

Highlights of the speech of Captain Aleks Kurgvel in Washington, D.C. Feb. 1970.

THOUGHTS  
ON THE 52nd ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA

On this anniversary one thinks back in order to gain vigor to continue to live as a member of the Estonian nation and to work for the amelioration of the situation of the suffering Estonia.

There are representatives of seven or more generations of Estonians in the free world. Their pictures of Estonia, when they think back, are different depending of their ages and their knowledge and /or memories about Estonia.

There were no real "gaps <sup>between</sup> generations" in Estonia although there were, for example, some old and proud farmers who did not like to pass their farms to the sons early enough. Nor are there any real gaps between the young and old Estonians here. Due to this, the life here is good. It would have been now good in Estonia also had the Estonians been developing it in the frame of a free state. Now the situation in Estonia is quite different from that. Neither has a father there a farm, nor has a son. A young student can not say there what he has on his mind, nor can he do what he likes.

The proverb, "The Egg is wiser than the Hen," is true when applied in its normal limits. A too young child does not understand what the parents are teaching, it thinks to know better. A too old person becomes unable to think properly and to recognize that his "child" has become wiser than he is. In communist countries those normal limits are neglected. There small children are forced to follow the communist commands. Fortunately, we hear that in Estonia the youths are quietly listening to the secret teachings of their parents, - they can't do it openly.

Thus, the old principle that the parents wish their children to learn from the mistakes made by the parents when they were young, has not changed either here nor there. And therefore, we all wish and work towards one goal that the hard situation in Estonia be improved soon.

How to achieve this? Remain good Estonians, teach your children to become as good as you are. When in a binational marriage, see to it in a tender way that you gain your spot for the Estonian cause, and the children also.

It is nonsense to speak that we ourselves must free our country. This is impossible in todays circumstances although it worked in 1918-20 under the leadership of Mr. Konstantin Päts. We are few, thus we need friends in our work and fighting for Estonia. Follow the line of policy used in the free Estonia: tolerate other nations, make friends. Don't hate anyone because of his nationality. Hate him if he is against a free Estonia and especially if he is a communist because those are the worst enemies of Estonia today. Don't believe the tales about "good national communists" too easily. If we here know that a communist is a good national, then Moscow knows this long ago, the tale might well come from there, set as a trap for us.

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Make it clear to the members of great nations that they must start fighting the communists in serious, for their own sake. When those nations will understand this, then will come the time when Estonia also can be liberated.

Our weapons in this enlightning job are our wits and the plain truth served in a way which is understandable and persuasive. Don't speak of the thousands or tens of thousands of Estonians murdered by the communists. Those figures don't influence the people who are used to hear of thousands of casualties. Convert those figures percentage-wise conform to the size of the nation to whose son or daughter you speak. If one percent of the Estonian nation is "but a mere ten thousand" then the same one percent of the American nation is two million, and this figure starts making sense to an American. Convert all the Estonian casualty figures in this way. You will come to tens of millions and you can hope that an American will understand how easily he himself might fall under those millions to be destroyed when the communists will take over in America.

If somebody says that ~~that~~ this comparison of the tiny Estonia with the powerfull United States does not work, then point to the 70 odd million Russians and other nationalities of the Soviet Union whom the communists have killed, deported to die or forced to die in many wars of aggression during the first 50 years of the communist rule in Russia. The communist rulers annihilated every third man, confising many real communists also. One must think that the situation will not be less severe when the communists will come to rule in America, because the Americans are in general more intelligent and more active than the Russians are, and the communists fear such people, they liquidate them whoever they are, rich or poor, democrat, republican, liberal or even communist.

It is our duty to preach this simple truth until it will bring results. Otherwise we won't be worth of the sacrifices of our ancestors, fathers, brothers and sons made for the free Estonia. We must do this, we can do this because we are in a free country.

We honor the sons of Estonia and of other nations who have died or have shed their blood for the freedom of Estonia.

We commemorate those Estonians who have been murdered or deported to die by our enemies and those who died when trying to escape the communist, and those who were handed out to the communists after the war. Especially we commemorate our President Konstantin Päts who was deported by the communists and whose 96th birthday is just on the eve of the 52nd anniversary of the Republic.

In our thoughts and mind we send strength to our people in Estonia, to make them strong, <sup>the</sup> youths and the olds, to be able to stand wisely and united until the salvation will come.