

BRIDGES

Lithuanian American News Journal

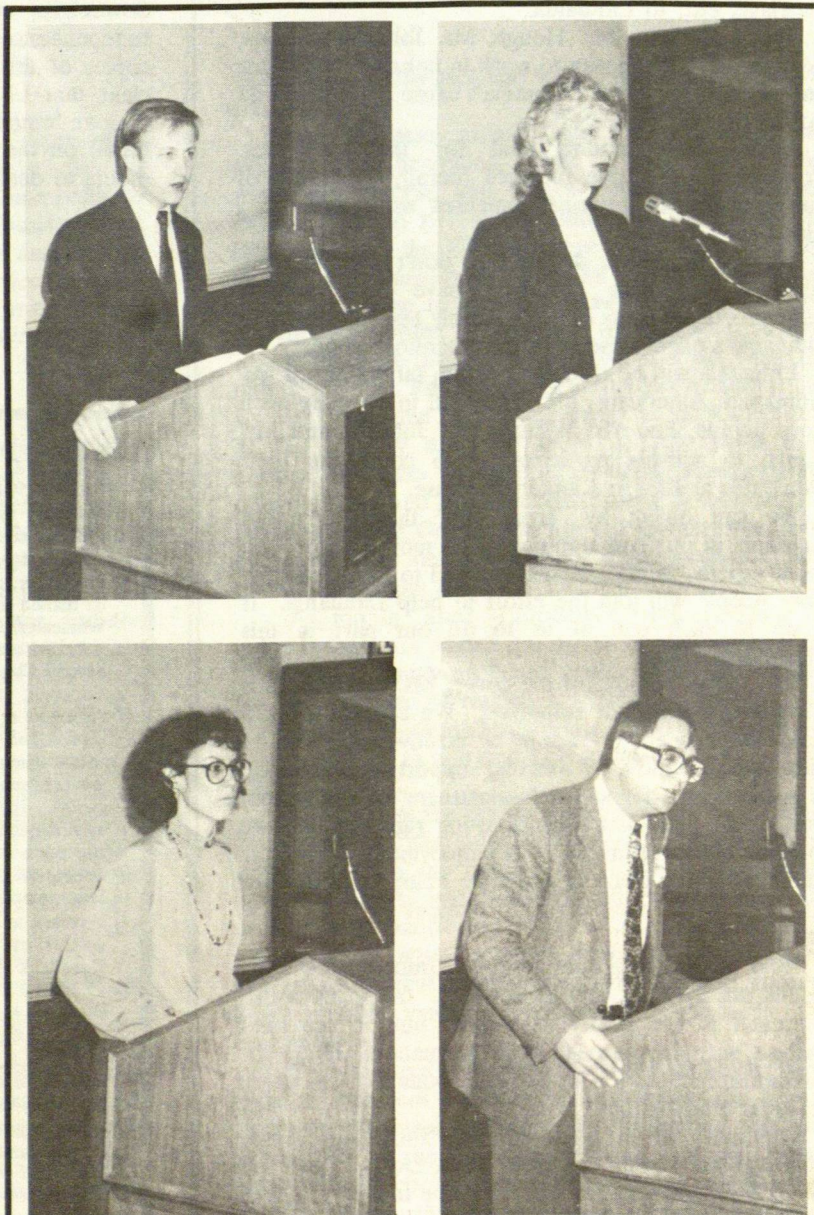
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Plus... much more information in the "Updates", "Bits and Pieces" and "Book Notes" sections.



Guest Speakers at the Lithuanian Legislative Workshop, Washington, DC, March 9 - 11, 1991. (Clockwise: Ms. Barbara Griffiths, U.S. State Department; Mr. Barnabas Johnson; Ms. Lowry Wyman, Russian Research Center, Harvard University; Mr. William Hough.)

To our readers:

The people pictured on the front cover of this issue were just some of the speakers at the Lithuanian Legislative Workshop, held last month, in Washington, DC (about which there is an article in this issue).

That's not all which might be considered significant about these people. Try this: None of them are Lithuanian Americans. In fact, to the best of this writer's knowledge, none of them have any link, i.e., marriage, etc., to Lithuania.

Three of them, Mr. Hough, Mr. Johnson and Ms. Wyman, have all chosen to work in behalf of Lithuania only because they feel Lithuania's cause is justified and worthy of their skilled effort.

They aren't getting paid for their activities. Conversely, they have incurred literally thousands of dollars worth of personal expenses while promoting Lithuania's cause.

Many, many other people who don't have a direct, personal link with Lithuania have been helping Lithuania in a variety of ways; simply because they feel Lithuania's plight deserves their attention/support.

Lithuania will be truly free, again, far sooner; if we, Lithuanian Americans, are successful in enlisting even more people, like Ms. Wyman, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Hough to actively participate - to contribute their formidable skills - to Lithuania's cause.

We can do it; by "laying out" the facts about Lithuania in our communities. The more people who know, exactly, clearly, what happened to Lithuania; the more people will join the effort to help Lithuania. It is up to each one of us to do our part in this educational effort!

The fourth person on the cover, Ms. Griffiths, is a US State Department employee. We can get the US State Department to adopt a positive position on Lithuania's freedom by building support for Lithuania, as noted above, across the "mainstream" of Americans. One, small, step at a time, starting right in our own communities - at our places of employment, among the members of the clubs to which we belong and through influence over the editorial content of our local newspapers.

Bold efforts yield bold results. Unfortunately, bold results are far and few in between. A "grass roots" approach is not nearly as visible; but, in the final analysis, such an approach yields permanent support for Lithuania; because it is based on personal knowledge/on personal relationships.

The article in this issue, entitled, "From New Jersey To Lithuania", by Ms. Jeanne Salna Dorr, is just one example of how such an effort can be initiated; and of the results such an effort can achieve.

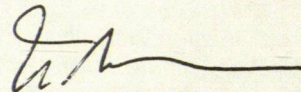
We've got a long way to go. This writer recently watched a "quiz show", on television, in which one of the questions asked the participants to identify the Baltic Sea. Everyone missed the answer!

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The A.P.P.L.E. project, about which there was an article in last month's issue, has really "taken off". This month, we bring you up to date on some more of the activities which A.P.P.L.E. has underway.

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History teachers (and Professors) in your community might appreciate getting a copy of, "On The Sovereignty of Lithuania And Lithuania's Right To Independence", which appears in this issue. Make copies of this article; and pass it around. It makes clear that Lithuania's quest for freedom is far more than an "emotional", "ethnic" issue; and that it is clearly based on the laws we observe, and which we expect others to observe.



Joseph Arlauskas
Acting Editor

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BRIDGE S: *Lithuanian-American News Journal* serves as a link between Lithuanian Americans and their Lithuanian heritage (as well as a source of information for those interested in Lithuania and/or the activities/goals/background of Lithuanian Americans), by presenting items on Lithuanian culture, history, conditions in Lithuania, Lithuanian related events and personalities in America; and serves the aspirations of those whose goal is to see Lithuania as a free and democratic nation, once again.

Acting Editor: Joseph Arlauskas
Assistants to the Editor: Elizabeth Smith; Ted Arlauskas
Director of Subscriptions: Zina Dreslius

U.S. Congressmen Visit Lithuania

A Senate Foreign Relations Committee Legislative Assistant Who Accompanied Them Tells Us About The Trip.

by Anne Smith

Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) and Congressman Steny Hoyer (D-MD) led a delegation comprised of members of the Congressional Helsinki Commission to Stockholm, Riga, Vilnius, Tallinn, and Moscow from February 9-15. Anne Smith, a legislative assistant on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, accompanied the 13 Members of Congress. The views in this report do not necessarily represent the observations or conclusions of the Helsinki Commission.

The Members of Congress had just reached Moscow from their unprecedented trip to the capitals of Sweden, Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia when they went to meet Gorbachev's representatives in the Kremlin. The bland conference room that greeted them had nothing in common with the ornate palace built by the czars that encased it. Somehow the palace and the churches of Red Square had been incongruously stapled together, surviving even the ravages of the revolution.

Plain, straight-backed chairs were offered to the Members that allowed them to face directly their Soviet colleagues across the table. A picture of Vladimir Lenin, addressing a tired crowd of peasants in snowy Red Square, was the only decoration in the room that had survived Soviet censorship.

The stark and rigid chill of the room foretold the tone of the conversation between one U.S. Senator and 12 U.S. Representatives supportive of Baltic independence and Soviet regime ideologues.

Each of the 13 Members of Congress met with Rafik Nishanov, Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Council on Nationalities, with the hope that the man charged by Gorbachev to forge a humane and open policy towards the republics would be different from those men who so glumly faced Western diplomats in the early 1980's. They weren't. Although, the Soviet leaders smiled their message was the same as that of Stalin: All republics are part of the Soviet Union. Period.

The Council on Nationalities was set up in 1989 to look into the "nationalities question" which had plagued the Union since the days of Lenin for an obvious reason -- the Soviet Union was composed of more than

15 distinct nationalities that were involuntarily caged in a single cell.

None of these nations had any legitimate say whatsoever in becoming a part of the Soviet Union. Armenia, Georgia, and others were taken by force during 1918 and 1921 while Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldavia, and the Ukraine were swallowed by Stalin under the Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939. Russians themselves came to bear the heavy burden of holding together an empire. They yearn for liberation as well.

All of these nations were long fed up with the moral, physical, and economic starvation of Soviet life. By the 1980's, the people no longer allowed their fear of the military and the KGB to rule their lives. Despite the risks of dissent, including imprisonment, denial of jobs and constant harassment, demonstrations began. Neither Gorbachev, nor the Commission could ever be able to stem the tide for freedom coming from the victims of the empire.

A month after Lithuania's re-declaration of independence on March 11, 1990, Gorbachev and the Commission hastily proposed cumbersome mechanisms for the secession of republics. Strangely, the fact that the Soviet constitution already considered each republic sovereign, free to join and free to leave the union, was ignored.

The goal of the Soviet leadership was to convince the world that the Soviet Union was a constitutional state, based on the rule of law. Under these rules, after five years, two referenda and approval by the central government any republic might be set free. Lithuania, Georgia, Armenia and the other captive nations know that before this could happen, already weary nations would be exhausted - spiritually and economically.

Pounding loudly on the conference table, Nishanov accused President Landsbergis of abusing the human rights of minorities in Lithuania. Lithuania was part and parcel of the Soviet Union, he said, no matter what the legal circumstances. The Nazi-Soviet Pact was all part of historical phenomenon, to be relegated to the "dustbin of history". He asked the Members to take his view back to the United States.

The disbelief of the delegation grew with each word uttered by Nishanov. The delegation knew that ➡

Lithuania had yearned since 1940 for liberation. They remembered that while the revolutionary years of 1917-1922 crushed Russia, Lithuania was building a representative democracy. Democracy was rooted in both Lithuanian culture and in 22 years of independent statehood from 1918-1940. Despite the allegations of the Supreme Soviet, Lithuania once again is struggling to make democracy work -- this time behind barricades.

The Kremlin's proposals are a world away from those of Lithuania. One time zone west of Moscow, Lithuanian leaders barricaded themselves in the Parliament building during the month of January. They pledged that they would be prepared to die to save the ideals the building stood for - democracy, freedom, and national integrity.



By the time we arrived in Vilnius, the Lithuanian Parliament building had been transformed into a shrine, with religious pictures hung on concrete barricades and barbed wire that almost matched the height of the building itself. Traditional Lithuanian wayside crosses erected in honor of the 17 victims of Soviet aggression decorated Independence Square. As President Landsbergis said to the Lithuanian people on the day of the February 9 plebiscite, "these people have already voted 'yes'". And "yes" the people said in droves - whether they were Lithuanians, Poles or Russians.

We saw civilian volunteers and Lithuanian soldiers keeping vigil on the Square. Fires and tents, along with the broadcast of the only unoccupied Lithuanian radio - Radio Kaunas - kept the people energized. Some Lithuanians had been there for days, some for weeks. They represented the thousands of people who had come to Independence Square the nights of January 11-13 waiting for the tanks that menacingly rumbled by but held their fire on the demonstrators. This armed peace ended at 2 a.m. on January 13, when the tanks moved on the Radio and Television tower. They first crushed the barricades of automobiles before moving on to the human shields.

Inside the Parliament, the pictures of Lenin were long gone, as was the star, the hammer, and the sickle. In fact, pedestals all over Lithuania today stand empty - statues erected to Stalin and in places, Lenin, were gleefully ripped down. These statues represented the ruins of communism. Daily sight of them alone was offensive to most Lithuanians.

As the symbols of repression fell in Lithuania in 1990, the West rejoiced as it had when the Berlin Wall fell. Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Americans danced in the streets, even though they all somehow knew that the hardest work was just beginning. Reality under military rule meant that tanks could surround the dancers in minutes. Yet some academics, politicians, and the mass media began to promote the vision that Lithuania's drive for independence, or usually

incorrectly labeled "secession", could hurt the chances for democracy in the Soviet Union. Worse yet, they might hurt Gorbachev himself. Soviet leaders repeated this vision to gullible listeners.

Under an economic blockade and such heavy doses of propaganda, the Lithuanian government spent all of 1990 seeking negotiations with the Soviet Union. It asked the West for diplomatic recognition or at least a token of the support it had rhetorically pledged for fifty-one years. Pitifully little had been done to back up the words. By the time the Congressmen arrived in 1991, the Soviet tanks remained, ready to perform the deadly deeds they exhibited for all the world on January 13.

After moving through the obstacle-course sandbags on the way into the Parliament, the delegation was greeted by Lithuanian policemen wearing the Lithuanian "vytis" or knight on their hat. All were friendly -- a contrast with the stoic Soviet officers who examined our visas at the airport in Riga. We found the interior of the Parliament full of life and faith. This was peaceful revolution at its best - the justness of the cause and the conviction of the people are Lithuania's strengths. Lithuania is armed with the force of words.

A little old lady viewed the delegation from the stand she had set up near the entrance to the Parliamentary chamber to sell and give out religious cards, rosaries, and statues. She sat in what could have been mistaken as a church. The halls of Parliament were covered with pictures of our Lady of the Seven Swords, Jesus and many saints. Somehow, this non-secular haven was moving prayerfully out of Soviet-imposed secularism.

The Members of Congress had never seen the building before, but I had been there last August at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Back then it felt almost unreal to walk through the doors that had once welcomed the members of the rubber-stamping Parliament of the occupying authority. The atmosphere was calm during those days. On this, my second trip, I was shocked to see what the Soviet military had forced on a peace-loving people - questions of finding weapons of defense for national self-preservation and basic survival. The Parliament is now the busy center of Lithuanian democracy.

President Landsbergis regally greeted the Congressmen in a conference room located near his office where he is occasionally able to play his famous baby grand piano. He thanked the delegation for making its historic trip. After a brief press conference, the delegation went by bus to the Council of Ministers.

Newly-appointed Prime Minister Gediminas Vainorius and all government Ministers welcomed the delegation. Vainorius explained ways in which the United States could show its support to Lithuanian democracy. He stressed humanitarian assistance. He gave the West a great deal of credit for stopping ➡

further bloodshed through its rhetorical condemnation of Soviet military actions. The Prime Minister believes the Soviet government underestimated the reaction of the Western nations to Soviet military actions at the height of the war to liberate Kuwait.

Later, the President left his quasi-isolation in Parliament to join us for lunch in the old town. He was accompanied by Bronius Kuzmickas, the Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council.

President Landsbergis reminded us to be aware of the growing misuse by the Soviet leadership of the slogans of constitutionality and "rule of law." For example, the Soviets claim that the use of force against civilians is the fault of the Lithuanian Parliament because it had taken the illegal step of re-declaring independence. According to the Kremlin, the military had moved in solely to preserve "constitutional order" for Lithuanian and Russian victims of the Landsbergis government.

President Landsbergis explained that the best hope for Lithuania lies in support by all people who yearn for freedom - the Russians, the Georgians, and yes, the Americans. If the "center" punishes Lithuania for practicing democracy, Russia and Georgia will likely suffer as well.

America runs the risk of losing these nations who hold American democracy as an ideal to tyranny.

President Landsbergis praised Russian president Boris Yeltsin for giving immediate and strong moral support to Lithuania. Yeltsin is angered that Russian conscripts in the Soviet army in Lithuania are ordered to shoot civilians. Yeltsin has asked them to refuse such unjust orders. President Landsbergis hopes that the United States will place priority on increasing ties with the Russian leader.

President Landsbergis repeated the call he first made to all democratic nations on March 11, 1990 for recognition of his government. He specifically asked

for a permanent diplomatic corps presence by the United States Department of State in Vilnius. Iceland and Denmark made a just decision when they took the first steps toward formal recognition of the Lithuanian government in February. Despite Soviet recriminations these nations have not cowed.

In retrospect, how much has the Lithuanian government accomplished over the last year? They have moved forward a millennium. Obviously, too far ahead for the leadership of the Soviet Union. Lithuania made *glasnost* look like a movie in slow-motion as early as 1988 and Gorbachev-style reformers look like Laurel and Hardy - bumbling and bumping into each other and quite often doing nothing but

making the West laugh at their economic half-measures and justifications for force. Unfortunately, these revelations often come too late.

The delegation had to leave Vilnius later that afternoon, although it had hoped to stay longer. Once night fell the Americans risked running into Soviet military patrols, armed with Kalashnikovs, on the streets of Vilnius. Our delegation was advised to leave.

Hopefully, the Members will come back to the United States and

pass the legislation required to put the United States squarely on the side of freedom. Hopefully, the invitation extended to Boris Yeltsin by Senator D'Amato and seven other Senators to come on an official visit to the United States will not be opposed by the American leadership.

Beyond a doubt, the hardest work was left for the Lithuanian team who would face Moscow appointed negotiators, some of whom represent the KGB and the Interior Ministry, during negotiations in stark Soviet-styled conference rooms in the Kremlin. Sadly, the pounding on the table, or elsewhere, by the Soviet leadership is not yet over. □



President Landsbergis With The Author

From New Jersey To Lithuania

*How A School Based Pen Pal Program Grew Into
Something Far More Than An Exchange Of Letters*

by Jeanne Salna Dorr

Teachers are teachers the world over. We were not only born to teach, we were born to complain. As my friend from a suburb of Kaunas, Lithuania and I sat finishing a second pot of coffee, we shared our concerns. Our concerns were different; yet they were the same. It was August 1989.

Some of her students felt no need to learn or study English. Lithuanians still belonged to the USSR, they were unaware of any relatives in America; therefore, they felt, "Why waste time on these useless lessons?". Many were prodded by their parents to learn English because - "maybe someday" - but in 1989, independence was still too far away, was simply nothing more than a wish.

I understood the frustration this teacher felt, exactly; because, as a Social Studies teacher, I often wondered if some of my students could do as much as locate Philadelphia on a map, although it is only 20 minutes away from our school.

The conversation shifted: Dare we try initiating a "pen pal" program between our obviously similiar students? We both already had so much to do. Was there room in an already overcrowded school day for one more "dull project". We decided to take the leap! (After all, there was nothing to lose except some precious class time and the cost of stamps.)

My friend soon went home to Lithuania, to resume teaching duties. In September, I returned to my school; and found a wonderful, strange, air mail envelope with a foreign stamps, waiting for me. I opened it in front of my "homeroom" class. It was from the class of my Lithuanian teacher friend. I read it to my class. The letter, itself, sounded like a geography lesson on Lithuania. That very day, while enthusiasm among my class was high, we answered the letter. Our reply sounded like a geography lesson on New Jersey!

My class began to eagerly wait for their mail. They also began to wonder about the Lithuanian students who had sent them the letter. So, we, then, decided to exchange a list of names, addresses and hobbies. I was doubtful; because my experience is that American students are simply not "letter writers". Furthermore, most of my class was comprised of minority students.

Needless to say, all of my doubts and concerns were to prove groundless. The letters began to flow. Oh, the mistakes - on both sides. I had to keep reminding my students to not use "slang" words; because dictionaries are scarce, and their pen pals might not understand such words. Soon, the letters began to lose the earlier, formal tones. I found 10-12 year olds really "talking" to one another. These children weren't going to let an ocean get in their way!

They discussed their goals, accomplishments, fears, friends, family problems. Although they had different skin colors, different religions, came from completely different backgrounds, they were definitely on the same "wave length". They told each other things they could never discuss with family or friends.

Meanwhile, a letter arrived from a school in Kaunas. Apparently my fifth grade cousin in Kaunas had told her English teacher that her American cousin would be delighted to write to them!

Because we were now "professionals", we knew exactly what to do with this new opportunity. First came the "introductory", class level letter - another "geography lesson". After all what can you say to people you've never met? Then came the long, awaited list. Most important factor? Hobbies.

December came around. A local newspaper heard of our activities. Could the newspaper send someone out to talk to us? Of course. I expected the usual, three sentences on the back page of a local interest focus. It was a real surprise to find a story about our activities on the front page of the Sunday edition, continued to another section, accompanied by two photographs - one in color! It was the time of the Malta Summit; and interest was high.

Christmas came with the exchange of small class gifts - a set of Lithuanian dolls from Kaunas, precious, illustrated fairy tale books from us. Additionally, some of the students exchanged gifts including boxes of crayons, homemade drawings, bookmarks, stickers, etc.

Right after Christmas, the *Sunday Magazine* of the State of New Jersey picked up the article which had appeared in our local newspaper; and featured it in its "Cheers" for for the week review. Now we were really celebrities!

On Monday, March 12th (1990), we hosted an ➡

Independence Day party. {Editor's Note: On March 11, 1990, Lithuanians re-affirmed their independence.} We were "flying" as high as our counterparts in Lithuania.

Nothing could bring us down. The first letter arrived without the "USSR" on the return envelope. The return address now said: Republic of Lithuania.

As April arrived, the mood of the letters became different. There was more seriousness to the tones of the letters - nothing we could really put our fingers on - but it was there.

Then it happened: The Soviet Blockade! The first call came from a grandmother of one of the students. What can we do to help our penpal and her family? It was now a family project? More calls and notes.

We wrote to our Congressman and Senators. Packages going over no longer included such frills as stickers and crayons. Now, the parents were sending coffee, tea and sugar. It was no longer my fight, alone, as a Lithuanian American. It was "our" fight!

One of my students moved to another city. Next came a letter from a teacher in that city. Could you send us a list of pen pals in Lithuania? From our own pen pals in Lithuania came requests for pen pals from older sisters, brothers and friends.

Summer came and I figured that what had happened was nice as long as it had lasted. Being a typical teacher, I was certain that the program would not

survive without me. Well, it not only survived, it bloomed!

September of 1991 was soon here. I had new American History classes. Their first question was, "When do we start writing to Lithuania?" So, there are now two sixth and two fifth grade classes writing to Lithuania.

The events of January the 13th brought more calls and notes from the parents of my "new" students; as well as of the "old" ones.

Our Parents and Teachers Association president hosts a four hour, Sunday Gospel program on a radio station in northern New Jersey. Every Sunday, Lithuania and its people are on his prayer line.

Ours has not been a perfect program. There have been some minor disappointments - some pen pals on both sides have "slacked" off; but these have been few. All in all, however, it has been a resounding, people to people success. We have crossed racial, cultural and religious lines.

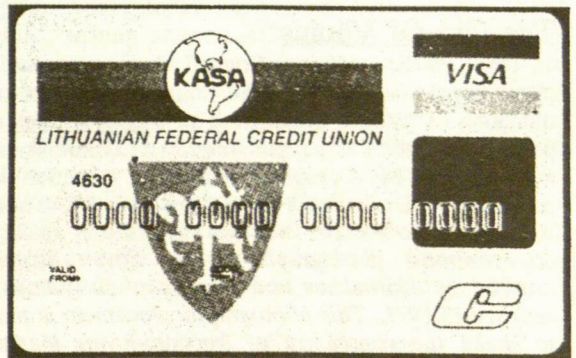
My friend - the one who shared the pots of coffee with me while we "dreamed" this up - writes that her students are motivated; and now have a reason to learn English! My students now read the newspapers and watch world news on television. They probably still can't place Philadelphia on a regional map; but they certainly can locate Lithuania on a world map!



Lithuanian VISA Credit Card

KASA Lithuanian Federal Credit Union is proud to introduce a Lithuanian first - a beautiful, authentic, genuine credit card adorned with the KASA logo, the stylized symbol of Lithuanian statehood - Vytis and the bold and beautiful tri-colors of the Lithuanian flag. Furthermore, it is not just a display of Lithuanian symbols and colors - it is the real thing, a real VISA card every Lithuanian can be proud to have.

Most of us know how practical and useful credit cards are when shopping, traveling or renting a car. Many of us already own, and frequently use, one or more credit cards. Why not add a KASA Lithuanian Federal Credit Union VISA card to your valued possessions? You will find this KASA card to be less expensive to obtain; and the credit rates are much lower than at most major banks. You can close your present VISA card account and switch over to the KASA credit card service for the most practical display of both smart financing and real Lithuanian solidarity. Call or write, today, to the nearest KASA branch office listed below, and request information and an application for the first Lithuanian credit card in the world.



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Community With A Capital "C"

*A Report From The National Executive Committee of
The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*

by **Ramune Kubilius**

Mail Blockade:

A number of people contacted the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.* to complain about the fact that their letters and subscription literature going to and coming from Lithuania have not been moving since Christmas. The *Government Affairs Office* of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, in Washington, D.C., will submit this complaint to the U.S. Government and the *International Postal Union*, provided adequate documentation, as follows, is provided: name of person sending letter, type of mail sent and date sent, registration numbers of registered or certified mail, etc. In a letter to Lithuanian editors and radio show hosts, the President of the *Public Affairs Council, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, Dr. Thomas Remeikis, wrote that he saw this as another means by which the Soviets wish to oppress and isolate Lithuania.

The Gift Of Vilnius:

The *Public Affairs Council* has prepared a photographic album of the horrible events and outcomes of "Bloody Sunday". The Gift of Vilnius was published by the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.* and printed by *Draugas*. Editorial direction was provided by Dr. Arunas Liulevicius and Dr. Thomas Remeikis. The Preface indicates that *"this is an album of eyewitness photographs of the Soviet atrocities ordered by Gorbachev and committed in Vilnius on January 13, 1991... This photographic document is meant to shake the conscience of freedom-loving mankind. But more than that: it is meant to remind the world that liberty and self-determination in the old Communist empire are still at the mercy of the bayonet and the tank..."* The book is interspersed with excerpts from various editorials and "op-ed" pieces which appeared in American newspapers in January. The final two pages contain information tabulated by Lithuania's Ministry of Health about the casualties of that one day of Soviet brutality. A copy of the 80 page book has been distributed by the *Government Affairs Office* to each member of Congress, and copies may be

ordered and purchased through the *National Executive Committee* office of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, in Chicago. (The price is \$10.00 per copy.) (Please note the mailing address at the end of this article.)

Help For Lithuania's Children:

The *Human Services Council* (whose president is Birute Jasaitis) and the *Religious Affairs Council* (whose president is Rev. Antanas Saulaitis, S.J.) of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*, have joined efforts in creating a committee to help Lithuania's sick children. The committee is chaired by Dr. Regina Kulys, a sociology professor at the *University of Illinois at Chicago*. The committee will attempt to raise the needed funds for and coordinate the trips of at least a dozen children (along with an accompanying family member for each) this year who require sophisticated surgical or medical procedures not available in the under-equipped hospitals of Lithuania. It is believed that most of the procedures will be done at *Shriner* hospitals around the country, and that one of the first children to benefit under this program will be a girl whose feet were crushed by a Soviet tank on "Bloody Sunday".

Support For The Families:

A total of \$7,000.00 from a special *National Executive Committee* administered *"Gift for Lithuania"* (*Dovana Lietuvai*) fund called *"Freedom"* (*Laisve*) has already been brought to Lithuania and given to President Vytautas Landsbergis for distribution to immediate family members of those killed by Soviet brutality on January 13, 1991 ("Bloody Sunday"). People have been most responsive in donating to this fund.

Music Festival Update:

The *Music Festival*, scheduled to take place May 15-28, 1991, in Chicago, is sponsored by the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.* and the ➡

Canadian Lithuanian Community. A number of concerts, art exhibits, the *Lithuanian Song Festival*, and an opera will comprise the festival. Actress Ann Jillian (Jurate Nausėdas to her Lithuanian friends) has confirmed her agreement to be the "Mistress of Ceremonies" for the *Song Festival*, scheduled to take place at the *University of Illinois - Chicago Pavilion* on May 26th. She has also offered to record a radio spot or interview to help Lithuanian radio shows publicize the festival. Official documents have been filled out to ensure the participation of 82 opera singers, choir members, ballet dancers, and orchestra members from Lithuania. They are scheduled to fly, using their own funds, to New York City, and their trips to Chicago and subsequent accommodations are the responsibility of the *Festival Organizing Committee*. The guests from Lithuania will be participating in various concerts, the *Song Festival*, the Lithuanian opera and other events. Ramona Stephens - Steponavicius has reserved blocks of rooms at six Chicago area hotels for choir directors, choir members and spectators. The criteria used for the selection process were: price, security, quality, proximity to *Music Festival* events, and access to expressways.

Contact the *Lithuanian Music Festival* at Telephone: 312 471-3900 or Ramona (after work hours) at Telephone: 708 425-0198 for more information.



The *Song Festival* was originally scheduled to take place in 1990, but out of respect for the *Song* and

Dance Festival taking place in Lithuania at about the same time, it was postponed. This meant losing a sizable grant which was awarded in support of the festival, but invalidated upon the Festival's postponement. Expenses for the *Music Festival* will include the transporting of set designs for the opera "*I Lituani*" from Lithuania, costs of renting musical instruments for the orchestra, rent of facilities, etc.

Donations can be sent to or brochures and other information requested from the organizing committee: **Lithuanian Music Festival, 3001 West 59th Street, Chicago, IL 60629.**

Attendance of local, state, and federal American politicians has not been clarified yet; as many adjust their schedules. The presidents of the Lithuanian-American and Canadian Communities (Dr. Razma and Juozas Kristolaitis), the Bishop for Lithuanians outside of Lithuania (Bishop Baltakis), and others have already indicated that they will attend the *Song Festival* and other events. It is hoped that the planned visit of President Vytautas Landsbergis and his wife Grazina to the U. S. will be realized and that they will attend various events. Mrs. Landsbergis, an accomplished pianist, is scheduled to play at one of the concerts. All are urged to invite friends and relatives, those of Lithuanian descent and those who are interested in attending the the *Music Festival*.

Letters:

Various letters reach the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee* offices in Chicago. They are written both in Lithuanian and in English. Some letters are from LAC chapters and regions, writing about LAC business. Some are from Lithuania. Some are from Americans who are interested in finding out more about Lithuania. Some are from persons of Lithuanian descent. Some are from **BRIDGES** readers. The writers are sincere and they care about Lithuania and things Lithuanian. Some offer help, others request it. All receive a response though some letters are easier and more straightforward to answer than others. Here are some excerpts from letters received in the Chicago office:

○ "I am interested in learning more about my Lithuanian heritage. I understand that your organization publishes textbooks and a periodical about Lithuanian Americans..." (Raymond from California)

○ "...If you can find someone WHO WRITES ENGLISH I would like to correspond with that person. Mother receives letters from the one Lithuanian relative we are aware of in Kaunas, Lithuania. However, Ona writes in Lithuanian and it takes many months before Mother can find someone to translate the ➡

letters...Mother was born in Pennsylvania of Lithuanian parents. My father was born in Lithuania. He begged me to learn Lithuanian but I was stubborn and refused. This may have changed my life..." (Margaret from Delaware)

○ "I am interested in having a pen pal in Lithuania...I am 47 years old, a female and full American-Lithuanian and proud of it too..." (Nancy from New York)

○ "I've enjoyed reading **BRIDGES** over the years. I hope you folks continue the good works. Perhaps you will mention more of the social events taking place in the Lithuanian communities so that us Lithuanians that live afar may plan to attend." (William from New Jersey)

○ "I'm interested in corresponding with someone from Lithuania. My grandparents are from the hills around Vilnius. I'd like to write to a person who lives in that general vicinity..." (Marie from Connecticut)

○ "My 6 year old nephew is keenly interested in learning Lithuanian. Since the key factor in this interest is to tap his enthusiasm and hold his interest before he loses his desire, I ask you for an expedient response to the following: Can you tell me what learning tools (including video, audio, computer assisted, etc.) are currently available..." (Carol from Pennsylvania)

○ "I am a first-generation American and am fiercely proud of the Lithuania they loved. Your praises as to the great deeds accomplished during these last few months are difficult for me to see, feel or find. I have been very disturbed because of the demonstrations failure to measure up to criterion..." (Alice from New York)

○ "We are asking you for help and cooperation. Czechoslovak-Lithuanian Society has been working since the beginning of this year. The sat (sad?) events in the Baltic countries reminding seppretions (?) of the forties and fifties focus our activities first of all on the support of Lithuania...Our country is geographically predetermined to become a transit shelter or a new home of many refugees...The first refugees from Lithuania are coming. We look for countries where they could come without fear and where they could be helped...They are in danger in our country (possibility of kidnapping back to the USSR)...There are about 6 Lithuanians here now, who are seeking a new place in the world...Our address: Ceskoslovensko-litevska spolecnost, Mickiewiczova 13, 160 00 Praha 6, CSFR." (Tomas Karabela, chairman of Cs.L.S.)

Chapters:

In Wisconsin, a new *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.* chapter has been established. It is the Milwaukee chapter whose president is Viktoras Narusis.

Various LAC chapters publish newsletters to disseminate local information to their members. Some are published in Lithuanian, some are bilingual, some are in English. The Manhattan chapter of LAC publishes a newsletter, *The Lithuanian Times*, whose editor is Juozas Kazlas. In the February issue, it was written that the newsletter is receiving unsolicited subscription requests from as far away as Nevada and California. The editors indicate that they are unable to make the commitment of a regular publishing schedule, but are flattered by the requests and do appreciate donations. The issue contains short articles such as one about hotlines, one by Egle Zygas called "Why Do We Demonstrate?", a short write-up of a delegation's visit to the Soviet mission to the UN by the Peace and Democracy, and others. {Editor's Note: A similiarly titled article, by a different author, and obviously, of the same inclination, can be found elsewhere in this issue of **BRIDGES**.}

(Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee, 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, IL 60629.)

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Lithuanian Legislative Workshop

Lithuanian American Activists Met, Discussed And Heard About Requirements; And Then Took Action.

by Rimas Stirbys

A legislative workshop for Lithuanian activists was held on the weekend of March 9 - 11, 1991 in Washington, DC. The workshop was held in the name of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC)*; and was organized by the *Lithuanian Communications Center* and the *Free Lithuania Committee* of Baltimore; with facilities arrangement assistance from Ms. Audrone Pakstys, President of the Washington, DC Chapter of the LAC.

The workshop included briefings, strategy sessions as well as a day for lobbying the Congress. Participants came from throughout the Northeastern/Midwestern areas of the United States.

The workshop began Saturday evening, March 9th, with an introduction by Mr. Vytas Maciunas, Director of the Philadelphia-based *Communications Center*. Mr. Maciunas laid out the weekend's agenda and summarized the Center's current projects.

Presentations were then made on the activities of "ad hoc" groups from various cities in the Midwest and Northeast. The speakers included Mr. Gintaras Cepas (*Boston Lithuanian Center*), Mr. Jurgis Augius (*Americans for Lithuanian Freedom*, Chicago), Ms. Regina Petrauskas (who spoke of the activities of Lithuanian-Americans living in the Scranton, Pennsylvania area), Ms. Vaiva Vebra-Gust (*A.P.P.L.E.*), Ms. Alma Ericson (*Rockford Lithuanian Network*, Illinois), Mr. Paulius Klimas (*Baltic Association of Rochester*, New York), Mr. Tomas Nenortas (*Lithuanian Resource Center*, Hartford, Connecticut), and Mr. Juozas Arlauskas (**B R I D G E S**).

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The reports were followed by a briefing from Mr. Andrius Eiva, who gave a first-hand account of the events of last January 13th when Soviet troops used brutal and murderous force in an attempt to topple the Landsbergis government. Mr. Eiva spoke of how the unwavering determination and resolute non-violence of the Lithuanian people, in the face of violent aggression and continuous harassment, contributed to the collapse of the Kremlin-inspired coup. Mr. Eiva, a *West Point*

graduate, and former *Green Beret*, now living in Massachusetts, is knowledgeable in Soviet tactics and advised in the defense of the Lithuanian Parliament, allowing Lithuanians to use their meagre resources to the best advantage.



Mr. Andrius Aiva

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Sunday's program provided detailed information on specific topics crucial to Lithuania's drive towards independence. The program was attended by over seventy five participants, including representatives of the Parliament of the Georgian Republic, an advisor to the Estonian Parliament, and a member of the Latvian-American Community (who was in fact an active participant throughout the weekend). The following speakers were presented:

Mr. William Hough spoke of the political basis and legal criteria for diplomatic recognition of Lithuania. He described the distinctions between recognition of ➡

a government and of a state; and between de jure and de facto recognition. He demonstrated, through historical examples, and by citing legal precedent, that the US State Department's position on recognition is based on political decisions rather than on legal arguments. Mr. Hough is an expert in international law; and has served as advisor and consultant to Baltic-American organizations and the current government of the Republic of Lithuania. He has also been involved with Congress in drafting pro-Lithuanian legislation, has testified at numerous committee hearings held by the US Congress; and has appeared in nationally-aired news forums concerning current issues. He is a member of the law firm of *Walter, Conston, Alexander and Green*, New York City.

The husband-and-wife team of Ms. Lowry Wyman and Mr. Barnabas Johnson provided a report on the evolving Rule of Law in Lithuania, and on their experiences in assisting in the drafting of a new constitution for the Republic of Lithuania. Ms. Wyman, a Soviet law expert and Fellow at the *Russian Research Center of Harvard University*, has served as a consultant to the current government of the Republic of Lithuania. Mr. Johnson, a graduate of *Harvard Law School*, is an expert on constitutional law and judicial administration. Ms. Wyman was in Lithuania from November, 1990 to February, 1991. Mr. Johnson joined her there in December; and each gave testimony both to the anxiety felt throughout Vilnius and the courage shown by members of the Lithuanian government and by all other Lithuanians during the events surrounding the Soviet attacks on Bloody Sunday.

"Lobbying to Achieve Results", featured a panel discussion of tactics and general procedures used in persuading elected government officials of the specific measures they could take on behalf of Lithuania. Panelists, who drew from their extensive experience, included:

Ms. Onile Sestokas (*Free Lithuania Committee*, Baltimore and a frequent lobbyist representing the LAC in meetings with members of Congress).

Mr. Stanley Algimantas Gecys (from Philadelphia, Chairman of the Northeastern District of the LAC; Past President of the *National Executive Committee, Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*; and Past Chairman of the *Public Affairs Council* of the LAC).

Ms. Ingrida Bublys (from Cleveland, Ohio, Past Chairwoman of the *Cultural Affairs Council* of the LAC).

Mr. Andrius Eiva (from Brockton, Massachusetts, who, in addition to his military experience, described above, has served as a lobbyist for the *American-Afghan Aid Society*).

In another program segment, Ms. Barbara Griffiths described the current scope of economic aid and US trade benefits to the Soviet Union. Ms. Griffiths is Deputy Director for Economic Affairs, Office of Soviet Affairs, at the US State Department. Ms. Griffiths was

deeply involved in arranging and coordinating the *Project Hope* shipments of medical aid to Lithuania on February 16th, 1991. She also pointed out that current laws - which clearly, and effectively, supercede the often espoused "Non Recognition Policy" - prevent the provision of any direct US assistance to Lithuania.

Mr. Linas Kojelis gave a general perspective on economic and technical assistance to the Baltic States, and on the importance of developing an infrastructure to sustain democracy and free enterprise in Lithuania. Mr. Kojelis is a former Deputy Assistant to the President for Public Liaison in the Reagan Administration. He has long been active in Lithuanian American affairs and is current President of the *US Baltic Foundation*, based in Washington, DC.



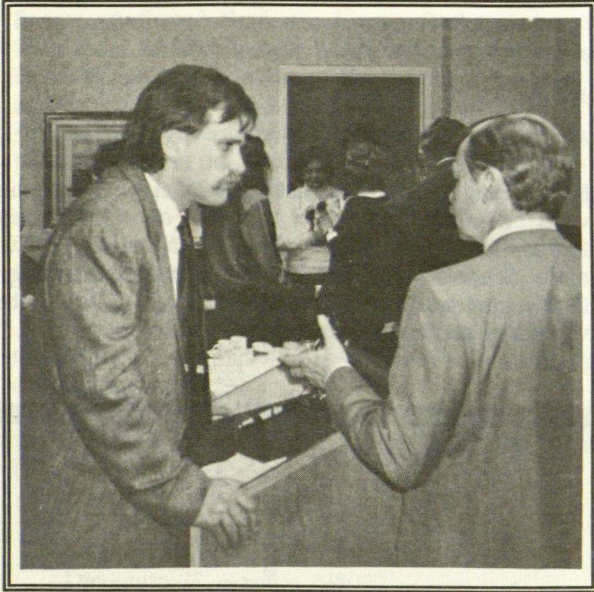
Mr. Linas Kojelis

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In addition to the announced program, participants had the opportunity to listen to a short discourse by Dr. Antanas Buracas, a professor of political economy and President of the *Council of Scientific and Technical Information, Presidium of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences*. Dr. Buracas also represented Lithuania as an elected member of the Soviet Congress of People's Deputies until Lithuania declared the reestablishment of state independence. Dr. Buracas, who is current chairman of the *Lithuanian Association for the Protection of Human Rights*, discussed some of reasons he was visiting Washington, namely to lay the groundwork for Lithuania's representation in international economic organizations and to inform members of Congress, and the Bush Administration, ➡

as well as other interested parties about the human rights situation in Lithuania.

Mr. Vytas Maciunas gave a wrap up of the day's presentations; and instructions were issued to those who planned to stay over in Washington to lobby Congress the following day.



Mr. Vytas Maciunas

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A banquet was held that evening for those attending the workshop; to mark the First Anniversary of the Lithuanian Parliament's Redecaration of Independence on March 11, 1990. The featured banquet speaker was Mr. Juozas Laucka, a long-time activist for Lithuania in America. He was a member of the US Foreign Service Corps, having been a Director of *Radio Free Europe* in Munich; and was instrumental in establishing the Lithuanian Service of *Voice of America*. He was also one of the founding members of *BALFAS (United Lithuanian Relief Fund)* and *ALTAs (Lithuanian American Council)*.

Mr. Laucka gave a historical perspective on Lithuanian activism in America, drawing parallels between methods used today and those of half century ago.

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Monday was devoted to visiting Capitol Hill; the *Communications Center* arranged for nearly 170 appointments with key members of the House and Senate. These appointments provided an opportunity to explain the position of the LAC on US policy towards the Baltic States.

The emphasis of these meetings was not only to gauge the feeling of Congress for Lithuanian issues, especially diplomatic recognition of Lithuania, but also to urge support for legislation that would assist the Lithuanian cause. Special mention was made of the need for cosponsors of a bill to amend the foreign aid policy of the United States toward countries in transition from communism to democracy. This legislation, *Senate Bill 9*, or *S.9*, was introduced by Senator Robert Dole of Kansas; the House companion bill, *House Resolution 1080*, or *H.R. 1080*, was introduced by Mr. Dana Rohrabacher, a Congressman from California. Attention was also directed to a bill introduced in the House by Congressman Benjamin Cardin, of Maryland. Mr. Cardin's bill, *H.R.559*, would make "the independence of the Baltic republics a condition on the granting of most-favored-nation treatment to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

In addition to presenting the position of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, workshop participants left a memento in each office they visited: a coffee mug emblazoned with "*FREEDOM FOR LITHUANIA*", depicting birds of freedom colored in the yellow, green and red of Lithuania's flag, escaping chains of captivity. The mugs, warmly received by each office visited, were provided by the Chicago-based *Americans for Lithuanian Freedom*, and echoed the motif of their popular posters and label buttons.

The overall opinion was that there is strong moral support for Lithuania in both Houses of Congress where members have some actual knowledge of the situation.

However, it was noted that many legislators, especially those without substantial Baltic constituencies, have, at best, a superficial knowledge of the history or current conditions of the Baltic States; and are more reluctant to pursue any measures they deem "provocative" or counter to the interests of good US/Soviet relations, a position which echoes that of the White House. It is clear that additional persuasion will have to be applied by individual constituents before enough Congressmen and Senators are sufficiently educated/feel compelled to cosponsor important bills so that they can be brought to the House and Senate floors for a successful vote.

A comprehensive analysis of the day's meetings is still in preparation as of this writing; for submission to Dr. Tomas Remeikis, Chairman of the *Public Affairs Council* of the LAC.

In summary, the weekend workshop was considered a success, not only from the point of view of reaching members of Congress and their key legislative aides, but in providing an opportunity for highly motivated and qualified Lithuanian and Baltic-American activists to better prepare themselves for the long road to true and lasting independence for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

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A University Reborn

Vytautas Magnus University

A Chronology Detailing The History; As Well As The Recent Restoration Of This University.

Vytautas Magnus University (also known as the University of Vytautas the Great) in Kaunas, Lithuania was established on February 16, 1922 and served as the national university of the independent Republic of Lithuania until 1940, when Lithuania was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union. The university was reduced in scope and then entirely dissolved in 1950 by the Soviet government; its two surviving units became the Polytechnic Institute and the Institute of Medicine in Kaunas. The State University at Vilnius assumed the role of the principal university in Lithuania after 1940.

The restoration of *Vytautas Magnus University* began in early 1989, when a Restoration Council was formed by a group of scholars in Kaunas. Subsequently, an international conference "The National Concept of Higher Education" was held in Kaunas on April 26-28, 1989. In attendance were about 250 Lithuanian faculty members and scholars from the *Lithuanian Academy of Sciences*, as well as over 20 professors from abroad, mostly from the United States.

The reopening of *Vytautas Magnus University* was declared by a vote of the participants during the closing session on April 28, 1989. The Kaunas conference also elected a Board of fifteen members who joined the existing Restoration Council to prepare the university's constitution and to register it with the governmental authorities of the Lithuanian SSR, which has since ceased to exist when the restoration of Lithuania's independence was declared on March 11, 1990.

Vytautas Magnus University was registered in July, 1989 as a cooperative educational venture governed jointly by scholars from Lithuania and those residing abroad, primarily in the United States.

Upon its restoration, Vytautas Magnus University was a unique phenomenon in the USSR - a private university, committed to academic freedom, supported by donations, and independent of government control. The highest authority of the VMU is its *Restoration Senate*, composed of 96 scholars, 48 of whom are External members, affiliated with academic institutions outside of Lithuania. Academician Jurgis Vilemas (*Lithuanian Academy of Sciences*) was elected President of the Senate and Acting Rector of the university.

The restored university began instruction on

September 1, 1989. A total of 182 first-year students were admitted to the Schools of Humanities, Economics, Informatics, and Applied Science. Two more Schools were opened: Biology and Theology-Philosophy, and about 240 new students entered the University on September 3, 1990.



About twenty Senate members from the United States and Canada planned to travel to Kaunas for the first plenary meeting of the Restoration Senate on May 24-26, 1990. In addition to the Senate meeting there were two other conferences that most were planning to attend: an international conference "*The Baltic Family*", and the workshop "*Future of Higher Education in Lithuania*". However, the Consulates of the U.S.S.R. disregarded all visa applications filed after March 10, 1990, and did not issue U.S.S.R. visas for travel to the above events in Lithuania. In response to this cultural blockade of Lithuania, the External members of the Restoration Senate held their part of the plenary meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on May 25-27, 1990.

At the two meetings in Kaunas and Chicago, the Senate elected Professor Algirdas Avizienis, a computer scientist from UCLA (*University of California, Los Angeles*) to serve as Rector of *Vytautas Magnus University* for 1990-91.

He had been designated to spend the

1990 - 91 academic year in Lithuania as a participant of the inter-academy visitor exchange program sponsored by the U.S. *National Academy of Sciences*. After a three-month wait, the Soviet authorities finally issued a visa to Professor Avizienis. He arrived in Kaunas on August 12, and the inauguration took place on September 3, 1990. The Rector nominated and the Senate confirmed Professor Liucija Baskauskaitė (on leave from *California State University, Northridge*) and Dean Vytautas Kaminskas of the School of Informatics as Prorectors for 1990-91.

The plenary meetings of the Restoration Senate took place in Kaunas on December 20-21, 1990.

Rector Avizienis set the following goals for the academic year 1990-91:

(1) to develop a comprehensive core curriculum for undergraduate students;

(2) in cooperation with the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences to start graduate study programs leading to the M.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in several key disciplines; and

(3) to initiate cooperation and exchanges with universities in Europe, North America, and the Pacific Rim.

For more information, please contact:

The Rector, Vytautas Magnus University
Daukanto 28, Kaunas 233000
Republic of Lithuania

Telephone: 007 (0127) 206 753
Telex: 269857 VYTUN SU
Telefax: 007 (0127) 228 500 or 223 634

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You Can Support Vytautas Magnus University At This Critical Point In Time.

by Ramune Kubilius

The Rector of Lithuania's second university, Dr. Algirdas Avizienis (formerly of the *University of California at Los Angeles*) recently spent several weeks touring the United States seeking support for the reinstated *Vytautas Magnus University* which is presently in its second school year after being closed for 40 years. The university, half of whose faculty senate is composed of professors outside of Lithuania, is striving to provide *Vilnius University* with some healthy competition. Students study English up to six hours a week their first year. By the third year, it is planned, they will be able to take classes in Informatics,

Sociology, Anthropology, Philosophy, Theology, and others in English should a visiting faculty member be non-Lithuanian speaking, or should they take courses abroad.

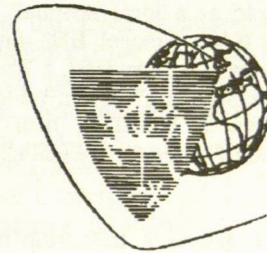
Dr. Avizienis, elected for a two year term, has succeeded in gaining interest in the university from organizations and faculty from other countries.

For example, *Weber State University* (Utah) students visited Kaunas over the Christmas holidays; Scandinavian professors have offered to come teach courses; a film crew of college broadcasters hopes to get their footage taken at the university shown on Public Broadcasting stations in the United States.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* featured several articles, including one on October 31, 1990, on the university.

Contributions in support of *Vytautas Magnus University* can be made through *The World Lithuanian Community Foundation*; which has agreed to participate in this believed to be US tax exempt, fund raising effort. Tax Federal ID Number is: 36-3097269.

Please send these contributions, with a note indicating that they should be earmarked for support of *Vytautas Magnus University*, to:



The World Lithuanian Community Foundation
1851 Skyview Drive
Sparta, Michigan 49345

Telephone: 616 887-1435



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Students Help Lithuania

A College Based Initiative

Students at Brown University and The Rhode Island School Of Design Take Actions For Lithuania's Freedom.

by John W. Bartlett

When *BALTIKA*, a Brown University/Rhode Island School of Design student group designed to promote the independence of the Baltic states, began earlier this semester, it had a fairly low profile on the Brown campus. Then on February 3, Antanas Vainius B'94, one of the group's founding members, received a videotape smuggled out of Lithuania shortly after the January 13 Soviet crackdown.

The two-hour-long video included footage of the Lithuanian parliament, Soviet tanks rolling through the streets of Vilnius, interviews, and later footage of the injured and dead at a local hospital. The videotape was edited by Keith Spiegel B'93 and translated by Vainius and Tania Lozansky B'93, a Russian immigrant. The "free-world premiere" of the edited videotape on February 8 drew a crowd of over 250 people to Brown's Salomon Center for Teaching.

Networking

BALTIKA began as a friendship between Vainius and John Bartlett B'94. Vainius is a second-generation Lithuanian American, and Bartlett feels a strong tie to Latvia because of visits there. The two started a postering campaign to find other Balts and concerned persons on College Hill.

The acquisition of the videotape catapulted the new group into "lots of late nights" and widespread publicity, including a recent article in *The New York Times*. Since February 8, *BALTIKA* has shown the fifteen-minute documentary at St. Casimir's, a Lithuanian Catholic church in Providence, and sponsored a panel discussion entitled "The Fate of the Baltics." Through computer networks and personal contacts, it has given other universities the opportunity to obtain the documentary. A presentation at the *University of Chicago* two weeks ago was the first of many across the country.

"Harvard, Cornell, the University of Michigan, York University [in Toronto], and the University of Pittsburgh, along with at least ten other schools, have asked for copies of the video," Lozansky said. "I think we're on the right track," said Noah Rubins B'93, another member of *BALTIKA*. "I'd like to see even

more college networking. Perhaps the video will get national or international viewing at some point."

Rubins and Spiegel have written a letter concerning the Baltic situation to President Bush which has been signed by the student government leaders of all eight Ivy League universities.

"Because of our connections to so many schools, we have the opportunity to make a lot of people aware of this crisis, which was given almost no media attention during the Gulf War," Rubins added.

Thomas C. Kachanis, a Brown employee of Lithuanian descent, agreed. "I feel we can have a direct effect on students throughout the country. We need to raise awareness among non-Balts," he said.

Kachanis is very enthusiastic about *BALTIKA*'s work to date. "They are a dedicated and quite outspoken group," he said, adding that improved communications make it easier to get up-to-date information on the Baltic states. Kachanis' earlier work for Lithuanian independence was hindered by the difficulty of contacting friends and family in Vilnius.

A Very Personal Crisis

"It scares me that people are so unaware of what's going on, [in the 1940s and '50s] we experienced the same genocide, pain and suffering that the Jews did. People are unaware even of that genocide against the Balts. The U.S. turned away from Stalin's purges and the subsequent Soviet repression. We can't do that again," said Jocelyn Jansons B'94, a Latvian-American with family in Riga and Jelgava. Although she said she feels overwhelmed by "going up against the Soviet Union," Janson's Baltic ties have inspired her to continue work with *BALTIKA*.

Many of *BALTIKA*'s members have similar stories. Vainius keeps in constant touch with family and friends in Lithuania. While most of Kachanis' family was "erased" by Stalin's purges, those who survived fought the Soviet occupation into the 1950s.

Svobodu Vsem Respublikam

"At first, when I told people I was joining a Baltic student organization, they said 'Why? Russians are supposed to be hostile to the Balts' and 'Be careful, they'll kill you,'" said Lozansky, a Russian who ➡

emigrated from Moscow eight years ago. "Russians and Balts shouldn't be fighting against each other, but against a Soviet regime that oppresses them both with equal force."

The Balts and the Russians are both feeling great resurgences of nationalism, but Lozansky warned that these nationalistic feelings should not be turned against each other, but against their "common enemy." She pointed out that Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic, is promoting such dialogue by signing treaties with the Baltics, and hopes that the Balts will understand that most Russians sympathize with and support their efforts. "Nationalism is a very powerful force; it mustn't be a blind one," Lozansky said.

Explained Lozansky, "The Russians fear that what happened in Lithuania on January 13 could happen in Moscow next. There are armored personnel carriers rolling through the streets of the capital. As [Lithuanian President] Landsbergis said, 'this nation is once again slipping into the abyss of red fascism.'"

What Next?

BALTIKA members unanimously agree that their work is not done. They hope to continue raising public awareness and providing information on the Baltics to university communities throughout the United States. They are particularly hopeful that the apparent end of the Gulf war will result in increased media attention to the plight of the Baltics. As {BRIDGES} goes to press, Rubins and Spiegel's letter has been signed by the student leaders of all eight Ivy League universities and is on its way to President Bush. In late March, Rubins and Lozansky will deliver copies of the edited videotape to the *BBC* in London and the *National News Agency* of Holland.

As the intercollegiate network continues to expand,

many in the group hope that broad-based support for the Baltics will result in United States government action on their behalf. But even if this is not the case, said Lozansky, "we still constitute a public opinion force that has proven in the past decade to influence Soviet leaders."

"The ultimate," said Rubins, "is for our group to become unnecessary -- for there to be freedom in the Baltic States."

Kachanis agrees: "My ultimate goal is for us to visit the independent Baltics as a group, and say 'we had a part in this.'"

○

Dear Friends,

We want you to know that there are many others like us - both Balts and non Balts - who are extremely concerned for and supportive of the movement for Baltic Independence. We feel that the Baltics will soon have the freedom they so richly deserve.

Nepriklausomybe!

John W. Bartlett
President, *BALTIKA*

○

NOTE: Copies of the edited videotape and presentation materials are available from *BALTIKA*; we ask a \$20 donation (checks payable to *BALTIKA*) to cover production costs. Send all inquiries to:

Tania Lozansky
PO Box 3698
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912

□

Upcoming Events Related To The Lithuanian World Scene

Event/Sponsor	Date(s)	Location
● Association of Young Lithuanian Americans 5th Annual Political Seminar, "Lithuania 1991: Destiny and Direction"	April 1991	Washington, D.C.
● Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., Directors' (Tarybos) Elections	May 4-5 May 11-12	All over the United States
● Music Festival	May 15-28	Chicago, IL
● Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Sciences Conference (Lietuviu Kataliku Mokslu Akademijos Suvaziavimas)	June 9-11	Lithuania
● Lithuanian Catholic Federation "Ateitis" 80th Anniversary Conference	June 15-17	Lithuania
● Sports Festival (Sporto Svente)	July 27-Aug 3	Lithuania
● 38th European Lithuanian Studies Week (Europos Lietuviskuju Studiju Savaite)	July 28-Aug 3	Lampertheim Germany
● Lithuanian World Youth Association Youth Congress	Dec 18-Jan 8 '92	South America

Why We Demonstrate

*It's A Lot More Than Just A Political Statement.
The Demonstrator Gains Something, As Well.*

by **W. Paukstis**

February 16, 1991: A cold wind howls down the concrete canyons of Washington, D.C., driving anti-war demonstrators, tourists, and bureaucrats from the capital's streets.

But not Lithuanian Americans and others who support Lithuania's people. More than 400 of them from all over the East braved the elements to practice a craft at which they have become proficient - demonstrating in front of the Soviet Embassy on 16th Street. They've been out in force on a "clock work" basis, for about a year; especially after Soviet threats and bluster greeted Lithuania's declaration of re-establishment of independence.

They came by the thousands last June; while other Washingtonians were overcome by Gorby-mania, the Lithuanians used his visit as an opportunity to acquaint America with 50 years of Soviet crimes in the Baltics.

In February the Lithuanians were back again. They braved the elements to protest the January 13th massacre at the Vilnius television station, and elsewhere; but also to pay tribute to the undaunted spirit of Lithuania and the other Baltic States. The familiar yellow, green, and red flags and banners were held high at the gates of the old stone embassy. District of Columbia police allowed marchers to parade right in front of that building which is a symbol of oppression of hundreds of millions of people.

And among those marching at the embassy gates was a contingent of Lithuanian-Americans from Richmond, Virginia. Making

the 100 mile trip up Interstate 95 has become a familiar journey for the Lithuanians of Richmond, a city better known for tobacco, the Civil War and conservatism than for Baltic freedom fighters. For each of the participants from Richmond, demonstrating has brought rewards of camaraderie, fulfillment, patriotism and pride.

"I feel like we have to speak out for those voices which can no longer speak out, forever silenced by the Soviets," said Terry Baksys, a Springfield, Illinois, native who came to Richmond 10 years ago. She has participated in four Washington demonstrations; on February 16th, she carried a stark black and white sign saying "Soviet Murderers Get Out Of Lithuania." For Ms. Baksys, the demonstrations have become an affirmation of her Lithuanian heritage, as well as a way to draw public attention to the Baltic cause. "I never expected I had as much hostility against the ➡



Soviet Union until I demonstrated the first time," Ms. Baksys said. "I surprised myself. I yelled so loud and so hard for Lithuania."

"It feels exhilarating to get all that anger and hostility out in a positive way."

Another Richmonder, Danguole Whitehead, also said the demonstrations have helped foster "a sense of pride" in being Lithuanian. A Connecticut native, she came to Richmond in 1977. She has brought her two children to some of the Washington activities and believes the experience has helped them appreciate democracy. "We have the right to do this, while in Lithuania, years ago, they couldn't even demonstrate. It's a good lesson for my children."

Richmond's Lithuanian-Americans also said the Washington events have been a good way to develop contacts and forge ties with other Baltic communities throughout the nation. "I've made some interesting friendships. I've met people from many other cities," said Ms. Baksys. "You don't just run into people from Philadelphia or Baltimore, Chicago or Omaha, every day." She even encountered two uncles and an aunt from Hartford last year during the Bush-Gorbachev Summit demonstrations.

Demonstrators agree, however, that their activity's main purpose is to focus the American public's attention on the cause, and to let the Soviets know that people in the United States care about Baltic independence.

"I feel like the more we demonstrate, the more we'll make other Americans aware of the true situation" in Lithuania, said Ms. Baksys. "The Lithuanians have

been oppressed for 50 years. A lot of Americans really don't understand what Lithuania has been through."

"Exposure is really important," added Mrs. Whitehead. "It's really a very public statement."

The large demonstrations invariably draw curious onlookers. Many sympathetic motorists show their approval by honking their horns. Even the District of Columbia police, who see hundreds of demonstrations each year, were supportive during the February protest. "In fact, there was one policeman in particular who encouraged me to yell even louder. He joked with me and was very friendly," Ms. Baksys recalled. "I felt like he and the other policemen there supported our cause."

Perhaps the most interested onlookers of all are the Soviet personnel in the embassy. They initially greeted the demonstrations with fear; during last March's protest, a busload of police in riot gear suddenly pulled up in front of the Embassy, probably called in by the Embassy staff. The police left just as suddenly when they determined that there was no problem.

"I don't think they miss a trick," said Mrs. Whitehead. Richmonders have spotted Soviets snapping pictures of demonstrators and have seen unusual vans apparently equipped with electronic listening devices cruising down 16th Street during some of the protests.

Is demonstrating a worthwhile activity? Richmond's Lithuanian-Americans have no doubt that it is. "I think people definitely should demonstrate, if at all possible," said Mrs. Whitehead. "I like the positive aspect of the word 'demonstrate'."

"It lets the Soviets know that we're watching what they're doing in Lithuania, and we hold them accountable for their brutal actions," said Ms. Baksys. "It fosters a unity within the Lithuanian community. It injects fresh energy into us, just when we might be getting tired or discouraged. And finally, the more we demonstrate, the more visible we make Lithuania's deserving quest for freedom to the average American."

Richmond's Lithuanian-Americans have no intention of seeing that quest fail. □



(Editor's Note: We look forward to publishing other, similar, stories about demonstrations in other cities; about the feelings of those demonstrators. Such activities are taking place all over America; so send us your stories!)

On The Sovereignty Of Lithuania

And Lithuania's Right To Independence

The repeated re-establishment of the independent state of Lithuania is the manifestation of the will of the people of Lithuania, based on international law and Lithuania's statehood through history.

Independent Lithuania has a long history of statehood that reaches back to the year 1253, when the first king of Lithuania, Mindaugas, received his crown from Pope Innocent IV.

At the end of the 18th century, Lithuania became the victim of annexation by its neighbors. The greater part of Lithuania was acquired by the Russian Empire, and Lithuania stopped existing as an independent state. Uprisings against the Russian government in 1794, in 1830-1831, and in 1863 proved many times the people's determination to fight for independence.

The idea of national statehood and the right thereto was once again declared by Lithuania in its Act of Independence on February 16, 1918. By this Act the Council of Lithuania declared the restoration of the independent state of Lithuania, based Lithuania's independence on democratic principles, and declared Lithuania's historical capital, Vilnius, its modern capital.

Lithuania's declaration was grounded on the resolute determination of the Lithuanian people, which was amply demonstrated by Lithuanians' defense of their country. On August 25, 1919, Lithuania's national forces drove the last troops of the Red Army out of Lithuania.

On June 10, 1920, the Constituent Seimas (Parliament) adopted the Provisional Constitution of the State of Lithuania and thereby proclaimed Lithuania a democratic republic. This Constitution emphasized that the freely and democratically elected

Seimas voiced the sovereign will of the people of Lithuania.

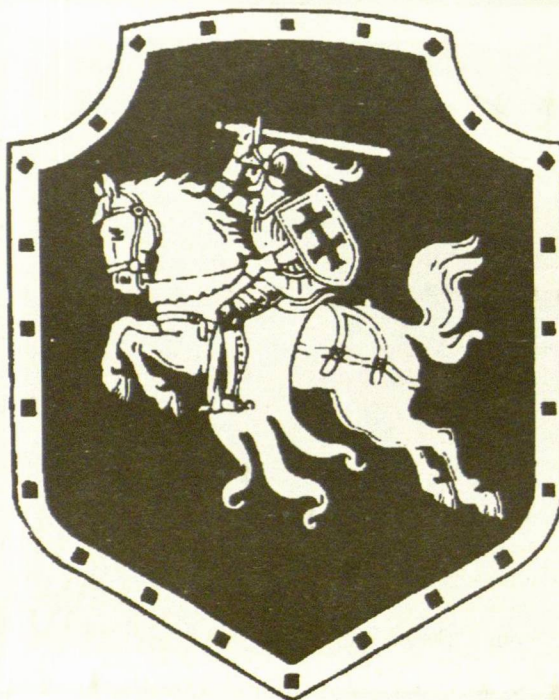
On July 12, 1920, Lithuania and Russia {the USSR} entered into a treaty, wherein "Russia unequivocally recognizes the separated existence and independence of the State of Lithuania with all the legal consequences arising from such recognition, and in good faith for all time renounces all sovereign rights that Russia has [or may have] with respect to the people of Lithuania and their territory."

In 1921 Lithuania was admitted to the League of Nations. The Republic of Lithuania was recognized by most countries of the world and maintained diplomatic relations with them for almost two decades. However, Lithuania again became a victim of annexation -- this time through a secret agreement between the USSR and Germany, the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. According to the special protocol to this agreement of September 28, 1939, Lithuania was to be handed over to the Soviet Union. To this end, the protocol foresaw

that the "Government of the USSR was to exercise extraordinary means to protect its interests on Lithuanian territory..."

On June 14, 1940, the government of the USSR demanded in an ultimative fashion that "free passage be immediately guaranteed for USSR military units entering Lithuania..." At the same time it was announced to the Republic of Lithuania that, regardless of the reply of the Government of Lithuania, USSR military units would in any case enter the territory of Lithuania. And so it happened.

On June 15, 1940, the Soviet Army invaded Lithuania and occupied it. By these actions, the USSR carried out an act of aggression as described in



Article 2, Point 2 of the Lithuania-USSR treaty of July 5, 1933: "... a state will be considered an aggressor ... if it invades the territory of another state with armed forces, even without a declaration of war." Following this aggression and occupation, the Soviet Union forcibly thrust upon Lithuania a puppet government, caused fraudulent elections to be held, and then annexed Lithuania.

This was the beginning of the Lithuanian tragedy - mass deportations, armed resistance against the Soviet occupiers for many years, the extermination of opponents of the communist regime, and the {attempt at} destruction of an entire national culture.

The Second Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR on December 24, 1989, by its "Resolution on the Political and Legal Assessment of the 1939 Non-aggression Pact between the Soviet Union and Germany," recognized that the secret protocols to this agreement had no basis in law and were invalid from the moment they were signed. This Resolution also states that the secret protocols were used by the USSR "to declare ultimatums and to put pressure on other states, which was in violation of the legal obligations undertaken with respect to them." Thus, the Second Congress confirmed that the Soviet Union thereby breached its 1920, 1926, and 1939 treaties with the Republic of Lithuania. Unfortunately, the USSR has still not officially renounced those flagrant violations, including the unlawful annexation of Lithuania in 1940.

The forcible annexation of Lithuania was not recognized by most countries of the world. From the point of view of international law Lithuania exists as a state whose sovereignty has been suspended by force. {A state under duress.}

In connection with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, the United States on July 25, 1975 stated that with respect to this document the position of the United States as to the incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia into the Soviet Union remained unchanged. Similar statements were made by the United Kingdom on December 5, 1975, by France on July 31, 1975, and by other states.

Pursuant to the Final Helsinki Act, the parties thereto obligated themselves not to recognize as lawful any occupation or territory acquired forcibly or through the threat of force. This principle had already been established on October 24, 1970, when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations: "The territory of a State shall not be the object of

acquisition by another State resulting from the threat or use of force. No territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal."

On March 11, 1990, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania declared the re-establishment of the independent state of Lithuania in an Act which stated that "the execution of the sovereign powers of the State of Lithuania, abolished by foreign forces in 1940, is re-established, and henceforth Lithuania is once again an independent state." This Act, which was adopted by the democratically elected supreme representative body of the State of Lithuania, fully conforms to the requisite principles and norms of international law. This act is an act of implementation of the Lithuanian people's right to self-determination. The U.N. Declaration also asserts that according to the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, "all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development." Every state must respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the U.N. Charter. This Declaration further states that "[t]he establishment of a sovereign and independent State ... or the emergence into any other political status freely determined by a people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people." This right, which has been implemented by the Lithuanian nation since March 11, 1990, also fully comports with the Helsinki Final Act, which declares that "[b]y virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-

determination of peoples, all peoples always have the right, in full freedom, to determine, when and as they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference, and to pursue as they wish their political, economic, social and cultural development."

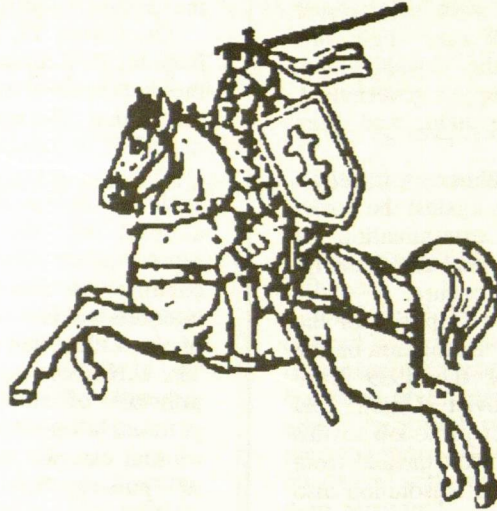
Additional Comments

1) Even according to Article 72 of the Constitution of the USSR, "[e]very union republic retains the right to freely secede from the Soviet Union." In official commentary on the USSR Constitution (the co-author of this commentary is Chairman of the present Supreme Soviet of the USSR, A. Lukyanov) Article 72 is discussed as follows: "The norm on the right to secede legally establishes the principle of free will. ...This right of a union republic is indisputable. Neither the assent of neither the supreme bodies of state power of the Soviet Union, nor of the other union republics is needed for its implementation."

2) Subsequent legislative acts of the Soviet ➡



Union adopted after March 11, 1990 and restricting the "right to freely secede from the USSR" obviously contradicts the USSR Constitution and can not be applied in a law-governed state. These acts violate the right of nations to self-determination and violate international law.



3) The Soviet Union's use of force on January 11, 1991 against the sovereignty and political independence of the Republic of Lithuania should be construed as aggression, pursuant to the official definition of aggression contained in Article 1 of the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution of December 14, 1974: "Aggression is the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations, ..." This aggression, furthermore, constitutes an international crime. Paragraph 2 of Article 5 of this Resolution reads as follows: "A war of aggression is a crime against international peace. Aggression gives rise to international responsibility."

Inasmuch as the USSR's brutal actions were designed to squelch the implementation of the self-determination of the people of Lithuania, the USSR also violated the Helsinki Final Act, which, as noted above, provides that "all peoples always have the right, in full freedom, to determine, when and as they wish, their internal and external political status, without external interference, and to pursue as they wish their political, economic, social and cultural development." By the same token the USSR violated the Paris Charter for a New Europe which states that "We reaffirm the equal rights of peoples and their right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and with the relevant norms of international law..."

By violent actions that are directed at the overthrow of the democratically elected Government of the Republic of Lithuania and at imposing on Lithuania an unconstitutional and anonymous "national salvation committee," the Soviet Union has also violated the Final Document of the Copenhagen Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE of June 29, 1990, whereby the USSR undertook to defend and protect "the democratic order freely established through the will of people against actions of persons, groups or organizations that engage in or refuse to

renounce terrorism or violence aimed at the overthrow of that order..."

In occupying the mass media, Lithuania's state publishing house, and paper warehouse, and in closing down Lithuania's means of mass communications, the Soviet Union also violates its human rights obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Paragraph 2 of Article 19 states: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers,

either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice." This also violated the principles of the Paris Charter for a New Europe regarding the freedom to express opinions and convictions.

4) By abducting citizens of the Republic of Lithuania, the armed forces of the Soviet Union grossly violated its obligations in the field of human rights, democracy and the supremacy of law in accordance with the Paris Charter for a New Europe, which states that no one will be "subject to arbitrary arrest or detention, no one will be subject to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment..."

5) The re-establishment of diplomatic relations with foreign states will help Lithuania defend its sovereign rights, its democratically elected government and other institutions, and the human rights and freedoms of all of its inhabitants. This will also help the Soviet Union to move away from lawlessness. Perhaps this will even help the Soviet Union to take the path leading towards the creation of a government under law. In this way, the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Republic of Lithuania will contribute to the efforts of democratic states to create peace, lawfulness and justice throughout the world.

Prepared and revised by:

Vilenas Vadopalas

Sarunas Adomavicius

Faculty of Law
University of Vilnius

Legal Advisor to the
President of the Supreme
Council Republic of Lithuania



⇒ Updates ⇐

Bringing you "up to date" on activities, projects, initiatives which are underway; and which have been previously reported/about which you've probably heard; so that you know "where things stand".

A.P.P.L.E.:

by Jurate Krokys

The *American Professional Partnership For Lithuanian Education (A.P.P.L.E.)* has been asked by Lithuania's Ministry of Culture and Education to organize the 1991 Summer Teacher Qualification Raising Seminars in Lithuania. Although these seminars are an annual tradition, this will be the first year in which international cooperation and coordination has been sought. The Ministry turned to A.P.P.L.E. as a partner since the Connecticut-based group serves as a conduit for all those here in the United States who support the reemergence of a democratic Lithuanian educational system, one that would best serve the children of Lithuania.

A.P.P.L.E. began preparing for the seminar last fall. From the beginning, correspondence with the Ministry indicated a wide-ranging need with an emphasis on new teaching methods in five areas: Special Education; TESOL (Teaching English as a Second Language); methodologies across the curriculums, especially Social Studies and Health Education; Personal, Social and Family Dynamics; and Early Childhood Development.

Members of A.P.P.L.E. have sought to prepare a fruitful seminar by drafting a schedule which reflects hands-on experiences. For example, lectures will be followed by workshops in which methodologies will be practiced and actual material will be produced. Exemplary texts, curriculums and "manipulative materials" will be used. In addition, A.P.P.L.E. will use videos as teaching tools and is collecting a library of educational videotapes. The videos will be left behind after the seminar. [A.P.P.L.E. would be grateful if any **BRIDGES** readers could contribute any quality videos which would help the learning process. Examples include *National Geographic* specials, "After School" specials, or any other topic that lends itself to educational methods. If you have anything you can donate, send it to A.P.P.L.E., P.O. Box 1370, West Hartford, CT 06107.] Although the 2 week seminars will have lecturers working 4 week stretches, weekends will be spent sight-seeing, etc. Guest lecturers will be housed with their students in the Teacher Qualification Seminar dormitories. Each of the 10 lecturers will be assigned about 30 students, with a projected 300 student/teachers having their "qualifications raised". The

list of guest lecturers is being finalized. The seminars will take place between July 14 and August 11, in Vilnius, Lithuania's capital. On-site coordination and selection of eligible participants for this monumental task falls on the shoulders of Rimantas Zelvys, director of the Teacher Qualifying Seminars.

The cooperative efforts of A.P.P.L.E. and the Ministry of Culture and Education pose an exciting challenge with bright prospects for the future of Lithuanian education. Linking the talents and experiences of American educators with the Lithuanian experience is expected to produce long-lasting benefits.

More on Training Seminars in Lithuania:

Dr. Vytautas Cernius, education psychologist from *Temple University*, and a Senator of *Vytautas the Great University* in Kaunas, is organizing/implementing a teacher seminar from July 29 to August 16. This intensive seminar will emphasize the process of learning and change, both in the student and the teacher. It will also train participants in sharing acquired knowledge. Dr. Cernius has been very generous in sharing his ideas and expertise with A.P.P.L.E. Where possible, lecturers at the two seminars will be exchanged to enhance the learning environment.



Medical Fact Finding Mission:

Dr. Daiva Bajorunas of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital and her colleague, Dr. William Griffo of Cornell University Medical College, travelled to Lithuania for a medical fact-finding mission at the end of February. This trip was endorsed by the Lithuanian American Medical Association and encouraged by the staff of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Dr. Bajorunas serves as a medical consultant to Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid's "Life for Lithuania" program. Dr. Bajorunas' report:

Although our actual time in Lithuania was quite short, given the logistics of travel, in the 4 days we were there we were able to meet with the Minister of Health and his deputies and staff, especially those involved with pharmaceutical supply and the distribution of emergency medical supplies received from western Europe and the US. We met with the Deans of the two major medical schools in Lithuania, those in ➡

Kaunas and Vilnius, and discussed policies and priorities of medical education in the republic. We toured the Ministry's and the *University of Vilnius'* medical library facilities. We evaluated the hospital facilities and spoke to the staffs of the major hospitals in Vilnius and Kaunas, including the Oncology Institute in Vilnius and the Diabetes and Endocrinology Center in Kaunas, two major centers responsible for coordinated, specialized medical care throughout the republic. We also toured a small district hospital in the region of Preintal. We were fortunate in having a photographer travel with us for part of the trip, and have brought back photographs and a video of some of the hospital and library facilities, as well as interviews with hospitalized diabetic children.

On many levels, we were quite astonished at the degree to which medical care has been compromised in the recent months. Drug procurement, erratic and unpredictable in the past year, has been so severely constrained that several high-ranking health officials, including the Minister of Health, told us that their current pharmaceutical reserve of the life-sustaining preparations (antibiotics, insulin, analgesics, cardiac medicines) were limited to days, thus underscoring the current dependency on emergency medical aid shipments from the West. Had the violence of January 13th continued, emergency first aid to the victims would not have been possible to maintain; we were told that of the 670 injured that day, many were being untreated as they do not have adequate antibiotics to treat the many who sustained traumatic ruptures of the tympanic membranes. We have tried to document as best as possible the various classes of pharmaceuticals which are sorely and critically needed, and have been provided such lists both from the Ministry and from hospital administrators. We saw very few patients receiving intravenous solutions, even in the cancer wards: both the solutions themselves and the intravenous delivery systems (iv tubings, disposable needles) were not to be seen in their best hospitals. Total parenteral nutrition for the malnourished is not possible for lack of solutions and supplies. Antibiotics, when available, are not given intravenously because of a lack of equipment; thus, patients with the life-threatening conditions of sepsis, especially following chemotherapy, receive painful and, by western standards, medically inadequate intramuscular, intermittent injections of antibiotics. As a diabetologist, I was appalled to see the antiquated large bore needles used to administer insulin to children, and the only insulin they have had in the past few months has been that received from Western Europe and America. Moreover, they give out to patients the only type of insulin they get, and since the preparations differ in pharmacokinetics, diabetic management is suboptimal at best and frankly dangerous with the less educated patient.

While we expected to see substandard hospital conditions, we were nevertheless greatly troubled by the hospital shortages which appeared to have been markedly worsened, according to my understanding, since the time of the blockade. Sterilization is accomplished by boiling kettles of water, with subsequent improper handling. Ventilation following chemotherapy preparation is accomplished by open windows in these same rooms. Replacement equipment (x-ray machines, wheelchairs, ambulance parts) have not been received from the Soviet Union in the past year. Access to new advances in medical therapy is at this point a frustrated dream: medical journals from the West can no longer be obtained from the Soviet health authorities, and buying hard currency journals has become the responsibility of the impoverished Ministry.

However, despite the very bleak acute picture, there were some incredibly positive findings. We were very impressed by the functional, organized, dedicated infrastructure of health care delivers; the cooperation we saw among members of the Ministry, the medical universities and the hospitals was real and effective, facilitating change and improvements. The entire medical education structure is undergoing a streamlining and reorientation to match more closely western educational standards (medical student number reduced by one-third, the introduction of 2-year residency programs). The dedication of the nursing staff was very noticeable, and to it can be attributable in a large part the fact that the humane and compassionate mission of the medical profession is being realized during these very troubled times. The development of programs for nursing degrees is a move to attract more highly motivated, bright women into the nursing field.

Lastly, I was extremely impressed by the instinctive prioritization of medical imperatives which overrode all facets of possible bureaucratic interference and which undoubtedly permitted better health care delivery despite the very meager medical resources. It was understood by all we talked to that children were a priority, and thus when better needles or new insulin shipments were received from Denmark, it was the children who received them first. I laud the physicians who could improvise, working with the oncologic drugs available at a particular time, so that drug delivery most closely matched western protocols for cancer chemotherapy, and who realized that when resources are limited, the curable malignancies in the young should get the best attention. It is a tribute to the Lithuanian people that they have coped as well as they have under these very difficult and trying times.

Those wishing to donate to "Life for Lithuania", a medical aid program for Lithuania, can do so by writing a check made out to: *Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid/LIFE FOR LITHUANIA*, 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11207. All contributions are tax deductible. □

“ Bits & Pieces ”

Information which might be of interest to you; gathered from near and far; as well as provided by readers like you. We look forward to having you share information with us for future issues.

Lithuanian World Games:

The IV Lithuanian World Games are being held in Lithuania after many years in exile! Opening ceremonies will be in Kaunas on July 27, 1991 and will include a Catholic Mass, a parade and performances by choirs as well as folk dance groups.

Competition will take place in 21 different sports in 13 Lithuanian cities. In addition, athletes will be skiing downhill in the Caucasian Mountains and alpinism near Mount Everest. Athletes from Estonia, Latvia, Germany, Poland and Siberia will attend. A contingent of 100 are coming from Australia; and about 400 from Canada and the United States. The games are being co-sponsored by the Government of Lithuania; and tourists are encouraged to join in the festivities.

For information on one tour being organized from the United States, contact Pranas Gvildys of the *Lithuanian Athletic Club* of New York, at home, Tel: 718 356-7871, or at work, Tel: 201 804-2037. This tour group is going through *Baltic Tours* of Boston, leaving Newark, NJ on July 22nd, and returning on either August 5th or 12th (traveler's choice). The flight is on *Scandinavian Airline Service* via Copenhagen, to Riga. Cost of air travel is \$1,875.00. Cancellations are refundable to July 1st; with a \$100.00 penalty for cancellations after that date. Other tours are also being offered through *Vytis Travel* of New York and *American Travel Service* of Chicago.

Be part of the sports celebration! Come to Lithuania this summer! - *Sigita Ramanauskas*



Summer Program In Vilnius For North American College Students:

by *Dick Krickus*

After the February, 1990 Lithuanian elections, which I was invited to witness by *Sajudis*, it was clear to me that an intriguing educational opportunity existed for my students at *Mary Washington College*. (I am a political scientist at this Fredericksburg, Virginia institution which, at one time, was the girl's division of the *University of Virginia*. Today, it is coed with a student population of about 3,000.) Many of the members of *Sajudis* were academics at the *University of Vilnius* and

they and their colleagues were eager to develop a relationship with educators in North America. Upon returning home, and as a result of a trip to Warsaw and another one to Vilnius in the summer and fall of 1990, arrangements were made to conduct a *Mary Washington College* program in conjunction with the *University of Vilnius*. Students will participate in two seminars (and earn 6 credits) which are designed to exploit the Lithuanian locale and to interact with people who are playing leading roles in building democracy. The seminars are **OTHE SUPERPOWERS IN TRANSITION**: Its goal is twofold. (1) To conduct a comparative analysis of the developments leading up to and culminating in the end of the cold war rivalry between the US and the SU. (2) To identify and assess the problems and prospects of the superpowers building a new world order. **OETHNIC POLITICS AND NATIONALISM**: Its purpose is to explore the treatment of ethnicity and nationalism by Marxist and Western social theorists in the 19th and 20th centuries. The seminar will focus on Soviet nationalities policy through a case study of the Lithuanian experience. Cost for non-Virginia students, including air fare to and from Lithuania, travel within the country, tuition and fees, and room and board, will amount to \$3,400. The classes will be conducted in English and will include some students from the *University of Vilnius*. College students interested in the program, or who plan to be in Lithuania this summer, should contact me, Dick Krickus, at (703) 899-4322. It is possible to integrate the plan you may have already made into this program and receive college credit in the process. In light of recent developments, it is vital to demonstrate to our colleagues in Lithuania that they have not been forgotten. This program is a small gesture in that direction.



Ateitis

The Catholic federation *Ateitis* will celebrate 80 years in 1991. The federation, established in Lithuania, is unique in that it has no counterpart among Catholic organizations of the world. After years of underground activity in the post-World War II years, *Ateitis* has enjoyed increased activity since 1989. The president ➡

of *Ateitis* in Lithuania is Dr. Arvydas Zygas, a former Fulbright Scholar from the United States, who chose to remain in Lithuania. *Ateitis* will celebrate its anniversary beginning in Lithuania June 15-17; and an academic weekend will be organized in North America, probably on Labor Day weekend. The editor of the journal *Ateitis* is Danute Brazyte-Bindokiene, author of the bilingual book Lithuanian Customs which was published by the *World Lithuanian Community* in 1989; and has since been published in Lithuania as well.

- Ramune Kubilius



Books For Democracy:

Miami University (Ohio) students have the honor of being the first students to take advantage of an AFL-CIO program called "*Books for Democracy*" in sending 400 cartons of books to Lithuania. The program has long sent books to countries in Eastern Europe, but this is the first time books are being sent to the two universities in Lithuania. Books in the areas of English language, political science, computer science, and economics were donated by individuals, the library, and various departments. The AFL-CIO picks up the books and sends the container to Lithuania, where the AFL-CIO contact is the Workers' Association president Kazimieras Uoka who visited the U.S. and met with AFL-CIO officials last year. For more information:

Books For Democracy, AFL-CIO, Student Division, 815 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006, or contact Ms. Cheryl Graeve at Telephone (Toll Free): 1 800 833-3250. The German professor of Lithuanian descent at Miami University who wrote many a letter to various departments, indicated that this project is "ongoing" (unlimited or discretionary funds?), and that the effort should involve colleges and universities at the student level.

- Ramune Kubilius



A Request:

I would like to make a video program about the people of Lithuania in this time of transition. To achieve this end I would like to ask anyone who has videotape taken in Lithuania to consider allowing me to use it in this program. I'm not asking you to give up tapes which are very valuable to you. Rather I would like to borrow them to copy to a broadcast type video format for editing. I promise to take good care of your tapes and to return them in a timely manner.

I don't plan this to be a commercial project. I would like to show the human face of the Lithuanian people and to educate the world about their struggle for independence. I'm not just looking for political events or dramatic footage. Vacation and travel scenes and family gatherings are just as important.

Please drop me a line and let me know what you have and where I can contact you. Mike Durling, 1000 By Pass Road, Williamsburg, Virginia 23185 USA.



Ham Radio AND Yachting!:

(*Editor's Note: The following information is reprinted, with permission, from the March 1991 edition of "73 Amateur Radio Today" Magazine, A Wayne Green Publication.*) The Lithuanian Amateur Radio Conference will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania during the first week of June 1991. The conference will last approximately 7-10 days. It will start in the capital, Vilnius, then move on to Kaunas, Panevezys, Siauliai, and Palanga, a resort town on the Baltic Sea.

To date, 26 amateurs from outside Lithuania are planning to attend: 15 from the U.S.A., three from Canada, four from Germany, two from England, and two from Scotland.

If you wish more information, or wish to attend, please contact me at the address {listed below} with your requests. I'm looking forward to the conference and to meeting some of the hams that I have talked to on the air. [The conference scheduled for last June had to be canceled due to the political climate at that time. We hope nothing will prevent the conference this year. - Arnie]

Lithuanian yachtsmen are in the process of outfitting a sailboat for a trip around the world, to last approximately 18 months. The purpose of the trip is to show the flag and visit major Lithuanian colonies. The crew of 18 will include a licensed radio amateur with a special event call sign. More on this later, as more information becomes available. / Lithuania / Jonas Paskauskas LY2ZZZ / P.O. Box 71 / Siauliai 235400 / Lithuania.

- Tadas Vasaitis



Camp Dainava:

Lithuanian heritage camp, *Camp Dainava*, will be held in Manchester, Michigan, during the period July 28 to August 4, 1991. Boys and girls, ages 8 to 16, are eligible/invited to attend. For more information, please contact the *National Executive Committee, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, at 2713 West 71st Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629.



Lithuanian Research And Studies Center:

The *LRSC* is located at 5620 South Claremont Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60636; Telephone: 312 434-4545. The *Lithuanian Research And Studies Center* mission is to promote, organize and sponsor research, as well as to collect, archive and publish materials →

pertaining to Lithuania and its people; its language, history, culture. *LRSC* was founded in response to a growing awareness that while Lithuanians had created vast quantities of scholarly, artistic, and cultural material, little effort had been made with regard to preserving it.



Viltis:

Viltis, which calls itself "America's Oldest Folkdance Magazine", is edited/published by Vytautas F. Beliajus. This magazine often features articles on Lithuanian folk dancing activities in the United States and elsewhere. Annual subscriptions are available for \$15.00. Write to *Viltis* at PO Box 1226, Denver, CO 80201. Recent issues of *Viltis* have had a serialization of Mr. Beliajus' autobiography. (He was born, and raised, in Lithuania).

- *Loisirene Blumberg*



Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts:

According to the *Martha's Vineyard Map*, a weekly newspaper published on Martha's Vineyard, there is strong evidence to support a story which attributes the name "Martha's Vineyard" to a Lithuanian of that name!

- *Andy Akstin*



Associated Press:

The *Associated Press* "wire service" continues to "dateline" all of its news stories from Lithuania with the "USSR" appendage. Because we didn't see the *Associated Press* identify stories from occupied Kuwait with a dateline reading "Kuwait City, Iraq", perhaps the *Associated Press* is not clear as to Lithuania's true status. Let's educate the *Associated Press* by calling, faxing and writing to them; while giving them a clear understanding of Lithuania's status. The President and General Manager of the *Associated Press* is Mr. Louis D. Boccardi. The mailing address is: 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020. The main telephone number for the *AP* is: 212 621-1500. Mr. Boccardi can be reached most directly by dialing: 212 621-1971 (This is a direct number to his assistant, Mr. James F. Tomlinson.) The "Foreign Desk" of the *AP* can be reached at telephone: 212 621-1663; and at fax: 212 586-4451. The Acting Foreign Editor is Mr. Tom Kent; and his direct telephone is: 212 621-1660.

The Washington DC Bureau of the *AP* is located in Room 600, 2021 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1082. World Desk Supervisor is Mr. Alexander Higgins. Tel: 202 828-6400; fax: 202 828-6422.



A Call To Action:

Ms. Asta Banionis, Director of the *Government Affairs Office* of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*, recommends that you consider undertaking the following initiative in your local community:

Write a resolution in support of Lithuania and ask as many local organizations as you can find, to endorse the resolution by signing onto it. Then arrange for publication of same in your local newspaper. If publication might be too expensive, then an alternative is to send copies of the signed resolution to all of your elected officials. By undertaking such an action, in addition to obtaining positive, tangible documents of support for Lithuania, you will develop a valuable "contact list" for use when/if another crisis develops in Lithuania. The *Public Affairs Council* of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.* recently undertook such an effort at national level; and had 40 different national type organizations - ethnic, religious, environmental, etc. - sign onto their resolution. A copy of that resolution follows (and same can be modified to fit a local situation):

RESOLUTION

As leaders of America's ethnic, religious, civic and professional organizations, we are outraged by the Soviet Union's use of force, intimidation and violence against The Republic of Lithuania, its democratically elected government and its people.

Whatever views we may hold of the Soviet Union, we are united in the belief that there can be no justification for the intimidation, abuse and killing of the unarmed and defenseless people of Lithuania or for the attempted forcible takeover of the democratically elected government of the Lithuanian Republic. Such actions clearly violate accepted standards of international human rights and the dignity of man.

We condemn Soviet violence in Lithuania and elsewhere in the Baltic region and urge Moscow to withdraw its troops and to understand and respect the determination of the people of Lithuania to achieve peace, freedom, pluralism and democracy.

Ms. Banionis has offered even another idea which can be implemented at local level: The city of Vilnius has lived through several months of military assaults and harassment which has impeded normal, civic life much more so than in any other part of Lithuania. Encourage your city's/county's council/governing body to send a letter, or to adopt a resolution expressing support for the City Council of Vilnius, as that governing body attempts to protect Vilnius' residents against brutal Soviet tactics. Letters/resolutions should be mailed to: Mr. Arunas Grumadas, Chairman, Vilnius City Council, Gedimino Prospektas, Vilnius, Republic of Lithuania 232001. □

Book Notes

New books, of varied kinds, but all oriented to Lithuania.

"Atgave Vilti":

A Lithuanian language compilation of the writings and speeches of Vytautas Landsbergis, President of the Lithuanian Parliament, in book form, entitled Atgave Vilti, is being distributed by *The World Lithuanian Community*. The 227 page book, with 50 photographs, was published in Toronto, in March; and costs US \$18.00 (\$20.00 Canadian). Donations for this book, above \$50.00 are believed to be (US) tax deductible. Profits are earmarked for the *Aid To Lithuania* fund of the *World Lithuanian Community*. Copies can be ordered by contacting: Vytautas Kamantas, 1851 Skyview Drive, Sparta, MI 49345, Tel: 616 887-1436. Canadians should order from: Alfonsas Juozapavicius, 68 Princeton Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M8X 2E4, Tel: 416 239-0955. - *Rimas Stirbys*

AABS Baltic Cooperative Directory I: Professional Resources Outside the Baltics:

AABS (Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, Inc.) is in the process of publishing the AABS Baltic Cooperative Directory I: Professional Resources Outside the Baltics. The Directory is scheduled to list the academic and professional individuals outside the Baltic States who are knowledgeable about the Baltics, and are willing to help the Baltic nations with their expertise. It will be a comprehensive database of academic and professional resources. Individual questionnaires have been sent out to AABS members. The president of AABS is Dr. Tomas Venclova of *Yale University*. Write to AABS at: 111 Knob Hill Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. - *Ramune Kubilius*

I Had Nowhere To Go:

Black Thistle Press (491 Broadway, NY, NY 10012) has published the diary-memoirs of poet, filmmaker and critic Jonas Mekas. The book, I Had Nowhere To Go, (480 pages, \$14.95/Pbk.) depicts his life as a displaced person in post World War II Germany, his arrival to the US and his work. The diary's entries end with December 30, 1954 and contains photographs illustrating scenes from his life. A second book could almost be written since Jonas Mekas is still active in the filmmaking world, having recently talked about it in a *National Public Radio* segment. - *Ramune Kubilius*

From The Old Marketplace:

The March 3, 1991 edition of *The New York Times* reviewed the book, From the Old Marketplace, by

Joseph Buloff, translated by Joseph Singer, published by Harvard University Press. The review is entitled "Vilna, With Cossacks and Golems". It is fiction, a story of boyhood and a city, Vilnius, in the 12 years between the Russo-Japanese War of 1905 and the Russian Revolution. The reviewer writes: "For the Jews it was the Jerusalem of the North...for the Poles it was the place where the true spirit of their nation remained pristine...For the Russians...For the Lithuanians, who were the last pagans in Europe and who speak an ancient Indo-European language, it would truly be their city, their capital, only a year ago, when Lithuania became the first of the forcibly incorporated Soviet republics to declare its independence from the Soviet Union..." - *Ramune Kubilius*

Awakening Lithuania:

Originally issued in 1966, this "Study on the Rise of Modern Lithuanian Nationalism" was updated, and reissued in 1990. Written by Professor Jack J. Stukas, and printed by *Draugas Press*, it is available, in paperback, either from *Draugas* or from the author. The address for *Draugas* is 4545 West 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629.

Lithuania Awakening:

Yes, just a reversal of the same two words from the title of the book discussed above. This one is entirely different. Lithuania Awakening, written by Professor Alfred Erich Senn (1990), discusses Lithuanians' actions towards freedom, especially over the past 3 years. Professor Senn was in Lithuania during much of this period; and knows most of the key "players", personally. Order from the *University of California Press*, Telephone: 1 800 822-6657. (\$24.95)

The United States and Lithuania: The Stimson Doctrine of Nonrecognition:

This book is said to be, "...the first systematic study of the Stimson Doctrine of Nonrecognition as applied to Lithuania and other Baltic States. The book blends political history, U.S. public policy formulation and implementation, and international law to present a complete picture of the development of the Nonrecognition Policy since the Soviet occupation of Lithuania in 1940." Written by Dr. Robert A. Vitas, of the *Lithuanian Research and Studies Center*, and available from *Praeger Publishers*, Telephone: 1 800 225-5800, Extension 700. \$39.95. □

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