

Telephone Randolph 6-8213

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God in Russia

In its long fight against religion, the U.S.S.R. has won most of the battles, but never a full victory. Last week it launched a powerful new attack.

The drive apparently began when chief Soviet propagandist Leonid F. Ilyichev . . . advocated the foundation of a new anti-religious governmental agency. The Soviet Central Committee accepted his recommendations and appointed him head of a new institute of Scientific Atheism to train atheist missionaries, according to Pravda, and use "all means of ideological information for atheist education. . ."

Why this heavy attack that may surpass previous Soviet denunciation of religion? One Kremlinologist in Washington suggested the latest offensive is evidence of Soviet fear that many Russians, especially the present generation, are breaking away from Communist orthodoxy. . .

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FOR FREEDOM OF THE BALTIC STATES

On occasion of the 46th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of Lithuania (Feb. 16, 1918) and Estonia (Feb. 24), the United States Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, sent letters to the diplomatic representatives of these countries extending the good wishes of the American people. The letters contained reassurances to the Baltic nations of the continuous refusal of the American Government to recognize their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union.

The anniversaries of Lithuania's and Estonia's Independence Days (Latvia's is due on Nov. 18) were widely commemorated in communities in the United States (and elsewhere in the free world) where descendants of the Baltic nations live in numbers. These occasions were, in general, endorsed by local Governors, Mayors and the press. We present below an editorial published in the Feb. 25 issue of the New York Times:

A forceful reminder that Soviet Russia, which has written "anti-colonialism" on its propaganda banners, is today the biggest colonial power in the world is provided by two nations which faithfully and hopefully observe their Independence Days this month though now reduced to Russian colonies. They are the Baltic States, Lithuania and Estonia, which together with Latvia, shook off the Russian yoke after the first World War only to become again victims of Russian Imperialism in the Second.

Their hopes for regaining their liberty are sustained by their continued recognition as independent nations by the United States and other Western powers. But they live between hope and fear. The growing independence of the East European satellites appears to inspire a new urge for freedom in the Baltic states as well, especially in the youth no longer cowed by Stalinist terror. But the growing Russification of their homelands makes it a close race between national survival and national extinction.

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The Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States Congress devoted in February, as has become traditional for many years, a fraction of their crowded legislative schedule to the encouragement of the Baltic nations in their struggle for liberation from Soviet Russian occupation. A total of one-fifth of the members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives took the floor expressing their concern over continued Soviet occupation of the Baltic States, as well as the denial of freedom to East Central Europe.

Frequent topics of the speeches were: 1) Approval of the State Department's

continuous refusal to recognize the forcible Soviet annexation of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia; 2) Mentioning of numerous Congressional resolutions urging the President and the administration of the United States to introduce the problems of liberating the Baltic peoples from Soviet colonialism officially and forcefully in the forum of the United Nations; 3) Demands for creating a House Captive Nations Committee for investigation of Soviet abuses, in denying self-determination to peoples of Eastern Europe subjected either to outright Soviet military occupation (The Baltics) or to indirect military and political pressure (The Satellites).

Insofar as the addresses were mainly centered on Lithuania's Independence Day, they will, presumably, this year again be compiled and published by the Lithuanian Information Service, New York. Cognizant of the very limited scope of this Information Bulletin we restrict ourselves to present below only a few brief quotations, which in our opinion, well reflect the bipartisan mood of both Houses in relation to communist aggression and subversion in international relations.

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Sen. Barry Goldwater (Ariz. R.): As a result of the War which brought Communist slavery to Lithuania and so many other formerly free nations, the great powers of the World met in San Francisco in 1945 to found an organization dedicated to the principle of self-determination for all people. Ironically, the Soviet Union, which has taken self-determination from more people than any other nation in history, was given greater power within the new world organization than any other member nation, obtaining three general assembly votes to one each for the free nations. In subsequent years the United Nations has waged a vigorous campaign against one kind of colonialism but has religiously refrained from interfering with or criticizing the type which now holds the Lithuanian people in bondage...

If the annual observances of Lithuanian Independence Day are to become anything more than occasions of mourning a freedom which can never be reborn, Mr. President, we must as the representative voice of a nation whose freedom was born in a struggle against foreign oppression, exercise what power we have within the United Nations to guarantee that the chapter provisions for self-determination are, indeed, applied to all peoples, particularly the Lithuanian and others who today are held in Communist bondage... (C.R. Feb. 17).

Sen. Philip A. Hart (Mich. D.): Mr. President, we have in this country many groups with the avowed goal of wiping out all communists. Unfortunately, many of these dedicated persons operate at a distinct disadvantage - they have never seen a communist.

And perhaps because of this lack of first-hand information they seem to discover them in the most unlikely places - such as the White House and the Supreme Court.

Today as I rise to comment on the 46th Anniversary of the Independence of Estonia, I would like to reverse custom. Instead of once again pledging our aid and moral support to the Estonians, I would like to beg their help.

Certainly if there is a people in the world qualified to testify to the facts of life under the heel of the Red boot, it is the Estonians...

Rather than go into details, I suggest a reading of Special Report No. 3 of the Select Committee on Communist Aggression of the House of Representatives of the 83rd Congress. Minds and memories will quickly be refreshed... (C. R. Feb. 24).

Rep. Cleland P. Lipscomb (Calif., R.): In connection with this occasion I wish to bring to the attention of the House of Representatives a resolution I introduced calling for action designed to bring freedom to the Lithuanian people and the people of Latvia and Estonia... (There are, by now, 44 similar resolutions in the Congress awaiting action - Ed.) (C. R. Feb. 17).

Rep. William L. St. Oge (Conn. D.): In the years since World War II many nations in Asia and Africa have been granted their freedom and independence. They are today members of the free world community of nations, as they have a right to be. The world, however, should have a single standard for freedom for all nations. We should insist that the nations occupied and subjugated by the Soviet Union, likewise, be granted freedom and the opportunity to pursue an independent national existence... (C. R. Feb. 17).

Rep. Frank J. Horton (N. Y., R.): The Soviet Union is very vulnerable in East Europe. The Communists themselves evidence this in every way, by building walls to keep their captives in, by travel restrictions, and many other policies... It seems to me if the world is made aware of the discontent among the captive people who have actually experienced international communism, then we are well on the way to defeating communism. And when the East European peoples have finally risen and thrown out communism, then we will have won... (C. R. Feb. 17).

Rep. Florence P. Dwyer (N. J., D.): Mr. Speaker, Soviet domination of the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia represents naked colonialism at its worst. Few if any more flagrant examples exist in the world today... Every time the Soviet Union speaks of freedom and condemns colonialism, its record in Lithuania makes a mockery of the Communist regime's pretensions and stands as convincing evidence of its hypocrisy. (C. R. Feb. 20).

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FERTILIZERS FOR LATVIA

Last December Khrushchev delivered a comprehensive report to a plenum of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party, assembled in Moscow. The report was primarily devoted to the problem of how to rescue Soviet agriculture from deterioration which recently led to huge purchases of grain from America. While it is now known that his experiment with cultivating virgin lands in Central Asia is converting the steppes of Kazakstan into a dust bowl, he could not "whitewash" his failure by putting all the blame on weather conditions. But, having never been shy of pulling rabbits out of his hat, he came forth with a new panacea for all the ills. According to Khrushchev, it is now the chemical industry which will pull Soviet agricultural production out of the collective mire in which it is bogged.

Party propagandists are since vigorously engaged in explaining to the people the merits of mineral fertilizers and the necessity to produce them in unprecedented quantities. It will be interesting to observe how this program will be financed and realized. Our guess is that when Khrushchev will be faced with another failure, he also will be ready with a new litter of rabbits in his hat. The time for the Soviets to concede defeat of compulsory collective agriculture will probably never come. The Kremlin well realizes that return to free farming is tantamount not only to social, but also to political revolution, which will toll the death knell of the Communist Party.

In the course of his report, Khrushchev was wagging an accusing finger at the Baltic Republics for failing to live up to his expectations in regard to agricultural production. He said:

The economical and cultural development of the Baltic Republics is known to us. But, in regard to agricultural production, the Soviet Socialist Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia have by no means approached the limits of their capacity.

For once, Khrushchev told the truth, because agriculture has, since Soviet occupation and collectivization, never returned to the pre-war level when the Baltic nations were independent. This, of course, Khrushchev failed to mention. He drew, instead, a comparison between agricultural production in the Baltics on the one hand, and Sweden plus Finland on the other. Noting that climatic conditions and the total area of cultivation are about the same within the two groups, he then provided some statistics showing that agricultural production is about twice as efficient in Scandinavia. He concluded:

Everybody can see the great difference between the production levels of both groups. But, within a few years we will provide the Baltic Republics with ample mineral fertilizers. Presuming they use them properly they should be able not only to catch up with, but to surpass the levels of Sweden and other Nordic countries.

To no one's surprise, the Latvian Communist Party lost no time for heeding Khrushchev's directive to prepare for "catching up" with Scandinavia's agriculture. A plenum of the Central Committee of the Latvian CP was held in Riga on January 26, to provide First Secretary, A. Pelse, with an audience for explaining Khrushchev's commands. Armed with Moscow's promise to provide Latvia with abundant fertilizers within the next few years, he set the ultimate date for surpassing Sweden and Finland by not later than 1970. But then it evolved that Latvia, while it is to assume a mammoth share in developing Soviet chemical industry, possesses at present no shelters for storing whatever fertilizers are available, nor the knowledge required to apply them to the fields. Pelse lectured (according to Cina Jan. 27):

In order to utilize chemical fertilizers to best advantage it is necessary to be familiar with the natural properties and nutritional value of the crops. Mineral fertilizers must be applied in proper season, and in a manner for achieving best results. In this connection, Pelse admitted that many State and Collective farms are utterly irresponsible. Party organs do nothing to prevent such abuses. There are many instances of thousands of tons of mineral fertilizers going to waste under the open skies during transportation, being dumped on the ground at railroad stations where they remain until losing all fertilizing properties... A system must be devised, without delay, under which the managers of agricultural units are being held personally responsible for appropriate handling and applying of mineral fertilizers.

This Pelse is obliged to act and to talk as the Kremlin commands him, regardless of the straight truth. Agriculture in the Baltics was, prior to the Soviet takeover, on the road of approaching Scandinavian output. They might have well reached this goal by now were it not for the Soviet occupation. The farmers were free to work and till their land as they saw fit, being conscious of producing above all for their own benefit. Presently in contrast, they are serfs of the Soviet State, being supervised by an army of Communist bureaucrats with whom they are engaged in a constant tug of war for survival, unwilling to toil collectively for imaginary "socialism" without receiving minimum compensation for their labor.

Collectivization and indiscriminate introduction of large agricultural machines unfit for geographical and climatic conditions of the Baltic area have destroyed the complicated Baltic drainage systems necessary to prevent the soil from becoming marshy. Subsequent decline of the acreage of arable land, and of efficient man power in agriculture, led to substantial decay of cattle breeding on which Latvia's economy was largely dependent. If Khrushchev has belatedly come to the conclusion that Soviet

agriculture may be invigorated with chemical fertilizers, this seems to be no more than a New Year's resolution, so far as Latvia is concerned. Soviet sources admit that at present up to 25 per cent of all fertilizers produced in Soviet factories are going to waste even before reaching the fields.

The Soviet regime is well aware of the fallacy of collective farming. Nor is it averse to improving the lot of the farmers on whom its existence ultimately depends. The insoluble question is how to satisfy the basic needs of the farming population without granting it the rudiments of human rights.

The Soviet system, paradoxically, has given evidence (just as the Nazis did) that a totalitarian tyranny is well capable of boosting big industry for producing guns and ballistic missiles for shortlived conquest of teeming humanity... While, on the other hand, Soviet philosophy seems to be inherently blind to the message of the verdant soil: that neither ores nor oil dug from decayed bowels of former life on earth, will ever replace the living spirit of God's creativeness, until freedom is won for one and all.

* * *

DUST ON KHRUSHCHEV'S AGRICULTURAL PLANT

On February 10, the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party assembled in Moscow for a plenary session, devoted to the question of how to intensify Soviet agriculture. Invited to participate were a great number of agricultural functionaries and experts who do not belong to the Central Committee. Among the speakers were the Second Secretaries of the CC of the Baltic Republics who, on the government level, function also as Ministers for Agricultural Production and Supply.

Latvia was, in this capacity, represented by V. Stroganov, a man of Russian background, who was allowed to speak on February 12. Apart from going through the motion of eulogising the CC and Khrushchev, he admitted that Latvia's agriculture is not doing so well as it should. For instance, in 1963, the average yield of milk per hectare of agricultural land was 476 centners, and of meat - 53 centners. But Khrushchev has given the Baltic Republics the task of reaching within a few years the level of Sweden and Finland who last year produced 1055 centners of milk, and 77 centners of meat per ha in average.

As for production of grain and fodder, on which Baltic animal husbandry depends, the picture is equally gloomy. According to a meticulous research paper by Andrius Namsons (published in Acta Baltica, Germany, 1963) the total area of cultivated land in Latvia has in 1960, as compared with 1939, declined by approximately 750,000 hectares, which during the years of Soviet occupation degenerated into marshes and shrubbery. This accounts for more than the 10 per cent of the total of Latvia's agricultural land.

As for the Soviet Union at large, it was the Agricultural Minister of the USSR, I. Volovchenko, who, on the opening day of February 10, came forth with a report on Soviet agriculture which provided little encouragement for optimism. According to an editorial of the February 18 issue of the New York Times:

Agricultural Minister Volovchenko, for example, spoke bitterly of the carelessness and neglect costing Soviet Agriculture millions of acres annually. Productive land is needlessly sacrificed to erosion, water-logging and other forms of abuse. He expressed fear that the sole result of using more fertilizer in some acres may be richer crops of weeds. Others told of farm machinery idle more than 40 per cent of the work time, of tractors produced so carelessly that every seventh new machine has to be returned to the factory for repair before it can be used, of large areas provided with irrigation facilities at great cost but never irrigated.

The common thread running through all the complaints is that millions of persons working in and for the Soviet agriculture have no interest in what they are doing and show it in their work. The Minister of Agriculture's basic remedy is to urge higher farm incomes.

On February 14, after most of the lesser spirits had let off steam from under the dome of Party control, Khrushchev himself stepped on the rostrum with a conglomeration of half-truths, outright distortions and new suggestions, as he always does. It required no effort for him to declare (Cina, Feb. 15):

Comrades, great and difficult tasks are ahead for us. We must by merit of chemical industry, irrigation (in the Baltics it is the opposite, namely, drainage - Ed.) and mechanization, within a short period of time increase Soviet agricultural production two fold and three fold.

Gone was his boasting of out-producing the United States' agriculture per capita by 1965. In this respect he reduced his ambitions to assigning the Baltic States who compose a mere per cent of the Soviet territory with out-producing Scandinavia "within a few years."

Khrushchev's bewildering imagination is just as intriguing as his blatant ability to overlook the true facts of life, if it suits his policy. Thus, for internal propaganda purposes, he told the assembly that while American capitalist agriculture is based on exploitation of ill paid farmhands: "In our Socialist society the toiling farmers are working for themselves and all the people."

Unfortunately for Khrushchev, Soviet agriculture cannot be intensified with propaganda lies. It is, after all, an established fact that while eight per cent of the "exploited" farmers of the U. S. produce huge surpluses, nearly fifty per cent of the population of the USSR has proved its inability to provide the population with sufficient staples of nourishment.

A few days later, versatile Khrushchev revealed in an interview with an Italian publisher, Guilo Einaudi (New York Times, Feb. 23) that "the wheat growing virgin lands, plagued by repeated droughts and soil erosion, would be turned back to grazing. It took the Soviet Union nine years and deportation of a million young "volunteers" (thousands from Latvia) and huge capital investments, to learn how to turn much of Central Asia into a dust bowl.

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"SCIENTIFIC" ATHEISM IN LATVIA

Since the first days of its existence, the Soviet Union has applied diversified tactics in combating religion: at times launching a strong offensive, and then again, retreating temporarily behind a facade of tolerance. Presently there appear signs of a new vigorous atheistic offensive. Signalled by an article from the pen of Leonid Ilyichev in the January edition of the magazine The Communist, which is the ideological mouthpiece of the Soviet Communist Party, he deplors the fact that about 50 million out of 220 million Soviet citizens are still faithful to their churches. Conditions are particularly unfavorable in Central Asia where the Islamic creed is still militant.

In the Baltic Republics attempts to stamp out the Lutheran faith thus far have failed. All big cities are harboring Judaic, Baptist, Adventist and other creeds or sects. "We cannot afford," says Ilyichev, "passively to wait until the vestiges of religious superstition fade away by themselves in the light of socialist progress." Then he explains: "The Orthodox Church made a comeback during the War because Stalin deemed it expedient to utilize it for strengthening the morale of the Soviet soldiers." Even after the War, the Soviet Government was at times unduly lenient with the churches, particularly in regard to taxation.

As a result of such coddling, says the author, religious cults are still active even though the number of congregations is gradually declining. There are still members of the clergy who dare to inspire their congregations to resist Soviet ideology and legality, for example persuading the young to remain away from the Young Communist League and the Pioneers. In the western regions of the Soviet Union -- namely, Byelorussia, Ukraine, Moldavia and the Baltic Republics -- nationalist tendencies are flourishing under the guise of religious worship. It has been established that some well educated citizens, among them members of the Communist Party, are secretly attending church services.

Ilyichev, nevertheless, cautions against excessive harsh treatment of "misled" believers in God, because open persecution has proved to bring about adverse results. He recommends, instead, to undermine religion with popularizing such publications as the top Soviet atheist magazine Science and Religion which lately has featured articles on confessions of converts to atheism who purport to have climbed the ladder

of social and material success after having renounced their former religious beliefs in favor of Marxism. -- (Translated from Laiks, New York, Feb. 8).

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Ilyichev's advice has not fallen on deaf ears, so far as Latvian communists and atheists are concerned. While more churches are being closed or hindered in their activities under various pretexts, the crude godless campaign against religion as it was practiced before the War under Stalin, has been basically revised because of its inefficiency. Atheist propaganda concentrates now on "scientific" arguments in its fight against religion.

On January 27, the Party summoned Latvia's cultural and educational workers to a meeting in Riga for the purpose of briefing them on Moscow's policy with regard to ideological and educational questions. Main speaker was the "Ideological" Secretary, A. Voss, who devoted a considerable portion of his address to combating religion. He said (according to Cina, Jan. 29) that the cultural and educational workers of Latvia have achieved some successes in combating religious superstitions. Particularly effective in this respect was the introduction of Communist ceremonies marking birth, coming of age and marriages of the young, as well as funerals, in competition with the traditional rites of the churches. To these have been added ceremonial initiations of Latvian young men into the Russian Red army (they are, as a rule, deployed to serve in far away provinces - Ed.).

The next day, on Jan. 29, the Central Committee met with lesser functionaries of the Communist Party, the Komsomol, the press and rural secretaries. There again, Voss, according to Cina, Jan. 30,

emphasized the importance of atheist propaganda under prevailing circumstances. He explained how essential it is to stand fast against religious ideology and superstitions. It is necessary, said he, to work untiringly and purposefully for educating the working people in the philosophy of materialism and in the spirit of unbending communist determination, as devised by the teachings of Marxism-Leninism.

On Feb. 4 and 5, the Party was "brainwashing" Latvian scientists and teachers at the higher institutions of learning. Repeatedly, A. Voss, according to Cina, Feb. 6,

stressed the fact that it is the invariable obligation of university and college professors and teachers to imbue the academic youth with Marxist-Leninist ideology, fiery Soviet patriotism and the spirit of imperturbable friendship among Soviet nations. Each and every professor and academic educator must, always and without fail, determine that the graduates from his particular institution of learning turn out not only highly competent in

their profession, but above all, fanatically devoted to the Communist Party and its ideology.

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Moscow correspondent of the New York Times, Theodore Shabad, reports (NYT, March 3):

The Communist Party announced today a renewed campaign designed to eradicate religion from Soviet life. The outline of the campaign adopted by the Party's Central Committee, was published in Pravda, the Party's principal newspaper...

An institute of Scientific Atheism will be established under the party's Academy of Social Sciences... At an ideological commission meeting in December Mr. Ilyichev charged that the Academy of Sciences and the educational authorities responsible for these activities had neglected their responsibilities. The transfer of functions to a party academy is evidently the result... An important part of the campaign is to be a gradual introduction of non-religious ceremonials for birth, coming of age; marriage and death.

These few excerpts from Mr. Shabad's Moscow report which came to our attention after our own comments on the preceding pages, undeniably confirm our position.

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RUSSIANIZATION OF LATVIA IN THE MAKING

According to ELTA, a Lithuanian press agency in West Germany, the Swedish newspaper, Svenska Dagsbladet, has recently come forth with revelations concerning a Moscow plan to substitute the Latin characters in the orthography of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian people with the Russian alphabet. Even though the Soviet news agency APN has denied such intentions, no comments have been made by the authorities of the "sovereign" Baltic nations.

An equally alarming report was published in the December issue of the German monthly Der Europäische Osten, published in Munich. It maintains that the Soviet regime is contemplating to transfer within the next decade about 300,000 Russians to the Baltic Republics and the Koenigsberg (Kaliningrad) district, under the presumption that as many Balts will have "voluntarily" migrated to the Soviet east by that time.

Though there is no tangible evidence of such plans being realized, it must be borne in mind that the policy of Russianization of the Baltics, which goes back to Ivan the Terrible, has never been essentially abandoned under the Russian Bolshevik regime.

The 19th Congress of the Latvian Communist Party, which took place at the end of December in Riga, "elected" a new Central Committee of 120 members of whom 50 to 60 are Russians or immigrants of Latvian descent from the USSR. Their political weight is even greater in various key administrative agencies. While A. Pelse retained his post as First Secretary, the Moscow designated Second Secretary, who wields real power, is a Russian by the name of N. Belucha. Further, on January 17, another imported Russian, T. Bondalyetov, was made Vice-Premier of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers, which is the administrative hand of the Moscow subjected Communist Party of Latvia. According to Cina of Dec. 26: "The Central Committee of the Latvian CP again confirmed A. Voss, Secretary of the CC of the CP as chief of the ideological branch of the Party." This man whose voice becomes louder in Latvia from day to day is also a Soviet plant.

* * *

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONALISM FOR DESTROYING NATIONS

According to Londonas Avize (London, Feb. 28) the Communist mouthpiece Padomju Latvijas Komunisti (Soviet Latvian Communist) published in February a report by Miss Dz. Smidre, a teacher at the Latvian University on the proceedings of a meeting of Communist ideologists with select intellectuals from the border Republics of the USSR. This took place last October in Frunze, capital of the Central Asian Kirgiz Republic. (See Latvian Information Bulletin, December, 1963, p. 8).

The subject under discussion was labelled: "Development of National Relations during the Period of Transition from Socialism to Communism." Even though the report does not tell the whole story, and carefully avoids to mention the Russian nation and language by name, it provided sufficient evidence of what is in store for the Baltic and other minority nations of the Soviet Union - namely gradual Russianization.

The central idea which the Party ideologists conveyed to the conference was: the necessity of developing a brand of "Soviet nationalism" based on Russian culture and language which ultimately will eliminate local nationalistic trends of the minority peoples. For that purpose, the smaller federal Republics must be first "internationalized" by transfer and intermixture of peoples of various nations, under Russian management, of course. In time this should lead to "erosion" of boundaries between the Soviet Republics. A beginning in this respect has been already made on the economic level by creating inter-republican economic councils in Central Asia, Transcaucasia, and the Baltics. The author stressed in particular Zapryba, i. e., a recently established central administration of the western Soviet fishing industry, encompassing, besides the Baltic Republics, the Leningrad and Kaliningrad (Koenigsberg) oblasts (provinces).

Concerning national traditions, the Frunze conference revised the old Stalin slogan of "national in form, and socialist in content" by arguing that while some of these traditions are acceptable but others are harmful to socialism, it must be borne in mind that such traditions were developed previous to the Soviet revolution, and thus carry with them a seal of the past. In other words, even "good" non-Russian national traditions can have no place in the future communist society.

As for languages, says the report, the tongues of all Soviet peoples have equal rights to exist. But there are languages (namely Russian) which alone can function as a common tongue for communication between the Soviet nations, and for conveying the aspiration of the Soviet Union in international relations. Hence, while the smaller nations shall not be forcibly deprived of their native languages, all functions concerning social life in the Soviet Union at large - which includes politics, ideology, technology, literature and the arts - should be conducted in the "international" Russian language, which is also being advertised to the minority nations as their "second mother tongue."

This means no more or less than a policy of channeling the national and cultural aspirations of the non-Russian nations of the Soviet Union into Moscow's dragnet, while leaving the "lesser" nations temporarily the right to sing and dance to the Kremlin's tune in their native tongues and attire.

Londonas Avize says, commenting on the Frunze report by Miss Smidre: "The minority nations of the Soviet realm must now be prepared to expect even greater suppression of their national identity than they experienced under Stalin. But, by the law of nature, living organisms tend to develop defenses against invading alien elements. We may be sure that the Soviet Union will not escape the averse consequences of its abusive colonial policy. The designs of the Kremlin toward the Soviet minority nations, as they presently come to light, will not curb, but intensify their nationalist fervor, thus accelerating developments which some day will lead to the destruction of the imperialist Soviet system."

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SOVIET EXTERMINATION OF BALTIC ARMY OFFICERS

After the Baltic Republics were overrun by Soviet tanks in June 1940, and incorporated into the USSR a month later, their armies were, prior to liquidation, temporarily transformed into "territorial corps" of the Soviet Armed Forces. Soon after, this corps was disbanded, but their commanding officers disappeared without a trace. Now, after 23 years of silence, some facts about their tragic fate has come to light at last. When Dr. Bruno Kalnins, head of the Latvian Social Democrat Party in exile, who presently resides in Stockholm, visited Israel last year, he met a T. Berger, a former member of the Komintern who had spent 22 years in Stalin's Siberian camps

Δ Israel? C.t Israel? Rr contact with Dr. Bruno Kalnins

12 in Israel, 1963

concentration camps. In a letter to Dr. Kalnins, dated February 6, 1963, Mr. Berger revealed that during his long years of slave labor he had come into contact with many imprisoned Baltic Army Officers and he gave the following account: Shortly before Soviet involvement in World War II the commanders of the Baltic military units were ordered to proceed to Russia, allegedly for advanced military training. Having been transported in a separate train to some undisclosed destination in Russia, they were surrounded by NKVD troops, disarmed and arrested. Instead of the expected "training" they were shipped to slave labor in the Arctic Siberian settlement of Narilsk where ores had recently been discovered. While officers up to the rank of colonel were assigned, together with other prisoners, to work in mines, factories, dockyards and lumbering, the generals were isolated in a separated camp.

As it was the standard procedure of "justice" under Stalin it took several years of forced labor for these enslaved Baltic Army officers, before they were indicted and convicted for "crimes against the Soviet Union," which they were alleged to have committed during the independence of the Baltic states. While a number of these officers of lesser rank were "amnestied" after de-Stalinization, and some of them returned to their homelands, it appears that most of the generals were executed, or succumbed under the tortures of slave labor.

(Source of Information - Briviba, Stockholm,
February, 1964)

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Latvian Chargé d'Affaires at Lewis College, Illinois

On February 13, Dr. Arnolds Spekke, Minister and Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia in the United States, addressed an audience of students and members of the faculty of Lewis College, Illinois. The address was devoted to the fate of Latvia and the Baltic nations in historical perspective, and their present status in regard to international relations and law.