

JWB
1/27/62
Report

COMMITTEE FOR A FREE LITHUANIA

29 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

Tel. Plaza 3-6628

April 3, 1962

Mr. Edward R. Murrow
United States Information Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murrow:

The undersigned wish to express their profound appreciation of your refusal to participate in the opening ceremony of the Soviet exhibition of children's art because this exhibition identifies the Baltic republics as part of the Soviet Union.

Your refusal to sanction officially the Soviet attempt to use a cultural exhibition for spreading falsehoods and promoting the image of their colonial empire, is a meaningful and statesmanlike act. It shows the Soviet Union and the entire world that the United States stand firmly on their principle of self-determination for all men and non-recognition of forcible incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union. It also serves notice that this great country will not submit to Soviet "calm tactics," be it with regard to the right of West Berliners to remain free or to the right of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians to become free again.

Moreover, your withdrawal from the opening ceremony of the Soviet exhibit is a valid act on behalf of genuine cultural exchanges and free communications among all peoples. The oppressed Baltic peoples yearn very much to participate fully in a global free flow of ideas and unhindered cultural exchanges. They are very eager to show the West their cultural achievements and to enjoy the Western ones. But they resent very much the use of their scientific or cultural achievements for the propagation of Soviet colonialism and Russian chauvinism. Your refusal to approve this Soviet abuse of the cultural exchange program will meet, we are sure, with a very favorable reaction in the Baltic States.

Trusting that you and the United States Information Agency will maintain this friendly attitude to the freedom aspirations of the captive peoples, and a firm stand against their oppressors, we remain,

Sincerely yours,

Aleksander Klitt,
Chairman of the
Committee for a
Free Estonia

Vilis Hannovs,
Chairman of the
Committee for a
Free Latvia

J. J. J.
Vaclavas Sidvikauskas
Chairman of the
Committee for a Free
Free Lithuania