

PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

§ 1 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia establishes, that Estonia is an independent and sovereign democratic republic, where the supreme power of state is vested in the people. The independence and sovereignty of Estonia is timeless and inalienable.

Arising from the first constitutional principle it is the most important task of the Security Police to guarantee the constitutional law and territorial integrity or else the Republic of Estonia could not exist. The year 1999 is characterised by the circumstance, that from the regaining of its independence (in 1991) the factors having endangered the constitutional law and been in the middle of attention are losing their importance in the context of the national security of Estonia. Let us recall the dangerous events and movements of those early days: the Interfront meetings in Tallinn with tens of thousands of participants, the attack of Toompea by Russian population fooled by hostile propaganda, several attempts to organize referendum in North-Eastern Estonia, present Ida-Virumaa, the region mainly populated by Russian-speaking inhabitants, with the aim to separate this region from the rest of the Republic of Estonia - pursuant to the same Russian nationalist scenario according to what the "Republic-on-Dniestr" was separated from Moldavia (where it finally took place as a result of armed conflict).



The number of supporters of well-known extremists is gradually decreasing

In 1999, after the elections of the Parliament and local governments, considerable reduction in the number of groups of persons, hostile-minded against the Republic of Estonia, could be detected. At the same time the year 1999 also illustrated, that international conflicts taking place elsewhere in the world may bring about actions against foreign representations located in the Republic of Estonia. Soviet-minded extremists have always attempted to take advantage of such destabilizing processes, they try to take over leadership and recruit "new, younger members" to their fading activities. They have not been successful, though, but the described tendency reflects the danger of extremists and causes the Security Police to focus its attention on these persons and their activities also in the future.

Another peculiar assertion, repeatedly demonstrated by criminal proceedings in 1999 was that aliens in principle refusing from the citizenship of the Republic of Estonia or from the application of residence permit sooner or later choose the criminal path, because they do not have legal means to support themselves or their families. Therefore continuous smelting with the criminal world of persons currently illegally staying in the Republic of Estonia, or the so-called "illegal aliens", can be predicted.

From the other hand the year 1999 demonstrated that upon the coinciding of several particular circumstances (incomplete legislative base, lack of effective social controlling mechanism, low military discipline) also the frequent cases of insubordination occurring at the Estonian Defence Forces and the half-military Kaitseliit may endanger our democracy. Due to this kind of insubordination several serious scandals broke out at the threshold of the new century (the choosing of criminal path by members of a special military unit SOG, the inclusion of the members of Kaitseliit to a conflict between business undertakings at the Port of Bekker). They were also reflect-



Russian neo-Nazis – Members of the Russian National Unity or "barkašovians"

ed internationally and therefore they damaged the reputation of the Republic of Estonia at a time when the joining with several international organizations was established as one of our national priorities. All these above-mentioned events are giving a repeated signal that the need to protect our constitutional law is actual. Luckily the activities of the Security Police have been legally regulated in this sphere by now.

Due to the geopolitical location of the Republic of Estonia occurrences of classical extremism were noticed in 1999 at the immediate neighbourhood of Estonia, that may become more actual in the nearest future and draw wider social attention. From the one hand come the attempts of neo-Nazi organizations mainly operating in Russia (members of Russian National Unity, lead by Aleksander Barkashov, generally known as barkaschovians and members of the National Bolshevik Party lead by Eduard Limonov, known as limonovians) to implant their ideas also into the Estonian society. From the other hand an increasing interest of Scandinavian neo-Nazi and skinhead organizations in Estonia can be distinguished.

Chauvinistic organizations with Russian background using swastika as their symbol have only exhibited themselves by spreading handbills in various towns propagating their organizations. At the same time the case when a Russian person actively spread the newspaper "Nashe Otechestvo" in Tallinn, propagating national hostility, received a condemnatory solution in 1999. Scandinavian skinheads have attempted to print their propagandist publications in Estonia and organize pertinent closed events. In 1999 persecution was performed in two main directions: skinheads in Tallinn and the Scandinavian links of skinheads. Estonian skinhead movement is in its early stage. The movement is sporadic: there are no established leaders yet. They do not hold meetings etc. On the basis of the Scandinavian experience this could easily be judged only as a temporary period culminating sooner or later with the organization of Estonian skinheads and the emergence of their leaders. This can be anticipated, because the joining of Estonia with the European Union will bring about social problems - greater competition for free jobs and increasing inflow of alien labour force - that serve as a fruitful ground for the spreading of skinhead ideology.

Until now the prepared crimes have been succeeded to prevent or obstruct without the application of criminal sanctions, therefore the main resources and forces of the Security Police will be focused on preventive activities also in the future.

The future task of the Security Police will be the controlling of groups of people with extremely left or extremely right inclinations in order to prevent and obstruct their activities endangering the constitutional law, and perform the pre-trial treatment of criminal cases.

COUNTER- INTELLIGENCE

From the year 1991 the Republic of Estonia has been steadily returning to Europe, from which it was violently separated, being occupied by the Soviet Union. The mentioned process is primarily expressed in the firm will to become a member of several international organizations that design the European and world politics. High politicians of different level of the Russian Federation that has proclaimed to be a legal successor of the Soviet Union have repeatedly stressed "the eternal interests" of Russia in the Baltic region, including Estonia. One of the covered protectors of the state's interests are different special services, whose counterintelligence activities are focused on obtaining valuable information about the other country (Estonia).

Another main task of the Security Police is to disclose and prevent activities by foreign special services aimed against the Republic of Estonia until the pre-trial criminal proceedings in case of features of Article 63 of the Criminal Code (spying). However, no persons have been convicted for spying in Estonia since the year of 1991. Hereby it is worth stressing that counterintelligence of the Security Police is moving in two main directions:

- 1) perform investigation activities in cases which could lead to the detection of a spy who gathers valuable data, jeopardizing the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Estonia;
- 2) prevent activities of these foreign intelligence officers who seek persons, who have the access to the state secrets of Estonia with the aim to tend them to co-operation or to recruit them.



For many foreign diplomats their status veils their reconnaissance

PROTECTION OF STATE SECRETS

Besides the previous topic, another extremely significant field of activity is the protection of state secret. First and foremost the existence of a law regulating the state secret and a system functioning in accordance with the law that has to regulate it in the interests of assuring the security of the Republic of Estonia from disclosure data that needs protection, in the possession of the state, under the control of the state or established by the state or for the state. Since the Republic of Estonia has set its foreign policy aim to become a member of different international organizations, one precondition of joining is the existence of a valid State Secret Act, because otherwise it would be impossible to exchange classified information. The current State Secret Act that became valid in 1999 is already the third in the line of State Secret Acts adopted by the parliament during the period of 1994-1999. The Security Police has played leading role in elaborating these laws.

Year 1999 was significant in the context of assuring legal protection to the state secret. On January 26, 1999, Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) adopted a new State Secret Act, being declared by the President of the Republic on February 12. The Act became valid on February 28, 1999. On July 08, 1999 the Order for Protection of State Secret and the Order for Granting the Access to State Secrets. On October 20, 1999 the Riigikogu adopted the State Secret Amendment Act pursuant to which the state secret is no longer related to the Prisons Board.

Persons are one of the main factors in assuring the protection of state secret: it is up to the people who have got the access to the state secret whether and how the state secret is being protected against disclosure. Therefore an important role is played by a security checks of persons who apply for access to state secrets. After the performance of the security check the Security Police shall also decide whether to grant or refuse from issuing access permit to state secrets. The only ground for issuing the access permit to the state secret is a need for information. Thus 48 access permissions were revoked pursuant to Article 32 of the State Secret Act (the RT I 1999, 16, 271; 82, 752) and 8 persons were refused from issuing the access permit pursuant to Article 31.

Right to the access to the state secrets naturally brings along responsibilities. An owner of the access permit to the state secret is obliged to keep the state secret known to him/her as well as to protect secret equipment in his/her possession against disclosure and the access by inappropriate persons.

From the one hand the main task of the Security Police is to check the existence and order of the state secrets, from the other hand it has to carry out regular training in respect of the defence of state secret. One of the tasks is also the investigation of criminal matters in case they are related to illegal disclosing of the state secret.



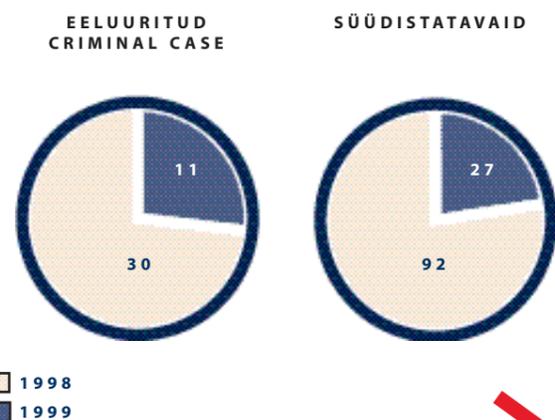
CORRUPTION IN ESTONIA

Combating corruption or detecting, anticipating and preventing white collar crimes at all levels of active governmental power became a priority of the Security Police in 1999. The referred fact is brought about by the increasing unreliability of the inhabitants towards the activities of the governmental institutions, lacking of the sense of justice generally and reasonable critics by the international organizations against the untrustworthiness and non-competence of the Estonian public offices. But the mentioned problems are continuously decreasing people's trust towards the state. At the same time the ineffective activities of the governmental institutions in combating corruption could seriously hinder the Estonian efforts in becoming a member of different European international organizations.

A total of 30 criminal cases treating white collar crimes, committed by the officials, were proceeded and forwarded to the court by the Security Police Board within the year of 1999. White collar crimes or corruption in general meaning comprising of such elements of the criminal offence of the Criminal Code as embezzlement, occupational negligence, occupational falsification, taking or mediating bribes, corruption, defalcation by embezzlement (Articles 161, 162, 164,

164_, 164_, 166, 141_, 259). Malpractice, committed with the participation of officials, illegal trafficking and tax evasion (Articles 143, 76 p. 3 and 1486 of the Criminal Code) are also included. 7 criminal cases from the above-mentioned 30 were transferred to the court according to the corruption article (Article 164_ of the Criminal Code). For comparison it could be said that if 30 criminal cases were transferred to the court by the Board in 1999, then 9 cases of white collar crimes were transferred to the court in 1998 and 14 cases in 1997.

Several criminal cases regarding corruptive activities by the local municipal officials were proceeded in 1999. During the pre-trial investigation it was cleared out that corruptive relationship between municipal officials and private entrepreneurs have become steady and the interests of the municipal officials mingle frequently with the interests of the private entrepreneurs. There have also been incidents where a higher leader of a local municipality decides all by himself upon investing into local municipal dubious businesses or loans financial resources, which would be lost for sure even in the case the official himself does not gain personal profit from that at all - such criminal activities caused a loss of 7 million kroons to the local municipalities.





- Detected loss of 85 000 000 kroons
- Detected corruptive profit of 1 631 737 kroons
- Prosecuted as the accused :

-13	higher officials of the local municipal, 5 mayors included
-5	police officials
-37	customs officials
-5	border guard officials
-3	other higher governmental officials

Besides detecting of corruption regarding higher local municipal officials and governmental officials and proceeding of the criminal cases pursuant to the law, one of the tasks is the continuous co-operation with the Border Guard Board and the Customs Board in preventing and detecting the illegal trafficking of narcotics, liquor, engine fuel and tobacco goods, also various tax evasions brought about by them. Unfortunately it has turned out in some criminal cases, proceeded until now, that criminals engaged in smuggling are being assisted just by officials - customs officials, border guard officials, police officers. Almost 70 000 litres of illegal liquor was confiscated from the criminals in the co-operation with other boards in 1999 as well as large quantities of

illegal cigarettes without tax stamps. Within the year a total of 9 criminal matters regarding border- or customs corruption were transferred to the court by the Security Police, where over 20 million kroons of material loss was caused to the state as back payments.

A total of 92 persons were sued in 30 criminal matters transferred to the court.

However, proceeding criminal cases is merely one part of the whole anti-corruption combat. The idea of the Anti-Corruption Act, updated in 1999, is focused preferably on anticipation of the possibilities for embezzlement. Proceeding criminal matters and attaining accusing judgements have certainly a cautionary and preventive effect, but are by nature only combating results, being at the same time expensive and time-consuming for the society.

ANTICIPATIVE ACTIVITIES ON PREVENTING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

As in the previous years, no crimes that could be classified as international terrorism ñ terrorist explosions or homicides ñ were not observed in 1999 also. Likewise, the interest of international terrorism towards Estonia was not noticed. The priorities in 2000 are first and foremost to continue efforts in anticipating and preventing the mentioned crimes. To detect persons with possible criminal tendencies and disclosing the activities of the groups and expelling of terrorists from the country, if possible, are very important in anticipating operations.

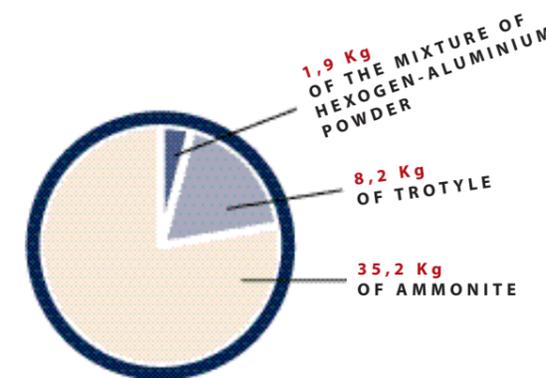
The Security Police Board, in planning the combat against terrorism, is continuously aware of the activities of the world major danger groups and continuously updating fighting strategies of terrorists. Likewise, connections with Estonia of terrorist societies and terrorists, known to us are being supervised. The priority of the Security Police is also to supervise and eliminate persons who could assist terrorists in organizing possible attacks in the country.

Taking into account the geographical location and historical-political background of Estonia, the greatest danger will definitely remain possible terrorism from the East, since the continuous crises in the Russian economy motivate the criminal societies there to seek supplementary profit resources

and activate its operations in foreign countries. On estimating the danger from the East an attention has to be paid to a terrorist attack against the Armenian Parliament in October, where the Prime Minister and the Speaker of the Parliament were murdered. A problem in Estonia is still the illegal activities of the representatives of the Islamic nations. For instance, together with ordinary Kurd war refugees also the activists of the terrorist Kurd Labour Party (PKK) and ordinary criminal offenders often want to re-locate from Turkey and it brings about processes, characteristic to the criminal element - trafficking of narcotics, weapons and explosives.

Even though in 1999 no illegal weapon trafficking was detected through the Estonian territory, the mentioned area remains still under the close attention of the Security Police in order to prevent Estonia to be listed among the transit countries of illegal weapon trafficking. During 1999 three criminal cases with the total of 10 accused, handling investigation of international illegal weapon trafficking from Poland to Estonia, were sent to court by the Security Police.

Even though 5 persons perished and 16 were injured in 35 explosions (several were not connected with explosive devices) in 1999, remarkably less publicly discussed explosions took place in Estonia compared with the year 1998 and the material loss was considerably smaller than in the previous years. There were no death cases as the result of criminal explosions. Improvement of the situation can first of all be explained with the close and effective co-operation of order protection institutions and the previous effective work of the Security Police. Large quantities of explosives have been con-



explosion in the same house on 01.05.1997). On 18.02.2000 the Tallinn City Court convicted Popov in premeditated murder, destroying of property, which lead to immense property loss and other crimes and sentenced him to 18 years in a closed prison.

At the verge of the 21st century an absolutely new type of terrorism has advanced – cyber-terrorism. The first cyber war in the world's history was held last year, in the course of which the Russian hackers penetrated into the computers of the USA Army, Research and Development Institutes and data protection establishments, and stole from there secret documents. According to the experts' evaluation behind the attacks could have been both the Russian government or the mafia, which acted as the shelter for intelligence.

The Internet was also a useful tool for the Serbs during the NATO bomb attacks. The Serbian hacker terrorists succeeded in closing down the British companies' computer systems, destroying databases and files and overflowing the British e-mails with Serbian war propaganda. Such attacks draw the world's attention for the first time to political activity as one of the weapons, used in cyber terrorism. The successful counter-attacks of the Serbs through the Internet, is a vivid proof of the fact that terrorism is possible without physical action, simply by pressing some keys on the laptop. Such a successful activity of states, being in crisis, in the networks of the leading states of top technology is surprising. From the other hand it forces to take extremely seriously the information protection of the Security Police and other establishments, dealing with state secrets in Estonia.

fiscated and great number of persons, having compiled and sold the explosive devices have been detected. In 1999 the Security Police Board confiscated totally 45,7815 kg of several explosives: 35,2 kg of ammonite, 8,2 kg of trotyle and 1,9 kg of the mixture of hexogen-aluminium powder.

The priorities of the mentioned sphere in 2000 will surely be control of purposeful use of the explosives under discussion (especially in the Ida-Virumaa mines) and hindering and revealing of trafficking of explosives, as in 1999 quite large amount of dangerous explosives, originating from the mines, but mainly used for criminal purposes, was confiscated from the criminals. One possible cause of danger could become the explosives factory at Virumaa, Estonia that will soon start functioning.

An example of detection of publicly known explosion and pre-court procedures could be the criminal case sent to court in 1999 to detect the executor of the explosion in a dormitory-type dwelling house at Sõle Street 18, Tallinn, on 07.11.1996 (as a result of which 1 person perished and 2 were extremely severely injured; the dwelling was damaged in the sum of 600 000 kroons). In the criminal case was prosecuted Sergei Popov (who had previously received sentence for 7 years for organizing

OF THE RESULTS OF PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE MARCH DEPORTATION OF 1949



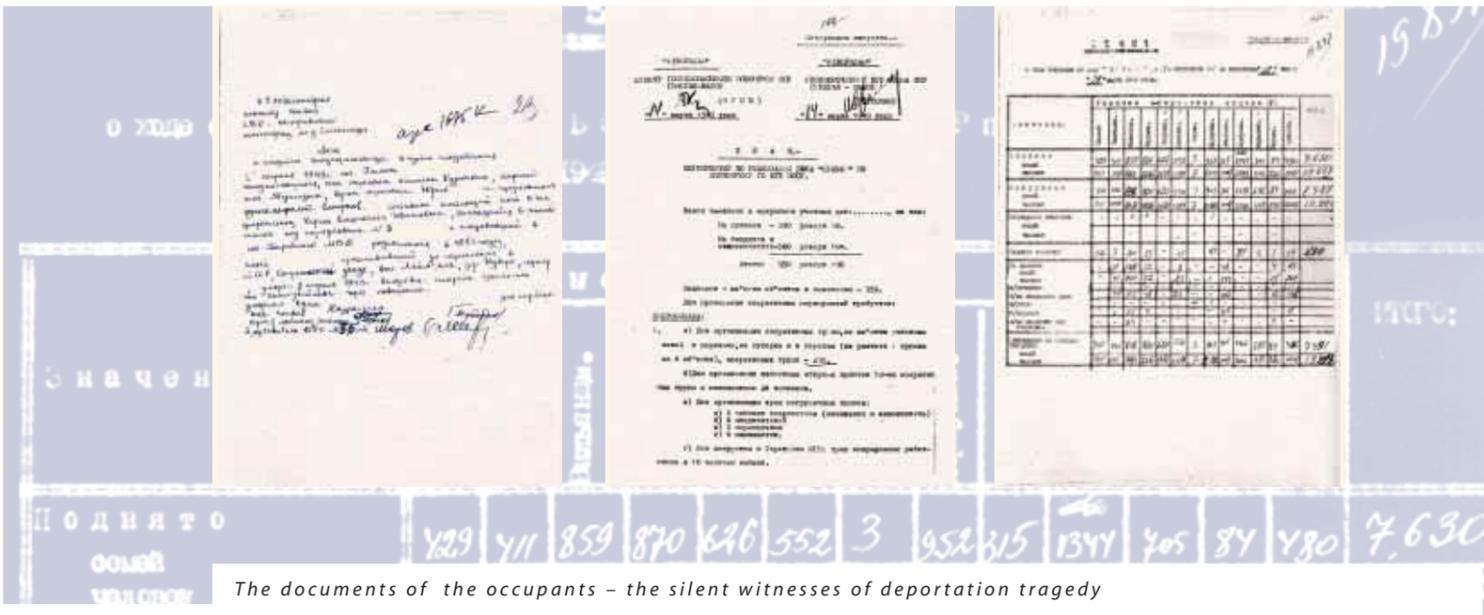
Deportation file "Priboi" of the Estonian SSR State Security Ministry with which the destiny of thousands of Estonians was determined

Even though on May 09, 2000 it will be 55 years from ending of the II World War that turned out to have the biggest number of victims in the history of the mankind, the war after-effects cannot be forgotten. On the contrary - huge human losses, mass murders, war and anti-human crimes excite the innocent victims, relatives and public in dozens of states, which either won, lost or became the aggressors' victims. In 1999 the war and anti-human crimes, being committed from 1939 until 1954 were under discussion in the courts of England, France, Horvatia, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Also in Finland, being twice at war with the USSR during 1939-1945, increases the public demand to institute legal proceedings against war criminals. On December 02, 1998 the news agencies forwarded the application of the Finnish State Prosecutor, claiming that Finland was about to prosecute in war crimes the former Soviet partisans, who during the II World War, while attacking the villages of the north-eastern border regions, killed 100-300 civilians (including women and children).

When in the western countries justice is being continuously administered of persons who committed crimes in the name of Hitler Germany and its satellite states, then the year 1999 celebrated in the Baltic States, that were occupied in 1940 by the Soviet Union, winning of the justice over criminals, having been at the service of the repressive bodies of the Soviet Union. With the Baltic court cases the Western world gradually finds out the bitter truth that besides the Nazi war criminals also much bigger war and anti-human crimes were committed the military personnel, partisans, security workers and their agents and party and administrative employees of the Soviet Union that was the winner of the II World War. For the Estonians it is understandably only a minor moral consolation for the international Nürnberg II trial that was not held, the accused of which would have been the criminal leaders of the Soviet Union of that time and their numerous "bloody-handed" subordinates.

A condemnatory legal evaluation, having come into force in Estonia in 1999 with court sentences, was first of all given against those, who actively organized or executed the 1949 March deportation or forcefully deported large numbers of natives. Besides the direct genocide or nation's murder the deportation in its essence was, is and will be one of the most evident type of anti-human crimes in the opinion of the Security Police Board. The fact that it was executed with political aims on the basis of group composition, and mainly against women, children and seniors makes this crime especially severe.

For the investigation of the 1949 March deportation, that was called operation "Priboi" (the "Breaker") in the documents of the then State Security Ministry - the puppet government, formed on the territory of the occupied Estonia (the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic), the Security Police Board initiated a criminal case no 9515-0012 on 13.01.1995, of which separate criminal cases (8 with the current status) have been detached after finding out of concrete suspects of the latter. Investigation of all 9 criminal cases has been concentrated mainly on archive documents, as taking into account the time that has passed from the mentioned crimes concrete indictments can be presented relying on written documents mainly. The aim is to find and to institute proceedings against the persons who played the leading roles in crime committing. Majority of the files and other evidences of persons, having been repressed in 1940s and 1950s by the bodies of the State Security of the USSR have been preserved in the Branch of the Estonian State Archive (the Party Archive).



The documents of the occupants – the silent witnesses of deportation tragedy

As several different documents were compiled on different levels during deportation preparation, its execution and after it, the investigation of anti-human crimes has considerably more perspective than the investigation of war crimes, being executed in the course of the II World War in Estonia. The main problem is and will be the old age of the accused and of suspects that has enabled some of the suspects avoid trial due to the so-called health reasons.

In 1998 the investigation was closed in 4 criminal cases of the March deportation against 4 employees of the Estonian SSR State Security Ministry (SSM) as the main organizer and executor of deportation, and each of them was indicted with s.1 of § 61/1 of the CrC for executing of anti-human crimes. Legal proceedings were started against the former operative agent of the SSM Läänemaa department Johannes Klaassepp (born in 1921), operative agent of the Järvamaa department Vladimir Loginov (born in 1924), operative agents of the Pärnu City department Vassili Beskov (born in 1918, citizen of the Russian Federation) and Mihhail Neverovski (born in 1920). Even though the court discussion of crimi-

nal case of Johannes Klaassepp started already in the Lääne County Court on 07.05.1998, the 1st degree court sentences of the mentioned criminal cases were revealed only in 1999.

Court precedent was created on January 22, 1999, when the Lääne County Court first in Estonia convicted in anti-human crimes Johannes Klaassepp and gave him probationary sentence. The court found that Klaassepp's (78) guilt was proved in deporting of eight families or 23 persons and deportation attempt of two families or 9 persons. The court gave him 8-year probationary sentence with a two-year trial period. As an aggravating factor the court took into consideration the fact that the accused committed the crime against under-aged and senior persons. The oldest deported was then 83 and the youngest one 4 years old. As an alleviating factor was taken into consideration the fact that Klaassepp was at committing the act at service. Both the prosecutor and the counsel for the defence appealed to the Tallinn District Court, but the sentence and passed decision remained unchanged on 6. April 1999.

On March 10, 1999 Pärnu County Court convicted Vassili Beskov as the second person guilty of anti-human crimes and gave him probationary sentence. The court found that 80-year-old Beskov's guilt was proved in deporting of seven families and deportation attempt of two families. The court gave Beskov 2-year probationary sentence with a three-year trial period, as also the prosecutor demanded. The court

acquitted Belov of assisting to the deportation of 210 persons due to the lack of evidence. Beskov himself refused all accusations in court in November. According to the accused he was only a small part of the machinery and because of that did not consider himself guilty. Vassili Beskov, having been indicted in anti-human crimes in the 1st degree court and having appealed the court sentence, took the complaint back on May 19, 1999 and agreed with probationary sentence.

On March 17, 1999 Järva County Court terminated the criminal case of the ex-security officer of the ESSR Vladimir Loginov, being indicted in anti-human crimes, and applied with regard to him staying under regular surveillance in psychiatric hospital as forceful medical means until his regaining the health. According to the court order Loginov's guilt in deporting that took place half a century ago is proved, because of what after his regaining the health the court will decide upon his punishment. The Security Police accused the former operative agent of the Järvamaa Department of the Estonian SSR State Security Ministry (SSM) Loginov of deporting 14 persons from Järvamaa to Siberia in March 1949.

Court discussion of the criminal case of Mihhail Neverovski, initially planned in the Pärnu County Court in February 1999, was delayed until the healing of bone fracture and started on July 19, 1999. From more than 100 sufferers about 60 persons showed up in the court. The prosecutor mentioned in his speech that the deporter's age might arise compassion, but among persons, deported by him were 84-year-old seniors and 9-month-old babies and regarded the mentioned facts as aggravating factor. Pärnu County Court sentenced Mihhail Neverovski on July 30, 1999 for four years into a closed prison. The court found that Neverovski's guilt in deporting, preparing of deportation and attempting it was proved.

Neverovski himself denied his guilt also in last statement, following the court arguments, certifying that he was only fulfilling orders and appealed the court sentence to the Tallinn District Court. The District Court still condemned his 1949 March deportings. On November 1, 1999 the District Court freed Mihhail Neverovski from actual prison sentence and replaced it with a 4-year probationary sentence with a three-year trial period, also determining a criminal probation officer for Neverovski.

From the one side it is symbolic and from the other side it is extremely sad that the first convicting court sentence regarding executor of the 1949 March deporter was reached only on the 50th anniversary of the tragic anti-human crime. Sense of honour and justice of dozens of deportees, being still alive and acting as witnesses in court is affected by too mild court sentences. Hundreds of deportees, being forcefully and violently dragged out of their homes died on the journey in cattle wagons and later in Siberia in reality, not probationally. Soul and often health of the survivors was damaged for the rest of their lives.

First court sentences, having come into force in 1999, showed to the war and anti-human crimes investigators of the Security Police Board that despite everything they are on the right track. While taking into consideration that in the March deportation of 1949 were planned to participate in different ways more than 20 000 persons (i.e. as much as there were deportees), the four convicted deporters is a tiny, but not final figure. Court sentences enable to evaluate and correct the current work and to set new goals. At the moment continues preliminary investigation also in two criminal cases against organizers of the 1949 March deporting. If Läänemaa, Järvamaa, Pärnumaa and Saaremaa were the initial choice of the counties, as the Security Police had received either applications from concrete sufferers or knowledge of deporting-period higher party- and security officials still living there, now also the deportation materials concerning Tartumaa have been taken under investigation.

For conclusion. Until 1999 Estonia had no legal solution for enforced deportations as anti-human crimes, practised widely by the Stalinist occupation regime of the Union of the SSR. Despite the condemning attitude of politicians and historians towards the mentioned activities the independent court had not expressed its opinion, what made it impossible to handle deportations as crimes in the sense of criminal law. Now also this legal gap has been filled in.

DEBT OF HONOUR

in memoriam

**RICHARD
VEERMAA**

**KONSTANTIN
KIRSIMÄGI**

On October 3, 1999 in the cemetery of Pindi in Võrumaa a festive opening and blessing of a memorial stone on the gravesite of the Veermaa (Vreemann) Family took place. Inscribed into the black polished granite of the stone there are seven names with birth and death dates and places to commemorate the destinies of the members of this family and the words "Rest in peace in foreign soil". Two of these names – Richard Veermaa and his brother-in-law Konstantin Kirsimägi – have a solid place in the history of Estonian police as the police leaders of the pre-war Republic of Estonia. Konstantin Kirsimägi as the last leader of the Security Police of the previous Estonian Republic was remembered on that sunny October day with a guard of honour and a wreath by the present Security Police Board (Kaitsepolitseiamet).

Richard Veermaa and his elder brother Friedrich took part in the War of Independence. In 1926 Richard Veermaa graduated from the law department of Tartu University, being a member of Ugala corporation. In the years 1927-1935 he worked as an attorney at law in Võru and as a representative of the Farmers Party (Talurahvapartei) was the Member of the Parliament (Riigikogu). On January 4, 1935 president Konstantin Päts nominated him the Director of the Police Board (Politseivalitsus), four months later he also became Vice-Minister of Inter-

nal Affairs. On May 9, 1938 president Päts appointed him Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and he remained on that post until October 12, 1939 when due to the Treaty of Army Bases the whole government was replaced.

Richard Veermaa's services to the Republic of Estonia were recognised with eight state decorations. Veermaa was arrested on June 31, 1940 in his home in Tallinn. The arrest order was signed by the notorious Idel Jakobson, Deputy Director of Investigative Department of NKVD of the Estonian SSR. He was charged with being a leading member of the Farmers Party, member of the Defense League (Kaitseliit), working as Director of the Police Board and Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, involvement in anti-soviet and anti-communist activity. By June 29, 1941 the indictment was completed, but the sentence pronounced to him is still unknown since the file of Veermaa does not con-



Commemoration ceremony at Pindi Burial Ground on 03.10.1999

tain an extract from the minutes of the tribunal of the NKVD troops of the Baltic Army District which has been signed by Richard Veermaa on June 3, 1941. "Dangerous criminals" were forced to be deported to inner regions of the Soviet Union by the approaching frontline. Veermaa was sent to the Kljapa forest work camp of the Solikamsk camp in Perm District.

Little is known of the tragic end of this merited police and civil service official. The file contains a document dated February 6, 1942 which states that Richard Veermaa cannot be recruited as a co-operator since he is an implacable enemy of the Soviet regime and cannot be an honest co-operator. The same day this implacable enemy



was brought together with several other frozen convicts to the camp's physician who managed to bring him to life. But a few days later it was decided that Richard Veermaa was fit for forest work in spite of dysentery which resulted in his death on February 19, 1942.

Richard Veermaa's father Peeter Veermaa died at the age of 75 on December 26, 1941 in Sosva prison and mother Anne Veermaa was buried to the cemetery of Nedostupnoi village of Vasjugan River Basin in Tomsk Region on June 10, 1943. Richard Veermaa's wife Helmi could not escape repressions either – she was deported to Kirov Region on June 14, 1941. In order to return to homeland she remarried and is buried to Järva-Madise cemetery.

Richard Veermaa's sister Irene was married to Konstantin Kirsimägi (Kirschberg). Konstantin Kirsimägi joined the Põlva Unit of the Defense League in February 1919 and in May, at the age of 17, went to the War of Independence. For military services he was given free land from Tilsi estate and granted the right to free education. In 1928 he graduated from the law department of Tartu University, being a member of Ugala Corporation. The same year he graduated from



Higher Police School as the fifth class of higher rank. His first job was the post of an assistant in Viljandi Criminal Police. Quick career follows: in 1929 he was appointed Assistant Commissar of Tartu Criminal Police, in February 1932 Commissar of Valga. Having been working in several prefectures of Estonian Criminal Police for five years Kirsimägi's next appointment was Security Police in Pärnu. In November 1935 President Päts appointed him as Inspector of the Estonian Security Police and in May 1939 he was appointed Assistant

Director of the Estonian Police Administration (Eesti Politseialitus) – leader of the Security Police. Thus Konstantin Kirsimägi raised during his ten-year career to be the second of importance in Estonian police prefectures. His services to the Republic of Estonia were recognised with the 3rd class Falcon Cross and the 3rd class White Star service medals. The Republic of Latvia recognised him with the Latvian Order of the Three Stars.

On June 27, 1940 when Estonia was already occupied by the Red Army, President Päts discharged Kirsimägi under the pressure of the pro-Moscow puppet government. He was probably arrested on July 2 although the arrest documents were drawn up later and already on June 25 he was sent to the "service" of Moscow. Konstantin Kirsimägi managed to destroy a part of the archive of the Estonian Security Police before the June coup of 1940 and the rest of the material was burned in the middle of June after the Soviet Union had pretended to the intake of additional military units.

There are no indictment files of Konstantin Kirsimägi in the State Archive and its branch office at Tõnismägi. This indicates that they are still in the KGB secret archives in Moscow. Their officials have not even reacted to the application of the Republic of Estonia to give out the archive materials concerning Estonia. References to the further fate of Konstantin Kirsimägi can be found in the files of other arrested persons. For example, on October 4, 1940 an officer had confronted him with his former boss Johan Sooman, director of the Police Administration in order to make him tell the truth about the Security Police of the Republic of Estonia through his boss.

"Processed" Johan Sooman gave Kirsimägi a relevant order at the presence of the officer. The fate of Sooman can be traced on the basis of archive materials down to his death on June 17, 1942 in Kljapa prison camp in Solikamsk but there is no information about the further fate of Kirsimägi. The place, date and circumstances of the death of this young and gifted man are unknown. There is also no information about his rehabilitation.

In the end of September 1944 Irene, the wife of Konstantin Kirsimägi, escaped over the Baltic Sea to Germany with her three small children of whom the youngest was eight years old. She survived a shipwreck and suffered in refugee camps. In 1950 the family managed to emigrate to the United States where her sons Rein and Tõnis joined the US army.

Tõnis joined the US Air Force in April 1951 in San Francisco, studied in the University of Boston and from 1952 served in the US Air Force in Germany as staff sergeant and was bestowed several awards. He was killed in a car accident on February 5, 1960. Rein joined the National Guard in November 1951, was sent to the Korean War in the April of 1953 and was killed there on June 11 of the same year. On July 3, 1953 Rein was posthumously bestowed the Order of the Purple Heart. Both brothers are buried to a military cemetery near San Francisco. Irene Kirsimägi, who had lost her parents, brother, husband and two sons died on July 9, 1975 and was buried next to her sons.

SUMMER DAYS AT LEPANINA





The house in Narva before repair works ...



... and now as the office building of the Security Police



THE HOUSE-WARMING PARTIES OF 1999

In the first half-year of 1998 the Security Police acquired new bureau building for Võru Division in Karja Street 18a, Võru. The initial plan was to renovate the previous working rooms, but this plan was given up because of too high cost of repair works. At the beginning of summer 1998 it occurred unexpectedly that the building of the Narva Division previous office premises was to be returned to the former lawful owner. The owner agreed to leave the build-

ing to the state, but for considerably large compensation sum. The unexpected occurrence of the ownership problem in connection with the local bureau of the most responsible district caused tension in the limited budget of the Security Police as well as in the spirits of officials. A search for alternative solutions was generated fast and in the second half of 1998 the Narva Division got a new house in the 1. May Street 7, Narva. Designing of a new bureau building began at once and construction works started in October.

In autumn 1999 the staffs of Võru and Narva Divisions celebrated house-warming parties in their new contemporary office premises.



The house in Võru before repair works ...



... and now as the office building of the Security Police

