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For immediate release

US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CRITICIZES SOVIET REPRESSIONS

(Washington. LIC) In a letter to Yuri Dubinin, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, the General Secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, Monsignor Daniel Hoye, has taken issue with Soviet handling of efforts on February 16 to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the reestablishment independence in predominantly Catholic Lithuania. The letter, dated February 25, was just made public.

Citing "reliable reports," Monsignor Hoye said that "peaceful processions were broken up by security agents in Kaunas and Vilnius, and many people were detained or arrested in connection with the week's events. I am especially concerned with the continued harassment of Ms. Nijole Sadunaite in connection with these and related events."

Msgr. Hoye reminded Ambassador Dubinin of Soviet obligations under international agreements such as the Helsinki Final Act, which contains provisions on respect for human rights. Referring to the February 16 repressions, the General Secretary expressed the hope "that such treatment of persons exercising their basic civil, political, and religious rights will not be repeated."

According to a USCC official, no reply has been received.

Ms. Sadunaite, who is one of an estimated 1,500 underground nuns in Lithuania, has been the target of government attack for her outspoken defense of human rights, especially religious freedom, in Lithuania. The 49-year-old nun was assaulted February 6 on the streets of Vilnius, the Lithuanian capital, by two men she identifies as security police, in broad daylight, after announcing plans for peaceful Independence Day commemorations. She and other human rights activists were placed under house arrest on February 16.

From Sister Sadunaite and other sources in Lithuania, the Lithuanian Information Center learned that up to 10,000 people attempted to stage peaceful demonstrations in Vilnius on the night of February 16, following religious services in two churches, but were dispersed by club-wielding militia who detained a number of participants.

Sources in Moscow reported similar violence that evening against an estimated 3,000 people in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city, during a



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SENATOR LEVIN RAISES ISSUE OF EXILED CATHOLIC BISHOP AND IMPRISONED PRIESTS WITH SHEVARDNADZE AND DOBRYNIN

(Washington. LIC) Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), in recent talks in Moscow with top Soviet officials, brought up the cases of a Roman Catholic bishop from Lithuania who has been forced to live in internal exile for 27 years and two Lithuanian Catholic priests serving lengthy terms in labor camp for their religious activism.

Levin, who was visiting Moscow March 7-12 with a US delegation that included scientists, academicians, and four other members of the US Senate, broached the subject of religious freedom in the USSR during a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and former Soviet ambassador to the United States Anatoly Dobrynin, who is now a secretary in the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

According to an aide to Senator Levin, the Michigan legislator detailed his concern over Soviet laws that limit the rights of religious believers. As specific examples of restrictions on religious freedom, the senator cited the cases of Bishop Julijonas Steponavičius and Fathers Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevičius.

Bishop Steponavičius, appointed by the Vatican in 1958 to the post of apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Panevėžys and the Archdiocese of Vilnius, was exiled to the small northern Lithuanian town of Žagarė in January 1961 after rebuffing government attempts to interfere in the administration of Roman Catholic church affairs. The Soviet government has never tried or convicted the 77-year-old bishop of any crime. He has been widely rumored to be the Cardinal "in pectore," or secret Cardinal, promoted by Pope John Paul II in his first round of such appointments in 1979.

Fathers Alfonsas Svarinskas, 63, and Sigitas Tamkevičius, 49, were founding members of an unofficial human rights group, the Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights, which was created in 1978 to monitor state-sponsored discrimination and persecution of Lithuania's Catholics. Both priests were arrested in 1983 and charged with engaging in anti-Soviet activity. Fr. Svarinskas, who is serving a 7 year-term in labor camp to be followed by 3 years in exile, is due to be released in 1993. Fr. Tamkevicius is due to leave labor camp this May for exile, where he will be forced to remain until mid-1990.



LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207

Tel. (718) 647-2434

Telex No. 5101013171

April 6, 1988

Contact: Victor Nakas

Washington office, tel. (202) 347-3177

For immediate release

US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE CALLS ON SOVIETS TO RELEASE EXILED BISHOP AND TWO IMPRISONED PRIESTS

(Washington, April 6. LIC) The General Secretary of the US Catholic Conference has written a strongly worded letter criticizing Soviet treatment of Catholics in Lithuania, especially the imprisonment of Roman Catholic priests Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sigitas Tamkevicius and the internal exile of Bishop Julijonas Steponavicius.

In a March 28 letter to Konstantin Kharchev, Chairman of the Council for Religious Affairs of the USSR, Monsignor Daniel F. Hoye linked improvements in US-Soviet relations to better treatment of religious believers, noting that "a failure to implement significant reform in the state's policies regarding believers threatens to undermine current and future progress in superpower relations."

The letter says that while US bishops "continue to encourage" progress in the areas of arms control, East-West relations, and internal reforms in the USSR, "we cannot accept the persecution of our Catholic brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union, especially in Lithuania, Latvia, and the Ukraine."

Monsignor Hoye calls on the Soviets to honor their obligations under international human rights pacts and to demonstrate the sincerity of their reform movement by "immediately" setting free Father Svarinskas and Father Tamkevicius, and allowing Bishop Steponavicius to return to Vilnius, Lithuania, so that he may resume his duties as apostolic administrator of the archdiocese there.

Commenting on the Hoye letter, Father Casimir Pugevicius, Executive Director of the Brooklyn-based relief agency Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, said, "I welcome this firm US Catholic Conference statement and I know that Catholics in Lithuania will too."

"The US Catholic community can and should play a major role in supporting its coreligionists behind the Iron Curtain," continued Father Pugevicius. "Now the challenge is to translate the USCC's linkage of peace and justice issues in US-Soviet relations into grass roots US Catholic action on behalf of East European and Soviet Catholics. In other words, our leaders need to mobilize the US Catholic community the way Jewish leaders in the US have mobilized their people to support Soviet Jewry," concluded Pugevicius.



LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207 Telex No. 5101013171 Tel. (718) 647-2434

April 14, 1988

Contact: Victor Nakas

Washington office, tel. (202) 347-3177

For immediate release

FIFTY ONE CONGRESSMEN CRITICIZE ABUSE OF SOVIET MILITARY RESERVE DUTY TO PUNISH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

(Washington. LIC) Fifty one Congressmen sent a letter today to the top military prosecutor in the USSR, protesting the imprisonment of a Lithuanian religious and national rights activist who refused to report for military reserve service and asking him "to investigate the abuse of military reserve duty as a method of political repression."

In a letter to Military Procurator Boris S. Popov, the legislators said they believed that the sentencing of 29-year old Petras Grazulis to a 10-month term in ordinary regime labor camp was the result of a scheme to punish the church employee for his religious and political activities, and called for his release.

According to the Congressmen, "the Grazulis case fits into a disturbing pattern of punishing political dissidents with military reserve duty or prison for refusing such duty." As evidence, the authors of the letter referred to the recent cases of three Latvians and one Estonian who were either ordered into the military or told to report to military authorities in the wake of their involvement in human rights activities.

The letter to Popov details the circumstances surrounding Grazulis's arrest. He was told to appear before the local military commissar's office last November 18, the day on which he planned to be in Riga, Latvia, participating in a peaceful demonstration to mark the anniversary of Latvia's pre-Soviet independence period. Grazulis chose to go to Riga. Following his return to Lithuania, he was called up for three months of reserve duty. He responded with an open letter to Soviet Defense Minister Dmitry Yazov which pointed to the government's persecution of the Roman Catholic community and the Soviet Army's occupation of Lithuania as the reasons why he would not heed the call to report for service.

Grazulis was convicted by a court in Kapsukas, Lithuania, on February 2. According to eyewitness accounts he was beaten in the courtroom for attempting to announce a hunger strike. Outside the courtroom, militia with police dogs charged an estimated 200 supporters of Grazulis, detaining 10 on charges of "hooliganism." In their letter, the Congressmen expressed concern that the violence against Grazulis in the courtroom might carry over into his treatment in labor camp.



LIETUVIŲ INFORMACIJOS CENTRAS

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207 Telex No. 5101013171 Tel. (718) 647-2434

April 7, 1988

Contact: Ginte Damusis

For immediate release

LITHUANIANS RALLY AROUND ARMENIAN CAUSE

(New York, April 7. LIC) Lithuanian Information Center has just received a statement issued by Lithuanian activists, expressing solidarity with the Armenians and demanding that the Supreme Soviet "abide by the Constitution and return to Armenia the lands of its fathers and forefathers."

In response to recent Armenian demonstrations, 26 Lithuanians signed the statement last month, which said that "we...express our sympathy and solidarity with the Armenian nation, fighting for the reunification of its national territories. Armenian-Lithuanian political ties are deeply rooted in the past... Both nations began to bear, almost simultaneously, the yoke of Russian imperialism forced upon them. Armenia, like Lithuania, declared its independence in 1918...

"...Lithuania managed to safeguard its independence for 22 years, at a time when Russia and Turkey divided up Armenia. Our common fate in 1940 brought us back together. Stalin...parceled out our ethnographic territories to Armenian and Lithuanian neighbors. Bearing this in mind, we Lithuanians fully understand the pain and sorrow of the Armenian nation...", stated the Lithuanian signatories.

In conclusion, they demanded that the Soviet Union free Paruir Airikyanin, one of the leaders of the Armenian National Movement, arrested on March 24, as well as two unnamed human rights activists.

Nationalist demonstrations took place last February in Lithuania. Despite the increased presence of militia forces, an estimated 100,000 attended Sunday services for the special intention of freedom on February 14. Demonstrators and police clashed in Vilnius and Kaunas, where thousands gathered to mark February 16, Lithuanian Independence Day. As in Armenia, telephone contact with Lithuanian nationalists was cut off during the unrest.



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY of the U.S.A.,Inc.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

9660 Pine Road Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19115

Please reply to:

May 5, 1988

President Ronald Reagan The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Lithuanian-American Community, a national ethnic organization of Americans of Lithuanian descent, respectfully requests you, Mr. President, to appeal during the forthcoming Moscow Summit Meeting to Mr. Gorbachev to renounce the Molotov-Ribbentrop pacts of August 23 and September 28, 1939, including their secret protocols, and to liquidate the consequences of the infamous Soviet-Nazi conspiracy against the Baltic nations expressed in these protocols. This requires decolonization of the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and restoration of their independence and territorial integrity according to the 1920 peace treaties between Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on one side and Soviet Russia on the other.

Despite Soviet protestations that the status of the Baltic nations is an internal Soviet affair, it is in fact an international problem. The United States, as well as Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, United Kingdom and most other Western countries, have never recognized the legitimacy of the Soviet annexation of the Baltic states. There never was any plebiscite in the Baltic countries to join the Soviet Union, and the elections of the bodies which approved the incorporations were fraudulent and invalid.

A genuine self-determination is impossible when a country is occupied by the armed forces of an interested power. This principle has been upheld by Lenin in his Decree on Peace, which states that, if a nation " is not granted the right by means of free elections, under conditions of complete

M. Man

President Ronald Roaman May 5, 1988 Page Two

withdrawal of foreign troops and influence of a foreign power, to decide the forms of national existence, without the slightest coercion, then the joining of its territory to another country is an annexation; namely, is a capture and taking over by force." The European Parliament in 1983 / and in 1987 / adopted a resolution in support of the joint declaration of 45 citizens of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia on August 23, 1979, calling on the United Nations to recognize the rights of the Baltic states to self-determination and independence.

In addition to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia the Molotov-Ribbentrop pacts also assigned Finland to the Soviet sphere of influence. Soviet Union found it possible to tolerate an independent and neutral Finland. There is no valid reason why independent and permanently neutral Baltic countries, free of any nuclear weapons and any foreign military bases or foreign armed forces on their soil, should not likewise be acceptable to the Soviet Union.

By repudiation of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pacts and restoration of independence and territorial integrity of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Soviet leadership can significantly contribute to restoration of trust in solemn Soviet pledges and freely assumed international obligations.

The Lithuanian-American Community also requests that during the Moscow Meeting an appeal be made to Mr. Gorbachev to free the imprisoned activists of the Lithuanian human and national rights movement, primarily Messrs. Balys Gajauskas, Viktoras Petkus, Rev. Alfonsas Svarinskas, Rev. Sigitas Tamkevicius, and to permit them, if they wish, to come with their families to the United States.

Respectfully yours,

Vytas F. Volertas
President, National
Executive Committee,

Lithuanian-American Community of the U.S.A., Inc.

CREED

WINTER 1987/88

It was with great joy that we learned of the release of several prisoners for whom CREED has been interceding for years. The constant letter-writing campaigns, prayers, and other intercessions in behalf of these prisoners have paid off!



Anna Chertkova

Anna Chertkova, a Baptist, was held in psychiatric hospitals for 15 years for "rehabilitation." Because of her Christian activities, she was first sentenced to this harsh brutal treatment in 1972 and was released on December 3, 1987. One of her first actions in freedom was to call her sister in West Germany to send a message of thanks to her supporters around the world for interceding for her. She is staying with her niece in Alma Ata in the south central Soviet Union and is fine mentally though physically she is suffering from the side effects of years of harsh treatment and debilitating drugs. She now hopes to emigrate from the Soviet Union to join her sister in West Germany.



RELEASE DENVISO FEBRUARY, 5 1988

Balys Gajauskas

Balys Gajauskas has been a top priority prisoner on CREED's list for years. A Roman Catholic, he was first imprisoned in a Soviet labor camp for 25 years for resistance activities in Lithuania. After release and a few years of freedom, he was rearrested in 1977 and sentenced to 10 years' hard labor and five years' internal exile. He was due for release in 1992. CREED launched a "Free Balys Gajauskas" national campaign in 1985 and last November contacted President Reagan, Vice-president Bush, and many congressman concerning the urgency of the case. On January 6, Mrs. Bernice Gajauskas, Balys' aunt who lives in Santa Monica, California, called Dr. Gordon to say she had just received word that her nephew had been released. He is now applying for emigration.

Father Gleb Yakunin, also a familiar name among CREED members, is a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. In 1976 he founded the Society for the Defence of Believers' Rights in the USSR, soliciting support from church leaders around the world. For this he was sentenced to seven years of prison camp and five years of internal exile. Last fall he was released, a few months earlier than due, possibly because of the constant intercession of CREED members and other concerned people. He made the headlines almost immediately when he joined the human rights seminar held in Moscow in December, organized by former prisoners.



Father Gleb Yakunin in exile, flanked by his two children

On December 7, CREED's president received this hand-delivered letter from Father Yakunin:

Dear Dr. Gordon:

Please accept my profound gratitude personally for your organization, for your efforts, and for your well demonstrated solidarity with us in the matter of human rights and triumph of people especially in the struggle for religious freedom and the freedom for prisoners of conscience. May this grateful note inspire you and your friends to continue your efforts in order to ensure the victory of justice.

May the Lord bless you and bestow on you his spiritual joy—that joy which is experienced by me, by my friends who were formerly prisoners, and by those who are spiritually close to us.

Yours truly,

Priest Gleb Yakunin

The release of these three prisoners, who were on CREED's Priority Prisoner List for years, demonstrates the enormous effectiveness of constant intercession. Because of this, CREED has started an informal network of CREED Fellowships throughout the country. YOUR PARTICIPATION IS CRITICAL. See page 4 for details.

Please let us know if you would like a CREED Prisoner List, with the names, addresses, and life histories of men and women imprisoned in the Eastern Bloc countries for their Christian beliefs. Every letter and every prayer counts. If you have received a list during the past four months, you will be receiving an update soon.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



My dear friend,

I have read statements by experts about General Secretary Gorbachev, most of which praised him for his present policies of glasnost and perestroika. They indicated that those policies marked a new age. We thank God for this possibility! Those experts seemed to ignore two factors, however, which have helped to formulate Gorbachev's policies. One of these has been the increased awareness in the West of the "double think" and "double speak" nature of Soviet propaganda. In his letter printed on page 1 in this newsletter, Father Gleb Yakunin indicates his awareness of this factor. He also indicates his awareness of the heroic spirit of the Russian and Ukrainian people. Lev Timofeyev, another recently released prisoner of the Gulag, wrote the following words in his samizdat book, The Last Hope for Survival. In it he says, "By relating humanity's transitory experience to eternity, religion provides the opportunity for one to isolate oneself spiritually from the lying ideology of the State, and to rise above it. Christianity originally established itself as a religion of slaves. Today, we, the slaves of the Communist doctrine, hear the teachings of Christ calling us to a spiritual liberation. Christianity in Russia will soon be celebrating its thousandth anniversary. The fact that it is not only alive but stronger than ever testifies to the unconquerable resistance of spirit exerted by the people against the ideology's deadly oppression." For expressions of this quality, on the 19th of March, 1985, Timofeyev was sentenced to six years of hard labour and five years of exile.

Lev Timofeyev is free and well, thanks to the intercession of good people like yourselves, and is contributing to the spiritual renaissance or reformation of the church. This renewal is challenging the destructive power of the Communist party. Timofeyev was, by the way, the coordinator of the recent conference in Moscow. Father Gleb was the Chairman of the section dealing with religion and human rights, and though the conference was forbidden to use its rented rooms, it was a

success. Gorbachev's book, *Perestroika*, concludes with this credo: "I believe that more and more people will come to realize that through RESTRUCTURING in the broad sense of the word, the integrity of the world will be enhanced." Such a belief has a familiar ring to it. Hasn't this been said before thousands of times. The first is recorded in *Genesis* 3:5, "You will be like gods knowing both good and evil." For the Christian, Renewal occurs through Redemption, Repentance, and Resurrection, and this Renewal is occurring within the Community of Faith.

Emer Town +

Ernest Gordon

Good News

In addition to the prisoners highlighted on the first page of this newsletter and Janis Rozkalns, on page 3, several other CREED prisoners have been released recently: Anatoly T. Rublenko. an active leader and youth worker in the evangelical Baptist church; Anatoly Runov, a preacher in an unregistered Baptist church; Leonid Borodin, a 47-year-old Russian Orthodox Christian, after 20 years in prison; Peter D. Peters, a Baptist pastor and youth evangelist who served four prison sentences in 20 years and has already received a number of warnings about his continuing Christian ministry. Sergei A. Dubitsky, an evangelical Baptist, along with four other Baptist prisoners, has been transferred from a labor camp to the less harsh punishment of "compulsory labor on the national economy" for the last year of his three-year sentence.

A French news agency has reported that nearly 100 Catholic priests will be released from Vietnamese reeducation camps. However, no reference was made to the 14 non-Catholic pastors known to be in these camps.

Recently released prisoners of conscience held a human rights seminar in Moscow from December 10 to 15. Four hundred participants met in private homes for several days to discuss religious persecution, disarmament, and coexistence with the Soviet government. Chief organizer was author Lev Timofeyev, a CREED priority prisoner sentenced to six years' hard labor and five years' exile for his books critical of Soviet policies. Sergei I. Grigoryants, another leader of the seminar, is editor of the nongovernmental magazine, Glasnost. The "Religion and Human Rights" section of the seminar was chaired by Father Gleb Yakunin who spent 12 years as a Soviet prisoner of conscience. (Note: Father Yakunin is being invited to participate in CREED's November conference.) We must stand in awe of the sacrifices and the courage of these extraordinary men.

A new publication, *The Christian Community Bulletin*, was started last summer to spread the news of the Church in the Soviet Union. One of the contributors is Alexander Ogorodnikov, a former prisoner and leader of the Christian Seminar, a large Christian movement in Leningrad and Moscow. In December Ogorodnikov finally received his Residence Permit for Moscow.

Nestor Popescu, a Baptist from Bucharest, Rumania, has been missing since last November. It is not known if he was thrown into prison or was killed, possibly as he tried to flee the country.

Victor Opres, a Pentecostal from Satu Mare, Rumania, was recently sentenced by a military court to nine years in prison for helping people flee the country across the Black Sea.

Last fall, a Czechoslovakian parish priest was murdered for no apparent reason. On October 7, the home of Stefan Bulack of Piestany, Czechoslovakia, was entered, the priest was tied to a radiator with a wire around his neck, and he was beaten to death. Officials blamed the violence on burglars though Bulack's gold cross remained around his neck, and the money in his pockets and on his desk was not touched. Czech Christians fear that this act indicates the beginning of a reign of terror towards Christians in the Slovak area of Czechoslovakia.

Last September, Konstantin Kharchev, chairman of the Soviet's Council on Religious Affairs, promised that all "prisoners of faith" would be released by November. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Hundreds are still in prison. We must keep up the pressure until all are released.

Among the most critical cases on the CREED Prisoner List, are the following:

Ivan Antonov, 68, has begun serving a five-year term of exile in Siberia. He is weak and the conditions there are appalling. If your letters to Pastor Antonov have been returned, as many of you have reported to us, it is because he was in transit for a month. The December CREED Prisoner List gives his current address.

Vasili I. Gritsenko, a 38-year-old Baptist preacher, has been in prison, much of it in solitary confinement, for three years. His family sent out an urgent appeal for him recently because of the harsh conditions and his failing health.

Deacon Vladimir Rusak is in the Perm Camp, one of the harshest prison camps that we know of where winter temperatures drop to all decrees Farenhall. He was recently given an additional 24 days of solitary confinement, probably for refusing to sign an apology for his "wrongdoings."

Please write to CREED if you want the addresses of these and other prisoners. Better yet, start a CREED Fellowship! (See page 4.)

Inspiration in Rumania

John Crossley, Chairman of CREED's Board of Directors, travels to Rumania for business several times a year. On each trip he visits Christian families, brings them food, clothing, medicine — whatever he can — to give relief during this desperate time of famine, cold and economic shambles. In spite of the depressing situation, he had an extraordinary trip last fall. As he reports, "In the 50 or so times I've been to Rumania, never has the situation been worse and never has the Christian spirit been better."

John's inspiration came from the hundreds of Christians he met on his journey. "They shone as lights in darkness," he says. This analogy with lights is particularly apt because, with the fuel shortage, each Rumanian household may light a single light bulb for only three hours a day. "It is a desperate situation," reports John. "I saw people line up for blocks to get chicken feet to make soup; one man had only a hard roll to take him through a 12-hour work day." But John saw hope with the Christians: "Unlike all the others I met, the Christians can overcome. They are very supportive of each other: whatever tiny thing they have — whether food, clothing or candles — they share it."



John Crossley with young Romanian Christian paralyzed by arthritis, and her family

In addition to the many people he met, John had a special mission. He brought with him two young women — sisters — who work in his business in Erwinna, Pennsylvania. They are Rumanian and came to the United States several years ago after serving 10 months of a six-year prison term for distributing 125,000 Bibles throughout Rumania. With CREED's help, they were able to return for a visit to their aging but staunchly Christian parents and other family. It was a joyous reunion with family and hundreds of friends and acquaintances. One man traveled six hundred miles to apologize for not supporting their mission originally.

John came back with wonderful stories of Christian strength throughout Rumania: the arthritically paralyzed young woman who felt blessed because she could still move one finger to turn the pages of her Bible; the cross painted on the front of a house; the truck driver distributing goods by day and Bibles by night.

Because the Rumanian people are in such great need, we urge you to send them CREED's emergency packages described on page 4.

Petition Helps Free Prisoner

Last fall, an exciting call came in to CREED. New Jersey friends who had been interceding for Soviet dissident Janis Rozkalns for several years, had just heard that Janis, his wife, and two children were on their way to Vienna. A Latvian Baptist, Janis had been arrested in Riga in 1983 after Bibles and the final report from Helsinki Accords were found in his house. He was sentenced to five years in a strict labor camp and three years of exile. He tells several stories about his experiences in the camp: the Bible that was kept hidden—and still is—in the camp for years, sometimes in sight of the camp guards; and the baptism he performed in the potato tub in the kitchen (for which he spent 10 days in the punishment cell).

Because of constant intercession he was released after four years, and now he and his family are out of the Soviet Union. The New Jersey group must be credited with exerting a great deal of pressure on officials, including the submission of a petition with a thousand signatures. A strong personal relationship has developed between the Rozkalns family and the New Jersey group and they hope to meet soon.

NEWS OF CREED ACTIVITIES

CREED Fellowships

We are very excited about the formation of CREED Fellowships throughout the country. These fellowships have formed naturally in community and church groups wanting to be active in the CREED mission. Through the powerful tools of letterwriting campaigns, prayer meetings, Bible and care package mailings, and other activities, CREED Fellowship participants can comfort prisoners and their families and influence the outcome of their sentences.

Would you be interested in launching a CREED Fellowship in your church or community, especially with Easter coming up, the most celebrated of holidays in the Soviet Union? CREED has worked with East Watch, a group in Erwinna, Pennsylvania, headed by CREED's Chairman of the Board John Crossley, to produce a CREED Fellowship Start-Up Kit. This kit includes information on CREED and East Watch, guidelines for letter-writing, suggestions for other activities, posters to encourage others to join. Once you have signed up, CREED will send its Priority Prisoner List, periodic updates, and other relevant information.

A massive barrage of Easter cards to the suffering Vasili Gritsenko or Ivan Antonov or to any of the prisoners and their families would be a brilliant light in the engulfing darkness of imprisonment.

PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT STARTING A CREED FELLOW-SHIP

There may be a small fee for the materials and postage.

Yes, I would	like	more	information	on	starting	a	CREED	Fel-
lowship.								

Name	 	 	
Address _		 	

Phone ()____

CREED Emergency Packages

The people of Rumania are in a desperate state. Recent droughts, economic mismanagement, and senseless repression have led to poverty, famine, and illness in a cruel unrelenting winter. Christian families are particularly affected because they are persecuted and denied basic rights even in good times. CREED, with the help of East Watch, has found a way to supply care packages filled with food and clothing to families in Rumania. These packages, prepared and sent by an organization in Switzerland, are \$65 each.

Checks for \$65 per package should be made out to CREED, which in turn will put through the order to Switzerland. If you know of a specific Rumanian family to whom the package should go, give us the name and address. If you would like CREED to choose a worthy Christian family, we can do that. Your donation, like all donations to CREED, is tax deductable.

- In the fall, the Presbyterians for Democracy and Religious Freedom gave its first Faith and Freedom Award to Dr. Ernest Gordon, president of CREED, for CREED's efforts in behalf of persecuted prisoners.
- CREED's two radio programs reach millions of people here and in the Soviet Union. "The Living Faith" is broadcast weekly over 64 stations in this country. Please call Radio America at 202-488-7226 if you would like the time and station in your area. "Life in Christ" is heard by approximately 30,000,000 Russians every Sunday morning. This program is costly for CREED to produce, but is very effective in the Christian community in the Soviet Union.
- CREED's annual conference, to be held in Princeton in November, will celebrate the Russian Millennium (a thousand years of Christianity). Recently released Soviet dissidents such as Balys Gajauskas and Anna Chertkova have been invited to speak. It will be hosted by the Princeton Theological Seminary.

CREED Names Two New Board Members

Two splendid friends, both experienced in the field of publishing, recently joined the Board of Directors of CREED. James Mulholland of Hillsdale, New Jersey, is the head of the Freedom, Justice and Peace Society, Inc.; and James Bell is executive director of the Bridge Publishing Company of South Plainfield, New Jersey. CREED is delighted to have them join the already active and concerned board.



Dr. Ernest Gordon with CREED poster of recently released Balys Gajauskas

Bulletin: As of January, Rumania is rejecting all food packages from the West. CREED is protesting this action vigorously and is hopeful that the decision will be rescinded.

787 Princeton Kingston Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 · 609-497-0224

PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. Ernest Gordon

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John Whitehead
The Rutherford Institute

Winter 1988

My dear friend:

The optimism of General Secretary Gorbachev seems to have thrilled the news commentators. None of those whose reports I have heard or read have questioned the basis of Gorbachev's optimism. This basis is stated clearly in his book, Perestroika, published in this country. He tells us, "Perestroika is closely connected with socialism as a system... More socialism means a more dynamic pace and creative endeavor, more organization, law and order...more democracy, openness and collectivism.... We will proceed toward better socialism rather than away from it.... We want more socialism and, therefore, more democracy."

One would have thought that the Soviet Union has already suffered from too much "organization, law and order...and collectivism." Thus the General Secretary seems to be reconstructing his Communist state with the bricks of old communism. He is in effect doing what is prescribed by Article 6 of the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which states, "the leading and guiding force of Soviet society...is the Communist Party.... The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, armed with Marxism-Leninism, determines the general perspectives of the development of society."

Seventy-one years of socialism have hardly demonstrated the need for more socialism as the answer to more democracy. I cannot help but compare perestroika with Psalm 127: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it." The ruins of many tyrannical empires have demonstrated the truth of the Bible's wisdom but only to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

We rejoice in the recent release of prisoners, but why were they imprisoned in the first place? Why are Christians still held in prison camps? Why was Deacon Vladimir Rusak punished with 24 days of solitary confinement (shizo) last November? Why did it take so many years of pleading by his family, his American sympathizers, the Congress and the President of the United States, to attain the release of Balys Gajauskas after so many years of the cruelest treatment.

Again, for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, we are participants in the struggle against the forces of sin: "For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the power, against the world rulers of this darkness." (Eph 6:12)

I do not think that <u>Perestroika</u> would have been published in this country, that some of the imprisoned believers released, and that some seminaries and churches opened if Gorbachev were not aware that his empire of lies is being threatened from within and from outside by those who have "put on the whole armour of God."

As a platoon in this struggle, CREED needs the support of your prayers, intercessions, letters to prisoners, and money more than ever. We cannot go it alone. Your support makes all the difference. For example, one of our young friends contributed a lot of time and effort in setting up our computer and its systems; Charles Rice in St. Louis encouraged the CREED fellowship there to send 161 Bibles in Russian to the families of prisoners on our Priority Prisoner List. Space forbids my attempts to thank all of you for your participation in CREED's expanding mission of freedom in Communist countries -- not only there but in our own country. Your prayers, activities of faith, and donations are essential ammunition for CREED's part in the spiritual warfare of our time. "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." We are privileged to share His victory by serving with Him.

With every blessing,

The Rev. Dr. Ernest Gordon

Emest Garden +

The Rev. Dr. Ernest Gordon President

CREED

787 Princeton Kingston Road Princeton, New Jersey 08540

I want to help CREED intercede in behalf of those imprisoned for their faith.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution for:
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NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CZECH CATHOLICS

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May 2,1988

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Honorable Ronald W. Reagan President of the United States of America The White House Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

In a few weeks, all freedom loving people will focus their attention on the Summit Conference being held in Moscow between you and General Secretary Michael Gorbachev.

On behalf of the National Alliance of Czech Catholics in America, I urge you, Mr. President, to raise the question of the Soviet military occupation of once free and true democratic Republic of Czechoslovakia as well as the intolerable oppressive conditions existing in today's Czechoslovakia.

It should be noted that the Czechoslovak Republic under the inspired leadership of Thomas G. Masaryk was respected as a flourishing island of democracy on the European scene between the two World Wars. During the Prague Spring of the 1960s, it appeared that the spirit of liberation would prevail again. However, these hopes were dashed in August of 1968 by the might of Soviet armies.

Dear Mr. President! The discussion of the present status of Czechoslovakia will offer a unique opportumity to test the real meaning of Gorbachev's glasnost. It will provide evidence of Gorbachev's sincerety in regard to his repeated statements of Soviet NOinterference in domestic affairs of other states. General Secretary will have to prove the validity of his respect for sovereignity of all nations by deeds and not by phraseology.

The oppressed people in Czechoslovakia and in the entire world are pinning their hopes for regaining their freedom on You, Mr.President! We hope you will steadfastly defend the rights of all nations to selfdetermination since only free nations can build a world free from oppression and fear.

Together, with our Christian brothers and sisters in Czechoslovakia, we pray that you, Mr. President, will be successful in communicating this vital message of human and national freedom.

Respectfully yours:

National Alliance of Czech Catholics in USA

Secretary

Frantiska Uhlivora Rev. Vojtech Vit, O.S.B. Vaclar Hyvnar Rev. Vojtech Vit, O.S.B. Vaclav Hyvnar

Chaplain

President

Release #88-4-01 April 12, 1988

NEWS RELEASE

ROCHESTERIAN PROTESTS IMPRISONMENT OF LITHUANIAN DISSIDENT

ROCHESTER, N.Y. - - - Paulius Klimas, a local substitute teacher and shoe salesman will walk from Rochester to Washington, D.C. to personally deliver an urgent plea to President Reagan, asking for the President's support in obtaining the immediate release of Lithuanian dissident Petras Grazulis from a Soviet labor camp.

According to the Lithuanian Information Center in Washington, Grazulis is the first Lithuanian dissident to be sentenced during Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev's Glastnost/Perestroika period. The 29-year old Grazulis had already fulfilled his two-year mandatory period in the Soviet Army and refused to attend a "military refresher course." Dissidents are often "convicted" of such charges as a result of attending demonstrations or supporting human rights causes, according to the Lithuanian Information Center. Grazulis had attended Independence Recognition Day ceremonies in Riga, Latvia last November.

Klimas, a Lithuanian-American, has sent General Secretary Gorbachev advance notice of his "Glastnost for Grazulis" program, and intends to deliver a number of petitions and letters from other concerned Lithuanian-Americans to the Soviet Embassy when he arrives in Washington in late May.

Paulius R. Klimas 533 South Winton Road Rochester, New York 14618 (716) 271-8897

April 12, 1988

Mikhail Gorbachev General Secretary of the Communist Party Moskva, Kremel Generalnomu Sekretaryu TsK KPSS Moscow, USSR

Dear General Secretary Gorbachev:

I urgently appeal to you for the release of Petras Grazulis, the Lithuanian dissident imprisoned in a Soviet labor camp. I, and most Lithuanian-Americans, believe that he is an innocent man, and should be released immediately.

You have initiated a policy that you call "Glastnost." How can anyone believe that you are sincere in the implementation of this policy when a young man is imprisoned unjustly for merely participating in an Independence Day celebration?

If you are genuinely serious about mending the rift in trust between the Soviet Union and the West, I urge you to immediately use your good offices to see that this young man regains his freedom. Anything short of this will be perceived as just another Soviet propaganda attempt and will seriously undermine any further "Glastnost" activities.

I, the Lithuanian-American community, and a multitude of other concerned Americans anxiously await your reply. Please give this matter you immediate attention.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Paulius Klimas

cc: Yuri V. Dubinan
Soviet Ambassador
Washington, D.C., USA