The International Institute

Refugee Balts Put New Hope
In Further U. S. Aid

FRANKFURT, Germany. — President Truman's recent announcement that the United States was accepting 48 Estonians who sought refuge in Florida, has given the 170,000 displaced Balts in Germany new hope that the America might do something to find refuge for them in the United States.

The United Nation's rehabilitation and relief administration estimates there are 85,639 Latvians, 37,243 Lithuanians and 29,978 Estonians in the American British and French zones of Germany.

Afraid to Return Home

Representatives of the Balts say they dare not return to their Soviet-occupied homelands because of "political conditions." They don't want to stay in Germany and they don't know that the future holds in store for them.

One member of the U. S. army's displaced persons section described the Balts as a "hard-working, highly cultured people who would be an asset to any country, whether the United States, Great Britain, South America, or any other place".

They are known to army and UNRRA welfare workers as "unsung" DP's because they have few spokesmen to call attention to their plight.

Quotas Negligible

Under present quotas enacted by the U. S. Congress, 386 Lithuanians, 236 Latvians and 116 Estonians are permitted entry into the country each year.

Only 2.5 per cent of the Estonians and Latvians and 9.7 per cent of the Lithuanians have been repatriated from the DP camps, as compared with 99 per cent of the Belgians and French, 88 per cent of the Russians, 86 per cent of the Czechs and 61 per cent of the Poles.

Lithuanian Culture

During the last 15 months Milwaukee has been "discovering" Lithuania's culture.

Through the various Holiday Folk Festivals in The Milwaukee Auditorium during the last two years M'waukee has been beginning to take special notice of Lithuanian and its rich cultural treasures.

Last Dec. 1st, The "Aleťia" Group of Lithuanian Dancers under the direction of Vytautas Belieus made an appearance during the Lithuanian Section of the Holiday Folk Fair, sponsored by the International Institute. The Aleťia dancing group really caused a sensation with their interpretation of the Lithuanian Dance.

Last year during the same Folk Fair, The B. V. M. Slaging Group of Brighton Park (Chicago) appeared with a rendition of Lithuanian songs and dances.

Lithuanian Christmas

Milwaukee's Public Library is sponsoring an exhibition of Christmas tables and trees around the world.

The Lithuanians will be represented during this exhibition through the efforts of Mrs. Stefa Markunas and Mrs. Griselda Mitka. These Lithuanian spirited women are preparing a typical Lithuanian "Kūčių Stalas" which will be exhibited Dec. 21st and 22nd., in the Literature Room of the Main Library.

Together with the "Kūčių Stalas" will be a Lithuanian Christmas tree decorated with typical Lithuanian ornaments. Many of the ornaments were made by Mrs. Mazelianskas and Mrs. Juskia of Chicago, the very same who did so much for the decoration of the Chicago Christmas tree exhibited at the Museum of Industrial Arts and Sciences.

LET'S FINISH THE JOB—BUY MORE VICTORY BONDS!
In this case the United Nations are nothing else but a criminal court, in which the defendant has no defense attorney. This is the way, Dr. Hector D. Castro, delegate of El Salvador, described the debates on Franco Spain in the Political and Security Committee of the U. N. Assembly last week. El Salvador was one of the few countries which stood openly in defense of Spain and had the courage to denounce the Soviet tactics of "calling everybody we dislike a fascist." Otherwise the entire discussion was a fantastic spectacle of how, through a network of cleverly instigated delegates, the Soviet minority in the Committee succeeded in winning crucial positions and appearing as a true majority. Because of defensive methods and holding the tongue in their cheeks the Democrats seem to have lost the first round.

Double standards of morality are like a bad conscience, they bring out weakness and put one in a defenseless position, even while standing for the most righteous cause. This is the characteristic of the American and British position in the Spanish case, which in spite of strong words used both by Sen. Conally and Sir Hartley Shawcross, failed to save the situation. The fact that no one dared to mention the Soviet bloody intervention in the Spanish civil war and to accuse the present communist regimes in Europe as the only real danger for peace to-day, gave all the trump cards to the Soviet bloc.

In this light they succeeded in presenting Franco as the only remnant of dictatorship in the world, an arch-criminal who summoned Nazi and Fascist troops to crush true democracy in his country, helped the Axis in the war and is now the only sinister exception in a world of freedom and justice.

The Soviet tactics are rather simple and no: mysterious at all. Whenever they do not feel sure of success — and subject to a majority vote they always feel insecure, they try to introduce chaos and stilt all the debates. Amendment after amendment is introduced by one after another pro-communist delegate and after this again new speeches begin, so that finally the exhausted members do not know precisely for what they are voting. But the Soviet bloc knows always very well its objectives.

In the Spanish case, the fact that shred Mr. Manuilsky was the chairman of the Committee gave the communists a decisive chance. In spite of sharp accusations levelled by Sen. Conally, Sir Shawcross and the delegates against his partiality and disregard for parliamentary rules, Manuilsky ran the meeting as an able orchestra conductor. He gave preference of the floor to delegates favoring aggressive intervention in Spain, helped them with his own arguments and always found the way to bar a defender of Franco from speaking. And in the resulting confusion, he would smilingly invite the Soviet delegate Mr. Gromyko to resolve the troublesome knot.

It was only due to a definite opposition of Sen. Conally, that Mr. Manuilsky was prevented from inviting a representative of the Spanish Giralt regime to take the floor. But like a rabbit in the hat, there was immediately someone else ready to take his place. It was the delegate of Guatemala, a well trained agitator, who volunteered to speak "for the Spanish people". He appeared as a leader of a South American group composed of Guatemala, Venezuela, Mexico, Panama and Chile, all countries now on the communist time-tables.

There were seventeen proposals and amendments on the Franco question before the Committee and after long debates they were Sub-Committee charged with drafting a joint resolution. How a such a joint resolution could possibly be drafted, if two entirely opposite views and objectives are under d'acu sitio, is anybody's guess. And Mr. Manuilsky secured his greatest victory, when he succeeded in appointing a Sub-Committee composed exclusively of the seventeen delegates who presented proposals and amendments, eleven out of whom are for intervention. The British deleget attacked this as a "farceal committee packed with proponents of intervention", but he had no success.

The Spanish battle in the U. N. will continue unabated, now in the Sub-Committee, then again in the Committee and so forth. This is not the issue of Spain alone, but another field of conflict, and a very important one, between the Democrats and Russia. In the meantime Soviet propaganda will hail the victories of the anti-Franco bloc and announce to the world that under Soviet leadership rescue for the Spanish people from Franco is on the way. And Franco's trial without a defense attorney will continue before the United Nations. It is in American and British hands first of all, who will eventually win. Only real action of the Democracies can save Spain from a communist verdict.

Talking It Over

Murder Made Holy

Recently, fifty, so-called Christian religious leaders of New York state declared to the world that murder was perfectly in accord with the teachings of Christ. Of course, they had a much nicer name for it than murder. They called it Euthanasia or Mercy-killing. Nevertheless skulking behind this high-sounding word is the fact: murder.

Here is an example of mercy-killing. A father is told that his young daughter's sickness is incurable. The disease is extremely painful. Rather than see the child suffer, he obtains a court order and then kills her with an overdose of morphine. At first some may be tempted to consider such a killing as noble. But it is not. It is the crime of a monster. And this is why:

The life that is given us is not ours to throw away or keep at our own pleasure. Only God has the right to take away life, for He has created us and we are His property, not our own. Besides this, it is only the mad man that would tamper with the plans of God. If He sees in His tremendous wisdom that we are sure of capturing the After-life on a bed of suffering than on a bed of ease, who are we to smash His loving design and so risk the one thing that matters, life after death?

To make this clear, here is a parallel. Suppose that your best friend asked you to take his little daughter to Berlin for him. He explains that he himself cannot do so, and farther that his whole future happiness depends on your success. You agree to take the responsibility. The first part of the trip is most enjoyable and the little child wins your heart and makes it glad. But then suddenly, after landing in France, you are beset by many difficulties — lack of food, sickness, attempts on your life by thugs. For a while you are tempted to give it all up, but for the love of your friend you suffer all this and finally bring the child safely to Berlin.

We, too, have been given a precious charge by a best friend. Our happiness and Our life depends on the safe delivery of this charge — our life. And it must be delivered.
The Spirit of Peace and the Fire of Love

J. P. K.

In the course of our lives we come across days of renown; eventful days. Some of them pass on unnoticed, in a matter of course fashion, leaving us void of personal satisfaction or joy. Whereas, others, perhaps three or four a year, somehow or other affect, influence our lives; introducing something new, something out of the ordinary. In this latter category we may well place Christmas as being one of the greatest and most beautiful days of the year.

Christmas always did fascinate us from our early childhood days when we used to hear all the interesting and mysterious stories about good Old Saint Nick. We longed to see the Christmas tree with its sparkling, silver lights and upon whose gracious boughs the magic snow never melted — the unforgettable and melodious Christmas Carols that never fail to thrill even the hardest-hearted Scrooge in our midst — the pepper-mint candy and the ever traditional red stocking filled with undigestible and fascinating candy.

Centuries have passed and, no doubt, many more will; to older age Christmas will go on with its gaiety and thoughtful reminiscences. Sadly enough, however, it is all Christmas means to many of us. We fail to realize that Christmas had begun in a cloud of song and a first impulse of giving for in the crib lay God's greatest gift to man. His only begotten Son who was made man for the eternal life — employer and employee, student and professor, mother and daughter father and son, will, side by side, in all humility partake of His Body and Blood.

We all love Christmas along with its wonderful traditions of songs and children's laughter, stockings and little boys and girls dreaming happily of good St. Nicholas. But let us not have that love for Christmas week only. Let us try it in public life where the regard for God's likeness in our neighbor will bring countless rewards in the form of peace, for peace comes to men of good will. Let us embolden our peace terms and moral standards of life with a kindly love based on sympathy and understanding; a love built on the firm foundation of reality. Let us remember that the angels, upon announcing to the world the birth of Christ, gave us the formula for achieving and retaining this peace and love: "Glory to God in the highest; Peace on earth to men of good will!"

CORN and STUFF

By J. A. SKELLY

A doctor while hunting stayed out late and got lost. He finally came across a farmer's home and pounded on the door.

"What do you want?", the farmer asked. The doc said, "I'd like to stay here for the night". The farmer replied, "O.K. stay there" and closed the window.

* Jake — "Why is a room full of married people empty?"

Shake — "Because there isn't a single person in it."

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Opinions On The Baltic States

Baltic Peoples, Replaced By Asians...

Inhabitants of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, are being deported by the Soviet authorities who are replacing them with colonists from Asia. These reports were received from the Belts who managed to escape over the Baltic Sea to Sweden in fishing boats.

The Baltic republics are under the supervision of the Soviet authorities and they are governed by the secret police, NKVD. Foreign correspondents, representatives of UNRRA and religious workers are not permitted to enter the Baltic countries.

Catholic Lithuania is reported dying; rational and religious life no longer exists. At first, Lithuanians were allowed to pose as Poles and be transferred to Poland. Now the frontier between Poland and Lithuania has been sealed and both the Poles and the Lithuanians are being sent into the wilds of Siberia.

The Mongols and other Asiatic races are steadily replacing Baltics. Estonian towns which before the war had less than two percent Russian inhabitants now have two percent Estonian natives.

Riga, the capital of Latvia, is now a real Russian town. The Latvian language is seldom heard in the streets. Towns are deprived of physicians, dentists and teachers. Lack of medicine is conspicuous in the village where Soviet colonists have not yet arrived. These young men seek refuge in the forests and spend all of their time in skirmishes with the Soviet Police.

Such is the condition of the Baltic peoples. External Catholic life has been almost completely destroyed. Local inhabitants are being rapidly exterminated and are being replaced with colonists from Asia. And yet people have the effrontery to say that we are trying to obtain a just peace.

(The Annunciator, Oct. '46)

Russis Unlimited

Russia has deliberately chosen an independent and expansionist line. In the countries immediately around her borders she has imposed her will by a mixture of force and infiltration. In all important matters of policy, these countries are now her puppets. Oppression is being undermined or entirely eradicated by intense propaganda, backed by selective arrests and concentration camps.

The Iron Curtain is an evident reality.


GUIDED READING

Class A

(Unobjectionable)

Wartime Mission in Spain Carleton Hayes

Changing Listening Post M. Tennison

Inside Rome with the Germans June Scrivener

The Heart of Man Gerald Vann, O. P.

Class B

(Unobjectionable for adults)

The Egg and I B. McDonald

The Star of the Unborn (but why bother) Franz Werfel

The Snake Pit Jane Ward

A Frenchman Must Die Kate Boyle

The Balawak The Driesser

Burma Surgeon Returns George Seagraves

Class C

(Wholly Objectionable)

Glory to Me MacKinlay Kantor

The Zebra Derby M. Shulman

The Human Life of Jesus John Erskine

The Manatees N. Bruff

Recommended

On Our Defense

NEVER in history have the obstacles to this necessary production and distribution been so many, so costly, and so ruinous to our defense at home and our welfare abroad.

AT A TIME when war debt should be reduced, and the power of America to defend itself increased, the savings of people are being dissipated by inflationary con-

NEVER in American history have agriculture and industry been geared to produce so much food and goods for the armed forces.