

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

Peace Treaty with Russia
Moscow, July 12, 1920



President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill:

1. Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;
 2. They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;
 3. They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them.
- Atlantic Charter
August 14, 1941

LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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No. 1-2

Treatment of Displaced Persons

According to United Nations sources, the number of Lithuanian refugees in UNRRA camps, as of 30 September 1946, was:

GERMANY

United States Zone	30,880, of whom 53 were unaccompanied children
British Zone	23,230, of whom 104 were unaccompanied children
French Zone	2,400, of whom 1 was unaccompanied child
Total	56,510, of whom 158 were unaccompanied children

AUSTRIA

United States Zone	558 plus 127 in Government camps
British Zone	131
French Zone	135
Total	951

ITALY

UNRRA camps	140
In town	40
Jewish	100
Total	280

According to age groups, as of March 1946:

	0-1	1-5	6-9	M 10-17	F 10-17	M 18-	F 18-			Totals
U.S. Zone	543	2,237	1,468	1,289	1,323	12,632	8,491			27,983
	0-2	2-6	6-14	14-18	14-18	18-45	18-45	M 45-	F 45-	Totals
British Zone . . .	699	1,516	2,295	609	673	8,620	5,239	1,608	1,718	22,977
	0-6	6-14	M	F	Not broken down					Totals
French Zone	172	164	875	661	737					2,609

Regarding the repatriation of Baltic DPs, the Director General of UNRRA in his report to the Council for the period to 31 March 1946 gave the following statistics (p. 58) :

Nationality	Repatriated	Number of Displaced Persons		Percentage in UNRRA	
		All Centers	UNRRA Centers	Centers	
Total	5,763,400	837,180	758,380	91	
Estonian	0	32,090	31,350	98	
Latvian	1,000	80,310	80,040	99	
Lithuanian	0	52,440	50,850	97	

The Supreme Lithuanian Committee of Liberation estimates the number of fellow refugees at 78,000.

Figures for people deported by the Soviet Russian occupation authorities to Arctic Russia are not available. However, in August 1946, the Supreme Soviet of "The Lithuanian SSR" reported that *"more than half a million citizens of Lithuania had been killed or deported to slavery"*—"by the Germans," of course. This figure, by its own terms, does not cover the repatriates to Germany in 1941.

It may be reasonably adduced that the difference between the figures of known deaths at the hands of the Germans (250,000), the number of registered refugees in Europe (78,000) and the "more than half a million" reported by the Soviets—represents the number of people murdered or deported to slavery by the Soviets.

The DP life is far from being pleasant. Added to their war sufferings, the loss of property and families and abuse by the Nazis, the DPs were and are continually exposed to ill treatment at the hands of the Allied military officials and UNRRA's "pinks." Rather than sound a public alarm, we repeatedly attempted to remedy the situation by calling the facts of unbelievable ignorance, deliberate chicanery and intolerable abuse of the human rights of the masses of war victims—to the attention of the officials concerned. Nevertheless, the instances of abuses kept accumulating at the rate that compels us to disclose some of the disgraceful facts to public attention.

A. PRISONERS OF WAR

1. INTERNATIONAL LAW

The Hague Convention No. IV of 18 October 1907:

"... the High Contracting Powers clearly do not intend that unforeseen cases should, in the absence of a written undertaking, be left to the arbitrary judgment of military commanders. . . .

"... in cases not included in the Regulations adopted by them, the inhabitants and the belligerents remain under the protection and the rule of the principles of the law of nations, as they result from the usages established among civilized peoples, from the laws of humanity, and the dictates of the public conscience.

"ARTICLE 3.—A belligerent party which violates the provisions of the said Regulations shall, if the case demands, be liable to pay compensation. It shall be responsible for all acts committed by persons forming part of its armed forces."

ANNEX TO THE CONVENTION.—REGULATIONS Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land.

"CHAPTER II, ARTICLE 4.—Prisoners of war are in the power of the hostile Government, but not of the individuals or corps who capture them.

"They must be humanely treated. . . .

"CH. II, ART. 6.—The State may utilize the labour of prisoners of war according to their rank and aptitude, officers excepted. . . .

"ART. 7.—The Government into whose hands prisoners of war have fallen is charged with their maintenance.

"In the absence of a special agreement between the belligerents, prisoners of war shall be treated as regards board, lodging, and clothing on the same footing as the troops of the Government who captured them.

"ART. 10.—Prisoners of war may be set at liberty on parole if the laws of their country allow, and, in such cases, they are bound, on their personal honour, scrupulously to fulfill, both towards their own Government and the Government by whom they were made prisoners, the engagements they have contracted. . . .

"ART. 20.—After the conclusion of peace, the repatriation of prisoners of war shall be carried out as quickly as possible.

"SEC. II, CH. I, ART. 23.—In addition to the prohibitions provided by special Conventions, it is especially forbidden—

"h. To declare abolished, suspended, or inadmissible in a Court of law the rights and actions of the nationals of the hostile party. . . .

"SEC. III, ART. 42.—Territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army.

"ART. 45.—It is forbidden to compel the inhabitants of occupied territory to swear allegiance to the hostile Power.

"ART. 46.—Family honour and rights, the lives of person, and private property, as well as religious convictions and practice, must be respected.

"Private property cannot be confiscated.

/Document 3737-PS, NAZI CONSPIRACY AND AGGRESSION, Vol. VI, Office of U. S. Chief of Counsel for Prosecution of Axis Criminality. Washington 1946, pp. 586-599, citing 36 Stat. 2277, Treaty Series No. 539, Malloy, TREATIES, vol. II, p. 2269 sq./

GENEVA PRISONERS OF WAR CONVENTION of 27 July 1929

/47 Stat. 2021; Treaty Series No. 846, Malloy, TREATIES, vol. IV, p. 5224./

"TITLE I, ARTICLE 2.—Prisoners of war are in the power of the hostile Power, but not of the individuals or corps who have captured them.

"They must at all times be humanely treated and protected, particularly against acts of violence, insults and public curiosity.

"Measures of reprisal against them are prohibited.

"ART. 3.—Prisoners of war have the right to have their person and their honour respected. . . . Prisoners retain their full civil status.

"TITLE III, ART. 8.—. . . As soon as possible, every prisoner must be enabled to correspond with his family himself, under the conditions provided in Articles 36 *et seq.*

"SEC. II. POW CAMPS. ART. 9.—Prisoners of war may be interned in a town, fortress, or other place, and bound not to go beyond certain fixed limits. They may also be interned in enclosed camps; they may not be confined or imprisoned except as an indispensable measure of safety or sanitation, and only while the circumstances which necessitate the measure continue to exist.

"Prisoners captured in unhealthy regions or where the climate is injurious for persons coming from tem-

perate regions, shall be transported, as soon as possible, to a more favorable climate.

"Belligerents shall, so far as possible, avoid assembling in a single camp prisoners of different races or nationalities. . . ."

"CH. I. INSTALLATIONS OF CAMPS. ART. 10.—Prisoners of war shall be lodged in buildings or in barracks affording all possible guarantees of hygiene and healthfulness.

"The quarters must be fully protected from dampness, sufficiently heated and lighted. All precautions must be taken against danger of fire."

"With regard to dormitories—the total surface, minimum cubic amount of air, arrangement and material of bedding—the conditions shall be the same as for the troops at base camps of the detaining Power."

"ART. 12.—Clothing, linen and footwear shall be furnished prisoners of war by the detaining Power. Replacement and repairing of these effects must be assured regularly. In addition, laborers must receive work clothes wherever the nature of work requires it. . . .

"CH. 8. TRANSFER OF POWs. ART. 26.—In case of transfer, prisoners of war shall be officially notified of their new destination in advance. . . .

"SEC. IV. EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF POW. ART. 36.— . . . As a general rule, correspondence of prisoners shall be written in their native language. Belligerents may allow correspondence in other languages. /Page 609/

"ART. 39.—Prisoners of war shall be allowed to receive shipments of books individually, which may be subject to censorship.

"Representatives of the protecting Power and duly recognized and authorized aid societies may send books and collections of books to the libraries of prisoners' camps. The transmission of these shipments to libraries may not be delayed under the pretext of censorship difficulties."

"ART. 40.—Censorship of correspondence must be effected within the shortest possible time. . . .

"Prohibitions of correspondence promulgated by the belligerents for military or political reasons, must be transient in character and as short as possible."

"TITLE VIII. Execution of the Convention. SEC. I. General Provisions. ART. 84.—The text of the present Convention and of the special conventions provided for in the foregoing article, shall be posted, wherever possible in the native language of the prisoners of war, in places where it may be consulted by all the prisoners.

"The text of these conventions shall be communicated to prisoners who find it impossible to get the information from the posted text, upon their request."

/Page 621/

/Document 3738-PS, NAZI CONSPIRACY AND AGGRESSION, Vol. VI, Washington 1946, pp. 599-624./

2. THE PRACTICE—IN THE BRITISH AND FRENCH ZONES

Three months after the cessation of hostilities in Europe, the first information about Lithuanian men and women who had been seized by the Germans and

forcibly inducted into the German auxiliary services, was made available. Instead of the long-awaited liberation by the Allied forces, these victims of Nazi lawlessness were thrown into POW camps and re-committed to the mercy of their Nazi enslavers. Among the Lithuanian POWs were boys of 14 and men up to 40.

(a) Lithuanian Reports — The British Zone in Germany

OLDENBURG.—*"There is a prisoners of war 'reservation' here, embracing nearly one and a half million men, originally including 500-600 Lithuanians. The food is bad. Daily rations consists of 1100 calories. The internal order of the camp is entirely in the hands of German prisoners, who use every means to mistreat the foreigners. Non-Germans are starving. Lithuanian POWs live in the open. About 180 Lithuanians are still in the camp, others have disappeared. The Lithuanian Red Cross attempts to aid the Lithuanian POWs."*

BELLIN.—*"There were about 2,500 Lithuanians in the Bellin POW camp, about 70 km. from Lübeck. Approximately 1,000 Lithuanians escaped from this camp. Prisoners of various nationalities are herded together. These prisoners live in the open. To protect themselves from the cold, rain and wind, they burrowed dugouts and tunnels and live there. The dugouts are covered with tree branches which do not protect the men from rain. Their clothing is mouldy and a great many have contracted rheumatism."*

"The Herrenvolk brutally abuse non-German prisoners. For three days in succession the non-German prisoners received no water or bread rations. Recently the Lithuanians gained the right to segregation from their former Nazi masters and the situation improved somewhat. About 200 from this camp, unable to endure the abuses and sufferings inflicted upon them by these brutal Nazis, decided to accept repatriation to Russia."

"Lithuanian DPs bring pieces of bread and clothing to their less fortunate countrymen. The Lithuanian Red Cross arranged for a Lithuanian chorus to visit the POWs."

"There are small groups of 25-30 Lithuanian POWs scattered in German camps near Hamburg."

STODE, near Kukshaven.—*"There were 600 Lithuanian POWs in this camp. Now there are only 200. They succeeded in gaining segregation from the German masses. Their elected leader now represents them before the Allied Commandant. Conditions are difficult to visualize. The extremely harsh conditions forced some Lithuanians to enroll in the Labor Battalions organized by German POWs, because food and sanitary conditions there are much better."*

BELEN-HAFFKRUG.—*"Lithuanian DPs are much concerned over the plight of more than 1200 of their fellow nationals, POWs detained nearby. These prisoners were forcibly inducted into the Wehrmacht auxiliary services, and they remain slaves of the Nazis after their long-awaited liberation by the Allies. They live in the open. They have no shelter, no soap, no clothing. Their rags smell with mould. They are starving, because the German commandants retain the greater part of their rations. 16 men receive one loaf of bread for two days. Lithuanian DPs collected bread*

crumbs and brought these to their fellow nationals. On 26 July the DPs contributed one ton of potatoes. They also bring newspapers and books."

(b) The French Zone in Germany

"Conditions in the French Zone are extremely bad. *The French surrendered the Lithuanians in the Bingen camp to the Russians.* In the *Anderbach* camp 120 Lithuanians remain, out of the former 306. *Some Lithuanians enlisted in the French Foreign Legion (to serve in Indo-China)* to escape the abuse at the hands of Nazi POWs and to better their living conditions. *Prisoners live in the open.* The Germans dominate the internal administration and continually maltreat non-Germans. They withhold a portion of the rations, verbally and physically abuse non-Germans and in general terrorize them. There are some Latvians and Estonians in the camps."

(c) Italy

"The Lithuanians seized during the manhunts, while tilling their fields or walking in the cities, were shipped by the Nazis to Norway, Germany, Yugoslavia, Austria and Italy. Many of those assigned for labor in the mountainous regions escaped and joined Italian and Yugoslav guerrilla bands.

"300 Lithuanians, including a former Lieutenant, were brought to Italy. Later, because of the growing manpower shortage, the Nazis thrust arms into the hands of the Lithuanian laborers and brought them to the front lines.

"As the fighting approached, the Lithuanian Lieutenant directed his men to surrender to the Americans by straggling. Some succeeded, others were shot down by the Nazis. The Americans received the Lithuanians in a friendly manner and soon these Lithuanians were fighting the Nazis in the ranks of the British forces. There are many Lithuanian graves near Bologna and elsewhere in Italy.

"The Germans learned that the missing Lithuanians had voluntarily surrendered to the Allies. They isolated the remaining Lithuanians in a prison camp near Verona. General Grosch addressed the prisoners and called them traitors and renegades. Lithuanian prisoners were finally put to hard labor in the front lines.

"When the Americans and the British overran this sector, they made no distinction between any people dressed in German uniforms: all were placed in POW camps. Many of these disillusioned people succumbed to sickness, others lost their minds from despair.

"A Lithuanian priest, Father Jatulis, learned of the presence of Lithuanian POWs in Italy and volunteered to minister to their spiritual needs. He abandoned his university studies and dedicated all of his efforts to help the POWs. He carried food to them for hundreds of miles. He traveled from one camp to another. He wrote innumerable letters to relatives of the prisoners. He disregarded his own illness to help these victims of war."

(d) The U. S. Zone

"ELTA Bulletin, 1 August 1946—The military authorities in the American Zone have already released most of the Lithuanian POWs from detention. Nevertheless, small groups still remain. The American HQ in Germany recently confirmed that all POWs of Baltic nationalities, regardless of their rank, would be released in September, with the exception of war

criminals and politically suspect. The released prisoners are to be granted DP status, subject to screening."

(e) Letters of POWs moved from Italy to B.A.O.R.
Rome, 13 January 1947.

Dear Miss Kizis:

I thank you most sincerely for your concern and efforts in behalf of our refugees and so-called prisoners of war. Also, thanks for the press notices to locate the addresses of their relatives and for the copy of the British Embassy's letter to you regarding the transfer of the remaining POWs to the British and American zones in Germany.

However, we had some bitter experiences with such transfer. Last September some 160 of our POWs were moved from Italy to Germany. They wrote to me—some are much disillusioned. I enclose some extracts from their letters.

We are endeavoring to secure permission for the migration of our remaining POWs from Italy and Malta to South America—we may succeed in gaining admission into Argentina. The Allies promised assistance in this undertaking. Furthermore, a great many have relatives there.

Rev. P. Jatulis.

1.—*Braunlag-Harz*, 25 October 1946.—"... I am ill. . . . It was far better in the POW hospital in Italy, inasmuch as all patients received equal treatment. *In Germany, we are despised as homeless dogs.* I am a civilian now and I lie in bed in a civilian hospital. The cold season is near. I have no clothing, except prisoner's rags. I am permitted to walk in freedom after 20 months of prison life, but—I have no clothing. Life itself lost all attraction. Dear Padre, maybe you know addresses of some Lithuanians in Germany with whom I could correspond and beg for help.—P."

2.—*Münster Lager*, 10 October 1946.—"... Presently we are all in one camp. We are confined together and we are marched to work together. Food is worse than in Italy. It was announced that the Latvians and Estonians would be moved on 11 October to another camp—a better one. Only God knows what is going to happen to Lithuanian POWs. I was taken ill . . . and am now in the camp's hospital. . . . A—"

3.—*Ingolstadt*, 24 October 1946.—"We left Italy on 20 September and on the 23rd we arrived at Münsterlager. It seemed that our POW days were over, but, alas . . . we are confined to this camp, to wait hopelessly 'until demand' for our release. Our hopes were shattered immediately when it was announced that no one is to be permitted to go to the American zone. In the British zone, only those are released who have a place to go to. Of course, our Memellanders again forgot their Lithuanian origin and started anew on the road to Germanization.

"Immediately after our arrival here we sent an alarm addressed to the conscience of the Lithuanian institutions of mercy. Yes, afterward we had visitors who told us that they have no room anywhere for 153 heads. So we had to start all over again. V— and S— were visited by their relatives and we told them all about our difficulties. . . . My sister managed to secure for me an UNRRA certificate of admission to care, and I presented that to the Britons. V— did the same. On 14 October the Latvians called at the camp to claim the Latvians and Estonians; all Lithuanians re-

mained in the camp, with the exception of V— and myself. We were overjoyed. At the same time, our farewell was very sad. . . .

"Life in POW camps in Germany is worse than in Italy. Food—German rations. *We live in horse stables. The cold is severe. Every day we are marched to the city to work for the Germans in their private residences, to sweep the streets, and to root out trees in the forest. The compensation—a military loaf of bread for 30 men, a couple of grams of butter, and that's all.* It is a sad story, but Hope keeps the men alive.

"After our release, we went to Detmold to the Red Cross. After shedding many tears of despair, we finally managed to get some clothing and I went immediately to my relatives. V— cannot go to his wife, because she is an American in the U.S. zone. . . . I wired him to come to live with me.—V—"

4.—*Münsterlager*, 3 November 1946.—". . . I am still in the POW camp and don't know when I will be released. Those who have relatives in Germany were released. Some POWs engaged in slick 'combinations': it is just necessary to indicate an address and to show a letter. Unfortunately, a great many, including myself, know no addresses. I expect to gain some address from the released comrades, some 60 were released.

"The Latvians and Estonians were released within the first few days after our arrival here. Our institutions are, apparently, 'working' and 'making efforts' very strenuously, so we are still waiting for someone to claim us. Life would be sufferable if, at least, we had some smokes. In general, conditions are worse than in Italy. . . .

"Please keep up your interest in us. In Germany we heard our own people talk about us. They call us soldiers 'bums' etc. About 200 Lithuanians, out of some 20,000, are still POWs. It is disappointing to learn that those living in freedom criticize their less fortunate folk. If you, brother Padre, were here—we all would have been freemen long ago and there would be room enough for all of us in the DP camps.—V—"

5.—6 November 1946.—". . . I was released today. However, more than 100 Lithuanians are still POWs and no one is making any effort to gain their release. Only those were released who were able to give the addresses of their relatives. The rest are behind the barbed wires. Lithuanian Committees are inert. They lack either experience or good will.—A—"

6.—*Münsterlager*, 11 November 1946.—". . . We are still prisoners: Lithuanian Committees refuse to accept us in their camps. Those who managed to locate their families were all released; the rest are forgotten. We are in Germany two months. During those two months we had no visitors—neither clerical nor lay. To us, POW camp inmates, it seems that no Lithuanians are to be found in Germany. . . . In time, we might be forced to go to Russia against our better judgment. . . . Such is the neighborly love hereabouts, Padre.—K—"

7.—*Münster*, 10 November—". . . We were told that we are no longer considered POWs: we must simply indicate some Lithuanian DP camp where we would like to be settled and to present that camp commandant's consent. Immediately we established contact with the Lithuanian Committee in Detmold.

The Committee initiated practical efforts in our behalf. Of course, progress was slow. We gained the impression that the Committee devoted more hours to holding meetings in a heated room, than taking any concrete steps in our behalf. Nevertheless, 42 Lithuanians regained freedom through the Committee's efforts of a month and a half. All the rest of our comrades (120) remain in the camp, until our gentlemen friends will kindly consent to accept us in some camp. You see, Padre, they declare that there is no room for such a large number of men. Furthermore, all of the DP camps try to get rid of the former POWs.

"Well, maybe we are our nation's lepers. . . . However, during the year and a half of our POW status we maintained our nation's fair name unstained and we resisted all the temptations to make us return behind the iron curtain, to become Germans, or to enlist in the Polish corps. Nevertheless, the future will show whether those who hold meetings in warm rooms are better sons of our people. . . .—S—"

8.—*Ingoldstadt*, 17 November 1946.—"Dear Padre: From Italian Rimini we were moved to Germany. After a month and a half, the gate to freedom was thrown partly open to some of us. Now a freeman, I go back in my thoughts to the days when you used to visit us, when we spent days waiting for you and for some news regarding our future and our freedom. Finally, my expectancy was rewarded: *I am as free as a bird. I may fly all over Germany, except that no one will give me any shelter.*

"I entered the American zone. Here the so-called screening was conducted and some civilians were evicted. We, ex-POWs, had to report to special boards to seek recognition of our DP status. Very few gained such recognition and were accepted in DP camps. I and many others had no such luck. *Presently we walk from camp to camp as beggars begging alms. In some places they give us food and some assistance. In other places—our own Lithuanian policemen, guarding DP camp gates, refuse admission to visit the camp.* Most of the people here lived comparatively well during the time we were collecting the crumbs from the ground and all sorts of herbs to keep our weak spark of life alive. Now these more fortunate fellow nationals receive us very coolly. Quite frequently an ironic smile accompanies the remark: 'Oh, a former POW'. . .

"Local Lithuanian Red Cross chapters likewise give little help. Even in these places we hear the words: 'When will these ex-prisoners stop pestering us?' Those who have relatives are lucky. Even if they failed to gain admission to camp's care, they found shelter with their families. Those without relatives are in a bad fix—true to our premonition. . . .

"We are suspended between heaven and earth. I would gladly go back to those POW days when you, Padre, consoled us and instilled hope that freedom and a better life would come to us. Now these hopes are shattered. *There is but one way for us: starving, we must beg the Germans to admit us to their citizenship. I hate that prospect so much. . . . My sole hope is that I might locate my uncle in America, the only relative this side of the iron curtain, while others are enslaved. My uncle, Leo Andriejaitis, used to live in Chicago. . . . Please publish a notice for him.—J—"*

9.—*Neuengamme*, 19 November 1946 (on a POW

card) —“Reverend Father, greetings from an Internee camp in Germany. Food is worse than in Rimini. Letters not allowed publicly. Packages permitted, if some one would send them to us. I don't know whether other comrades are released.—V. J—”

10.—*Münster Lager*, 20 November 1946.—“... I don't know when I might see freedom again. Please let me thank you, Padre, also Father Grauslys and Mr. Consul for all you have done for us in Italy. You proved your truly fatherly love for us, your spiritual children. A great Lithuanian *ačiū*.”

“Presently we are in Germany. No one asked us whether we wanted to come here. Some regained freedom. The rest of us are still prisoners. No one shows any interest in us. Once, General Plechavičius visited us in the camp. Otherwise—even the Red Cross is disinterested in our continuing imprisonment.

“We received letters from those who had been released. This is what they write. Yes, they were released and they went to Detmold. Alas, no one wants to accept them. Somehow they managed to get civilian clothing in exchange for former uniforms. However, after two hours of freedom—they wanted to return back to us, but they are afraid of the barbed wire. That's how it is. Our gentlemen preserve their peace of mind and do not visit here. ... In a word, conditions here are worse than in Italy.—J. K—”

11.—*Münster Lager*, 24 November 1946.—“We are still in the Münster camp. However, on the 26th we will be released and moved to a Red Cross camp. From there we will be dispersed throughout UNRRA camps. Only 70 of us remain here today—others were released after they showed their relatives' addresses.

“The entire process of our release was accelerated by the efforts of General Plechavičius: that is his individual merit. He visited us in the camp twice, and he brought along many gifts. ... Life in Germany is much harsher than in Italy.

“P.S.—27 November: Today we were suddenly released. Today we are in the civilian DP camp at Soltau-Valterdingen.—V. B.—”

3. POWS AND UNRRA

(a) 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. ...*

6. Categories of Displaced Persons Not Eligible For UNRRA Care

- f. Ex-Wehrmacht personnel, of whatever nationality or stateless, are ineligible *unless* individually certified by the military authorities as:
- (i) Not a collaborator, war criminal, quisling or traitor,
 - (ii) Not a Volksdeutsche,

- (iii) Having been *completely discharged from military status*,
- (iv) Having *entered the Wehrmacht involuntarily. ...*

F. E. MORGAN

Lieutenant General.

Chief of Operations, Germany.”

(b) UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION

Lake Success, N. Y.

8th November, 1946 C

My dear Mr. Jurgela:

I have your letter of October 2nd. I am glad you made your inquiry very clear.

Former prisoners of war are not classified as displaced persons; therefore they are not admissible to UNRRA displaced persons camps. This is a matter that is entirely under the jurisdiction of the military authorities, and I have no power to issue a directive such as you suggest.

... Unfortunately, they seem to be in a no man's zone between prisoners of war and displaced persons. My only suggestion is that you take the matter up with the zone commander of the particular zone in which they happen to find themselves. This ruling also applies to re-patriated Volks-Deutsche who are to be taken within the German economy.

... UNRRA's jurisdiction and power over displaced persons are limited. Shelter and food, as well as classification, are matters under the control of the military authorities. If I had any power in the matter, I should be only too willing to assist.

Sincerely yours,

F. La Guardia

Director General.

(Handwritten postscript) We are not unmindful of these very people in our plans for re-settlement.

F. LaG.

(c) To: General G. Keyes, Commanding TUSA, Heidelberg. Copies to: General J. T. McNarney, Command-inf USFET, Frankfurt; Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Washington; General Dwight Eisenhower, Washington.

Esslingen, Württemberg

December 22nd, 1946.

Since the second half of this year the Baltic Displaced Persons in the American zone have been systematically and repeatedly screened either by the UNRRA or by the Army Screening Boards. ... In Esslingen, DPs have had already one political screening carried out by the local CIC, one UNRRA and two Army screenings. ... Now we are informed that a new screening action will be started by UNRRA in the next days. ...

Dr. T. Grünbergs

Archbishop of the Latvian Ev.-Lutheran Church

K. Kalniņš

Councillor of the Latvian Ev.-Lutheran Church

(d) LATVIAN EX-POWs (Translation from the Latvian)

Esslingen-Neckar, 25 July 1946.

The question of admission of the released POWs to DP camps has not advanced at all. At first we were

referred by one authority to another. Now we are told the solution depends on Washington. . . .

According to Gen. Morgan's instructions, former soldiers of the German armed forces are entitled to UNRRA care if they had been forcibly drafted, unless they are war criminals, traitors, collaborators, quislings, or racial Germans. As a matter of fact the former soldiers had been screened on these points prior to their release from detention and the suspected categories were not released. It would appear, therefore, that all the released former POWs are entitled to DP status and UNRRA care.

However, UNRRA HQ instructed that every former soldier must present a certificate to the effect that he does not belong to any of the said categories. Unfortunately, the military regulations do not provide for the issuance of such a certificate, and the people remain suspended in the air.

The DPs tried to help ex-POWs by having them as their guests and sharing food with them. But UNRRA issued orders that persons who are not officially registered as camp inhabitants cannot remain in the camp area, and that the ex-POWs denied DP classification must report to German Burgomasters and German Labor Offices for assignment to work. Having once been drafted into servitude for the Germans and having experienced the continuous abuse and mistreatment at the hands of the *Herrenvolk*, they resent this re-sentencing to German slavery. Furthermore, the released POWs are greatly emaciated and need rest to recuperate their strength.

R. Liepinš.

(e) ESTONIAN EX-POWS

Augsburg-Hochfeld Estonian Camp
August 1946

The Estonian People won its independence in 1919 with the aid of America and England. The Republic of Estonia was a democratic country—in the Western sense. Its economy was managed from a liberal capitalist viewpoint. Its social system was civic. We maintained cultural and economic ties with the Anglo-Americans, especially with England.

On 28 May 1940 the entire press of Soviet Russia represented the Baltic States as sympathizers of the Anglo-Americans. . . . Charges of a similar tenor were repeatedly made against us also by the German press.

The secret Nazi-Soviet protocol of 1939 assigned the Baltic States, Finland, Eastern Poland and Bessarabia to the sphere of interest of Soviet Russia. In direct consequence of that pact, Estonia was occupied by the Soviet Union on 17 June 1940. In 1941 Estonia was occupied by the Nazis.

Neither Russia nor Germany respected our independence. . . . Both these powers murdered, arrested and deported large numbers of our people. Both placed the Estonian People outside the law. For these reasons, the rulers of both these nations were equally hated by our people. It cannot be expected that a person deprived of his property without compensation, a person whose family members were either murdered or deported for slave labor, who was subjected to a base and heavy oppression etc., should sympathize with his despoiler and oppressor. . . .

Our ardent desire is to reconstitute a free and independent Estonian Republic in accordance with Article

3 of the Atlantic Charter; in accordance with the Crimean Declaration of 1945 and the Declaration to Liberated European Peoples; and in accordance with President Truman's 12 Points.

The Estonians are an individualistic and democratic northern people who hate the autocratic system of government. Therefore, our people sympathize with the Western Democracies.

A great many acts of injustice are committed against us, refugees, by accusing us of collaboration with the Nazis or of pro-Nazi sympathies. On the contrary: even those few who had been influenced or compelled to accept administrative assignments—in most cases deliberately sabotaged the German decrees in order to ease the heavy burden of occupation.

In utter disregard of International Law, the Nazis, the occupying Power, called up our men since 1942 for military service. Individual mobilization orders were personally served on the former cadre officers. Public orders of officers' mobilization, up to the age of 60, were promulgated in February 1944. In September 1944 they called up the officers who had evaded the earlier calls under various pretexts. General mobilization of all men was effected in the following manner:

(a) In March 1943 men born in 1919-1923 were drafted for labor in RAD and were later transferred into the armed services;

(b) In November 1943 men born in 1925 were called up;

(c) In February 1944 men born in 1904-1925 were called;

(d) In September 1944 men who had come to Germany as refugees were drafted. Death penalty was meted to slackers.

Estonian soldiers were assigned to Waffen SS units not by reason of their free election, but by orders of the occupying Power. The drafted men were formed into guard battalions, reserve and auxiliary units, and these various units were joined, by German orders, into a Waffen-SS Estonian Division, the former Estonian Legion, subordinated to SS.

The Germans tried to misrepresent these mobilizations, banned by International Law, as "voluntary enlistments," just as in German SS units. However, all Estonians were forcibly drafted. They never swore allegiance to Hitler. They never fought against the Western Allies. . . .

Therefore, it would not be just to treat Estonian SS prisoners of war on a par with German SS POWs. The Estonians, prior to their release, should be treated as ordinary Wehrmacht POWs.

Pastors U. Plank and M. Vahter.

(f) TREATMENT OF LATVIAN EX-SOLDIERS

Esslingen, 18 September 1946.

Former Latvian soldiers who had been forcibly seized by the Nazis and assigned to so-called "Latvian Voluntary Legion SS" by the occupying Power, Germany, were deprived of their DP status in some places.

The U. S. military authorities have recognized that the above Legion had been formed illegally, in contravention of International Law which forbids a mobilization of the inhabitants of an occupied country. The U. S. Army /TUSA, Section G-1 and Section G-2/ issued directives providing that the mobilized

Latvian legionaries are not to be considered members of the German Waffen SS and that the enlisted men and officers should be released from POW detention camps.

The release of Latvian POWs may be regarded practically completed. Furthermore, former Latvian soldiers have been declared eligible for UNRRA care and DP status /Reference: USFET directive G-5 ACS

DP BR, dated 12 August 1946/, unless they were volunteers, war criminals, collaborators or traitors. Only bona fide persons were discharged from POW camps after a thorough screening. Consequently, there is no reason for their eviction from the DP camps.

Prof. T. Grünbergs, D.D.
Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran Church.

B. TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN REFUGEES

After studying the provisions of International Law regarding the treatment of POWs, reviewing the actual practice with regard to POWs of non-German nationalities during the first few months after the cessation of hostilities, and the present treatment of former POWs at the hands of UNRRA and American screening teams,—we present a series of facts regarding the treatment of civilian refugees and displaced persons.

One important question can be asked: *are the political refugees and displaced persons, citizens of the neutral countries, to be treated worse than our enemies and prisoners of war?*

I. FORCIBLE REPATRIATION OF THE SOVIET CITIZENS

(a) KEMPTEN, 12 August 1945

(Summary of the petition addressed to the American Military Government)

Kempton, 14 August 1945.

On Sunday, 12 August 1945, Russian DPs were in their (Orthodox) camp church. The religious services were interrupted by the arrival of an armed detachment of American troops. An American M.G. officer told the Russians to leave the church and to board the trucks for repatriation. The Russians did not comply, as they had already declared that they did not wish to repatriate.

Shortly thereafter—the open windows of the church faced the Baltic camp—we saw armed M.G. troops enter the church, upset the Altar, drag the aged priest by the beard, push and drag men, women and children out of the church and bodily lift about 70 persons on the waiting trucks. The people offered no resistance—they just wept and begged for mercy and help. . . .

Russian mothers attempted to save their infants by tossing them through the church windows into the Baltic camp yard. One mother succeeded in tossing two children through the window. Some adults jumped into the Baltic section and ran into the milling crowd of Balts who stood trembling as helpless onlookers of the shocking scene.

Some soldiers fired several shots into the crowd. Two Ukrainians were seriously wounded and were operated on in the II DP Hospital (*Kriegslazaret*). Ten persons were contused: one child, six women and three men were taken to the DP Hospital. Russian "repatriation officers" observed the scene with evident amusement and repeatedly took pictures of the clubbing of Russian DPs by American soldiers.

This experience brought despair to our people. In their utter perplexity, they ask—*Where are the rights*

of man, the principles of humanity, International Law, the Atlantic Charter and, above all, the Christian principles of American Democracy? Why are these principles not applied in occupied Germany to citizens of the Allied and friendly neutral countries who had risked death to listen to the Radio Voice of America and to fulfill the American radio instructions during the war? . . .

(Signatures) Leaders of the Baltic Camp Administration in Kempton-Allgäu.

P.S.—A copy of the M.G. announcement, in German, to the effect that all Soviet citizens were to be moved to a Stuttgart camp, the main transit camp for Soviet repatriates, was transmitted by the Lithuanian American Information Center to the Ukrainian American Congress Committee. The latter made representations to the War Department—only to receive a white-washing reply: the people in question had misinterpreted their transfer orders as repatriation—they were simply to be moved to another camp at Stuttgart. This reply conveniently overlooked that the order in question left no room for a "misapprehension."

(b) MANNHEIM, 6 September 1945

On Monday, 3rd September, the "Politruks" (political instructors of the Soviet Repatriation Mission) attacked and stabbed a Ukrainian who gave unsatisfactory answers regarding his refusal to return to his home country. The Ukrainian died from these wounds the night of 6 September in a Mannheim hospital. (Several corpses of missing Ukrainians were found later in the basement of the premises vacated by the Soviet Repatriation Mission.)

On 5th September a notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Ukrainian Sector announcing that the Armenians and Ukrainians must present themselves with their possessions at 7 A.M. on 6th September in the square. Bewildered Ukrainians decided that they would not obey the orders contrary to humane and democratic principles. A sleepless night was spent.

At 7 A.M. the square was filled with people—without their possessions. The Red "Politruk" failed to show up. Some time later a platoon of American soldiers with some officers, and a few MPs in a jeep, arrived. All of them were armed with rifles. They were followed by a column of army trucks. Soon afterward a Soviet officer drove up. After a brief consultation with American officers and UNRRA officials, the Russian departed.

One of the officers barked orders to the soldiers. All strategic points in the Armenian sector were occu-

pied. The soldiers, brandishing their rifles, pushed the crowd to one side. Another group of soldiers was ordered to load the trucks and they proceeded to the barracks.

The screams of the women and children and the shouting of the soldiers were soon heard from the barracks. A number of persons tried to flee but they were driven back into the barracks at gun point. One man leaped from a second story—he suffered a broken leg and was taken to a hospital. A few women with their children came through the doorways. Their luggage was carried by soldiers who tossed the baggage on the trucks and ordered the women to climb in. Two women fainted. A physician was summoned to the scene and he diagnosed the cases as heart attacks caused by fright. The women who were forced into the trucks either jumped out or screamed. A few women stood motionless, resigned to their fate.

The Ukrainians and others gathered in the square were deeply stirred by the screams of the helpless victims. The soldiers again pushed the crowd which had not made the slightest move to interfere with the troops. Several persons were struck with rifle butts on their heads, backs and chests. One fell under the blows—but another blow brought him up again.

A young American Lieutenant was especially brutal. With a pistol at his side, he violently swung a heavy cane in all directions, striking the people as if they were a herd of cattle.

A soldier fired into the air. The crowd shrieked. One Ukrainian pushed his way forward, bared his chest and pointed to it as a target. He was shoved back, beaten by rifle butts and fists.

Another Ukrainian in the front rank was arrested. Afraid of being shoved into a truck, the man tried to flee. In the ensuing melee he tried conscientiously to avoid the blows, without offering any resistance himself. Nevertheless, he was severely beaten with rifle butts, helmets, bats and fists on the head, chest, back and face. Finally the soldiers dragged him to the camp prison. His wife slumped to the ground, stricken with a heart attack. All efforts to revive her with medicines and artificial respiration failed. She regained consciousness in the hospital, where she still remains.

A third Ukrainian tried to leave the camp by climbing over the fence. He was seized, pushed and dragged by the soldiers back to the square. Beaten with clubs and fists, threatened with pistols, he was driven into the prison.

The entire camp shuddered at the screams of women and children being pushed into the trucks. Jeers regarding the American “democratic talk” and the “undemocratic acts” were heard in the crowd.

It looked as if the Americans might succeed in loading the Armenian women in the trucks by beating them. However, the women persisted in jumping from the trucks. Finally, the soldiers were ordered to withdraw from the barracks, to dismiss the trucks and release the tormented people.

People were told by Mr. Molde to meet in front of the platform to hear an address. The speaker was an American army officer, assigned to repatriation activity with the Mannheim M.G. His speech was translated into Russian.

The officer told the people that, judging by the events in the square and in the Armenian sector, he

thought that the people did not want to return to their native countries voluntarily. He regretted that the soldiers, who had bravely fought in Africa and on the several European fronts, were forced to fight the people here. But—“soldiers are soldiers: they carry out their orders.”

He explained that no further efforts would be made to evacuate the people forcibly, but that the final decisions would arrive in three or four days from Frankfurt. Those Ukrainians who were unwilling to return to their native country would have to leave the camp and live among the Germans. They would be deprived of American protection. He indicated that repatriation orders affect not only the Ukrainians of Russia but those from Poland and Czechoslovakia as well.

The Americans left at 10:20 A.M. The excitement lasted all day. The Ukrainians and Armenians decided to send a delegation with a memorandum to Frankfurt. The UNRRA officials stamped the documents of the Ukrainians with a second stamp: those who did not have the imprint of both stamps would be classed “fugitives” forfeiting their DP status. The police could arrest them and send them to Stuttgart where large camps are located for those forcibly repatriated to their native countries.

/The NAUJIENOS Daily, Chicago, 20 September 1945/

II. DISORDERLY BEHAVIOR OF TROOPS

EICHENBERG.—Dr. Steponas Kolupaila and Dr. Kazys Kriščiukaitis, two Lithuanian professors of international reputation, were invited by the Baltic University faculty to Hamburg. On the return trip on 13 April 1946, around 1:30 A.M., the train arrived from the British zone and entered the Eichenberg station in the American zone. The passengers were ordered to leave the cars and to line up on the platform for examination of their papers.

“There was no crowding and no disorder. Nevertheless, a soldier ‘in gay humor’ made remarks to the standing people, fixed their hats on their heads, and occasionally punched them on the chin or slapped their faces with the flat of his hand. The Germans failed to react to this.

“The soldier eventually approached my colleague, Prof. Kriščiukaitis, who was standing next to me. Without any provocation, the soldier struck him on the ear. Suddenly attacked and reacting indignantly, my colleague automatically answered the gesture in kind. The soldier, apparently, was waiting for just that. He struck a heavy blow on the chest of Prof. Kriščiukaitis, placed a foot in back of him, struck him to the platform floor, seized him by the throat and began to punch him with his fist. Other soldiers rushed to the scene. They kicked the unconscious man with their boots, dragged him to the platform’s edge and prepared to shoot him. . . . The terrorized crowd was totally impassive. I tried to intervene. . . . Having received a knockout kick in the stomach, I had to withdraw.

“My colleague was dragged into the station’s waiting room. . . . I went there also. . . . The unfortunate man was placed near the window. A soldier, specially called, entered—a small-sized man—and he began the public execution. He began to pummel Prof. Kriščiukaitis in the face, he tore his clothes and abused him

in various ways. Finding a gold watch on the victim, he brutally pulled it out. The beating lasted about 20 minutes. . . .

"When the soldier got tired . . . he left the hall." (Professor Kriščiukaitis added: "He picked up my overcoat and jacket, stomped on them and tossed them into the corner.") "Another soldier came up, dressed in a sheepskin coat. He began to maltreat the half-alive victim . . . and yelled at me, ordering me to sit up straight and quietly. Such torturing went on. . . . Just before 6 A.M. the soldiers again began checking the papers and demanded that the room be cleared.

"Documents were returned to Prof. Kriščiukaitis. No charges were made either against him or me. When we mentioned the gold watch, the soldiers were indignant and demanded that we leave the room at once, or else they threatened to arrest us . . . for six months.

"We did not observe at the station a single officer to whom we could complain . . . we were unable to learn the names and ranks of those people.

"The honor of the Great Democracy demands that this incident be investigated and the guilty parties punished.

Steponas Kolupaila."

Prof. Kriščiukaitis in his complaint to Capt. C. W. LeGrand, UNRRA Team 76 Director, added additional details of the incident. He described the watch taken from him, and stated that Sčesnulevičius, an engineer, also witnessed the first part of the incident.

Copies of the complaints were furnished to the Honorable Clare Boothe Luce, M.C. The ensuing exchange of communications speaks for itself.

(a)

WAR DEPARTMENT

July 30, 1946

In reply refer to:
WDSL/963-989

Dear Mrs. Luce:

. . . In order to secure a full report on this incident, we are communicating with the Theater Commander at Frankfurt. It may take some time for a complete investigation to be made. . . .

Noah M. Brinson
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Liaison Branch
Legislative and Liaison Division

(b)

October 3, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Luce:

. . . We are now in receipt of a report . . . a comprehensive investigation was made in this case and it was concluded that the allegations made by Professor Kriščiukaitis could not be sustained by the evidence available from the witnesses presently on duty. The Regiment to which the guards belonged who were on duty at the Eichenberg Station at the time of the alleged mistreatment has been returned to the United States for demobilization. The personnel of the Regiment who are still over-seas were questioned but with negative results. None of them could recall an incident such as the Professor described and none had any knowledge of the watch that was allegedly taken.

You may be assured that if at any time in the future

the missing watch is recovered, it will be returned promptly to its rightful owner.

Clarke K. Fales
Colonel, GSC
Legislative and Liaison Division

(c)

New York, October 8, 1946.

Dear Congresswoman:

. . . It is difficult to believe that the War Department, with all its efficiency and reputation of thoroughness and perseverance, was or is unable to trace the matter involving the honor of this country's uniform. The men in question presumably are not dead and the Department has ample facilities to continue its investigation in this country.

Furthermore, the record shows that the original complaints were filed through Capt. LeGrand, an UNRRA Camp director, on April 18th, 1946, and the latter promised to forward the matter through channels. Is the entire record lost? Didn't the officers at the European HQ make any investigation while every one concerned was present? Finally, didn't the Department profit by the complaint and didn't it instruct the army personnel to abide by the rules of order and honor? Or is the Department satisfied with the paper assurance "that if at any time in the future the missing watch is recovered, it will be returned promptly to its rightful owner?"

The seizure of the watch was one part of the incident. The behavior of soldiers on duty is quite another matter that should deserve the army's attention and corrective measures, without "ifs". . . .

Constantine R. Jurgela
Director, Lithuanian American
Information Center

(d)

15 October 1946.

Dear Mrs. Luce:

. . . You will recall that Mr. Jurgela indicates in a recent letter to you that he considered the War Department's attitude and report on the case of Professor K. Kriščiukaitis entirely unsatisfactory.

It is regretted that my previous letter did not make clear the extent of the investigation this matter received and the attention given to it by Army authorities on the highest level. Prior to receipt of Mr. Jurgela's inquiry, a comprehensive investigation was conducted by the overseas authorities. . . . An Officer of the Inspector General's Department personally conducted the investigation, interviewing witnesses and gathering all available data and information. It was determined that the military personnel assigned to Eichenberg Station at the time . . . were members of Company "I" of the 30th Infantry Regiment. All men assigned to duty at the Eichenberg Station during the twenty-four hour period . . . with the exception of seven transferred from the Command for discharge, were questioned in detail and none could recall an incident such as Professor Kriščiukaitis described. None had any knowledge of the watch that was allegedly taken. The report of investigation by the investigating officer was personally reviewed by the Commanding General of the Third Army. . . . Mr. Jurgela may be assured that this investigation was not conducted in a routine and perfunctory manner but that every pos-

sible bit of evidence was obtained and carefully considered. . . . The determination that the "allegations made by Professor Krisciukaitis could not be sustained" was made only after a careful consideration and review of all available evidence.

I trust this information will serve to clarify the steps taken by the War Department. . . .

Clarke K. Fales

Colonel, GSC

Legislative and Liaison Division.

III. RAMPANT LAWLESSNESS

(a) ARMY ASKS OUSTER OF 2 UNRRA AIDES

BAMBERG, Germany, Jan. 5, 1947 (AP)—United States constabulary officers demanded today the dismissal of two United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration officials whom they accused of having attempted to "protect" operators of an asserted "Jewish black market" in the Landsberg camp for displaced persons. . . .

Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon, constabulary chief, made public the charges and counter charges.

"We have nothing to hide," he said. "Any troopers who mistreat anyone will be punished and any who strike back in self-defense will be protected."

Gen. Harmon issued a report drafted by Col. Charles H. Reed and naming the two Landsberg UNRRA officials as Joe Buda and "Mr. Korn."

Colonel Reed said that Mr. Buda had insisted on the release of any Jewish displaced persons arrested by the constables, no matter what the charge, and had threatened to "get" certain officers if this were not done. . . .

Major Rollin T. Steinmetz, who investigated the case for Colonel Reed, wrote that the allegations of brutality "are in the main an attempt to discredit the authority of the constabulary and gain a hands-off policy in the area of Landsberg to allow complete freedom of operation of a Jewish black market and other criminal dealings." . . .

The report "strongly" recommended the discharge of Mr. Buda, Mr. Korn and "others found allied with them in their control of the Landsberg displaced persons camp."

"Mr. Joe Buda, by his entire attitude, has shown disrespect for American authority," the report said. "His purposes are:

"(1) To protect the Landsberg camp inmates, no matter what offense they commit—witness his statement to officers that he could, through appeal to Rabbi Bernstein, General McNarney or the President, get anyone arrested.

"(2) To discredit the American forces to such an extent that he and his confederates be given a free hand."

/THE NEW YORK TIMES, 6 Jan. 1947, p. 2-L, col. 2/

(b) TERRORISM IN THE MUNICH AREA— LITHUANIAN COMPLAINTS

"On 5th February 1946 Vaclovas Laikūnas, from Landshut, was seized on the street by a gang of roving Jewish DPs and locked up in the Munich prison.

"On 8 March 1946 Juozas Vaivada, a veterinarian surgeon on his way from the DP camp to Munich, was attacked by a gang of Jewish DPs who manhandled

him severely and turned him over to American MPs. It was recently learned that he is held in the notorious Dachau concentration camp.

"On 16 March 1946 Leonas Aksomaitis and Mikalauskas came to Munich from Linz. They entered a restaurant and ordered a meal. A young Jew approached their table and inquired, in Lithuanian, as to their place of origin. When these two men left the restaurant, they were assaulted by a group of Polish-speaking people led by the aforesaid young Jew. Both men were severely beaten and then turned over to American MPs. They were held for a day and were released after an investigation.

On 18 March 1946 a letter was received from the Dachau concentration camp. It stated:

"We are victims of the roving bands of Jewish DPs and NKVD agents who are ravaging Bavaria. Their object is, it seems, to seize any Lithuanian, charge him with collaboration with the Nazis, and turn him over to American CIC police. The Americans do not seem to realize the entire scheme and it is difficult to prove one's innocence, because the Jews act in a concerted fashion. They level heavy charges, first taking the victims to a Jewish camp where they violently mistreat the prisoners. They say: 'The NKVD has found you here and will similarly treat all other Lithuanian refugees.'

"When we were brought to Dachau, we were locked together with German war criminals, because the Jews, totally unknown to us, accused us of exterminating Lithuanian Jews during the German occupation. It is difficult to utter one word in defense at the interrogation, because the Jews pour forth words and order us to 'shut up—you could speak up only under German rule!'

"We ask you to communicate with the American military commission at Dachau and request that they, in our presence, examine the cases of all Lithuanian prisoners, to prove our innocence and false arrest.

"Eight Lithuanians are confined to one barrack. There are more Lithuanians at Dachau but they are held in the other barracks. Communications with them are difficult, because each barrack is fenced off from the other barracks. Many Lithuanians were also provoked by Poles and Germans and were detained on the streets. We are not permitted to communicate with Lithuanians and the Lithuanian committees, and we are not permitted to write letters or to receive Lithuanian newspapers or food.

Signed: Bronius Juška

Pranas Valčiukas

Igoris Stumbenskiis

Juozas Vaivada

Domas Každailis

Pranas Jaruševičius

Vytautas Damoševičius"

(c) COMPLAINT OF A LITHUANIAN AMERICAN

Mrs. Adele Poderys, nee Vaidelis, born 30 November 1907 in Brooklyn, N. Y., presently a resident of the Scheinfeld DP Camp, UNRRA Team 569, writes:

On 10 September 1946 she and her husband, Jonas Poderys, went by train to Munich to inquire at the American Consulate whether her American passport had arrived. On their way back to the train, a woman

ran up to them, struck Mr. Poderys on the face and yelled: "This man shot my parents and all other Jews of Zapyškis."

Two American MPs appeared on the scene but made no attempt to interfere. The strange woman then assaulted Mrs. Poderys and shouted: "Your families had shot down the Jews of Zapyškis! Now we shall tear out your veins one by one!"

An American officer demanded that the MPs stop the violence. More Jews gathered. The MPs searched Poderys and pushed him to the station's waiting room. There they demanded: "How many Jews have you shot down?" The prisoner answered: "Not a single one, because I had left Zapyškis 15 years ago."

Mrs. Poderys states: "My handbag was taken from me and its contents piled on the table. Everything was inspected by the Jewess who hit me and my husband. She scolded me, using dreadful language."

"After the search, the MPs handcuffed my husband, turned him over to the Jewish police, and went their way. The policemen and the Jewess took us to a train and brought us to a station near a Jewish camp. We were held at the station while they phoned the camp. Soon Jewish police came with a throng of Jews, two Lithuanians among them."

"My husband and I were brought to the camp. Along the way we were being hit, scolded, spat upon and kicked by the mob. Another mob faced us in the camp. We were taken to the police office. The mob continued to beat my bleeding husband and he lost consciousness, even though the policemen tried to stop the beating. I had to leave my husband in the corridor of the police station. I was taken to a cell and locked up."

"A throng came to the window of my cell and shouted: 'We have already killed your husband and in the night we shall cut you up to shreds.' The police moved me to another cell. The policemen asked me whether my husband had, in fact, shot down any Jews. I denied the charge."

"I was imprisoned three days, until 6 A.M. of 13 September 1946. When I was being released, they told me to contact the Starnberg CIC. I went there and was told that my husband was in the Stadelheim Hospital and that I could visit him there. However, when I went there, I was not allowed to see my husband. I do not know whether my husband is dead or alive."

"My husband and I left Zapyškis in 1931 and settled at Kaunas. I worked as a typist in the Mayor's office and my husband was a civilian employee of the Aviation branch of the Ministry of National Defense. On 15 January 1940 we moved to Vilnius and lived there until 3 July 1944, when we were forcibly evacuated by the Germans. I was employed as a typist in the Municipal Board of Health."

"Since 15 January 1940 my husband worked as clerk in the Tubercular Hospital of Vilnius. In 1941, when the Russians were in Lithuania, he contracted typhus and was bedridden in the hospital until the end of 1941. When the Germans entered Vilnius, he was ill with pneumonia which complicated his recovery from typhus. When he recovered, he was transferred from the hospital service to the Fire Brigade of the City of Vilnius. He worked there until 3 July 1944, when the retreating Germans forcibly evacuated the firemen and their equipment to Germany."

The documentary evidence substantiating these statements, certified by UNRRA Team 569, including the anti-Nazi activities of Jonas Poderys as a member of the Lithuanian resistance movement, is in possession of the Lithuanian American Information Center.

(d) TERROR IN MANNHEIM

MANNHEIM, Germany, Feb. 8, 1947 (AP)—Tossing their victims into the Rhine in a year-long reign of murder, smuggling and sex crimes, lawless gangs of international hoodlums have turned this ruined city into post-war Germany's "crime capital."

Violence and robbery rivaling Chicago's bootleg era, American and German police said, hold Mannheim in terror—although at least twelve gangs operating amid the rubble have been smashed.

Gangmen—Germans, Poles, Russians and men without countries—are costing the U. S. Government thousands of dollars a day by organized looting of American Army depots, and American troops have not been left uncorrupted. White and Negro troops also have robbed and assaulted.

/THE N. Y. TIMES, 9 Febr. 1947, p. 53-L, col. 1/

IV. SCREENINGS—OR "THE BLACK HAND"

1. Gen. Sir Morgan's Directive

UNRRA

CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS DP OPERATIONS,
GERMANY

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. . . .

F. E. MORGAN

Lieutenant General

Chief of Operations, Germany

2. Denial by the Director General

UNITED NATIONS

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION

Lake Success, N. Y.

30 September, 1946 C

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 understanding. It is not concerned with international politics. Nevertheless, as long as it is in existence, it will pursue this policy.

F. LaGuardia

Director General

3. ELTA (Lithuanian Telegraphic Agency-in-Exile) BULLETIN

1 August 1946.

According to instructions to American screening teams, the DP status and UNRRA care are to be granted to the following categories:

- (1) Jews, including those presently fleeing from the East.
- (2) United Nations citizens displaced by war since 1st September 1939.
- (3) Stateless displaced persons.
- (4) Persons deprived of nationality by their governments, who had failed to acquire a new citizenship status.

The DP status is to be denied to the following:

- (1) United Nations citizens, Stateless and Italians who normally resided in Germany and are not displaced by war.
- (2) War criminals, collaborators and traitors.
- (3) Citizens of enemy and neutral countries, except those who had been persecuted by reason of their race, religion or activities for the cause of the United Nations.
- (4) Persons of German race and Baltic Germans.
- (5) Former personnel, of any nationality, who had served in the Wehrmacht, unless they could prove that they had been forcibly inducted.
- (6) United Nations citizens, not victims of persecution on account of their race or religion, who refuse to repatriate to their country of origin.
- (7) Displaced persons who had entered the American zone since 1 August 1945, except: (a) Jews, (b) non-Jewish persecutees on account of their race or religion, (c) persons brought into the U.S. zone since 1 August 1945 in an organized manner, (d) persons who had entered the U.S. zone since 1 August 1945 and are presently living in the camps, if their eviction would break up a family. Grandparents, parents and children are deemed members of a family unit. If one member of the family is entitled to DP status, other members are also to be given that status, even if they had entered the U.S. zone after 1 August 1945.

A person deprived of his DP status is entitled to make an appeal to the Military Government and cannot be evicted from the camp as long as his appeal is not reviewed.

However, the screening teams do not always conform to this order. For instance, at Memmingen, persons deprived of their former DP status were immediately evicted and forcibly brought to the camps of German DPs from Eastern Germany. Conditions are overcrowded there, food is bad, non-Germans are at once assigned to work for German farmers and are exposed to abuses. Their compensation is one-half of the wages paid Germans for the same type of work. Those provided with work receive German ration cards. Those not yet assigned, are fed from camp messes—with coffee and one plate of soup daily.

The refugee committees intervened with the MG, and some evictees were returned to the camps and permitted to file their appeals.

Results of the screening indicate that *most people have lost their DP status by reason of their entering the U.S. zone after 1 August 1945*. The next large group consists of people who indicated that they were

natives of the Vilnius (Wilno, Vilna) District, or those who had erroneously filled their questionnaires due to the ignorance of the English language.

Regarding the *Memellanders and repatriates* of 1941, Lithuanian committees were told that the *instructions had come from Washington* and the military authorities cannot countermand the orders: the proper place to intervene in is the State Department at Washington.

It may be observed that, in some places, the screeners were inobjective and grossly negligent.

For instance, in one camp the screening team's chairman stated that the screenings shall continue until the DP camps will become vacant.

When a woman inquired about her husband's fate, the screeners began questioning her regarding the husband's love for her.

Parents are granted the DP status—but the status is denied to their minor children. A 75-year old woman was denied DP status and she was separated from her providing daughter.

In one camp a member of the screening team physically assaulted a Lithuanian when the latter rested his elbow on the table during the interrogation. Local UNRRA director, a Briton, demanded an apology or he would press charges against the officer. The American reluctantly apologized.

In another camp, members of the screening team shouted and pushed the people summoned for questioning and generally behaved in a most primitive manner. Their victims, including a number of prominent intellectuals, did not say a word and walked out. The officers looked genuinely surprised and hastily inquired of the reason. They were told that this was a protest against the uncivilized treatment. The officers finally apologized.

In the French zone the screening fully respects human dignity and French officers show much sympathetic understanding. Thus far, not a single Lithuanian was deprived of his DP status in the French zone.

4. DILLINGEN

In August 1946, during the first screening conducted by 1st Lieut. Allen Shaffer, chairman of the Screening Team 15, 133 Lithuanians were evicted. 21 families were split up in the process. Among them were: Mrs. Kostė Dabrilienė (an expectant mother); Juozas Januševičius; Jonas Juraška; Mrs. Magdė Laukienė; Vytautas Lozoraitis and his wife Aldona (DP status was granted to their two children); Mrs. Bronė Švipienė; Mrs. Petrė Makusienė; Mrs. Vladė Malėlienė and her daughter Vladė; Mrs. Eugenija Matuizienė; Mrs. Stefanija Mečienė, 75 (separated from her daughter-maintainer); Mrs. Ruigienė; Mrs. Ona Samulienė; Vytautas Lepšnys; Zigmas Šipaila and his wife Zofija (their son retained DP status); Leonas Šušys; Vladas Vėlyvis; Kazys Zaganavičius; Antanas Bernota and his wife Marija (their two minor children retained DP status).

Vidugiris, an anti-Nazi prisoner who had spent many months in the Nazi KZ camps, and Vladas Visockis, who was forcibly brought to Germany for slave labor, were evicted. Petras Šamauskas suffered a heart attack and died, from fear of eviction in a hostile country.

5. MEMMINGEN

10% of the Lithuanian refugee population was evicted, including people who had been transferred here from the French zone in a legal and official manner with UNRRA's consent. The *screening officers refused to divulge the grounds of eviction and repeatedly hinted that a certain percentage of DP camps' population must be evicted to make room for other masses arriving from the East. Women state that all they were asked during their oral interrogation was whether they are loved by men. . . .*

Declassified DPs are supposed to have the right to appeal but that right is ignored. They are *ordered to leave the camp within two hours after the screening and are threatened that a company of troops would arrive with machine guns to "take care" of them. Screaming and frightened children, pregnant women and the sick had to gather within two hours. They were loaded on trucks—and had to abandon a part of their baggage salvaged during the war.*

The results show that the authorities are evicting (a) natives of the Klaipėda District of Lithuanian nationality and (b) those who arrived from the other zones.

6. KASSEL

a) At the Kassel Oberzwehren-Mattenberg Camp, 61 persons out of 120 examined during the first screening were evicted. On the next day it was announced that 150, out of 320 "screened," are evicted: the ratio is 50:50.

No grounds for expulsion are announced. Among the evictees are persons with documentary proofs of residence in the U.S. zone prior to 1 August 1945 and of their forcible deportation to Germany for slave labor.

There are 150 persons who had been previously screened in other camps and who were brought here after their DP rights were confirmed. *The new screening team pays no attention to previous screenings and people are indiscriminately expelled. Some Latvians were screened six times.*

Screening teams do not seem to be guided by any fixed rules and their purpose seems to be to expel at least 10% of all camp inhabitants.

/NAUJIENOS, 25 November 1946/

(b) The screening team at Kassel-Mattenberg is abusive. Its chairman is Capt. Gessner. No final data is available—but people are evicted wholesale and are turned over to German Flüchtlingskommissars. In a moment of unguarded frankness, Capt. Gessner stated that 150 of the 320 "screened" refugees would be evicted. That means 40%.

People of various nationalities lived in this camp, and mutual relations between some of them were not of the best. Presently, in a wild attempt to escape eviction, the DPs of various nationalities cast the shadow of doubt on each other. Interrogation procedure recalls the days of the Inquisition.

An innocent victim of war against whom no charges are made, is compelled to prove his innocence—of what?—to inexperienced young officers lacking background information about our countries. People are not told why they are being evicted—so how can one present an appeal? We are guilty of an attempt to

escape enslavement and death. The Nazis are again becoming our masters.

The people ask questions. Why do the Victors lavish their resentment on the poor and helpless victims of lawlessness and aggression? Are we responsible for the brutal aggression which deprived us of our country?

A sideline detail. Several refugees had been brought by the Nazis to Germany to work as ordinary manual laborers in a dairy processing station. The interpreter translated that they had worked "in a milk shop"—that is, in a milk dispensing store. The screeners marked them "collaborators" and evicted them. . . .

Members of the screening teams openly hint that they are *under orders* to get rid of a fixed percentage of the camp inhabitants.

/A Memellander in a letter dated 14 October 1946./

7. WIESBADEN

1800 Lithuanian lived at Wiesbaden. Thus far 113 persons, not counting infants, were evicted.

Responsible officials repeatedly assured us that families would not be broken up in the event of eviction, but the practice is otherwise. In some cases a husband, or mother, or both parents, or some children are evicted, while other members of the same family are left undisturbed. In some cases children under 7 are left in the camp and their parents evicted.

Lately, bolshevik operations in DP camps were intensified. Special agitators and provocateurs, trained in the Russian zone, are infiltrating into Western Germany to demoralize the refugees. Several such NKVD agents were exposed in the Baltic camps.

Lithuanian DPs are efficiently organizing relief for the evictees.

/A Newspaperman's letter, dated October 1946./

8. HANAU

(a) RESISTING RETURN HOME, ESTONIANS, LATVIANS, LITHUANIANS BUILD MODEL CAMP

by William Attwood

HANAU—More than 6,000 Baltic displaced persons who don't want to go back to their Soviet-occupied countries have created a makeshift community of their own in a group of former German barracks here, but most of them are wondering *why the rest of the world is giving them the cold shoulder. Only their leaders—many of whom are former . . . Cabinet ministers and college professors—realize that they have become a handful of chips in the world's diplomatic poker game, and that their chances of going anywhere are pretty slim until Russia decides she can get along without them. In the meantime, these scattered refugees have banded together to build a miniature communal state that is a model of what hard-working democratic people can do when they have little else but time on their hands and energy to burn.*

Five large quadrangles of stone buildings comprise their camp, which is now supervised by an eight-man UNRRA team of British, French, Belgian, Dutch and Swiss field workers. 18 months ago, 40 Balts, who found themselves in this camp at the time, sent word to their friends and compatriots elsewhere in chaotic Germany to come to Hanau and help establish a Baltic cultural center. . . . "They began arriving in cars and trucks, on bicycles and on foot," said Harry Heath,

British director of the Hanau UNRRA team. "They came in every way but by parachute."

TODAY some 3,300 Lithuanians, 1,700 Latvians and 1,000 Estonians have transformed filthy and dilapidated German kasernes into cramped but spic and span living quarters.

Other buildings have become workshops, community stores and schools. A church, a hospital and a library have been erected out of the debris left by the departing Germans. There is *no idleness* at the camp. Every one who had a trade is now teaching apprentices. *In unheated sheds* and former warehouses mechanics, carpenters, electricians and tailors are showing beginners how to help produce the goods and equipment needed by the community. In other sheds scientists, writers and professors are conducting schools for young people. *A small university* has even been started. *Everywhere there is bustling activity*, and already the people are producing enough goods in their communal shops so that *the camp may soon be self-sustaining* once outside markets are found.

HOWEVER, despite everything they have done here, the Balts feel they are just marking time until they can find a permanent home. According to Mr. Heath, *their first choice would be to return to independent Baltic republics. Barring that, they would like to emigrate to some Western country, preferably as a group*, but if necessary as individuals. Their first choice is a vain hope, for the world has already accepted the fact that the Soviets are in the Baltic states to stay. (?—We disagree with this unfounded statement.—*Editors, Lith. Bulletin.*) Their chances of emigrating depend on whether countries like the United States, Brazil or Australia are willing to risk Russian displeasure by taking in these people as settlers for undeveloped regions like Alaska.

So strong is the political factor in the Balts' predicament that *the French*, who are desperately short of manpower for their recovery program, *generally change the subject when Baltic immigration is mentioned*. An American official, who bluntly asked a former French Cabinet minister early this month why France was clamoring to retain German prisoners and refusing to accept Baltic immigrants, was told, "*So long as we have a strong Communist party in France there is no question of our taking in any displaced persons without Russian approval.*" Soviet opposition to Baltic DP emigration stems from the fact that among these refugees are large proportions of Baltic intellectuals and political leaders. If they could all be brought back to Russia, *Moscow officials figure that a few might be persuaded to work for the Baltic Communist regimes, while the others would at least be eliminated as an expatriated anti-Soviet element.*

To Russian invitations to come home the Balts here have so far replied with an emphatic "No, thanks." Much as they dislike remaining in Germany, where many have known Nazi persecution, they dread even more returning to their homes under present circumstances. *There is a ring of sincerity to their stories about the terror that followed the Soviet occupation of their countries in 1939, and today Russian repatriation officers who visit this camp must be escorted by armed guards.*

STILL hoping some one will give them a home,

the Balts at Hanau are proud to show off their camp as evidence that they can make good citizens, and a day's tour is enough to make you realize why visitors inclined to disparage DPs have gone away full of admiration for the astonishing industry of these people.

In the radio shop, discarded parts salvaged from American dumps were being made into new sets. In the ceramic shop, a group of Estonians *working in their overcoats in the cold shed* were making the pottery needed by the camp as well as some pieces to be painted by their wives and daughters for sale to visitors. In a crude millinery several women were fashioning simple but stylish hats out of rejected army cloth dyed at the camp. Elsewhere experienced workers were teaching others their trades. Proceeds from the sale of articles manufactured here go into a camp fund which the Balts like to think of as their treasury. *They already have their own government here in the form of national councils headed by chiefs who confer periodically with Mr. Heath.* 400 Ukrainians . . . have also adopted this form of self-government and work side by side with the Balts in the shops. *Justice is administered according to their national laws by their own courts*, some of whose judges were on their countries' supreme courts before the war. No prison sentences but only terms at hard labor are given, for every one must work in this community. There is almost *no crime problem, according to UNRRA officials, and even a flurry of black market activity last spring has been practically wiped out by setting up the camp fund and charging for certain services.*

FEW newcomers are arriving these days except at the hospital's white-tiled maternity ward, where nearly 300 babies have been born since the Balts have been here. *Hospital signs are in German, for ironically enough German is the medium of communication among these people who can work so well together but who can't understand one another's language.*

Still flying over the entrance of the camp are the three Baltic national flags—a source of irritation to visiting Soviet officers who no longer recognize the existence of these nations as independent states. But the Balts intend to keep them flying until they can exchange these flags for that of a country willing to adopt them.

DESPITE the hardships of a makeshift life, *morale is still high* among these people. Their only fear is that they may be forced to go back to Russia by an agreement reached on some distant diplomatic level.

Their plight is part of the problem that is worrying not only UNRRA, but also American Army officials. . . . It is the problem of what to do with a DP population that is still growing rather than decreasing almost two years after the end of the war—a population which, *unlike the industrious Balts at Hanau, is largely restless, frustrated and disillusioned.*

/N. Y. Herald Tribune, 1 January 1947/

HANAU.—The 6,000 Baltic displaced persons waiting at an UNRRA camp here for the world to decide their fate are only one piece in a complex jigsaw puzzle of homeless people whom the United States is largely caring for at a considerable expense to American taxpayers. Undecided about their disposition, the U. S. government is spending approximately 8

million dollars a month. . . . The burden is not getting any lighter. . . . Estimates for next year's budget are based on an anticipated increase in the population of camps in the American zone. This increase is caused by heavy Jewish infiltration from eastern Europe and by the entry into assembly centers of bona fide DPs who can no longer live on the German economy now that German refugees, expelled and prisoners of war are returning to their homes and jobs . . . the presence of more than a half million unassimilable persons in American-occupied Germany has not only hindered German reconstruction inland but has been a minor source of friction between the U.S. and Soviet Russia.

At the beginning of this month there were 393,385 DPs in American camps, of whom 126,729 were Jews; 193,784 DPs were still living on the German economy. Although UNRRA has provided personnel and certain supplies, the American Army has borne the burden of housing, feeding and clothing the DPs since their liberation, and today about 10 per cent of the effort of military-service troops in Germany is devoted to the logistical support of the DP program. . . .

A report prepared by the G-5 Division of USFET headquarters in October stated, "It is apparent that repatriation and resettlement at present rates are not sufficient to hold the problem within bounds." Among the most reluctant DPs to return home are the 100,000 Balts in American camps, of whom those here at Hanau are fairly typical. For example, less than 1 per cent of the Lithuanians have consented to be sent back to their Soviet-occupied country. A similar lack of enthusiasm characterizes the Latvians and Estonians.

Although the Poles are more amenable to going home, . . . at least 100,000 will never return, largely for political reasons. All told . . . about 175,000 DPs, exclusive of 127,000 Jews, represent a resettlement rather than a repatriation problem. This has evoked Russian charges that the Western democracies are coveting these thousands as a source of cheap labor. Meanwhile, until new homes are found for these people, they must somehow be housed in Germany. . . .

Food, which is rationed at a basic rate of 2,000 calories a day, or 725 more than the present German ration, has had to be furnished by the American Army. . . .

. . . Although about half of the DPs are working for the Army, for UNRRA or in German businesses, the abhorrence of most of them to reconstructing Germany, coupled with a German labor market glutted by incoming expellees from the east, has made idleness the rule rather than the exception at most of the camps.

All these factors have tended to undermine morale in camps which are less homogeneous and disciplined than this one at Hanau, and in many like that at near-by Zeilsheim, frustration born of idleness and despair has erupted in minor crime waves and in rampant black-market operations. Efforts to suppress these outbursts by M.P. and constabulary raids have only added to the unhealthy tension. Until it is possible to resettle these uprooted people, the situation is going from bad to worse. Any attempt to force their assimilation into the German population seems to be doomed to failure. Most of them have suffered too much at German hands to live with them as neigh-

bors. At the moment, resettlement plans hinge on Russia's attitude concerning the Poles and Balts and on the solution of the Palestine question. In other words, the DP problem is too much involved with global political problems for a quick solution. Unless the Soviets lose interest in the DPs from their satellite states (Who won the war?—Editors, *Lith. Bulletin*), many countries will hesitate to risk offending Russia by accepting these people as immigrants. Thus, there is little the DPs can do but wait a while longer in the hope that the statesmen who run the world will patch up their differences and do something to liquidate this tragic human legacy inherited from Nazi Germany (and enhanced by Russian rapacity and the Allies' reluctance to fulfill the principles of the Atlantic Charter.—Editors, *Lith. Bulletin*). In the meantime, the DPs do not wish to become the world's forgotten men, and in this view Allied officials in Germany concur. For the moment, the DPs feel that the cold shoulder they are getting is for keeps; there's no telling what trouble a half million angry people could cause in today's shattered, dislocated but smoldering Germany.

/N. Y. Herald Tribune, 2 January 1947./

(b) LITHUANIAN REPORT

The entire camp population of 7,000 lives in daily terror of screening now in its fifth month. A DP is a rightless chattel shifted from place to place at the whim of his masters. He is perennially slandered, nagged and abused by men in power—as an alleged "black marketeer," "pro-Nazi," "war criminal," "quisling," "useless consumer of food."

Nevertheless, the hope of survival, the hope of avoiding "repatriation" to death, and the prospect of eventual migration to some civilized country—forces the DPs to endeavor to retain a corner in some DP camp. This impelling hope is exposed to shattering by the scenes of eviction of the declassified DPs and their surrender, as "human materiel," to the German authorities. . . .

The first days of the screenings held no terror. American officers, with hardset faces and thoughtful mien, arrived. "No talking! Answer the questions!" Questionnaires were handed out. Groups of 40-50 people were examined, and the operation moved quickly. Within 3 or 4 weeks the Latvians, Estonians and Ukrainians were screened, and some Lithuanians were called.

Suddenly, a high-ranking American arrived to inspect the operation. He publicly reprimanded the screeners for their democratic methods. He called the DPs criminals, shysters, liars. He ordered a strict investigation of each individual DP, and immediately replaced some members of the screening team. The officers were publicly disgraced!

Different methods were applied thereafter. Persons who had answered the questionnaires were called for oral interrogation—one by one. The people realized that their fate depended on the proper answers to each carefully worded question. Their replies to the repeated questions became confusing—and the ranks of DPs began to thin. The new screeners nonchalantly stated that their task was to drop at least 10% of the DPs. They demanded documentary proofs—but no time was given for an attempt to procure proofs

from the bombed out and evacuated German labor offices.

In August a new, seemingly innocent, question popped out: "Where were you on the 31st of July 1945?" It soon developed that this was "It": the war was over in July 1945 and the people were moving in all directions—trying to find their wives, children, parents or brothers. This fluid state prevailed during the autumn of 1945—the DPs were continually shifted from place to place and they themselves continued to seek members of their families.

As far as screeners were concerned, one did not have to be a war criminal, collaborator, a Volksdeutsche repatriate; it was enough that one had lived in the British or French zone on 31 July 1945—and his DP status was lost.

Thereafter the screeners demanded documentary proof of residence in the U.S. zone as of that fateful retroactive date, and a certificate of the length of such residence. It became clear that the flight from the Soviet terror to Germany or, prior to the American retreat from certain areas of Germany, acceptance of the evacuation westward aboard American trucks—were crimes: the DPs of these categories lost their DP status.

Presently the people went to the screening offices as to Gestapo or NKVD chambers. They realized that the screeners must find some excuse to get rid of the 10% of the Hanau DP camp inhabitants.

Actual victims of the Nazis were next under the blade. Slave laborers, anti-Nazi resistance workers, former inmates of Nazi KZ camps—true friends of the Allied cause—were OUT! One railway man and two letter carriers who had been assigned by the Germans to work on the railway and in a postal office in Lithuania—were deemed "Nazi collaborators," regardless of the fact that the Germans maintained their own postal and railway personnel for servicing the Herrenvolk.

By September the screening became the monster fear. Latvians, Estonians and Ukrainians became alarmed: they were warned that they were to face a second screening. People lost all confidence in the Americans. American "democracy in action" became the butt of bitter jokes. People loudly suggested that the screeners should draw lots in getting their 10% of evictions.

The most tense moment came in October 1946 when the evictions began.

An UNRRA official inadvertently released the lists of the evictees and indicated the reasons for expulsion. The victims immediately hurried to Frankfurt. An inspecting commission arrived from Frankfurt. The inspectors examined the situation and—publicly censured the camp administration for the premature publication of the lists and the reasons for eviction. . . .

The DPs realized that they were inanimate chatels which must patiently accept every abuse with no right to defend themselves. They must accept whatever decisions their masters might make. They had no right to know their own alleged "crimes."

This American Gestapo-farce was taking place during the closing days of the famous Nürnberg Trial of 22 top Nazi war criminals. That trial required one

year's time. The defendants were apprised of all the details of the charges against them. They retained lawyers and were permitted to present evidence in their defense.—The screeners at Hanau judged 3,500 Lithuanians within three months. What a record accomplishment of American efficiency!

The deductions are self-evident: many evictees would gladly replace Admiral Doenitz in prison for ten years, rather than face "repatriation" and certain death in a Soviet slave camp.

The screening of the Lithuanians is now over. About 300, probably more (the lists are no longer announced), await their transfer to unknown destinations. Where to? No one cares to explain. To what fate? That is a "State secret." About 300 men, women and children lost their DP status. Not more than 50 should have lost such status in an honest application of the Americans' own official definitions. The Ukrainians, Latvians and Estonians face a second screening.

/The NAUJIENOS Daily, Chicago, 15 Nov. 1946/

(b) SECOND LITHUANIAN REPORT

The screeners hinted again that they are *under orders* to find at least 10% of the DPs guilty of collaboration or illegal entry.

There had been 3,600 Lithuanian refugees at Hanau. The screening lasted several months. The first list of evictees contained 109 names—apparently the limit to which the screeners were prepared to go. Their superiors were not satisfied: several weeks later another list with 112 names was posted, including persons passed by the screening team. This also was unsatisfactory. Another list was drawn up with 96 names—all duly screened and passed as legitimate bona fide DPs. All of them were loaded on the trucks and surrendered to the German authorities.

Examination of the lists discloses that *families are split up*, regardless of the earlier assurances by the Army HQ that no families would be separated. Arguments are not countenanced. *Persons with family names of German origin, pure Lithuanians who speak no other language, are evicted.* Persons who had earned 120 RM monthly; persons whose children had attended German schools—and there were no other schools in Germany; persons who had done the same type of work they had done in Lithuania; persons who had succeeded in wresting from German labor offices ration cards for their families or a room to house their family—are all deemed "collaborators" and "pro-Nazis."

Furthermore, the screeners evicted all those who had moved into the American zone after 1 August 1945. Also the former so-called "repatriates" of 1941—even if they had repatriated on the strength of claims of relationship with German or Protestant families in order to save their lives from the NKVD. Apparently, the *Hitler-Stalin Pact of January 1941*, providing for the exchange of Baltic populations—the pact which was *never ratified by Germany—is binding on the U.S.A.* . . . Finally, all those who admit that they had fled before the Russian surge are classed "Germans" or "collaborators."

The British and French behave differently. Screening was likewise conducted in their zones but only racial Germans, persons who had acquired Reich

citizenship or who had rendered services to the Nazis, are evicted. As for repatriates, only Latvian and Estonian repatriates of 1939—who had elected repatriation to Germany while their countries were still independent—are expelled.

America—the most democratic nation—is behaving completely undemocratically. The bolshevik influence is readily observed among the members of the screening boards, security offices and UNRRA. A statement that one would not return to Lithuania as long as that country is under hostile Soviet occupation—brings eviction, while Washington continues to proclaim that the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States is not recognized. . . .

It is difficult to explain the American attitude. HQ officers at Frankfort and Washington officials state one thing—but their instructions are interpreted and executed in DP camps contrarily. The Russians repeatedly shout in UN and elsewhere that the refugees are fascists and collaborators—and the Americans obligingly conduct *witch hunts*. They manage to find the witches: children, old men, widows forcibly brought to Germany. The Americans do not care to know that these people hated Hitler and the Nazis as much as Hitler's former partners from Muscovy.

Such American talk and contrary actions please the Germans who watch the antics of American MPs in DP camps—the surrounding with tanks and machine guns, physical loading of the evictees on board the trucks at gun point and the dashing off with the human load of disconsolate people.

American officials do not consult with the refugees—though they consult with the omnipresent NKVD “repatriation liaison officers.”

Why blame the refugees for the loss of their country, their property and homes which were seized by the rapacious Powers? The Nazis, who enslaved them originally, still have their homes and schools and jobs. But DPs? They are subject to summary orders only. . . .

/A letter dated 22 November 1946/

9. THE AMERICAN ZONE IN GENERAL

Screenings are far worse in the northern sector of the American UNRRA District, in and around Frankfort and northward. Visiting newspapermen openly hinted that officers of Oriental ideology who are guided by instructions to leave as few people as possible for UNRRA care, are among the personnel of the screening teams. There is no democracy in the treatment of the refugees, no understanding of the background of these people.

The screeners evict people who have no relationship with the German race and who had never been Volks-deutsche repatriates. Underground resistance workers who had risked their lives in sabotaging the German war effort—are now proclaimed to have been “collaborators,” because they were not brought to Germany forcibly. The atmosphere of insecurity electrified the morale.

The Nüremberg Trial exposes the difference between words and deeds. Impartial justice was applied to top Nazi criminals—but the DPs are treated as rightless slaves in an arbitrary lawlessness. One word from a “fellow traveler” officer or UNRRA official

is enough to sentence a DP to eviction. The sentence is carried out immediately, without any formalities, charges, hearings or legal process.

It may be noted that in the Stuttgart area and in some places of the Munich district the screenings were much more humane and orderly than around Frankfort. *Practically everywhere the decisive factor was the whim of UNRRA politicians and careerists who are overbearing and summary in their attitude.*

Screenings in the French zone are over. The operation was conducted in a dignified and humane manner. Screenings in the British zone continue—but very few complaints are heard: the Britons are considerably more humane and democratic than their American counterparts.

/J. L., 14 October 1946/

10. LATVIAN REPORTS

(a) *ESSLINGEN—A Memorandum to Gen. Joseph T. McNarney (A Summary).*

When the screening began, all Latvian Displaced Persons welcomed it. . . . Out of 86,000 Baltic DPs screened in the area of the 9th Division, only 20 persons were arrested. . . .

According to news received from Latvian DP camps, the interrogation procedure in various places was of the kind to suggest that these unhappy helpless humans were all criminals or social outcasts. . . .

The evictees formally have the right to present their appeals to Review Boards. But in most cases the Screening Boards refused to disclose the reasons for eviction. They even refused to explain to which authorities the respective appeals must be addressed. It is impossible in most cases to find an authority willing to accept the appeals. The expelled person knocks in vain at the doors of different offices: no one has binding instructions and no one feels competent or obliged to accept the appeals for transmission to the Review Board of the respective Division.

Simultaneously with the negative decision of the Screening Board, evicted persons are removed from the camp. DP identification cards are taken away and the ex-DPs are forcibly transported for further disposal at the hands of the German authorities.

Such a procedure is undeservedly hard and demonstrates the rightlessness of an evicted DP. If there is the right to make an appeal, then, in conformity with the universally adopted norms of jurisdiction, the decision of the lower venue is automatically stayed and comes into operation only if confirmed by the higher venue.

German citizens in similar situations enjoy different treatment. The American newspaper, “*Die Neue Zeitung*” (No. 67, 23 August 1946), carried an article: “*Rücktransport der Evakuierten.*” The said article explains that, in order to avoid unnecessary hardships, persons who have received orders for a compulsory re-evacuation to their former domicile have the right to appeal; the presentation of the appeal to the higher instance suspends the decision as to their immediate re-evacuation. These directives are approved by the Military Government. . . .

It is very painful to conceive that discriminations brought forth by the screening are contrary to the high

principles of justice and democracy in the name of which the great American nation had taken part in the world war and was victorious. . . .

The reported cases of suicide and insanity tend to prove that the measure of suffering of the evictees exceeds all bounds. Such cases were only of an individual nature up to the present. This winter, it may become an epidemic because of the tragic situation of the evictees.

Prof. Dr. T. Grünbergs
Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelical-
Lutheran Church.

(b) Archbishop Grünbergs' Pro Memoria of 18 September 1946.

. . . Many Latvian DPs have been evicted. . . . The motives of such evictions are the following:

1. Entering the U. S. Zone after 1 August 1945.
2. Arrival in Germany in 1941.
3. Compulsory service in the German Army.
4. Working in Germany after deportation.
5. Not working in Germany after deportation.
6. Lack of documentary proofs.

1. Entering the U. S. Zone after 1 August 1945

According to the information given us, unauthorized entry to the U.S. zone has been forbidden by *Military Government Law No. 161*. This law in its original form prohibited all inward or outward movement over the frontiers of Germany. The crossing of the U.S. zone boundaries has been prohibited by subsequent amendments. According to Amendment 3, this Law became effective 1 December 1945.

In such circumstances, the *retroactive date of 1 August 1945* seems to have been fixed arbitrarily. Such process deprives people of any feeling of legal security. . . .

Furthermore, Latvian DPs have been admitted into DP Camps with the authorization of UNRRA and Military Government. The DPs in question acted in good faith. And, surely, so have acted the Military Authorities in issuing the following directives:

1. HQ 7th Army, Western Military District directive AG 383.7 CA, dated 4 October 1945: "Displaced Persons should have the same freedom of circulation as that enjoyed by German population."

2. USFET directive 60337, dated 14 December 1945, provides that the responsibility for the DP program was to be transferred, effective 1 January 1946, from the Military Government to Commanding Generals. The latter are responsible for the administration of DPs and for their movement.

3. 7th Army Western Military District directive AG 014 CA, dated 20 December 1945, delegated the responsibility for administration of DP Camps and movement of DPs in their areas to Divisions, and provided that persons not in Assembly Centers but entitled to care under current directives, would continue to be the responsibility of the Military Government.

4. TWX from Commanding General 7th Army to Commanding General 1st Armored Division, dated 30 January 1946 /Reference AX 1918/ states: "Bona fide Displaced Persons cannot be denied admission to DP Camps."

5. USFET directive AG 383.7 GEC-AGO, dated 21

February, 1946, provides in paragraph 7.J, as a specific responsibility of Directors OMG, the authorization of the movement of DPs into, through and out the respective army areas. Point 5 states: "The following categories of DPs might be admitted to any Camp at any time: a/ Sick or for other humane reasons, b/ Unaccompanied Children."

6. 31st AAA Brigade directive, dated 4 April 1946, provides: "/4/ Balts would only be admitted to Assembly Centers in order that close relatives might be brought together /father, mother, sister, brother, husband, wife/. — /5/ DP, infiltrating into the UNRRA District No. 1 area would not be admitted excepting those in the following categories: a/ Jewish persons, b/ Persecutees, c/ Sick or for other humane reasons, d/ Unaccompanied Children."

If the Law 161 is legally effective, it must be binding for all nationalities. If, for humane considerations, illegal infiltration of the Jewish persons is authorized—all movements of Latvian DPs should also be recognized as legal . . . high principles of equality, justice and humanity might be applied to the Latvian nation which has been equally persecuted and . . . doomed to liquidation, like the unhappy, persecuted Jewish nation. Otherwise, the concepts of justice and compassion become divisible notions.

2. Arrival in Germany in 1941

During the Soviet occupation of Latvia . . . a small number of Latvians came to Germany in 1941. They were all refugees who sought to save their lives. These Latvians had nothing in common with the German "Volksgemeinschaft" nor with the Nazi ideology. . . . These Latvians were treated by the German authorities as foreigners, exactly as other foreign DPs. The fact that they retained their Latvian passports or were issued *Fremdenpass* for foreigners—proves that they are not citizens of the Reich.

The Russo-German "Resettlement Agreement" concluded in 1941 between the occupying Powers, cannot be considered in any way binding for the citizens of the independent democratic Latvian Republic, whose statehood is still officially recognized by all the civilized world.

3. Compulsory Service in the German Army (See page 27)

4. Working in Germany after deportation

Latvians were drafted for compulsory labor duty by the Nazis. The kind of work was prescribed to them: they had no choice and could not refuse the orders of suitable or unsuitable work. There is no legal reason, therefore, to deprive people of their DP status for having done compulsory work in one or another branch of labor.

5. Not working in Germany after deportation

The greatest numbers of Latvians were deported to Germany in the second half of 1944. The Allied bombings had ruined the German industry and transportation system so thoroughly by that time that, in certain

regions, workers found themselves without employment. By the end of 1944 the Nazis could no longer provide all foreigners with work. In order to get rid of the many hundred thousands of deportees from the Baltic States who were concentrated in eastern Germany, local German authorities ordered their transfer to southern and western Germany. The Balts themselves were interested in proceeding in that direction, in order to seek liberation by the advancing Allied armies. In the last phase of war, everyone did his utmost to withdraw from working for the Nazis. This should be considered rather a merit.

6. Lack of documentary proofs

A demand for documents to prove conformity of answers in the questionnaire might be logical in the normal conditions of life. In the present conditions, however, to demand written proofs from persons who had been obliged to leave forcibly their native country, who had been tossed from one place to another, who had suffered the war tempests, who had been bombed out and lost all their belongings—means a misunderstanding of the reality.

Many administrative offices had been evacuated, their archives lost, and procurement of copies is no longer possible. Answers to questions are given under oath, and documentary proofs should not be deemed essential.

Esslingen, 18 September 1948.

Prof. Dr. T. Grünbergs

Archbishop of the Latvian Ev.-Lutheran Church

(c) Liepins's Letter of 19 September 1946

Esslingen-Neckar.—A general picture may be drawn from observations of the screening in several camps.

18 persons out of 132 were evicted from the Ansbach High School camp; 134 out of 1290 were evicted from the Hindenburg Post camp; 112 out of 1300 persons were evicted from the Memmingen camp; 18 out of 220 at Pirsching-Warren; 156 out of 600 in Sillenbuch near Stuttgart, etc. Our compatriots at Sillenbuch fared worst: 35% were evicted.

People are expelled haphazardly. An officer of the 3rd Army HQ told the Latvian Red Cross delegation that the *instructions* for DP screening are of a general nature and the *details are left to the discretion* of the screening officers. He admitted that cases of injustice and unfairness occur but that such cases would be rectified by reviews. Indirectly he hinted that we should understand that "the force of circumstances" makes it necessary to make room for newcomers from the East.

This hint enhances our earlier suspicions. It was not a vain gesture when the army newspaper, "*The Stars and Stripes*," predicted in one of its recent issues that about 25,000 persons would be expelled from DP camps.

The Lithuanians were notified by Colonel Barden, USFET G-5, that the orders to conduct the screening had come from Washington and that any appeal for modification of the orders should be addressed to Washington.

No reasons for expulsion are told. This practice nullifies the alleged right of appeal. Moreover, ap-

peals are transmitted to the Division HQ and no date of consideration is given. *Meanwhile, people are expelled* from the camps and turned over to German Flüchtlingskommissars immediately and are at all times kept under strong military guard.

Our ex-soldiers fare worst. Railwaymen, postal and telegraph workers are likewise accused of having enjoyed "Nazis' trust." The screeners forget that Germany maintained its own *Dienstpost Ostland* to handle official mails and the correspondence of the German personnel. On the railways, the natives were employed only in minor jobs and for physical labor. This practice was not confined to the Baltic States: as lately as 1944, at Gdynia, Polish railway personnel was employed although otherwise the Poles were deliberately persecuted. Same is true of France, Belgium, Denmark, etc.

In one camp a dentist was evicted, because she had been made an assistant to a German doctor in the labor office—although in Latvia she had her own office and many years' experience. By having attended to the Germans' teeth—she convicted herself of "a purposeful action against the Allied interest!"

In many camps, written proofs were demanded regarding work, wages and place of residence—although the authorities must be aware that slave laborers' records were kept in the employer's office. Finally, when a few persons succeeded in getting some proofs from their former employers—the proofs were rejected as invalid: the papers were recently signed and not in the past. . . .

In some places people were examined for hours at a time. Even *children of 15, who had left Latvia at the age of 13, are subjected to a barrage of questions which fall like hailstorm.* It is not surprising that *children are evicted and surrendered to the Germans.*

I don't know what we have ever done to the Poles—but *Polish employees of UNRRA are most merciless of all against our compatriots.*

Thus, *Colonel Lenski*, former Polish military attaché in Riga and a member of the screening team at *Streitberg*, refused to pass 39 persons of the total of 45. He accused our people of shooting down the Poles and Jews, which is supposed to have been done by Latvian units in Warsaw. But our legionaries were never stationed in Warsaw! If there were a few individual Latvians in the German units—is that sufficient reason to stone the entire nation? In following the Lenski reasoning, it would be consistent to claim that Poland had fought on the side of Germany, inasmuch as quite a large number of Polish soldiers are held prisoners by the Americans! We are charged with mistreatment of the Polish refugees in 1940; also that we had closed the Polish Legation in Riga, etc. At the same time, isn't it a fact that thousands of Poles had obtained sanctuary in Latvia?

Our Socialists have been involved in bitter discussions over these questions with Polish Socialists.

It is apparent that some one would like to get rid of the Balts in the simple manner—by assimilating them with the Germans. Hence all these tribulations. *Screening in other zones is conducted in a more acceptable form.*

I was informed just a moment ago that, regardless of the military screening just completed in this camp,

UNRRA received instructions from the U.S. Zone Director to commence a new screening by UNRRA personnel alone.

R. Liepins.

(d) Ansbach—Latvian Memorandum of 9 September 1946

To the Provost Marshal, 1st Infantry Division.

Since the middle of June the Screening Board examined the inhabitants of this camp, and on 5 September announced the results. In the Hindenburg Post DP Camp at Ansbach 246 persons have been declassified, of a total of 2,250 Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian inhabitants (among them, 134 Latvians out of a total of 1,290). The declassified persons had to turn in their DP identification cards. On 7 and 9 September they were sent *under armed guard* to Nürnberg where they were lodged in a windowless air raid shelter, and to Bamberg and Schwabach.

We understood that the duty of the Screening Board was to re-check and determine persons entitled to UNRRA aid and to expel war criminals, collaborators, traitors (quislings), Volksdeutsche and Baltic Germans. The great majority of those expelled do not come within these categories, however. In practice, many grossly erroneous decisions painfully affected families—the smallest and dearest units of our social life.

The harsh fate separated many of our fellow nationals from their relatives. The action just taken is even more painful: the families still remaining together are separated further. Matters have gone so far that in individual families fathers and mothers are driven away, but their small children have to remain in the camp with strangers. *The expulsions have separated members of 51 individual families in our camp.*

The majority of Latvians had obtained permanent employment: only eight percent of the total had not yet obtained permanent employment, and they did all the necessary work in the camp, working 2-3 days weekly. The persons expelled from the camp have to leave their work with American units. For example, at the Katerbach airfield, where no one was employed before an examination by the CIC.

The decision likewise affected several liberated Latvian soldiers who had been forcibly drafted by the Germans to fight against Russia. They include two invalids who had lost one leg each.

We kindly request your aid in this matter, viz.:

- 1/ to hasten consideration of the appeals;
- 2/ to permit the declassified persons to remain in the camp until a final determination of their appeals;
- 3/ not to deprive any person of his DP status until a review decision has been made.

L. Rozentals

Chairman of the Latvian Committee,
Camp 92-30, Ansbach

11. ESTONIAN CLERGYMEN'S PETITION, Augsburg-Hochfeld Camp

The refugees lived through great difficulties in Germany. They were mistreated and abused as foreigners. They were compelled to do menial work which they had never done in their own country. They lived under conditions which they never dreamed existed. They all prayed impatiently and waited for an end to

the Nazi regime and for Allied Victory.

Deprived of their DP status, these people would revert to the baser conditions of life as dependents of the Germans who always disliked us and never wanted us in their midst.

Please understand our difficult situation. We are refugees who had suffered much, who had lost their homeland and, in many cases, their wives, husbands and children. We have lost all that could be lost, except our lives. All this came about through no fault of our own.

Therefore, we ask Members of the Screening Team:

1/ That persons deprived of DP status be informed of the reasons, thus enabling them to prepare appeals and to secure the necessary proofs;

2/ That persons should not be evicted immediately from the camps if they appeal to the 9th Division's Review Board.

Our Lord in Heaven knows that these lines contain the full truth regarding our people. May He enlighten you and aid you in this difficult task.

Pastors U. Plank and M. Vahter.

V. EVICTION AND DISPOSAL OF THE EVICTEES

1. PRIESTS AFFECTED

Among the people threatened with the loss of their DP status are Roman Catholic priests who were appointed by the Apostolic Delegate for Lithuanian Refugees to minister to the spiritual needs of DP camp inhabitants.

Rev. Albin Bielskus, a native American (now returned to Pennsylvania.—*Edit., Lith. Bulletin*), was evicted: he entered from the French Zone after 1 August 1945. Rev. Dr. Aleksandras Lemonas, of Oberlenningen, and Rev. Antanas Račaitis, of Dillingen, received notices of eviction. Later, however, they were permitted to remain in the camps.

/Jonas Grigolaitis, a Protestant, in a private letter./

2. LITHUANIAN REPORTS

(a) *Augsburg-Hochfeld*.—"When papers for the evictees were drawn, the officials refused to mark us as citizens of Lithuania: they entered us as Stateless. The screening was completed 7 October. On the next day we were removed, regardless of our pending appeals. The Camp Director warned us that we are not permitted to visit the camp. Local Lithuanian Committee requested that two expelled teachers be permitted to continue teaching. The director replied that their evil influence might contaminate the pupils. A little later, UNRRA Welfare Officer warned in writing that declassified DP children are not permitted to attend the DP school."

(b) *Augsburg-Haunstett*.—(1) "Screening results were announced 23 November: 48 Lithuanians, out of 728, lost their DP status. With children included, the evictees number 62 persons, or 8.5%. On 25 November we were loaded on the trucks and brought to a German transient camp at Augsburg. Three days later, we were split into three groups and taken to Donauwörth, Kempten, and Schwabmünchen. At Schwabmünchen we were jammed into old, unheated and gaping formed barracks for POWs, 12 to 16 persons per room. What for?"

(2) "We intervened with Lieut. Hartline and Miss Baumann, a Norwegian, in behalf of Stasys Vanagūnas, an economist and our local Committee's chairman, and Alfonsas Jurskis, an engineering professor and vice-chairman of our educational section. The officer promised to review the decision. Miss Baumann stated that documentary evidence would seem to entitle the two men to DP status but that a pressure had been exercised against them 'from the outside' and she 'cannot risk her head.'

"Camp Director Coxedge called nationality leaders into conference on 26 November and sarcastically stated that the Army officers are surprised and dissatisfied that the DPs sympathize with the 'evicted collaborators.' On 10 December this same gentleman told them that those who aid the evictees are 'enemies of the DP'.

"The Dobkevičius family was evicted. The mother is in a hospital. The father left to look for some job. Their children, aged 3 and 5 years, were taken in by Petras Šimkus, a single artist. When he asked the camp commandant for several days' rations, Mr. Coxedge communicated with UNRRA Team Director Wishik and thereafter told Mr. Šimkus to choose: either he would turn in his DP papers and leave the camp within two days, or he would be turned over to the MPs."

(c) *Dillingen*.—"49 persons, or 5%, were evicted. The evictees were taken by trucks to Augsburg. The Lithuanian Committee requested the chairman of the screening team to permit the evictees to settle somewhere in a place of their own choosing. The latter refused. The evictees left without any incident."

(d) *Memmingen*.—"One Lithuanian was entangled in answering questions. He was arrested and moved to a German prison. He was held there several weeks and then turned over to the Military Government. No trial came and the man was discharged.

"The results of screening were announced 5 August, simultaneously with the announcement that appeals would be accepted the next day and that all evictees would be removed on 7 August. The appeals were accepted until 2 A.M. and the screeners promised to give answers by 7 A.M. However, at 8 A.M., the evictees were told to report with their belongings to UNRRA. 7 Lithuanian appeals were satisfied, but one additional Lithuanian lost his DP status. When the evictees complained that one hour's notice was not enough to pack, UNRRA director, Miss Churchill, threatened that she would summon a machine gun company. The Military Police arrived and zoomed over the streets in search for the evictees.

"The evictees were taken to a train. The crowd wept. A Lithuanian priest and a Greek Orthodox priest held special services beside the train. Miss Churchill observed all this with a sneer.

"The train arrived in Augsburg—no one was there to meet it. All passengers were unloaded. Lithuanian DPs of Memmingen, in anticipation of such an incident, dispatched their wives to help the evictees. The Bavarian Red Cross was notified—and soon thereafter Red Cross trucks came and picked up the freezing wretches and moved them to a transient German

camp. Some were permitted to return to Memmingen to settle in the city. Others were moved to Donauwörth, Neuburg, Nordlingen."

3. AMERICAN WOMAN EVICTED

"Mrs. Juozas Kamarauskas, a native American from Chicago, was evicted from Augsburg-Hochfeld camp with her husband. Her husband, a surgeon, was dispatched by the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense to Vienna in January 1940, prior to the occupation of Lithuania by the Russians, for post graduate research. In 1943 the Germans permitted him to visit Lithuania. When he overstayed in Lithuania, he was arrested by the Gestapo and brought to Wiener Neustadt under orders to work among the slave laborers."

4. LATVIAN REPORTS

(a) "*In Memmingen, the MPs brought along tanks—as if these people were dangerous criminals. They were taken to Nürnberg and thrown into windowless air raid shelters.*"

"Dependence on the German mercy is certainly not a pleasant prospect. The Germans classify their new unwanted guests as Stateless."

(b) "Evictions are executed in a rigorous and harsh manner. *Family members were separated by force in many cases.* Nobody takes any interest in them: UNRRA no longer cares for them; the Military Government does not feel obliged to protect them; the German authorities consider them a superfluous burden. Moved to dark and unsanitary air raid shelters and former KZ barracks, these victims of discrimination are chilled by winds and rainfalls and are a prey to diseases. No one cares whether they eat or how their labor is exploited. It hurts to witness all this."

(c) "The Germans openly abuse and insult their unwanted non-Teutonic wards. People are crowded—28 persons to a room—in the barracks enclosed by barbed wire. They are herded with German expellees from Czechoslovakia, Poland and Eastern Germany."

(d) "At Hanau, the evictees were forcibly removed. It was later learned that evictees from the area of Frankfurt were taken to Kassel, Fulda and Marburg, mostly to the vicinity of the Soviet zone. This news brought fresh fears that this was the first step in an eventual forcible surrender to the Russians.

"The Germans treat their new charges differently in different places. In some places treatment is bad, but—as a general rule—the Germans provide the evictees with better quarters than in the DP camps. Again, in some places the Germans explain that they have their own troubles and show no interest in the new arrivals. In other places, German officials concern themselves with the evicted Balts as much as with their own people."

VI. DP LIFE IN GENERAL

1. MANHUNTS ON THE BLUE DANUBE

"Most of the 100 Latvians of Vienna live in individual homes. Some live in an American DP camp where conditions are relatively good.

"For a month of 15 December 1945 to 15 January 1946, the Vienna Allied Kommandantura was under

a Russian commander, and round-up of Red Army deserters was extensively organized. Some Latvian DPs were rounded up at the same time—not to mention the Soviet zone where the masters do what they please at all times. Such *manhunts* have also taken place in the American zone. Carrying prepared lists of the homes, Russian and American MPs, accompanied by Austrian police, searched private homes and ordered the listed persons to accompany them to the Soviet HQ. Several Latvians were picked up in this manner.

"One of these 'Red Army deserters' was the daughter of an engineer from Riga. An Austrian policeman came to her quarters and invited her to accompany him 'to the Allied HQ.' In fact, she was taken to a Russian precinct. She was moved to another precinct and was finally placed on board a train for deportation with Russian deserters. She was rescued by her frantic father after an intervention in the American HQ. The news spread and all refugees hastened to leave their habitats until 15 January. The Russian will again assume command on 15 April and surprises are to be expected.

"The home of Dr. Butulis was raided, in his absence, by 3 Russians, 3 Americans and 1 Austrian policeman. Thereafter he went to the American HQ and learned there that *the American HQ was not aware of this occurrence*. Dr. Butulis was advised not to answer the doorbell.

"I called on the American and British DP chiefs. In neither office was I permitted to speak to responsible officers—my interviews were limited to clerks-interpreters. *In the American office I was directly told that Latvia was now a part of Russia* and that I had to return there. I was told that the American representative issued documents to Jewish DPs from Latvia, recommending to the Viennese police to issue a sojourn permit to them. I was asked whether I was a Jew. I was told that no sojourn permit would be issued to me. A notice was published in the newspapers that the American MG had set up workshops in Vienna for DPs. When this Jewish question arose, I saw that it would be useless to attempt to get a job there.

"Russian raids do not occur in the British zone. Unfortunately, American officers and troops know next to nothing about Latvia, and any interested person could abuse this ignorance.

"I was informed by the Austrians that the Russians demanded from the Vienna police precincts information regarding foreigners residing within the respective precincts. In that fashion they obtained the necessary addresses to stage the raids."

2. PRESS RESTRICTIONS

"The military authorities in the U.S. Zone decided to reform the DP press. *The Lithuanians are to have only 4 newspapers*. Newsprint will be released from military stocks and rationing is planned so that *every 5 persons would get one copy of the newspaper*. *These newspapers will not be permitted to circulate in the other zones.*"

/1 August 1946/

3. VISITS OF THE RUSSIANS

A Russian Colonel called at a Baltic DP camp in the British zone on 14th June 1946. He was escorted

by several aides, local UNRRA Team Director and several UNRRA employees. He found the Lithuanian camp leader and began a conversation in Russian.

"Will you call a meeting of your nationals? I would like to talk to them."

—Why not? I have the authority for that.

"Splendid! I could tell you what I would like to talk about. A referendum vote on repatriation was taken in your camp some time ago. We know that about 50% voted favorably. However, the British indicated to us a considerably lesser percentage. Most likely, that data was falsified."

—But, Colonel, I would not advise you to attend the meeting.—

"Why?"—The colonel looked genuinely surprised.

—I shall call a meeting and you may attend, but—will you be able to leave the meeting? That, unfortunately, I cannot guarantee. Supposing you could leave under your own power, but—in what shape or condition?—

"So what about that 50 percent . . . those desiring to go home?"

—Colonel, your data must have been falsified, because *not one person* from this camp wants to repatriate.—

"And you, yourself?"

—I, too.—

"What kind of a patriot are you? We need labor manpower so much!"

—Exactly: it is the patriots who refuse to return.—

The Colonel changed his tack and decided to call on individual quarters. He met a Lithuanian woman.

"Don't you want to return home?—he asked.

—Are you running short of people to deport? In 1941 you exiled sixty thousand people!—

"Well, let it be 60,000. It may have been a mistake. However, a great many things are changed now."

—Changed? Indeed! In 1918 you used to hang and shoot people for wearing goldbraided epaulets. Now you, comrade Colonel, wear wide golden shoulder-boards!—

The Colonel's facial muscles visibly twitched.

—Colonel, you selected a bad day. Look through the window. You see the Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian flags at half-mast? *Today* is the anniversary of the 14th June mass deportations!—

The Colonel exclaimed: "But the British Flag is not at half-mast!"

UNRRA's Jewish employee who understood Russian translated the conversation for the benefit of the Camp Director. Soon thereafter the Union Jack likewise came down to half-mast.

In the next barrack, the Colonel did not stay long: a woman who had just returned from a memorial Mass for the exiles of 14 June 1941 began to search . . . for an axe. . . . Her daughter pacified her and explained to the Colonel that her father was in Siberia, her brother was executed by the Russians. The aides urgently advised the Colonel to leave.

He then called on a Latvian family. The Russian cheerfully greeted his would-be host. The Latvian got up, excused himself before the Britons, violently flung the door wide open and showed the Colonel—OUT!

/ELTA Bulletin, 1 August 1946/

VII. UNRRA AND HUMANITARIANISM

On the record, the UNRRA cannot be blamed for the military regulations, effective in all three Western zones of Germany, limiting the Displaced Persons mails to one of the five languages exclusively: *English, French, German, Russian, or Polish*. However, the refugees themselves, observing the behavior of Mr. LaGuardia during his visits in DP camps and the close contacts between the NKVD and UNRRA's Eastern European employees, entertain no doubts regarding the moral responsibility for this stupid prohibition.

If a Lithuanian refugee, who knows none of the "Big Five" languages, wishes to write to his brother in the United States, he must ask some one who knows one of the master languages to write for him. Eventually, his American brother gets a letter. On opening it, he reads: "*Moy dorogoy brat*" (in Cyrillic characters), or "*Mein lieber Bruder*," or "*Mój miły bracie*," or "*Mon cher frère*." Quite puzzled, he must find some one to identify the language and to translate the letter. Much to his surprise, he learns that "we are forbidden to write you in Lithuanian, but you may write to me in our beloved mother tongue." So, a simple communication between two long-lost brothers requires time, effort and expense—thanks to the prohibition of national languages by the Allied authorities.

It might seem justifiable if, in the American zone, letters were restricted to English and German, on the pretense that no military censors familiar with other languages are available. However, how many Americans know Russian? On the other hand, there are thousands of young Lithuanian Americans in the armed forces, and some of them, at least a number sufficient to fill censorship offices, are familiar with the Lithuanian language. Rather than be sent to duty in Japan, they might be diverted to Germany.

It may be recalled that for 40 years, 1864-1904, the Lithuanian language had been banned by the Russian Tsarist regime. Clandestine schools "beside the mother's spindlewheel," and by traveling tutors, were organized. Prayerbooks, books and newspapers were printed in Germany and the United States, and were smuggled by book carriers into Lithuania to spread all over the country. At least 1,000 persons paid with death, life exile to Siberia, prison terms, severe beatings and fines for these operations—until the Russians became convinced that this inane prohibition merely antagonized the population and trained underground leaders to defy all things Russian.

Consequently, the Lithuanians are "old hands" in underground press and book smuggling (not diamond smuggling): regardless of the Allied ban on the Lithuanian language, thousands of letters reach this country's newspaper offices and individuals.

Why should the Allied authorities stir resentment by imposing the languages of the refugees' oppressors—the German and Russian—upon the masses of liberated refugees?

A series of letters and orders illustrate other inhumanitarian aspects of handling the refugee problem.

1. THE UNITED STATES POLICY UNITED STATES DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, October 11, 1946.

Dear . . .

Thank you for your letter of September 25 and for the copy of the declaration by the Lithuanian American Council on the refugee problem. The fundamental question that you raise, the political freedom of the Baltic States, is, of course, not a question for the Economic and Social Council, on which I represent the United States. So far as the refugees from these states are concerned, however, the Council has just approved a constitution and budget for an International Refugee Organization which will take care of the refugees. As you know, the United States is deeply concerned with the situation of these people and is doing a great deal to help them. You need not fear that any bona-fide refugee will be forced to move against his will. This is one of the fundamental principles of the charter of the Refugee Organization.

JOHN G. WINANT.

2. UNRRA'S FOUR FREEDOMS—GUIDED BY STALIN'S CONSTITUTION

(granting freedom of belief in religion but barring "religious propaganda")

UNITED NATIONS
RELIEF AND REHABILITATION
ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

Oct. 7th, 1946.

Dear Mr.— . . .

Arrangements have, however, been worked out with the Commission for International Educational Reconstruction whereby that Commission, which will serve hereafter as the sole channel between UNRRA and voluntary agencies. . . .

Further negotiations concerning your contribution should therefore be undertaken directly by you with Dr. Harold Snyder, Executive Secretary. . . .

Processing of your contribution will be expedited if you will be good enough to furnish Dr. Snyder with the following information:

1. Language in which the publications are written.
2. Types of publications, e.g., medical, agricultural rehabilitation, history, etc.
3. Statement that the contribution contains *no publication of a religious or political nature*.
4. Statement to the effect that "The supplies referred to . . . are hereby offered as an unconditional contribution to UNRRA for displaced persons' operations in Germany."

Sincerely,

Charles H. Alspach
Acting Director
Repatriation Division.

3. SECRET ORDER "PROTECTING" POLISH DP'S FROM AMERICAN INFLUENCES

(Re-translated from the Polish translation)

UNRRA FRENCH ZONE HEADQUARTERS
No. 15/550 Haslach, 10 October 1946.

To: Messrs. Directors of the Teams.

Subject: Polish American Congress.

We wish to call your attention to a four-man dele-

gation of the Polish American Congress which arrived in Europe to visit the DP camps inhabited by Poles. These delegates represent themselves as spokesmen for all of the Polish Americans, although their activities have a decidedly anti-repatriation character. Therefore, it behooves to *deny access into camps* to these persons who might present themselves in the name of that organization and who might promote confusion in the minds or jeopardize our repatriation program.

Signed: G. E. Seville (or Scholle—not clear)
Assistant Director
Field Operations Department
/Tygodnik Polski, New York, No. 45-50,
15-22 Dec. 1946, p. 23/

4. TOP SECRET ORDER No. 199

Director General Fiorello H. LaGuardia in his report to the UNRRA Council for the period of 1 April-30 June 1946, published at Washington, stated at page 64:

"Repatriation of many more Jews and Balts, unfortunately, must be considered as *out of the question*. . . . Among displaced persons in Germany, there is already in evidence, . . . a definite hard core of what must be categorized as *non-repatriables*, broken down roughly as follows: Jews, 50,000; Balts, 180,000; Soviet citizens, 6,000; Yugoslavs, 24,000; undetermined and mixed, 60,000—totaling 320,000. . . . (Estimates as of 30 April)."

Nevertheless, sadists in responsible positions decided to continue the moral pressure and terror by unleashing Soviet propaganda upon the victims of the Soviet oppression. The reader may recall that such a wave of moral terror has been envisioned in our observations on the IRO draft constitution in the October 1946 issue of the *Lithuanian Bulletin*.

Consequently, UNRRA Director for the U.S. Zone issued a secret Order 199 which is reproduced below. The refugees promptly termed this Order 199 "An American implementation of the Serov Order." The latter gave detailed instructions regarding the manner of carrying out the mass deportations of the indigenous populations of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, "without panic or noise," after carefully laying the groundwork.

The reader might find it profitable to study the contents of both these orders. The Serov order was published in: (a) *An Appeal to Fellow Americans*; (b) E. J. Harrison's *Lithuania's Fight for Freedom*; and (c) the January 1946 issue of the *Lithuanian Bulletin*. All of these publications are available at the Lithuanian American Information Center.

Every one in authority denied the existence of Order 199. Nevertheless, after emphatic representations by the State Department, UNRRA revoked the said order as of 31 December 1946.

UNRRA U.S. ZONE HEADQUARTERS HEIDELBERG

11 November 1946.

Administrative Order No. 199

SUBJECT: Repatriation of Persons who lived within the boundaries of U.S.S.R. prior to 1 September 1939 and persons from Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and the Ukraine.

REFERENCES:

1. UNRRA Council Resolutions Nos. 71, 92, 99.
2. Administrative Order No. 181, "Screening of DPs—Eligibility", dated 18.X.46.
3. Administrative Order No. 177, "Polish Repatriation Drive," dated 16.X.46. and all references listed thereon.
4. Administrative Order No. 147, "Distribution of Newspapers Received Through National Liaison Officers," dated 5 September 1946.
5. Administrative Order No. 146, "Screening of DPs Eligibility," dated 18 October 1946.
6. Administrative Order No. 113, "Screening of DPs Eligibility," dated 22 July 1946.
7. Administrative Order No. 99, "Repatriation-Implementation of UNRRA Council Resolution No. 92, Staff Responsibility," dated 29 June 1946.
8. Administrative Order No. 33, "Privileges of Soviet Liaison Officers in Displaced Persons Camps other than wholly Soviet," dated 23 March 1946.
9. General Bulletin No. 112, "Anti-Repatriation Activity," dated 5 September 1946.
10. General Bulletin No. 18, "Privileges of Soviet Liaison Officers in Displaced Persons Camps other than wholly Soviet," dated 17 April 1946.
11. Third U.S. Army Directive A.G. 211 GNMCS "Privileges of Soviet Liaison Officers in Displaced Persons Camps other than wholly Soviet," dated 10.IV.46.
12. Third U.S. Army Directive AG 211-GNMCS "Privileges of Soviet Liaison Officers in Displaced Persons Camps other than wholly Soviet," dated 8 March 1946.
13. USFET Letter AG 383 7 GEC-AGED, "Repatriation of Soviet Citizens Subject to Repatriation Under the Yalta Agreement," dated 4 January 1946.
14. USFET Letter GEC 383-7. "Determination and Reporting of Nationalities," dated 16 November 1945.

1. Repatriation Policy

- A. UNRRA and military authorities are in agreement on the advisability for speedy return of the greatest possible number of displaced persons to their homeland as quickly as possible. This policy represents the substance of resolutions under which UNRRA now operates and is in keeping with the Yalta Agreement, and the projected plans and draft Constitution for an International Refugee Organization. In an effort to repatriate the subject nationalities the closest cooperation between all echelons of UNRRA, but particularly Repatriation and Eligibility Officers, with the U.S. Army authorities must be maintained.
- B. The District Directors will initiate through their Repatriation Officers, on or before 25 November, a repatriation program for all of the subject nationalities and will hold all field services responsible for assistance. Eligibility Officers, in particular, will plan their activities with the view to implementation of applicable sections of this Administrative Order.

2. Definition "Statelessness"

For the purpose of this Administrative Order, the term "Stateless persons" in relation to persons of Russian origin, means only those who acquired protection of the League of Nations by negotiation with national governments, did not enjoy the protection of the U.S.S.R. prior to the outbreak of the second World War and did not acquire another nationality or if having acquired another nationality after having received protection of the League of Nations, have since lost it and are eligible for UNRRA assistance.

Most of the Stateless persons of Russian origin refugees from Russia after the first World War, formerly lived in Czechoslovakia, the Balkan countries, and France. These persons are not nationals of the Soviet Union.

3. Repatriation Program

The following outline is designed to be a skeleton order of operational and repatriational procedure within which workable repatriation plans may be built. It is general in nature, therefore allowing for the different approaches which will be necessary in dealing with the three main nationality groups, namely:

- (1) Baltics,
- (2) Polish Ukrainians, and
- (3) Soviet citizens, who lived within the boundaries of U.S.S.R. prior to 1 September 1939.

(1) Each camp will be examined closely by District Directors together with their Repatriation and Eligibility Officers with the end in view of the implementations of General Bulletin No. 112 and its references. In many instances it may be *advisable to examine camps jointly with the appropriate military authorities. The leaders or residents engaging in anti-repatriation activity will be dealt with in accordance with existing procedure. Leadership taking an adamant anti-repatriation attitude to the extent it influences individual decisions will be transferred to centers containing groups considered to be non-repatriable at this time.*

(2) Following this review and action resulting therefrom, as rapidly as is practicable, nationality camps will be established and population sorted and shifted thereto, i.e., 1) Baltics, 2) Polish Ukrainians and 3) Soviet citizens, who lived in the U.S.S.R. prior to 1 September 1939 and/or 4) Any other odd Soviet nationals, i.e., Ruthenians, Armenians, etc.

All Stateless persons of Russian origin and/or those claiming, with proof, to be "old emigres" from Russia will be maintained in centers containing non-repatriable groups, and no effort will be expended for their repatriation.

(3) In Camps where the District Directors, District Repatriation Officers, Area Directors, and Repatriation Officers agree that conditions have been so corrected or are under such leadership or influence that corrective action is unnecessary and therefore that a repatriation program is possible, small groups of influential persons in the camp will be selected to discuss and consider their repatriation and their responsibility for carrying the discussion forward to the general population of the camps. *Soviet Liaison Officers who are natives of most of the area concerned, are now, or will be available. At such time as deemed ad-*

visable by the Area Director meetings with small groups and these officers should be held in accordance with proper procedure to answer questions, provide information and discuss the mechanics of actual repatriation.

(4) *After careful preparation of the ground work (which may include the display and use of the statements of General McNarney and Mr. La Guardia, together with other current information concerning the lack of emigrational opportunities for any significant numbers of persons and the uncertain plans of the scope of the I.R.O., meeting with the military and liaison officers concerned), Soviet proclamations, literature, films and newspapers will be distributed. Some such material is now available for distribution and additional material has been promised by Soviet officials. Cultural activities will be utilized and turned toward the theme of repatriation, and every opportunity will be utilized by Repatriation Officers to assist the people in their re-evaluation of their life plans and in their serious consideration of taking advantage of repatriation opportunities now offered.*

(5) Every advantage must be taken to utilize the sentiments of persons who accept repatriation. This will call for alertness on the part of Repatriation officers and Area Directors. *As the program gains momentum the experience of mass appeal already gained in the Polish Repatriation Drive can be brought to fruition with these nationalities.*

The propitious time for the use of emotional devices will be left to the judgement of the District Officers and Area Teams. It is emphasized that the probable inadvisability of using such devices at this time is a matter of judgement by the local administration. The problem facing Repatriation Officers is one calling for careful planning and penetrating analysis of each camp community, its leadership, and its existing social, psychological and political controls. The skillful Repatriation Officer will change the present drift of camp populations thinking in terms of fear of returning home and nebulous dreaming of emigration, to one of calm consideration of alternatives and acceptance of repatriation.

(6) Special status with UNRRA will be accorded repatriates in all camp affairs and priorities for basic needs will be arranged on existing stocks of clothing and amenity supplies.

(7) Lists of Soviet citizens who lived in the U.S.S.R. prior to 1 September 1939 and determined to be Soviet citizens by military authorities (Screening teams or Army Review Board) and receiving UNRRA care will be forwarded to UNRRA District Headquarters by the 1 December 1946, where they will be consolidated and then transmitted to U. S. Zone Headquarters, who in turn can transmit them to G. 5 Third U. S. Army for ultimate transmission to the Soviet Liaison Mission.

(8) The advisability of holding mass meetings to consider repatriation, or for the purpose of meeting with Soviet Liaison Officer, is questionable. Such meetings provide a medium for dissidents, hecklers, and anti-repatriation organizers. Unless the ground-work is well laid, the meetings may result in emotional mob action perpetrated by anti-repatriation elements.

(9) The importance of the attitude of UNRRA personnel towards their jobs must be fully appreciated if this program is to meet with success. Displaced persons observe carefully the opinions and actions of team members. Occurrences of anti-repatriation attitudes being expressed to displaced persons, of anti-repatriation activity of any degree, or of failure to accord Liaison Officers respect due allied personnel will be reported by District Directors directly to the Home Director.

4. Political and other Questions

The effect of rumor, political and otherwise, upon repatriation is well known. This problem must be handled in a rational and objective manner. All questions which are of this nature which are deterring repatriation should be submitted to Soviet Liaison Officers. Such questions which are not satisfactorily handled in this manner should be channeled through the District Repatriation Officer to the Zone Repatriation Officer in order that they may be submitted to the Soviet Liaison Mission for official reply.

5. Procedure for Repatriation

As individuals, or groups signify their intention to return to their homelands, they will be sent to the Soviet repatriation centers now in operation at Lichtenau, near Ansbach; Hersfeld near Fulda and at Stuttgart. These centers are operated by Soviet authorities under the supervision of the U. S. Army. They are voluntary collection points. The transfer point for Soviet nationals from the U. S. Zone is at Hof.

6. Procedure for obtaining services of Soviet Liaison Officers

The services of the Soviet Liaison Officers will be obtained in the following manner:

- A. The visit of a Soviet Liaison Officer to an UNRRA operated camp will be requested by the Area Team Director or Repatriation Officer through the District Director.
- B. The District Director will request military authorities to accompany the Liaison Officer to the Center in the manner prescribed in current military directives.
- C. This does not preclude the Soviet Liaison Officer from making his own request of the Area Team Director in the prescribed manner, but does provide the proper channel for the coordination of the repatriation program by the District Director.
- D. Any "acts of disorder, violence, disrespect or insult toward Soviet Officers or any other behavior which might incite disorder" is a violation of Military Government regulation. In accordance with latter, Headquarters Third U.S. Army, 10 April 1946, amending A.O. 211 GNMCS Subject "Privileges of Soviet Liaison Officers in DP Camps other than wholly Soviet" the Area Team Director shall request the U.S. military authorities to proceed with arrest on the spot. Such a notice shall be displayed prominently in the appropriate languages in all centers housing the subject nationalities.

7. Relationships with Soviet Liaison Officers

Provisions laid down by the U. S. Army for working with Soviet Liaison Officers are summarized for guidance of UNRRA personnel. Basic documents are listed in references. All employees or camp leaders who may have occasion to come into contact with Liaison Officers should be thoroughly aware of UNRRA's responsibilities and the U. S. Army's regulations.

- A. *Visits to Camp*: Any accredited Soviet Liaison Officer may visit UNRRA operated camps in order to contact, for purposes of repatriation, any of the nationalities specified in this order.
- B. *U. S. Army Representatives*: Soviet Liaison Officers may only visit UNRRA operated camp when accompanied by a U. S. Army representative.
- C. *Interviewing DPs*: Interviewing of DPs either singly or in groups, may take place in the presence of a U. S. Army representative, and UNRRA official will assist in arranging such contacts. Attendance at such meetings must be on a voluntary basis but DPs should be encouraged to attend to hear what the Liaison Officers have to say.
- D. *Lists of Soviet Citizens*: Only lists of persons determined by U. S. military authorities to be Soviet citizens may be furnished Soviet Liaison Officers. UNRRA officials will cooperate with military authorities in preparing and submitting such lists.
- E. *House Calls*: The Liaison Officer has the privilege of making house calls to inquire regarding the residents in each house but they shall not be permitted to demand entrance, interview or seizure.
- F. *Use of force or Coercion*: No force, or coercion will be used in order to accomplish interviews, calls or meetings. Relationships are to be maintained on a voluntary basis at all times.

8. Soviet Liaison Officers Now in the Field

The following officers are now in the field:

Name of Officer	Nationality	U.S. Army Attachment
Lt. Col. A. K. Oreshkin Phone No. 6266	Russian	Heidelberg (TUSA)
Lt. Col. Lukst Phone No. 2340	Latvian	Regensburg (1st Div.)
Maj. U. G. Procudin Phone No. Lichtenau 30	Russian	Lichteneau (1st Div.)
Capt. C. Pavlov Phone No. 2300	Russian	Regensburg (1st Div.)
Maj. Sergei M. Chernow Phone No. 2711	Russian	Munich (9th Div.)
Capt. E. V. Leibert Phone No. 50598	Latvian	Stuttgart (9th Div.)
Lt. Col. L. A. Berezenskias Phone No. 2711	Lithuanian	Munich (9th Div.)
Capt. E. E. Savaliev Phone No. 3602	Russian	Fulda (Dist. II)
Capt. F. H. Lepa Phone No. 3602	Latvian	Fulda (Dist. II)

J. H. WHITING
Zone Director.

5. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

(a) *BEFORE*: U. S. Position on IRO—Statement by the U. S. Representative, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, before Committee 3 of the General Assembly at Lake Success on 8 November 1946:

... Hower, it would be foreign to our conception of democracy to force repatriation on any human being. ...

The Pilgrims, the Huguenots, and the Germans of 1848 came to us in search of political and religious freedom and a wider economic opportunity. They built the United States.

These people now in displaced-persons camps are kin to those early settlers of ours, and many of them might have relatives in the United States.

... I should like to say that Mr. Vyshynsky's view that no assistance should be given to those who for valid reasons decide not to return to their countries of origin is inconsistent with the unanimous decision of the General Assembly ... of February 12, 1946. ...

Mr. Vyshynsky says that this problem is very simple. It can be solved by repatriating all the displaced persons. ... I think this point of view fails to take into consideration the facts of political change in countries of origin which have created fears in the minds of the million persons, who remain, of such a nature that they choose miserable life in camps in preference to the risks of repatriation.

... Now we come to the point which Mr. Vyshynsky made that *all propaganda should be suppressed in the camps*. He challenges us on the point that under the guise of freedom of expression propaganda hostile to the countries of origin is tolerated. On this point I am afraid we hold very different ideas. ... *We, in the United States, tolerate opposition* provided it does not extend to the point of advocacy of the overthrow of government by force. Unless the right of opposition is conceded, it seems to me that there is very little possibility that countries with different conceptions of democracy can live together without friction in the same world. ...

... But since he asked *who these people are*, I should like out of my own experience to mention a few. I visited two camps near Frankfurt, where the majority of people had come from *Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania*. I have received innumerable petitions. My mail today carried three from people in different countries, felt that they did not wish to return. *That does not mean that they do not love their country; it simply means that they prefer the country as it was before they left it*. That country they feel no longer belongs to them. I gather that Mr. Vyshynsky felt that anyone who did not wish to return under the present form of government must of necessity be Fascist. I talked to a great many of *these people* who do not strike as Fascist, and the assumption that people do not wish to return to the country of their origin because these countries are now under what is called a democratic form of government does not seem to allow for certain differences in the understanding of the word *democracy*. As Mr. Vyshynsky uses, it would seem that *democracy is synonymous with Soviet*, or at least a fairly similar conception of political and economic questions. ...

... The intent of the exemptions is to cover those who were forced to perform slave labor or who may have rendered humanitarian assistance, such as assistance to wounded civilians. Mr. Vyshynsky proposes to exclude all those who assasited in any manner. Under such language those merely present in any occu-

pied area forced by necessity of survival to perform any form of work or service within the German economy would be considered to have assisted the enemy and would thus be excluded. This would result in *cruel hardship on many*. ...

I sincerely regret having to speak in opposition to some of Mr. Vyshynsky's views. But he will recall that in London there were some things which *because of the fundamental beliefs I hold*, I had to stand on. *I felt strongly about them and I still do*. ...

/The Department of State BULLETIN, vol. XV, No. 386, November 24, 1946, pp. 935-938./

(b) AND AFTER:

New York City
December 31, 1946.

My dear ...:

I see nothing wrong with Order No. 199. It carries out the procedure set down in the New International Refugee Organization's constitution. Repatriation comes first but no force is to be used and resettlement only for those who have valid reasons.

Yours very sincerely,

Eleanor Roosevelt.

6. VANDENBERG ON ORDER 199

UNITED STATES SENATE
Washington, D.C.

December 28, 1946.

... I have not seen the UNRRA order to which you refer. If it contemplates any such possibilities as you describe I would share your anxiety about it. I shall inquire into the situation at once. It has been my understanding that the official American attitude—from start to finish—respecting displaced "persons" in Europe has been in complete *opposition* to involuntary repatriation. That certainly is *my position* "from start to finish."

A. H. Vandenberg.

7. HENRY WALES' REPORT ON ORDER 199

PARIS, Dec. 16 (1946)—A peremptory Kremlin demand on the United States to carry out an agreement reached by Roosevelt and Stalin at Yalta was revealed today.

This writer obtained a verbatim copy of a confidential memorandum issued by UNRRA providing for the surrender to the Red Army of Russians, Balts and Poles who have sought safety from the NKVD in displaced persons camps in the American zone in Germany.

It is top secret Order No. 199, dated Nov. 11 last, and is signed by Jack Whiting, UNRRA director at the American zone headquarters in Heidelberg. It implements the Yalta agreement by *direction of F. H. LaGuardia*, although both the Paris director of UNRRA, British General W. Fraser and UNRRA general headquarters at Arolsen, near Kassel, denied its existence. ...

/N. Y. Daily News, 17 December 1946, p. 22./

8. THE ORDER'S AUTHOR REMOVED

FRANKFURT, Jan. 7 (1947) (AP)—Paul B. Edwards of Aberdeen, S. D., has been appointed director of UNRRA's displaced persons operations in the American zone of Germany, Myer Cohen, acting chief of UNRRA operations for Germany, announced today.

Edwards, formerly deputy chief of the UNRRA mission in Czecho-Slovakia, will succeed John H. Whiting, effective January 12.

/N. Y. Sun, 1 January 1947, p. 1/

9. VYSHYNSKY, PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF ORDER 199

... The Soviet Government is disturbed by the fate of ... the hundreds of thousands of people ... as a result of military events. ... The difficult position of these people is aggravated by the fact that they are subjected to *constant political pressure* ... against their countries of nationality, ... to make use of them as instruments in aggressive designs and plans. ... All possible means are being used in regard to these refugees and displaced persons—*deceit* in regard to some, *coercion and terror* to others.

One cannot reconcile oneself to such a situation. The United Nations must at long last take a decision on the question of refugees which would put an end to the well founded dissatisfaction which is aroused by the abnormal and inadmissible situation in this matter. The question of refugees is a question of great international significance both in scope and character.

... Persons who do not desire to return home for some reason or other and mainly because of their hostility towards the new democratic conditions in their countries and towards the new democratic governments. *They cannot, of course, be compelled to return to their native lands.* There are not a few such persons and their repatriation should, naturally, be on a voluntary basis. *That is indisputable.* ...

... Propaganda ... is widely organized. ... This propaganda is conducted by various official and semi-official organizations and committees who are acting with the knowledge of the Allied occupation authorities. ...

This state of affairs in camps is a natural consequence of the presence among the camp administrative authorities of people hostile to the cause of democracy ... after the end of the second world war in a number of countries, whose citizens are in refugee camps. ...

This being the situation in refugee camps, there is nothing unexpected in the fact that *the refugees and displaced persons who are forced to stay in these camps find themselves deprived of all rights and placed in an extremely difficult position.*

Quite recently a dispatch in the New York Times of October 26, 1946, reported that violence was being done to Polish refugees. ... Hugh Gray stated.

"These soldiers carrying out control appeared to think they were dealing with criminals rather than human beings and although I have seen many train controls I have never witnessed anything as brutal as this one. The damage to American prestige is incalculable."

Supplementary reports ... by Miss F. R. Hartnett of UNRRA, said that the soldiers (of the 66th Constabulary) had been armed with fixed bayonets and that two displaced persons had suffered bayonet wounds during the period of "chaos" caused by the constabulary.

UNRRA reports ... depict bad conditions, including insufficient nourishment, lack of heating, in which

the refugees had to travel under American protection. Can such a situation but cause serious concern in respect to the so-called refugee camps? ...

There are facts of truly criminal treatment of ... the refugees ... citizens of the Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian Republics, efforts are being made to put them in the position of stateless persons. Tens of thousands of these refugees are subjected to unfair and brutal treatment ... troopers holding a secure position in these camps, enjoying the support of the administration and feeling complete immunity for any crimes the victims of which are refugees ... are actually staging man-hunts. ... In a number of cases ... people ... are simply expelled from the camp with a warning that the administration is not responsible for their lives. ...

This is happening *before everybody's eyes. All this encourages rowdyism and banditism against honest people loyal to their country who cannot reconcile themselves to such an outrageous state of affairs ... this slough of club-law and crime.*

The great evil ... is the brutal and systematic pressure exercised upon the refugees in the form of propaganda which is being conducted under the direct protection and direct assistance on the part of camp authorities.

The Soviet Delegation has repeatedly raised this question, insisting that the camps for refugees and displaced persons should be closed to any propaganda. ... Effective measures against propaganda ... would considerably improve the state of affairs. ... The most important argument put forward ... is that restriction of propaganda ... is a violation of the freedom of propaganda, freedom of speech, press, etc.

But *do threats, intimidation, bullying often followed by physical violence have anything in common with freedom? ... Do you not think that an appeal to renounce one's native country ... is a crime and a most serious crime at that?* To justify such crimes and to request immunity for such criminals *behind a screen of loud phrases ... means ... encouraging such crimes, thus becoming an instigator and inspirer of such crimes.*

Words are being spoken about freedom and democracy. ... It is forgotten ... that propaganda of this nature is not simply an abstract exposition of certain theoretical principles, which in fact do not have any practical significance. No, *propaganda which is now under discussion, is a sermon, a call for practical action and criminal action at that; it is a false and fraudulent misrepresentation of facts, it is deceit and blackmail depending on the credulity of people who are often politically inexperienced and simple-minded at that.* ...

... A veritable struggle is in progress around repatriation, a struggle which is often stubborn and fierce, but which is always unequal since ... they are not allowed to provide truthful information and the representatives of the government particularly interested in their fellow-countrymen simply have no access to camps.

In this state of affairs how can one speak of the freedom of propaganda? Clearly, there can be no question of the freedom of speech in this case.

Under such circumstances and before such facts

there is no room for harrangues . . . which in reality serve as a screen for . . . those who seek their sinister political aims by coercion, threats and violence. . . . It is a question of putting an end to such . . . form of pressure on people who have been . . . deprived of their families and means of existence. Such propaganda represents a threat to the peace and security of nations. It is a question of putting a stop to such propaganda in refugee camps; it is directed against the most elementary human rights as natural as nature itself, and above all against the right to serve one's country, to work for one's country, to live and to die for her. . . .

The Soviet Delegation moves the following proposal. . . .

"4. . . . administration of the camps shall be designated under the control of the United Nations Organization in agreement with the governments of the countries whose nationals represent the majority of persons in a particular camp."

/Text of the speech by Andrei Y. Vyshynsky in Committee III of the U. N. General Assembly, made 6 November 1946—the official English translation distributed by the Soviet Delegation to other Delegations, not to the press./

P.S.—An apology is due to comrade Vyshynsky for using the extracts of his speech in defense of a thesis directly opposed to Mr. Whiting's Order No. 199 and to comrade Vyshynsky's actual desires.

These quotations merely tend to show that words "Democracy," etc., are understood differently in this country and in the U.S.S.R. Comrade Vyshynsky's above cited words were spoken in support of the Soviet demand for an order à la UNRRA Order 199—but, with tables turned, these seemingly splendid words serve to condemn that Order and its Gestapo-NKVD mentality.

The Russians have a proverb: "Not everything that shines is gold." His own words, coupled with the deeds of his fellow NKVD agents and American "fellow travelers," excellently illustrate that proverb.

10. POST-UNRRA ORDER 199

(a) 11 November 1946 at Augsburg.—In order to encourage "repatriation," the authorities conceived a naive plan of sending delegations from DP camps to the Baltic States. UNRRA Team Director Mack Wischek was probably the first official to try out this plan.

Nationality mass meetings were held to elect such delegates. No delegates were elected, inasmuch as the Balts deemed that they had sufficient practical knowledge of bolshevism.

On 11 November representatives of the Baltic Committees were invited to a conference with Col. Gardener, 9th Division officer for DP affairs. The following report is based on a translation from the Lithuanian.

Gardener: What do you say regarding Director Wischek's proposal to send a delegation to the Baltic States?

DP Spokesman: Each nationality held meetings to discuss the proposal, and all participants unanimously resolved against it. The reasons are explained in the memorandum submitted herewith.

Gardener: (after reading) Is this your individual

opinion and determination, or do your fellow nationals think the same way?

DP: These opinions were expressed at the meetings and, consequently, they represent the views of all Balts.

Gardener: Do you fully represent your nationals and in which manner have you been elected to represent them?

DP: Yes, we represent our nationals and we were elected by secret, direct and equal ballot.

Gardener: Is there no one among all of you who would take part in this delegation?

DP: No one declared a desire.

Gardener: What do you suppose should be believed: what one sees with his own eyes, or what is printed in unofficial publications, such as "The Reader's Digest?"

DP: What one sees is more reliable than what one reads.

Gardener: Well, then, why don't you wish to see the entire truth with your own eyes?

DP: We saw enough of bolshevism in 1940 and 1941.

Gardener: Don't you think that bolshevism might have changed its form, just as many other things in the world have changed recently?

DP: We have information to the effect that the change has turned to the worse.

Gardener: How do you know that?

DP: By various ways we received a series of letters which show that the situation in our countries is really terrible.

Gardener: Would you be afraid to travel under a strong guard in a guaranteed expedition wherein I would participate?

DP: This is not a matter of fear. It is simply the knowledge that bolshevism rules in our countries.

Gardener: In short, your answer is "NO"?

DP: Correct—"No".

Gardener: Are you really convinced in that?

DP: Yes. All of us, and firmly.

Gardener: What measures, in your opinion, should be undertaken to expedite the repatriation of the Balts?

DP: If the independence of the Baltic States be reconstituted—no measures would be necessary. The refugees would simply run to their homes.

Gardener: Is everything clear to you?

DP: Yes, everything is clear to us.

Gardener: Everything is also clear to me. I wish to ask you but one thing: if any volunteers should desire to take part in the delegation, please do not obstruct them.

DP: We shall not obstruct them. However, we must state that, should such persons be found, they would be individuals and not delegates of the refugee communities enjoying the confidence of all.

Gardener: That is understood. It cannot be otherwise. We shall end the conversation at this time. However, if in the future you should change your opinion, the conversation may be renewed at any moment whatsoever.

DP: Thank you very much. However, we think that our opinion will not change.

Gardener: But I think that, after what you may have to go through, your opinion might change.

(b) Latvian NKVD Visitor.

Regardless of whether Mr. LaGuardia likes it or not, the UNRRA is more or less infested with bolshevik agents. The provision of Order 199 to the effect that insults towards Soviet officers must be punished by arrest on the spot—gives opportunities for the NKVD to interpret as "insult" anything the DPs might say, and the NKVD officer's word is law to some UNRRA officials.

The *Politruks* already visited Bad Mergentheim Baltic Camp and Heidelberg Baltic Students Camp. No incidents occurred. A few days ago, NKVD Major E. V. Leibert visited the Latvian camp at Esslingen.

This is the largest Latvian DP Camp in Germany. It houses more than 6,000 persons. *Politruk* Leibert called at this camp in company of UNRRA and U.S. Army officers and presented himself as "Major Liberts," a Latvian, a native of Madona township. The meeting was attended by more than 500 people.

The Soviet officer urged the Latvians to "come home"—no fear should be entertained by those who were not collaborators of the Nazis. He assured that the Latvian legionaries, taken prisoner by the Soviets when Kurzeme surrendered, "are presently doing reconstruction work in their ravaged country."

The DPs inquired why many legionaries had been hanged publicly in Riga and why masses of civilians are being deported to Siberia. The *Politruk* called such information "Lies". He said that "no one could escape from Latvia" and, consequently, no one could have given authentic information. As for Siberia—the *Politruk* said that life in Siberia is much the same as in Riga, Moscow or Leningrad.

A Latvian then reminded the Major that the public hangings were announced by the Madona radio station and the people here heard it. Major Leibert ignored this, but continued to talk. Jobs in the factories, offices and fields await the repatriates, because there is a severe shortage of qualified workers. *The war had claimed one million Latvian lives.* The DPs quickly took up the theme: *in what manner so many lives had been lost?* The Major elected to pass off the inquiry in silence.

Finally, one DP asked the "\$64 question": "Please tell me,—is Novikov still on the job?"

Major Leibert answered: "Yes, he's in office."

Immediately there was a great tumult in the hall and people began leaving the meeting. The UNRRA Camp Director and the officers inquired why the people were leaving this "informative meeting."

The Latvians explained: "To the Latvians, Novikov is what Himmler used to be in Germany. By Novikov's orders, thousands of Latvians lost their lives."

/NAUJIENOS, 9 January 1947, p. 4./

11. UNRRA'S OWN "POLITICAL SCREENING"

(a) AUGSBURG-HOCHFELD.—On 23 December 1946 Mr. J. Cox, Vice-Director of UNRRA Team 1062, summoned Baltic DP Committeemen and told them that an "eligibility screening" would be started shortly in order to facilitate "emigration" and weed out "collaborators" unnoticed by the Army screeners.

Documentary evidence would be decisive, and appeals would have to be presented within 72 hours.

On 3 January 1947 it was announced that the screening would start on 7th January. Those refusing to submit to the screening would be evicted. Nationality Committees were directed to prepare the lists of expellable persons. It was stressed that the UNRRA was not satisfied with the Army's screening, additional 25 questions would now be stressed. Mr. Cox refused to give out a sample questionnaire. The screening board would be made up of: chairman Mr. Cox, two Poles (Jews), two Ukrainians, two Lithuanians, and one Latvian. All of the DP members would be selected by the UNRRA directly, without consulting the committees.

The Balts sent delegations to Munich and Frankfurt.

In Munich, Major *Could* told the delegates that the UNRRA had no right to conduct a political screening, except to collect emigration data. A memorandum containing 3,600 signatures of the Baltic DPs was handed to him.

The second delegation submitted to Colonel Gardner a memorandum signed by 4,800 persons. The latter stated that the UNRRA was authorized to review the materials assembled during the Army's screening, but that no new questions could be asked. Col. Gardner said that the contemplated screening had no connection with emigration and that the UNRRA had no right to deprive a single person of his DP status.

In consequence of these delegations, UNRRA Team Director Wischek and his aide, Mr. Cox, called Baltic Committeemen for a conference on 6 January. Mr. Wischek expressed surprise at the Balts' opposition. He claimed that the contemplated action was not a screening: it was simply an "eligibility review," conducted for the DPs' own benefit in order to facilitate emigration. If the DPs do not want to be left stranded in Germany—they must consent to this test which will eliminate some elements. Otherwise, he would consider that all of the DPs desired to remain in Germany.

On 7th January Mr. Cox and Camp Director Mooney announced to DP delegates that the word "screening" was being improperly applied to the "eligibility test" for emigration in consequence of the visit of a Brazilian commission and the impending visit of a Canadian commission. Delegates of the immigration countries naturally want to have pertinent data regarding the prospective immigrants' education and political past. It is only natural that a great many questions of a political nature are included in the questionnaire: every country avoids people of uncertain past. Mr. Mooney said that he had lived in Canada many years and that, if he desired to go there again, he would still have to answer the very questions propounded in the questionnaire. He urged to consider the case of UNRRA Team Director, Mr. Wischek: the latter married an Estonian girl and there are a great many obstacles to her entry to the United States. He assured that the UNRRA does not aim at evictions.

Mr. Cox stated that UNRRA U.S. Zone Director Whiting asked the Army, on 22 July 1946, to permit

the eligibility tests in the camps. The consent was granted on 3 August 1946. The questions? "50% of the questions are the same as in the army's screening, 30% regarding professions and trades, and 20% entirely new questions."

Mr. Mooney spoke up again. The UNRRA has its instructions. It is desired to determine who came to Germany voluntarily. Persons submitting documents of doubtful value would be subject to arrest, without the right to appeal. Persons under 15 would not be questioned. However, parents would have to submit the birth records of their children.

The screening began at 9 A.M. on 8th January. Ten persons of each nationality were called daily. The interrogation was conducted in English, Russian and German exclusively, regardless of the lack of knowledge of these languages by the DP concerned. No interpreters were assigned. The answers were not written down as given, and arguments ensued. Persons of one nationality were invariably questioned by persons of a different nationality, viz., a Lithuanian was questioned by a Latvian, Pole or Jew, etc. If the person was not imprisoned, he was not deemed to be a "persecutee." Documents written in the national language of the country of origin were summarily rejected. Men were disrobed and examined for SS marks.

The Balts were disgusted with the entire process and appealed to USFET, on 10 January.

"On the basis of your permission to solicit your help in the case that the UNRRA Area-Team 1062 should launch a new political screening, we beg to inform you of . . . a new screening with far-reaching implications.

"1. New questionnaires are being used. These are printed, comprise six pages and contain questions that are entirely different from those used in the Army screening. . . .

"2. . . . The date of entry into the American Zone (question 32) is asked, although this can have no connection with the DP status. *Addresses of the relatives in the home country must be given, although such information, if it leaks out, may endanger said relatives.* Some questions (e.g. No. 24 "When were you taken war prisoner by the Germans?") seem to refer to Russian nationals. . . . Another question is incomprehensible: "When did you enter territory occupied by the German army?"

"3. All camp inhabitants from age of 15 years must appear at the screening. Children are interrogated in the absence of parents about events that took place when they were 8-10 years old. Individual questionings last for nearly two hours. Men must undress . . . during the first four days only 35 persons of each nationality have received the summons.

" . . . The questionnaires are being filled out, not by the persons concerned, but by a staff of various nationals, some of whom are ignorant of the Baltic languages . . . a Baltic national must answer questions in Russian or German or English . . . and the answers thus given are put down in English by writers whose knowledge of English is obviously imperfect. . . . There is a tendency, on a part of the examiners, to favour certain answers, and several cases are known where the writer has put down answers different from

those the examined had given . . . several statements by examinees are enclosed herewith. . . .

"The UNRRA Area-Team 1062 claims that this eligibility screening has been organized for purposes of resettlement and emigration. Yet most of the questions asked can have no possible connection with resettlement and emigration. At the same time, the questionnaire used is remarkable for the absence of questions . . . unavoidable if resettlement or emigration were contemplated (for instance, questions about foreign languages spoken).

"In our former writing, we pointed out that the "perpetual screening," which has now lasted nearly one year, has been a source of mental suffering. *Even the Germans are entrusted with their own de-nazification. But the Baltic nationals, citizens of neutral countries, are being screened by people who are ignorant of our history and our psychology.* . . .

" . . . We beseech you, in the name of Christianity and American Democracy, and in the name of the Atlantic Charter, which promised us freedom from fear, to take steps that this new screening should be immediately discontinued. . . . Trusting in the American sense of Justice, we remain . . ."

(b) *POLITICAL SURVEY OF ANTI-SOVIET DPs IS HALTED. Army Curbs Collecting of Data Valuable to Russia and Poles by UNRRA.* By Edwin Hartrich.

FRANKFURT AM MAIN, Jan. 25.—Political cross-examination of anti-Soviet Polish and Baltic displaced persons by certain teams of the UNRRA has been halted at the request of the U. S. Army headquarters here. . . . The questioning possibly had been designed to obtain information valuable to the governments at Warsaw and Moscow.

Certain unidentified UNRRA teams in the American zone have "exceeded their authority" in subjecting Poles and . . . Baltic nationals . . . to detailed political examinations, the spokesman said.

For example, these DPs were asked to give the names and addresses of relatives and friends still living in Communist-dominated Poland . . . Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Baltic DPs in the Augsburg camp were asked to fill out personnel records containing 57 questions, many of which were "highly political," the spokesman explained.

When this uncoordinated political survey was brought to the attention of Paul Edwards, newly appointed UNRRA director for the American zone, he promptly stopped it. Army headquarters said the people in the DP camps have been seriously alarmed by the questioning.

It is understood that American headquarters objected to this wholesale canvassing because of the basic security threat involved. If the information demanded of the Poles, for instance, were to fall into the hands of the Moscow and Warsaw governments, *these DPs might be blackmailed into becoming secret agents of Russia and Poland.*

Army headquarters, meanwhile, is warily watching the actions of approximately 40,000 Polish Jews now temporarily located along the Polish-Czech frontiers. . . . This strategy is based on the belief that the more of the Jews who become the responsibility of the Western powers, the more embarrassed the Western

powers will become, in view of the tense Palestine situation. . . .

/The N. Y. Herald Tribune, 25 January 1947, p. 1, col. 7./

12. "DEFEAT IN VICTORY"

Frankfort am Main (Inter-Catholic Press Agency), 29 January 1947—The Polish Lower Barracks Center in Murnau is under the administration of UNRRA Team 1064. The director is Mrs. Kayser, a British citizen.

On January 7, the camp received an order of *evacuation*. It was 16° below zero. The inmates refused to leave, referring to an order of the occupation authorities which forbids evacuation in freezing weather.

In spite of this, a directive of the American transport officer was posted in the camp, announcing that, if the inmates did not leave voluntarily, the camp would receive no food.

The next day *no food* was distributed, except milk for children. The camp was surrounded by American soldiers. *Light and water were cut off, as well as heating. Mothers, who went to get milk for the children, had their jugs knocked out of their hands.*

The inmates of the camp reacted to these repressive measures by posting signs "UNRRA CONCENTRATION CAMP." . . .

As a result, an *American general* arrived at the camp, and *ordered forcible evacuation*. American soldiers entered the living quarters and forced the people *at bayonet point*. In the ensuing excitement *a child was killed. The physician was not allowed to give medical assistance to the wounded or the many who were badly beaten. Two children died during the transportation to Augsburg.* The evacuation began on January 10 and continued for several days.

The second Polish center in Murnau, the Hotel Post, in which former concentration camp inmates are quartered, sent a strong protest to UNRRA and . . . displayed black flags for 24 hours. The *officers of the Polish Committee, who signed the protest, were arrested by the Constabulary.*

Much of the shifting . . . from DP camps to DP camps under inhuman conditions came as a result of *UNRRA order 199*. . . . Continued questioning of the validity of . . . Order 199 and protests from unwilling sufferers . . . helped cause the rescinding of this order. . . .

Though *officially* the order is said to be *rescinded*, nationality camps are still being formed in actuality. The attitude of UNRRA officials in various camps differs with the person in charge. In some areas Baltic and Ukrainian refugees are in daily terror because *UNRRA officials hand over lists of DPs to Soviet Repatriation Officers . . . members of the . . . NKVD.* It is in this respect that UNRRA serves as a cloak for Soviet spying, as was charged openly by responsible UNRRA officials before they were silenced by F. H. LaGuardia.

VIII. A WARNING

The Ten Commandments, The Gospel, The Magna Carta, The American Declaration of Independence, The Principles of the French Revolution, The American Bill of Rights, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Wilson's 14 Points, The Covenant of the League of Na-

tions, The Atlantic Charter and The Four Freedoms, Truman's 12 Points, the Preamble of the UN Charter—all are major monuments to Man's Struggle for Liberty.

Nearly all of the Lithuanian refugees, wards of the American Army of Occupation and of the UNRRA, are educated persons. Their hosts should remember that the refugees are familiar, since their grammar school days, with the following two quotations.

(a) ABRAHAM LINCOLN AT GETTYSBURG, 19 November 1863

"... It is for us the living . . . to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us— . . . that *government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth.*"

"You can fool part of the people all the time; you can fool all the people part of the time; but *you can't fool all of the people all of the time.*" (Abraham Lincoln to Wayne McVeagh on the return trip from Gettysburg to Washington.)

(b) CONSTANTINE KALINAUSKIS TO LITHUANIAN PEASANTS, February 1864

"My Brothers, beloved humble peasants! I am writing to you from underneath the Muscovite gallows, probably for the last time. It hurts to leave the native soil and you, my dear fellow countrymen. Agony consumes my breast. My heart is breaking. But I do not regret dying for the cause of justice to you.

"Brothers, with trust accept my words, as they reach you from the other world. I write them thinking only of your well-being.

"Brothers, there is no greater happiness than to be blessed with wisdom and enlightenment. But—*just as night and day do not walk together, so true enlightenment does not mate with Muscovite slavery.* As long as slavery dominates our country, there will be no truth, no well-being, no enlightenment, and we shall be ruled as dumb animals, not for our own welfare, but to our perdition.

"Therefore, whenever you hear that your brothers from the environs of Warsaw are fighting for *Truth and Freedom*, do not remain inactive; seize whatever weapon is at hand—the scythe or an axe—and *rise en masse, keep on fighting for your rights as men and as a nation, for your religion, for your native soil.*

"*From the gallows, I say to you, People: you shall live happily only when the Muscovite shall be removed from your necks.*"

—::—

Such is the spirit of the Lithuanian and other refugees.

There is no sign of a fulfillment of the Atlantic Charter in Europe. Thus far, the refugees stoically accepted the state of facts and the undeserved abuse at the hands of their liberators. Lately, however, there runs a dangerous undercurrent. People are asking questions: Will the present generation surrender all the glorious achievements of our past generations to appease the Communist International? Does the United States intend to be a party and accomplice in subjecting Europe to communist slavery?

The crisis is at hand: the refugees feel that they are being persecuted. The following quotations will illustrate their frame of mind.

(1) "NOT WORTHY OF A BIG DEMOCRACY . . ."

December 22nd, 1946,
/14a/ Esslingen, Württemberg.

To: General G. KEYES, Commanding TUSA,
Heidelberg.

Since the second half of this year, Baltic displaced persons in the American zone have been systematically and repeatedly screened either by the UNRRA or by the Army. . . . Now we are informed that a new screening action will be started by UNRRA in the next few days.

The history of endless screening actions shows by itself how rightless have become Baltic DPs. They are kept under a continuous pressure of nerves. They are in fact . . . persecutees, because the existing legal definition of a DP is no longer observed. . . . The general opinion of Baltic DPs is that all these screening actions have the aim to solve the DP problem by other means but not by relief and rehabilitation.

Speaking frankly, such an action with regard to the remnants of three helpless, small, cultured and industrious nations whose destiny is one of the most tragic in the present history, is not worthy of a big Democracy on which all the oppressed nations pinned their confidence and hopes.

Up to the present, Baltic nationals have accepted all these hard and heavy blows in a stoic calm. But some day the founded indignation and despair may lead them to open demonstrations or suicide epidemics.

In the name of Almighty, I beg you sincerely to take us, Baltic DPs, anew under the protection of the American Army, as in the days of General Eisenhower, and to stop urgently this unworthy practice of endless screenings which, for the third time during these last few years, makes us feel as innocently persecuted.

Dr. T. Grünbergs

Archbishop of the Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran Church.

K. Kalniņš

Councillor of the Latvian Evangelical-Lutheran Church for External Matters.

(2) "WE CANNOT LOSE ANYTHING BUT OUR LIVES"

Murnau, Lower Barracks Polish DP Center
8 January 1947

" . . . We assert that we will do everything in self-defense against ill-treatment and chicaneries from the UNRRA, which works for Warsaw. Our defense against UNRRA methods is a fight for our lives and in that fight we cannot lose anything but our lives."

/1759 signatures of Polish DPs/

(3) "WE PROTEST AGAINST THE PERPETUAL MORAL TERRORIZATION"

Nürtingen Lithuanian DP Camp
17 January 1947.

"We, the undersigned Lithuanian residents of the Nürtingen Camp, having heard our Commandant's announcement of the DP eligibility test planned by the UNRRA, declare the following:

"We are very grateful to the American People, their Government and their gallant Army for our liberation and the liberation of the Western European Nations

from mass oppression, and for the valuable assistance extended to us. We are also grateful to UNRRA for the aid administered to us. . . .

"The new eligibility test by UNRRA is not only unnecessary—it is *immoral*, because it is only a *dis-honorable* means to decrease the number of DPs by compelling us to repatriate into our enslaved countries . . . into Siberian concentration camps. . . .

"We feel that we should not be morally terrorized in the era of great ideals, just because we live in misery in camps. The world is unjustly discriminating against us because of our nation's fight for freedom.

"The proposed UNRRA test is immoral and unjust, because we are told neither of our alleged crimes nor of the regulations upon which we could base our rights. We are repeatedly screened and interrogated, although Nazi criminals stand trial but once before their own denazification courts.

"We do not deserve this moral terror. We are here in Germany not because we committed any crimes, but because our rapacious neighbors violated treaties, seized our countries and are now engaged in exterminating the indigenous populations.

"Basing our appeal on the great Rights of Man and the UN Charter's principles—we protest against the perpetual moral terrorization applied against us and we ask to stop it.

"If our request is ignored, we state unanimously that we shall not answer the summons to report to new screening commissions and we shall take no part therein."

/Signatures/

(Copies to: UNRRA Area Team, UNRRA Stuttgart District Director, UNRRA HQ at Heidelberg, USFET at Frankfurt, Lithuanian Minister in Washington, Papal Mission at Kronberg, Human Rights League in London, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.)

(4) ANTI-NAZI PRISONERS' PROTEST

Association of Lithuanian Anti-Nazi Resistants
Former Political Prisoners

Kirchheim-Teck, 18 January 1947

"In the name of 5,000 Lithuanians who were tortured and killed in the Nazi concentration camps, all of whom we regard as Honorary Members; and in the name of 4,000 Lithuanians, formerly active members of the Association of the Lithuanian anti-Nazi Resistance, former political prisoners,—we take this opportunity to make clear our case and speak on behalf of our neglected and disregarded fellow countrymen.

"The case is as follows:

"The Lithuanians took an active part in the whole struggle along with the Western Allied Nations against the Nazi tyranny.

"Lithuania was one of the few nations which successfully resisted all the Nazi attempts to organize SS regiments or legions.

"Lithuanian farmers refused to obey the Nazi requisition orders and did not deliver any products of food.

"Lithuanian labour continually boycotted imposed duties everywhere.

"Lithuanian intellectuals courageously opposed Nazism in order to protect their national, cultural and religious ideals.

"Lithuanian clergy openly preached the truth in

their churches, boldly explained the falseness of Nazism and bravely condemned Hitler's atrocities.

"... Lithuanian clandestine press ... vividly registered all these facts and published all the orders of the Lithuanian Resistance Movement and the instructions of the Lithuanian Supreme Committee of Liberation.

"Now ... a new UNRRA screening is to be carried through shortly and the percentage of evictees has been fixed in advance. Such a fraudulent design to get rid of the DPs is, in our eyes, unjust and inhumane. ...

"American Military Authorities have already carried through a screening which established our DP status.

"We, former Lithuanian political prisoners, categorically protest against such measures and, in solidarity with the Lithuanian DP Community, shall boycott the screening and refuse to appear before the screening board.

"We cannot admit that the high principles of the Atlantic Charter were only valid when we were needed for combatting Nazism.

Prof. Stasys Yla

President, Member of the Vatican Delegation for Lithuanians in Germany and Austria

Dr. Engineer Ad. Damušis

Secretary, former Dean of the Faculty of Technology of the University of Kaunas"

(5) REFUGEES STAGE HUNGER-STRIKE

FRANKFORT ON THE MAIN, Germany, Jan. 29, 1947 (AP)—More than 2,000 Polish and Ukrainian displaced persons staged a four-day hunger strike at a camp in the United States zone in protest against removal of 130 inmates found ineligible for Allied care, United States constabulary officials reported tonight. With 67 strikers hospitalized for malnutrition, the displaced persons abandoned their threatened 7-day fast, after hearing an appeal by a United States Army officer.

/THE NEW YORK TIMES, 30 Jan. 1947, p. 5-L, col. 2/

(6) NEW "SCREENING"—SOVIET AGENTS MOBBED

FRANKFORT ON THE MAIN, Feb. 6, 1947, by Dana Adams Schmidt, Special to The N. Y. Times—As a sequel to a hitherto undisclosed incident two weeks ago in which Polish displaced persons mauled seven Polish Government liaison officers in Wildflecken UNRRA camp near Fulda, a conference between Zonal UNRRA Chief Paul B. Edwards, Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, U. S. Military Governor, and other officers today brought to a climax a long-standing conflict over repatriation policy.

In an agreement reached, the UNRRA won partial recognition for its contention that effective repatriation requires determination of the real nationalities (??- Lith. Bulletin) of the displaced persons and segregation of anti-repatriation elements from potential repatriates in accordance with the directives of the UNRRA Council of Supreme HQ and of the U. S. forces.

The incident began on Jan. 22 in a camp housing

14,000 persons who claimed to be Poles when nearly 1,000 displaced persons, wearing red and white arm bands and bearing placards denouncing "Moscow agents," surrounded seven Warsaw officers, whom the UNRRA had called in to assist in determining nationalities.

The DP's refused to answer questions, roughed up the officers, smashed the windows of their automobile and demonstrated until the constabulary restored order. The next day the officers tried again and were beaten more severely.

Under the agreement, UNRRA as well as U.S. Army teams will continue checking the eligibility of DP's for UNRRA care, but the UNRRA for the time being will dispense with the assistance of Polish officers in determining nationality.

/THE N. Y. TIMES, 7 Feb. 1947, p. 9-L, col. 1/

(7) AFTER THAT—ANOTHER "SCREENING" BY IRO ...

GENEVA, Feb. 13, 1937 (London Times Dispatch)—... One of the matters before the preparatory commission (of the International Refugee Organization) is the whole question of "screening".

Delegates said that this should not be taken to imply that refugee organization should assume the function of tracing war criminals, quislings and traitors, but only that it should make sure that these did not receive its assistance.

Even so, the commission seems to be wading in deep water. Today the definition of war criminality seems to range from disagreement with the regime in power to participation in the worst atrocities.

/THE N. Y. TIMES, 14 Feb. 1947, p. 6-L, col. 7/

CONCLUSIONS

1. In view of the unsatisfactory provisions of the International Refugee Organization's Constitution, the United States should not become a party to IRO.

2. Pending the eventual liberation of the Baltic States and Poland, the American Army of occupation should continue to provide housing and food, as long as such aid may be necessary, directly to the refugee communities.

3. No intermediary international organization to act as a liaison agency between the Army and the Refugee Communities is necessary: refugee communities have sufficient qualified personnel to take care of internal problems and to represent the communities directly.

4. A section of Germany could be assigned for settlement by the refugees in compact nationality groups, enabling the refugees to resume normal occupations, trades, education, self-government, under the security supervision by the American Army of occupation.

5. The perpetual terrorization and persecution of the refugees by endless "screenings," "eligibility tests," "nationality tests," "visits of liaison officers (quislings and traitors) from the countries of origin," etc., etc., must end.

IGNORANCE PARADED AS AUTHORITY— AT WEST POINT

A New York professor called our attention to a textbook entitled:

"CONTEMPORARY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS—Herman Beukema, Colonel, United States Army, William M. Geer, Major, United States Army, and Associates—Department of Economics, Government and History—UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY—RINEHART AND COMPANY, Inc., Publishers, New York." On page 2: "Copyright, 1946, by Herman Beukema and William M. Geer. Printed in the United States of America by J. J. Little and Ives Company, New York."

On page 206, the authors begin a chapter, THE FEDERAL STRUCTURE OF THE U.S.S.R.:

"The Division of Power.—Under the Constitution of 1936 the Soviet Union is a federal state formed by the union of sixteen constituent republics (SSR)."

And the rest of the world, in its utter ignorance, was condemned to read—since August 1940—that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia "joined" the "Union" rather late and that there had been the Karelo-Finnish Republic and Moldavia beside them. . . .

The map on page 208 leaves no doubt that the Soviet Union embraces all of the Baltic States and one-half of Poland—that is, the Soviet Union being content, for the time being, before collaring additional "republics."

On pp. 238-9 the authors apologize for Russia:

"The Soviet Government, for historical, national, and strategic reasons, embarked at once upon a policy of territorial acquisition. The Baltic Republics in October, 1939, were compelled to accept the establishment of Soviet military, air, and naval bases on their territory. Eight to nine months thereafter these same countries were completely taken over and organized as separate Soviet republics."

A simple and remarkable achievement, what? There is no mention whatsoever of the American policy consistently followed since the Statement of 23 July 1940.

The reason?—Check the Bibliography, including the propaganda "literature" of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship which recently lost the membership of many influential Americans refusing to play the party line game.

Vicious UN Circle

Chesly Manly of *The Chicago Tribune* reported 9 December from Lake Success, N. Y., that the appeal of the Supreme Lithuanian Committee of Liberation handed to Mr. Trygve Lie, Secretary General of UN, by Col. Povilas Žadeikis, Minister of Lithuania, was referred by Mr. Lie to the Economic and Social Committee. The latter forwarded the appeal to its Human Rights Commission. Finally, Human Rights officials sent it back to Mr. Lie—and it rests there.

NKVD in Poland

A Lithuanian refugee writes from Poland:

"We are experiencing the second Golgotha in Poland. We have no rights, no protection, no aid, no employment. The Polish police register the Balts and deliver the lists to NKVD. The latter visit the villages and farms, hunt down our people, pack them in cattle

cars and transport them to the 'C'. For these reasons, Lithuanian refugees continually shift from place to place, always hounded by fear of a betrayal.

"All public and political life in Poland is manipulated by the Russians. The Polish NKVD (Bezpieka) is commanded by Russians—the same as in Lithuania. To all intents and purposes, Poland is the 17th Soviet Republic. Guerrilla fighting did not cease. Troops in divisional strength on both sides take part in the skirmishes.

"Some news about Lithuania is made available by repatriated Poles. Life is sad. Deportations are daily features. Polish repatriates say that Lithuanian women, transported in boarded-up cars, yell: "Oh, God, our Merciful God". . . ."

More About Poland

Our Chicago reader received a letter from his friend, a Polish "repatriate" from Lithuania. The writer concluded his letter about conditions in Poland:

"Do not send us newspapers, because we won't get them anyway. It would not be decent for us, freemen, to read foreign newspapers. We must be satisfied with what our Father Stalin teaches us."

Lithuanian Americans Listed as "Russians" at Fort Dix

Private A—M— of Boston, Mass., on leave of absence from Fort Bragg, N. C., provided some interesting information to a reporter of the Boston *DAR-BININKAS* (The Worker) on 10 November.

The soldier states that, after his basic training, he was assigned as typist to a certain army office. During his interrogation at the Classification Center, Fort Dix, N. J., when asked about his national origin, he stated that he was of Lithuanian descent. The interviewer, however, wrote down "Russian." The soldier protested that he was not a Russian. The interrogator replied that "Lithuania is under the Russians" and let his entry stand on the record.

The soldier stated that he would seek amends, especially since he knows that another Boston soldier was similarly listed as a "Russian."

Dairying—Russian Fashion

"Working conditions in the Soviet dairy of Raseiniai are bad. During the two years, neither "Pienocentras" leadership nor the dairy director nor the local Executive Committee paid any attention to improvements. Not even the roof was repaired, although such work would exact but little diversion of manpower. Uneconomic and idling morale pervades the personnel. When it rains, the rain falls right into the barrels, on the butter, on the wax paper and egg crates, even on the weighing scales. Huge pools are on the floor, the separator machine is rusted, the machinery is wet. Employees and peasant customers are drenched. Unhygienic conditions at this dairy hurt the eyes. Only several employees wear white jackets, but these jackets resemble the coats of furnace cleaners. Layers of dirt settled on the machines. Bugs clamber over the walls. Filth is all over the floors. The director of this dairy is comrade Rezhikov."

(TIESA, Vilnius, No. 189/1023, 14 Aug. 1946)