From Behind the Iron Curtain

Educational and Cultural Life

(The following is a part of a lengthy report emanating directly from Lithuania behind the iron curtain. For obvious reasons neither the source of the report nor the way by which it reached the outside world can be disclosed under present circumstances. It testifies to the fact that the struggle for the liberation of Lithuania from Soviet occupation, with its terrors, enslavement and indescribable suffering, is going on relentlessly despite overwhelming odds.

These facts are strongly contrary to reports now being published in this country by Lithuanian communists, who are trying to paint these conditions in glowing colors and calling it "progress", "cultural enlightenment", etc.

1. THE BOLSHEVIK ADMINISTRATION

The Soviet economic and state administration is executing a speedy program of planned Russification. Seventy percent of the People's Ministers, of the Communist Party central committee, and of the town committees are Russians. All chiefs of the larger industrial establishments and organizations are Russians who are at the same time some members of the Communist Party and agents in the service of the NKVD. Their power is unlimited in comparison with that of Lithuanian officials.

In the sphere of education, the Bolsheviks boast of a great network of schools and important plans for the future, but because of present conditions of life in Lithuania this remains but an empty bluff, such as is customary with the Soviets. The shortage of teachers, the constant arrests of the remaining teachers and of the pupils, and the prevailing spying and persecution do not provide even the minimum conditions necessary for academic work. The existing curricula are full of Stalinist - Leninist subjects, Russian history, Soviet literature, etc.

"To talk of cultural life in present-day Lithuania, having in mind the appalling situation of the Lithuanian people, is a great irony. The opera is functioning in Kaunas; there are theaters in Kaunas and Vilnius, and a Philharmonic Society in Vilnius. What purpose do they serve when people hide in their homes for fear of being murdered or exiled, when the sound of machine guns is heard night and day and the sky is red from homestead fires set by the NKVD? The theaters and the motion picture houses are empty. Only the NKVD and the local traitors and collaborators, who are well known to the Lithuanian people, rejoice over the "progress" of Soviet science and art. The admiration of certain elements for the Stalinist five-year plans evokes the greatest disgust throughout the nation, among farmers and workers alike.

The above description comprises only a few examples of Lithuanian life as it has been experienced by the Lithuanian people. There exists almost no home in town or country where the family has not been touched by the terrible hand of Bolshevik terror. A program of planned and intensive annihilation of the nation is being pursued.

"We hear of movements for freedom all over the world", says the Lithuanian Underground press, "even among the colored races, whose aims and desires are given consideration by the United Nations, and for whose moral and material welfare many international relief and charity organizations have been formed."

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Anna Kaskas Voice to be Heard (By Proxy) in South Pole Region

NORFOLK, VA. — Gregorian Chant and favorite Catholic hymns are sure to resound soon (if they haven't already) through the frigid air of the Antarctic polar areas.

Rev. Wm. Menster, chaplain of Admiral Byrd expedition to the South Pole, has taken along for the group's use two record albums, obtained from the USO club operated by the National Catholic Community Service here. The records contain excerpts Gregorian Chant by the Benedictine monks of St. Benoit du Lac, Canada, and favorite Catholic hymns sung by the noted Metropolitan opera star, Anna Kaskas (Ktkauskaité), formerly of Waterbury, Conn.

Ora C. Aksomaitis

New Marquette Park
K of C Council Named After Card. Mundelein

CHICAGO. — Organizational work in the formation of the new Marquette Park Knights of Columbus council has just been completed. The move has received the approval of the central executive office and a name has been chosen. The new council will be called the Cardinal Mundelein council in memory of the late archbishop and cardinal of Chicago.

The following general meeting will be held Tuesday evening, Jan. 21st, at

DRAUGAS CONCERT and DANCE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 — ST. AGNES HALL,

DRAUGAS ENGLISH SECTION

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1947
By What Authority?

Death is usually an occasion for sorrow. But there wasn’t much weeping in the world recently as eleven men were led to the gallows in Nuremberg. Any tears we might have had were dried away by burning recollections of Dachau, the other prison camps, the eastern front. Yes, many of us felt that we were completely justified in condemning the Nazi leaders to death.

We “feel” that our action was justified, we say. But a close follower of the trial heard Dr. Jahreis, German defense counsel, saying the same thing, that the Nazis “felt” they were justified in their extreme war measures. Now clearly, in a court of justice, what this or that party “feels” can’t be used to condemn the prisoners. In baseball the umpire doesn’t call the batter out when he “feels” like it on one strike, or two, but on three strikes; no more, no less. So in the court room, it isn’t feeling, but a definite, fixed law that must decide the case.

The all-important question which rose in this trial hinged about this very point: because of what law, by what authority did the United Nations take the lives of the Nazi leaders? Because they violated International Law? What is this International Law? Why must it be obeyed? If it was drawn up by men or nations, why can’t it just as easily be set aside by men and nations when it interferes with their plans?

Robert H. Jackson, U. S. chief counsel of prosecution, realized the inadequacy of international law alone when on July 26 before the court he said: “This tribunal... seeks guidance not only from international law, but also from the basic principles of jurisprudence which are assumptions of civilization and which have long found embodiment in the codes of all nations”.

His words are not too clear. If by “principles which are assumptions of civilization” he means that these principles were assumed, taken up by nations of their own accord, something like the three-at-ike, four-ball rule of baseball, the same embarrassing question arises as before: if nations made up the laws, why can’t nations just as well abolish them?

Perhaps he means, on the other hand, that those basic principles are not something made up by man or society, but are basic even to the extent that they have been stamped in man’s very nature by the Author of that nature Himself. These principles form the Natural Law. They were drawn up by God, and by Him alone can they be dissolved. If such is the basis of the justice at Nuremberg, then we can understand that it was not a matter of feeling or prejudice, but the Nazis were justly condemned.

But at the Nuremberg court no appeal was made to the Natural Law, coming from a Divine Lawgiver. How could our Russian allies invoke the law of God whose very existence they deny? So, though no sorrow fills our heart at the close of the eight-month trial still a question clouds our mind: By what authority did they die?

THE WAY TO LOOK AT IT

(Continued on page 4)
TITO - Man of Mystery
By Theodore Benkovic, O. F. M.

(The following revelation — the result of actual experience, observation and study — is by an American, who recently escaped from Yugoslavia after a seven-year's stay there...Ed.)

Tito, man of mystery. His policies and doubledealing.

In the Lidice that was Czechoslovakia, brought about by the rapine of the German, the bestiality of the Italian and the blood-vengeance of the Serb, there was cast, like the shadow of an evergreen carrión bird, the pale of the blighting plague of Communism which spewed forth from the lips of its followers the name of a man called Tito.

If Tito, as is claimed, is in reality Josip Broz, then he is a metal worker from Kranjec, village of Kumrovec near the Croatian capital city of Zagreb, of Croatian-Slovene origin as is known from the criminal files of the police of Zagreb. A Josip Broz was jailed by the Zagreb police for plundering a church.

Later Broz escaped to Russia where he spent several years in Moscow's political commissars and came, after World War II, to dethrone the czar and establish the Yugoslav Communist party. Tito once himself admitted that 80% of the partisans are Serbs, whereas only 15% are Croats. Of these 15% are many Croatians who are neither pro-Yugoslav nor anti-Croat or pro-communist, but the fact of Italian bestiality drove many Croats into the mountains where the partisans recruited them under the cloak of libertators.

The Germans totally underestimated the partisan movement. When the partisans began to assert themselves by hit and miss raids, making sure first that no German troopers were nearby, The Germans, ignorant and not fitted for guerrilla warfare and brushing aside the advice of Croat officers, would conduct, and at unwarranted loss in life and material, mapping-up actions in which the peaceful Croat villagers would suffer the most, and then withdraw themselves into a fortified place, leaving the partisans to do what they pleased.

In reaction to the partisans, the Croatian nation rose up as one to defend their land from Communism with its diabolic oppression and hideous brutality. No where could there be discerned any sign of weakness or wavering; no question debated whether the defenders would be in the regular army or the Ustaša militia, of the insufficiency of arms or of physical disability, age or sex. They armed themselves into home guards and armed themselves with anything possible for defense.

No matter what the price or cost in blood, suffering and sacrifice, all Croats, as did the cetniks, fore them, kept harping that they were pinning down 20 Axis divisions in Yugoslavia. This is a propaganda lie of the commonest sort. Neither the partisans nor the cetniks ever pinned down one Axis division. The aim of both was the destruction of the Independent State of Croatia. Both engaged in hit and miss raids, carefully avoiding skirmishing with the Germans. Both the cetniks, as previously proven, and the partisans worked with the Germans and Italians.

(Continued on p. 4)

The Lithuanians
"The People of Song"
By A. Denis Yunker

An interesting, captivating work on Lithuania's history, ancestry and culture, especially for the American Lithuanian. Complete with author's original sketches of Lithuanian scenes, maps, historical characters, outstanding Lithuanian athletes, etc. Price $1.00

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"MOST WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE," by Vincent P. McCorry, S. J. (Declan X. McMullen Co., $2)

ESSAYS ON SOUND SPIRITUALITY

In this collection of 16 essays, the author strives to make "the joy more full" for the women who have left all things to follow Christ. With grace, delicate humor and superb literary style, he dispels the clouds which often come in between these women and their Ideal.

People who devote their lives in a special way to Christ, may and do suffer great harm in their climb toward perfection because of certain misconceptions of spiritual life.

A fuller comprehension of the spiritual life gives these chosen souls more confidence and courage to overcome difficulties connected with the spiritual way and to dispel unfounded doubts which may stunt spiritual progress to a considerable extent. In a very unique, humanly pleasant and confiding style, Fr. McCorry leads the reader through the refreshing garden of spiritual life and brings out the brighter colors and unearthly scent of many flowers, which until then seemed only grey and ordinarily unattractive.

The work, while especially recommended for religious, their confessors and spiritual directors, is recommended for general reading since it brings out many aspects of the religious life often erroneously estimated or unappreciated by laypeople.

A. J. M.

DIRECTOR Richard Whorf gives last minute instructions to Robert Walker and Dorothy Patrick before the cameras record their action in the M-G-M film "Tell the Clouds Holl By," in which Walker will play Jayme Kern.

CORN and STUFF

By J. A. SKELLY

Val. — "How can you tell the age of a cluck?"

Ed. — "By the teeth."

Val. — "Don't be silly. Ducks don't have teeth."

Ed. — "No, but I have."

Teacher. — "All those in this class who consider themselves dumb-bells, please stand."

After a slight pause, Henry stood up.

Teacher. — "Why, Henry do you really consider yourself a dumb-bell?"

Henry. — "No, teacher, but I was ashamed to see you standing alone."

Innkeeper (to motorist who has been carried into his inn after an accident): "yes, sir, you've had a very bad smash, but I managed to bring you to."

Motorist. — "I don't remember. Do you mind bringing me two more?"

(TITT, from p. 3)

The partisans often, when pillaging Croatian villages in Dalmatia, would exchange stock and whatever valuables they had taken from the helpless Croat villagers with the Italian Garibaldi division for Italian arms and munitions. This Garibaldi division during the time of capitulation as agreed beforehand, went over to the partisans.

The Croat troops often caught the partisans and Italians in these deals. Despite protest after protest of partisan-Italian collaboration on the part of the Croatian government, it was no avail.

Page Four
LITHUANIAN DAILY DRAUGAS
Friday, January 17, 1947

Sgt. Given Banana Empire For Aiding Son of Island Chief

CHATANOOGA, — Shy and retiring Sgt. Ray Denome of Mosoup, Conn., back from 22 months overseas, was just "one of the boys" at the National Catholic Community Club here until a buddy of the flock, Sgt. Denome schooled in first aid, sterilized and bound the wound which healed in due time.

Heaved that he was working with a detachment of U. S. troops building defense works on one of the Loyalty Islands, with the help of natives, when the son of Chief of the Black Fields, head man of the island, cut his leg severely with an axe.

While the chiefs and medicine men of the islands ginned as each other and wondered what to do for the injured heir to the throne, Sgt. Denome,

(HUNGARY, from page 2)

The Catholic Church is confined to the church buildings, the Catholic press and Catholic organizations having been forbidden. There are several hundred priests in prison, the most influential ones having been singled out for arrest under the usual charge of "political interference." As in Poland, the Hungarian Hierarchy is the true leader of the nation. Cardinal Mindszenty on various occasions intervened with the authorities in defense of persecuted people. Only recently he protested the inhuman enslavement of the Hungarian minority in Czechoslovakia, who are being forcibly moved to the Sudetenland and used to replace the deported Germans in farm work. Thus one crime of deportation is made the excuse for another.

After stringent financial reforms had been introduced last fall, a certain degree of stability in Hungary's economic life was reached, but temporary. Here, as in other Soviet-dominated countries, the policy is to impoverish and ruin the middle class. In Hungary the financial reforms have affected first of all the underpaid salaried workers, who are starving, and the peasants, whose land products sell for prices so low that they can get hardly anything in return. Both industry and the farms work mainly for Russia, as 80% of all production is appropriated as reparations. Hungary received no help from UNRRA, except for children.

It seems that final secedation of Hungary is only a matter of time and the planted "plot" just announced fresh efforts on that line. Hungary and Poland must be fully controlled before the negotiations on Germany begin, except for children.

The Lithuanian nation, actively fighting for its existence and for its freedom, appeals to the conscience of the world, demanding that a voice of protest be raised against the cruel process of physical and spiritual annihilation of the nation. Our black spot on the fossilized Atlantic Charter and on the other beautiful and eloquent declarations of justice. There is no road back for us and we do not seek o'er. We will either perish from the terrible hand of the NKVD, die in far Siberia or by the Arctic Sea, to the greatest shame of the whole world, or else we will be victorious. The Lithuanian nation will never waver in its determination and will not bow before the plans of the Kremlin, no matter in what beautiful phrases they may be couched. We demand that the terrors of this struggle and the horrors of the industries committed against us by Bolshevism be exposed to the opinion of the world.

(Tentin, from page 3)