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BRIDGES IS PUBLISHED BY THE LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF THE U.S.A., INC. THROUGH THIS NEWSLETTER, THE PUBLISHERS HOPE TO RE-ESTABLISH TIES BETWEEN THE DETACHED, MOBILE LITHUANIAN-AMERICANS AND THEIR LITHUANIAN HERITAGE BY PRESENTING ITEMS ON LITHUANIAN CULTURE, CONDITIONS IN THE HOMETLAND, EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES IN AMERICA, AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF ALL WHO SUBSCRIBE TO THE IDEA THAT LITHUANIA DESIRES TO BE AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE NATION AGAIN.

PRELUDE TO TYRANNY

The Soviet Union, in rewriting the history of the Second World War, customarily depicts itself as having been vehemently antifascist and, subsequently, the liberator of Eastern Europe. In fact, it was the Soviet Union's collaboration with Nazi Germany that set the stage for World War II and later allowed for the Soviet annexation of the Baltic States.

It was forty years ago, on August 23, 1939, that Russia and Nazi Germany concluded the **Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact**. According to the protocols of this secret agreement, the two dictatorial powers sliced Eastern Europe into two "spheres of influence." Poland was allocated to Hitler and the Baltic States went to Stalin. All four nations were independent at the time, were internationally recognized, and had a diplomatic corps with embassies in the capitals of all the major countries, even Germany and the Soviet Union. The Pact, named for the Soviet and German foreign ministers who signed it, caught the world by surprise and constituted a diplomatic settlement of the potentially great differences in territorial design held by the two aggressive powers. It also made it possible for Germany to risk entry into war with the Western nations, knowing that at least for the time being her Eastern flank was secure.

The intentions of the Soviet Union were spelled out soon after the Nazi invasion of Poland. So-called mutual assistance pacts were imposed on the Baltic States, providing for Russian military bases on Baltic soil. By late June, 1940, following a full-scale invasion by Soviet troops, all three Baltic states were occupied. With the Western allies involved in war with Germany, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia stood alone in the face of the Soviet military juggernaut. After the Red Army established full military control, Soviet agents staged fake elections to impose puppet governments on the Baltic peoples.

The beginning of the Baltic tragedy goes back to this Soviet-Nazi collaboration, which totally disregarded principles of national and human rights. While Nazi Germany's partnership to this pact has long since been nullified, Soviet claims based on this treaty

have yet to be repudiated. The Soviets seem to regard the protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact as a treaty in force, upheld by their ridiculous claims that the Baltic States "willingly" petitioned for admission into the U.S.S.R.

There can be no lasting peace and stability in Europe until the principles of the right to self-determination are firmly established and accorded to the Baltic and other East European peoples. To this end, a group of 45 influential citizens of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, risking harassment and arrest, issued a statement to Western reporters on August 23rd, 1979. In this statement, they denounced the Molotov - Ribbentrop Pact as illegal and demanded self-determination for the three Baltic republics. The efforts of the 45 members of the Baltic national resistance movement were supported in a separate statement issued by dissident leader Andrei Sakharov, members of the Helsinki human rights group, and other Moscow dissidents. (More on this statement by the 45 Balts in the next issue of *Bridges*).

As a direct result of these actions, the Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., Inc., has called on the U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to initiate immediate proceedings in the United Nations for investigating the Soviet takeover of the three Baltic republics, and has requested that the investigation include the secret protocols of the Pact. Immediate withdrawal of Soviet armed forces from Baltic soil and United Nations supervised elections were also demanded as necessary steps toward self-determinations.

Bridges readers can do their part by writing directly to Secretary General Waldheim and asking him to take action. Letters can be addressed to Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

Grigas Ardys

COMMUNITY WITH CAPITAL "C"

Results from last May's elections to Bendruomenė's Ninth Taryba (Council) are listed below. The Council's first session is slated for September 29-30 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Boston District: Vytautas Izbickas, Romualdas Veitas, Mykolas Drunga, Česlovas Mickūnas. *Alternates:* Jonas Mikalauskas, Antanas Mažiulis.

Connecticut District: Vaiva Vėbraitė-Gust, Albina Lipčienė, Steponas Zabulis, Alfonsas Dzikas, Jonas Rikteraitis. *Alternates:* Petras Vileišis, Eugenijus Žiūrys.

Florida District: Angelė Karnienė, Julija Staškūnaitė, Zigmąs Strazdas. *Alternate:* Gražina Jasinskienė.

Michigan District: Violeta Abariūtė, Gintė Damušytė, Vytautas Kutkus, Albertas Misiūnas. *Alternates:* Nerimantas Udrys, Jonas Urbonas.

New York District: Kornelijus Bučmys, Aleksandras Vakselis, Romas Kezys, Kęstutis Miklas, Vladas Sidas, Peter Wytenus. *Alternates:* Jonas Vilgalys, Dalia Sakaitė.

New Jersey District: Jokūbas Stukas, Valentinas Šernas, Danguolė Didžbalienė, Antanas Masionis. *Alternates:* Antanas Pocius, Vladas Audėnas.

Ohio District: Romualdas Bublys, Viktoras Stankus, Gintautas Taoras, Vytautas Bieliauskas, Augustinas Idzelis, Raimondas Kudukis. *Alternates:* Algis Širvaitis, Antanas Butkus.

Southeastern District: Rimas Česonis, Aušra Zerr, Elena Bradūnaitė, Viktoras Nakas. *Alternate:* Rimantas Stirbys.

Western District: Asta Grakauskaitė, Vytautas Vidugiris, Juozas Kojelis. *Alternate:* Rimtautas Dabšys.

Midwestern District, Region I: Emilija Sakadolskienė, Antanas

Razma, Rasa Šoliūnaitė, Vilija Kerelytė, Jonas Vaznelis, Leonas Kriaučeliūnas, Ferdinandas Kaunas, Stasys Džiugas, Jonas Borevičius, Jonas Jasaitis, Vytautas Šoliūnas, Dovas Šaulys, Juozas Ivanauskas, Kęstutis Sušinskas, Bronius Juodelis, Modestas Jakaitis. *Alternates:* Kostas Dočkus, Vytautas Germanas, Jonas Žadeikis, Viktoras Rimšelis.

Midwestern District, Region II: Julius Valeika, Vytautas Janušonis, Rima Kažamėkaitytė. *Alternate:* Birutė Vilutienė.

Midwestern District, Region III: Albinas Raškevičius, Viktorija Sakalienė. *Alternate:* Stepas Ingaunis.

A quick glance at some statistics about these 81 delegates and alternates yielded some interesting results. The youngest delegate is 23 years old while the oldest is 73. Of the 18 women included in this roster, over half are under 30. In all, men and women in their twenties comprise nearly one-fifth of the Taryba. This is nearly the same percentage as in the other age categories: 40 to 49 years old — 22%; 50 to 59 years old — 20%; 60 to 69 years old — 15%. Five percent of the Taryba are in their 70's, but what's surprising is that only 8% (7 individuals) are in the 30-39 age group. This seems to suggest that we're missing a generation! On the other hand, looking at the numbers again indicates that a new, young generation is taking an active interest in its Lithuanian heritage. And that is indeed encouraging.

THE COALITION

The work of the Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas is beginning to gather steam as new names are added to the Honorary Committee: **Lyudmilla Alekseeva** (member of the Moscow Monitoring Group), the **Most Reverend William D. Borders** (Archbishop of Baltimore), **Arthur J. Goldberg** (former U.S. Secretary of Labor and Supreme Court Justice), the **Most Rev. F. Joseph Gossman** (Bishop of Raleigh), **Rev. Bryan Hehir** (Assoc. Secretary for International Justice and Peace, U.S. Catholic Conference), **Peter J. Liacouras** (Dean, Temple University School of Law), **Mrs. A. M. Quest** (President, General Federation of Women's Clubs), the **Most Rev. James S. Rausch** (Bishop of Phoenix), and **Glen E. Watts** (President, Communications Workers of America).

Donations have been coming in regularly, too. *Bridges* acknowledges the generosity of the following:

Albie Jarvis, Westwood, Mass.	\$ 25.00
William Umakis, Detroit, Mich.	40.00
Gary Wm. Zadjeika, Raleigh, N.C.	10.00
Anthony C. Gudeczauskas, Coventry, R.I.	10.00
Juozas and Snieguolė Masiuliai, Bensenville, Ill.	50.00
Eugenia Pakulis, Rehoboth Beach, Del.	20.00
Vytas Patašius, Auburn, Australia	77.70
Anne Zebal Donovan, Plymouth, Mass.	5.00
Antanas Kareiva, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
Juozas Rasimas, Chicago, Ill.	5.00
Stasė Taucytė, Waukegan, Ill.	40.00
Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian Saturday School, Phila, Pa.	28.72

The last donation, from the Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian Saturday School in Philadelphia, has a story behind it which begins in 1976. That was the year in which names and addresses of Lithuanian prisoners of



Members of the Organizing Committee for the Coalition to Free Petkus and Gajauskas working on press releases. From the left: Dalia Jaklenė, Charles Zerr (Chairman), S. A. Gečys, Aušra Zerr.

Bridges photo

conscience serving terms in Siberia had been published. The students of the school decided to do something for these suffering patriots, so they sold cookies during the Lithuanian Independence Day Commemoration in order to raise money for a "care" package. At first, they intended to send the package — a collection of warm socks, underwear, shirts, dried foods and the like — to Simas Kudirka. They took a bus trip to Washington, D.C. to hand the package over to the Soviet Embassy for them to handle, but the embassy refused to accept it. Soon afterwards, Kudirka was released anyway, but the students still wanted to send someone a package and received Kudirka's permission to select another prisoner of conscience. The package was mailed but Soviet authorities returned it to the school on the grounds that the addressee had "refused to accept it." They tried again with another prisoner, but it was "refused" again. They tried it a third time... still "refused." All this time, postage and custom duty fees had been accumulating. A check for \$28.72 was returned by the Soviets to reimburse these "wasted" dollars. In order that the children's project serve a useful purpose, the Parents' Association for the School decided that the money returned by the Soviets would help Petkus and Gajauskas if it were applied to a movement which sought their freedom. The package, the one which the Soviets refused to deliver, was finally turned over to a local worthy charity, but the intent of the students of the Vincas Krėvė Lithuanian Saturday School was nevertheless carried out.

CULTURE

There seems to be almost no end to the contributions **Dr. Jonas Basanavičius** made to Lithuania. He was "the patriarch of the Lithuanian national revival", the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, and a member of the commission which proposed a **national flag** for Lithuania. Lithuanians did have a state flag, described by the Polish chronicler Jan Długosz (1414-1480) as having a red field on which was superimposed a White Knight or the Columns of Gediminas. During the Commonwealth with Poland, a Polish eagle began appearing alongside the Lithuanian symbol. During the subsequent period of Russian rule (from 1795 to 1915) Lithuania was not allowed to have its own flag. The traditional flag of state used throughout the period of independence was red with the Vytis on the right side and the Columns of Gediminas on the left.

According to *Encyclopaedia Lituanica*, a commission was appointed in 1917 by the Lithuanian Council to design a new national flag as an expression of Lithuania's hope for national liberation. The commission, consisting of Dr. Basanavičius, Antanas Žmuidzinaičius, and Tadas Daugirdas, presented its proposal

to the Council on April 19, 1918. The national flag of Lithuania officially adopted by the Council consisted of three equally wide horizontal color bands: yellow on top, green in the middle, and red on the bottom. The national colors were chosen because they were the colors used most frequently in cloth woven in Lithuanian homesteads. Dr. Basanavičius explained that, in addition, red symbolized the blood shed for Lithuania; green was the symbol of life; and yellow, the color of grain, was the symbol of the fruits of this life. It was displayed for the first time in front of the Lithuanian State Council Building in Vilnius on November 11, 1918, the day on which the Armistice was signed. The tricolor national flag was used throughout the period of independence until it was banned by the invading Soviets. However, even today this banner can still be seen in isolated corners of the countryside and as a form of protest, usually left anonymously in a public place, in the metropolitan areas.

Events

The annual picnic sponsored by the Lithuanian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception was held on July 22nd in Putnam, Connecticut. About 2,000 people participated in a concelebrated Mass and Procession, and later enjoyed a variety of ethnic foods and amusements. A special treat was provided by the girls from Neringa summer camp, who demonstrated Lithuanian folk dances and games. Mr. S. A. Gečys, president of the American Bendruomenė, spoke to the gathering. He asked for support for the Sisters in Putnam as well as for Lithuanians in Lithuania, especially those persecuted for their stand on human rights. Picnickers also had the opportunity to view the Galdikas paintings housed in the art gallery at Putnam, as well as the treasures stored by ALKA — the American Lithuanian Cultural Archives.

Lithuanian Day at Lakewood Park

The 65th Annual Lithuanian Day festival was held August 12th in Barnesville, Pennsylvania. Despite an overcast and rainy sky, over 4,000 came to celebrate their Lithuanian heritage.

The invocation was given by **Father Daniel Yenoshosky** of Shenandoah and the festival-goers were officially greeted by the Festival's Chairwoman, **Bernice Mitkavage**. She then handed over the mike to **Joseph Drasdis**, from Gilbertson, who served as emcee for the rest of the day. Special speakers were **S. Algimantas Gečys**, president of the National Council for the Lithuanian-American Community of U.S.A., Inc. and **Anne Wargo**, President of Knights of Lithuania, District 144, Anthracite Region, the sponsors of the event. Other speakers included **Phillip Skabelkis**, President of

the central governing board of the Knights of Lithuania, and **Ed Mezvinsky**, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

Entertainment was provided by **Marijos Varpellai** — a folk dance and singing group of junior K of L members from New Philadelphia, Pa.; **Kalvelis**, the folk dancing group from Baltimore, Maryland; and a trio of Lithuanian singers from Ontario, Canada — **Vida and Aida Dovidaitytės** and **Aldona Biskytė**. Of course there was also an opportunity to fill up on platefuls of delicious Lithuanian food and load up with souvenirs... Lithuanian books, records, amber pieces, wood carvings, and the like.

Everyone there had a grand time, but if you missed it, well, there's always the 66th Annual Lithuanian Day to look forward to.

While in the area for the festivities, Bendruomenė president **Gečys** took a few extra days to get better acquainted with this "rediscovered" colony of Lithuanian-Americans. Impressed and gratified by the enthusiasm and depth of feeling these descendents of coal-mining Lithuanians have for their ethnic heritage, Mr. **Gečys** searched for some means of helping them in their revitalization. Therefore, in its last official session before the coming elections, the Community's National Council designated a \$1,000 donation to establish a Lithuanian radio program to serve the region. K of L Council 144, under **Anna Klizas Wargo**, agreed to supervise the establishment of this program. The first half-hour broadcast is planned for some time just before Christmas.



Speakers at Lithuanian Day meet before the ceremonies. From left are the Rev. Al Bartkus, Frackville; Edward Mezvinsky, United States representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights; Phillip Skabelkis, national president of the Knights of Lithuania; Teresė Gečienė, and S. Algimantas Gečys, president of Bendruomenė. Photo Supplied by Bernice Mikatavage

Publications

The Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — The Years of Independence 1917-1940 by Georg von Rauch, translated from the German by Gerald Onn, 1974, C. Hurst & Co., London, England. This book by a Russian-born professor of East European history at the University of Kiel, West Germany, presents a highly documented history of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia during their independence years. The author discusses the problems which beset these newly independent states, such as the drafting of constitutions, agrarian reforms, and the question of national minorities. Sections on the 1920's and 1930's include attempts at establishing a Baltic federation and a Latvian-Estonian union, a communist *putsch* at Tallinn, and increasing Soviet interest in Lithuania. The last phases of independence are also examined: the Nazi threat from one side and the Soviet threat from the other, culminating in the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact and subsequent invasions by the Russians and the Germans. This book provides a wealth of information for the serious student of Baltic affairs. It can be ordered from the University of California for \$14.50.

The Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, chaired by Congressman Dante B. Fascell (Dem., Florida), has published a 200-page report entitled *On the Rights to Emigrate for Religious Reasons: The Case of 10,000 Soviet Evangelical Christians*. The introduction by the Hon. John Buchanan and the rest of the text describes the plight of this repressed religious community and provides some case histories. Most of the document is devoted to publishing the names and addresses of over 10,000 Evangelical Protestants "who have publicly declared their intention to emigrate from the Soviet Union to escape religious persecution." While over half of the declarations come from the Ukraine, four pages list the names of Lithuanian families which have voiced their desire to leave.

Selected Post-War Lithuanian Poetry, a bilingual anthology edited by Jonas Zdanys and with an introduction by Rimvydas Šilbajoris, offers the first comprehensive presentation in English of the works of the major post-World War II emigre and Soviet Lithuanian poets. Twenty-seven writers are presented with short biographical sketches and photographs. The poems have been expertly rendered by Mr. Zdanys, who has had his own bilingual poetry published and who is currently one of the editors of *Lituanus*, the English-language Lithuanian literary quarterly. *Selected Post-War Lithuanian Poetry* is an especially valuable anthology to acquire since both the Lithuanian and English versions are included. The book is 318 pages

long and sells for \$12.00. It can be ordered from the publisher, Manyland Books, 84-39 90th St., Woodhaven, NY 11421.

ORGANIZATIONS

New elections to the central governing board of **Vyčiai (Knights of Lithuania)**, were held in Chicago during the 66th National Vyčių Congress, August 16 - 19. There were 165 registered delegates to the Congress with three hundred participating in all. Reelected as president was Philip Skabeikis from New York. The other officers are: Chaplain — Father Antanas Jurgelaitis, OP; 1st Vicepresident for Junior Affairs — Susan Bumila; 11nd Vicepresident for Member Affairs — Jonas Adomėnas; 11lrd Vicepresident for Seniors — Stanley Vaitkus; Secretary of Protocol — Anna Wargo; Secretary of Finance — Ann Marie Kassel; Treasurer — Teresa Trainis; Honorable Members — Helen Shields and Joseph White; Head of the Committee for the Lithuanian Cause — Father Kazimieras Pugevičius; Ritual — Sophie Zager; Public Affairs — Irene Senkus; Archives — Longinas Švelnis; Lithuanian Catholic Relief Fund Coordinator — William Sidtis; Youth Coordinator to the Vth World Lithuanian Youth Congress — Ann Marie Statkus; Editor of *Vytis* — Loretta Stukas. The slogan of the 66th Congress was "Težydi vėlei Lietuva" (May Lithuania Flourish Again).



Philip Skabeikis, reelected as the President of the Central Council of the Knights of Lithuania

PERSONALITIES

The press corps of Washington, D.C. now has two Jūratės to contend with. One of them, **Jūratė Kazickas**, (See *Bridges*, Vol. 3, No. 3), has been with *The Washington Star* since 1979, but she began working in the nation's capital in 1977. Before that she had been an Associated Press correspondent.

The newcomer is **Jūratė Maria Gražina Končiūtė**, who was hired by *The Washington Post* in 1976 as Assistant Editor for the Fashion Section. Born in Brockton, Massachusetts in 1953, Jūratė Končiūtė joined the *Post* after she graduated from Georgetown University in 1975. Ms. Končius has been active in Lithuanian circles since she was involved in Lithuanian scouts and attended Lithuanian Saturday School. These days, she's often seen at Lithuanian events in the D.C. area. We expect to hear more about this Jūratė, whose byline now appears regularly under the heading *Style Plus, Finds by Jura Koncius*.

Lithuanian Roots in Israel

Shalom Yossman is Lithuanian-born and proud of it. He now lives in Israel and, with a group of other Lithuanian-born Israelis, maintains a "corner of Lithuania" there. An article written by Mr. Yossman which describes Lithuanian culture in Israel appeared in a recent issue of *Lietuvių Dienos*. In the article, Yossman relates that after having said "*iki pasimatymo*" to his friends at Vilnius Airport, he was greeted with "*labas*" at the Ben Gurion Airport by some of the many Lithuanian Jews who work for the Ministry of Immigration there. In his new homeland, Yossman met former countrymen from Kaunas, Panevėžys, and Vilnius. He was assisted in settling down by Lithuanian Jewish committees which, like their counterparts in the United States, try to find housing for Lithuanian immigrants in the vicinity of other Lithuanian families. There are sections in every major Israeli city where Lithuanian is spoken, even to the postman or the grocer, according to Yossman.

The "Litvaks", as they are popularly called, are apparently very much respected and are an integral part of Israeli society. The Attorney General of Israel, Aron Barak, came to Israel from Kaunas when he was fifteen. Influences of Lithuanian culture are found everywhere, including bookstores where poetry by Maironis and Donelaitis is sold. Social clubs at Yam, Haifa, and Tel Aviv are decorated with paintings by Čiurlionis or Krasauskas.

Every September, a special mass meeting of Lithuanian Jewry is held at Ber Yakov. The chief speaker has always been the Prime Minister. Lithuanian *cepeliniai* (zeppelins) and traditional Lithuanian bread are served for the occasion, as well as Lithuanian vodka of the "Neringa" or "Kristaline" brand. Later

at night, Lithuanian songs are sung while people sit around bonfires baking potatoes as they did when they were young in the land of their birth.

SPORTS

Over 10,000 athletes from around the world recently participated in the Spartakiad games, Moscow's warm-up for the 1980 Olympics. There were 500 Lithuanian participants there, too, and although they constituted one of the smallest groupsp they managed to carry away several medals and placed eight in their class.

Lina Kačiusytė won a gold and a silver medal in swimming. Robertas Žulpa won the bronze in the 200-meter breaststroke and 400-meter combination. Algis Jančauskas won top honors in boxing, middle-heavy-weight division, and A. Majauskas won a bronze as a middle-weight. A. Songaila won a gold medal in judo as well as honors in wrestling and rowing. World record-holder in the long-jump, Vilma Bardauskas, was disappointing with only a fifth place showing of 6.29 m.

The Lithuanian Soccer team did unexpectedly well, placing 6th. The Lithuanian men's basketball team also placed 6th, while the women won a silver medal. V. Besekienė was even chosen best center-forward in basketball in all the Sparkatiad.

Eleanor Rose, wife of Lee Rose, coach of Purdue University's basketball team, had the opportunity to spend some time in Vilnius during the Spartakiad games while her husband coached the representative American basketball team. Her impressions of Vilnius were recorded in *The Lafayette Journal's* "Wabash Magazine" in an interview with her which appeared on August 19th.

Ms. Rose stated that although she was free to travel throughout the city, she felt that she was always being followed by a "big brother," whether it was a KGB agent or an Intourist guide. She noted that the citizens of Vilnius were very gracious and enthusiastic when the Americans entered the court. However, when teams from Leningrad or Moscow came on, the crowds whistled their derision (the European equivalent of booing).

In her interview, Eleanor Rose explained that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were illegally annexed by the Soviet Union and that this is why the Russians are so despised there. She also mentioned that letters are censored... she found out from personal experience with letters that she and her son sent from Lithuania. Over a month later, the letters had still not arrived at their destinations in the West.

Mrs. Rose enjoyed being in Vilnius, a city established in medieval times, with its restored buildings

(Cont. page 8)

**IVth Lithuanian World Youth Congress
— Some Pictorial Highlights**

So much happened at the IVth Congress that, to put it into perspective, it might help to start off with some visual impressions.



Group photo taken at the end of the Seminar/Camp at St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, England

photo by R. Stirbys



Vanguard of the March to the Cenotaph, London's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

photo by R. Stirbys



At the tables of the Presiding Committee. From the far left: Violeta Abariūtė (Chrmn. of the U.S. delegation), Algis Stankus-Saulaitis (Acting Registrar of Voters, W. Germany), Petras Nevulis (Parliamentarian, W. Germany), Petras Kisielius (Co-chairman of the Council, U.S.A.), Rasa Lukoševičiūtė (Co-Chairman of the Council, Canada); Vacys Kęstutis Slotkus (Co-chairman of the Council, Columbia)

photo by Romas Kynas



Members of a Study Group which discussed the topic "Lithuania in the Future" while at the Planning Session in Altenburg.

photo by R. Stirbys

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(From page 6)

and a university celebrating its 400th anniversary. However, she says that she enjoyed the return to the freedom of her own country even more.

IN LITHUANIA

According to *Aušra (The Dawn)*, No. 12, translated in the April issue of *ELTA*, information bulletin of VLIKAS, "the administration of Vilnius University has been compelled to intensify the Russification of its students. Excerpts from a Resolution, adopted on March 28, 1979, in a joint meeting of the Council of the Vilnius University, Party and Komsomol committees, emphasize 'international' education and the importance of the Russian language.

"The Institute of Lithuanian language and Literature of the LSSR Academy of Sciences has been devoting part of its research since 1977 to the spread of the Russian language in Lithuania" and the consequent decline of the use of Lithuanian.

Meanwhile, according to the June 16th issue of *Draugas*, in Uzbekistan, "The Practical Education Conference" met to discuss the following theme: "Russian language — language of Soviet friendship

and communication." In this second conference, recommendations were made to strengthen the use of Russian by initiating its use with five-year-old children in Lithuanian kindergartens. Lessons and games would be introduced in the Russian language. Russian language method courses would also be taught to the parents of these children. Continuing courses in Russian would be taught throughout grade school, emphasizing the use of Russian language in the home, and increasing the number of Russian language courses at the high school level as well. Special Russian language days and weeks would be designated in schools, during which only Russian would be spoken. At the University level, 120 to 140 hours of course work would be taught in Russian. Theses are to be written only in Russian, in addition to the present policy that dissertations have to be defended in Russian. As many students as possible are to be sent to Byelorussia or the Ukraine where the level of Russian teaching is very high. More and more Russian language manuals are to be published. Teachers involved in Russian language teaching are to be paid according to a higher salary scale.

Under the czars, there was also an attempt to ban the use of the Lithuanian language, but never on such a massive and organized scale as proposed by this "Conference."

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