The Twentieth Anniversary of Soviet Aggression Against the Baltic States

MANIFESTO

of

Free Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

TWENTY YEARS AGO, the Soviet Union attacked the Baltic States. Some 500,000 Red Army troops poured into Estonia on June 15, 1940, and into Latvia and Lithuania on June 17, 1940. With the promulgation of this occupation army, the subjugation of the Homeland—Deutches, Vidzemes, Zemgales—commenced the illegal

 occupations of the Baltic nations. The Baltic countries were robbed of their independence and transformed into colonies of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union's assault on its Baltic neighbors followed the Western powers' march to war in Europe. Thus, the beginning of today's illegal occupation and threat to peace may be found in the Soviet aggression against the Baltic States in 1940.

By its aggressive acts against Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, the U.S.S.R. broke the peace and non-agression cease-fire it had signed with these states as well as with international agreements.


Declaration of Human Rights—all of these documents bearing the signatures of the U.S.S.R.

The Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian peoples, individually and collectively, fought for their freedom and independence, and led their lives in the Western world. Their trust and reliance in the West was strengthened by the Declaration of the United States Department of State of 30 July, 1941, which stated that the United States Government, in guiding and recognizing the free nations of the Baltic States and the occupied nations of the Baltic States and in maintaining representatives of the U.S. in the diplomatic representatives of the Soviet Union, was in accordance with the principles of the United Nations.

The Baltic peoples have given active expression to their determination to regain freedom, and have refused to be appeased, thus continuing the struggle for freedom and justice to be waged by all captive peoples captured by the Soviet Union. Despite foreign armies and dictators, our people continue their fight in the restoration of their freedom and independence. This summer the Soviet occupiers will expropriate an expropriation—a twelve millionion of the occupied twenties of the Baltic States during which the captive Baltic peoples will be seized to appear grateful to their conquerors.

We—freedom fighters, Latvians and Lithuanians—are conscious of our responsibility toward our nations and toward history. At this twentieth anniversary of Soviet aggression, we feel impelled to give voice to the aspirations of our captive peoples:

WE ACCUSE the Soviet Union of committing and continuing an international crime against the Baltic States;

WE DEMAND that the Soviet Union withdraw its military, police, and administrative forces from the Baltic countries;

WE REQUEST that the governments of the free world, especially those of the Great Powers, undertake all possible ways and means to secure the restoration of the rights of self-determination to the Baltic countries and to the rest of Eastern Europe;

WE APPEAL to the conscience of all mankind to preserve the sanctity of the Baltic territories and to support the efforts toward the restoration of the Baltic countries;

WE CONVEY to our people our pride in their resistance against the enemies of the oppressor to destroy their national and personal identity;

WE EXPRESS in our peoples behind the free frontiers our deep conviction that the Soviet system and all tyrannies throughout history—none within it the reach of its own destruction, that is certain and shall not pass;

WE PLEDGE to maintain our joint national endeavor to free the world to preserve the cause of freedom for the Baltic countries;

WE, FINALLY, DECLARE to the free world and the Communist-dominated world, including the U.S.S.R., that in the future again the Baltic nations will be on their own strength to express the best possible relations with their neighbors on the basis of mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

VIGILANTIA NEMENS

Chairman (Estonia)

Leevlaid Valds

Deputy Chairman

(Latvia)

Lithuania

Members

Jaan Tõnisson (Estonia)

Ernst Vallas (Latvia)

Anders Hornemann (Latvia)

Vilis Harisnev (Latvia)

Dr. Veiko Mägi (Estonia)

Riho Siibalis (Latvia)

Ivars. Toms Baranovs (Latvia)

Chor. Juris Elfervs (Latvia)

Dr. Aivars Tihivitis (Latvia)