

Communist Party's Role in Estonia's Fate Revealed

We can proceed at present only through implementing the right of the Estonian people to self-determination. The principle of the peoples' equality is an irrefutable component of international law, according to which all peoples have a right to determine their political status freely and without outside influence, and to develop their economic, social, and cultural life. Each nation, being the carrier of its own history and culture, is at the same time both a subject as well as an object of international law. Starting from the birth of each nation, the natural environment (territory) belongs to it, having been acquired for the nation with diverse material, economic, and cultural means. Ambitions on the natural environment of whatever nation are clearly unlawful. With the new principles of federalism one must also recognize juridically the ethnic diversity which actually exists. To affirm the state sovereignty of the peoples of the Soviet Union, it is necessary to adopt first and foremost the constitutions of union republics and only thereafter to look through the union contract.

Source: Mikk Titma, "Communist Party's Role in Estonia's Fate Viewed," *Rahva Haal*, August 18, 1989. Trans. Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS).