificant. But it took a few weeks of occupation to bring home forcefully the realization of their error in placing any trust in Soviet decency. Already on July 12, 1940, after four weeks following the entry of the Red Army, a systematic extermination of the Lithuanian nation was started by the elimination of all those who had attained any prominence in public life, irrespective of social position, age, and sex.

In the course of one year (from June 15, 1940 to June 22, 1941) over 40,000 Lithuanians were executed, sentenced to penal servitude or deported to Siberia without the semblance of a trial. Detailed lists of these people and the original NKVD documents giving details of the plans for the deportation and the consequent extermination of 700,000 people, are available for inspection in the United States.

About 50 per cent of those deported to Siberia died in a year's time or were deliberately exterminated, as is borne out by the testimony of Lithuanian Jewish citizens, who had been deported to Siberia and now have found their way, by various devious routes, to Western democratic countries.

It is easily understood why the Lithuanians, upon the imminence of a second Soviet occupation in 1944, fled for their lives. This procedure entailed the loss of all the possessions accumulated in the course of a laborious existence, in a desperate effort to save their children and wives, despite the maltreatment by Germans, continual allied bombings, and existence on the verge of mere subsistence.

Upon the substitution of the Soviet occupation by the Nazi occupation, a new wave of terror swept the country. During the Nazi occupation, over 250,000 Lithuanian citizens, mostly of Jewish faith, were exterminated.

German efforts to harness Lithuanian manpower to the Nazi war machine were opposed with the greatest determination. This attitude caused new deportations, this time to Nazi concentration camps and prisons. About 2,000 Lithuanians suffered a martyr's death. About 100,000 Lithuanians were rounded up and shipped to Germany as slave laborers.

Such was the *terrible fate of a nation which did not want war* and which was merely the victim of alien aggression.

Had the Western Allies, rather than the Soviets, entered Lithuania, there would not be one single Lithuanian DP at all. They would have stayed put to a man. Lithuania would have amazed the world with the record of its well organized resistance. The possibility of Allied landings on the Baltic coast was eagerly discussed and passionately looked forward to.

On the other hand, it is universally believed that if the Germans had thrown their frontier wide open and would not have subjected the evacuees to shameful treatment; at least one half of the total population of Lithuania would have pulled up stakes in the face of the Soviet peril.

It has been estimated by competent quarters that *about 250,000 Lithuanians were displaced* by the military events of the summer of 1944. The majority of them, unacquainted with the speech of the country, encumbered by large families, were left *stranded in the frontier districts* after the Germans had requisitioned their horses and wagons and their other possessions. And there, in Soviet-occupied territory, the end of the War overtook them in conditions of utmost privation. Their subsequent fate can be only conjectured.

I have spoken with numerous others who were forcibly put into the uniform of the Wehrmacht. They all graphically described how the Germans, after the complete failure of all appeals for volunteers, organized extensive manhunts. Some of the young men were rounded up in their homes, others on public highways and thoroughfares. A considerable number of young men and girls were caught in churches, while attending divine service, and taken to Wehrmacht depots. The Germans were particularly furious over the failure of Lithuanian youth to join the SS Legion. The closure of the universities as a repressive measure for non-enrollment in German military formations was followed by manhunts on a still greater scale. Cases of boys of fourteen being rounded up are on record.

They complain that even after individual screening by the Allied military authorities and the issuance of documents entitling them to



treatment on the same footing as all other DPs, *UNRRA and the military authorities deny them any aid whatsoever*. Even if the number of Lithuanians forcibly drafted into the Wehrmacht is quite inconsiderable, *discrimination of this sort is a grave injustice*.

## II. Who are the Lithuanian DP's

I had read in the press and have heard stated that many of the Baltic DPs consist of Nazi partisans and collaborators.

In every camp I visited, any such suggestion was treated as a reflection upon their national honor.

Direct questions were consistently met with the answer that Lithuania had, on the whole, bred *no quislings* and had produced no collaborators, apart from an insignificant group of persons who had entered the German service. The alleged pro-Nazi sympathies were erroneously deduced from the hostile stand taken by the people with regard to the Soviet. But this is quite a different matter.

The ranks of the Lithuanian DPs are made up of people from various walks of life, representing all shades of political thought. Among them are to be encountered former cabinet ministers, opera singers and gifted musicians, outstanding authors and journalists, the majority of the university professors, physicians, lawyers, engineers, etc. They include ordinary clergymen and the highest dignitaries of the Catholic Church and other confessions. All these people, because of the notorious Lithuanian hostility to the German cause, upon crossing the German frontier, were immediately drafted into labor squads and set to work at digging entrenchments with which the Germans expected to stem the Russian tide.

The ranks of the DPs include a number of the leaders of the Lithuanian anti-Nazi resistance movement. From the bitter experience of 1940 and the example of Poland, every resistance leader of any mark was well aware that his head would be the very first to fall, upon the advent of the Soviet.

My talks with Lithuanian DPs absolutely exclude the idea of the presence in their midst of persons who had worked hand in glove with the Germans for opportunistic motives. On the contrary, *such elements* seem to have *stayed behind and today, with their customary adapt-*

*ability, may have possibly become the warmest adherents of the new regime*. The impression created by the Baltic DPs is that of decent, serious minded people. Both UNRRA officials and Military Government are lavish in their praise of them.

## III. The present situation of the Lithuanian DP's

Brief reference must be made to the feelings of fervent gratitude voiced by them for their care up to the present. Especially great thankfulness is felt for the firm attitude taken regarding the various Soviet missions and their claims to special rights to Baltic DPs, for the ban placed on the visiting of DP camps by Soviet agents, and for the consistent refusal to deliver any Baltic DPs to the Soviet.

The action of the United States Army in evacuating Baltic DPs from the areas turned over to the Soviet was repeatedly mentioned in terms of the greatest gratitude.

The grievances of the Baltic DPs are not with regard to food, housing or clothing, but with regard to their *legal status*.

Formal declarations have been made in all the three zones of occupation that all Baltic DPs are to be treated as *members of the United Nations*.

In reality, however, there is no institution authorized to intercede on their behalf. It is pointed out that since the United States and Great Britain do not recognize the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, Lithuanian DPs should be treated as Lithuanian citizens with all the rights and privileges.

At present, the *DPs are terrorized at the whim of any minor official*. Arrests are carried out in the most arbitrary fashion. People are detained for weeks without being permitted to communicate their whereabouts to their families. Domiciliary searches are almost daily occurrences. In numerous instances, the more valuable *possessions* of the DPs *disappear* or are simply confiscated in the course of those searches. There is *no redress* for such wrongs, and the culprits are never discovered especially when the German police take part in the searches.

The possession of various valuables, gold, and foreign currency, has given rise to numerous misunderstandings. In this respect, DPs are



placed on the same footing as citizens of the Reich, and *possession of a foreign currency* is treated as a *criminal offence*, though such possession in their own country had been quite legal. The DPs who had sabotaged the Nazi decrees on foreign currency, are now forced to forfeit the last sorry remnants of their former affluence—for the benefit of the Reich which bears the greatest responsibility for the present misfortunes of the DPs.

Numerous complaints are voiced regarding the *deliberate and wanton mistranslations by German interpreters*. The *occupation authorities*, in their dealings with the DPs, *deny access to DPs with knowledge of foreign languages*, and *employ the services of German interpreters*. Ignorance of the German language on the part of the Lithuanian DPs often leads to the most shameful abuses. Some of the civilian detainees have been held in custody for long periods without any charges being brought against them. In connection with this, the decision of the United States Third Army Headquarters to examine such persons with the participation of representatives of Lithuanian DPs is to be particularly warmly welcomed.

Another matter of *bitter complaint* is the unnecessarily severe and even *brutal treatment* to which DPs are subjected at *railroad stations* and in examining documents *on trains*, especially in interzonal traffic between the American, British and French areas of occupation. All these complaints and grievances elicit the fact that Lithuanian DPs enjoy a smaller measure of consideration and legal protection than former SS men in their internment camps.

Further complaints are made by the DPs regarding the *absence of freedom of movement* in their own zone. They are not free to pursue their former professions. This is particularly true of physicians, dentists, lawyers and similar professionals.

In addition to such instances of general discrimination, many complaints are voiced regarding the blanket order *forbidding the Lithuanian DPs to have an organization on national community lines of their own, as an auxiliary to the occupation authorities in handling DP matters*. In general, all cultural and professional organizations, with the sole exception of the *Boy Scouts Association*, are banned. Social and

cultural organizations *should be permitted*.

Turning to the purely material aspect of the present situation of the Lithuanian DPs, a distinction must be made between those who are accommodated in larger camps in former military barracks, and those who are lodged in segregated blocks or houses, adapted to family life.

The first group lives as if they were members of a *depressed caste*, in conditions reminiscent more of *hard labor prisons or concentration camps*. Persons of both sexes and of various ages are packed indiscriminately, enjoying only that measure of privacy which can be afforded by improvised curtains. The disintegrating effect on tempers and *nerves* of a life in *perpetual turmoil*, cannot be denied by an objective observer. The *demoralization* which ensues, especially in the ranks of the *youthful* population of these "purgatories on earth," is incalculable. Often very much is made of the amenities of DP life. In reality, they are subjected to privations almost beyond human endurance. The bleakness and desolation which are the hallmarks of such camps on the inside, characterize them from the outside as well.

DP diet is on a tolerable level. The only ones to complain are the mothers because of the unsatisfactory provisions made for the feeding of small children. The main grievance is that *the diet*, though adequate in caloric content, is of *unvarying sameness*, consisting of *canned food*, without a break in its monotony in the form of fresh vegetables and milk, for weeks and months on end.

At present, following a considerable *cut in the rations*, the situation is *acute*. The Germans, with their connections with the country, possessing vegetable plots and allotments of their own, can sustain themselves without actually starving. The DPs, put on German rations, will be reduced, in the shortest space of time, to a state of absolute incapacitation, and their life, hard as it is at present, will become unbearable.

To turn to their *cultural needs*. In every camp I noted the elementary schools, high schools, and colleges, classes for the study of foreign languages and training in trades and handicrafts, the kindergartens, art expositions and the shows organized by the DPs, with the support of UNRRA and Military Government. There is no lack of goodwill, sheer pluck and



great ability. But the conditions and means for crowning these brave efforts with the deserved success are everywhere conspicuous by their absence. The *schools* lack suitable accommodations and are located, in many cases, in *basements*. The teachers and the pupils work without textbooks and such necessities as paper, pencils, pens, etc.

The shows put on by the DPs, featuring their beautiful songs and national dances, with the performers, both men and girls, dressed in their picturesque national costumes, to the accompaniment of native instruments, deeply affect the most blasé spectator.

The *restrictions placed on Lithuanian vernacular publications are the object of the most bitter complaints* in all quarters. *Not one Lithuanian periodical appears in the French Zone.* In the *American Zone, several periodicals* are put out, but owing to the harsh restrictions imposed by the censorship and general obstruction, they carry *stale and out-dated news* and are not in a position to play the part to which they are entitled. The *mailing of Lithuanian printed matter from zone to zone, and often from camp to camp is banned.* The postal authorities deny their services to DPs which are open to all. The Lithuanian press does not look to anyone for any grants and subsidies. But when *newsprint is denied it*, a justified grievance is felt in that it is the object of unfair and unjust discrimination, which gives rise to unnecessary dissatisfaction and resentment.

The refugees in Switzerland enjoy full liberty concerning the practice of their profession, and as regards their right to work. The Swiss Government accords the foreign refugees the right of work according to their specialties, and secures for them the possibility of attending professional schools and institutions. Instruction is given free of charge for the refugees, and they are prepared for an activity, profession, or trade, which allows them to look for an independent future. In camps, food and sanitary provisions are excellent, and the caloric diet totals 2900. At each camp DPs are assigned *large gardens* where they may cultivate their own vegetables and fruits. In some instances, DPs are assigned beautiful hotels for lodging.

Stories of *mistreatment by Military MP's* are not without foundation. Recently, *during the*

*screening of DP camps by military authorities with UNRRA assistance*, the program had a terrorizing effect on the DP population. I have been informed that in July of this year, several Military Police called at the Augsburg DP camp and took away several Lithuanians. The captives were driven some distance out of Augsburg, examined, found not guilty, and then merely *left on the highway* to shift for themselves.

Such occurrences are deplorable and are not in agreement with the policy of our civilian and military authorities. Because our nation undertook this struggle for the liberty and freedom of the nations of the world, and the welfare of humanity, I want here to record the facts of injustice. I should like to add that the *screening in the British Zone is conducted by DP committees appointed by British authorities* from amongst the DP personnel. Screening in the British Zone is proceeding more *smoothly* and we hear *no complaints*.

#### IV. The desires of the DP's with regard to their future

When this question is asked, the impression is immediately gained that the sorest spot of the DPs has been touched.

"*We do not want anything, we do not need anything; create for us only the necessary conditions for returning home.* We will travel hundreds of kilometers on foot, we will carry our children, we will surrender to you our last possessions,—only *restore to us the free country of our birth.*" Tears glisten in the eyes of the women and men. There is only one subject in the literature and poetry written in exile—*homesickness* for their war ravaged country, for its fields and skies.

When the suggestion is made that *they are now free to return*, their faces assume a somber look and they reply with one accord: "*As long as our country is under Soviet rule, no one will return.*" There are some who have *actually tried* to go back and have contrived to make their way back to the zones under the occupation of the Western Allies. They brought back the tidings that Lithuanian DPs who have made a bid to return are not taken to their homes, but are deported for the work of "*reconstruction*" to Central Russia, where their lot is that of slaves



awaiting death as a merciful release. *Repatriation in such conditions cannot solve the DP problem.*

On the other hand, it is equally obvious to every DP that life in the present circumstances will be possible, at best, only through the coming winter. The DPs are a heavy burden to the occupation authorities, and are *often treated with ill-will* by the administrative organs, *who have forgotten too soon who should carry the responsibility for their presence here and German misrule in Lithuania.* Life in conditions of insufferable overcrowding, without a regular occupation, without any prospects of a better future, has a very detrimental effect on their physical condition and morale. *The time is approaching for a radical solution of the DP problem.*

When it is suggested that perhaps the time has come for *emigrating overseas* and for beginning life afresh in a new country,—all such suggestions are met as *a new harsh undeserved trial.*

The point is immediately made that the *fate of Lithuania is not yet decided*; that *no one great Western power* has recognized the Soviet aggression and occupation of the Baltic States; that the *honor of the Western Democracies* will not allow them to sanction such a grievous wrong, an *act of injustice*; that every man present here will be necessary and useful to the country of his birth; and that consequently the *time for emigration is not ripe*, because an emigrant, once he has gone overseas, will not be able to return home soon.

A counterproposal is immediately put forth for the *allocation of several districts in Germany for settlement by the Baltic DPs.* There they could wait, in better conditions of life, for the *final hour of liberation* of their respective countries. The *territory assigned to the Baltics* should be placed *under the protection of UN* and taken out of German administration. Here all the fit and able elements could be integrated, in accordance with their various professions, in the normal economy of Europe and could earn their living.

To an objective observer, *such a settlement of the Baltic DP problem* would seem to be *the most sensible.* Since the fate of the Baltic

States has not been finally decided, the fate of their citizens cannot be decided, either. The Baltics who were displaced from their countries in consequence of the late war must, of necessity, *remain on the footing of Displaced Persons* in the full connotation of the word.

“Allow us to take temporary shelter with our relatives in the United States, until we are able to return home.” This desire was often expressed, especially by the womenfolk. In connection with it, the DPs pointed out the fact that about one fourth of the Lithuanian-speaking people is settled in the United States, that practically every family has close relations there and that they could find temporary refuge with them.

It is undeniable that *permission for Lithuanian DPs, with American relatives willing to take them in and to provide for them, to settle temporarily in the United States,* would be, in many respects, a fair and humane solution of the problem.

Questions with regard to their desires for the further handling of DP care draw the reply everywhere that aid from the outside is indispensable. On more than one occasion the point was made that sufficient numbers of persons fully capable of handling the actual details could be found in the DP ranks; that *no intermediary organization is needed*; that the aid provided could be extended *directly to the DP communities* and that the military and the other institutions could merely exercise control.

As a matter of fact, such is the actual practice of certain UNRRA officials, and where it is in force, the care of DPs is much better, and their contentment and gratitude greater.

Many other matters would be worthy of mention and attention, in reviewing the situation of these unhappy victims of the war. Be as it may, the reality is much starker than volumes of descriptive writing.

Considerations of a “real” character oblige us to confine ourselves to palliative measures which would, at least, seem capable of alleviating the present hard lot of the Lithuanian DPs in many respects, if they were applied.

All that has been said above regarding the Lithuanians applies equally to the other Baltic DPs.



**Summary:**

1. In three occupation Zones of Germany and Austria Displaced Persons should remain under Allied Military supervision and under UN jurisdiction. Nobody should be repatriated against their will.

2. a. In all Military Zones, representatives of United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, Inc. should be permitted to exercise welfare and protective activities.

b. Lithuanian DPs should be permitted to create a national cultural and social organization to accomplish their task of social relief.

3. Free press in normal conditions in national vernaculars should be authorized.

4. Occupation according to special training or profession should be permitted and provided. Until DPs received work, they should receive relief.

5. DP camps should be liquidated as soon as possible.

6. Lithuanians who have relatives in the United States, England, France, Canada or other countries, should be allowed to go there, waiting for the time when it will be possible to return to their native country.

7. A certain territory, placed under protection of UN, should be assigned in Germany for settlement by DPs who are unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin under the present conditions.

REV. DR. JOSEPH B. KONCIUS  
*President of the United Lithuanian  
Relief Fund of America, Inc.  
Member Agency of the National  
War Fund.*

New York, October 19, 1946.

## 6. Who determines eligibility for UNRRA care?

a. **United Nations  
Relief and Rehabilitation Administration**  
Lake Success, N. Y.  
30 September, 1946 C

Mr. Constantine R. Jurgela  
*Director, Lithuanian American  
Information Center*  
233 Broadway  
New York 7, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Jurgela:

I have your letters of September 21st and 26th.

As to the citizenship and eviction from camps of Lithuanians, I would suggest that you direct your inquiry to the military commanders of the army of occupation in the zone involved. *UNRRA has nothing to do with the screening, and has no control over determining citizenship. UNRRA does not expel displaced persons from its camps. This is done by the military authorities.*

Rest assured that, insofar as UNRRA is concerned, we shall extend help and aid and comfort to everyone within our reach. UNRRA is an agency of mercy and relief and understand-

ing. It is not concerned with international politics. For this it has been abused. Nevertheless, as long as it is in existence, it will pursue this policy.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) F. LA GUARDIA  
*Director General*

b. **UNRRA Central Headquarters  
DP Operations, Germany**

Order No. 52

*Subject: Eligibility for UNRRA Assistance*

24th June '46

... 4. POLICY.

a. *The determination of eligibility for UNRRA care is the responsibility of UNRRA staff and not of the Military in each Zone of Occupation, except for screening of war criminals, collaborators or traitors, which is a military responsibility.*

(signed) F. E. MORGAN  
*Lieutenant General,  
Chief of Operations, Germany.*



# FACTS AND DOCUMENTS

## Of the First Russian Occupation of Lithuania (1940-1941)

Order No. 0054 of the People's Commissar for the Interior of the Lithuanian SSR, dated 28th November 1940 and reproduced in *"AN APPEAL To Fellow Americans ON BEHALF OF THE BALTIC STATES by United Organizations of Americans of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian Descent"* (Lithuanian American Information Center, New York, August 1944, pp. 19-21), contained the following phrase:

*"Executing the order No. 001223 of NKVD of the USSR about the accounting concerning the anti-soviet element and concerning the liquidation of negligence in this work . . ."*

As may be observed, the date of the aforesaid Order No. 001223 was omitted in the Lithuanian document. That order paved the way for the mass arrests and deportations which were initiated on "The Bartholomew Night of the Baltic States," the night of 13-14 June 1941, and which precipitated the mass insurrection of the Lithuanians.

Two documents, reproduced below, throw additional light on the subject and explain the reticence of the NKVD of Lithuania.

The first document is a Map of *"THE GENERAL STAFF OF THE RKKA Scale 5 kilometers in 1 centimeter VILNO"* ("RKKA" stands for "Workers Peasants Red Army"). Its

left-hand top corner, superimposed on the top center in our reproduction, very significantly reads: *"LITHUANIAN SSR, LATV. SSR and BSSR"* (the "BSSR" stands for the White Ruthenian or Byelorussian SSR). Below this, the map reads: *"First Edition 1939."*

The second document refers, in two places, to the date of the Order No. 001223 of the NKVD of the USSR: *11th October 1939*. In other words, Moscow Headquarters of the NKVD had issued its first order directing the preparations for mass liquidation of "the anti-Soviet and anti-social elements" of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania *on the next day following the signing of the Non-Aggression and Mutual Assistance Pact with Lithuania*: that Pact was signed on 10th October 1939.

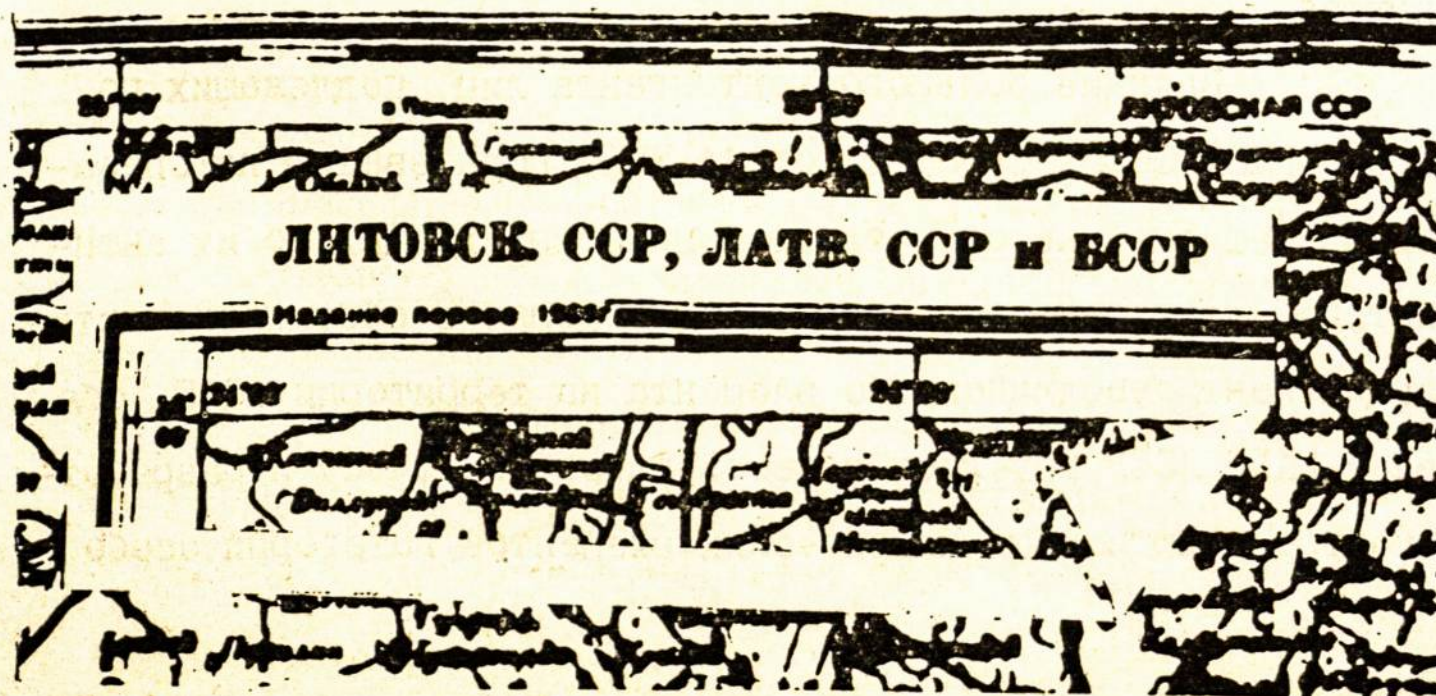
Both of these documents help explain the true Russian policy objectives during the 1939 negotiations with Great Britain and France and the parallel parleys with Nazi Germany, which culminated in the two Ribbentrop-Molotov Pacts of August and September 1939.

Additional documents from the "Strictly Secret" files of the NKVD and NKGB (presently renamed MVD and MGB—the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Ministry of State Security) will be published on these pages in the forthcoming issues of the *Lithuanian Bulletin*.

### ГЕНЕРАЛЬНЫЙ ШТАБ РККА

Масштаб 5 километров в 1 сантиметре

### ВИЛЬНО





ен-

2

Сов.Секретно.П Р И К А ЗНАРОДНОГО КОМИССАРА ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ ЛССР  
за 1941 год.

С о д е р ж а н и е: -

№. 0023.

О постановке оперативного учета в  
уездных отделах НКГБ.-

№. 0023.

от 25 апреля 1941 год.

гор. Каунас.

На органы НКГБ Литвы партией и правительством возложена боевая задача - очистить Литовскую ССР от контрреволюционного и вражеского элемента.

Эту важнейшую политическую задачу мы сможем успешно и в короткий срок выполнить только при наличии хорошо налаженного оперативного учета.

Практика работы НКГБ ЛССР показывает, что наиболее крупные и в прошлом активные деятели буржуазных органов власти, армии и разведывательных учреждений, а также бывших контрреволюционных политических партий и организаций зачастую находятся вне поля зрения органов НКГБ и агентурно не разрабатываются.

Наличие большого контингента лиц, подлежащих по приказу НКВД СССР № 001223 от 11.X-39 года взятию на оперативный учет вне зависимости от конкретных данных об их антисоветской деятельности, в настоящее время, в обстановке активизации контрреволюционного элемента на территории ЛССР, обязывает НКГБ ЛССР выделить в своей работе по учету и разработке контрреволюционных и вражеских элементов категории особо



## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Strictly Secret.ORDEROF THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF STATE SECURITY OF THE LSSR  
for year 1941

## Contents:

No. 0023. On the organization of the operative accounting in the  
county branches of the NKGB.—

No. 0023 of 25 April 1941.

City of Kaunas.

A fighting task has been placed upon the NKGB organs of Lithuania by the party and government—the purging of the Lithuanian SSR from the counter-revolutionary and hostile element.

We shall be able to effect this important political objective successfully and speedily only if the operative accounting is well arranged.

Practical experience of the work of the NKGB of the LSSR shows that the most important and, in the past, most active collaborators of the bourgeois organs of the government, army and intelligence institutions, also of the former counter-revolutionary political parties and organizations, frequently do not fall within the field of observation of the NKGB organs and are not fully screened.

Existence of a large contingent of persons, subject to operative accounting under Order No. 001223 of the NKVD of the USSR, dated 11 October 1939, regardless of concrete data concerning their anti-Soviet activities, obligates the NKGB of the LSSR at the present time, because of the activization of the counter-revolutionary element on the territory of the LSSR, to specify separately in its accounting work and screening of the counter-revolutionary and hostile elements, the categories of



2. -

опасных лиц, учет которых необходимо организовать в первую очередь и в самый короткий срок.

Наряду с этим уездные отделы и отделения НКГБ обязаны немедленно организовать учет всего подучетного элемента, согласно данных Вам указаний на оперативном совещании и в наших директивах.

Отмечая совершенно неудовлетворительную постановку учета до сих пор, считаем такое положение в дальнейшем ни в коем случае нетерпимым.

#### П Р И К А З Ы А К:

1. Лично Начальникам уездных отделов и отделений и их заместителям немедленно организовать работу по постановке надлежащего оперативного учета всего подучетного элемента.

2. В первую очередь выявить, взять на учет и выслать в НКГБ СССР подробные данные на подучетный элемент, согласно прилагаемого при этом перечня подучетного элемента.

3. 5-го мая 1941 года представить в НКГБ Литовской ССР сведения, сколько лиц по перечисленным в прилагаемом перечне категориям Вами уже учтено.

4. Немедленно организовать фактическую проверку учетного контингента по месту жительства и на каждого завести дело-формуляр или учетное дело и зарегистрировать во 2-м Отделе НКГБ СССР /см. приказ НКВД СССР № 001223 от 11.X-39г./.

5. Приступить к разработке архивов, а также выявлению через имеющуюся агентуру лиц указанных категорий и одновременно производить их установку по месту жительства, для ~~немедленного~~ их взятия на оперативный учет.



particularly dangerous persons, whose accounting must be organized in first priority order and within the shortest time possible.

In view thereof, the county branches and subdivisions of the NKGB must immediately organize the accounting of all the accountable element, in conformance with the instructions given you during the briefing consultation and in our directives.

Noting the quite unsatisfactory performance of the accounting up to the present, we consider the continuation of such a situation intolerable in any event.

**I THEREFORE ORDER:**

1. Individually all Commanders of the county branches and subdivisions and their deputies to organize immediately the work of performance of the proper operative accounting of all the accountable element.

2. In the first place, to expose, take under account and furnish to the NKGB of the LSSR detailed data concerning the accountable element, in conformance with the listing of the accountable element enclosed herewith.

3. By 5 May 1941, to supply the NKGB of the Lithuanian SSR with the data regarding the number of persons already taken into account by you according to the listing of the categories enclosed herewith.

4. To organize immediately the factual re-checking of the accounted-for contingent by places of residence, and to start a file-formular or an accounting folder for each, and to register same with the 2nd Division of the NKGB of the LSSR /See: Order No. 001223 of the NKVD of the USSR of 11 October 1939/.

5. To start the scrutiny of the archives, also the exposal of the persons of the aforesaid categories through the existing agency (network), and simultaneously to verify their location as to place of residence, so that they be taken into operative accounting immediately.



3. -

6. На всех лиц этой категории, не установленных по прежнему месту жительства, заводить розыскное дело, руководствуясь приказом НКВД СССР № 001530 от 9.XI-40 года, и для объявления в розыск по Литовской ССР - направлять эти дела 2-му Отделу НКГБ ЛССР.

7. Каждые 5 дней / 5, 10, 15 и т.д. / представлять во 2-й Отдел НКГБ ЛССР сводку о результатах работы по выполнению настоящего приказа по прилагаемой форме.

8. Повторяю, что наряду с работой по учету и розыску перечисленных выше контингентов, аппараты НКГБ обязаны проводить выявление и организовать учет и разработку остальных подучетных контингентов, не значащихся в данном перечне, а именно: членов партий - крикдемов, ляудининков, эсдеков, эсеров, руководящего состава и актива атейтининков, павасарининков и других католических организаций, а также рядового состава партий и организаций, коих руководство подлежит первоочередному учету, согласно настоящего приказа - /рядовые таутининки, шаулисты и проч./.

**ПРИМЕЧАНИЕ:** Подробный перечень подлежащих учету категорий будет выслан дополнительно в ближайшие дни.  
В случае отсутствия некоторых категорий в объявляемых перечнях, таковые дополните и сообщите нам.

9. Всю работу по учету перечисленных категорий лиц закончить и оформить к 1 июня 1941 года.

Еще раз предупреждаю Начальников уездных отделов НКГБ и их заместителей, что от своевременной, правильной и быстрой организации оперативного учета зависит успех и целеустремленность наших мероприятий по разгрому контрреволюции.



6. Tracing files must be opened for all persons of this category, whose whereabouts could not be ascertained at their former place of residence, in conformance with Order No. 001530 of the NKVD of the USSR of 9 December 1940, and to direct these files for publication of persons wanted in the Lithuanian SSR—to the 2nd Division of the NKGB of the LSSR.

7. Every 5 days (the 5th, 10th, 15th, etc.) to submit to the 2nd Division of the NKGB of the LSSR a summary of the results of the work in compliance with this order as per enclosed form.\*

8. I reiterate that, alongside the work of accounting and tracing of the contingents enumerated hereinabove, the apparatus of the NKGB must conduct the exposal and organize the accounting and screening of the residual contingents subject to accounting who are not listed in the aforesaid summary, namely: members of the parties—Krikdems (Christian Democrats), Lyaudininki (Populists), Esdeks (Social Democrats), Essers (Social Revolutionaries), leadership personnel and active members of the Ateitininki (Catholic Youths) and other Catholic organizations, also the rank and file personnel of the parties and organizations whose leadership is subject to primary priority accounting according to the present order—/rank and file Tautininki (Nationalists), Shaulisty (National Guardsmen), etc./.

NOTE: Detailed listing of the categories subject to accounting will be additionally forwarded within the next few days.

In the event of omission of certain categories in the prepared lists,—supplement same and inform us.

9. All work of accounting of the persons of the listed categories must be completed and formulated by 1 June 1941.

Once again I forewarn the Commanders of the county branches of the NKGB and their deputies that the success and achievement of the objective of our measures for the crushing of the counter-revolution depend on the timely, precise and instant organization of the operative accounting.

\*See LITHUANIAN BULLETIN, vol. III, No. 5.



4. -

10. Для организации и руководства работой по учету, создать при 2-м Отделе НКГБ оперативную группу в составе:

1. Зам. Нач. 2-го Отдела, лейтенанта госбезопасности - тов. МЕДВЕДЕВА.
2. Оперуполномоченного КРО - тов. ЕРИГО.
3. Оперуполномоченного СГС - тов. ГАДЛУСКАС А.

- освободив их от другой работы.

ПРИЛОЖЕНИЕ: перечень и формы отчетности.

НАРОДНЫЙ КОМИССАР ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ  
ЛИТОВСКОЙ ССР  
СТАРШИЙ МАЮР ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ -

/ Г Л А Д К О В /

Берно-

Кодификатор Секр-та:

*Семехина*



10. For the task of organization and direction of the accounting work, an operative group is created hereby within the 2nd Division of the NKGB, composed of:

1. Deputy Commander of the 2nd Division, Lieutenant of the State Security Forces —comrade MEDVEDEV.
2. Operative Plenipotentiary of KRO (Counter-Intelligence Division) —comrade YERIGO.
3. Operative Plenipotentiary of SPO (Social Political Division) —comrade GADLYAUSKAS.

—who are to be relieved of all other work.

SUPPLEMENT: listing and accounting forms.

PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF STATE SECURITY OF THE  
LITHUANIAN SSR  
SENIOR MAJOR OF THE STATE SECURITY FORCES—

(signed) G L A D K O V

---

Authentic—

Codifier of the Secretariat:

(Signed) SEMYOKHINA





### Lithuanian American Council's Delegation at The White House 15th October 1940

"The delegation before you, Mr. President, represents most of the Lithuanian people of the United States; it is here to encourage you in the great task of bringing reason and law to reign again in a distracted world.

"With the world aflame, with ruthless might attempting to conquer the earth, the Lithuanian people in America were moved to great depths of sorrow when their native land and land of their forbears lost her freedom.

"When Lithuania fell, it seemed that the nations of the earth, particularly those who had recognized her as independent, were disinterested, none condemned that act of extirpation which to the Lithuanians of America seemed so needful of condemnation.

"Then, on the twenty-third day of July 1940, your State Department, Mr. President, announced the attitude of the Government of the United States regarding the loss of Lithuania's independence. Among other declarations, it said: . . .

"That was a clear, understandable and unequivocal statement of policy. It was an act of condemnation of a wrong committed by a great power against a weak nation. At last the clamor of destruction was overcome by the call to reason and justice, and our people were glad that that voice came from the greatest liberty-loving nation on earth—the United States of America.

"We are proud that our United States of America stands firmly behind a policy that knows no compromise with aggression.

"Your courageous stand, Mr. President, on the side of justice, law and reason enkindled the flame of hope—a hope that Lithuania may again take her place amongst the nations of the earth.

"Please accept, Mr. President, the sincere gratitude, esteem and also the profound admiration of the Lithuanians of America for that declaration."

(Extract from the *Memorandum*)

\* \* \* \*

"... The address mentioned that Lithuania had lost its independence. That is a mistake. The independence of Lithuania is not lost but only put temporarily aside. The time will come when *Lithuania will be free again*. This may happen sooner than you may expect. It was a mistake on behalf of one of the speakers to say that Lithuania is a small country. In Latin America there are states even smaller than Lithuania, but they live a free and happy life. Even the smallest nation has the same right to enjoy independence as the largest one."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt.