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Front photo: President Vytautas Landsbergis and Secretary Jack Kemp at a diplomatic reception at the Lithuanian Legation in Washington, December 1990. Photo by Bronius Čikotas.

BRIDGES

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Through the news journal, 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 homeland, events and personalities in America, and the aspirations of all who subscribe to the goal that Lithuania must and will be an independent free nation again.

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CHANGES

The late 1980's will go down in history as a period of hope. With the easing of east-west tensions, new freedoms in Eastern Europe, and the beginnings of change within the Soviet Union, people believe President George Bush in his call for a new world order. Mikhail Gorbachev is hailed as visionary for his bold steps toward reform of a corrupt system and for his willingness to admit to Soviet mistakes in Eastern Europe. The end of World War II is finally at hand for the people of Germany as they achieve a long-awaited re-unification.

The people of the Baltic States eagerly await the promise of the new world order which they are sure includes them. Freely-elected governments begin laying the groundwork for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to take their rightful place among the nations of a free Europe. As Lithuanian-Americans, we watch breathlessly as under the leadership of President Vytautas Landsbergis, on March 11, 1990, Lithuania boldly re-affirms its independence and attempts to join the western world.

Our hopes are raised by the early positive responses from the White House and by the lack of immediate reprisals from the Soviet Union. Perhaps this peaceful and lawful revolution is going to be successful. As Moscow's words grow harsher in the spring, we are puzzled by George Bush's silence. When the threatened economic blockade becomes a reality, we are shocked by the callous *realpolitik* emanating from the White House, culminating with the May summit meeting which sees President Bush granting trade concessions and credits to the same Mikhail Gorbachev who is attempting to starve a peaceful revolution into submission.

In outrage, Lithuanian-Americans make their voices heard. Thousands upon thousands demonstrate in cities across the nation, and newspapers are inundated with letters in support of Lithuania. Lithuanian action and support groups arise out of the recognition that our voices are stronger in chorus. Congressional support comes quickly, as does the support of the American media. The calls for justice in the Baltic States echoing in Congress are heard more clearly in Moscow than they are heard in the White House. After three months, the embargo is ostensibly lifted and the period of negotiations for a true independence for Lithuania are to begin.

Again, the White House responds with words of encouragement and support, but little concrete assistance. A 15 million dollar appropriation for

humanitarian aid to the Baltics is left to be strangled in the middle of the night in a congressional conference committee, and a representative of the U.S. Treasury Department is forbidden to participate in a seminar on free-market activities in Vilnius in fear of angering Moscow. The unspoken words of U.S. policy are heard by all - Lithuania is not important enough to risk alienating Mikhail Gorbachev.

January 13, 1991. The fears in the back of our minds become a vicious and gruesome reality. Soviet tanks roll through Vilnius, unarmed demonstrators are beaten, shot and killed. Thirteen Lithuanians lie dead at the hands of Soviet paratroopers, along with one Soviet soldier - shot in the back with a Soviet weapon. A teenage girl is crushed by a tank as Associated Press photographers record the event for posterity. Time stands still as the era of hope and innocence comes to an end.

World-wide reaction is swift. The European Community takes the lead with an immediate halt to economic aid to the Soviet Union. Parliamentarians from across Europe flock to Vilnius to join their Lithuanian counterparts in the barricaded Parliament building. The western media rises in unison to champion the justice of the Lithuanian cause. Both Houses of Congress pass unanimous resolutions condemning Soviet actions. Even the White House begins to question Mikhail Gorbachev's excuse that he was sleeping at the time of the attack.

Lithuanian-Americans again rise to action. Vigils and demonstrations are quickly organized by the "old pros" from the springtime. Having become more efficient, the ad hoc action committees respond with immediate activities. And lo and behold, the Administration begins to take note. A Baltic delegation meets with President Bush, and for once, doesn't just smile and take pictures, but tells the President the frustration that Baltic-Americans feel at U.S. inaction. A sympathetic President again provides hopeful words, but this time they are followed by action. The February summit is indefinitely postponed. The Soviet ambassador in Washington is officially notified of the United States' disapproval of the use of force in the Baltics. The Administration proposes humanitarian assistance for the Baltic States.

Progress is being made, slowly. As Lithuanian-Americans, we have a special interest in ensuring that this progress not only continues, but accelerates until it culminates with official U.S. recognition of an independent Lithuania. The events of this past year demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that, when united for a common cause, our voices are heard in

Washington. It is our obligation as Lithuanian-Americans, to put aside our differences and our special interests and come to the aid of our compatriots in Lithuania. In this issue, several suggestions are made as to specific actions which may be taken by each and every one of us in an effort to ensure that the tragedy of January 13th is not repeated. Please, take the time to help Lithuania.

As you have noticed, several changes are apparent in this issue. First and foremost, after two years of never-ending work, Eduardas Meilus, Jr. is relinquishing the job of Managing Editor. He remains with Bridges as a contributing editor. On behalf of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., I would like to thank Mr. Meilus for the endless hours that he put in to improve Bridges. The next several issues of Bridges will be edited by a series of "guest editors" who will bring their ideas and outlook to these pages. Mr. Joseph Arlauskas of Gloucester, Virginia is editing the March and April issues and Ms. Nerija Gureckas of Hartford, Connecticut is editing the May issue. Please let us know of your likes and dislikes as we try to continue on the path toward progress begun by Mr.



R. Likander

ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA AT THE CSCE SUMMIT IN PARIS

(A report prepared by Ms. Gabija Petrauskas, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, vice-president of the Lithuanian World Community. She assisted the delegation of the Republic of Lithuania at the CSCE Summit in Paris from November 16-23, 1990.)

The request for observer status for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania was initially presented at the CSCE Conference on the Human Dimension in Copenhagen, June, 1990. During the CSCE Foreign Ministers' meeting in New York City in October, 1990, the Foreign Ministers of seven countries publicly stated their support for observer status at the CSCE for the three Baltic States. At the Heads of State and Governments CSCE Summit meeting in Paris, November 19-21, 1990, nine heads of state publicly stated their support of observer status for the Baltic States. The Baltic States interpret this as evidence of growing support by governments on their behalf.

In Copenhagen, the Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were admitted to the CSCE Conference as guests of the Danish Government. In New York, they were also admitted as guests to the Foreign Ministers' meeting. During the preparatory sessions in Vienna, lobbying efforts by the Baltic States to gain support for observer status, continued. The Lithuanian delegation had been promised that the Danish and Icelandic delegations would escort the Baltic delegations as their guests. On Friday, November 16, the three Baltic Foreign Ministers were summoned for a meeting with the French Foreign Ministry East European Director Mr. Bleu who extended the invitation of the CSCE Summit Executive Secretariat that they be admitted as distinguished guests of the Secretariat. They were told that this had been decided through consensus in Vienna and that a reply was necessary by Sunday. The Lithuanian delegation requested some time to respond and sought to contact the Icelandic and Danish delegations without success. On Sunday, they agreed to accept the invitation, although they expressed some concern regarding an invitation issued by an administrative organ rather than a participating State.

In Paris, the Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were admitted by the CSCE Summit Executive Secretariat as distinguished guests of the French Government and were granted "Invité

distingué" identity cards. The three Baltic Foreign Ministers, together with their delegations (Lithuania had sent the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Valdas Katkus and legal advisor Mr. Oskaras Jusys) physically sat in Hall No. 2 together with the delegations of the participating states. In mid-morning the Foreign Ministers were asked to come to a meeting with officials of the Secretariat in a separate room, where upon arrival, they were asked if they would like to follow the proceedings from this room and to help themselves to the food provided for them. Mr. Katkus asked if this meant that they were prohibited from re-entering the hall. When he was told "No, they are not prohibited" he immediately, together with Mr. Jusys and members of the Estonian and Latvian delegations returned to the hall. The Foreign Ministers themselves were detained in a separate room. At 2:30 P.M. that afternoon (the sessions resumed at 3:00 P.M.), following lunch break, Mr. R. Dumas, the French Foreign Minister requested a meeting with the Baltic Foreign Ministers. There he informed them that the Soviet delegation is protesting the presence of the Baltic States and that the Soviets maintain their position that they are Soviet Republics, and as such may join the Soviet delegation. When the Baltic Foreign Ministers stated that this would be unacceptable, Mr. Dumas informed them that with deep regret he must revoke the "invité distingué" status and deemed the identity cards no longer valid. The Foreign Ministers were escorted from the building and offered the services of a chauffeured car for touring around Paris. The Foreign Ministers declined this gesture. Mr. Jusys of the Lithuanian delegation, who was not privy to the Dumas meeting, entered Hall No. 2 and sat throughout half of the proceedings until his presence was discovered and he was escorted out of the building by the French authorities.

A press conference was quickly called at the Grand Hotel at 5:30 P.M., prior to the cocktail reception being hosted by the Latvian World Federation to commemorate Latvia's Independence Day on November 19th. Major news agencies as well as French, Scandinavian and other European TV attended. The Prime Minister of Iceland, the Foreign Ministers of Iceland, Norway, Denmark, members of the delegations of Sweden, Poland, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Austria were in attendance.

The need for a full-fledged news conference was felt by all three Baltic Foreign Ministers. On November 20th, despite complaints from the Soviets (protests and attempts to block the press conference as well as Soviet Press gathering up notices of the press conference being distributed in the Press Center) and difficulties created by French officials of the Secretariat (e.g. refusal to write in the Baltic Press conference on the Press Center's notice board; refusal to photocopy announcements of the Press Conference; obstruction of distribution of Press Release style statements by Lithuania's Foreign Minister Mr. A. Saudargas to those entering the press conference hall), a press conference sponsored by the Icelandic and Danish delegations was held to a limited audience of 100 international TV, radio and news reporters. Next day coverage in the European press was relatively broad.

The next day, November 21st, the Lithuanian Movement Sajūdis, the Estonian and Latvian Popular Fronts, under the sponsorship of the delegations of Sweden and Czechoslovakia, presented to the CSCE Executive Secretariat a petition of 800,000 signatures collected in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, in support of the Baltic States request for observer status at the CSCE. The collection of signatures for this petition was begun on August 23rd in commemoration of the anniversary of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which was the precursor to the illegal annexation and occupation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union.

It was our understanding that several Nordic countries protested the treatment of the Foreign Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the CSCE Secretariat.

The Canadian statement at the Summit made no reference to the actions of the Baltic States in their quest for independence and democratization; no members of the Canadian delegation participated in the Latvian-hosted cocktail party on November 19th; no mention was made of a protest by Canada concerning the treatment of the representatives of the Baltic States.

The United States had already spoken and had no opportunity to publicly comment on the incident during the Summit. Mr. James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, had met with the three Foreign Ministers for a half hour discussion of their request on the Sunday preceding the opening of the CSCE Summit in his hotel suite. A photo opportunity was provided for the photo-journalists there.

"Le Figaro", a major French newspaper, on the

day following the incident, carried a story calling the handling of the Baltic Foreign Ministers "the first infringement of human rights in the New Europe". This theme was echoed in various European newspapers covering the Paris Summit.

Nine countries in total made public reference to the Baltic States' request to be included as full-fledged member of the CSCE process. This is significant since the comments were made at a SUMMIT level conference. In that sense, the Baltic issue has moved significantly forward on the international arena in Paris and is interpreted as a definite success along the difficult path towards recognition of the Baltic States as independent European states.

Lithuania is determined to continue to participate in every CSCE forum and to persevere in its quest for international recognition of its right to independent statehood. It is the responsibility of every Lithuanian emigre, who cares about Lithuania, to contribute in any way possible towards the achievement of that end.

The Lithuanian World Community, as the umbrella association of 20 National emigre community organizations "Kraštų Bendruomenės", will continue in its lead role of coordinating the efforts of the international Lithuanian community throughout those 20 countries in support of Lithuania's efforts through the CSCE Helsinki Process. The next issue-oriented CSCE forum for which considerable preparatory effort will be required is the June, 1991 CSCE conference on Minority Rights, in Geneva, Switzerland. Following that a milestone conference is planned on the issue of Human Rights - Helsinki II, in Moscow.



Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, Mr. and Mrs. Klimas and Lithuanian World Community vice-president Gabija Petrauskas at the CSCE summit in Paris.

UNION LEADERS SPEAK OUT ON THE BALTICS

(AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland issued the following statement on the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania on January 14, 1991.)

The AFL-CIO condemns the bloody repression in Lithuania and urges the Soviet Union immediately to withdraw its forces from that country.

We had warned that a crackdown was imminent three weeks ago, after we received an urgent request for the support of Lithuanian trade unionists who were concerned about extensive Soviet troop movements on their border.

We voice our admiration for the determination and heroism of the working people of Vilnius, who have advanced their independence from the Soviet empire by entirely peaceful and parliamentary means. The AFL-CIO stands with them, and particularly the Lithuanian Workers Union, which has been a leading force for non-violent, democratic change in that country.

Our deepest condolences go out to the families of Lithuanian citizens murdered by Soviet troops.

In recent weeks, President Gorbachev has linked

the fate of his country's economic reforms to the infusion of loans, credits and aid from the Western community of nations. He must now be made to understand that such aid will not flow to a state that suppresses basic human rights. The AFL-CIO therefore calls on the U.S. and all democratic nations to immediately cut off all economic aid, credits and loans to the USSR until democratic rights are restored in Lithuania.

We renew our call for the U.S. government to extend diplomatic recognition to the legitimately elected government in Vilnius.

Only a firm and principled U.S. and Western response can contribute to stemming the new tide of repression that appears to be on the verge of overtaking the USSR and the Baltic states.

(On the day this statement was issued, Lane Kirkland raised the Lithuanian flag in front of the AFL-CIO Headquarters in Washington, vowing that it would fly until Lithuania is free. To this day, it remains, flying proudly along with the U.S. flag, directly across the street from the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.)

CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN FOR THE BALTIC NATIONS

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus has played a vital role in addressing human rights concerns in the U.S. Congress and in making human rights a more visible and important issue on Capitol Hill.

During 1990, all Caucus members participated in congressional activities in support of human rights. Caucus hearings, briefings and press conferences focused on human rights conditions in numerous regions, including China (PRC), Burma (Myanmar), India, Nepal, Tibet, Malaysia, the Philippines, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, Kenya, South Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Israel, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Albania, Romania, Yugoslavia and the USSR. The Caucus also brought attention to the issues of torture of children, "disappearances," and ethnic genocide. In addition, Caucus members made appeals on behalf of victims of political, religious, ethnic and racial persecution all over the world.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus is a bipartisan legislative service organization which was established under the auspices of the U.S. House of Representatives. The Caucus membership consists of 200 Congressmen and Congresswomen representing districts in all parts of the United States. It was founded in early 1983 by Congressman John Porter (R-IL) and Tom Lantos (D-CA). Both recognized the need for an umbrella organization open to all Members of Congress. They envisioned an organization that would focus bipartisan attention and take action against human rights violations wherever they occur. Since its inception, the Caucus has become the leading voice in Congress for human rights issues.

After the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania on January 14, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus immediately scheduled hearings for January 16, 1991. The following selections were submitted as testimony to the Caucus.

**CONGRESSMAN JOHN EDWARD PORTER (R-IL)
OPENING STATEMENT**

As members of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, we are here today to closely investigate the outrageous attack on the Lithuanian people by the Soviet military this weekend. After an inspiring period of warming relations between the Soviet Union and the United States, I was shocked and dismayed to learn of this brutal Soviet attack on the innocent people of Lithuania.

As the threat of war in the Persian Gulf bears heavily upon us, US-Soviet unity is crucial. At this critical juncture the Soviet Union has chosen to use bloody force to suppress the Lithuanians' pleas of independence.

What the Soviet Union may not realize is that we can, and we will, remove our recent offer of generous economic assistance and food aid if Moscow does not adhere to international laws of human rights. By waiving the Jackson-Vanik amendment, the United States administration was demonstrating its faith in glasnost and its inherent potential to bring economic and social stability to the Soviet Union. But if the rights of each individual are not respected, we can no longer have this faith. Gorbachev must take firm and unmistakable steps to rein back the conservative and military forces that condoned the use of force this weekend, or every Western nation will call into question the reasons it has extended aid to Moscow.

Yesterday and today, tens of thousands of grieving Lithuanians streamed through Vilnius to pay their respects to those who died in this weekend's bloody events, bringing back haunting memories of the Chinese massacres of peaceful demonstrators in China and Tibet.

In addition, reports of 64 missing people were disclosed late Monday by a Lithuanian government spokesman. Some are believed to have been killed during the Sunday assault on the radio and television broadcast center.

The implications of this weekend's events on the other Baltic States are also bleak. The National Salvation Committee, an arm of the pro-Moscow communist party organized in Lithuania to convince the people that they do not want freedom and independence, has been formed in the republics of Latvia and Estonia. There the people wait in fear, poised for similar attacks by the Soviet military to silence their cries for independence. Yesterday, Soviet troops disarmed cadets at a military school in Riga, Latvia, similar to what occurred in Lithuania just before the attack on

the television towers.

The truth about the Soviet regime has become painfully obvious to the world. Democratization and liberalization of the Soviet economy will be accepted as long as the power of the ruling elite is not threatened. As soon as it became apparent to the Soviets that freedom for Lithuania could lead to calls for freedom and self-determination in the other Baltic States and the possible disintegration of the Soviet Union, the military chose to use all means possible to send a clear message of intimidation to Lithuania and other Baltic States.

If the Soviet Union believes that the conflict in the Persian Gulf will close the eyes of the world to the events happening in the Baltic States, it is grievously mistaken. The denial of the human rights of those in Vilnius is no less important than the rights of people suffering in the Persian Gulf. Gorbachev, as the current Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, the eyes of the world are upon you.

**EXCERPTS FROM THE TESTIMONY OF
MARI-ANN RIKKEN
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN
NATIONAL COMMITTEE
BEFORE THE HOUSE CAUCUS ON HUMAN
RIGHTS**

The members of the Baltic community in the United States believe that it is of utmost importance to send a strong message to President Bush, and to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, that the citizens of the United States, and their elected representatives will not sit idly by as the central government in Moscow attempts to stamp out the newly re-emerged democracies on its borders.

As you know the United States has never recognized the occupation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the Soviet Union as legal, thereby denying the Soviets any rights or privileges over the territory or the citizens of the Baltic nations. Actually, Mikhail Gorbachev was exactly right when he complained to the Soviet legislature that "Lithuania has treated us like a foreign country trying to impose its constitution on another country."

After the reaffirmation of independence by the governments of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia in the spring of 1990, the leaders of these countries have gradually attempted to reassert their rights over their own historic territory, and have passed legislation to realize their democratic aspirations. Nonetheless, the

Soviet Union has persisted in its attempts to maintain control by the Communist party over illegally seized properties in the territories of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and indeed to preserve control over the illegally annexed countries themselves. The most recent violence in the Baltic countries has been excused by the central Soviet government as attempts by local communist party authorities to protect so-called "Communist Party properties" and to ensure compliance with the Soviet military draft. As you are undoubtedly aware, both of these allegations are not valid. The international community has never recognized the illegal incorporation of the Baltic countries into the Soviet Union, and the 1949 Geneva Convention prohibits the forced conscription of soldiers into the army of an occupying power.

The most distressing element of the scenario in the Baltic countries is the fact that the Soviet Union is using its military forces to crush peaceful, democratic movements initiated and led by unarmed civilians. In my opinion the Soviet central government, through its actions in Lithuania and its threats against the people of Estonia and Latvia, has reached the nadir of violation of human rights. I can think of no example of human rights violations more poignant than the crushing of innocent individuals, some of them children, by armored tanks, simply because they were defending a government they believe in, in the only way that they were able - by placing themselves between the attacking Soviet tanks and the buildings housing their leaders.

What are the implications of the events in Lithuania for the Estonians and Latvians? It is the opinion of the Joint Baltic American National Committee that the people of Estonia and Latvia will suffer much the same fate as did the people of Lithuania unless the central government in Moscow receives a strong message from the United States, and from the other democratic powers of the world, that such actions will create grave repercussions for the Soviet Union in all areas in which it hopes to find cooperation, improved relations and assistance. Words are not enough. Unless the US takes action, more Balts will die.

Both the Estonian and Latvian governments have received ultimata from Soviet-sponsored "Committees of National Salvation" and the "Interfront" demanding that they repeal all laws which do not comply with the Soviet constitution (rescind their reassertion of independence and all laws aimed at returning to a democratic form of government and a market economy). If these demands are not met within 24 hours, nationwide strikes will be organized against the governments and all electricity will be cut off to

extremist groups. Interestingly enough, the deadlines set coincide with the deadline the United Nations Security Council has issued to Saddam Hussein.

Gen. Kuzmin, the commander of the Soviet military in the Baltic Military District, has issued thinly veiled threats to the Latvian government that a failure to comply with these requests will result in the same consequences as were suffered by Lithuania.

In our evaluation, the series of moves recently initiated by the Soviet Union have been carefully planned and carried out in a method designed to divide and conquer the Baltic countries, while attempting to create the false impression that there is internal ethnic strife within these peaceful countries. The Soviets have also counted on the world's attention being focused on the Persian Gulf. Fortunately the Western media and the US Congress have been able to deal with both issues over the past few days. Sadly, however, while the Baltic community has banded together to protest the actions of Lithuania and bring them to the attention of the press and US government, the central government in Moscow has been preparing to take the same action in Latvia and Estonia.

In the aftermath of the murders of unarmed civilians in Lithuania, the Soviet army has already engaged in more brutality, this time in Latvia where Soviet "black berets" of the Interior Ministry special forces attacked civilians attempting to barricade the entrance roads to the capital of Riga. In this incident Latvian citizens had been parking busses, heavy machinery and trucks loaded with bricks, wood and sand on roads providing access to Riga, so that Soviet tanks would be unable to enter the city. In other areas civilians formed human blockades around key Latvian installations in attempts to protect them from attacking Soviet forces. General Kuzmin issued a pronouncement that there would be no discussions of military issues with the Latvian government until the barricades were removed. Shortly after that, black berets attacked civilians erecting a barricade outside of Riga and set fire to ten busses being used in the barricade. The US State Department has confirmed at least one civilian was shot in this assault and several others badly beaten.

Attempts to provoke violence and preparations for military maneuvers are underway in Estonia as well. Tanks are massing near the city of Narva on the Estonian border, and members of the pro-Moscow group Interfront staged demonstrations yesterday in Tallinn. Although busloads of participants were brought into Tallinn from the Soviet Union, the total turnout was low, showing lack of support from the local Russian populace for the extremist pro-Moscow

group. Many of the local Russians realize that not only would their rights be protected by Baltic governments - as even Yeltsin assured them - but also that life in general would be better for all residents of independent Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. We are thankful that, so far, there have been no serious injuries reported from Estonia.

Members of the group Interfront have, however, proven that they are ingenious in devising means by which to attract demonstrators and incite violence. In demonstrations in Latvia last week, also staged by Interfront, demonstrators were offered free alcoholic beverages to encourage participation and to encourage rowdiness. Even so, the Moscow-encouraged Interfront has never been able to compete in numbers with the supporters of independence in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In Riga, Latvia, a city whose one million inhabitants are approximately 60% non-Latvian, 700,000 people gathered on Sunday to show their support for independence. The presence of such huge numbers, so soon after the violence in Lithuania, proves how deep the support is for the Latvian government's initiatives to restore democracy and revitalize the economy devastated by the Soviets over the past 50 years of occupation.

Several appeals for "any possible assistance" have been issued by the Baltic governments to the democratic nations of the world. We feel that the government of the Republic of Latvia was speaking for all three Baltic countries when they issued as appeal to the governments of the world and the governments of the Republics of the Soviet Union which reads in part:

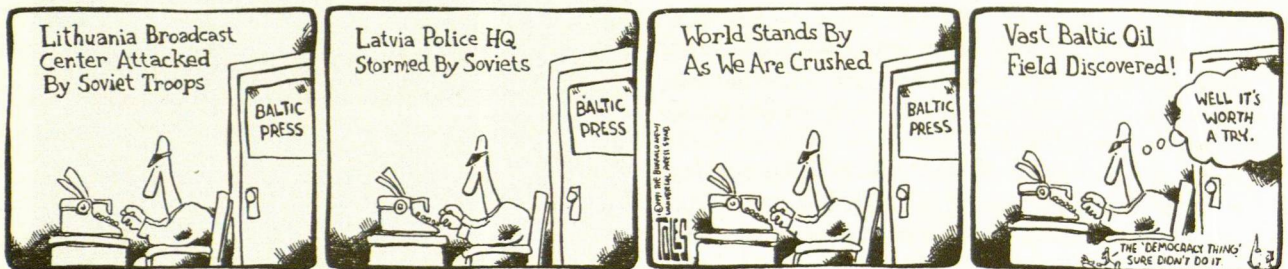
"At this severe hour we are addressing all the nations and governments of the world with an appeal not to allow another Kuwait to happen, with an appeal to prevent murderous international crime in the Baltics.

We ask all the Governments of the world who praise values common to all mankind, who praise ideas of humanity and democracy to oppose unanimously the reactionary forces and support the rights of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia to survival and restoration of their statehood in a democratic way."

In conclusion, I would like to remind the members of this caucus, and all members of Congress, that the events of the last year have proved that the people of the Baltic countries are determined to succeed in their struggle to reassert independence. The United States has historically supported these aims. As Americans, we are proud that our country has steadfastly upheld an important principle of international law. The Baltic peoples are grateful that the United States has served as an unwavering beacon of hope through the long years of Soviet terror, occupation and repression.

Unfortunately, in the last year, now that long-awaited freedom seemed almost within reach for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, United States support has not gone much beyond its traditional symbolic verbal encouragement. The support given was not enough to bring the Soviets to the negotiating table nor to halt a Soviet embargo this spring. The support given was not enough to dissuade the Soviets from embarking on a campaign of intimidation, human rights abuses, and repression of democracy. The support given was not enough to prevent violence, bloodshed and loss of life.

The Joint Baltic American National Committee believes that the fate of the people of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania depends upon the will of the democratic governments of the world, as led by our own nation, to send a clear message to the Soviet Union that the inconsistencies in Mikhail Gorbachev's professed commitment to peace will not be tolerated.



The Chicago Sun-Times, Sunday, January 27, 1991

KUWAIT, LITHUANIA ISSUES ARE SIMILAR

(Mr. Raymond R. Coffey is the editor of the Chicago Sun-Times editorial page. This column is re-printed by permission from the January 19, 1991 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times)

If I were a Lithuanian or one of the many Lithuanian-Americans living in the Chicago area, here's the question that would be bugging me: Except for a more lurid vocabulary and less charm, what makes Saddam Hussein in Kuwait all that different from Mikhail Gorbachev in Lithuania?

The question is, in fact, one I think we would all like to hear - and are entitled to hear - an answer to.

Hussein sends his tanks into Kuwait and declares it is the 19th province of Iraq. Boom. Next thing you know, we've got more than 400,000 Americans putting their lives on the line to save Kuwait for the Kuwaitis. We can't have dictators running around the neighborhood stealing other people's countries, explain President Bush, pal Gorby and the UN. Fine.

But then, before the first bomb gets dropped on Iraq, some of Gorbachev's own tanks go rolling into Lithuania and the Soviet president declares in effect - or re-declares - that Lithuania, whatever the Lithuanians may think about it, is a province of the communist Soviet empire.

Gorbachev tries frantically (and farcically) to blame the bloodshed on some local Soviet general, but political authority is transferred to some newly concocted false-face "National Salvation Committee," which is a front for hard-liners in the Communist Party.

Boom. What happens next? Well, damn near nothing. Bush and a few busloads of other world figures "condemn" the Soviet behavior. But their own tanks and planes and troops are all tied up now rescuing Kuwait. Sorry, we're busy. Just like we were busy with Suez in 1956 and Vietnam in 1968 when Gorbachev's predecessors sent the tanks into Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Besides, Gorbachev, the celebrated Nobel Peace Prize winner, has lately been enchanting the world with talk about democracy and reform and how he sure could use some outside cash to help him introduce his people to capitalism.

He gets a lot of credit (more than he has coming) for Eastern Europe getting a no-fault divorce from Moscow. He also has become something of a telephone pal of Bush and a prospective major player in the obscurely defined "new world order" Bush and his team keep talking about.

We need Gorby, the line goes. He's our kind of guy. Without him there would be chaos. With him there will be stability in the world.

So Hussein gets up, looks out the window and we've got several billion dollars worth of hardware lined up to blow him away, which is pretty much what he's got coming. Gorbachev gets off the phone, looks out the window, and were unloading \$1 billion worth of food to help him survive the Russian winter, which seems to me is not at all what he's got coming.

Kuwait is a family-owned country, essentially a monarchy to which our notions of freedom and democracy remain largely alien. Lithuania was involuntarily incorporated into the Soviet Union by Stalin in 1940. The United States has never recognized its annexation as legal. It is fiercely independent in spirit, its new government was freely elected, its people have warmly embraced democracy.

What's going on? Doesn't the obvious double standard undermine the moral high ground, the stuff about right and wrong, freedom and tyranny, we're trying to stand on out there in the desert?

Should Lithuanians have to pay with their freedom, not to mention their lives, for this "stability" Gorbachev is supposed to be delivering? Should Latvians, Estonians, Ukrainians, anyone else?

Don't they rate as much claim on our attention and sympathy as Kuwait?



E. Nenortas

AN "UNEVENTFUL" WEEKEND ON THE EAST COAST

Rita Likander

Having gotten tired of the Windy City (and at this time better known as the snowy, icy city) I decided to get away from it all to the East Coast. I was looking forward to a quiet weekend, visiting with my friend Zina and others who I haven't seen in a while. Well, my quiet get away weekend quickly changed. After hearing, seeing and reading about the events in Lithuania on the 12 and 13 of January, I knew it was not going to be a quiet weekend. While the world's attention was focused on the events in the Persian Gulf, the Soviets sent more troops into Lithuania, took over various government buildings including the all important Television and Radio Tower, ran tanks over innocent people and shot defenseless citizens who answered their President's cry for help, surrounding the Parliament building. Yes, the events going on in the Gulf were very important, but suddenly that didn't matter anymore. We, Lithuanian-Americans, had a bigger headache on our hands with the increasing violence.

I double checked with my friend prior to my arrival and was informed by her mom that she was at the Lithuanian Resource Center in West Hartford getting the latest information from ham operators about the events in Lithuania. Her mom also told me that there was a demonstration planned in New York that Saturday. I laughed as I put down the phone and



New York demonstration for Baltic freedom.



A fitting honor.

R. Likander

I knew exactly what I would be doing this weekend.

My friend Zina picked me up at the Hartford airport on Thursday, Jan. 17, apologized for being late and informed me of this weekend's activities and also updated my news about the current events in Lithuania.

Our first stop (after dinner) was to visit the Lithuanian Resource Center (LRC) to get the latest news from Lithuania. LRC, under the Lithuanian-American Community, Hartford Chapter umbrella, is very well organized and well informed. The Center, located in the basement of a house in West Hartford, is a beehive of information - 2 computers hooked up to one system, copying machine, fax machine, two telephones, a typewriter, a television (for taping any news shows regarding statements about Lithuania), current press releases and miles of files to be used as press releases, news reports and other factual information. There is a big bulletin board right by the phone, which has current information and phone numbers of important contacts on it. At the time of my visit, there was information about the upcoming demonstrations, phone numbers of local congressmen, senators, representatives and local newspapers, as well as some of the many political cartoons that summed up the whole Lithuanian situation very well. The Center is staffed by anywhere from 5 to 10 volunteers, mostly young, who spend most of their waking hours getting new information as it comes in. These young people have the support of the entire community and

people call to see if they can help in any way. They also have clippings from newspapers about current events in Lithuania. In one other corner of the Center is the famous photo board. Many dignitaries and celebrities have visited the Center, providing additional information. The Center was visited by the President of Lithuania Vytautas Landsbergis, several members of his cabinet and the rock group Foje that just finished a successful tour of the States. I was very impressed with the Resource Center, as well as with all the young people who are giving up their spare time to man the phones.

After getting a good night's sleep, we started off again. The first stop today was, where else, the Resource Center. Tom told us that it was quiet and he received no more news from Lithuania. While I was waiting for my friend to finish up, the phone rang. It was a journalist from the Hartford Courant who wanted more information about tomorrow's demonstration. Zina gave him all the necessary information trying not to sound too nervous or worried. Waiting for her to hang up, I watched several clips from previously recorded interviews and news events pertaining to recent developments in Lithuania. The Center was also the place where two different local TV stations did interviews with Laima Karosas, who returned from Lithuania on Jan. 14. Laima was still very upset, very shook up and very worried about the family and relatives she left behind. She said the Lithuanians were a very proud people and they wouldn't give up easily. Laima said it was very weird and eerie to wake up Sunday morning (Jan. 13), turn on the TV and realize that there was nothing on TV. She heard the tanks and saw the troops and didn't know what to think. She stressed the fact that if the Soviets can run over a helpless girl with tanks, they will stop at nothing to get what they want. Gorbachev is a man that cannot and should not be trusted, Laima said ending the interviews. (I'm sorry that I did not get a chance to do a full interview with Laima.) I decided to collect some of the information to take back to Chicago and share with other interested people. I got the latest press release from the Lithuanian Information Center about events in Lithuania, the Republic of Lithuania appeal to the United Nations and the forensic medical commission report on the cause of death of the victims during the assault on the TV tower on January 13 in Vilnius. The events in Lithuania change daily so the press releases are now a little out of date, however, both the appeal and the forensic commission report are still of current interest. Both are provided for *Bridges* readers' information.

**Supreme Council of the Republic of
Lithuania**
Appeal
**of the Democratically Elected Government
of the Republic of Lithuania**
to
The United Nations

Lithuania has reestablished its independence in order to become a constitutional democracy, a government under law in which majority rule is balanced by individual and minority rights. This is what all the peoples of the world yearn for, and what Lithuania now requests their assistance to obtain. The inalienable rights of all humans, including their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness - whose protection is the first obligation of all governments - must be defended now in Lithuania or these precious rights will be diminished for all the world.

Soviet authorities are employing every means - tanks, machine guns, bands of "saboteurs" disguised in civilian clothes (and a few people misled by CPSU propaganda), other cynical provocations, disinformation, supposed petitions from "the workers", and so-called "Committee to Save Lithuania" - to create the impression that law and order has broken down and must be restored by direct rule from Moscow. But the only lawlessness in Lithuania is Soviet lawlessness; a foreign government's tyranny of occupation, disinformation, provocation, and brutality.

A heroic, peaceful struggle is being waged in Lithuania. When thousands of unarmed Lithuanians, Poles, and Russians respond to the call of their democratically elected government and their head of state to protect Lithuania's nascent constitutional democracy from being violently overthrown by the USSR - and risk death - there can be no doubt about the choice they have made.

The democratically elected Government of Lithuania appeals to the United Nations for its protection, and urgently requests that a United Nations Commission be sent forthwith to observe and report on the current crisis, with a view to recommending to the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations how true order, lawful justice, and genuine peace may be restored to our oppressed country.

Vilnius,
13 January 1991

Vytautas Landsbergis
President
Supreme Council
Republic of Lithuania

DECISION OF MEDICAL COMMISSION OF EXPERTS

Hereby there is the decision of Forensic Medical Commission of Experts on the cause of death of victims during the assault on TV tower on January 13, 1991 in the city of Vilnius:

1. A. Kanapinskas, born 1952 - died of injure by explosives to the right side of thorax with rupture of lung.

2. V. Vaitkus, born 1943 - died of double bullet wounds to thorax with injure of heart and lungs,

3. V. Maciulevichius, born 1967 - died of bullet wound to the face and neck with injure of spinal cord,

4. A. Davaliauskas, born 1938 - died of squeeze of thorax with fracture of ribs and spinal column, and injure of lungs and spinal cord (run over by wheels),

5. J. Shimulionis, born 1973 - died of bullet wound to the head with fracture of cranium and demolition of brains,

6. D. Gerbutavichius, born 1973 - died of bullet wound to the right side of thorax, right thigh and right shin,

7. V. Druskis, born 1969 - died of bullet wound to the right side of thorax with injure of heart and lung,

8. A. Povilaitis, born 1937 - died of bullet wound to the right side of thorax, right shoulder and right thigh,

9. R. Jankauskas, born 1969 - died of squeeze of head and thorax with fracture of cranium bones, ribs and injure of cerebrum and internal organs (run over by Caterpillar track),

10. T. Masiulis, born 1962 - died of double bullet wound to thorax with injure of heart and lungs,

11. Miss L. Asanavichiute, born 1967 - died of squeeze of pelvis and lower extremities with injure of soft tissues (run over by Catterpillar track, deceased the same day),

12. R. Juknevichius, born 1966 - died of bullet would to the upper right side of thigh with injure of important vascularity (deceased the same day),

13. V. Shackiah, born 1969 - died of bullet wound to the right side of back with injure of right lung.

All the bullet wounds which caused deaths of civilians as well as a soldier (V. Shackinh) were made by weapons of caliber 5.45 milimetre.

The decision is signed by

Mr. A. Garmus

Chief Forensic Medical Expert of Ministry of Health,
Republic of Lithuania

Vilnius, January 15, 1991

Tom has made up a fact sheet of the latest events in Lithuania and provided an informational sheet of what we can do including phone numbers and addresses of people to contact regarding events in the Baltic States. We made copies of these sheets so that we could pass them out on the bus to the demonstration tomorrow. We also put together a press packet including the above mentioned information for any reporters or journalist that may be around tomorrow. We watched more clips from Lithuania, including one of the Soviets beating Lithuanian citizens over the heads with rifle butts. Zina thought she recognized one of the people that was getting beat up and wanted me to verify. After viewing the clip several times, we came to the conclusion that it was not our mutual friend getting beat up, but somebody that looked very much like him. It's bad enough to be aware of everthing going on over there, but it's even worse thinking that it could be a friend of ours.

Saturday morning we packed up and left for the demonstrations. Two buses left from the Lithuanian parish (Holy Trinity) in Hartford, one stopping along the way in Waterbury, the other one picking up people from New Britain (CT). People were all very excited, looking forward to stirring up feelings and support for the Baltic States. These two buses carried mostly older people, but at the demonstrations themselves there was a very good blend of people - little kids, high school students, college graduates, young families, nuns, lay people, businessmen, housewives, retirees, pensioners, etc. I was excited about these demonstrations as well - I have helped organize many demonstrations in Chicago and participated in several in Washington, DC, but it was interesting to be just a participant, not an organizer in another city's demonstrations. These demonstrations wer organized by Lithuanian-Americans in New Jersey, and Dennis Meizys was one of the main organizers. The buses dropped us off on E. 67th and Lexington Ave., which was about half a block away from the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. Police had barricaded the street and it seemed like once again we were demonstrating to ourselves, crying on each other shoulders and patting each other on the back. We could not cross the police line and my first impression was one of cattle moving placidly along the fences. The crowd eventually swelled to 3,000 people and many were waving Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian flags. Polish, Croatian and Ukrainian flags could be seen in support. People started to chant and the mounted police moved in to make sure there was no trouble. Dennis Meizys addressed the crowd - "I'm sure there are a lot of peace

demonstrators marching around the city right now. They have a chant - 'No blood for oil'. How about a new one - 'No aid for blood.'" The crowd, which jammed the street for a block on Manhattan's Upper East Side, repeated the same chant. Soon the crowd warmed to the cheers and started yelling - "Mr. Bush, Mr. Quayle, the Baltic States are not for sale", "The Soviet army's got to go - Hey, hey, go home", "Bush, Bush open your eyes, Gorby's Stalin in disguise" and of course, everybody's favorite "What do we want - FREEDOM, when do we want it - NOW!" The crowd listened to various speeches for independence and freedom and clapped when one of Sen. D'Amato's aides took the platform.

There were also many talented artists in our midsts as the posters reflected - "Parasitic USSR, get your fleas out of the Baltics", "Shame, Shame, Gorby is to blame", "Nobel War Prize", "If only the Baltics had oil", which seemed to sum up everybody's feelings perfectly. If the Baltic States had oil, then President Bush would be sending troops to defend them, instead of ignoring their pleas for help and recognition.

We decided that we weren't getting much action where we were standing and we couldn't hear the speakers very well, so we went to the other end of the street (which actually felt more like an alleyway than a street) to see what we could accomplish there. We stood on the corner where just a handful of people were standing and we let our purpose be known to all those driving by. Only after noticing several Porsches, BMWs, Mercedes and Jaguars drive by did we realize we were standing on Park Ave. The cars driving by honked in support and there were people everywhere. I'm sure the handful of us demonstrating away from the mass of people made quite an impression on all the cars driving by. The Nobel Peace Tank went from corner to corner, constantly being followed by a Lithuanian, Latvian, Estonian flag. After a while, our small group grew to quite a large crowd. (I'm surprised the cops didn't chase us away from that corner). Most people drifted off from the main demonstration and realized that they could be heard and seen better on the corner of E. 67th and Park Ave. As one of the buses made a left hand turn, we realized that somebody had attached a Lithuanian flag on the back of it and we all cheered and applauded. After a while we spotted a bus that was taped with a "Freedom for Estonia" poster. Someone had seen both buses later on, and both the flag and the poster were still in place.

Zina had a huge Lithuanian flag about 40 feet long, which was almost impossible to hold (not to mention to carry), but somebody from our little corner decided

to take this demonstration for a walk. About 30-40 people walked down Park Avenue and around several other blocks until we got to a few feet of the Soviet Mission. No sooner did we start chanting there, then the police showed up and told us to get away from there and keep moving. Like little lambs we picked up our stuff and moved away from there. As we walked, we kept yelling our chants stopping to answer questions from curious passersby. We made it back to where the rest of the demonstrators were still standing, only we were on the other side of the street and again we were politely told by the same cop to go back and join the others. By this time, the crowd had started to disperse, but there was still enough people so that you could not get through.

Our buses were coming back to pick us up at 6:00 pm, so we didn't stay for the candlelight vigil, but it looked like several busloads stayed behind. Our people were tired but rather satisfied with the results. I'm sure the people in the Soviet Mission to the United Nations knew we were out there and they knew exactly what we were doing. We certainly left an impression on the passersby, many of whom wanted to get more information on our cause. The police estimate that there were over 3,000 people at these demonstrations, and many more saw what we were doing. People were handing out fliers with phone numbers of people to contact and other suggestions for action. Even though it was a Saturday afternoon, there were many people walking and driving around, so we got our point across to many people, again, bare minimum TV and media coverage, but we can't expect them to be covering the Persian Gulf crisis and our demonstrations at the same time. I guess everybody felt good about what they came to New York for and more than one person on our bus was extremely hoarse.

Sunday morning, Jan. 20, we went to mass at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Hartford. The pastor, Father Jack Moskus, is a Lithuanian-American who is learning Lithuanian to better serve his parishioners. This was a memorial mass for those who were killed on Bloody Sunday (Jan. 13) in Vilnius as the Soviet army seized control of various buildings. The names and ages of each killed was said during the mass and many people were wiping tears from their eyes.

After coffee in the parish hall, we all hurried to the Cathedral where we participated in a wreath laying ceremony to honor all those that were killed last Sunday in Lithuania. The wreath was placed by the Lithuanian wayside cross, built in 1987 by Connecticut Lithuanians, in the courtyard of the Cathedral. I was all set to be part of the crowd and just take some pictures of my friends

friends and the ceremonies, but that was not to be. One of the guys in charge (another one of my friends) ran around counting people and realized that they needed more people to carry the posters with the names of the deceased on them. I said I would help out, only if they really needed it. Linas looked around, counted again and told me to go over to where the flags are. So I handed my camera and my purse to Zina's mom and ran over to help. Linas and his brother carried the Lithuanian flags and two girls dressed in national costume carried the wreath and 14 people carried the posters for each one of the dead heroes. I fell into line behind everybody else. It was quite an impressive procession - flags draped with black ribbon, posters and a wreath of red carnations with a black ribbon going through them saying "Martyrs for Lithuania". When we came to the front of the cross, I knew that I would not be able to sing the Lithuanian National Anthem because of the tears forming in my eyes. LAC Hartford president Birute Zdanys presided over the short ceremony and the TV cameras were taking it all in. (That's one thing that I noticed about the Hartford media - maybe it's because Hartford is a much smaller city than Chicago, but the media in Hartford covers Lithuanian events quickly and often. We would not have gotten any media coverage in Chicago if we were laying a wreath by a cross unless the mayor himself was there!!!) We did sing the Lithuanian National Anthem and I was afraid that if I opened my mouth to sing I would have tears running down my face. Laima Karosas addressed the crowd, encouraging them not to give up and to continue with all the support for Lithuania. The posters were laid on the ground side by side and everybody stood in silence for a few moments to honor our heroes, those that were killed by Soviet guns for Lithuania's freedom.

Zina and I then drove to Rūta's house where we spent the afternoon unwinding from the "quiet, uneventful" weekend. All in all it was a very good weekend - a little bit of politicking, a little bit of demonstrating, a little bit of socializing and a little bit of helping out. I did get a chance to see several of my friends and once again I was a part of that inbred process of my life - my Lithuanian heritage. Upholding Lithuanian values and traditions, and believing in the fact that one day Lithuania will be free were the things that were taught to me by my parents, teachers and others that I was in contact with when I was young. I never let these beliefs die and I realize that these demonstrations and ceremonies are all part of the long and hard road to freedom, independence and recognition.

The weekend ended all too soon and soon I was on a plane heading back to Chicago. As I sat collecting my thoughts, I realized that there is still so much for us to do so that Lithuania would be truly free and independent. All of us have to get more involved, get more active in the fight for Lithuanian independence. Don't just sit around - that certainly won't help Lithuania be free. There are plenty of things we as individuals can do to help win this battle for independence. Here is a partial list:

1. Write a personal letter to the chairperson of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee urging them to revoke the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Gorbachev. Reports show the committee is beginning to feel the pressure to do so.

Write: Ms. G. Anderson, Chairperson
Nobel Peace Prize Committee
Drammensveien 19
0255 Oslo - 2, Norway

2. Make sure your local papers are still reporting on events in the Baltics. Don't let the issue die, consumed by the Iraqi War.

3. Talk to the President. Call the White House Comment Line (202-456-1111) and voice your opinion. Ask him to recognize the freely-elected government of Lithuania.

4. Wire your Senators and Congressmen to pass legislation to halt the disbursement of Commodity Corporation grain loan guarantees and halt grain carrying ships that have not left US ports - redirect such assistance from the central Soviet government directly to the Baltic States and other democratically oriented nationalities.

5. Urge Congress to deny Most Favored Nation trade status to the Soviet Union.

Don't just toss these suggestions in the wastebasket - act on them!



Remembering the dead heroes.

LITHUANIAN INFORMATION AND SUPPORT GROUPS

Since Lithuania reaffirmed its independence last year on March 11, many informational and support groups have been formed. Most of these groups provide information about current events in Lithuania, what you can do to help and who to contact or thank for their continued support. These groups rely heavily on reports from news agencies, ham operators, telephone interviews and information passed on through others. These little groups also interact well with each other, so that everybody has the same news, everyone is pushing for the same results. One of the biggest of these information centers is LIC (Lithuanian Information Center) with offices in New York and Washington DC. The Lithuanian Resource Center in Hartford is especially strong, getting current news reports about Lithuania from several ham operators. There is also a very strong center in Los Angeles, in Toronto, in Philadelphia and in other cities. Chicago is the proud home (actually, Lemont is) of the Lithuanian Hotline which was organized of March 24 of last year, after Lithuania reaffirmed its independence. Each of these groups works independently of each other, yet they are all after the same goal - freedom, support, and US recognition of the Baltic States.

"Lithuanian Hotline" has achieved credibility not only in Lithuanian circles, but in the American press as well. CNN has been to the Hotline center several times, filming the hub of activity and asking for further information. "Hotline" was started up by a group of Lithuanian-Americans who saw a need for quick, effective and accurate ways to pass out information regarding the latest events in Lithuania. "Hotline" receives accurate and precise information and then shares these reports with other people, journalists and **whomever** is interested. They have contacted senators, congressmen, representatives and either asked them to sign letters, petitions and resolutions to the President, or thanked them for their continued support and encouragement. "Hotline" has sent letters and telegrams to the President himself, encouraging him to recognize the Baltic States. They also help older people with these letters and telegrams, especially providing assistance to those that do not know English very well. "Hotline" has organized many demonstrations in Chicago, has helped to send buses to the demonstrations in Washington DC, and has sponsored several press days/Lithuanian days and news conferences at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont. They have the latest news posted on a big

board so that each volunteer has the actual updates and is familiar with the most recent events. On this board you can also find names and phone numbers of local politicians and other important dignitaries. The White House comment line is also readily available to those who wish to let the President know of their views regarding the Baltic situation. All the volunteers here are working with one general purpose - how to most effectively and efficiently help Lithuania. They stress the fact that first and foremost they are all Lithuanian (regardless of organizational affiliation) and their main purpose is collecting and distributing information. They want to set up fast reaction supplementary groups, which would get new information passed out quickly and effectively.

The "Lithuanian Hotline" is not the only such group in Chicago. The Lithuanian Action Committee, under the Lithuanian-American Community banner, also wants President Bush to recognize Lithuania. They also write letters and send telegrams and make phone calls and go to demonstrations. They have gone one step further. One of the members of this committee is Vince Lukas, a renowned Lithuanian artist. It is Mr. Lukas who came up with the design that most of us are now very familiar with. His design can be seen on posters, t-shirts, sweatshirts, pins, buttons, banner stickers, etc. "Don't close the door on democracy in Lithuania" is the caption that appears under a yellow, green, red bird trying desperately to get out of its wire cage, seeking freedom. This committee also leased a billboard on one of Chicago's main highways (I-294 not far from O'Hare Airport) with the same message and a line on the bottom that says "Let President Bush Know". Just imagine how many people read that billboard everyday!!! This same committee also put up similar billboards in other cities. They also made sure that several lines of the Washington DC metro has those posters prominently displayed. They have set up interviews for the media and have provided (as well as participated in themselves) excellent speakers for TV talk shows and discussions about the latest in Lithuania. The people in this committee come from all walks of life, everybody pledging their support to inform others about Lithuania and current events there, and getting feedback from the American public on the Baltic situation.

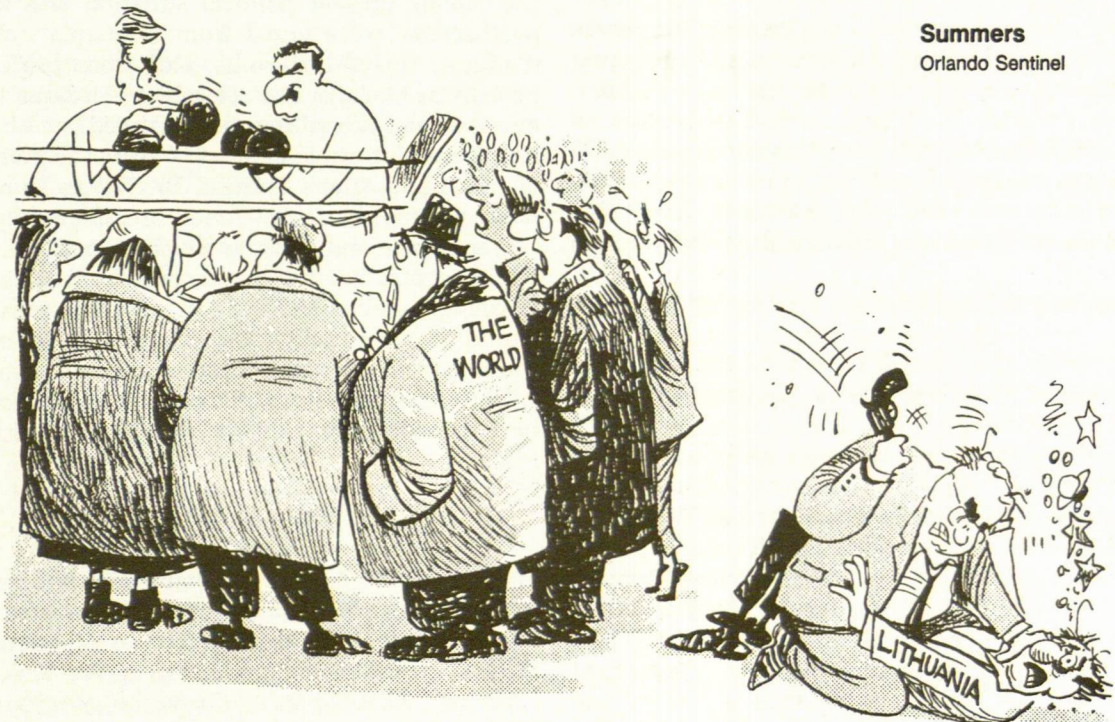
Lithuanian Mercy Lift was started by the "Lithuanian Hotline" after Moscow imposed the blockade on Lithuania and there was a dire need for

medical supplies, equipment and medicine. Rasa Lakas, one of Mercy Lift's main organizers, sees the demand for supplies increasing as the situations worsen. Many of the Lift's coordinators are doctors, nurses, pharmacists that can get donations through their work, through hospitals and pharmaceutical companies. Many companies have donated generously, providing equipment, supplies, insulin, penicillin, antibiotics and monetary contributions. Several containers with millions of dollars in supplies have already reached Lithuania. Mercy Lift has received warm and most grateful letters from the Health Minister of Lithuania, Juozas Olekas, thanking them for their help and generosity. Mercy Lift has set up transportation Stateside and in Europe and they have a contact in Paris that coordinates transportation of medical supplies into Lithuania.

All of these groups (not just the ones mentioned here) are staffed by volunteers, mostly young, who can donate their time, but not always their money. In order for these groups to run smoothly, they need money. They operate with very limited funds and rely heavily on donations, contributions and the goodwill of others. They could always use your help and that way you too can be part of the democratic process for Lithuania.

Each of these groups could always use your help, and they will welcome you with open arms. Maybe you can't always give \$1,000.00 to each ad hoc group, sometimes even a hundred or even ten dollars is hard, but every donation will be most appreciated. Maybe you have the time to help answer the phones, write letters, send telegrams, watch various news stations for updated information. Maybe you can write a letter to the editor thanking him (or her) for a nice reporting job about the events in Lithuania, but asking for more continued coverage. Call your local chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community and see if there's a similar group in your area. If there is, give them a call and say you want to help - they will really appreciate it. If there isn't any such group in your area, you can still do similar jobs on your own. Remember, we are all working for the same cause - Lithuanian freedom and recognition, and providing accurate information to our American friends. With the current Soviet oppression and hostility in Vilnius and other Lithuanian cities, there is plenty for us all to do. We can't let the Baltic issue die out in the midst of the Persian Gulf crisis. Call now and see what you can do - one person can make a difference!!

Rita Likander



COMMUNITY WITH A CAPITAL "C"

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

In 1989-90, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. "GIFT FOR LITHUANIA" fund paid out \$268,395 for various projects and causes. In December 1990, an additional \$10,000 was donated to President Vytautas Landsbergis to cover various diplomatic expenses during his visit to North America.

The sums were awarded for:

- * Paper for publication of A. Šapoka's History of Lithuania. \$ 50,000
- * Electronic devices for Lithuanian presses and the government of Lithuania 73,870
- * Lithuanian Information Center, New York 15,000
- * World Lithuanian Culture, Science and Education Center in Vilnius, for desktop publishing for Vytautas Magnus University, etc. 15,000
- * Lithuanian representation at the Helsinki Human Rights Conferences in Copenhagen and Paris; PEN Club, and Ecology Commission. 12,450
- * International law specialist William J.H. Hough's trips to Lithuania, by invitation of President Vytautas Landsbergis 8,291
- * Lithuanian professors' and students' expenses attending educational conferences and furthering their education at U.S. universities. 12,421
- * Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis' visits to the U.S. on behalf of the Lithuanian government. 4,270
- * Costs of sending "Books for Lithuania" by various organizations and the National Executive Committee's financing of three containers through Poland. 14,558
- * Medicines and the cost of sending them to Lithuania. 6,373
- * Publication of AFL-CIO president Lane Kirkland's open letter to President Bush in The New York Times (1/3 of total cost). 5,000
- * Organizations and institutions in Lithuania: Lithuanian Reform Movement "Sajudis", Composer's Association, Political Prisoner's Association, Lithuania's Scouts Association, Lithuania's Catholic Youth Organization "Ateitis", sportsmen-sailors, C. Sasnauskas Music School in Marijampole, publication of "Our Lithuania" (Mūsų Lietuva), publication of Lithuanian monument instructional materials, children's educational programs, etc. 31,861

- * The work of protecting and propogating Lithuania's independence cause in the U.S.: Lithuanian Reform Movement "Sajudis" Information Center, Hotline, Lithuanian-American Community Communication Center ads in American press, Lithuanian television reporter's work and equipment, preparation of a film about the Lithuanian diaspora (emigre community), Lithuanian sportsmen attending the Goodwill Games, etc. 19,302

(Looking ahead . . . In order to fulfill Lithuania's important requests in 1991, it will be necessary to raise over \$250,000.)

INCREASING THE PARTNERSHIP

The Public Affairs Council and some members of the National Executive Committee met in the Lithuanian-American Community's office soon after President Landsbergis' visit to North America in mid-December. Also present at the meeting was Asta Banionis, director of the Washington office of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. By teleconference, overviews of Lithuania's present political situation and future perspectives were heard from Lithuania's charge d'affairs, Stasys Lozoraitis, and from professors Benediktas Mačiuka and Alexander Shtromas. Many new laws and procedures are scheduled to take effect and impact Lithuania in January 1991. The president of the Public Affairs Council, Dr. Tomas Remeikis, hopes that the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. can anticipate and assist as much as possible. Asta Banionis pointed out that a primary goal of the Washington office is to be a partner with Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. chapters all over the country: the Washington office can inform and consult with the chapters, but at the chapter level members have the most (voting) power with elected officials.

ANNIVERSARIES

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 1991, was formally established in 1951 at a conference of prominent cultural, civic and religious leaders in New York City. "Bridges" will celebrate its 15th year of publication in 1991.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR THE LITHUANIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Lithuanian Music Festival, which was already postponed from July 1990, is scheduled for May 15-28, 1991 in Chicago. The Festival is sponsored by the Lithuanian-American and Canadian-Lithuanian Communities. The chairperson of the organizing committee, Mr. Stasys Baras and many smaller committees have been holding regular meetings since the summer of 1990 to plan, reserve facilities, publicize, register participants, and begin fund-raising. Almost 14,000 flyers have been printed for distribution to North Americans of Lithuanian descent. The flyer includes an order form for various events. The Lithuanian Music Festival address is P.O. Box 29485, Chicago, IL 60629-0485. Tickets will also be available at Gifts International, 2501 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629, (312) 471-1424. The motto of the festival is "Kad liktum Tu gyva! / May you (Lithuania) remain alive!". As the flyer proclaims - "This Festival will be unique in its scope and content, featuring choirs and folk dance groups. Guest performers - soloists, dancers and symphony orchestra - from Lithuania will also be active Festival participants."

(Addresses listed are Chicago addresses unless listed otherwise.)

- * Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 P.M.
Religious Music Concert
Immaculate Conception Church
2745 West 44th Street
- * Friday, May 17, 7:30 P.M.
Poetry Day
Lithuanian Youth Center
5620 South Claremont Avenue
- * Saturday, May 18, 7:30 P.M.
Cultural Awards Festival
Lithuanian Youth Center
5620 South Claremont Avenue
- * Sunday, May 19, 3:00 P.M.
Ponchielli opera "I Lituani"
Morton High School Auditorium
2423 South Austin Boulevard
Cicero, IL
- * Wednesday, May 22, 7:30 P.M.
Ballet: Lithuanian Republic Opera Ballet and Orchestra
Maria High School
6727 South California Avenue
- * Friday, May 24, 7:30 P.M.
Opera "I Lituani", second performance
Morton High School Auditorium
2423 South Austin Boulevard
Cicero, IL
- * Saturday, May 25, 8:00 P.M.
Youth Friendship Dance
Lithuanian Youth Center
5620 South Claremont Avenue
- * Sunday, May 26, 10:00 A.M.
Church Services
Lithuanian Evangelical Lutheran Home Church
6641 South Troy Street
- * Sunday, May 26, 10:30 A.M.
High Mass
Nativity B.V.M. Church
South Washtenaw Avenue and 69th Street
- * Sunday, May 26, 2:00 P.M.
Lithuanian Song Festival
The University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion
1150 West Harrison Street
- * Sunday May 26, 7:00 P.M.
Banquets - Condesa del Mar
Columbian Room
Coco Loco Supper Club (Youth Banquet)
12200 South Cicero Avenue
Alsip, IL
- * Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 P.M.
Farewell Concert
Soloists and Orchestra of the Lithuanian Republic
Opera
Maria High School
6727 South California Avenue

Throughout the course of the Lithuanian Music Festival, Lithuanian art exhibits will be held at:

- * Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture
6500 South Pulaski Road
- * Čiurlionis Art Gallery
Lithuanian Youth Center
5620 South Claremont Avenue
- * Lithuanian Art Museum
Lithuanian World Center
511 East 127th Street
Lemont, IL

(Items were compiled by Ramunė Kubilius of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., National Executive Committee, 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629)

THE TARTARS

Thomas A. Michalski, Ph.D.

Editor's note: This article by one of the Bridges contributing editors is the third of a series devoted to "Lithuania and Others." It is published in the hope of spurring thought and discussion on this timely topic. It is hoped that this article will be evaluated in this spirit and context, and that our readers will comment upon the issues raised in this piece. Representative responses will be published in future issues.

One of the oldest ethnic minorities in Lithuania are the Tartars. The Tartars hold a unique place in Lithuanian history: of all the ethnic groups in Lithuania, the Tartars alone seem to have never caused economic or political problems for the country.

When and where the Tartars first settled in Lithuania is a matter of dispute among scholars. The medieval German chroniclers tell us that during the reign of Gediminas (1316-1341) there were already Tartar cavalry units in the Lithuanian armed forces. It is believed that they were not mercenaries but were drawn from the Tartar population of Lithuania.

When Algirdas (1345-1377) campaigned against the Tartars in Podolia, Lithuanian Tartar cavalry units were serving under his command. This indicates that as early as the XIV century, the Tartars had developed such deep roots in Lithuania that they fought together with Lithuanians, against their own ethnic and religious kinsman in the east.

Most Lithuanian Tartars settled in the country during the time of Vytautas the Great (1350-1430). Vytautas himself was almost killed by the Tartar hosts in 1399 at the Battle of Vorksla. Had Vytautas defeated the Tartar Golden Horde at the time, he would have become their Great Khan. Although Tartar power in the east was on the decline, it was still a force to be reckoned with. Had Vytautas defeated the Golden Horde at Vorksla the history of Lithuania, Russia and the world would have been quite different.

Yet, even during the time of Vytautas, the bloody confrontations with the Tartars in the east were forgotten. Members of the enemy were even invited by Vytautas to become part of his personal bodyguard. Relations with the Tartars were so good, that Vytautas felt safer surrounded by them than by some of his own Lithuanian compatriots. During the reign of Vytautas, when poisoning of rulers by their enemies was a common practice, Tartars were employed as his personal bodyguards but also as purveyors of food to

the Grand Ducal court. They were also responsible for the Lithuanian postal service, a sort of Tartar "pony express". Even today, Vytautas is highly regarded in Tartar memory.

Some Tartars came to Lithuania as allies, others as prisoners of war. According to chroniclers there were Tartar cavalry regiments serving under Vytautas at the Battle of Grunwald-Tannenberg (Žalgiris) in 1410. It is certain that Vytautas used Tartar tactics against the German Teutonic Knights in that battle. Lithuanian light cavalry retreated, drawing the Teutonic Knights into a trap, at which time the Polish heavy cavalry entered, helping to slaughter the trapped Germans. These tactics unknown in the Catholic west drew criticism and condemnation because they violated the accepted rules of war and chivalry in western Europe. Some of the Tartars who participated in the battle later settled with their families in Lithuania. There they remained forever loyal to Lithuania and her rulers. Not one Tartar was ever accused of cooperating in Stalin's deportation of Lithuanians to Siberia. In fact, Tartars were more apt to be found among the deportees themselves.

The Tartars were never treated as foreigners in Lithuania. Unlike the members of most other ethnic minorities in the country, they learned the Lithuanian language. As a group they were accomplished linguists. In addition to Lithuanian which they spoke as well as the natives, many, particularly in Vilnius and the Vilnius district of Vilija became fluent in Polish, Byelorussian and Russian. Though adaptable and flexible in their relationships, the Tartars never wavered in their support of Lithuania, even in the bitter dispute with Poland over Vilnius. The Tartars remained loyal even when some ethnic Lithuanians did not.

The Lithuanian Tartars were active in the struggle for Lithuanian independence between the world wars. There were Tartar units in the armed forces of the Lithuanian Republic. They had their own chaplains. In gratitude for their support of Lithuanian independence, the Lithuanian government helped in the financing of a mosque for Lithuania's Moslems in Kaunas. The mosque was desecrated by the Soviet occupiers as were many other Lithuanian houses of worship.

Lithuania has never turned her back on her Tartars. This is all the more remarkable, since the Tartars were Moslems in a Roman Catholic country. Even during

PROFESSOR/PHARMACIST ALFRED J. WHITE (VAITUKAITIS)

Professor Alfred J. White, 83, died at Deepdale Hospital on Monday, December 3, 1990 after a short illness.

Born in Brooklyn in June, 1907, he moved to Long Island in 1927 after graduating from Fordham University College of Pharmacy. Professor White started his teaching career at Fordham College of Pharmacy as an Instructor in 1927. While teaching at Fordham, he also attended Columbia University Teachers College, earning his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. During his 45 years at Fordham, he taught every course offered. He became a Professor in the late 1940's, and later Chairman and Head of the Pharmacy Administration Department.

Professor White was class moderator and faculty advisor to thousands of pharmacists, doctors, dentists and teachers. He was also faculty advisor for the school newspaper, Fordham Pharmacist, yearbook Cosdamian, Rho Chi Honor Society, and the student branch of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Professor White was also Proctor at most of the New York State Pharmacy Board Exams. He was long time Treasurer of the Fordham Pharmacy Alumni

Association and active in Fordham University functions.

In 1947, Professor White received the Bene Merente Medal from Fordham University for 20 years of service. In 1967, at the University's Convocation of the Faculties, a diamond was set in his original medal for 40 years of service. He retired in 1972, after 45 years service, when Fordham University College of Pharmacy closed.

Professor White is survived by his devoted wife of 56 years, Helene, of Hollis, L.I., sons Alfred, Jr., pharmacist, Fordham Pharmacy, 1958, of Commack, L.I., Robert, attorney, Columbia University and St. John's Law, of Hollis, L.I., grandchildren Susan, a junior at Cornell University, and Michael, a sophomore at Seton Hall University, both of Commack, L.I., sister Aldona of Brooklyn, N.Y., niece and goddaughter Lorraine, a teacher in Northridge, California, and daughter-in-law Helen, of Commack, L.I.

After a private service at Shalins Lithuanian Funeral Home in Woodhaven and High Mass at Transfiguration Roman Catholic Lithuanian Church in Maspeth, burial was on December 6, 1990 in the family plot at St. John's Cemetery, Middlevillage, N.Y.

the Catholic Counter-reformation, when religious minorities felt the pressure of the Jesuits, the Tartars were left alone to practice their Moslem faith. No attempt was ever made to convert them by force to Roman Catholicism.

Until 1940, the Lithuanian Moslem Tartars had their own religious leader or mufti who resided at No.7, Aušros Vartai Street within site of one of Lithuania's great Catholic Marian shrines. This was no coincidence as the Moslems always showed a high degree of veneration of the Virgin Mary as did Roman Catholic and eastern Orthodox Lithuanians of Russian or Byelorussian origin. From 1925 until 1940, their leader was Jokūbas Šinkevičius, a highly respected professor and scholar-linguist who fluently spoke ten languages, including Lithuanian.

Currently, there is no Moslem leader in Lithuania of the stature of Dr. Šinkevičius. Only three mosques are in operation. There are only three active mullahs and some 10-12 other religious leaders capable of reading the Koran and presiding at funerals. Their education in Islam is rudimentary.

Today, the Tartars are a scattered people without a homeland. Their historical homeland was in the Crimea on the Black Sea in what is now the Ukraine. During World War II, Stalin accused them of

collaborating with the Nazis. Their homeland was abolished and almost the whole Tartar nation was sent into exile in the vast expanses of the Soviet Union. Today, their homeland is 67% Russian, 25% Ukrainian, 2.5% Byelorussian and 1.4% Jewish. There are probably some six million Tartars scattered throughout the USSR.

It is not certain how many Tartars are still to be found in Lithuania. Many often assumed Lithuanian ethnic identity to escape Soviet persecution on the basis of their race, ethnicity, religion and politics. Their remnants are to be found in several villages and in the areas of Vilnius and Kaunas.

Today, the Tartars of Lithuania have again joined Lithuanians in their support for Lithuanian independence. Recently, a Tartar school has been opened in Vilnius. Attempts are being made to revive a Tartar language press. Of all the ethnic minorities in Lithuania, the Moslem Tartars have been, and will continue to be among the most welcome. Yet we know so little about these fascinating neighbors of ours.

Author's Note: The author is heavily indebted to Tech. m.k. Juozas Fabijonavičius and his article entitled "Totoriai - Lietuvos senbuviai", Mokslas ir Gyvenimas, Dec. 1990, Nr. 12, 24-25 for much in this article.

PRESS COVERAGE OF LITHUANIAN EVENTS IN 1990

There is no doubt: the eyes of the world were focused on Lithuania in 1990. It was possible to see maps of Lithuania accompanying news features and articles, to read descriptions of Lithuania's history, and to read interviews from Lithuania by American correspondents. Many persons read the literature or used their computers to access the newswire services. Even students who were not of Lithuanian descent picked events in Lithuania or the Baltic Republics as topics for term papers.

Some of the interesting headlines included:

* Mr. Gorbachev's bizzarries The American Spectator, June 1990

* Learning from Lithuania (the autonomy movement and its implications) Interview, June 1990

* Lithuania, turtles, broccolli, and Musburger (the news media's obsession with trivia) U.S.A. Today, July 1990, issue n. 2542.

* Footnote to vascillation (Soviet vascillation on Lithuania) The New Leader, April 30, 1990

* The meddlesome musicologist: Lithuania's Landsbergis angers both Moscow and Washington U.S. News and World Report, May 14, 1990

* Bogie, anyone? (Use of term bogie, Vilna or Vilnius, Lithuania), On Language, New York Times Magazine, May 20, 1990

* Three's a crowd (Latvia cautiously joins Estonia and Lithuania in declaring independence from the Soviets) Time, May 14, 1990

* Chicken - but where's the chicken soup? (Lithuanian economy) Forbes, April 30, 1990

* A date with chaos (Soviet Union) U.S. News and World Report, April 30, 1990

* Confronting the Russian bear: the Soviet response to stirrings of freedom in the Baltic nations is theater of the absurd, but we're not laughing National Review, April 30, 1990

* Why Lithuania is not like South Carolina Time, April 16, 1990

* "Tough love" at the White House: can Bush help both Gorbachev and Lithuania? Newsweek, April 16, 1990

* Tsar of a crumbling empire (Mikhail Gorbachev) The Economist, March 17, 1990

Some of the journalists' opinions included:

* "Among the Balts it is said that the Latvians have the best politicians, Lithuania the best prophets, Estonia the best economics." ("The Baltic Nations" in National Geographic, November 1990)

* "A recent article in the Vilnius press featured an appeal by the Lithuanian International Aid Corps. What they were looking for is western Lithuanians to come to Vilnius to work as interpreters, press aids, translators and help in the social services. What I hope they also get is a couple of good psychotherapists who can soothe these volunteers through the endless supply of closed doors, unreturned phone calls, lost messages, broken appointments, absurd expectations and signs that say 'remontas' but really mean 'broken'." ("The Road to Europe: Remontas" in The Lithuanian Review, November 21, 1990)

* "He (Landsbergis) is a modest man who does not seek responsibility, but who will accept it. In this way, Landsbergis understands himself to be an accidental hero." ("The Lithuanian Crisis" in Foreign Affairs, Summer 1990)

Ramunė Kubilius

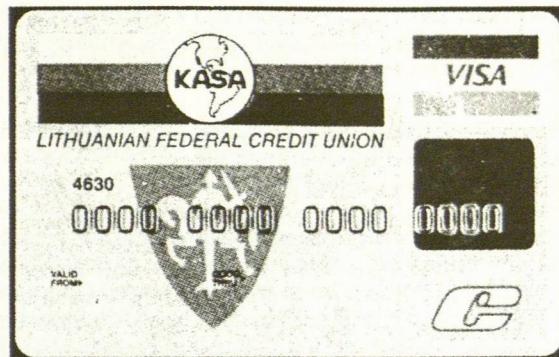


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AN OVERVIEW OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS

Here is an overview of an eclectic selection of books in English, published in the last few years, which relate to Lithuanian topics:

Lietuvių papročiai ir tradicijos išėivijoje/Lithuanian Customs and Traditions (Danute Brazytė-Bindokienė, Lithuanian World Community, 1989).

This book provides Lithuanians and non-Lithuanians alike with a wealth of information about Lithuanian culture in two languages (English and Lithuanian). Using a wide variety of sources, the author describes many Lithuanian customs and traditions and provides the reader with quite a bit of historical information. The book describes everything from characteristics of Lithuanian culture (such things as the role of agriculture in Lithuanian culture, Lithuanian hospitality, the role of women in Lithuanian culture, and how Lithuanians swear) to feast day traditions and family celebrations. Included in the text are folk songs and carols (with music), recipes, lists of Lithuanian names, descriptions of how to make Lithuanian straw ornaments and colored Easter eggs, all accompanied by many pictures and illustrations.

This book, written in an understandable and interesting fashion, will be read with enjoyment both by those familiar with some Lithuanian traditions as well as those totally unfamiliar with Lithuania and its culture.

A Guide to the Baltic States (edited by Ingrida Kalnins, Inroads, Inc., P.O. Box 397, Merrifield, VA 22116-3197, 1990).

This is probably the first English language guide written for those planning to visit the three Baltic states. The book, written in a fashion similar to guidebooks to other countries, provides a wealth of practical information about what to see, where to go, where to eat, and where to stay. It is useful not only for non-Lithuanians, but also for Lithuanians who have visited Lithuania and are planning to visit again.

The Lithuanian section was written by Rasa (Kaminskas) Avizienis. In this section the tourist is presented with information about Lithuania, its history, geography, culture, economy, and political situation. Important cities and sights to see in them are described. The book contains many pictures and maps as well as a list of useful phrases in Lithuanian.

A large part of the Lithuanian section is devoted to Vilnius, taking the tourist on a walking tour of the beautiful capital. Among the other cities described are Kaunas, Druskininkai, Šiauliai, Klaipėda, Palanga, and Neringa.

Lithuanian Celebrations/Lietuvių šventės (edited by Algimantas Kezys, Galerija, 1991)

This is the tenth volume in the series "Pictorial Encyclopedia of Lithuanian Culture in the U.S.A. and Lithuania". The series covers many historical, ethnographic, and artistic subjects.

A collection of photographs taken by a variety of photographers, Lithuanian Celebrations presents us with a pictorial view of Lithuania, including its people, their happy celebrations, and their thoughtful and sad moments. The photographs show such diverse subjects as the Lithuanian landscape, folklore festivals, family celebrations, weddings, and funerals. Lithuanian culture is presented visually, showing the importance of folklore and religion in the life of Lithuania's people. The last section, "The Rebirth of Lithuania", catches the spirit of hope and the tremendous surge of nationalism in Lithuania these past few years. The photos of thousands of Lithuanians participating in huge meetings, processions and celebrations and memorials is incredibly moving.

The Road to a Free Economy: Shifting from a Socialist System - The Example of Hungary (Janos Kornai, W.W. Norton and Company, 1990).

This is an eminently readable and informative guide for anyone who is interested in learning just how huge the task of converting from a centrally planned economy to a market driven free economy is. The author, who spends part of his time teaching at Harvard, and part helping Hungary on its road to a free economy, points out the tasks and pitfalls that countries face during the transition period. Kornai describes the steps of privatization, stabilization of the economy, control of inflation, and budget balancing. He emphasizes the necessity of making the transition humanely.

This book would provide an extremely valuable tool for Lithuania's politicians, economists and universities. Readers can send their copies on to Lithuania through the "Books for Lithuania" program coordinated through the Lithuanian Information Center in New York.

The New Russians (Hedrick Smith, Random House, 1990).

Hedrick Smith is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author who once wrote the best-selling book The Russians. In this new book, he looks at the same subject fourteen change-filled years later. In the course of writing The

New Russians he travelled across the Soviet Union, interviewing hundreds of people, and watching what appeared to be a second Russian Revolution.

Mr. Smith devotes an entire chapter in the fourth part of the book, "The Empire Tearing Apart," to Lithuania. It is called "Lithuania: Breaking the Taboo of Secession." This chapter, the result of many interviews and conversations, covers the events of the past few years. Smith describes the elections of March of 1989 and the discreditation of the Communist Party, in which the political upheaval in Lithuania actually preceded the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. Smith writes about President Landsbergis, whom he says personifies the Lithuanian national revival, using the sobriquet "Gudri Lapė" (Clever Fox). Events described in the Lithuanian chapter include the Baltic Freedom Chain, the fate of Arturas Sakalauskas, and Gorbachev's visit to Lithuania.

The Frugal Gourmet on Our Immigrant Ancestors: Recipes You Should Have Gotten From Your Grandmother (Jeff Smith, William Morrow and Company, 1990).

This well-known and popular chef takes the adventurous cook through recipes for foods enjoyed by thirty-five diverse ethnic groups, from Armenians to Yugoslavians. In his introduction, Mr. Smith describes the explosive historical events that have occurred in the course of writing the book and filming the accompanying television series.

Each section about an ethnic group is preceded by a short historical description of the nation and a map showing its location. The Lithuanian section contains recipes for pressed cheese, kugelis (potato pudding), fresh and smoked sausage, šaltibarščiai (cold beet soup), košeliena (pork in gelatin) and sauerkraut with caraway. The recipes were contributed by Father Peter, Ann Challan and the people of St. Casimir's Lithuanian Church in Pittston, Pennsylvania.

Fifty Years of Eternal Vigilance and Other Stories (Carolyn Thorman, Peachtree Publishers, 1988)

This collection of short stories describes life in America for Lithuanian and Polish immigrants and their children. Ms. Thorman's grandparents emigrated from Lithuania to Pennsylvania.

The short stories are a mixed bunch, covering such diverse topics as the importance of family, the large role women play in Lithuanian culture, and the traditions maintained by the immigrants. "God Giving Lithuania to the World" is about a painter, his friend, and the way his paintings are sold. "Fifty Years of Eternal Vigilance" describes how an organization keeps

alive customs of respecting the dead with votive candles and eternal vigilance.

Soviet Women: Walking the Tightrope (Francine Du Plessix Gray, Doubleday, 1989)

"We have too much equality" is what the Soviet women said to Francine Du Plessix Gray. This fascinating yet chillingly realistic look at the life of Soviet women presents their lives in the inhumane world of a communist system. Interviews with Soviet women from many walks of life depict women nearing the end of endurance, carrying the crushing double burden of work and home in a system which has turned them into slaves, where making the simplest purchase is a nightmare, where people are permitted no room and no privacy.

The book describes how Soviet women envy American women their men, who seem to the Soviets to be gentlemen: smiling, polite, and good providers. Soviet men, in contrast, come across as lazy drunkards and wife beaters.

The biggest crisis, though, is in the area of health care for women and children. Almost no information about hygiene or birth control is available. Infant mortality is sky high at 2.5%. About a fifth of all children are born with some abnormality. Many children are born with problems associated with birth trauma. Abortions are used as birth control because of the lack of alternatives. There are few maternity hospitals; the care given in the existing ones is terrible, and conditions are filthy. Often several women give birth in the same room at the same time.

Lithuanian Independence: The Re-establishment of the Rule of Law (edited by S. Paul Zumbakis, Ethnic Community Services, 1990).

This book, a look at legal aspects of the re-establishment of Lithuanian independence, includes transcripts of lectures given by Lowry Wyman and William Hough III, international legal experts, at the University Club of Chicago on April 27, 1990. The two lecturers were in Lithuania when Lithuania redeclared its independence in March of 1990.

In addition, the book contains a compilation of documents pertaining to relations between the Republic of Lithuania and the U.S.S.R., providing the contents of various resolutions, letters, appeals, and telegrams between Lithuanian and Soviet leaders translated into the English language.

Audra M. Kubilius

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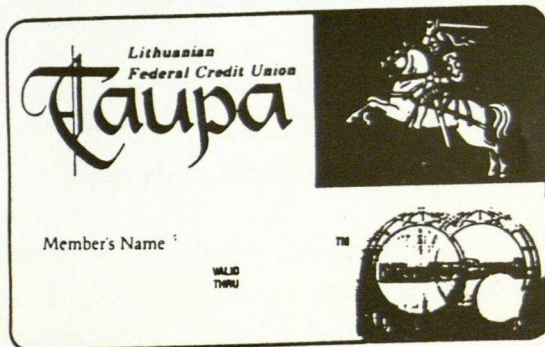
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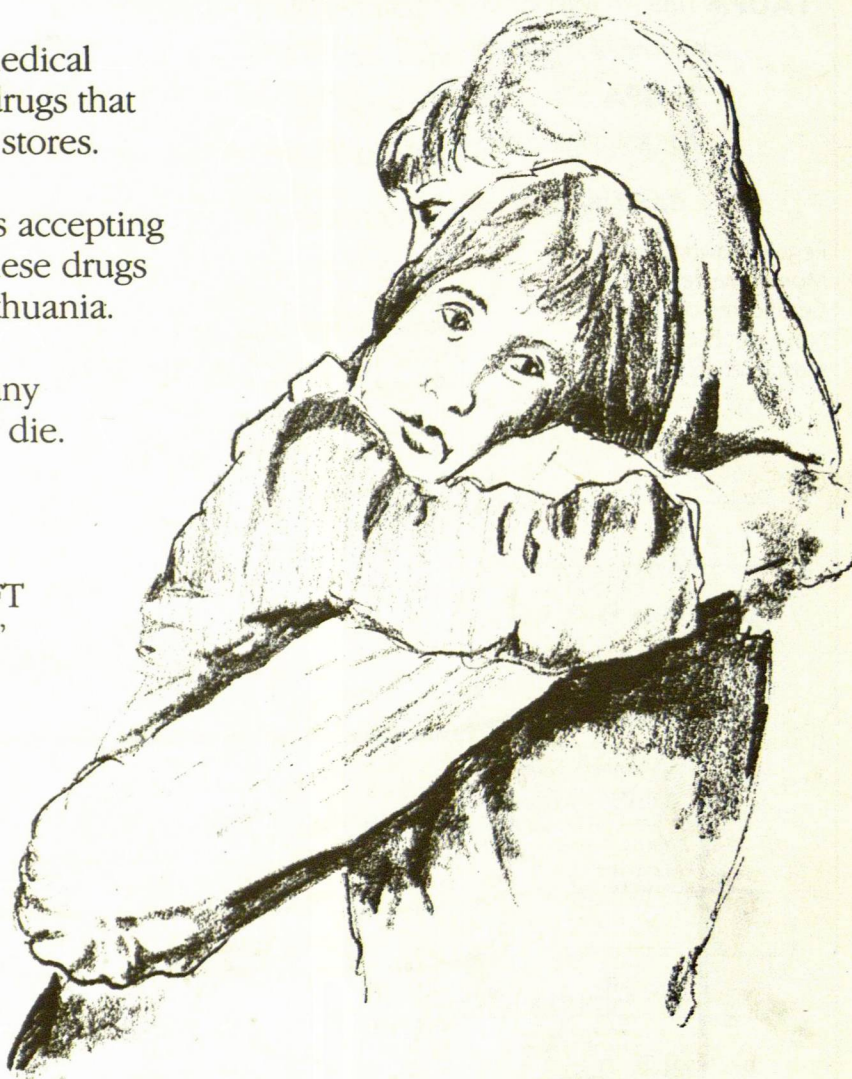
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