

BRIDGES

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Plus... much more information, as well as the "Updates", "Bits and Pieces", "Op-Ed" and "Book Notes" sections.



Many Lithuanian Americans, and others, are travelling to Lithuania this summer. They'll see signs of assertion of the Republic of Lithuania's restoration of independence; as well as many reminders of Lithuania's long and noble history.

To our readers:

With this issue, we begin a new feature which we call "Op - Ed". The name is derived from the acronym assigned, in newspapers, to the "other" opinions page, i.e., not necessarily opinions held by the newspaper's editorial board; and which is normally placed opposite the editorial page.

We fully expect some of the items in this feature to generate controversy. That's the point! Hopefully, these items will "keep the juices flowing", will keep us thinking, will encourage us to plan - so that, as required, better than predicted outcomes can, in fact, be achieved.

We ask one thing of our readers in regard to this "Op - Ed" feature: Don't just "shoot the messenger", i.e., me. Instead, RESPOND, with a piece of your own; so that we can publish your opinion (pro or con), as well.

At this point, it's not clear if we will have sufficient items to fit into the "Op - Ed" category for publication in each issue. We'll just have to see.

One more note on this new feature: Just because we choose to place something into the "Op - Ed" category doesn't mean that this editor disagrees with the item, as written. Not at all. The "decision process" includes far more filters than just an "agree/disagree" one. Some other considerations which place an item into the "Op - Ed" category include the item's (perceived) status as a "mainstream" issue; or whether or not the item would generate controversy among our readers; or whether or not the item would be consistent with views held by the leadership of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*, etc., etc. Yes, some of our readers will wonder why we chose to put some items into the "Op - Ed" category/why we didn't run them as "straight" articles. Fact is, your judgements will be just as good as mine!

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With some of the articles found in this issue, you will probably begin to wonder if there isn't a trend towards inclusion of articles which consider economic issues relative to Lithuania. The answer is "yes".

This editor feels that political freedom and economic well being are inextricably linked. There won't be much cause for celebration if Lithuania achieves political freedom (which is inevitable); and then finds itself in an economically unsustainable situation. If something like that were to happen, the net gain would be minimal and short term. Experience all over the world has shown that democracy doesn't grow, or survive, in an economically deprived environment.

We all need to be, now, taking actions which will allow Lithuania to emerge, at the same time, as a free nation - politically and economically. Let's orient our thinking in that direction; because nothing less is

enough.

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This issue has at least 4 separate pieces carrying the name of Ms. Ramune Kubilius as author, translator or "compiler". Ms. Kubilius' name should be familiar to readers of **BRIDGES**; because each issue contains her "Community With A Capital 'C'" piece (although I don't remember an issue which had only that one piece by her!). Ms. Kubilius is the "Communications" person for the *National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.* No doubt about it - she takes her duties seriously; and we are all the beneficiaries of her interest, motivation and hard work. Thank you, Ms. Kubilius for the many, important contributions you have made, and continue to make, to this publication!

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BRIDGES: 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.

-Editor: Joseph Arlauskas

Director of Subscriptions and Finance: Zina Dreslius

The American Public's Unwillingness To Embrace Lithuania

(And what we need to do in order to correct the situation.)

An article in a recent (July 2) issue of *US News & World Report* notes that Presidential Press Secretary Fitzwater, and others, have advised President Bush that, "...the American people really did not care about the Baltics." This story notes that Mr. Bush has accepted that assessment. Thus, it confirms an unfortunate, continuing, state of affairs.

Recall, please, President Bush's response, about a year ago (at a time when the blockade against Lithuania was in effect, etc.), to the question of a reporter; who asked President Bush why the United States was not doing more to support the democratically elected governments, and people, of the Baltics.

President Bush replied that he was doing exactly what the American people wanted him to be doing - that fully 79% (? I don't recall, any longer, the exact figure) of Americans supported his position. And, sadly, he was right.

What we, as Lithuanian Americans, and supporters of the Republic of Lithuania face - and we may as well be realistic, frank and honest with ourselves - is a situation where most of the American people simply don't care about the Baltics, or the state of affairs in the Baltics. President Bush, and his staff, are correct in their assessment of the mood of the American people.

In fact, greater numbers of Americans care about the proper recycling of aluminum cans, about the treatment of monkeys used in medical research and about the status of the Amazon rain forests; than they do about the continuing oppression/killing of the people of Lithuania.

And, obviously, as the quoted article notes, in spite of our efforts, nothing has changed since President Bush's original assessment, over a year ago. A sobering thought - but nobody said that reality has to be pleasant.

So, what to do? Simple. Do exactly what (copy the actions of) those who achieve success in raising the consciousness of the American people, for their causes.

Publicize Lithuania's cause before the American public, starting right at the "Letters to the Editor" section of your newspaper - with your letters.

Build coalitions! Enlist the aid of other groups. What does Lithuania's cause involve? Democracy, human rights, self determination, economic freedom, justice, etc., etc. So, get the groups who are promoting such causes to embrace Lithuania as part of their cause. Get those groups to use their already established structure/activities to bring Lithuania's plight right into the heart of their activities. Demonstrate to them the fact that Lithuania fits perfectly into their program.

Do volunteer work for/contribute to the campaigns of those running for local, state or federal public office from your community. And, then, when you've earned their "ear", get them to speak up in behalf of/act in behalf of Lithuania - not just in front of Lithuanian groups, but - as part of their daily activities. Have them use Lithuania as an example, continually, when addressing such issues as democracy, self determination, oppression, etc.

Get involved, yourself, in local community clubs, affairs, activities; and when in a position to speak, act or propose, make sure that your actions include something about Lithuania in a public way.

Bottom line: Do all of those things (very mundane things, mostly) which will get the word "Lithuania" out front, in front of the American public - in a positive, or sympathetic, way. Enlist, for Lithuania, the people who want something to support, to sympathize with, to talk about, to promote and to embrace. Americans are looking for something which will grab, and take, their attention and energy. Give them Lithuania; and feel good about it - because Lithuania deserves their attention more than do many of the other causes to which Americans are devoting incredible amounts of talent, money and energy.

It's up to us. Doing small things (like passing along this copy of **BRIDGES** to someone who might become interested in devoting energy to/is looking for/has time to support a cause), which, over time, will, if we do them right, have President Bush getting a message far different from the one he has been getting from the American public, to date, about Lithuania.

- Joseph Arlauskas

Seattle - A Lithuanian Outpost

A History Of, And A Report From, The Active, Incredibly Involved, Lithuanian-Americans Of Seattle, Washington.

by Ina Bertulyte Bray

Over the years, the mention of "*Seattle Bendruomene*" has elicited various sobriquets: innovative, forward-looking, patriotic activists, yet at the same time seditious, rebellious, communist traitors. How is that possible?

Lithuanians are not new to this area. At the turn of the century, they came to the Northwest to work in the coal mines of Roslyn and Black Diamond, to cut logs near Raymond, and to work in Seattle factories. As was almost mandatory at that time, these Lithuanian immigrants assimilated. Yet somehow they retained a fierce pride in their ancestry. And, when contacts with Lithuania became possible in the '50's, they were among the first to reach out to their relatives.

In the 1950's and early '60's, a pioneering few "DP's" moved here, attracted by Boeing, the University of Washington, or perhaps by mushrooms in the mountains. These post-World War II immigrants ardently Lithuanian, maintained ties with other Lithuanian centers and established a local chapter of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (Bendruomene)*, headed by Antanas Minelga.

That group, however, never grew beyond a handful of families and for a number of reasons, sometime in the late '60's, the second wave of Lithuanian activity became dormant. Only thanks to Vytautas Lapatinskas (formerly of Chicago) was the "16th of February" commemoration kept alive for a few years longer, but in the mid-seventies, even that ended.

The "demise" of our commemoration shocked the remaining Lithuanians into action. If Lithuania was to hold any meaning for us, that commemoration could not pass unnoted. We pulled ourselves out of our sense of superfluousness or perhaps just lethargy, and thus, almost by default, the current wave of Lithuanian activity in the Northwest began.

Reflecting our independent nature, the question arose, which one if any, national organization should we join? *Bendruomene* won out, and in the past fourteen

years, much has been accomplished under that umbrella.

The first groundbreakers in our chapter were Nijole Raisiene, secretary, Gediminas Morkunas, treasurer, Vytautas Lapatinskas, vice-president, and Ina Bertulyte Bray, president. For a number of years, this leadership set the pace and then the ultimate direction of the



Typical meeting at the Bray residence.

group's activities. (Ina Bray remained president for twelve out of the next fourteen years. In March 1991, Irena Blekyte Johnson took over.)

One immediate digression from the solidly Lithuanian model of other communities was that English, rather than Lithuanian, became the dominant language. Among outsiders, that fact raised eyebrows (if not ire!) but if there was to be an audience at the commemorations and at other public events, if there was to be an all-inclusive community, the use of only the Lithuanian language invariably would be a barrier. We did not want to perpetuate the painful past experiences some of us had elsewhere, where, unless you knew the "code" Lithuanian, you were not →

welcome. We wanted our spouses to feel included and American-speaking children to find reasons to join in. We wanted our community to exist far into the future.

Logically, the first task of the re-emerged *Bendruomene* chapter was to reinstate the Independence Day commemoration. Very quickly for our community (today some 180 families, many of mixed marriages), that commemoration became the culmination of the year's activities. The evening now attracts a broad audience from around the Northwest: children ((with child care a major component of the evening!) to senior citizens, American spouses, guests and dignitaries, and enthusiastic descendants of the earlier immigrants.

Looking back, we have heard an impressive array of speakers at the "16th of February", each one, indirectly perhaps, tying us into the political and cultural web of the national Lithuanian community. Among them: Lucija Baskauskaitė, Marija Gimbutienė, Romas Misiunas, Anžė Nelsienė, Tomas Remeikis, Vladas

Committee chaired by Juratė Mazeikaite Harrison, and with the long standing interest of Irena Blekyte. Our bilingual newsletter, "Tulpe Times", edited by Zita Petkus, is in its 10th year, as is "Lietutis", our folkdance group, also under the leadership of Zita Petkus. This group is delighting audiences in the Northwest and far beyond. Under the guidance of long-time president, Alice Lapatinskas, the Daughters of Lithuania organize summer picnics and other fundraisers. Every September we join with Latvians and Estonians for a Baltic picnic on the magnificent 200 acre campsite of the Latvian community. In our Lithuanian Studies group, we take turns presenting a variety of Lithuanian topics. There are the social and political gatherings - so often at the Brays, that their residence has become known as the unofficial "Lithuanian Hall of Seattle".

Geographically, Seattle may be in the "distant provinces," yet in recent years, an amazing number of noted travellers have found us here: our basketball stars, Sabonis, Marciulionis, Chomicius, and Kertinaitis when they played on the Soviet team; the champion rowing team from Trakai (including Olympic Medal winners, Narmontas and Kacinskas), photo artist R. Dichavicius, two original members of Sajudis, A. Degutis and A. Jouzaitis, parliamentarian S. Razma, former rector of the University of Vilnius J. Kubilius, pro-rector of the Kaunas Polytechnic Institute M. Rondonas, director of the National Library V. Bulavas, editor of "Gimtasys Krastas" A. Cekuolis, the late cosmonaut and test pilot R. Stankevicius, and many others.

We have also enriched the lives of young people on both sides of the Atlantic. Thanks to Prof. Gundar King, students from the Baltic States, for the second year now, are studying at Pacific Lutheran University under the USIA program. While the college takes care of the academics, the community, with its "aunts and uncles", provides another dimension to the students' education. Meanwhile, younger American students (already well over 300 by now) are being paired with youngsters in Kaunas and Vilnius through a pen pal program.

The number of books that were sent through private initiative directly to various libraries in Vilnius, Kaunas and beyond over the past two years surely has reached into the thousands. In addition, the University of Washington Library and the Seattle Public Library are officially involved in book exchange programs.

Recognizing the enormous value of contacts with the American community, we have not neglected that aspect of our activities. The congressional delegation - particularly Congressman John Miller and Senator Slade Gorton - are publicly sympathetic to the Baltic cause. We also have worked with the Mayor's office, various departments at the University of Washington, the ⇨



Exchange students from Kaunas (with "Goodwill Games" shirts).

Sakalys, Rimas Silbajoris. Even the Los Angeles Men's Quartet joined us one year!

Out of the speeches, the songs and dances, the exhibits, the meal shared from a table laden with traditional fare, a heightened sense of community emerges, bonding us with the past, with those around us, and with those in Lithuania. In spite of the fact that English predominates, the magic of Lithuanianism works.

It is not hard for a newcomer to our city to find abundant evidence of lively Lithuanian activity beyond the commemoration. The political involvement is constant, particularly through the Baltic Action

World Affairs Council, the World without War Council, the Ethnic Heritage Council, and the Hudson Institute. In 1989, the Northwest Chapter of the American Rowing Association helped bring the Lithuanian Rowing team to the U.S. And, we helped in the creation of the Peace and Freedom Coalition, a broad-based support group, and the Baltic Action Committee.

Currently, the Nordic Heritage Museum is in the process of mounting its third exhibit of Lithuanian culture. In the earlier two, in 1984 and 1990, Seattle saw outstanding presentations of Baltic creativity: art, folk art, amber, craft demonstrations, folk dances, lectures, even dinners. (The 1990 exhibit was to show visitors to the Goodwill Games that Balts are not Russians! The opening also was enjoyed by some "who's who" from the Baltic States, attending a Baltic academic conference.) This summer's exhibit will feature such Lithuanian photo artist as Dichavicius, Varnas, Kezys, Sonta, and Sutkus.

Seattle's St. James Cathedral has now celebrated its

some Lithuania women in their national dress. They had come unannounced to pray for Lithuania. Such gestures of sympathy reflect the impact of our exposure in Seattle.

Having become a part of a wider Seattle community gave us a perspective, perhaps broader than the traditional outlook of our parents. It was from this perspective that we watched the evolution of the sister city relationship between Seattle and Tashkent (they had been paired in the early '70's). If American institutions and individuals can be persuaded to expend such energy and creativity on a city which truly has very little in common with Seattle, would not Madison paired with Vilnius (proposed in 1987) present unlimited possibilities? Unfortunately, at that time, that view was not shared by the national Lithuanian leadership. The pairing was stalled temporarily, and our support for that effort drew considerable fire from communities around the country and from within Seattle as well. Today the benefits of the Madison-Vilnius ties are widely appreciated.



Participants in a "Black Ribbon Day" Demonstration.

third Lithuanian Mass: first the Jubilee Mass in 1987, then a Mass during the Goodwill Games, and recently, a solemn Mass to remember the fallen of January 13, 1991. On each occasion, the cavernous cathedral resounded with music of M. Ciurlionis, hymns of J. Bertulis and others, sung by the Cathedral choir. Fr. A. Saulaitis, and this past summer, Bishop P. Baltakis concelebrated; prayers and readings were offered in Lithuanian as our national costumes graced the proceedings. In fact, our Lithuanianism had left such an impression, that recently, the music director, Dr. James Savage, spontaneously broke the choir into "Marija, Marija" when he noticed in the congregation

The 1990 Goodwill Games was another controversial venture with the USSR, yet what an effective forum it provided for Lithuanian issues! For over a year prior to the Games, the media was absorbed with the question: will the Baltic, particularly the Lithuanian athletes, compete under their own flag? Rarely a week passed without a related article, interview, or editorial. Our voices were heard, at times nationwide (NPR), and even in Lithuania (VOA).

When the Games finally did arrive, so did our Baltic presence. If the athletes could not carry our flags, then we could and we did. Dressed in T-shirts of our own design ("Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Goodwill and Independence 1990"), holding our flags high, we stood at the gates at the opening ceremonies, at the basketball games, the marathon, and at other events. The T-shirts were sold to the general public as well, and more than one competing athlete was seen in them. In fact, the T-shirt must have brought luck to Arnoldas Bulovas, a Lithuanian exchange student from Kaunas. He had never run a marathon before, yet finished the 26 mile run well within the pack - wearing old, borrowed sneakers! (Incidentally, profits from the T-shirt project are going for Baltic humanitarian aid.)

The Goodwill Games featured non-sport events as well and again Lithuanian topics surfaced. Replaced at the last minute by J. Kazlas from New York, A. Jouzaitis was to be a delegate to the Human Rights Conference. A. Cekuolis, came at the invitation of the Seattle Post Intelligencer to the Communications Conference. He was interviewed by the press, spoke on the radio, gave public speeches, and wrote an ↔

article for nation-wide syndication. Rimantas Budrys, a force in Lithuania's Green movement, participated in the Environmental Conference. Rimantas Stankevicius flew his Sukoi 27 jet during the Opening Ceremonies. Tragically, a few weeks later, he was killed when his jet crashed in Italy. After his death, a number of local Americans, who had had contact with him (including Bob Walsh, the president of the Goodwill Games Organizing Committee), related vignettes showing Rimantas's pride in his nationality.

Many more Lithuanians from both sides of the Atlantic were here during that incredible summer of 1990. Some were financed by the Goodwill Games and came to those events, others came to programs at the Nordic Heritage Museum, to the Baltic academic conference, or just as tourists. Not always did they come under their own flag, but all carried it symbolically.

Over the past two years, historic turmoil in the USSR has made "Lithuania" a household word. For the Seattle area's 1.5 million inhabitants, we local Lithuanians put a human face on those dramatic events. Before television cameras and radio audiences, we spoke of Lithuania's plight. We endlessly wrote letters and articles and carried our placards and flags on the streets. On March 11, 1990, before a bank of TV

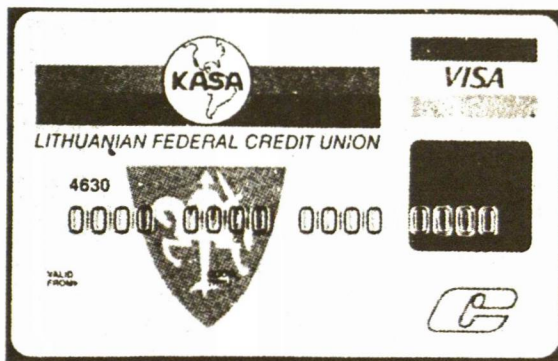
cameras and reporters and flanking Congressman John Miller, we hailed Lithuania's giant step toward independence. And, when the bloody events of January 13th splashed across the screens, we were there. We explained and again provided witness in the local community. No one questioned our non-Lithuanian names (Bray, Harrison, Johnson, Price, and others). What mattered was that we carried the message of Lithuania's determination and carried it eloquently. And, some of those who spoke, who wrote, or who marched for besieged Lithuania were the descendants of those early immigrants who years ago found that they also had a place in this community.

Seattle may well be a mirror of the future. Perhaps our spoken Lithuanian is becoming more halting or is even non-existent; perhaps our grounding in Lithuania's past is not so solid as it once was. We may not conform sufficiently to the patterns prescribed by our national leadership or by conventional opinion. Indeed,, we may be renegades, but we are succeeding. In this outpost of Lithuanian-American existence, Seattle, a tiny community has created its own "root system", reaching deep to our common heritage and far to present-day Lithuania, while nurturing those who will follow in the years to come. □

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Baltia Air Lines

A New Airline Which Will Be Offering Non-Stop Service From New York To Riga (And On To Vilnius).

by Joseph Arlauskas

By the end of September, travelers bound for Lithuania are expected to have an entirely new, different airline travel option available to them.

Baltia Air Lines, Inc., is expected to begin flying non stop service from New York (JFK Airport) to Riga, Latvia (with connecting, ground shuttle service from Riga, to Vilnius) 5 days per week, starting September 27th. (The ground shuttle service to Vilnius will be via buses to be put in place for that purpose. Identical service will be available from Riga to Tallin, Estonia. Such service is not uncommon; and is operated by *Icelandic Airlines*, from Luxembourg City to many points in Germany and even in Switzerland.)

This US based, brand new, carrier was recently awarded this and other routes in a competitive process conducted by the US Department of Transportation (DOT). (*Baltia* must begin service by September 27th; because "start up" of service, within 120 days of award of the routes, was one of the criteria for the award by the US Department of Transportation.)

Baltia was founded by Mr. Igor Dmitrowsky, a Latvian emigre; who is now a US Citizen. An experienced businessman, Mr. Dmitrowsky, since arrival in the United States, has been involved in various business activities; including the founding of *American Kefir Corporation*.

Mr. Dmitrowsky, a private pilot, is joined in the *Baltia* effort by several experienced airline professionals, including Mr. Raymond J. Puknys, a Lithuanian American (born in Kaunas, Lithuania); and who was a pilot for *Eastern Airlines* from 1968 until that airline's recent cessation of activities. Mr. Puknys is also a practicing attorney in the State of New Jersey; and serves as Director of European Flight Operations for *Baltia*.

Many in the airline and business communities were surprised at the US Department of Transportation's award of coveted routes to *Baltia*. In fact, *Baltia* faced competition from such established carriers as *TWA*. In awarding routes to *Baltia*, the US Department of Transportation noted that this award would serve to "...institute competitive transatlantic air service." Furthermore, DOT felt that *Baltia*, "...provides an

opportunity, not only for travelers to realize the major consumer benefits of its superior service proposals, but also to achieve the longer-term competitive benefits associated with expanding [the] number of carriers offering international air transportation." DOT is convinced that, "...[*Baltia's*] superior service will enable it to compete effectively." and that, "...*Baltia* is fit to operate the kinds of services that it is proposing...including the issue of its financial position."

Other principals involved with *Baltia* (and holding minor equity positions in same) include Mr. Harold J. Pareti who was an executive with *People Express*, and who, later, founded *Presidential Airways*; and Ms. Steffanie J. Lewis, who serves as General Counsel for *Baltia*, and who is associated with *The International Business Law Firm P.C.*, of Washington, DC.

The Chief Pilot for *Baltia* is Mr. Indulis Ozols, a Latvian emigre, with 23 years experience as an Airline Pilot. Vice President for Maintenance & Engineering is Mr. Ilgvars Norbergs, a Latvian emigre, as well (and formerly employed by *TWA*).

The remainder of this airline's team is comprised of several other emigres and native Americans with extensive airline experience.

Baltia management notes that they received assurances from the State Department that, "...the treaty creating the new route authority did not abrogate the position that the U.S. does not recognize annexation of the Baltic States."

The airline has begun limited marketing activities, already; and expects to initiate a broad based marketing program as soon as financing is finalized/as the start of operations gets closer. The airline is based at JFK airport; where corporate offices have just been opened.

This newly established, regular, frequent, non-stop service into the heart of the Baltics (under the auspices of a US based carrier) should go a long way towards minimizing disruptive actions by the Soviets in regard to travel to the Baltics. *Baltia's* entry into the market is a welcome, refreshing development!

(Author/Editor's Note: The information for this article was obtained from press releases, news stories and documents issued by *Baltia*; as well as from conversations, by the author, with some of the people mentioned in the article; and from US Department of Transportation public documents. □

Lithuanians In Pennsylvania

A Significant Presence In Pennsylvania, Lithuanians Have Been There From The Earliest Days In America.

by Stanley Algimantas Gecys

(Editor's Note: Mr. Gecys, a past president of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., is a Pennsylvania resident; where he serves on the Board of the Pennsylvania Heritage Affairs Commission; as the Lithuanian-American Commissioner. He originally wrote this article for inclusion in a publication of that Commission.)

Immigrants from Lithuania settled in North America as far back as the first half of the seventeenth century. Today, at least one and a half million Americans (perhaps many more) can claim Lithuanian ancestry. Of these, over four hundred thousand reside in Pennsylvania. If they are not as visible as some of the other ethnic groups, it is because Lithuanian-Americans, by character, are reticent, preoccupied with their daily life, their ethnic religious congregations, numerous societies, and their ancestral homeland - Lithuania.

Waves of Immigration

Lithuanian immigration to these shores has gone through several periods or waves. Each wave of immigrants was distinct in its motivation to come to America; its social composition varied from period to period. Thus, the first Lithuanian settlers were noblemen, soldiers of fortune, artisans and would-be scholars, Protestant in religion. They left the religious and national strife of mid-seventeenth century to settle down in the tolerant Dutch and English colonies on the shores of the Atlantic. They intermarried and in a generation lost their Lithuanian heritage. Best known Lithuanian immigrant of that period was Dr. Alexander Carolus Cursius. In 1659 the Directors of the West India Company at Amsterdam engaged him as Latin schoolmaster in New Amsterdam. Cursius is credited with being the first secondary school teacher in America.

The second wave consisted of military gentry who had flocked to the American revolutionary cause. Thaddeus Kosciusko, named Brigadier General of the Continental Army, and considered the "Father of American Artillery", is the best known arrival of that period. Poles and Lithuanians claim him as their own. Born from a Lithuanian noble family in a border region

of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Kosciusko spoke and wrote in Polish. After the War of American Revolution, he returned home and in 1793 unsuccessfully led a revolt against Russia for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Subsequent rebellions in Poland and Lithuania against the Russian occupation in 1831 and 1863 again brought several hundred Lithuanian noblemen, former soldiers, and patriotic Catholic clergymen to the United States. These newcomers were political emigres, devoted to the restoration of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Lithuanian immigration to these shores has gone through several periods ...

The fourth wave spanning a period of nearly fifty years / 1868 - 1914 / saw the arrival of half a million Lithuanian immigrants. Though peasants for the most part, these newcomers were molded by leaders who had been influenced by the Lithuanian National Renaissance. This wave of immigrants proceeded to separate themselves from the Polish influence and devoted much of their energy and resources to establishment of Lithuanian parishes, newspapers, cultural, social and fraternal organizations. This immigration provided American industry with much needed physical resources. Countless thousands of able-bodied Lithuanian peasants labored on railway construction projects, in coal mines, slaughter-houses, steel mills, and garment factories.

The fifth wave came in the inter-war years / 1919 - 1940/9. Though small in absolute numbers / 30,000 /, this group provided intellectuals and cultural leaders for the old colonies of compatriots.

The sixth and most recent wave consisted of the so-called displaced persons / 1949 - 1953 / who were ⇨

political refugees from Soviet occupation. Numbering 32,000, the great majority of them were intellectuals, cultural leaders, and professionals. This group of new arrivals strengthened the Lithuanian-American communities and renewed their interest in Lithuanian culture and heritage.

First Settlers in Pennsylvania

The first settlers from Lithuania were a group of Mennonites who in 1690 settled outside of Philadelphia together with their co-religionists from Switzerland. Again, Lithuanians reappear in Pennsylvania during the War of American Revolution. They serve in the Continental Army and in the Polish Legion of Count Casimir Pulaski. Their stays in Pennsylvania were brief and no record exists of any permanent settlements. Similarly, it is not known if any Lithuanians who fought in the War of 1812 chose Pennsylvania for their domicile.

The first Lithuanian community in the United States was established in 1869 in Danville, Pennsylvania. By 1872 the Danville community had 200 Lithuanian settlers.

Historical records note the ordination of a missionary priest Augustime Gallitzin on March 18, 1795. Later known as "the apostle of the Alleghenies", Father Gallitzin was a descendant of the Lithuanian grand ducal family of Gediminas. He is said to have founded the town of Loretto, Pennsylvania, and his tomb displays his coat of arms with the Lithuanian Knight. Gallitzin bears the distinction of being the first Catholic priest to be ordained in the United States. All other clergy at that time had been ordained outside the United States.

The first Lithuanian community in the United States was established in 1869 in Danville, Pennsylvania, with the arrival of five Lithuanians to work as track layers for the railroad. By 1872 the Danville community had 200 Lithuanian settlers.

Shamokin was the other Pennsylvania locality to attract Lithuanian emigrants in 1869. Its railroad and anthracite coal mines held the promise of steady work. Upon their arrival in Shamokin the Lithuanian immigrants sought to establish a working relationship with the Poles, a people sharing the same Catholic faith and much of the same history. Together, they felt better able to cope with the rather hostile attitude of

the earlier settlers. By 1871 there was in Shamokin a joint St. Adalbert Mutual Society and a Lithuanian-Polish parish was begun to be organized. Harmony between the two nationalities, however, was short lived. Typical of the period, there were numerous complaints, demonstrations, lawsuits, even rioting. With a substantial increase in new arrivals, in 1889 Lithuanians organized an exclusively Lithuanian Society - St. George's - and three years later a separate Lithuanian parish - St. Michael's.

Shamokin has the distinction of being the site of the first Lithuanian printing press in the New World. Its owner, a former teacher and rebel against the Czar of Russia, in 1874 published the first Lithuanian language newspaper in America Lietuwiszka Gazieta and embarked on the printing of the first English-Lithuanian dictionary. When a fire destroyed his still unfinished work, he moved his publishing house to Brooklyn, New York.

Other Lithuanian communities in Pennsylvania for the most part followed in the footsteps of Shamokin. Thus 1872 saw the first Lithuanian family to settle in Shenandoah. Others followed, settling in the outlying communities such as Yatesville, Mahanoy Plane, Gilberton, Tamaqua and later in Scranton, Freeland, Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Forest City, Du Bois, Hazleton, Minersville, etc. For a long while Shenandoah was referred to as the Lithuanian capital city in Pennsylvania. It was in Shenandoah that the country's first Lithuanian parish was founded, multiple societies were organized, and Lithuanians began to play an active part in the town government. In 1895 a Lithuanian lawyer was elected Shenandoah's mayor.

Migration in search of better jobs as well as new immigrants from Lithuania brought Lithuanians to Pennsylvania's two largest cities - Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Close to Pittsburgh, Lithuanian communities sprung up in Homestead, Braddock, Duquesne, McKeesport, McKees Rocks, Carnegie. Lithuanian enclaves were formed in Chester, Allentown, Reading, Easton as well as Philadelphia itself; which still boasts three Lithuanian parishes and a culturally and politically active community.

Media Keeps Heritage Alive

Lithuanian language newspapers were published for the purpose of keeping national consciousness alive as well as to inform about the activities of the numerous communities throughout the United States. They also were the primary source of news of what was happening in Lithuania. A number of Lithuanian newspapers began their publication in Pennsylvania. After the demise of the newspaper first published in Shamokin, the year 1886 saw the appearance of Wienibe Lietuvninku. Under an abbreviated name Vienybe the paper continued to be published until 1985, when it ceased publication. It has the ⇨

distinction of being the longest-lived Lithuanian newspaper in the world.

Another newspaper published in Pennsylvania was Saule. Begun in Shenandoah in 1888, it ceased publication in 1959. The Lithuanian language daily, Draugas, currently published in Chicago, originated in Wilkes-Barre in 1909.

With the advent of radio broadcasting, Lithuanian radio programs began to be broadcast in the Pennsylvania communities with greater numbers of Lithuanians. Started in 1932, Paul and Gertrude Dargis' Lithuanian radio program continued to transmit until 1990 from Pittsburgh, reaching the Lithuanian communities in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and eastern Ohio. Vytautas Yucius directs another radio program geared to the Lithuanians of the Pittsburgh area. In Philadelphia the "Voice of the Lithuanian Community" was to succeed a few privately owned radio programs. In the 39th year of its existence, the program serves Lithuanians living the Greater Philadelphia area. There also is a Lithuanian radio program to serve the Lithuanians in the anthracite region.

Fraternal Organizations

The major national Lithuanian fraternal organizations - Lithuanian Alliance of America and the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Alliance - had their start in Pennsylvania in 1889 and 1901 respectively. Both fraternal organizations continue to maintain a strong presence in Pennsylvania, with their long term national presidents the late Paul Dargis and Thomas Mack, Esq. residing in the state. Bi-lingual newspapers Garsas and Tevyne, published in Brooklyn, reach numerous members throughout Pennsylvania.

Lithuanian fraternal organizations continue to maintain a strong presence in Pennsylvania.

Lithuanian Presence in Pennsylvania Today

Economic decline in Pennsylvania's steel and coal industries brought about gradual migration of the population to the other regions of the United States. The Lithuanian-Americans were not excepted. As subsequent generations of former immigrants learned English and through education improved their skills, their mobility increased. Thus the past forty years saw the establishment of numerous Lithuanian-American communities in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Florida and California. Gains of the other regions come

at a considerable expense to that of Pennsylvania.

Migration notwithstanding, the presence of Lithuanian-Americans in the Commonwealth is a formidable one. Almost forty Lithuanian Catholic parishes and some fifty cultural, fraternal and social organizations continue to function in the state. Three national public affairs umbrella organizations - the Lithuanian-American Council, the Lithuanian-American Community, and Knights of Lithuania - have successfully embraced a large segment of Pennsylvania's Lithuanian-Americans. Until less than three years ago the National Executive Committee of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. maintained its headquarters in Philadelphia. Currently the National Council of the Knights of Lithuania, with Anna Klizas Wargo serving a second term as its president, conducts its national activities out of an anthracite community of Pennsylvania.

Economic decline in the steel and coal industries brought about gradual migration of the Lithuanian population to other regions.

Be it the former football great Johnny Unitas / Jonas Jonaitis / or the present day, versatile actress Ann Jillian / known to Lithuanians as Jurate Nausėdaitė /, virtually all Lithuanian-Americans strive to bring the Soviet occupation of their ancestral land to an end. The strong memories of former years of national independence unites and bonds Lithuanian-Americans. It also serves as an impetus to maintain their ethnic traditions, to learn Lithuanian, and to foster heritage studies. Recent years have seen a rebirth in ethnic consciousness and yearning to learn about one's heritage. Adult education groups, supplementing the Saturday school network of heritage studies, have mushroomed throughout the communities. It drives home a point about the need for a strong goal-oriented Pennsylvania Heritage Commission and lauds the efforts of Governor R. Casey, Lt. Governor M. Singel and Commission's executive director S. Staub, Ph.D. for their vision to encourage and promote heritage studies as a means of becoming better Americans through a shared ethnic experience.

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AABS

Association For The Advancement Of Baltic Studies (AABS): Twenty-Two Years Of Advancing Baltic Studies.

by Audrone Barunaite Willeke

The organizers of the *Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS)* had a far-reaching vision when they laid the foundation for this organization in 1966. They envisioned an open forum in which scholars from various disciplines interested in Baltic studies could interact and exchange ideas and information. The political scientists, historians, literary critics, linguists, economists, folklorists, musicologists, architects, and other scholars who studied the cultures of Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania often worked in isolation. AABS was founded on the premise that an interdisciplinary, cross-national approach to the Baltic region would help to promote research and general interest in this part of the world. As an academic association, AABS was to be strictly non-partisan, inviting scholars of any political persuasion and of any nationality to present their research and to join in the debates.

This vision of a scholarly forum for Baltic research became reality in 1968 when the first AABS conference was held at the *University of Maryland*. Since then AABS has organized twelve biannual conferences, the last of which took place at the *University of Washington*, Seattle, in June 1990. In addition to the conference, AABS supports the dissemination of information by its publications. The *Journal of Baltic Studies*, published quarterly, include articles submitted by scholars from around the world, recently with contributions from the Baltic states. The *AABS Newsletter*, also issued quarterly, highlights current activities and provide special reports. Both periodicals are published in English with occasional contributions in German. The language of the biannual conferences is also English. More than a dozen books dealing with Baltic issues have been published or subsidized by the AABS publication program.

The AABS has over 1,000 members world-wide, most of them residing in the USA, but also in Canada, Europe, and Asia. While it has always been open to participation from scholars in the Baltics and Eastern Europe, the changed political situation has opened many new possibilities for interaction. Among the 200 registrants at the 1990 Seattle conference, thirty-two

scholars were from Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania. Eight rectors from the institutions of higher learning in the Baltic states participated in discussions on Baltic academic renewal and reform. In its recent activities, AABS has forged strong links with academic institutions in the Baltics through such efforts as scholar and student exchanges, publication exchanges, reciprocal attendance at and organization of symposia. A major effort is underway to stimulate self-study and reform of Baltic universities by providing expert Western consultants for this process. Plans have been made to establish AABS chapters in the Baltic states.

A major effort is underway to stimulate self-study and reform of Baltic universities by providing expert Western consultants for the process.

The day-to-day management and financial stability of AABS have been the work of Executive Director Janis Gaigulis who has volunteered his services to the organization during the twenty-two years of its existence. Supported with a grant from the *National Endowment for the Humanities*, AABS has begun to build its own endowment, the *Baltic Studies Fund*, which will ensure continued financial stability and the resources needed to fulfill its mission—to advance Baltic studies.

The current President of AABS is Dr. Tomas Venclova, Professor of Slavic Literature at *Yale University*. The next AABS conference is scheduled to be held in Toronto, Canada, in June 1992. For information about the conference or membership contact Executive Director Janis Gaigulis, 111 Knob Hill Road, Hackettstown, NJ 07840, Tel: 908 852-5258. □

"Memories Of Lithuania"

*Dr. Jack Stukas Celebrates A Golden Jubilee
Of Memorable Lithuanian Radio Programming In New Jersey.*

by **Loretta I. Stukas**

Back in 1941, long before ethnicity became fashionable, Jack Stukas, then a 16-year-old Lithuanian American, inspired by his immigrant parents' love of their homeland and his teachers' (the Lithuanian-Franciscan Sisters) devotion to its culture, and compelled by concern for a Lithuania just occupied by Stalinist Russia, started a Lithuania Radio Hour in New York. The Radio Hour, called "*Memories of Lithuania*", was to offer its listeners more than memories...It provided a link to all that is Lithuanian, culturally, religiously, politically and socially.

Today, a growing number of Lithuanian Americans of all generations tune in for a "journey" back to Lithuania, via her melodic songs and her beautiful language. In this short "magazine of the airways", religious leaders give inspirational messages, various personalities provide news of Lithuanian activities here and abroad, and listeners are treated to modern and folk music, poetry and history.

Youthful listeners found an opportunity to actively participate in their heritage, by joining the choirs and dance groups Jack Stukas organized as an outgrowth of the radio hour. "Lithuanian Echoes" Coral Ensemble began its life in 1941, and later became the "Ruta" Women's Ensemble, both directed by Dr. Stukas. When "Ruta" grew into a folk dance and song ensemble, and then into the "Ruta Mixed Chorus", a variety of directors joined in the work.

Jack also had a hand in organizing other groups, including the "Mothers and Daughters", the "Zibuokles", and "Vilija" groups.

He was the first to produce a series of Lithuanian TV programs in New York (1956 to 1958).

For the last 26 years, he has also directed and produced the weekly program called "*Music of Lithuania*" providing English news and commentary about Lithuania and her culture. This program, and the Lithuanian language "*Memories of Lithuania*" now provide listeners with two straight hours of programming about Lithuania every Sunday, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, from WSOU-FM, *Seton Hall University's* radio station, 89.5 on the dial.

Dr. Jack Stukas holds a BS degree from *New York University*, an MS degree from *Columbia University*, and a Ph.D. degree also from *NYU*. He also studied European Economic Problems on a special scholarship at *Oxford University*, England.

His doctoral dissertation served as a basis for his book, entitled *Awakening Lithuania*, published in 1966 with a second edition published in 1990.

Today, 50 years later, that dedicated "16-year-old" has matured into Dr. Jack Stukas, professor emeritus of *Seton Hall University*, past Vice-President of *VLIK (Supreme Committee to Liberate Lithuania)*, Honorary Member and past national president of the *Knights of Lithuania*, and a moving force in many other Lithuanian organizations, including *The Lithuanian-American Council of New York*, as President.

His dedication to the Lithuanian cause has not waned and his sacrifices have borne fruit. The programs, with their associated activities, have kept alive memories of Lithuania in the hearts and minds of immigrants and inspired a rebirth of Lithuanian spirit in American born Liths, many of whom might not have appreciated their heritage otherwise. They have been one more vehicle for publicizing the Lithuanian cause to non-Liths, and for providing a sounding board for the most recent refugees from Communism.

The events of the past year, since Lithuania redeclared her independence in March, 1990, have been covered fully on "*Memories of Lithuania*" and "*Music of Lithuania*". And the American Media - and even Japanese TV - have paid special interest to the Lithuanian programs and their director and listeners as well in relating how Lithuanian Americans reacted to the events in Lithuania.

A visitor from Lithuania recently remarked, "The zeal of the American Lithuanians gave us courage...". The sacrifice of 50 years and the moral, physical and financial support of listeners have contributed much to that zeal, and, we hope, will continue to encourage support of Lithuania's cause until we can announce proudly that Lithuania is indeed free and independent!

Ilgiausiu metu - Dr. Jack Stukas, "*Memories of Lithuania*" and all its listeners and supporters. □

The Language Lesson

*A Delayed Newspaper Helps Teach The Language;
And Helps Convey The Truth That Some Want To Distort.*

by David Skirkevicus

I am teaching myself to speak Lithuanian, in part, to keep the language alive in my otherwise very American family. One very good way to do this is to read Lithuanian newspapers. Lately, though, this practice has become more than a simple language lesson, and I am compelled to share what I have read with those who speak no Lithuanian. Yesterday a friend gave me a back issue of *Gimtasis Krastas* (*The Native Land*.) This gentleman has a habit of making notes in the margins, routinely marking the date he receives each issue. Consequently, this little newspaper has a lot to say, both in its words and in its physical presence.

This issue is dated January 24-30, 1991, that is, shortly after the events of Bloody Sunday, when Soviet troops slaughtered unarmed civilians gathered at the Vilnius TV tower. It is noted that the paper arrived on April 15th because of a "postal blockade, 2-1/2 months." Even though my Lithuanian is rudimentary, I am immediately stricken by emotions that leap off each page. There is a photograph of Vilnius Cathedral surrounded by a throng of mourners and nine hearses. The leading article is a eulogy given by Justinas Marcinkevicius. Of the dead, he concludes, "Their hearts shine with life eternal upon Lithuania. We live and struggle by that light." In an interview, Supreme Council minister Egidijus Bickauskas maintains that Mikhail Gorbachev had some role in the massacre. There is a scathing open letter to Major General Uschopchik, who led the attack. In it, O.V. Adriannov, a soldier from Kaliningrad, scorns him for soiling the uniform of "the People's Army, with the People's blood."

In the Letters section, a Ukrainian writes from Kiev, "I know about your misfortune and my heart is with you, Lithuanian brothers and sisters!" A Vilnius resident mourns, "How long and how naively we trusted in Mr. Gorbachev's goodwill!" Another wonders whether the "great, powerful, rich, righteous nations" even care what has happened.

I lay this little paper alongside my own city newspaper, fat with goings-on: our own tribulations, the Kennedys, what Madonna is up to, what's on TV and what Dan Quayle said this time. How different these two papers are! Nevertheless, in the front section one reads about Mr. Gorbachev's pleas for financial assistance. Several paragraphs away is a pointed reference to the failed crack-down in the Baltics. Time has passed and much else has happened, but the issue is still alive here.

And this humble Lithuanian newspaper of four pages, worn, dog-eared, folded and written on, has in its own way become an artifact, a witness, a real part of what happened on that terrible night in Vilnius. Though now like an out-of-breath messenger boy, it does what any good agent of the news should do—it still spreads the word. A newspaper really is a wonderful thing.

***Mr. Gorbachev ... we Lithuanians
in America know what happened in
Vilnius.***

Mr. Gorbachev, when you do come around looking for financial aid, please know this: We understand the magnitude of the crisis in the USSR and hope for its peaceful and lawful resolution. Yet after all that has happened we still see no concrete plan for economic and political reform. We Lithuanians in America know what happened in Vilnius. We are still talking about it.

And we will continue to spread the word. □

State Of The Lithuanian Economy

*Sifting Through Statistics, Even Very Distorted
Ones, In An Attempt To Determine The True State Of Affairs.*

by **Albert Cizauskas**

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Detailed information on the current state of the Lithuanian economy is hard to come by. Even a request to Lithuanian authorities went unanswered. However, *Tiesa (Truth)*, the organ of the Lithuanian Communist Party, published a lengthy summary of the country's economic and social conditions during 1989. Taking into account the ideological bias of its source, the report still provided a revealing glimpse into the Lithuanian economy before *Sajudis* terminated the Party's monopoly of power in March 1990. As such it has considerable historic value.

The most significant indicator of a nation's economy is the Gross National Product or GNP (the money value of the annual flow of goods and services) it summarizes in one single statistic the economic performance of the entire country. There are several problems with the communist application of the Western GNP concept, however. One is that transactions at every phase of the productive process are counted, instead of the end of the process as in the West. Not only does this Marxist practice over-record the real value of output, but official Soviet statistics also under-report inflation and hence again over-report the value of output. Because of these and other difficulties, Soviet statistics should be handled with caution, the user keeping in mind their noncomparability with Western macroeconomic reporting. One Lithuanian economist even went so far as to say that the *Tiesa* report is in large part an exercise in concealment. Nevertheless, perhaps unwittingly, the report reveals even as it conceals. Or perhaps, as someone said of another country's economic statistics, communist data is like a bikini. What they reveal is interesting but what they conceal is vital.

Tiesa credits the Lithuanian economy in 1989 with a GNP slightly more than 3 percent higher than that of the previous year, a modestly good achievement. We are not, however, given the money value of this product nor are we informed at the outset whether allowance has been made for price changes from one year to the next to arrive at some semblance of the "real value" of the reported 3 percent difference in the GNP of both years. If, for instance, the GNP experienced a negative

growth in 1988, then the 3 percent increase in 1989 might only measure a lower rate of decline.

Curiously buried under a mass of numbing statistics are two statements dealing with this very problem. One is that the GNP growth of 3 percent in 1989 was given in "real terms" (*"facticnemis kainomis"*), and the other that the ruble lost 10 percent of its value in 1989 (that is, the ruble underwent, at least in Lithuania, an inflation of 10 percent). Why these two statements, crucial to a proper reading of the *Tiesa* report, were not given more prominence is puzzling. But if they mean what they purport to say, then the compilers of the report are telling us that the Lithuanian economy in 1989 grew at the high rate of 13 percent in current money terms (10 percent inflation plus 3 percent real growth).

... in 1988 ... on a per capita basis, Lithuanian exports ... were the largest in the Soviet Union.

Prices in a controlled economy, however, are set by the state for reasons other than real costs, generally for political and ideological considerations. Even the former Soviet Prime Minister, Nicolai Ryzkhov, ridiculed the Soviet pricing system as a "kingdom of distorting mirrors." In addition, because of the many subsidies implicit in a socialized economy, it is virtually impossible to arrive at an acceptable notion of "real costs" and "real prices". On top of this, consumer prices are only one of several indices economists use to measure real changes in an economy.

Since to try to resolve the issue of real growth under these circumstances would be analogous to the medieval debate about how many angels can stand on the head of a pin, it's best, for our purpose, simply to note that the Lithuanian economy is said to have grown 33 percent in 1989 in an atmosphere of sharp ⇨

inflationary pressures. These pressures undoubtedly increased last year with the economic blockade and the worsening political situation. How much may be gauged from the attempt of the former Lithuanian Prime Minister, Kazimiera Prunskiene, to raise consumer prices 300 percent last year, a startling recommendation which led to her forced resignation.

The economic rot in the Soviet Union is spreading to Lithuania ...

In early January of this year, the *Financial Times* of London reported that Lithuanian economists feared the onset of runaway inflation. According to the same journal, the Baltic republics and Moscow have been waging a price war, escalating the cost of goods shipped to each other. Actions such as these have contributed to heating up an inflation that is now said to be almost out of control throughout the Soviet Union.

To discourage hoarding and black marketeering, Gorbachev raised prices at the beginning of April on half of the food and other consumer goods sold in state-run stores by as much as 250 to 1,000 percent, according to an *AP* report. So long as prices are controlled, however, no matter how high the levels, experience has shown that the black market quickly adjusts upwards so that the Soviet economy will remain stalled between the rock of inflation and the hard place of dwindling supplies. In the meantime, the deluge of Soviet inflation, unfortunately, is flooding Lithuania as well.

The *Tiesa* report is lengthy and only a brief sampling is offered below. A note of caution is due the reader, however. The report employs a technical and socialist vocabulary so that the writer cannot guarantee his translations and interpretations are necessarily correct.

Labor Force

The Lithuanian economy employed 1.9 million persons in 1989, slightly over half the country's 3.7 million inhabitants, a figure virtually unchanged from that of the previous year. Lithuania's socialized sector accounted for the lion's share of the labor force with 1.6 million, a figure some 20,000 lower than in 1988. *Tiesa* attributes the slight loss to the small but fast-growing private sector where employment quadrupled in 1989. Evidently, the camel of private enterprise was vigorously poking its nose into Lithuania's socialized tent.

The average earnings of a Lithuanian worker amounted to 241 rubles monthly, 18 rubles higher than

the previous year. These figures are difficult to translate into US dollar terms due to the uncertain value of the ruble. But if we take what some hold to be an acceptable rate of exchange on the black market of 25 rubles to the dollar, then the average monthly remuneration of a Lithuanian worker came to about \$10 in 1989. To this must be added, however, the indeterminate value of the many subsidized commodities and services provided by a socialized state. Average earnings in the tiny private sector, which was not given in absolute terms, reportedly quadrupled over the year.

Milk, Meat and Vodka

Lithuania's food industry is both varied and substantial, its output in 1989 marginally higher than the year before. The data, at times in absolute figures, and at times in percentage terms, appear to suggest that food supply was ample both for domestic consumption as well as export. A substantial and growing proportion, however, is siphoned off into the black market for smuggling to the Soviet Union where widespread shortages command premium prices for Lithuanian produce. This, of course, is having a negative effect upon availabilities in the Lithuanian market.

Milk and milk products (butter and cheese) were by far the leading commodities, amounting to almost one-third by value of all processed food products. Other important staples were meat, vegetables and fruit, and bread. While meat output declined slightly, availability was still quite high, at a reported six pounds per person per week of which about ten percent consisted of the popular Lithuanian sausage, "*desra*". Fresh fish catches came to some 280,000 metric tons, eight percent below the government's estimates, but more than enough to ensure a healthy variety to the diet. In addition, there were four pounds of vegetables, three pounds of fruit, a half-dozen eggs, and over seven pounds of Lithuanian bread reportedly available per capita per week, much of which was exported.

In the unprocessed agricultural sector, grain output in 1989 came to 3.3 million tons (tonnage is metric in this report), up by 10 percent from the previous year. Potato output was marginally higher (1.9 million tons), sugar beets much higher by 25 percent (1.1 million tons) and flax fiber up by 14 percent (15,000 tons).

The livestock situation was also satisfactory: 2.4 million head of cattle of which 850,000 were cows; 2.7 million pigs; and 18 million poultry.

Overall, *Tiesa* observed that farm productivity on state and communal farms was declining, but this was more than made up for on farmers' private plots.

One further sector deserves mention. Listed under the processed food category, cigarette manufacture fell six percent, but a big surprise was that liquor ("*dektine ir likoris*" probably vodka and virita), jumped by a whopping 24 percent, with beer flowing at a distant but still decent eight percent increase over the previous →

year. Perhaps the heavy rise in alcoholic beverages may have been due to the tensions gripping Lithuanian society during the revolutionary years of 1989. Some of the vastly increased output may also have been shipped to relieve the average Russian's proverbial thirst. *Tiesa* had no comment other than a terse observation that the surge in liquor was "unanticipated." No data was given in absolute terms.

Provided the Lithuanian distributional system was functioning efficiently, the food items selected above, out of a great many more, suggest that Lithuanians in 1989 had access to a balanced and nutritional diet, and that the country had enough left over for export, an important factor in the food-short Soviet Union.

Heavy Industry

Wide swings in output of a highly diversified industrial sector were evident in 1989 but without a discernible pattern. Thus, the manufacture of home refrigerators rose only slightly, whereas vacuum sweepers rose by 12 percent. Black and white TV sets fell six percent but colored TV vaulted upwards by 34 percent. Output of bicycles plunged 10 percent but furniture-making advanced six percent.

Other sub-sectors were fine porcelain, down by 10 percent, glass and crystal unchanged, toilet and laundry soap up by five percent but the vitally important sector of paper and paper products down by five percent, possibly affecting the printing of newspapers and journals of opinion.

Construction of "*Sodo Nameliai*", or garden cottages (which began as simple sheds on weekend farmer's plots), experienced one of the highest increases of all items in the report, 38 percent. On the other hand, construction of homes, apartments and commercial buildings, fell seven percent below Plan targets. *Tiesa* gave no explanation.

For unexplained reasons, no figures were reported for certain items, except that production was said to be lower than central planners had anticipated. Among these were folding bicycles, personal computers and motorcycles.

Light Industry

In this sector were included clothing, shoes, hosiery and underwear as major items. On the whole, output rose by four percent, but again with sharp variations. For instance, silken goods shot up 22 percent whereas cotton goods fell 16 percent.

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Who Owes Whom?

A major gap in the *Tiesa* report is the lack of data on Lithuania's foreign and intra-Soviet trade. The *Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Association (WEFA)* in Washington kindly made available Soviet data on such trade as amended by the Association. The data

were mostly for 1988, so that trend lines could not be observed and were given largely in percentage terms. (Partial data for 1987 indicated that very little change in export trade occurred in 1988 in comparison with the previous year.)

Lithuania, despite its small size, occupied sixth place as importer, and seventh place as exporter, among the 15 republics. It was shown as a net importer both in intra-Soviet trade and that with foreign countries (destinations were not given). The country's total negative trade balance for 1988 was valued at 1.5 billion rubles, or three percent of the Soviet total.

**With regard to agriculture ...
Lithuania was the fifth largest
supplier of meat and dairy products
to the other republics.**

With regard to agriculture alone, Lithuania was the fifth largest supplier of meat and dairy products to the other republics. The value of Lithuanian food exports would be even higher were it not for the fact that such exports are skewed downwards in intra-Soviet trade because of substantial USSR subsidies to keep food prices artificially low to domestic consumers.

What seems surprising at first is that Lithuanian industrial goods made up about three-quarters by value of exports to foreign and intra-Soviet destinations. This, however, is partly an outgrowth of the Soviet emphasis on industry, and, as mentioned above, of under-reporting the value of food exports.

As for imports, Lithuania bought large quantities of coal, metals, minerals, fertilizers and natural gas, mostly from other regions in the Soviet Union, raw materials needed in great part to operate Soviet-built industries for the benefit of the Soviets.

Lithuanian observers contend that there is serious under-reporting of the value of industrial exports as well. For example, a large oil refinery at Mazeikai processes 12 million tons annually of Soviet crude, and exports 1.4 million tons of gasoline, 1.8 million tons of diesel fuel, and one million tons of jet fuel, for which Lithuanian is said to be underpaid for the finished product and overcharged the crude.

In addition to the vagaries of Soviet pricing, a thriving black market absorbs a considerable portion of Lithuanian trade not reported in official Soviet statistics. All these factors serve to minimize Lithuania's trading position vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. There is little doubt that with independence, more objective reporting based on world market prices would reveal a ⇨

trading position closer to parity for both nations.

A highly significant point made by WEF A is that, on a per capita basis, Lithuanian exports (and those of the other Baltic nations) were the largest in the Soviet Union. This finding by an objective source suggests that the Baltic countries had developed a higher level of productivity, even under Communist mismanagement, than elsewhere in the Soviet Union. Productivity is especially important as an essential element underpinning the ability of a country to support itself.

Soviet economists are prone to raise the question "Who Owes Whom?" to suggest that Lithuania's currently reported negative trade balance with the Soviet Union and supposed lack of natural resources argue for a structural inability to pay its own way. This point of view, however, ignores the Soviet's distorted trade reporting and other abnormalities of Marxist practice. It also ignores the character of the Lithuanian people, industrious, intelligent, and able to adjust to changing circumstances, the most precious resource of all.

The pejorative implication in the question "Who Owes Whom?" may also be countered by asking "Who Feeds Whom?" The five leading food exporters in 1988 to the USSR as a whole were the Ukraine, Georgia, Moldavia, Latvia, and Lithuania, four of which have opted for independence and upon all of which the Soviet Union depends for its food supply (except for agricultural credits given by foreign nations.)

The Future?

With independence, the report of agricultural produce, as in the inter-war years, is a strong card which the country could play to its advantage. Also, the aging industrial complex in Lithuania would require substantial modernization to compete on world markets, and perhaps even some dismantling. Financial aid from the West could provide needed transitional support. A Common Market with the other two Baltic states is an objective that is being pursued even under present less-than-ideal conditions. When the time comes, as come it will, the melding of the three economies would create a strong trading unit, the fourth largest (in terms of 1988 exports) behind only Russia, the Ukraine and Byelorussia.

The above, however, presumes a rational end to the current political-economic mess in Gorbachev's Soviet Union. But what the near future holds cannot be seen, even through glass, darkly. One thing nevertheless remains clear. The economic rot in the Soviet Union is spreading to Lithuania as Gorbachev, like the Sorcerer's Apprentice, is being overwhelmed by forces he himself let loose but whose force he has underestimated.

Whatever happens, we can be sure that economic and political freedom will one day, once again, soon or late, reign in the land of our ancient forbears. □

Lithuanian Footballs

Lithuanians making footballs (soccer balls, to us) in a joint venture with a British firm? Probably just a delusion brought on by too much guff about *glasnost* and *perestroika*.

But wait a minute. Researching in the Library of Congress, I came across an article dated March 28, 1990 in London's prestigious journal, the *Financial Times*. A British firm manufacturing footballs worked out a joint venture in 1989 with a Lithuanian firm called "*Neringa*", maker of a hodge-podge of products, ranging all the way from toys and dolls to model cars.

The aim was to have a British-Lithuanian venture produce, in Lithuania, two million footballs the first year and more in following years for sale both in the Soviet Union and in Western markets. The two partners would share equally in profits, including hard currency. The British firm would supply equipment and manufacturing and marketing know-how, with an initial outlay of close to half a million dollars. The Lithuanians would supply the raw material, workers and enter into the Soviet market. Management would be equally shared. The first football rolled off the production line on January 4, 1990.

The very formation of *Wembley-Neringa* suggests that the Lithuanian republic, at least in the period prior to the most recent oppressive actions including the blockade and Bloody Sunday, was able to act pretty much independently in the matter of foreign investment.

When President Landsbergis, in his address at the Washington, DC headquarters of the US Chamber of Commerce, this past May 4th, welcomed US investment and assured American businessmen of protection under Lithuanian law, he was implicitly stating that such independence was still a fact of business life in Lithuania. He did, however, acknowledge the ever-present danger of Soviet interference; but was optimistic that foreign investment, advantageous for both Lithuania and the Soviet Union as well, would be permitted to operate.

The question that remains is this: Is *Wembley-Neringa* still making footballs, despite the difficulties brought on by the crippling Soviet economic blockade in the Spring of 1990, as well as in the ensuing Soviet violence? If so, it would be a good sign for American firms to get a foothold, now, in Lithuania.

- Albert Cizauskas

Community With A Capital "C"

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

by Ramune Kubilius

First children benefit from *Lithuanian Children's Hope*:

Lithuanian Children's Hope (Lietuvos Vaiku Viltis) is a committee to assist disabled children from Lithuania. The Committee, chaired by Dr. Regina Kulys, a professor of social work (not sociology professor as reported in another **BRIDGES** article), was begun by and is a division of the *Lithuanian American Community, Inc. (LAC) Human Services Council*. While other committees have been established to help Lithuanian children (*S.O.S. Vaikai-Children's Relief* in Lithuania, for example), "LVV" has undertaken a project which is very well-defined at this time with the possibility of expansion in the future.

Lithuanian children from infancy to the age of 18 are being screened in Lithuanian cities of Kaunas and Vilnius for orthopedic and neurological disorders and burn injuries. The diagnoses have to meet with criteria set by *Shriners Hospitals* in the United States. Once the diagnoses have been translated into English and a child is accepted for treatment by the *Shriners* organization, the paperwork begins. The Committee must fund travel expenses and local arrangements for the child and an accompanying family member. One young girl from Lithuania already was treated at *Shriners* before the committee was fully established. She has already healed and has returned to Lithuania. A second young lady who has fourth degree scoliosis, is now undergoing treatment in a Chicago-area *Shriners* hospital.

The coordinator for *Lithuanian Children's Hope*, Mrs. Terese Drutys-Soliunas has mentioned that other requests have begun coming in to the committee's headquarters (located in the same building as the *LAC National Executive Committee* headquarters) - letters from desperate parents of children with leukemia, eye disorders, and other diseases which the committee at this time cannot undertake to help, but letters are answered and referred whenever possible. Mrs. Soliunas has expressed the hope that committees of this nature will network and share information so as many

sick children as possible will be helped by Western technology and kindheartedness.

The Board of Directors of the *Lithuanian Children's Hope* includes social workers, an orthopedic consultant, a liaison with *Shriners*, a transportation consultant, and also Mrs. Grazina Liautaud on whose shoulders falls the responsibilities of fund-raising. A fund-raising drive is scheduled for the very near future since the tax-deductible donations to the *LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S HOPE* keep the project going and growing.

Testimony:

The president of the *Public Affairs Council* of the *LAC*, Dr. Tomas Remeikis, testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Postal Operations, Post Office and Civil Service Committee, on May 21, 1991. Dr. Remeikis spoke on the "Soviet mail blockade against Lithuania". He used documentation provided by the *Government Affairs Office* of the *LAC*.

Easy way to Lithuanian:

The *Educational Council* of the *LAC* has announced the availability of the program "*Easy Way to Lithuanian*". The textbook and 6 audiocassettes (totaling 9 hours of recorded lessons) are for the self-motivated adult learner. The concept was adapted (with permission) from a Latvian program of a similar nature. The program can be ordered from Mrs. Regina Kucas, President, *Educational Council* of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.*, 8626 South Mozart, Chicago, IL 60652. The cost of the entire package (book and tapes) is \$50, plus \$4 for mailing costs.

Baltic Way:

The Mid-West regional chapter of the *LAC* provided information and coordination of Lithuanian Americans' participation in the Chicago lap of *The Baltic Way* in May. In Canada, the *Canadian Lithuanian* ⇨

Community's office provided information and registration forms for this joint Baltic effort, a walkathon entitled *The Baltic Way* (in Canada, *Freedom Walk*.) In 1990 \$135,000 was raised of which \$20,000 was targeted for Lithuania's sick. The targeted sum to raise in Canada in 1991 is set at \$250,000.

World Games:

Mr. Rimas Dirvonis, LAC vice-president for *Sports Affairs* represents the *North American Lithuanian Sports Federation (SALFAS)*, which actively worked to recruit participants and visitors to the *IV Lithuanian World Games*, July 23 - August 8. Various meetings and sports competition were to be held in Vilnius, Kaunas, Sauliai, and Panevezys. In mid-May during his visit to Chicago, President Vytautas Landsbergis expressed some surprise that only 200 athletes from North America had registered. The number of visitors travelling with the athletes was certainly higher.

Updates:

○ The "*Gift for Lithuania*" special fund called "*Freedom*" (*Laisve*) donations (mentioned in the April issue) have now reached over \$15,000. At a meeting with the *National Executive Committee* of the LAC, during his recent visit to Chicago, Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis presented a letter acknowledging the generosity of Lithuanian Americans to the President of the *Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. National Executive Committee*, Dr. Antanas Razma. The LAC administers both funds.

○ The first *Lithuanian Music Festival* ended with a final concert on May 28, 1991 at Maria High School. A special dinner was held at the Lithuanian Youth Center on May 29th at which Festival organizers, participants from Chicago and Lithuania, hosts of the Lithuanian visitors, and members of the sponsoring organization- the *Lithuanian - American Community, Inc.* dined and listened to closing remarks by organizers of the various events and representatives of various participating groups. Traditional Lithuanian sashes and other presents abounded.

(In an article about the Lithuanian Song Festival (in the June issue), it was mentioned that the consuls of Germany, Poland, and Denmark attended the Festival. It was later clarified by *Lithuanian Music Festival* Organizing Committee member Ruta Juska, who was responsible for inviting various dignitaries, that the consuls had initially accepted invitations, but later had to decline. The consul of Spain, however, did attend a performance of the opera "I Lituani".)

○ It has been confirmed that the *9th Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival* is scheduled for July 4th weekend of

1992, to be held in Chicago's Amphitheater. The Festival, sponsored by the Lithuanian and Canadian American Communities, already has a chairman- Dr. Petras Kisielius. (Dr. Kisielius is also on LAC's *Public Affairs Council*.) At the time of this writing, the *Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute* had not yet announced the choreographer/artistic coordinator of the event. It is not yet clear whether the festival will change its name (in 1988, the festival, held in Hamilton, Canada was called the "Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival of the Free World") or whether groups from Lithuania will be invited or allowed to participate. In the past Lithuanian folk dancing groups from Canada, the United States, Germany, England, Australia, Brazil, Uruguay, and a group from Poland (from the Lithuanian region of Punkskas) have travelled to participate in the festival. All paid for their trips and participation as much as they were able, with limited support from their Lithuanian Communities, and from *Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals, Inc.*

Chapters:

○ The Providence, Rhode Island chapter has new officers. The new chapter president is Kazys Navakauskas who replaces Aldona Kairys.

○ The Cape Cod, Massachusetts chapter May newsletter described a calendar of events: the annual meeting May 7, the June 16th commemoration of the mass deportations June 1941 (and the events of January 1991), a fundraiser picnic July 13th, and a notice of International Night to be held November 9th. As the outgoing chapter president Alfonsas Petrutis indicated, the chapter officers this term had to operate in a very relevant time in Lithuania's history, and the calendar of events, together with notes on past chapter activities illustrate his remarks well.

○ The April newsletter of the Colorado chapter also included a calendar of events, reminded chapter members of Coloradans in Congress (and included Washington, D.C. and Colorado addresses and phone numbers) and reprinted the State of Colorado's Joint Resolution (LLS No. 091 0720/1) which among other things, lists: "That the United States, in the spirit of our Declaration of Independence two hundred fifteen years ago, should recognize the republics of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and the Ukraine, which have all proclaimed a desire to become independent."

○ ○ ○

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

Moving To Private Enterprise

*An American Businessman Shares His Insights;
And Notes The Challenges In Lithuania's Economic Arena.*

by Frank M. Piveronas

(Editor's Note: Mr. Piveronas is a consultant for companies in the field of domestic marketing and international trade. Additionally, he has served in a variety of capacities in the government of the State of Maine; and developed that State's first international trade program.)

Like most businessmen attempting to gather information before embarking on a long-term business relationship one is trained to look and listen before leaping. I was intrigued - no drawn - to Lithuania and the Baltics, the land of my forefathers.

During the summer of '88 when *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* were being hailed, I, like most skeptics, thought "could this be real"? Are the Soviets and Mikhail S. Gorbachev really softening and getting "religion" in the sense of embracing Western style democratic principles and attitudes?

Try as I might, I could not get much information and certainly not substantive facts to appease an inquisitive mind. The U.S. trade offices in Washington, D.C. were of little help, likewise other private economic assistance organizations affiliated with the Soviets. I visited Washington to personally meet with U.S. Department of Commerce officials, the USSR Soviet Embassy Commercial Section, contacted trade organizations in New York, attended a Soviet Trade Seminar; all of which confused me even more as no one could/would give straight answers. Later I learned this is par for the course as no one actually knew and could keep up with the rapid changes in Soviet Law and small business cooperatives in the Soviet Union. Events were moving too fast to receive factual and concrete answers even from the Soviet agencies responsible for their implementation.

So, in January of 1989, I made my first trip to the Soviet Union since 1974 (when I vowed I would never return - so much for vows). Through a London based business seminar group I traveled to Moscow with the intention of extending the visit to Lithuania (birthplace of both maternal grandparents) to fulfill a longing

difficult to explain. That initial trip was brief and only served to make another vow - to return.

In October, 1990, after an aborted Joint Venture project with the central hierarchy in Moscow (two additional trips in '89), I focused all my efforts on Lithuania attempting to determine from my own vantage point whether there were true independent



Dr. Vaidotas Antanaitis, Minister of Forestry (left), with author.

reforms and opportunities. My plan was to explore and visit the countryside, meet people from all walks of life to gather facts which could be developed into a reasonable long term strategy for potential and at the same time help in some way to give Lithuania something in return for my heritage.

I spent the better part of three weeks meeting Lithuanian Republic Ministries, Parliamentarians, cooperative owners, farmers and people in the street. In October, '90 there was a sense of spirit, optimism for the future. There was movement...easy to see in a land which reflected a need for much and yet had much more to give in return.

January 13, 1991 changed that mood, my plans ⇄

and general focus of activity. I am still determined to move forward as close contact, encouragement, grass roots legislative activity and prayer are all important to assist Lithuania at this time. To continue my observations and planning, in my view one must pursue all avenues and network with people if you are to grasp a true feel for a country, its market potential, infrastructure and ability to back its commitments.

My expectations in October, 1990, were slight and open-minded in terms of what could be achieved in this exploratory trip yet the reverse was true for some Ministry officials with whom I met. At these particular meetings I felt an eagerness and "pressure" to "sign" something, establish a Joint Venture with a State Enterprise. While I could understand that Western business concepts are lacking and one could not make parallel comparisons, I have to admit the naivete was stronger than expected. Two generations, 50 years of Soviet central control with unrealistic goals/objectives has left its scars and more importantly, a lack of true

personally felt unless you carried a bag full of money and/or resigned yourself to work with the same structure as found in Moscow nothing much could be accomplished under present circumstances.

The ministry officials and their staffs, collective officials and private cooperatives expectations are strong and eager to learn however, they will require much hand-holding, guidance, patience and close supervision (especially if you provide the capital). Labor hiring/terminations, hospitalization, retirement and other social practices differ from the West and the tendency is to have too many employees and overhead before the door of any new venture is opened.

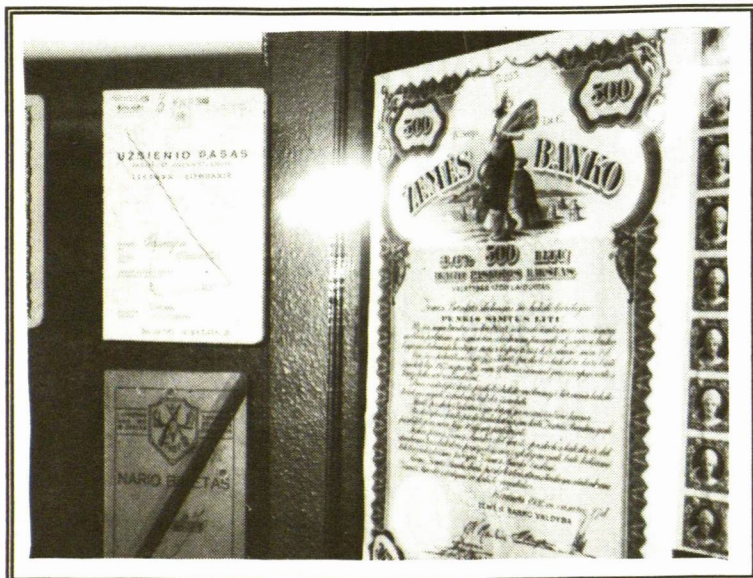
In October, 1990, it was the intent of Parliament to allow investment (Joint Ventures) only in State Enterprises on a selected basis. Private investment in a new business to develop a new opportunity was not possible and not contemplated at that time. It was my impression they had not considered this area of interest and would be addressed in the future when Lithuania

received its full independence. (*Editor's note: This has changed; according to President Landsbergis' speech at the US Chamber of Commerce, in May of this year.*)

In my meetings I found the intelligence, humor, work ethic, sincere desire to be on their own and independent but like a young child, a new, open and uncomplicated simple atmosphere for investment must be molded, shaped and formed, to allow a radical transformation of society to take place. This will require a great deal of effort from all participants. First and foremost, we have to assume and proceed ahead with the premise that Lithuania and the Baltics will receive their long delayed independence sooner than later. Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are a case in point. Foreign debt, lack of hard currency, loss of Soviet markets and a slow sober change to a true market economy makes reality worse before it can improve. In Lithuania and the Baltics, energy dependence and other economic realities will have to be resolved with Soviet Republics and Moscow to enjoy full independent status. This will not

be simple to achieve but worth striving for as strategies are developed for the long-term with its sister Baltic States, Soviet Republics, Nordic and European neighbors.

My personal belief is that everyone of Lithuanian heritage and "friends of Lithuania" should get involved now. There is so much need everywhere - economic, educational, social, religious, the arts etc. - take your pick. President Vytautas Landsbergis, of Lithuania and his Parliament need our help in his diplomatic follow-up efforts. Write your U.S. Congressional members in the House and Senate to let them know where you stand and be counted as a voice for Lithuania and ↪



Business instrument exhibit in museum at Trakai.

comprehension of Western business practices and profit motive. Also, while you may have a business card, directory of all the people and groups you meet, I found it difficult and uncomfortable at times to know if they were all on the same side or team. An official with a Lithuanian name is not necessarily a Lithuanian patriot.

A Western trained business person assumes certain criteria are in place and that the playing field of business is fairly level. My observations found extreme interest, desire, willingness and the need for "everything" to move forward, however, there was little if any investment structure in place. There were moments I

her sister Baltic States of Latvia and Estonia. Write letters to your family, friends in Lithuania - let them know you are aware of their plight - so they are not alone. Track your family roots in Lithuania and if you do not know where to start **BRIDGES** can help put you in the right direction. If you are able, write a check and send to *Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid* in Brooklyn, N.Y., they will put it to good use.

From an economic standpoint - training and education in international business methods and concepts are vital. This common denominator of knowledge is required in standard Western business practices so all can speak the same language. Speaking of language, while Lithuanians want to learn English and business management techniques...where are the Lithuanians in Lithuania, the U.S., Canada, etc., to train the West in the Lithuanian language, culture and art forms? Business people who are not Lithuanian, I believe, will assist and invest most in Lithuania. I also believe a good and important amount of assistance - financial and technical aid will come from private, educational and cultural organizations, groups, individuals not solely from governmental grants and credits.

Politically, formal diplomatic recognition and all its related benefits is long overdue and painfully needed at this time. The Governments of Iceland and Denmark are to be congratulated for their friendship and courage to stand up to Soviet intimidations on Lithuania's behalf. We need to thank them personally.

Also, efforts should be focused on commercial education so Baltic citizenry understands it is not bad to make a profit as a reward for one's time, investment risk and hard work (assuming you make a profit). Several times during my trip I had to stand up for "capitalism". I was even asked, "Can you be a Christian and a businessman at the same time?" Investors on the other hand should be willing to put in efforts for the long-term not short-term profits to take advantage of "windfalls" in a changing economic structure which will only flame feelings of discontent, discouragement and give opposition groups material to injure and setback market economy efforts.

Lithuania's investment laws, accounting procedures, banking structure and commercial networks have to be coordinated with standard international practices which will send the proper signals to Western investors. In effect, "Do not reinvent the wheel - keep it simple."

Lithuanians and those of Lithuanian heritage must get involved and their feet wet in every shape and form if the Republic of Lithuania is to have the support and assistance in needs and deserves particularly at this crucial stage of their existence. At the same time, friends of Lithuania who have the needed capital will require assistance to know more about Lithuania's history, culture and specific areas of investment opportunities.

Friendly investors can bring experience and a

subjective entrepreneurial attitude for business. Investment dollars are scarce. Lithuania will be in strong competition with many areas of the world. Place yourself in an investor's shoes - Why Lithuania?

With the political realities facing Lithuania and the Baltics, those of Lithuanian heritage have heavy hearts when we see and hear of the constant obstacles and intimidations from "Soviet Dialogue" not to mention our own U.S. Administration's political stance whose apparent goal is to "save the ship, not the people in the lifeboats". Above all, when all is said and done, it is our duty and a responsibility we cannot forget, we, in the free world are the beacon for the land of our forefathers, family and friends who count on us "not to forget them".

I plan to continue...and hope you do, too. ☐

(Editor's Note: We welcome articles, for future issues, from other businesspeople who have stories to tell about their business experiences in Lithuania. We especially look forward to stories telling of successful enterprises which have been implemented/are in place.)

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Letters From Lithuania

The following are excerpts of letters, translated from Lithuanian, which were received at the National Executive Committee office of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC) in the past year or so. Most of the letters are addressed to the President of the LAC, Dr. Antanas Razma, but reflect a variety of requests and issues. (The letters have all been acknowledged.) (Translated by Ms. Ramune Kubilius)

✕ Excuse me for disturbing you, but I cannot avoid asking for your help. At this time, when the people of Lithuania have wider opportunities to travel to other countries and at the same time to receive guests, here in Lithuania we encounter difficulties regarding matters of etiquette. We don't have news of overseas rules of etiquette, customs, etc. Therefore, I ask your help in finding a means of sending me information about etiquette in your country. What customs do you have when one is visiting? In a restaurant? During official visits? With your help, I would like to gather as much information as possible and disseminate it to my countrymen. I would contribute to the general raising of the cultural level...

✕ I am writing you with a suggestion and a request. I am 33 years old, I finished Vilnius University's History Faculty... For some time now I have harbored the hope to take on not only a useful, but also a heartily pleasant activity. A few years ago an opportunity presented itself for me to start (in reality of a fragmentary nature and sporadically) to do genealogy research according to emigre countrymen's requests...

✕ In this year of revival, we would like to get to know and mingle with our countrymen from abroad. We sincerely invite you to visit our family if you want to visit Lithuania. We would show visitors the cities of our homeland, its towns and villages, and if you desire, we will drive you to Latvia, Estonia and elsewhere...

✕ Thank you for your attention (to my letter). I didn't want to write a long letter, but I would like for you not to misunderstand me. In searching for a penpal, colleagues, mingling, overseeing our hardened circumstances, we are looking for that window, that would help us look at the world, which until now we "regular" people were unable to do. I am an engineer-technologist with a college education. I am raising two sons, the older one will soon be returning from military service and is planning on registering for medical school - he wants to be a doctor; the younger son is finishing 12th form this year and also is planning on further studies, undecided as to what area. He keeps himself busy equally with artistic photography, taking many photos. In middle school, he studied English and he can write in English... If there would be persons who would like to communicate, we can

write in English even though not so freely (as in Lithuanian).

✕ "My name is Nomedas. I live in Lithuania, in Kaunas. I am 13 years old. I very much want to have friends in foreign lands. Please me give childrens' addresses. (My hobby is reading and music.)

✕ We found out that there are Lithuanians who don't know how to write in Lithuanian... I think that if there is a desire from our countrymen, we will be able to communicate. Finally, we can take a dictionary. Even more interestingly, when we are forced to learn English, we will be able to teach our dear countrymen Lithuanian. Visit us - we will get to know each other and in the beginning we will invite a translator.

✕ This is Renata and Raimundas writing from Lithuania. We live in Alytus. We would like your help in befriending another recently married young couple. We would like them to answer in Lithuanian... We are both 18 years old. We are students at the Zemes Ukio Akademija (Agricultural Academy). We are both athletes. We will soon be married... Enclosed is also my letter. I am Renata's mother, and I would like to have friends overseas and to correspond with them... I am 48 years old, I live alone. I work in a nursery school - kindergarden. I finished a specialized school...

✕ I am writing you, and, in advance, ask your forgiveness for disturbing you. I know that there are many lonely Lithuanians in the world. I hope that there will be one friend for whom life is sad, who is tired of living alone in another country...

✕ Maybe you know of some young people who would like to correspond with young people of Lithuania. It is my belief that walls should not get in the way of people getting to know each other. Correspondence is one way to better know people living far from each other... I can correspond in Lithuanian, Russian, French...

✕ Until the January 13th events in Vilnius, in Lithuania many people did not trust the government of Lithuania. In order to believe, it was enough to stand in a line somewhere or in a group of people. And now the opinion has changed. (Continued on Page 26)

From The Baltics To The Balkans

Our Government's Apparent Opposition To the Birth And Re-birth of New, And Historically Legitimate, Nation States.

by Sandra Marefat

(Editor's Note: Ms. Marefat, a former newspaper reporter, is a Lithuanian-American; and presently resides in Kentucky.)

There are two ways to interpret the political change now shaking the turf under the old empires of southern and eastern Europe. The first, which is cited almost exclusively by our government and media, tends to express discomfort, if not rebuke, as it confronts the "fragmentation" of old-order states such as Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. A second, more democratic view welcomes into a genuinely "new" world order nations attempting to be born from the final remains of obsolescing empires and multi-national fiefs.

Perhaps the most striking feature of official Washington's New World Order is its failure to differ very substantially from the "Old." Moreover, the convening of a "new" order before the final curtain had yet descended on 45 years of Cold War falsely projects into the present a future framework which cannot yet possibly exist, since it remains to be mediated by the struggles of competing groups.

Hence, the pacified future President Bush would like to impose is not new so much as premature. Far from being safely locked into a fresh post-communist, post-imperialist era, we are actually in an interregnum between orders: that period of imperial collapse traditionally used by captive nations to re-assert themselves. This is the most compelling explanation for national liberation movements from the Baltics to the Balkans, from Kurdistan to the Transcaucas.

What prevents us from seeing it is our American desire to pass cleanly from one order to the next without any messy "in between." In this sense, the President's proclamation is actually pre-emptive. The people at the top here, as elsewhere, would prefer to deal with the same people they are used to dealing with, be these democrats or dictators. Big business wants mega-markets that can best be delivered by empires, or more neutrally, "conglomerate" states. We, ourselves, are probably not beyond a little shiver when we consider the fact that interregnum portends a shift in the world balance of power.

Clearly, regional balances will shift as endemic repression is challenged in a number of states, first by attempted negotiations between the repressed nation and the overarching state authority, then by massive manifestations of the popular will and finally, by unilateral declarations of independence. Nor is it difficult to see why the Balts and the northern Balkans going their own way, despite admonitions from such great powers as the EEC and the United States, might provoke a piqued insistence on old structures and old borders.

Nevertheless, we are not excused from the moral responsibility of promoting continuity regardless of how it is maintained, or whether it ultimately will reflect liberation or compounded injustices.

A Purdue University professor writing in the *Christian Science Monitor* in May bemoaned the alleged de-stabilizing effects of fragmentation in the Soviet "Union" and elsewhere. Yet as one letter-writer subsequently pointed out, those entities currently fracturing do not embrace the territory of a single nation, but, rather, are multi-national states which have forcibly incorporated some nations under the hegemony of others. By this interpretation, the groundswell for change is more political than ethnic.

The Balts aren't insisting on their independence due to an intolerant hate for all things Russian. Neither do Croats and Slovenes have a seething ethnic animosity for Serbia, in isolation from the political facts of the last half-century, when Russians deported and colonized Balts, and Serbs held hegemony over the so-called "federal" state of Yugoslavia.

Without prejudice, "fragmentation" can be seen as "democratic decentralization," a reaction to decades of Marxist centralism. Still, it is the fear of fragmentation which prevails in government statements and the media, replete with misleading references to "ethnic" hatred. In the case of Yugoslavia, few accounts ever go on to note that Marxist Serbians have blocked market reforms and used their untoward "federal" powers chauvinistically, for Serbia and for Marxism, to thwart the reform-oriented Croats and Slovenes.

Such illegitimate associations of national liberation with ethnic animus grant undeserved legitimacy to the obsolete Soviet and Yugoslav states. While these ⇨

states have, at least nominally, been our foes for the past 50 or 70 years, it is interesting to note that, in the process of resisting, we have haplessly accepted much of their ideology. We have taken them for what they say they are.

In the case of the Soviet "Union", we accepted the myth of a Marxist crucible which melded diverse nations into a single "Soviet people" committed to our destruction. What made the myth more appealing was that it had antecedents in our American experience of the "melting pot," our romantic attachment to ideal "union" based on diversity. We are proud of the fact that no matter where you came from, how you look, or what language you speak, anybody can be homogenized into a "real" American.

As a result, we tend to see national cleavage in the Baltics and the Balkans as a kind of immature ethnic contentiousness which we ourselves have, with difficulty, surmounted. On this point, many Americans even see the Soviets in the throes of something like our American Civil War, with their own embattled Lincoln confronting a bloc of hot-headed secessionist "states."

Throw in a little semantic manipulation, whereby noxious Soviet institutions are couched in good, wholesome American terms, and you get a Soviet empire that looks like a "Union," and a Communist Party chief who sounds a "President." In the end, many of our television commentators even manage to forget that Gorbachev is a communist, although it is perhaps of greater consequence that they can consider the U.S.S.R. a consensual union.

In spring 1990, as the media witnessed the re-birth of the Baltic states, they proffered solicitous reservations as to size. All you had to do to challenge Lithuania's claim to being more than a "breakaway republic" was juxtapose it on the map with the remaining chunk of Soviet territory, and presto, you had what looked like just a little piece of crust crumbling off the Pie.

One could have expected the case of Yugoslavia to be clearer. Once its conglomerate nations split, there wouldn't be any bogus state left: no "pie" with a few bites out of the crust. It is reported that Croatia and Slovenia allegedly timed their independence announcements to make just such a fateful, domino-toppling tip.

Formed after the collapse of the Ottoman and Hapsburg empires in World War I, "federal" Yugoslavia could be said to represent a case of failed independence for each of its constituent nations. If Slovenia and Croatia had achieved some greater autonomy after leaving the Hapsburg empire, perhaps they wouldn't have been re-absorbed into Serbia's communist fold after World War II. Perhaps, by now, after some decades of full self-determination, they would have the assurance to freely integrate with a neighboring state, or federation of states.

The stronger precedent for restored nationhood in

the Baltics is based on the full sovereignty these nations exercised between the World Wars. Conversely, the initial lack of sympathy for the independence declarations of Croatia and Slovenia points to the necessity of a clean break from empire, when one gets the chance, lest one's past semi- or quasi-association be construed to justify future "associations."

If the economic viability of the Baltics or the Balkans, after independence, is our real concern, let us not dismiss the benefits small nations can obtain through trade, treaties, and market alliances mysteriously excluded, up to now, by most columnists, as if Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were seeking some draconian form of isolation rather than independence. Let us first help them make the clean break from empire which is necessary for their voluntary re-integration into world markets and regional alliances. □

Letters From Lithuania (Continued From Page 24)

Everyone believes that without a free Lithuania, there will be no good life. We really respect V. Landsbergis and are certain that we will be free!

✕ I am 20 years old. Earlier, I lived in Vilnius. At this time, I am in Poland, in Warsaw. Leaving Lithuania was forced on me when I got the call to do military service in the Soviet army, since I am of that age. I refused, because I don't want to serve in an occupier's army. After the January 13th events, I began to receive threatening phone calls, the army comisariat office's employees began to visit my home, my work. For these reasons, I began to live at the home of friends, to hide, to refuse to go to work or home. Therefore, I am trying to request political asylum in Poland...

✕ I am of that generation which calls itself the "lost generation". After a long spiritual punishment, just now we are beginning to understand what we are missing. In us is a lump of provincialism, doubt, feeling that we are of no value... We would like to free ourselves from these feelings, of the mask. I am 29 years old. I am a Lithuanian language and literature teacher and I also am the leader of a drama group. I am raising a son Justas and I pray to God, that my child will grow up and will live in a way that Lithuanians should live, that the horrible events which Lithuania endured would be left in history and would never return. My husband works in construction...

✕ In our family there are three of us. Our son Markus will be one year old. My wife Maryte, our family's pride, and I (Feliksas) are interested in music, photography, learning about foreign countries and their life, technology and cultural achievements. I was born in 1939 when into Lithuania came... □

The Summer Of 1941

*Just The Beginning Of A Nightmare For The People
Of Lithuania - A Nightmare That Continues To This Day.*

by **Ramune Kubilius**

In 1989, a book published in Lithuania made its way to the Lithuanian emigre population in America and elsewhere. The book, *Amzino Isalo Zeme* (loosely translated as the "Endlessly Frozen Tundra") consists of selections of remembrances of various adults who, as children, were deported from Lithuania to the far regions of Siberia. Many readers of the book were emotionally shaken by the experiences described in the book. Some of the emigre readers had family members who had lived through that time, some had narrowly escaped a similar experience themselves. Lithuanian language teachers used excerpts from this book, reading them to their students. There were plans to translate the book into English.

The summer of 1991 marks the 50th anniversary of those first horrible deportations of Baltic peoples and others from their homelands, journeys which led many to their deaths.

The following are excerpts from that book:

On June 14th, 1941 at 3 o'clock in the morning by Moscow's orders, in all of the Baltics - Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia at one time - mass arrests and deportations to Siberia began... They deported teachers, high school instructors, lawyers, journalists, Lithuania's army families, diplomats, workers in various offices, farmers, agronomists, physicians, businessmen, etc. They took them from small towns, from cities, from villages... Exactly one year before that, June 1940, when the Red Army crossed Lithuania's borders, my father refused to leave Lithuania, saying that he had worked all of his life for Lithuania, his homeland, and he felt no blame for that and feared no trial. In the worse case scenario, he would die in Lithuania. Fate decided otherwise. He died of torture in the northern Ural lager on October 10, 1943... That same June 14th night, they took also my mother Prane Grinkeviciene, homemaker, my 17 year old high school graduate brother, and me, a 14 year old high schooler... We worked for a year in Altaja on a collective farm, and in the summer of 1942 with several thousand others, we were taken even further - to Jakut, far beyond the North Pole. They sent us there, when the Lithuanian

deportees had already begun to get used to the new place and climate, when we had traded things for potatoes, had planted gardens where potatoes had already started to grow, giving us hope that in the winter we would not have to starve... (*Words of Dalia Grinkeviciute, translated by Ramune Kubilius.*)

They took all of our family June 13th, 1941 early in the morning. Seven soldiers came, woke all of us up, seated father on a chair, ordered him to raise his hands, pointed a revolver at him. We four children were told to sit on the table, we were screaming, it was terrible for father, we had never seen him so forcefully propped against the wall. Who was this "enemy of the people"? He was the director of the Simoniu grade school, Klemas Vaiciunas ... from a family of nine children... In 1940-41 he was the director in the county, visiting schools, founding libraries and reading rooms... When they began the shakedown, they piled all of our books in the yard, saying that was bourgeois literature, and they burned it. My youngest sister was two years old at that time. My mother succeeded in giving her to some people and left her in Lithuania, she wanted to leave me as well... Dalyte visited us in Siberia; after 15 years. How old were you then? I was four years old. I screamed, held on to my mother's skirt, they couldn't pull me away, so that's how I stayed (with her). That's why it was fine for me in that animal (train) wagon, because mother and father were there as well... (*Words of Jurate Marcinkeviciene whose husband Algirdas Marcinkevicius was deported with his family; translated by Ramune Kubilius.*)

The horrors did not end and other children and their families were deported later: Antanina Garmute was deported in 1948, Paulina Motieciene in 1945. The editor of the book, Aldona Zemaityte, wrote that each deported person climbed his or her own Hill of Golgota; which comes back in memories and dreams... The children and young people of yesteryear are now middle-aged people who are raising their adult children's children... What helped these authors and other deportees to live under these inhuman conditions? One has to listen to their own voices.

(Continued on Page 29)

LAC Prepares For New Leadership

The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., Recently Conducted General Elections; Will Now Elect President.

by Ramune Kubilius

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. (LAC) was incorporated in 1952. At the time, it was called *The Lithuanian American Community of the United States, Incorporated*. Its purpose was, "To organize and unite, for their mutual benefit, persons of Lithuanian descent into a Lithuanian Community in the various cities and towns of the United States, to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to foster the ideals of American democracy, to participate in American Cultural drives, to perpetuate Lithuanian customs in the United States, to give sympathetic aid and support to Lithuanians not residing in the United States, to aid in the reestablishment of the independence of Lithuania, and to do all and everything necessary or convenient for the accomplishment of any of the purposes above mentioned or incidental thereto."

During the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, in November 1987, these words were amended to include more mention of the religious, educational, literary and charitable activities, and its support of human and civil rights. Also, it was added that "No part of the earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make the payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the article 2 hereof..."

The Board of Directors sets the guidelines for the LAC, votes on bylaws, amendments and makes other decisions of major import to the LAC. The President of the LAC and the Presidium of the Board of Directors are elected from among the Members of the Board. Region Presidents are members of the Board of Directors. Although experience in the LAC is not a requirement to be a candidate to the Board of Directors, conversations with various Board Members will probably reveal their feeling that Directors should rise in the ranks and receive experience at the local chapter level.

According to the LAC bylaws, elections of the 60

Directors take place throughout the United States every three years, no later than April-May of the year. Elections took place May 1991. Voting takes place in person or by mail in all LAC Chapters and regions. The Directors' elections are announced by the *National Executive Committee* no later than six months before the elections, and are carried out by the Chief, Elections Committee, with the assistance of Regional and Chapter Elections Committees. (Detailed instructions are outlined in the bylaws.)

Candidates for Directors' positions must be no younger than 18 years of age and must present signatures of 10 registered persons in the region in order to be eligible for election. Voters are registered Lithuanians, no younger than 18 years of age, who have expressed an interest in belonging to the LAC, who have paid their solidarity dues (*solidarumo mokestis*), who have voted in the past in Directors' elections, or who are in the membership files of the Chapter. Voters can register even on the day of elections. Voters vote for candidates to represent the region where the voter is registered, voting for only as many Directors as are allotted to the region.

The number of Directors in a region is determined by the number of voters in the region. 6161 voters participated in the the 13th Directors' elections. This impacted on the Midwest region which lost three Directors' slots due to low voter turnout (the three directors dropped were those who had received the least number of votes), while other regions with higher voter turnout gained the three Directors' slots for their regions to total 60. (Whether or not 6161 is a representative number of votes for the total population of Lithuanian Americans is debatable. One Lithuanian language paper's editorial indicated that a turnout of 6161 voters shows a certain apathy or "frozen state" that may show a trend for the future as well.)

In 1991 one third of the Directors were re-elected for another term, two thirds will newly experience the responsibility of being on the Board of Directors. According to the bylaws, the new Directors will meet no later than October 1st of this year. From among their ranks they will elect the new LAC President and the Presidium (consisting of at least a president, a secretary and members). Among other things, the ⇨

Presidium calls together meetings of the Directors and conducts them, and it sends out the newly elected *National Executive Committee* President's list of his/her *National Executive Committee* members to the Directors for confirmation.

Listed below are the Directors and the number of voters, during this latest election, in May, from each region. Sometimes in a region (due to lower turnout), there were more candidates than designated Director positions. (* marks Directors who were elected for another term.) The Chairman of the Elections Committee, which collated and announced the results, was Pranas Joga.

Boston Region: (542 voted) Romas Buivydas, Gintaras Cepas*, Erdvilas Janulaitis, Aidas Kupcinskis, Eduardas Meilus*.

Connecticut Region: (540 voted) Linas Balsys*, Zina Dreslius*, Alfonsas, Dzikas*, Vaiva Vebras-Gust, Eugenijus Ziurys.

Florida Region: (516 voted) Adolfas Armalis*, Matas Cyvas, Vytautas Majauskas, Marius Sodonis, Pranas Zunde*.

Michigan Region: (469 voted) Vytautas Kamantas, Grazina Kamantas*, Vitas Petrulis*, Danute Petrusevicius, Ruta Udrys.

New Jersey Region: (285 voted) Arunas Bitenas*, Rimas Bitenas*, Rita Grazulis.

New York Region: (501 voted) Kestutis Bileris, Juozas Kazlas, Tomas Lora, Danute Norvila, Ruta Virkutis.

Ohio Region: (555 voted) Paulius Alsenas, Rimantas Aukstuolis, Ingrida Bublys, Dalia Puskorius, Algis Ruksenas.

Southeast Region: (633 voted) Terese Gecys*, Linas Kucas, Vytas Maciunas, Vidmantas Ruksys, Jurate Krokys-Stirbys, Onile Sestokas.

Western Region: (459 voted) Zigmias Brinkis*, Violeta Gedgaudas, Edmundas Kulikauskas, Angele Nelsas, Zigmias Viskanta.

Midwest Region (Areas I and IV): (1,311 voted) Salomeja Daulys, Birute Jasaitis*, Ruta Juska*, Ferdinandas Kaunas*, Svajone Kerelis, Petras Kisielius*, Daina Kojelis*, Rita Likander, Vytautas Narutis, Juozas Polikaitis*, Jonas Rackauskas*, Kestutis Susinskas, Juozas Vaisnys. (Area II): (132 voted) Birute Vilutis*. (Area III): (218 voted) Rima Kasuba-Binder*, Regina Firant Narusis.

(Prepared with the assistance of Pranas Joga, Chair, Elections Committee; and Birute Jasaitis, Member, Board of Directors.) □

The Summer of 1941 (Continued from Page 27)

For some - religious belief in the Providence, for others, inborn persistence, resolution and strength of will; for still others, inborn morals and hard work.

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Romuald J. Misiunas and Rein Taagepera, in their book, *The Baltic States: Years of Dependence 1940-1980*, published 1983 wrote: "It is difficult to determine the number of persons actually deported. Figures vary according to methods of calculation and estimation. One Latvian study concludes that, specifically, 662 boxcars of persons with 15,081 individuals (3,332 children under 16) were dispatched from Latvia before the outbreak of the war; for Estonia, the figures were 490 boxcars and 10,205 persons (including 3,018 under 16) of whom 28% were workers and 26% salaried personnel (or their family members). A Lithuanian calculation posits a total figure of 34,260 persons deported from Lithuania between 14 and 18 June 1941. The full scope of the number of persons involved, however, must in all likelihood have been greater. Many had been arrested and deported earlier. Others were still in detention at the outbreak of German-Soviet hostilities..." (pp.40-41).

In his book, *The Sword and the Cross: A History of the Church in Lithuania*, published in 1988, Saulius Suziedelis states: "In terms of scale, the deportations of June 1941 were later dwarfed by the Holocaust and the postwar Soviet "pacification" of Lithuania, but the shock of the June deportations on the psyche of the generation that experienced it should not be underestimated. Carried out with swiftness and surprise, this was undoubtedly the greatest single disaster that had struck the Lithuanian nation in over two centuries..." □

Mark Your Calendars.

The annual *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.*, sponsored LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR is scheduled to take place in Washington, DC, during the period September 19 to September 22.

Emphasis for this year's Seminar will be on "grass roots" organizing/problem solving. Get ready for an informative, productive and interesting long weekend. For more information, please call Ms. Asta Banionis, *Government Affairs Office*, at 703 524-0698.

You may not agree with some, or any, of the ideas, views or opinions presented in this section. Yet, hopefully, this section will give you a "window" to some thoughts of others; and perhaps it may serve to stimulate/expand thoughts on overall issues, as well.

Five Million on Five Continents Support Lithuania

by **Sigita Ramanauskas, Ph.D.**

(Editor's Note: Dr. Ramanauskas is extremely active in Lithuanian American efforts in support of freedom for Lithuania; and operates the LITHUANIAN NETWORK. As this issue of BRIDGES goes to press, Dr. Ramanauskas is in Lithuania for several weeks, working on an A.P.P.L.E. program (about which we've had considerable information in past issues). She can be reached at 2922 River Point Drive, Daytona Beach Shores, Florida 32118.)

A Japanese young woman soliciting signatures in a shopping mall in Santa Monica, California; red-tuniced young men with a Lithuanian flag and petition, outside a museum in Madrid; leaflets being handed out by well-organized strangers during the Baltic demonstrations on the eve of the Washington Summit; a huge poster proclaiming Lithuania's rights near the Toronto City Hall. What do these events have in common?

For over a year, *The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP)* has gathered over 5,000,000 signatures world-wide in support of Lithuanian independence. They have been presented to Vytautas Landsbergis and to Michail Gorbachev.

With this endeavor, *TFP* may break a *Guinness World Record!* This organization continues to support Lithuania to this day. The gratitude of the Republic has been voiced by President Vytautas Landsbergis, Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas, and Foreign Relations Commission Chairman Emanuelis Zingeris. They have characterized the support as "one of the most important". It differs from former petition drives because the solicitors and the signatories are non-Lithuanian. In 1921, Lithuanian-Americans gathered 1,000,000 signatures and gave them to President Warren G. Harding. In 1922, four years after declaring independence, Lithuania was finally recognized by the United States. Apart from its political significance, imagine the awareness, education, and good-will the present undertaking is spreading!

The idea apparently originated with Dr. Algirdas Statkevicius, a Lithuanian psychiatrist who had been relegated to mental institutions and Soviet political prisons for being a dissident. He has been in America only a few years and continues to represent the

Lithuanian Freedom League outside Lithuania. In January 1989, a Lithuanian-Australian newspaper published his article containing 10 ideas to help Lithuania. The world-wide petition drive for Baltic independence was one of them.

The article was reprinted by Lithuanian newspapers in Brazil and Chicago. A Lithuanian (J. Kaseliunas) in Bogota, Columbia contacted the local *TFP*, a Bureau of an international, anti-communist, Christian values-supporting group. They got in touch with New York; then on May 19, 1989, Dr. Statkevicius received a letter from Mr. P. Moran of the Chicago Bureau. Despite the skepticism of formal Lithuanian-American organizations (who were informed of this effort), *TFP* was undaunted and launched a remarkable campaign! This was not the first time. In 1988 the American *TFP* went to the streets to protest the continued Soviet oppression in the Baltic nations on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuanian independence.

The dedication and hard work of the members of *TFP* deserve our thanks. Let us communicate our appreciation!

Please write: *The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property*, Post Office Box 121, Pleasantville, New York 10570; Telephone: (914) 241-7015; Fax : (914) 241-7146. □

A Challenge:

Why not, starting today, make it your goal to encourage someone you know to become a subscriber to **BRIDGES**?

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You may not agree with some, or any, of the ideas, views or opinions presented in this section. Yet, hopefully, this section will give you a "window" to some thoughts of others; and perhaps it may serve to stimulate/expand thoughts on overall issues, as well.

The Possibilities - If U.S. Policy Towards Lithuania Doesn't Change.

This grim, "science fiction" scenario could signal future reality if the U.S. continues to avoid assuming a positive, leadership role for Baltic independence.

by Edward Lucas

(Editor's Note: Mr. Lucas is Washington, DC Correspondent for THE INDEPENDENT, a London (England) daily newspaper. Prior to this posting, Mr. Lucas spent a considerable amount of time in Vilnius, Lithuania; where he got to know key individuals involved in Lithuania's struggle; and from where he wrote many news stories. His interest in Lithuania remains unabated; and, from Washington, he regularly writes about Lithuanian American activities there. He can be reached at THE INDEPENDENT, 1726 M Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036.)

Vilnius, July 28th, 1996 // The US Consul was working late, again, so she bleeped her driver to wait for her downstairs. No point in taking unnecessary risks, she thought, not after the latest series of "incidents." The late spring sunlight was still catching the Stars and Stripes, as it fluttered over the cramped diplomatic compound which had been her home for more than two years.

In the street outside, the usual crowd, aggressive and pathetic by turns, were congregating outside the Salvation Army soup kitchen. The misery and repression in the neighbouring Fed (as the clumsily-titled Imperial Federation of All the Russias was universally known) was driving an ever increasing number of economic migrants into the only countries still open to them, where they clogged the social services, got into fights, and pestered anybody who might conceivably help them move further west.

Wearily, the Consul surveyed her in-tray, mentally dividing the contents into the usual categories. The smallest pile concerned Americans living or visiting Lithuania. Two elderly emigres, for example, had come back to try to reclaim their family property, only to find that it was now part of one of the many remaining Fed "forward military bases." Not a lot she could do about that: after the latest Supreme Court decision, the Lithuanian authorities were finding it quite hard enough fending off the claims from Poles and Israelis who had lost property in Vilnius in 1940, without antagonising the Fed.

There were the usual crop of muggings to deal with. Two Peace Corps volunteers had been stripped and beaten when they unwisely went for a late-night walk in

the Klaipeda free port. The so-called "international control" of the city was becoming a complete joke, she thought crossly. The problem was that the smugglers had the place stitched up, and neither the underpaid city police, nor the useless CSCE bureaucrats who were meant to supervise them, had the guts to do anything about it. She put the file on one side.

Passport thefts were continuing unabated, she noticed. The latest victims had been sixteen members of a US trade delegation staying at the Hotel Lietuva. When they had tried to reclaim theirs from the hotel reception, the hotel staff insisted that they had never been handed in in the first place. At the going rate for a US passport across the border in the Zone (the former Kaliningrad enclave) the thief had made a profit of \$32,000. According to her CIA colleague, the KGB forgery department was running a lucrative sideline in modifying the stolen passports for wealthy Fed mafia bosses wanting more convenient foreign travel. The documents weren't convincing enough to enter the USA, but were extremely useful in all the other countries which grant visa-free travel to US citizens. "Glovno," she said, the code word which activated her voice-operated computer. "this is another circular to all US citizens living in Lithuania, the Zone, and Klaipeda....." She rapidly dictated a warning about crime, stressing the dangers of passport theft. She turned to the rest of the in tray, while the computer printed, addressed and franked the letters. A thought which struck her at least six times a day passed through her head. Why couldn't the Lithuanians be more like the Estonians? Thanks to the import of several hundred Finnish police, an efficient criminal justice system, and the prompt deportation of recalcitrant Fed refugees, Estonia's crime rate had fallen every year since independence. The Lithuanian police admittedly looked magnificent, but tended to be far more interested in driving their cars at high speed around the Fed military bases than in the dull work of catching burglars and keeping the streets safe.

There wasn't a lot that the US government could do about that, she thought, but perhaps it was time to raise security in Klaipeda again. Under the terms of the independence treaty the city nominally belonged to ⇨

Lithuania, but was run by an international commission for 99 years (of which 97 remained). The body's 6 members comprised three Feds and three Lithuanians, with a non-voting chairman (a seldom-seen and laconic international lawyer from Slovakia). But the three "associate powers" (the US, Germany and Sweden) had a powerful voice in the form of the funds they were supplying for the reconstruction of the port and city, and the salaries of the languid CSCE staffers who nominally administered it. Perhaps the policing could be stepped up a bit, she mused, though given that the majority of traffic through the port was both illegal and lucrative, in the form of weapons, drugs, gold and diamonds, the chances of bringing the mafia to heel was remote.

A headache began ticking inside her head, and she turned to the next category, the much larger pile of applications by refugee Feds to visit the United States. Since the wave of migration after the famine, most European countries had simply stopped accepting applications from Fed citizens, and the Baltic republics were one of the few bolt-holes. Feds lucky enough to have relatives in the Baltic were allowed to visit for up to one year, during which they would make frantic efforts to move on. She gazed glumly at a typical application: a woman English teacher, with four children, whose home had been devastated by one of the many ecological disasters which followed the collapse of central control in 1992. All her possessions had been "confiscated" by the notoriously venal Fed border guards, and the family was living, destitute, in a converted Fed barracks run by the UN. Within two weeks, she would be deported back to an unknown future, probably in one of the shanty towns which had sprung up along the border. She riffled through the pile, and found just one which could conceivably be worth passing on to Washington: a rocket scientist, single, English-speaker, who already had relatives in the US.

The evening light was beginning to fade, and she began to hurry through the next pile of Lithuanian requests for visas and other favours. At all costs she must not be late for the President's dinner for the visiting King of Serbia. The trouble with the newly-restored monarchies was that they were obsessed with protocol, and as one of the senior diplomats in Vilnius, she would be high up the receiving line. She wouldn't want to stay too late, she reminded herself. She was addressing a breakfast meeting of the Baltic Business School the next day, and still hadn't really worked out how to justify the US's continuing high tariffs on Lithuanian textile exports. The problem with being the only fluent Lithuanian speaker in the embassy was that one was constantly called on to pontificate on everything from aviation to zoology.

Wearily, she put on her coat and walked through the pokey corridors. During the "creeping recognition"

period, the US had held back while other countries acted boldly. The result was that Vilnius, Riga and Tallin were the only capitals in the world where countries like Denmark and Iceland had larger and more comfortable embassy buildings than the United States. □

"To Our Readers" (Continued from Page 2)

The annual *Lithuanian American Community, Inc.* Legislative Seminar will be held during the period September 20-22, 1991, in Washington, DC. Most activities will be, again, conducted at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. Register early. Reduced rate hotel rooms will be available for reservation only through September 5th. Reservation phone # is: 703 521-1900. This hotel is less than a 10 minute drive from National Airport. Those who attended last year will tell you that this event was productive, educational, inspiring and fun! There will be briefings, workshops, meetings with Congress, etc.

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Some readers have noted that they feel we are not running enough "culturally oriented" features in recent issues of **BRIDGES**. I agree; and I'd love the opportunity to do just that. Yet, I'm helpless in meeting that goal without the cooperation of writers who are capable of contributing/are willing to contribute such pieces for these pages. Among Lithuanian Americans there is absolutely no dearth of people who could write, well, about just such things; so, please, you eminently qualified people, step forth!

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It's come to my attention that many of you received the June issue late (very late, in some cases). I apologize to you; and note that it happened because this publication was still in the process of completing its significant "transition". Not much of an excuse to those of you who expect to get, and deserve to get, your issues on time; but let me say that we will do all in our power to insure something like that doesn't happen again.

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Many Lithuanian Americans are spending part, or all, of this summer in Lithuania. This editor didn't allow many of those people to "slip away" to Lithuania without, first, making a promise, to this editor, that they would return with stories, articles and photos for future issues of **BRIDGES**. So, get ready for some really interesting future issues!

Look for some real surprises - authors - in upcoming issues. No kidding.



Joseph Arlauskas

(Cover photos courtesy of/by Mr. Frank M. Piveronas; whose article starts on page 21.) □

⇨ 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".

U.S. - Baltic Foundation:

○ ... has announced receipt of a \$15,000 grant from the *Knight Foundation* of Miami, Florida. The grant will support the *U.S. Baltic Foundation's (USBF)* training program for Baltic journalists in the United States.

The *Knight Foundation* approved the grant in early June with the endorsement of its Journalism Advisory Committee. Upon learning of the award, Mr. Linas Kojelis, President of the *USBF*, stated, "The Foundation is overjoyed with this tremendous grant. It will be used effectively in our new programs training journalists from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. An effective and dynamic independent media in the Baltic States is critically important to the development of flourishing, democratic and pluralistic societies."

- From a news release

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○ President George Bush issued an official greeting to participants in the recently concluded, first, Baltic municipal management conference, *Municipal Government in a Democratic, Free Market Society*. The conference was held in the Baltic States (primarily in Vilnius). The President's letter is reportedly the first ever from a U.S. President to a public body in the Baltic States. Excerpts from the President's letter follow: "I am delighted to send warm greetings to the representatives of the *U.S. - Baltic Foundation*, the National League of Cities, and all the participants who have gathered in Vilnius, Lithuania, for the Municipal Government Conference. ... Congratulations to the *U.S. Baltic Foundation* for initiating this conference. Gatherings such as this one can help build bridges between the United States and the Baltic States, resulting in stronger and more productive ties between our freedom-loving people. ..." (signed) George Bush.

United States based officials who travelled to and participated in this conference, in Vilnius, included the following (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Roger Caves, School of Public Administration, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA; The Honorable Hal Conklin, Councilmember, City of Santa Barbara, CA; The Honorable John G. Curran, City Council President, City of Rochester, NY; The

Honorable Joseph S. Daddona, Mayor, City of Allentown, PA; Mr. Lace Futch, Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority, Atlanta, GA; The Honorable Jonathan Howes, Mayor, City of Chapel Hill, NC; The Honorable William H. Hudnut, III, Mayor, City of Indianapolis, IN; Mr. Donald L. Jones, Director, Center for Member Programs, National League of Cities, Washington, DC; The Honorable Anna Kondratas, Assistant Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC; Mr. Mark Maz, Architect for Handicapped Planning, City of Hyattsville, MD; Mr. Marvin McGraw, McGraw & Associates, Falls Church, VA; The Honorable Elaine Pfalzgraf, Councilmember, City of Cedar Falls, IO; The Honorable Laima Raskitis, Community Service Manager, City of Kettering, OH; Dr. Steve Savas, Ph.D., Management Department, Beruch College, NY; Ms. Lottie Shackelford, City Director, City of Little Rock, AR; The Honorable Frank Sherril, Mayor, The City of Social Circle, GA; Mr. Peter Solinger, Alderman, City of Rochester, MN; Mr. Burton Stallwood, Town Administrator, City of Lincoln, RI.

This conference was funded by grants from the *Pew Charitable Trusts* and the *National Endowment for Democracy*.

Ms. Audrone Pakstys is the *USBF* Director of Municipal Programs.

- From news releases

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○ Maryland Governor William Donald Schaefer has joined the *USBF's* Board of Advisors. Mr. Schaefer has been Governor of Maryland since 1986; and, prior to that, was Mayor of the City of Baltimore, serving in that capacity for 16 years. Under his leadership, the Maryland-Baltic Partnership was established to promote educational, cultural and business relations between Maryland and the Baltic States. In the international affairs arena, Governor Schaefer's accomplishments include eight international trade missions in four years and the strengthening of economic and political relations between Maryland and Europe...". Mr. Linas Kojelis, *USBF* President stated that the *USBF* is, "...honored with Governor Schaefer's membership on [the *USBF*] Board."

- From a news release



“ 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.

SUNY Farmingdale - Kaunas Poly:

The State University of New York - Farmingdale and Kaunas University of Technology have initiated a cooperative program through which SUNY Farmingdale will assist Kaunas Poly on developing a technology transfer center for helping local businesses. SUNY Farmingdale officials are "bullish" on the Baltic States; and see them as a natural gateway for entry into/development of interior regions beyond the Baltics. SUNY Farmingdale officials, accompanied by State of New York trade officials, have already toured the Baltics; and some faculty members of Kaunas Poly have spent considerable time at SUNY Farmingdale, as well.

- Dr. Winifred B. Trakimas



A Renowned Craftsman:

According to the *Big Apple Almanac*, Marcus Illions, a Lithuanian American, hand carved the horses used on the famous Coney Island Carousel, as well as on many other carousels; during the early part of this century. At one time, Illions and his sons operated a carousel factory in the New York area. In 1989, just one of Illions' horses was sold by a collector for \$121,000!

- K. J. Bileris



ELTA Lithuanian Information Bulletin:

... is a monthly publication of the Lithuanian National Foundation, Inc. (affiliated with "VLIK"/Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania). It is available on a subscription basis, with a donation. This unique, extremely effective publication is a "must" read. Each issue contains articles/portions of articles, about Lithuania; excerpted from various publications of all kinds. Furthermore, it quotes from speeches, press releases, etc. Finally, some issues contain insightful, biting commentary pertaining to relevant Lithuanian related issues. For more information, write to: *ELTA*, 1609 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20009.



LITUANUS:

...is "...a journal of arts and sciences, dedicated to the presentation and examination of all questions pertaining to the countries and peoples of the Baltic States, particularly Lithuania." Published quarterly, by the *LITUANUS Foundation, Inc.*, it is available on a subscription basis at the rate of \$15.00 per year. Articles in this "scholarly" publication are consistently sound, of interest, and simply not available elsewhere. Write to: *LITUANUS*, 6621 South Troy Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629-2913.



Nice To Know!:

According to an impeccable source (his father!), Greg Palkot, the co-anchor for PBS' *European Journal* television program, is a Lithuanian-American. This weekly, half hour program originates in Cologne, Germany; and can be seen on many Public Television stations in the United States. It is also broadcast on the Cable TV *Learning Channel*. Earlier this year, Mr. Palkot interviewed President Landsbergis for the program.

- Mr. Edward J. Palkot



Books:

There are two regular sources, among, most certainly, several others, which consistently keep, in stock, books on various subjects, all pertaining to Lithuania (including Lithuanian-English and English-Lithuanian dictionaries) (as well as some of which we've featured in **BRIDGES**, in the past). The prices are incredibly reasonable. So, if you're looking for such books, either for your own reading pleasure/education or library; or for use as gifts, consider purchasing them from *Draugas Press*, 4545 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629, Tel: 312 585-9500; or from *Darbininkas Press*, 341 Highland Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11207, Tel: 718 827-1351. (Yes, these are the organizations which publish the Lithuanian language newspapers of those names.)



George Meany Human Rights Award:

Mr. Kazimieras Uoka, a Lithuanian trade union leader, was recipient of this award for the year 1991, from the US based AFL-CIO.- *Mr. S. Algimantas Gecys*



A Famous Graduate Remembered:

The Winter 1991 issue of *The Bulletin*, published by the University of Maryland at Baltimore Medical Alumni Association, has an article about Dr. Jonas Sliupas; noting that he graduated from the school in 1891. The article goes into great detail in recounting Dr. Sliupas' achievements in both America and Lithuania; for both the Lithuanian cause as well as for the practice of medicine. 1991 marks the 130th year of Dr. Sliupas' birth. - *Mr. Charles V. Sarpalis*



Oil? Yes!:

An article (translated here by the person furnishing this "Bit") in a Lithuanian newspaper recently read, as follows: "Yesterday, in the vicinity of Silute County, near Veivirzenu-Grumbiu Village, an oil field was put into operation. During 15 years, 12 oil wells proved very productive. Now the most productive well has been in operation with a pumping capacity reaching 40 tons of high quality oil during a 24 hour period.

Preparations are being made for the next two drillings with an expectancy of 80 tons of black gold during a 24 hour period.

During a geological survey an estimate was made that in this region oil basin deposits would be 1 million tons.

This Silute oil will be used for grass flour production."

(*Editor's note: This story brings to mind a recent "political" cartoon which shows President Landsbergis looking out the window of his office at a gushing oil well, while talking on the telephone, saying, "President Bush, guess what!"; and which is a "take off" on the fact that some say President Bush pushed so hard for Kuwait, against Iraq, because of the oil issue.*)

- *Mr. Benas Stankus*



Franciscan Newsletter:

The Franciscans of Kennebunkport, Maine publish a monthly newsletter containing, among other things, items about the Catholic Church in Lithuania; and about Lithuanian related activities in the United States. Subscription to this newsletter is available for the asking, from *Franciscan Communications*, Post Office Box 980, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046



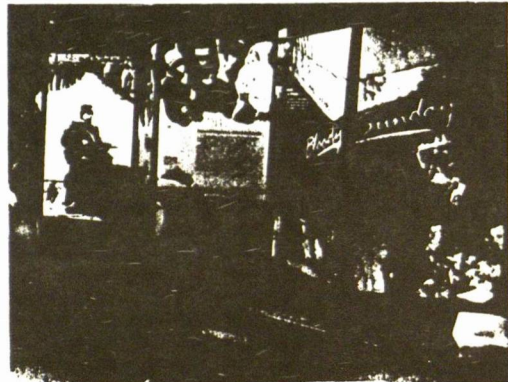
Bishop's Brief:

...is the name of another newsletter oriented to the Catholic reader. This one is published by the office of the *Bishop For The Spiritual Assistance Of Lithuanian Catholics Living Outside Of Lithuania* (the Society of Franciscan Fathers). It contains religious oriented, as well as general interest items pertaining to activities in Lithuania as well as in the United States. Available by donation. For more information, write to: Administrator (P. Azuolas), *Bishop's Brief*, 361 Highland Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11207.



Upcoming Information Workshop:

"Information in Eastern and Central Europe: Coming in from the Cold" 1991 *State-of-the-Art Institute. Special Libraries Association*. November 12-13, 1991, Washington, D.C. "...will provide pragmatic information and insights for members and others in the information community who have, or may be entering the Eastern/Central European market". Will include: Working it Out: Resources for Establishing a Business; Information Access: How to Obtain Info...; International Ventures...". For additional information, contact the *SLA's Professional Growth Section*, 1700 Eighteenth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009-2508; 202-234-4700. - *Ramune Kubilius* □



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Book Notes

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

The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939: The Baltic Case:

According to the publisher, "This volume analyzes the effects of [that pact] on the Baltic States and Eastern Europe." and, "...details the historical causes of the Treaty, its contemporary consequences, and its present day challenge." The Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact is described as the practice of "expedient politics", and, "...focuses our attention sharply on the consequences of secret deals made without regard to national and human rights." Obviously, the practice of "world politics/diplomacy" has not progressed very far in the 50 odd years since signing of this "expedient" pact; because current actions of even our own government seem to indicate that exactly the same kind of "expedient" practice in current diplomacy. Written by Izidors Vizulis; and available from *Praeger Publishers*, c/o *Greenwood Press*, 88 Post Road West, Box 5007, Westport, Connecticut 06881. Tel: 203 226-3571.



Lithuanian Diaspora: Konigsberg to Chicago:

Written by Antanas J. Van Reenan, this volume, according to the publisher, "Traces the development of a Lithuanian sense of peoplehood and unravels their invisible configuration of values. By analyzing the dynamics of their diaspora mentality, the work presents a picture of an East European people armed with an ideology enabling them to engage in a non-violent confrontation with the first principles of American nationality." The subject matter of this book appears to be incredibly timely in view of the current debate, throughout America, on the the place, if any, of "ethnically oriented" education in public schools. Available from *University Press of America*, 4720-A Boston Way, Lanham, Maryland 20706. Tel: 301 459-3366.



(Mailing Label)

Lithuanian Companies & Organizations:

Published by the *Lithuanian Information Institute*, "The aim of this Directory is to give a picture of Lithuanian market products, ranging from raw materials and semi-manufactures to industrial goods, as well as services. The Directory is a significant source of information for potential economic partners. [The Directory was prepared] using database on industrial and economic potential of Lithuania." Available for purchase from the *Lithuanian Information Institute*, Kalvariju 3, 232659 Vilnius, Lithuania. Tel: 752284; Fax: 353017; Telex: 261137 LUVLN SU. No price is listed. Published in 1991, while noting that 1990 data is used. Organized both alphabetically and by product/service. Containing names, addresses, telephone numbers of all companies listed, this Directory is clearly an essential, first tool, for anyone wanting to do business in/with companies in Lithuania. Unfortunately, it is, in fact, nothing more than a listing/database; and contains no supplemental information, whatsoever (i.e., its most significant purpose would be to serve as purely a "contact source"). Neither does it contain any information relative to relevant government agencies with which one would, obviously, have to interface in order to initiate business activity of any kind. Furthermore, because it provides no geographical orientation (other than naming an address), i.e., no map is included, a user will have to have, handy, a current map of Lithuania while using this directory. A typical listing notes the name of the company, the entity to which it is subordinate - mostly government agencies, the address, phone/telex numbers, Chief Executive's name, date the company was established, bank references, ownership - every entry appears to indicate "state owned", membership - in trade organizations, and number of employees. (This editor has written to the LII requesting pricing information/information as to whether the Directory is available on disk, in a microcomputer accessible database format. When obtained, that information will be made available to **BRIDGES** readers.)

