Is Western Europe The Next Soviet Target?
By THE OBSERVER

The timing of the re-emergence of Gen. De Gaulle on the French political scene is not accidental. It seems that his sudden decision to break the prolonged self-imposed seclusion was prompted by international developments, rather than by purely domestic considerations. The growing tension between east and west and particularly the recently reported regrouping of Soviet organizations in Western Europe may have provoked his anxiety lest France be caught weak and unprepared by a communist coup.

Should the coming weeks, when the French Assembly is scheduled to convene, prove that De Gaulle's new movement 'Rally of the French people' is determined to break up radically the entire present political set-up in France doomed to weakness and bring to the open the underlying division between Communists and Non-Communists, it would indicate that the General has decided to wrest the initiative from the Communists when it is still time to forestall an imminent explosion.

Soviet tactics are very flexible indeed. Without losing sight of the ultimate objectives, the Moscow Politburo can always afford to shift its offensive from country to country and from continent to continent, depending on the necessities of the moment. Irrespective of intervention in Greece and pressure on Turkey, it is reported that Russia is concentrating special attention lately on Western Europe. The American decision to challenge the Soviet offensive in Greece must have only strengthened the Politburo's decision to shift the spearhead of communist attack to the west.

Reliable European sources reveal that unprecedented changes are taking place in the Soviet organization in Western Europe. The three branches of the Soviet network—propaganda, espionage and armed forces—until lately kept completely separate, appear now to be linked together and equipped with efficient liaison. This new disposition of communist forces no longer seems to be based on an expectation of direct action by the Russian army. On the contrary, Moscow is preparing now in Western Europe for developments, when local bodies would be called upon to take the initiative and act fully on their own.

The Soviet headquarters for Western Europe, until recently scattered between Paris, Geneva and Montpellier, are reported to have been centralized in Switzerland. Any way, Geneva is the main center now. In the last week of February communist leaders from France, Belgium, Holland, Italy and Republican Spain met in Geneva and received detailed instruction on the methods of liaison and cooperation between the three branches of the Soviet organization. A special instructor from Moscow, Colonel Zvedin, was present. Immediately after the meeting he proceeded for an inspection tour of communist forces. He has apparently completed already his tour in France and Belgium.

Regrouping has been noticed also among the communist International Brigades. The bulk of these forces had been concentrated in Southern France at the Spanish border and west of the Italian Alps. Now they are reported to have been moved en bloc to the north and dispersed to all sections of France. Recruits to these Brigades are still being told that they will not fight in Spain but will instead be called upon to ensure 'the triumph of democracy' in Western Europe.

Units of Dutch guerrillas have apparently moved to the vicinity of Salon and Liege. In Belgium, 2,000 Dutch army deserters have been reported to have joined the resistance movement.

From Washington, D. C.

Lithuanian Scandinavian Society
Hears Major Speak On Iceland
WASHINGTON. — Major Harold Prudelli, Catholic chaplain and staff member of the Chaplains' Office, War Department, was guest speaker before the Baltic Scandinavian Society of Washington, D. C. at its last session. Major spoke about Iceland where he was stationed for two years during the last war. Fr. Prudelli replaced Mr. Hakon Kinck, Norwegian architect, who was scheduled to discuss Norway's post-war reconstruction, but who could not attend because of illness.

Brighton Park Holy Name Bowlers Finish
Season with Banquet
CHICAGO. — The Immaculate Conception parish (Brighton Park) Holy Name bowling league will close officially Sunday, May 4th, with a banquet at Darius Girėnas American Legion past hall, 4430 So. Western Avenue.

The banquet is being tendered to members of the league and their guests. Things will get under way at 5:00 p.m. Each team will have separate tables.

The past season was one of the most successful and colorful for the Holy Name league. Father Stanley Va-

luckas, league president, reported. Twelve teams were represented. Team and individual winners as well as sponsors will be especially honored during Sunday's banquet.

(Conf. on p. 4).
THE ENGLISH SECTION

Published every Friday by
The LITHUANIAN DAILY DRAUGAS
2334 South Oakley Avenue
Chicago 8, Ill. — Canal 8010

All copy must be submitted not later than Monday afternoon to appear in the following Friday’s issue.

Get Newspaper Men In

A man who had been 15 years a Communist, returned from Moscow recently with a tale that was more shocking than anything we have yet heard. It is difficult to believe that 95% of the people in Red territories are in the semi-slavery that he described. But he did stress one point that seems to ring true:

“Get American newspapermen in large numbers into Russia and all countries dominated by Communists on the same basis of freedom that they are allowed in the U. S. A. What they will observe and tell the world, actual conditions prevailing among these more than 500,000,000 human beings will do more than anything else to prevent World War III.”

Getting newspaper correspondents into these countries in such large numbers is easier said than done or countered. He agreed. But he pointed out that it has never been tried on any large scale, and that every effort made towards that objective would be a very effective step in the right direction. The increasing refusal on the part of Red authorities to allow this basic freedom would arouse world opinion, and nothing else could be fact, that something must be wrong if there is such a determination to hide the simple facts that can be known about all other nations of the world.

Ready Or Not

Pictures, news stories and eye-witness reports give us a graphic description of the Texas City explosions. They recall in mind the bomb-wrecked, gutted cities which fell for victims of the same kind. In damage done and in loss of life and this disaster are strikingly similar. For like bomb-battered Berlin and Moscow, Texas City has been devastated in the space of a few moments. Once a prosperous metropolis, it is now a shadow: a pile of debris and twisted hunks of steel under which, in still uncovered ruins, lie the charred bodies of the trapped dead.

But Texas City has one great difference from the war devastated cities of Europe. It is a difference which adds to the tragedy. In a land where there is no fear of death raining from the sky, a town has been struck with terror and death with the same stark horrifying swiftness as a war-time military objective.

There were no air-raid sirens at Texas City on the 16th of April. There were no underground shelters into which fearful citizens might tumble to escape impending doom. No, disaster and death came with unexpected swiftness, devastating a flourishing city, and leaving its wealth in ruin and its people in despair.

More important than the damage, estimated at millions of dollars, is the question of those who died in the catastrophe. Over 600 people are estimated to have been killed. To them death came suddenly. Many had not time even to fear death, for death came in person on the wings of the wind. It sent no calling card or offered any warning. Men and women died at their desk or at their machine, they died “on the job.” The significant fact is that each one of them simply died as he had worked. No time for making of wills, or saying good-by. Life was snuffed out like a thin wisp of candle flame in the burst of the great explosion.

However startling the Texas City tragedy may be, violent death is not uncommon to us. A mere list of automobile fatalities in America during any one month of the year will show us that many people have death overtake them when they least expect it. If any of the Texas City explosion victims had foreknowledge of the tragedy, there would have been far fewer deaths.

The future of Texas City is well known. It will be rebuilt. In time it will regain the industrial position it once had. It may start to build again from the beginning. But what of the dead? They are gone forever into eternity. Their building days are over. For them, there can be no rehabilitation; there can be no precautions taken now to avoid future calamities. If they find now that life

THE BOOK NOOK

THE DARKNESS IS PASSED
Declan X. McMullen, Thomas H. Moore, S. J.
$2.00

Looking for something thought-provoking and reflective—a book with a Christ-like message, a book that will help make you a better Christian, give you a fuller sharpest recollection of your life. Then “The Darkness is Passed” is JUST what you want.

Here are 26 meditations on the life of Christ which everyone can profitably read. Familiar Gospel scenes are seen in a new, personal light for one is magically captivated by Father Moore’s striking meditations, his powerful down-to-earth language, a style replete with simplicity and the unadulterated spirit of the Gospel.

The charm of Father Moore’s Gospel-like simplicity will catch you by surprise. You won’t be bored by Platonic platitudes, theological speculations for everything is masterfully and interestingly reduced down to level of a common man. His up-to-date meditations are illuminating, penetrating and what’s more important, they are practical, for Christ’s message is just the same applied to our everyday happenings and events.

This book is heartily recommended for spiritual rebels, radicals—those who want to share more fully and completely the supernatural life of the adopted sons of God. Would that there were more books of Father Moore’s calibre—books that radiate with simplicity, that are filled with the language of the unadulterated Gospel that have a message that will help make this a better world.

E. C.

IN MARY’S MONTH

When May unlocks her treasury of bloom And heaps her offering on our Lady’s shrine, White blossoms open eager virgin hearts And glowing clusters spill their scarlet wine. But though earth’s sweetest fragrance is distilled For her whose chaste soul flowered with every grace, With tender supplication in her face. Our need of her. Our love—But only these A dearer gift! Who holds all heaven in Her gentle hands—what our requite...? Our need of her. Our love—But only these To bring our Lady solace and delight.

Mary Catherine Brennan

was a failure, then their eternity is typified by the dirty bellowing clouds of smoke that accompanied the explosion! If they were truly "on the job", then death, even had they foreseen it, would have had no great fears; Like a thief in the night, death came to steal not just their money, but their loved ones seen in a new. per­
"Ateitis" Folk Dancers

Lithuanians have a fine heritage of which they should be proud. Through the centuries its people have preserved the Lithuanian language, which is the oldest living language in the world, older than Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Polish, Russian or English. From antiquity this little nation evolved a culture of its own. Its music, songs, poetry and dance is an expression of Lithuanian as the language itself.

A group of young Lithuanian immigrants formed the "Ateitininkų" Club in 1941. Seeking an outlet for their energy, and because there was no folk group in Chicago, they formed one. Rehearsals started, typical Lithuanian costumes were made, and before long programs were put on. Their success was immediate, because people like to see action, rhythm and color.

In the Spring of 1942 the "Ateitininkų" were invited to dance at the Chicago Folk Festival. The group accepted, and that summer it won first place over all nationalities. Mr. A. Skirius, now living in Oakland, California, still has the gold cup emblematic of first place.

The group kept together during the war, and it is stronger than ever. It has appeared on many programs in Chicago, Cleveland, St. Louis and Philadelphia. The "Ateitininkų", or Ateitis Folk Dancers, not only perform for the enjoyment of Lithuanians, but other people learn something about us. They, too, like the action and rhythm of our dances, and they admire the beauty and color of the costumes. It is surprising how few know anything about the Lithuanian.

The Ateitis Folk Dancers is a non-profit organization. Its members often pay their own train fare to various cities. What return is received for programs goes for traveling expenses, musicians, etc. Lithuanians should support them in every way they can, and be proud that this group is presenting Lithuanian culture not only to them but to other nationalities as well.

J. T.

(Q QUESTION, from p. 1) bers, hidden and cared after by the Communists, are reported now to be freshly reorganized and armed. Directives issued to them would suggest that they are being prepared for action in Holland soon. Even the route of men and arms parachuted from Soviet territories into France has been changed. Instead of being sent southward, arms are at present being stored locally in all sections of the country.

Competent observers in Europe and England believe that these symptoms indicate that the Soviet organization in Western Europe is preparing for civil war in the near future. In fact, students of Soviet affairs have been predicting a communist encirclement move of Europe from the west already for long.

Gen. De Gaulle is certainly well aware of this reversal in Soviet strategy. The failure of the Big Three Conference in Moscow must have only strengthened his conviction, that perhaps time is fast approaching, when his task will again be to save France from dictators.

Characteristic is the violence with which French Communists reacted to his two speeches in Alsace. They are organizing meetings against De Gaulle throughout the country, mobilizing Trade Unions and denouncing the "fascist danger" which his public re-appearance represents. They go so far as to try to discredit his role during the war placing "gaullism" on the same level with "petainism" in attacks.

What leaders of the traditional French parties are most afraid of, is that should the General decide to turn his "Rally of the French people" into a regular political party, their parties may break up and large sections of the membership pass to De Gaulle. What they are all so dreading, is the final break with the Communists and an official division of France into two camps. It is believed, that in case of an emergency De Gaulle could find a majority even in the present Chamber and possibly in the French electorate. Whether De Gaulle is preparing for such a drastic show-down remains to be seen. The final decision probably will depend on his appraisal of the danger France is facing.
Riley in the Box

"Who cares about this Casey who used to slam the ball? So far the fielders gasped to watch it clear the wall. While roars of all the bleachers swept from stand to stand, With echoes that resounded from Mudville through the land?" "Who cares about this Casey now he has lost his crown? The winner, not the loser, is the talk of every town.

Great Casey's star has fallen, while Riley's awes each tongue, And this is how the saga by every fan is sung: "In that tense ninth, with bases packed and two already out, When Casey was expected to make his home-run clout, All cheered the slugger Casey at bat to win the fray— What chance had pitcher Riley's inshoot and fade away? "It then was unknown Riley who proved his skill and grit, He fired the ball like lightning into his catcher's mitt. 'Strike one,' the umpire shouted, while Casey at the plate Thought that he might have swung, but he thought just too late.

"Again the obscure Riley wound up and shot the ball; Again the bleachers waited, but saw no swing at all. 'Strike two,' the umpire bellowed, for Casey in blind pride Judged the pitch an inshoot, but it cut the corner outside. "Riley knew that Casey, now set to make a kill, Would blast the cover—unless he missed—right off the cliff; And so he twirled a faster, slow and straight and square; 'Strike three'. Too soon great Casey madly struck—the air.

'Then Riley rode the shoulders of gleeful mates that day, While Casey and all Mudville fled in shame away; This Riley was so modest; that Casey had such gall. Silent hero Riley—was not acclaimed at all. 'It's Riley in the box, not Casey at bat, A Mathewson of pitchers, not a Ruth of awat, Whom fans now hold in wonder and reverence in name. The greatest of the idols in baseball's hall of fame'.

James Patrick McGovern.

The Family Rosary in Ten Million Homes

Perhaps for the first time in history there will be the simultaneous recitation of the Family Rosary in ten million homes. At least this is the hope and prayer of Father Patrick Peyton, C. S. C, founder and director of the Family Rosary Crusade.

For a second year the Mutual Broadcasting System has offered its facilities for a special nation-wide broadcast of the Family Rosary. Originating in Hollywood at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Day Light Saving Time, this program should be at the very-top of the list of all Mother's Day programs. Interspersed with the actual recitation of the Family Rosary by ten of Hollywood's leading Stars will be the beautiful story of the World's Greatest Mother.

In order that the story be complete in the half-hour program the five mysteries for dramatic presentation are:

1) First Joyful Mystery — The Annunciation
2) Second Joyful Mystery — The Visitation
3) Third Joyful Mystery — The Nativity
4) Fourth Sorrowful Mystery — The Crucifixion
5) Fifth Glorious Mystery — The Coronation

Through these mysteries the story of Mary will be told, but it will also be the story of the joys, sorrows, and triumphs of every mother.

The following will participate in the broadcast and actually recite the five decades of the rosary over the air:

Ethel Barrymore — Ruth Hussey
Loretta Young — Charles Boyer
Irene Dunne — Don Ameche
Margaret O'Brien — Pat O'Brien
Rosealind Russell — George Murphy

It would be well for every friend of Our Heavenly Mother to contact the local Mutual station immediately to make certain it will carry the program. In rare instances where a station may find it difficult to clear radio time at that hour due to some local program it would be possible to carry this special feature at a later hour by delayed broadcast or transcription.

This special Mother's Day broadcast while distinct from Father Peyton's present weekly series of Family Prayer programs called the Family Theater is nevertheless a further effort to win the families of America to the idea of Family Prayer particularly the Family Rosary.

K of L Concert

Sunday, May 4th

CHICAGO. — On Sunday May 4, 1947, the Knights of Lithuania A Cappella Choir is sponsoring its Second Annual May Festival at Holy Cross Auditorium, 4551 South Wood Street, at 6:30 p.m.

The Choir, under the direction of Leonard J. Simutis, will render selections in Lithuanian and English, among which are "The Creation" and "The Cherubim Song". The Choir, which is composed mainly of members of the organized group of the Knights of Lithuania, has given several very successful public and radio performances.

Also participating in the concert will be the St. Casimir Academy Choir and Dancers, who will give a performance of "Man kepiai beryvai" a play written by the Sisters of St. Casimir centering around the song "Praaside beryvai", an original composition by Leonard J. Simutis, now studying for his Master's Degree in Music at De Paul University.

After the concert there will be dancing to the music of Buddy Barrows and has orchestra, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

(MIGHT GET SINGED!

(ICELAND, from p. 1)

23 hrs. of daylight, with the sun shining for 22 hrs.
It is then that Icelanders do their farming and put their sheep through the pastures. But fishing is their main industry. Because of scarce materials, Icelanders have to import most of their commodities. They've learned to harness the hot water from volcanic mountains for heat in their homes and greenhouses.

Iceland is proud of its old democratic institutions and parliament, which dates back to 940. These people are descendants of the Norse and Irish who settled there. The Icelanders are well educated and are well up to date on current events. The average Icelander can speak several languages. Iceland has definitely profited by the stay of the American, and, outside of a noisy communistic minority, wants to maintain friendly relations with the U. S.

Iceland is predominantly Lutheran. Ministers are supported by the state. Out of a population of 160,000, there are about 500 Catholics. Bishop Johannes Gun- garson is Vicar Apostolic of Iceland, and is the first native bishop since 1550. Icelanders were predominantly Catholic until the conquest of the island by Denmark in 1544 when the church was outlawed. There were five large monasteries and two dioceses there at the time.

An item of interest is the fact that another native son Hakon Loftsson—having finished his studies at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md., will be ordained by his native bishop in the capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, on May 24th, 1947. Incidentally, while passing through Washington he paid a hurried visit to the president of the Baltic Scan dinavian Society, Mr. L. J. Esuunas.

I. E.