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Lithuania's Ambassador To U.S., Stasys Lozoraitis - Still Ambassador, But For How Long? Why Doesn't The Current Lithuanian Government Recognize His Value?

To our readers:

This editor's dismay with the current political situation in Lithuania should be, by now, evident to the most cursory reader of **BRIDGES**.

Unfortunately, that political situation doesn't seem to be getting any better. A recent guest column in *Lithuanian Weekly*, written by Justinas Karosas, Chairman of the DLP Parliamentary Faction (President Brazauskas' party), gives this editor even more reason for concern. Mr. Karosas tells us that the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (DLP), "... is a truly social democratic party with a program of action based on the principles of the Socialist International."

Such a "program of action", this editor feels, is nothing more than a long, painful, journey down a dead end road.

This editor doesn't see much difference, in principle, between socialism and the "ideals" of communism. Neither system gives credit to the inherent abilities of individuals; and both systems, ultimately, place more value in governmental structure than they do in the individual citizens/citizens' rights. Control is the operative word - the government controlling people. It's supposed to be the other way around, isn't it?

Sure, we talk, cynically, about who controls what here in the United States; and about how much voice average U.S. Citizens really have in matters affecting them. But, with all of that cynicism, we still know, and understand, that we have a system which is light years removed from one which actually calls itself a "socialist" or "communist" system. Nothing is perfect; but when something is inherently flawed - as is socialism or communism - then there is no hope, whatsoever, in being able to at least strive - and move - towards the ideal.

The whole world, whether it is easily admitted or not, looks to the United States as the ideal. People want American food, American entertainment, American music - the whole gamut. This editor continues to hope that those who want those American things will, one day, come to realize that those coveted things are the products of a society which - even still - abhors "socialism"; and that those things wouldn't have been possible, desirable to the rest of the world, if they'd been produced by people who are inhibited - even shackled - by a government which is "more important" than the people it is supposed to be *servi*ng!

Free enterprise doesn't produce perfect results - it doesn't solve all of humanity's problems. But, it most certainly makes life better for more people, in more ways, than does any other system, anywhere else. Why don't the people who covet American "everything else",

begin to covet America's economic system? It's the *only* way they'll ever get enough, on their own, of the "American style" things - including **true freedom** - they want (and deserve to have).


Joseph Arlauskas, Editor

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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 who want to assist Lithuania's integration into the community of democratically governed, free market economic system, nations of the world.

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Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir:

I am deeply disturbed by what I read is going on in Lithuania. Can this be the country and these the people who, like David of old, confronted the Goliath of Communism and cast the first stone that brought down the evil giant of the Soviet Union? Can these be the same people who, after less than two years of democratic existence, welcomed back the old regime under a new label? Can these be the same people who suffered fifty years of genocide and deprivation under Stalin and his successors, who are now lacking at the price of freedom?

Ambassador Lozoraitis' remarkable press conference prior to his departure from Lithuania after his unsuccessful bid for the Presidency was carried in the *Darbininkas* issue of March 5. His remarks highlight two potentially very harmful traits of Lithuanian society today. One is racial prejudice and the other an overall isolation and divisiveness of the people. Some of the Ambassador's statements to the press follow:

(The Ambassador) complained that there had been no genuine electoral campaign, only personal abuse, all of it absurd. For example, he was depicted as a drug addict and his wife Jewish, that he had misappropriated Lithuania's gold holdings, and so forth. That someone spread such misinformation wasn't important, but it was unfortunate that there were people who believed it. Lozoraitis observed that in Lithuania today there was a great lack of information and a terrible isolation. As a result, the nation's lack of unity now was greater than heretofore.

On top of these unfortunate developments has been widespread corruption. The head of the central bank was alleged to have engaged in illegal transactions which caused the issuance of the litas to be long delayed.

At this dark moment in their history, Lithuanians everywhere should remember the stirring words of their national anthem:

*"Tegul dirba tavo naudai
Ir Zmonu gerybei"*

(Signed) Albert Cizauskas / Falls Church, Virginia

(Editor's Note: Mr. Cizauskas is a frequent contributor to the pages of **BRIDGES**; and writes on the current economic situation in Lithuania; as well as on interesting episodes in Lithuania's history. He has an economics oriented article in the current issue - beginning on page 4.)

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Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your Dec/Jan issue article on the ADDAL! I appreciated the insight into the technicalities and problems an organization has to go thru in trying to do good for others.

I am a Registered Dental Hygienist and have been waiting (for almost a year now) to go to Lietuva to teach and demonstrate my skills there at the Kaunas Dental Academy (with the ADDAL). It's too bad that things move so slowly there, but understanding that Lithuanians there have been suppressed for 50 years under Russian domination maybe says something about their fears and uncertainty of other foreigners. I empathize with the Lithuanians there who do not understand altruism. How could they? I also admire Dr. Ragas' and the ADDAL's efforts in perusing their goals. Dentistry is sorely lacking in Lietuva, and the sooner we can get there to help them, the better for their future generations.

(Signed) Judita Martin, R.D.H. / Kansas City, Missouri

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Dear Sir:

My apologies to Sister M. Caroline and all the other Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in Sao Paulo as well as to your readers for mistakenly writing that the Lithuanian Youth Congress in South America included a welcome at St. Casimir (article published April 1992 **BRIDGES**). Thanks to Sister Mary Jaskel, O.S.F., Pittsburgh, for pointing out my error (March 1993 **BRIDGES**).

A belated *Labai Aciu* to the Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God who put in an incredible amount of time and effort to prepare beautiful, colorful decorations and delicious treats for all the guests from the Youth Congress. The evening was a memorable one.

(Signed) Audra M. Kubilius / Evanston, Illinois

(Editor's Note: We welcome letters. We will print those which are appropriate for publication and which we feel may be of interest to other readers; and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit letters before publication. Our goal is to respond to all letters, whether published or not. However, we are constrained by time; and may not always be able to do so. Mail: Letters to the Editor, **BRIDGES**, Post Office Box 363, Gloucester, Virginia 23061-0363) □

Lithuania's Economy In Dire Straits

Lithuania's Economic Health Has To Be Labeled As An "Intensive Care" Case; And The Outcome Is Still To Be Determined.

by **Albert Cizauskas**

Recent reports show Lithuania on the brink of economic catastrophe. Hyperinflation, rising unemployment, agriculture suffering from unprecedented drought, inefficient and at times corrupt bureaucracy, political turmoil in the midst of national elections defiled by vulgar personal abuse, no wonder that the newly-liberated Lithuanian state appears to have lost its moral and material compass.

The Lithuanian people, who were the first to break away from the Soviet Union, heralding its demise, are now the first to welcome back the former Communist party known as the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDLP). We can only hope that Lithuanian Communists can change their Marxist allegiance but early signs are not encouraging.

Oxford Analytica, a British "think tank", like the Brookings Institute, puts out an informative newsletter. On February 8, it released a comprehensive summary of the ailing Lithuanian economy on the eve of the national Presidential elections. A considerable part of what follows is derived from the Analytica, supplemented with information from other sources.

Bleak Prospects

The negative effects of mismanagement under the old Communist regime and the faltering steps taken by the previous post-Communist administration have been multiplied by the collapse of traditional markets in the former Soviet Union and the switch to world-market prices for energy and raw materials. Prospects for improvement in the short run are judged to be decidedly slim.

Industrial output in 1992 fell by more than half as did productivity which measures changes in a country's economic efficiency. Agricultural production declined by 40 percent.

Inflation soared by 900 percent (at a monthly rate of 30 percent) while wages rose by 400 percent so that real income was cut more than half.

In 1991, industrial output showed little change, falling by a modest 2 percent and agriculture by 8 percent while prices rose by 200 percent. These indices, when compared with those of 1992 above, suggest the speed

at which the country's economy is unraveling.

Three quarters of the population, including the Prime Minister and his family, now have an income below the official poverty line of \$13 per month. The average family is spending two-thirds of its income on food, compared to one-third three years ago. Hot water is available for only a few days a month. A disturbingly large percentage of urban dwellers no longer pay their utility bills, which authorities tend to view as a harbinger of the disintegration of the social order.

... Brazauskas is ... discarding attempts at market reform ... and is gradually returning the economy to the strait-jacket of state control.

Privatization (returning the economy from state to private ownership) has been only partly successful thus far. Some progress has been made in privatizing farm lands and small enterprises. However, slower progress has been realized in selling larger factories. In 1992, only nine enterprises with a total value of less than one million dollars were privatized for hard currency. Foreign investment has been minimal despite recent easing of restrictions on sales to non-citizens.

Efforts to introduce a national currency (the litas) have been blocked by the paucity of hard currency reserves needed to support the litas on international exchanges, the incompetence of the Central Bank and its endless quarrels with the government.

It's time to put the "beasties" out to pasture, the so-called "talons" or coupons which Lithuanians, with their customary cutting wit, call "Zverukai" because of the imprint of animals on the talons. Without a real currency, recovery is impossible and Lithuania remains tied to Russia's ruble strings. Mr. Valdas Adamkus, an administrator for the US Environmental Protection Agency, in a recent lecture at the Smithsonian, stated his belief that the litas would be issued mid-year.

The LDLP Program

The LDLP's standard-bearer and newly-elected President, Algiras Brazauskas, is discarding the Sajudis government's attempts at market reform and gradually returning the economy to the strait-jacket of state control. Halting as Sajudis reforms had been and marred by inefficiencies, at least former President Landsbergis had been pointing the economy in the right direction.

Since January of this year, the LDLP has instituted a "temporary" halt to privatization, restricted the rights of owners to recover their own property, unfrozen wage controls, reintroduced subsidies on some basic foods, capped the food industry's profits at 15 percent and compelled all enterprises to sell 25 percent of their hard currency holdings to the government. Some of the above may be socially desirable and workable in the short run, but run-away inflation can only be curbed by increasing availabilities of goods and more goods will be produced only if profitable for entrepreneurs to do so.

This elemental law of a free market was demonstrated recently when cheap Lithuanian bread, subsidized by the government, was sold on such a massive scale in Latvia, where prices were higher, that Brazauskas was forced to restrict sales of bread to Lithuanian buyers. In a free market, however, increased supplies in Latvia would have reduced prices, while scarcity of bread in Lithuania would have raised prices until the Lithuanian price was at least equal to the Latvian price. At that point, the circle would have been complete, and Lithuanian bread would once more be sold in sufficient quantities at declining prices in Lithuania. The profit motive, within bounds, is the essential fuel of a successful market economy, governed by the law of supply and demand, a fact of economic life that Communists cannot understand.

Brazauskas believes that improved relations with Russia will bring economic benefits. However, Russia's own economic crisis and the growing hostility of its nationalists toward the Baltics give little grounds for optimism. With the Brazauskas government reverting to a socialized economy, which will fan inflation even further, Western aid is likely to be increasingly restricted.

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The report of the Oxford Analytica, and those of other qualified observers, leave no doubt that the Lithuanian nation is in the throes of a severe economic crisis, one that is testing the people's courage and will as much did the confrontation with the Soviet military the tragic night of January 13, 1991.

Copyright © 1993 by Albert Cizauskas. Mr. Cizauskas' articles have appeared on a regular basis, over several years in past issues of BRIDGES. Now a freelance writer based in the Washington, DC area, he is retired from the US Diplomatic Service and the World Bank. □

Baltic States Showcased in Northwest Folklife Fest Exhibit

The Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are experiencing a rebirth of national identity since breaking away from the Soviet Union in 1991. Seattle-area residents and visitors are invited to acquaint themselves firsthand with the Baltic people via a Living Exhibit during the Northwest Folklife Festival on Memorial Day Weekend, May 29 through May 31, 1993.

The multi-faceted exhibition entitled "The Singing Revolution - Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian: Baltic Culture, Folk Art and Social Change" will take place in the Rainier Room at Seattle Center. Hours are 11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Memorial Day. The event is hosted by the respective Seattle communities of Baltic American descent. Admission is free.

Each day highlights a different nationality: Latvia is the focus on Saturday, Estonia displays its culture on Sunday, and Lithuania is in Monday's spotlight. Craftspeople will be on hand to demonstrate paper cutting, egg dyeing, stitchery, basket weaving, glass etching and other handiwork with some story-tellers and dancers take the stage on the hour from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Attendees of all ages will find something of interest.

Traditional artifacts such as costumes, tapestries, weavings, wood carvings and jewelry will be displayed as one of four standing exhibits. Others include photography of Baltic scenery and architecture, and a panel display of recent events. A photo exhibit featuring "Balts in the Northwest" will also be highlighted.

- Annie Totoraitis

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Lithuanian Montessori Movement

An interview with Mrs. Stase Vaisvila of Oak Lawn, Illinois, a leader in Montessori education; conducted by Ms. Ramune Kubilius.

Mrs. Stase Vaisvila of Oak Lawn, IL leaves in May for Lithuania. She will be there for two months, teaching Montessori teachers. This will be her second trip to Lithuania for reasons other than primarily visiting relatives, and she and Lithuanian American Montessori teachers have been supporting the movement's return to Lithuania for a number of years. Mrs. Vaisvila has even been successful in collecting donations of school materials and used children's clothing for Lithuanian schools from families associated with a Chicago area (American) Montessori school from which she recently retired.

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Educational Council is in the process of publishing a workbook of activities and games for parents of Lithuanian American pre-school children. The book was prepared by another Lithuanian American Montessori teacher, Janina Juknevicus.

Mrs. Vaisvila agreed to answer a few questions about her involvement and generally about the Montessori method as a means of raising more self-aware children, and about its impact on Lithuania.

QUESTION: Mrs. Vaisvila, you have been involved in the Montessori movement outside of Lithuania for a number of years, both as a teacher and as a Montessori school principal. What drew you to Montessori movement and why have you committed such a large part of your professional life to it?

ANSWER: From the time I left my country in 1944, I have always been involved in teaching. In Germany, in the displaced person camps, I taught Lithuanian children full time. In England, Canada, and the United States I taught at Lithuanian language Saturday schools.

After waiting for a few years for Russians to leave our country, and upon realization that it was not happening, I started to look into the possibility of going back to school for teacher's certification. While living in England, I had a chance to visit English schools where I met American exchange students. I visited schools again when we (she and her husband - RK) moved to Canada, but I did not like the methods applied to teaching children. To me, they were too restricting, not giving any leeway for teachers' creativity, ability to plan their own presentations, or to plan their own time.

I felt I was not willing to spend four years studying and then risk being unhappy with the way I had to teach.

After we moved to Chicago and I got to know Montessori through D. Petrutis' (Domicela Petrutis, mentioned later - RK) lectures and by studying M. Montessori's books, I decided that this is the right way to work with children.

At that time, in 1962, there was only one Montessori training course - in Greenwich, Conn. I quit my job at the bank, and left my husband to take care of himself for a year.

Upon finishing my training in 1963, back in Chicago, with a group of parents we organized the Lithuanian Montessori School in Marquette Park. Later Dr. L. Krauceliunas bought a building (the school was renamed *Krauceliuno Vardo Vaiku namai*) which is still being used for that purpose. In 1993, the school celebrates its 30th year anniversary.

In 1967 with a group of parents eager to have a Montessori school for their children in the Beverly area of Chicago, I committed myself to starting the Beverly Montessori School. That school is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. I'm happy that after my retirement, that school is in the well trained hands of (Lithuanian American - RK) Gina Maciulis.

What drew me to Montessori? First of all, I always wanted to work with children, especially with young children. But most important is that a child is thought to be responsible for his work and actions, he has freedom to choose from a prepared environment whatever is important to him/her at a given moment. He's free to develop his talents, to become the person he's meant to be.

Just as with the child, the teacher can be herself, use her talents, be creative in her work with children, using or preparing materials.

No money can reward you after seeing a shy, scared, hesitant child blossom into a self-reliant, independent child.

My 30 years as a Montessori directress were the happiest years of my life.

Q: Could you mention a few themes which are prominent to Montessori theory. When was it introduced in Lithuania and by whom?

A: Basically, the Montessori method's ideas are as follows: 1) Have respect for the child 2) Give activities which are absorbed in the child's mind 3) Remember the sensitive periods 4) Allow freedom in a prepared environment 5) Remember children's love for work. A very important aspect in Montessori class is respect for the child, from it a child learns to respect himself, to respect his peers and adults, to respect his environment. A young child's mind is like a sponge, he learns everything in his environment. A growing child passes through very intense periods (Montessori calls them sensitive periods) during which a child learns very easily whatever he's interested. One of the very important sensitive periods is from birth through six years of age, when sensitivity to language is acquired by the child without extra effort.

In order to develop his functions, a child has to have freedom to crawl, to climb, to touch, to lick, to carry when inner guide tells him to do that. And finally, Dr. M. Montessori by experimentation found out that a young child would rather work (play) with real things than toys. He just likes to grow up and to do things that mother does.

In Lithuania, Montessori was introduced by Maria Varnas in 1930. Later a Montessori grade school was opened, but the movement was suspended during the Russian occupation. It was re-introduced in Lithuania about 1985 by Dr. O. Keturakis, a former Varnas teacher. In 1987, Domicile Petrutis and I had a chance to meet Lithuanian pre-school educators, to speak to them about Montessori. From then on, the Montessori revival in Lithuania took root.

Q: 1993 marks several anniversaries for the Lithuanian Montessori Society in America: the Society is celebrating its 35th anniversary; its founder Domicile Petrutyte is celebrating her 80th birthday; the Kriauceliunas Montessori School in Chicago is celebrating 30 years and the "Ziburelis" school in Lemont, IL is celebrating 10 years of existence. How and why did Montessori methodology catch on among Lithuanian emigres in America? Was it the fact that the school programs are conducted entirely in Lithuanian or do other factors play a part? Are the two schools the only ones in existence in America?

A: 1992/93, Lithuanian Montessorians are celebrating important anniversaries. Thirty five years ago, the Lithuanian Montessori Society was organized by A.M. Varnas and D. Petrutis (who was considered practically a family member by Mr. and Mrs. Varnas - RK). The Kriauceliunas Vaiku namai are in existence thirty years as I mentioned earlier. D. Petrutis celebrated her 80th birthday with a small group of friends, and "Ziburelis" in Lemont celebrates ten years of educating the young generation of Lithuanian Americans. The Lithuanian Montessori Society is responsible for both schools. "Ziburelis" was organized by a group of young parents

with Dalia Dirvonis as the school's directress and principal.

The interest in Montessori by Lithuanian emigres was sparked by M. Varnas and D. Petrutis. They conducted lectures and a demonstration class in their home. That was the first Montessori class in Illinois. In other parts of the country, there were only a few Montessori schools left after the initial introduction by Montessori in 1919.

As far as I know there are just these two Lithuanian speaking schools in Chicago (and all of the U.S? - RK)

Q: How can parents know whether a Montessori school is right for their child? Can a child benefit from a Montessori pre-school without continuing school taught by Montessori method?

A: Most Montessori schools have a policy that requests that parents who plan to send their child to school come to school to observe classes in session before deciding if that's what they want for their children. Also, the school has an interview with the parent and the child.

The benefits for the child are enormous. The child who attends (Montessori) school for three years in most cases is far ahead in many areas: academic, social, independence, reliability, etc. My personal follow-ups with children from the Beverly Montessori School showed that children adapt very easily to schools' routine. Teachers are happy because they are independent, eager to go to "big school", they know how to start work and how to finish it.

I'd like to mention the benefits of learning to read and write Lithuanian first. When I taught in the Krauceliunas School, parents of older children who were reading, started to ask me if I was teaching them English, since, according to them, these children were reading all English signs (letters and words - RK).

It is very important for Lithuanian American parents to realize that sending children five days a week will give them the opportunity to learn the Lithuanian language before entering English speaking schools.

Q: You have spent time in Lithuania teaching Montessori courses and helping found Montessori schools. The Lithuanian Montessori Society of America has sponsored several teachers from Lithuania to come to attend Montessori courses at the Midwest Montessori training program.

A: In 1987, a few of us Montessori directresses went to Lithuania to lecture, give workshops, seminars. Miss D. Petrutis stayed there for six months, later again for three months. M. Kucinas and D. Dirvonis also lectured during that visit.

I went to Lithuania last spring for three months (previous visits were more family-oriented-rk). I gave seminars in Vilnius, Kaunas, Siauliai and Mazeikiai. I am planning to go there this year for two months. Our

aim is to prepare people over there who can help others.

Two teachers from Lithuania came for a year to take Montessori training at the MECA training course (the Midwest training center - RK). Their stay was sponsored in 1990-91 by D. Petrutis. She covered their living expenses. I sponsored one teacher twice for shorter periods of time. To cover tuition and other expenses, we applied to various funds which were very generous: the Lithuanian Foundation, the Vydunas Fund, the Lithuanian Montessori Society and the American Montessori Scholarship Fund. Both teachers got American Montessori diplomas last summer, both work not only in their classrooms, but travel throughout Lithuania, helping other teachers wanting to apply Montessori (methodology - RK) in their classrooms.

My sponsoree, besides working in school, does a lot lecturing, many presentations and other work with students from the Siauliai Pedagogical Institute.

D. Petrutis has since sponsored eleven other teachers and people interested in Montessori for shorter periods of time to visit schools to see how classes are set up and run.

Q: What happened to the Montessori movement in Lithuania during the years of occupation? What does the Montessori movement offer to Lithuania today? How many schools have been founded? How many teachers and students are involved?

A: During the occupation years, all private schools were closed. Communism does not need individuals - their schools made robots who automatically do what they were told to do.

Educators in Lithuania are searching for new ways to educate youngsters. We Montessorians were lucky to be the first ones in 1987 to dare to represent other ways of education, and it caught on like fire.

Since Lithuanian educators are looking for new ways, many different groups from the West are invited to represent their views on education. The Montessori methods should topple all of them because it has a philosophy, it has materials, and it has teacher preparation courses. Montessori will reintroduce human values: respect and love for self and others, the work ethic, responsibility, creativity, will develop a person's spiritual side.

It is difficult to say how many schools there are in Lithuania which are trying to turn their classes into Montessori. It seems that there's at least one school in each big and smaller city. Even if school does not have Montessori equipment (it is made in Lithuania now), but if a teacher, after attending lectures has tried to make her teaching more human - that is a gain from Montessori.

Q: What role do parents play in children's success in Montessori schools, both in the U.S. and in Lithuania?

A: In the U.S., Montessori schools' parents are very involved in their children's education. Through parent meetings, workshops on parenting, parent nights, readings, newsletters, parents are asked to get familiar with what we are trying to do in the class. Parents are asked to observe their child's class a few times a year, have conferences with the directress.

In Lithuania, Montessori teachers are trying to do the same, but because it is a new thing, some are very sceptical. A very typical reaction was expressed by one very educated father who listened to the new directress' presentation of Montessori (Vida G. finished the Montessori course in the U.S.). He said to her that she is talking about utopia, that it cannot happen, but apologized to her a few months later, after observing his child's class.

Q: What is the relationship of A.P.P.L.E. (written up in previous **B R I D G E S** issues) and the Lithuanian Montessori Society of America? Both are intent on improving the status of education in Lithuania. Is there any cooperation or collaboration between the two groups?

A: We are in touch with A.P.P.L.E. As I understand from its director Vaiva Vebra-Gust, there is a request from the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture and Education, to include Montessori in the early education portion of the program. In 1992, Montessori directress Miss Ozinska went with A.P.P.L.E. to give lectures and presentations. Last year, I went to Lithuania very early in the Spring, because I wished to visit existing Montessori classes (A.P.P.L.E. seminars take place during the summer - RK). This year, we discussed again (the possibility - RK) of joining them, but unfortunately, no one from our large group of Lithuanian Montessori teachers is able to go this year. I made arrangements already last Summer to come back and give very detailed presentations in three areas to teachers who already are working in Montessori classes. I hope eventually, with good American friends, that we will be able to get some kind of Montessori certificate for women attending our classes.

It is a big loss for Montessorians not to join A.P.P.L.E. in their work, but it is impossible for one person to give the training course and lecture about Montessori in general, especially since all of the lecture and works are in English, and translation is not that easy.

Q: What do you feel the general public most often misunderstands about Montessori teaching? What do you feel is its greatest contribution in the upbringing of a child? If a parent cannot afford a Montessori school or there is no Montessori school in the area where a family lives, what can parents do with or for their children which would reflect some of the Montessori method's greatest strengths?

A: I think the biggest and most damaging misunderstanding is the question of freedom and discipline. Anyone who had a chance to observe well-run Montessori class will agree with me, that discipline and freedom are well-combined: the child is free to choose whatever he likes and is ready for, but he knows there is no room for misbehavior. Because children choose what they like to do, things that answer their inner need, they are happy, there's no need to misbehave. Usually, a very unhappy child misbehaves, because he has not learned a better way to get attention. Discipline is internalized. It would be a long lecture to explain how it is done in a class, but the best way to see a well-run Montessori class.

One of Montessori's contributions on upbringing is that it allows parents to have a responsive, creative, disciplined child. Many parents have such children without Montessori school.

When I think about my own childhood, I always say that my parents, as many or most parents, were Montessorians, although they never had heard or read about it. In simpler times and places, we had freedom, we had the open field and woods, we had duties, we had parents' trust and love. Nowadays, parents have to plan for those things, but the best advice would be to "follow, observe your child, he'll tell you of his needs". There is no book that will tell a parent what to do because each child is an individual, his needs might be different from other child's needs.

Just relax, throw out most of the books, find or rather make time to observe your child and figure out what he's trying to achieve with his actions.

Q: Thank you very much for the interview. Is there anything you would like to add about the Montessori Museum being founded in Lithuania or any other thoughts you would like to share with **BRIDGES** readers?

A: Thank you for well thought-out questions. I don't think I could add anything to what I have said in these many pages.

As for the Montessori Museum in Lithuania, D. Petrutis' dream is to have in Kaunas a Montessori museum and educational center. Many materials are already transported over there, persons are sorting out and trying to set up. With the bad economic situation, it takes longer and more finances to finish work. *(The address of the Lithuanian Montessori Society of America is 14911 127th Street, Lemont, Illinois.)*

The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., publisher of **BRIDGES**, seeks your financial support; and your membership. For more information, write to: 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134; or call: 215 739-9353.

Camp Neringa

A project, idea, vision or service is always clear to the individual personally involved. So it is not surprising, that summer camp can be a totally unknown or even unappreciated event if one has never been at camp.

For all too many folks, to suggest summer camp to your children or grandchildren has never even crossed one's mind. Summer camp can sound quite distant and totally unrelated to anything one has known or experienced. But talk to some lucky few - summer camp means that the best two weeks of their entire year! That's how the majority of campers react when they think of NERINGA - a home for two weeks away from home among some very special people and the opportunity of sharing daily activities with children one's own age in a protected environment, getting involved with one's Lithuanian culture and loving it.

NERINGA has operated a two week session in English for children of Lithuanian heritage for the last 23 years. With very few exceptions, most everyone has benefited from the two week experience. Everyone speaks of how it helps each child's self identity, bolsters self confidence, creates an atmosphere for social and emotional health, and just all around fun. Most parents speak of the positive effect camp life and camp experience has had on their child or teenager. But, we've noticed that in the two previous years the enrollment has dropped. Is it because of the recession? Are the weekly fees too much for parents to handle? Has the achievement of Lithuania's independence eliminated the need to be involved with or know of one's country of heritage? Have the politics changed this desire?

If you wish more information about this year's English Speaking Session, which is scheduled from June 27 - July 10, 1993, please write to: NERINGA, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, Connecticut 06260. (The telephone number, at Camp NERINGA, in Vermont, is: 802 254-8090)

NERINGA is operated and administered by the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception from Putnam, CT; and provides an opportunity for children 7 - 16 years old to live with their age group in a Christian environment where the focus of the daily program is Lithuanian culture.

Acceptance and participation are the same for everyone without regard to race, color, national origin or handicap according to the given environment.

Lithuania

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June-September 1993
Group Travel Dates*

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June 22-July 7	July 26-August 10	
June 28-July 13	August 2-17	
June 20-July 14	August 3-18	
July 5-20	August 9-24	
July 6-21	August 23-September 7	

Travel individually or with a group. Group rates lower.

Standard itinerary for groups with all-inclusive package: 5 nights Kaunas, 4 nights Palanga/Klaipeda, 5 nights Vilnius.

Book all-inclusive package or just the air fare; or book the air fare plus any one of the following: transfers, hotels, breakfast, lunch, dinner, sightseeing, car rental with driver, tax and service charges, tour guides, luggage handling, Lithuanian visa.

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"Cold War" - A New Meaning

Lithuanians Fight Daily, A New "Cold War"; This Time In The Literal Sense. A Recent Visitor Gives Us Details.

by Dorothy Minkus-McKenna

While the politicians rejoice in the end of the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union, Lithuania and many of the newly independent countries of Eastern Europe, are fighting a new war and it too can aptly be labeled a "cold war".

Earlier this winter, I taught a marketing course at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania as part of a USIA (United States Information Agency) grant. Vytautas Magnus University is an independent institution founded in 1922, closed in 1950 by the Soviets and reopened in 1989 as Lithuania struggled for its independence. There are presently approximately 1000 students enrolled at VMU with business being the second largest major.

The most difficult part of my stay in Lithuania was the shortage of heat, hot water and electricity. The thermometer in my hotel room read 10 degrees celsius which is 50 degrees fahrenheit. The first night there, I slept with almost everything I brought - a flannel night gown, a sweat shirt, long johns, slipper socks, 2 thick wool blankets and I was still cold. In the middle of the night, I woke up freezing so I spread my fur coat over the bed for extra warmth. I couldn't even write post cards lying in bed under the covers because my hands would still be too cold. After 3 nights of this war with the cold, I checked out of the hotel and moved in with a family that had heat! Complaining to the hotel management about the cold, did nothing except generate another blanket. Management claimed all the rooms were cold and looked at me as if I were a demanding foreigner.

Although the nighttime problem was solved, the classroom where I taught during the day was almost as cold. My students had to sit for five hours a day in an unheated classroom while I lectured on the finer details of a free market economy. One translator I had would often gripe how he is still suffering from his hand freezing in the same classroom two months earlier.

Hot water, even in most private homes, was also a problem. The only time there was hot running water at the apartment I had moved into was the second weekend I was there. It seems the government rationed it by city. Thankfully I had brought baby wipes with me

for a daily wipe down and learned to wash both body and hair with hot water boiled in kettles.

Electricity was also restricted. Many public buildings, restaurants and corridors were poorly lit. One night I left a light on in my room and was gently reprimanded by my hostess.

Why this cold war? Life has never been easy in Lithuania as we well know but this new suffering is a very difficult case of conversion pains. Previously the Soviet Union supplied gas and oil for heating. Now, the fuel supply is greatly restricted. Until these countries learn to trade with each other, the situation will continue. Hopefully, it will not last another winter but complete economic development will take many years, if not a full decade.

To a visitor like myself, economically and culturally the country is like Rip Van Winkle-just waking up after a forty year sleep. The world has changed but so much in Lithuania is like the U.S. pre World War II. There are no grocery stores as we know them nor the thousands of consumer products available to us. There are only 4 television stations and two of these are Russian. There is a "mafia". The men are gentlemen. (Okay, I enjoyed this part.) Handicapped persons are hidden. Unemployment is a problem and so on.

Marketing, the focus of my trip, is virtually unheard of and poorly understood by those aware of the subject. Even in the US, this is a difficult concept to understand and we are based on directives from the Communist Party. Pricing was nonexistent. Now, like a ship at sea that has to change course, the factories and people in Lithuania must stop what they were producing, slowly turn around and go in a completely opposite and uncharted direction.

What products does Lithuania manufacture? There are numerous craft items, fabrics, wood products and some electrical goods. A realistic look of these items is bleak at this point of good quality, however, the international market for them is limited and highly competitive with other emerging nations. Fabrics, often made with antiquated machines, compete with the even lower waged countries of the Third World.

As for electrical goods, a student related a story of a joint venture with a Canadian firm which made irons. At first, the sales of these irons in Lithuania were quite

good. However, the company then decided to change the language of the temperature settings on the iron from English to Lithuanian now manufactured in Lithuania. Products manufactured in the countries of the former U.S.S.R. are disdained for their shoddy workmanship and avoided if at all possible.

Presently, pricing is illogical, inflationary and inconsistent. Although "talons" are the official currency of Lithuania, most imported items must be paid for in dollars or Deutchemarks. Agfa film, Amaretto liquor, most appliances and the ubiquitous "American" jeans required hard currency.

For example, Marlboro cigarettes could be purchased with the local currency and only cost the equivalent of 58 cents in U.S. dollars. However, given that the average salary in Lithuania is \$20/month, this is equivalent to 3% of their monthly salary! This is like paying \$87 a pack in the US if your annual salary were \$50,000 a year and you were in the 30% tax bracket! Marlboro, although generally considered a global product (available the world over with the same advertising), has different compositions around the world. The Marlboro cigarettes available in Lithuania have a different filter and have less compact tobacco so they don't last as long as the ones available in the US. As a Lithuanian friend described it- "Oh yes, there is a difference. The Marlboros from America don't disappear in 2 minutes!"

Food was seemingly readily available by their standards but, again, expensive. Chicken was 69 cents/K, butter \$1.00/K, salami \$1.05/K. When my translator invited me for dinner, she wanted to bake a cake, but only had an hour to go grocery shopping. The first store she went to had no eggs. The second store had eggs, but it would have taken 20 minutes to buy them. Oh well, cake is fattening anyway.

Health supplies, for individual purchase or in the hospitals, were either in short supply or very expensive. "Bayer" aspirin was available but had to be paid for in Deutchmarks. Tampax was available at 65 cents a box of 5% of the average salary. In the hospital syringes were in short supply. An acquaintance wrote that she had gone into the hospital but she got very sick while there and ended up staying for 3 months because they didn't have "a" syringe for her.

Household supplies did not fare better. The kitchen sink in many apartments was, oh how can I be charitable? disgustingly dirty by our standards. No scouring powder. Actually, I did bring several cans of Ajax cleanser as presents to my family, cousins of my mother. It is not a very luxurious present but certainly useful.

Distribution is another problem wracked with a lack of infrastructure and rife with extortion and "mafia". There are state stores, private stores and the black market where goods can be purchased. State stores are drab, poorly stocked and managed by clerks who obviously do no work on commission. One evening around 5 P.M., my guide and I went into a state

restaurant for dinner but we could not get served. They were closing. Why close at dinner time? Because they wanted to. They would still earn the same amount of wages if they waited on customers or not!

The private stores, i.e. Matchbox Toys, a jeans store, etc., were a sharp contrast to the state stores. These were well lighted, clean, well stocked and expensive. The black market was also fascinating but apparently seething with danger and intrigue. (My guide warned me not to go "in there" on my own because it could be quite dangerous.) There were beautiful flowers and ugly apples. This to me is one of the great mysteries - how can they have so many beautiful flowers and yet be unable to produce adequate fruit? There were Dole bananas being sold individually and a variety of farm products. The farm products were suspect, however. One could not be sure of their geographic origin which could be Belarus or the Ukraine - the areas devastated by Chernobyl. Wild mushrooms, on of my favorite delicacies from Lithuania, were tabu.

One store I often passed was described as a "resale" store, a term used in a derogatory sense by one of my translators. I mistakenly had assumed that it was a thrift shop. No - it meant that these goods were purchased by private individuals in other countries and brought back to Lithuania for "re"sale. These are entrepreneurs by my definition - the driving force of the change to a free market economy - yet they are looked upon with distaste by many consumers and may help to explain why a communist was just elected President there.

The second most difficult part of my visit was seeing and learning about sick children. The adorable, blue-eyed 51/2 year old daughter of a friend had the most rotten teeth I had ever seen. She and her brother had weak bones and wore orthopedic type shoes. Given that her mother is a medical doctor and that they live rather well, this seemed to be even more tragic. Unfortunately, my dentist here says that it is too late to do anything about the teeth. (While I was writing this article, I was also reading of the frustrations of some Lithuanian American dentists (See January 1993 issue of **B R I D G E S**) in their efforts to establish clinics in Lithuania. Thank goodness that situation is finally working out.)

In another incident, one of the entrepreneurs I met approached me with an impassioned plea for educational materials for blind children. His child is blind and "treated like dirt - only given menial jobs". Although many Lithuanian-Americans are trying to provide aid, it is an enormous, heart wrenching task that sometimes seems endless.

Is there hope for the future of Lithuania? Yes. There are many bright talented people working very hard to make things change for the better. Would I go back? Yes, but not in the winter at least not until this new cold war is over. □

Editor's Note: Professor Minkus-McKenna writes regularly for B R I D G E S.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH CONGRESS? The World Lithuanian Youth Congress (WLYC/PLJK) is a global gathering of young people of Lithuanian heritage which convenes every four years. The Eighth Congress will take place in Europe – East and West – during the Summer of 1994, bringing together young Lithuanians from more than 14 countries.

WHO'S INVITED TO ATTEND? Young people of Lithuanian heritage between the ages of 18 and 35, along with interested participants, will be taking part in the many events and meetings that are part of the Congress. Guest speakers and prominent Lithuanian emigre community members will also be in attendance.

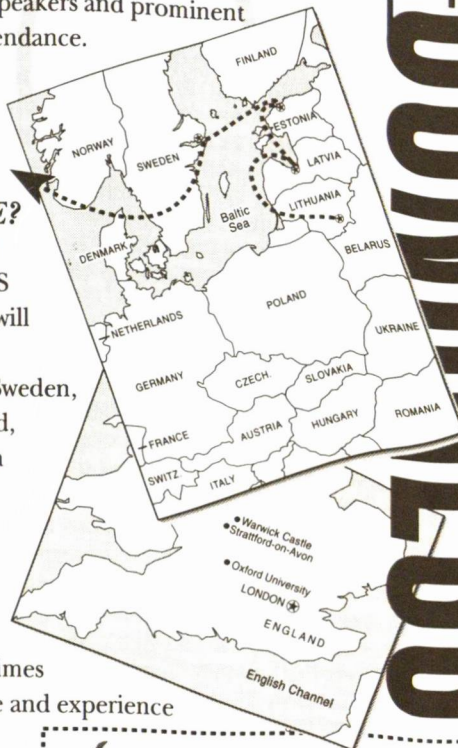
WHEN WILL THE CONGRESS CONVENE?

From July 12 to 31, 1994. The Congress will open in Vilnius one day after the closing ceremonies of the "Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival" (July 7-11, 1994).

WHERE WILL THE CONGRESS TAKE PLACE?

After a brief program in Vilnius, Congress participants will travel to the port of Klaipėda where they will board the "MS Baltic Star" for a six-day cruise of the Baltic Sea. The ship will stop in Riga, Latvia, and Tallinn, Estonia, to visit with local Lithuanian communities. The cruise ends in Stockholm, Sweden, where participants will depart by air to London. In England, elected national chapter delegates of the World Lithuanian Youth Association will convene for a six-day conference. Other participants will be offered tours around the United Kingdom. Delegates and participants converge on London for the WLYC closing ceremonies on July 31.

World Lithuanian Youth Congresses have brought together young Lithuanians from around the world seven times over the last twenty-five years. There is no better way to see and experience first-hand the truly global community Lithuanians have created, and no better forum for young Lithuanians to debate their past, present, and future. Join the WLYC and help us bring this great community together again!



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YES! I would like more information about the World Lithuanian Youth Congress to be held in Europe and Great Britain (July 1994).

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Are you familiar with the World Lithuanian Youth Association? Y N

Will you be attending the "Lithuanian Song Festival" in Vilnius (July 7-10, 94)? Y N

By July 1994, will you be ...at School / University ...working full time

Have you ever attended a World Lithuanian Youth Congress? Y N

Have you ever visited Lithuania? Y N

Do you belong to a local chapter of the Lith. Youth Assn./LJS? Y N

If yes, what year(s)? _____ If yes, what year(s)? _____ If yes, which chapter? _____

Send this completed form to:
WORLD LITHUANIAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION
ATTN: PLJK Info, P.O.Box 2812, Springfield, VA 22152-0812
Names collected from these forms will be the first to receive registration information. Congress program, itinerary and dates are subject to change without notice. WLYC is a not-for-profit organization. Your tax-deductible donations are appreciated.

From The Lithuanian Press . . .

Selected items excerpted from the Lithuanian Press in America; which should be of interest to our readers. Compiled and Translated by Ms. Ramunė Kubilius.

Dr. John Lubicky, the Chief Surgeon of Chicago's Shriners Hospital visited Lithuania in January. The primary purpose of his trip was to look over the orthopedic operating room facilities as a possible future site of Lithuanian Children's Hope surgeries. In three days, he examined 160 children in Vilnius and Kaunas - 4 requiring the most complicated surgeries were selected as candidates for the trip to the U.S. Dr. Lubicky and his surgical team had hoped to perform surgeries in Lithuania this spring, but due to instrumentation and other supply shortages make this impossible at this time. Dr. Lubicky still has hopes of working with surgeons in Lithuania to perform many of the surgeries (primarily for scoliosis, hip deformities and the like - RK), while bringing to the U.S. only those children who require very complicated care or tests...In Los Angeles, Laura Jakimavicius remains in the care of the Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee there after her scoliosis surgery in November; the Shriners Hospital has volunteered to fit Laura with a prosthetic left arm since she has no arm from the shoulder down...In March Vilma Ivanauskas comes to Chicago's Shriners Hospital; American Travel Agency owner Aleksas Lauraitis arranged for airfare via SAS at no charge for Vilma and her mother. (*PENSININKAS*, 3/93)

According to a decision reached by the Seimas, 2500 persons will be allowed to immigrate to Lithuania in 1993. That is the planned immigration which would unite families. According to government statistics, immigration to Lithuania has decreased each year by about 40% since 1989. It is thought that this tendency will remain the same for the next 3-4 years. In 1992, the immigration quota was 5000. (*DRAUGAS-ELTA*, 4/13/93)

900,000 passports have been issued in Lithuania. The millionth passport holder will soon be known. The Soviet - issued passports are valid through July 2nd, 1993. (*DARBININKAS*, 4/9/93)

The Lithuanian government has decreed that persons aged 80 years and older will be able to take advantage of special social services, those given to second level invalids. At this time in Lithuania there are about 103,000 persons of that age group. 40 million coupons

(talonai) from the government's reserves have been set aside to pay costs of adapting vehicles of transportation for this group. A special project will be proposed by June 1st for the easier dispensing of medicine and apparatus. (*DRAUGAS-ELTA*, 4/13/93)

The Cultural Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. met March 20th in Manhattan. LAC president Vytas Maciunas took the initiative and called together the meeting, since former Council president Audrone Misiunas had left her duties when she travelled to Lithuania for a longer work-related stay; the vice-president, Vytautas Volertas carried on the duties for some time but later resigned. The attendees of the evening discussed future activities of the Council, especially about one of its primary traditional tasks - the annual designation of awards for achievements in the arts.

Paulius Jurkus was designated the task of gathering LAC Cultural Council minutes, guidelines and other information about the designation of the awards, so that the present Cultural Council would have clearly established precedents (e.g. could an award be designated to a person of Lithuanian descent from outside of the U.S., etc. - RK). Funds for the awards are being sought - the awards ceremonies will take place in the fall, at the Brooklyn "Kulturos Zidiny". The LAC New York Region's officers have agreed to help host the event.

Another topic which was discussed was the fact that Lithuania should better familiarize itself with the diaspora. Videotapes about Lithuanian American life would help in this pursuit. Vytas Maciunas promised to prepare plans for the production/preparation of longer or shorter videotapes about Lithuanian American song and dance festivals, congresses, museums, etc. He also feels that Philadelphia's Lithuanian Americans should produce a videotape about writer/poet Vincas Kreve who lived and even died in that city. The group discussed the possibilities of bringing Lithuanian boys' choir "Azuoliukas" to the U.S. The choir's longtime director, Haris Perlsteinas, was one of the meeting attendees. It was decided that at this time the costs of this undertaking are too overwhelming. It would be a worthwhile endeavor to look for a host American institution, since the choir is quite well known, having

given concerts widely throughout Europe. Cultural Council sponsorship of an electronic cello concert is in process at this time.

The work of the Cultural Council is important, since it helps support diaspora cultural activities, publicizes them to the public, designating awards. It would be a loss to the diaspora's life if the public no longer paid attention to its cultural life or gave it recognition through awards.

It appears that until the end of the LAC Executive Committee's term of office, the Cultural Council will be chaired by the LAC president himself. (DARBININKAS, from an article by P.J., 4/9/93)

The U.S. Bishops' Conference has given Lithuania's Catholic Church the gift of the instruments and apparatus for a fully operational television studio. The gift, worth over \$200,000, has already arrived in Kaunas. (DARBININKAS, 4/9/93)

Chicago's Lithuanian Opera presented Italian Vincenzo Bellini's (1801-1835) opera "Norma" on April 18th at Morton East High School in Cicero, IL. The Opera Company, now in its 38th season, this year reduced its performances (previously three performances, later two - RK) to only one based on the financial burdens and lowered audience interest in last year's "Otello". On April 18th, however, the auditorium was filled.

The opera consists of four acts, depicting life in Gaul during the Roman occupation, about 50 B.C. This year's production featured Lithuania's opera stars Irena Milkeviciute in the role of Norma, high priestess of the Druid temple of Esus; Bronius Tamasauskas as Pollione, Roman proconsul in Gaul; Nijole Ambrazaityte as Adalgisa, a virgin of the temple of Esus. Other roles were sung by Chicago Lithuanian Americans Jonas Vaznelis as Oroveso, the Archdruid, Norma's father; Egle Rukstelyte-Sundstrom as Clotilda, confidante of Norma; and Julius Savrimas as Flavio, a centurion.

The opera was conducted by Principal Conductor and Artistic Director, Alvydas Vasaitis, who lives in the Chicagoland area. Stage Director Eligijus Domarkas has been Principal Director of the Lithuanian Opera and Ballet Theater in Vilnius since 1989 (this was his second year of duties in Chicago). Ricardas Sokas, trained and educated in Lithuania, has been working with the Lithuanian Opera Company since November 1991 and has been its accompanist and chorus master. The orchestra consisted of professional level Chicago area musicians, and included two Lithuanian Americans - Linda Veleckis-Kerpe (1st violin) and Herkulis Strolia (2nd violin).

The Opera Company, together with its guests from Lithuania, was scheduled to perform a concert in Chicago on April 24th. It was to provide the Chicagoland audience with another chance to hear a

program by the stars from Lithuania who have performed all over Europe (including a performance by Madame Milkeviciute at LaScala in Milan, Italy) and the former Soviet Union.

Conductor Alvydas Vasaitis already has future plans for the Lithuanian Opera Company - to produce and bring to Lithuania the opera "Jurate ir Kastytis" (from the Lithuanian folktale about the ill-fated lovers from land and sea - RK). The opera, written by Kazimieras Viktoras Banaitis (1896-1963) was written in the diaspora. (In the early 1970's, the Lithuanian Opera Company had performed the opera with diaspora soloists, and had even produced a recording of the opera. - RK) (Information obtained from TEVISKES ZIBURIAI, 3/30/1993; and from the opera program.)

The thirtieth annual meeting of the Lithuanian Foundation took place March 27th in Chicago. The Foundation gained 63 new members in 1992, totalling 6,611 members. 94 members died that year. In 1992 the Foundation's treasury increased by \$314,196 and the total capital is now \$6,296,537.

In 1992, 238 persons and organizations sent requests for financial support from LF, requesting more than \$1 million. The sum (allowed from interest, not principal) distributed was \$255,795. In the last 30 years, LF has distributed \$3,338,381. Special scholarship and funding committees included LF and Lithuanian-American Community Inc. representatives.

In 1992, LF \$211,811 was donated thanks to the wills of generous persons. The largest donation came from the last and testament of Kleopas Girvilas who left \$140,093 to LF. About one third of the LF's capital has come from such donations.

The Lithuanian Foundation has set aside \$1 million as a special fund for Lithuania. The chair of that special fund is Dr. A. Razma. A special committee in Lithuania oversees the dispersement of funds, and there are special controls to check the appropriateness of both requests and dispersement.

In the future, LF members may vote to raise the amount of LF capital diverted to the special fund.

Lithuanian Foundation president Marija Remys was voted to serve for another term. As the LF bylaws rule, 6 of the 18 LF directors finished their terms. Lithuanian Foundation representatives in various Lithuanian American communities seek donations and represent the LF in the dispersement of funds (eg. LF funds given to Lithuanian language schools in sums designated by the LAC Educational Council). Various conclusions voted on at the meeting will be formally announced separately. (DRAUGAS, from an article by Br. Juodelis, 4/7/93)

New permanent residents or visitors to Chicago were invited to attend weekly religious seminars during Lent at Chicago's Nativity B.V.M. Church. These seminars and other sessions will allow newly arrived persons from

Lithuania the opportunity of becoming more familiar with the principles of the Catholic faith, to prepare for the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Priests helping conduct the first seminar on February 25th included Pastor Rev. J. Kuzinskas, Rev. A. Paliokas (here on a longer visit from Kaunas, Lithuania), and Rev. A. Saulaitis. The program is also supported by Immaculate Conception Lithuanian Parish's Pastor, Rev. A. Puchenskis. (DRAUGAS, 4/7/93)

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday refused to accept Liudas Kairys' request to be allowed to remain in the United States. Therefore, no barriers remain to his deportation. At this time, L. Kairys is being detained at the federal prison in Denver, CO. The date of deportation has not yet been set, but it is thought that L. Kairys will be deported to Germany, a destination Kairys himself designated. (L. Kairys was accused of lying on his U.S. immigration documents in the post-World War II years, for leaving out his service in the wartime German military. At the time he was 16 years of age.) (DRAUGAS, 4/7/93)

Two youths (a 15 and a 17 year old) from Sauliai were arrested March 17th for their alleged vandalism of six copper and bronze crosses on the Hill of Crosses near Siauliai, Lithuania. Officials claim that more were actually damaged. About 50 kg. of metals were stolen - the crosses were broken off, dragged into the bushes where they were broken apart. (The Hill of Crosses has long been a tourist and pilgrimage site in Lithuania; in Communist occupation days the Hill suffered much damage as tractors tore down the then hated Catholic symbols. Many visitors from throughout Lithuania and from abroad build or order crosses, which are installed at the scene, so that they can dedicate them to loved ones or to commemorate their visits to the Hill of Crosses. - RK) (DRAUGAS, 4/7/93)

The fortieth anniversary European Lithuanian Studies Week (Europos Lietuviškuju Studiju savaite) will take place August 1-8 in Augsburg, Germany. The anniversary week will include the usual program of Lithuanian language lectures and cultural programs. Among the invited lecturers expected will be music professor Vytautas Landsbergis (also known as former reform movement "Sajudis" leader and Lithuanian president - RK), Lithuanian Minister of Culture and Education, Darius Kuolys and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Lithuanian division director, Dr. Kestutis Girnius as well as others. The cultural program will include well-known soloist Lilija Sukys and organ virtuoso Professor Vytautas Vasiliunas. (DARBININKAS, 4/2/93; and from organizer promotional information)

By presidential decree, on the 75th anniversary of Lithuania's independence, Gediminas medals (Gedimino ordina) of the third degree have been awarded to persons deemed to have given of themselves in the areas of culture, the arts, and education. (The awards are named to commemorate Grand Duke Gediminas who ruled Lithuania from 1316 to 1341 - RK). Lithuanian Americans, poet Bernardas Brazdionis and artist Vytautas Kazys Jonynas will receive their medals when they visit Lithuania. Poet Justinas Marcinkevicius, longtime (now retired) Vilnius University rector Jonas Kubilius, and poet, army chaplain, Kaunas Igula Church pastor Ricardas Mikutavicius received their awards on February 16th. (DARBININKAS, 4/2/93)

On March 19th (February 26th by the old calendar) architect Vytautas Zemkalnis-Landsbergis celebrated his 100th birthday in Vilnius. Three generations of the Landsbergis family have worked for the good of Lithuania, including dramatist Gabrielius, architect Vytautas, and his sons Vytautas (music professor, Sajudis leader and former president of Lithuania) and Gabrielius. A celebratory Mass was held at St. Michaels' (sv. Mykalojaus) Church, the only Lithuanian church which has been a center for Lithuanian Catholics since the beginning of the century. Vytautas Zemkalnis - Landsbergis said he served there as an altar boy in 1904, and that his life has revolved around the church since then.

Vytautas Zemkalnis-Landsbergis had emigrated to Australia in 1949 with his wife Elena and his son Gabrielius, but returned to Lithuania in 1959. (Son Vytautas had remained in Lithuania during that time.)

The architect was born in 1893 in the Panevezys region of Lithuania. His father was dramatist Gabrielius. He finished high school in Ryga, Latvia in 1913 and he completed the technical institute in Ryga as well. He volunteered to serve in the Lithuanian army from 1918-1922. From 1922-25 he studied architecture in Rome. 1927-44 he taught architecture at Vytautas Magnus University, and he served as chief engineer/architect for the city of Vilnius from 1939-44. In 1941, he served in Lithuania's temporary (wartime) government, and later he worked in the underground against the Nazis. From 1945-1949 he taught at the Lithuanian high school in Eichstette, Germany and taught architecture at the UNRRA university in Munchen. In 1949-59 he worked as an architect in Melbourne, Australia and was president of the Australian Lithuanian Cultural Fund.

As an architect, he is well known for the work he did in redesigning the Vilnius Cathedral square. After his return from Australia, he designed the Vilnius Old Town quarter project and the historic and ethnographic museum at the foot of Gediminas Hill. Even more recently as an activist, he can be seen in videos taken during the days of Lithuania's reawakening - during the freedom rallies (mitingai), at the raising of the tricolor

Lithuanian flag where he spoke on behalf of Lithuania's still surviving army volunteers. Having lived through two world wars, two occupations, two rebirths of the Lithuanian nation, one emigration, the celebrant begins his second century of life, able to celebrate the rise of Lithuania's star. (*DARBININKAS*, 4/2/93, from an article by *Salomeja Narkeliunas*)

Lithuanian athletes were among the participants in the International Amateur Athletic Federation's World Indoor championships in Toronto, Ontario's SKYDOME March 12-14th. More than 100 countries sent their athletes. Now that the Communist block has been divided, 20 now independent countries were represented, including Lithuania which was represented by six of its best track and field athletes and Torontoans were proud about the participation of Canadian Lithuanian high jumper Aleksandras Zaliauskas of Oakville, ONT. The Lithuanians did not receive any medals, but before the competition, Dalia Matusevicius achieved a new Lithuanian record in the 800 m. race, while Sada Eidikis-Buksas set a world record in the 1500 m. walk. It is hoped that the world record will be recognized. (*TEVISKES ZIBURIAI*, 3/30/93, from an article written by *A.S.*)

The Canadian and U.S. Lithuanian sports festival will take place May 28-31 in New York. Technical arrangements are being coordinated by New York's "Atletas" Club, whose president this year is Algirdas Jankauskas. The games which will take place in Long Island will include competition in: men's basketball, women's volleyball, chess, table tennis, swimming, and possibly more. (*DRAUGAS*, 3/19/93) Sarunas Marculionis (Gold State Warrior basketball star - RK) has already agreed to be on the honorary committee which is still being formed. (*DARBININKAS*, 3/19/93)

A Lithuanian alpine team attempted to reach the top of the world's highest mountain- Mt. Everest this past fall. Of the four teams attempting to reach the top (Lithuania's, an Italian-Swiss team, Taiwan's and America's), not one was able to accomplish that feat. Lithuania's team was well-prepared, it acclimatized well to the high elevation, had good equipment and medical care, was well-trained. However, the forces of nature were stronger. The cold, 100 mile an hour winds, and high altitude sickness took their toll. It is realistic to hope that in the near future, the tricolor Lithuanian flag will be raised at the top of Mt. Everest.

The expedition was composed of: Aleksas Bertulis (from the United States) was the expedition's leader; R. Simutis was the second in charge; C. Saduikis is Lithuania's Alpine Federation president; V. Usas, E. Pundzius, V. Vitkauskas, J. Bajoras (a female member of the team - RK); S. Navickas; V. Paplauskas; Latvian Dr. Aivars Boyars provided medical care and T. Makauskas was cook.

Also part of the expedition were filmmakers from Lithuanian television, physicians from the U.S., and a Singapore participant. The expenses of the expedition were close to \$130,000; the debt is \$18,000. Permits in Nepal and Tibet cost \$63,000. It is noteworthy to remember and honor Lithuania's best alpine climber, Dainius Makauskas, who tragically died at the 8 km. elevation point. The expedition ended where it had begun - in Katmandu on October 22, 1992. (*DRAUGAS*, 3/19/93, from an article by *Algirdas Nakas*)

Lithuania's missionaries are not as well-known as those of larger countries, but there are devoted persons who work for the good of others. It is known that in the 16th century Lithuanian Andrius Rudamina was a missionary. After a long interval, after World War I, Lithuania's missionaries again ventured abroad - to China, Africa and South America. These days, missionaries Rev. Dr. A. Bendoraitis and his assistant, Sister Ksavera work under very difficult conditions in the jungles of the Amazon. Sister Ksavera was born in 1913 near Anyksciai, Lithuania - her name was Emilija Sakenas. An orphan at a young age, Emilija moved to Kaunas where she attended a high school for adults. When a close friend died suddenly, Emilija sought comfort and religious direction from Prelate J. Macijauskas, who suggested that she might be suited for the religious life, and he found a way for her to be accepted into the novitiate at a Franciscan convent near Paris, France. She learned French and began her religious life, caring for the sick in various industrial clinics. In 1960, Rev. Bendoraitis invited Sister Ksavera to come to Brazil where he was founding a mission. She obtained permission from her superiors in the convent, and travelled to Brazil - beginning life there in Guajara-Mirim in a palm leaf hut. It was not easy, returning each day from tending the sick Indian population, to clean the hut of insects and snakes, all the while getting used to the humidity and heat. Thanks to generous donations, a hospital was soon built. Sister Ksavera taught the local population about caring for their homes, and about God; she also planted flower gardens around the town. Then Sister Ksavera moved to a new hospital being built in Bolivia. From time to time, Sister Ksavera travels to Cleveland to visit her sister, and in October 1992, she travelled to Lithuania where she received a writ of thanks from the Lithuanian government for her dedication and love of fellow man, all displayed while living so far from her native land. On January 15th, The Lithuanian Catholic Women's Federation branch in Cleveland honored and bid farewell to the dedicated missionary as she prepared to travel back to her work in Bolivia. The members wished her well in the future and gifted her with flowers. (*DRAUGAS*, 3/13/93, from an article by *S. Stasas*) □

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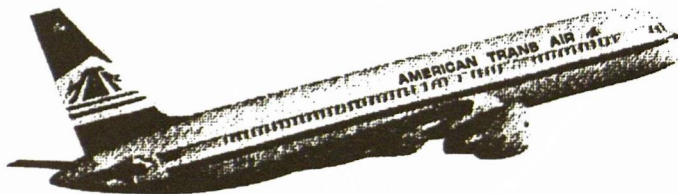
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Lithuanian American Community, Inc. Organization News

News of various activities, projects, initiatives, as reported by LAC Chapters and Committees throughout the United States.

From The Public Affairs Council, National Executive Committee:

Statement on the Governmental Crisis in Russia:

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. expresses its support for the government of President Boris Yeltsin which has brought both political and economic reforms to Russia's citizens. It is President Yeltsin who has had the political courage and vision to lead Russia into the 21st century as a responsible neighbor and member of the international community.

We remember President Yeltsin's brave defense of Lithuania's fledgling democracy against the tyranny of Soviet tanks, black berets and paratroopers in January, 1991. With great wisdom he counseled his people that there was no honor in Russian soldiers killing Lithuanian civilians to keep the dictators of the Soviet Empire in power. When he rallied the people of Russia to support Lithuania's democracy, he protected Russia's democratic movement as well.

President Yeltsin has continued to challenge his people to create a free and prosperous Russia. He has called on his people not to turn away from the process of democracy. Although the institutions to guarantee democracy are weak in its future. We believe that there are still brave political leaders in Russia who share President Yeltsin's belief in the people or Russia and will rally to his cause - to democracy's future.

As Americans we join with President Clinton in supporting the efforts of the United States government to assist President Yeltsin and the democrats of Russia.

Letter To President Clinton, Regarding The Above:

President William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We join with you in support of President Yeltsin of Russia. We agree that he is the leader of the democratic reform process within Russia and we believe that the United States government must make it clear to Russian Political leaders who are blocking free market reforms that nothing will be gained if Russia turns away from or even "slows" the pace of reform.

All too often in former communist countries the artful term of slowing reforms really means no reform.

This political crisis which threatens Yeltsin has also deepened our concerns for the impending U.S.-Russian summit in April 3-4, 1993. Our concerns focus not only on the continuing illegal presence of Russian troops on Lithuanian soil, but also the emerging Russian Monroe Doctrine which seeks to justify Russian intervention in the affairs of Russia's newly independent neighbors such as Lithuania. This foreign policy tenet was first developed by members of the Russian parliament last fall. As conservative forces in the parliament have gained strength, this doctrine has been promoted as the "centrist position of the Russian people".

At a recent conference in Washington, DC hosted by the United States Institute for Peace, members of the Russian foreign policy establishment advanced this interventionist policy as an integral part of Russia's emerging national security doctrine. At this same conference, Ambassador Samuel Lewis, said that your Administration was not ready to comment on this dangerous policy. We believe that your Administration should make every effort at the upcoming summit to identify the Russian Monroe Doctrine as anti-democratic and inform the Russian government that it is an unacceptable policy.

As your own Administration seeks to strengthen international organizations so that they will promote multilateral cooperation in resolving conflicts, Russia's insistence on acting unilaterally in real and perceived disputes with her immediate neighbors can only serve to destabilize Europe as well as breed cynicism for international law among the new democracies.

Sincerely,
Stanley A. Gecys, Chairman
Public Affairs Council
Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

More:

Events in Moscow dominate our concerns as we try to predict how Russia's leadership crisis will affect the future of the Baltic states. A turn to the right in the Kremlin (read that as conservative, Communist, and nationalistic) may not only mean a delay in the removal

of Russian military units. Since Russia is still the primary supplier of raw materials and natural fuels for Lithuania, a change in the Russian leadership could mean a tightening of the economic screws. Even with an LDDP-led government perceived to be at least sympathetic to Moscow and generous minority rights laws on the books, Lithuania has no guarantees. Latvia and Estonia, with higher percentages of Russian-speaking nationals and more stringent citizenship laws would be in even greater danger.

A chauvinistic regime in the Kremlin is likely to covet a return of its former window on the Baltic, posing a serious threat to the political independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Recently publicized elements of a new national security doctrine for Russia sharpen the sense of imminent peril. This new foreign policy—dubbed the Russian Monroe Doctrine—constitutes that Russia has a right to re-establish a Russian sphere of influence over the countries formerly controlled by the defunct Soviet Union in order to protect the human rights of Russians and other minorities living there.

There is a two-fold danger at work here. The first is that Russia reserves for itself the right to "intercede" in ethnic clashes anywhere on the periphery of its border. While Russia claims it is at risk of destabilization by armed conflicts in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, the specter of agitation inside the borders of the Baltic states is raised as well. It is not unlikely that Moscow would actively foment discord as it did before World War II and as it did again in Vilnius in January of 1991. Once the manufactured crisis becomes critical, Russia would exercise its prerogative to send in military units to pacify the situation. The existing and continued presence of military units within the Baltic borders makes such a move immeasurably easier.

The second danger is that the Clinton administration is taking a cautious, neutral position on many of the volatile aspects of Russia's halting steps toward establishing a coherent government. While President Bill Clinton has taken a laudable position of support for beleaguered Russian President Boris Yeltsin and is actively pursuing steps to bolster and accelerate US and western aid to Russia, the absence of a strongly-worded American position on Russia's Bid for a neo-imperialistic expansion of its sphere of influence will undoubtedly be interpreted in Moscow the way America's silence on such issues has always been interpreted: tactic approval.

And, Even More:

Recently, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. co-signed a letter with other organizations concerned about protecting budget authority for US foreign assistance programs. The letter was addressed to all members of the House and Senate Budget Committees as they prepare to set spending levels for the 1994

Fiscal Year federal budget. While understanding the need for all sectors of the government to tighten their proverbial belts, LAC, Inc. defends US foreign aid programs as legitimate tools for advancing US foreign policy goals. US foreign aid over the last few years has accounted for a little more than one percent of the federal Budget, while historic opportunities for the advancement of US policy goals have increased dramatically in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Subtracting US agricultural credits and surplus food commodities, during Fiscal Year 1992, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia received only \$7.5 million in foreign aid.

U. S. Foreign Assistance to Lithuania - An Assessment:

Lithuania has been eligible for U.S. foreign assistance since October, 1991 thanks to timely cooperation between House and Senate conferees and the staff of the U.S. Department of State following the failed August putsch in the former Soviet Union. Beginning in Fall, 1991 funds from the Support for Eastern European Democracies (SEED) programs were made available for use in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. With encouragement from Congress, the department designated not only FY1992 funds but reprogrammed unspent FY1991 funds from other foreign aid accounts to provide a good amount of "start-up money" for badly needed assistance programs. USIA also quickly expanded their established programs in Lithuania placing a USIA mission specialist in-country within the first month of the reopening of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius.

Nonetheless, the record of foreign assistance programs to Lithuania over the last 18 months has fallen short of comparable assistance to other nations of Eastern Europe: Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The results of this poor performance are visible in Lithuania. Today, barely 15 percent of Lithuania's economy is in private hands, production in all economic sectors has fallen by more than 40 percent during 1992, the country has failed to introduce a convertible currency, electronic mass media remains under government control and the free press has few constitutional or legal protections, the new government of Lithuania was elected last month on a pledge to slow the pace of privatization in agriculture and industry. The recent presidential elections have now consolidated the power of the former communist party of Lithuania (LDDP) which at 20,000 members is almost twice as large as all other 13 parties combined.

If the U.S. is to do better at delivering effective and timely assistance to Lithuania, it must undertake a number of commitments:

A. Identify strategic areas for foreign aid spending and set specific criteria by which to evaluate the effectiveness of that spending during FY1993. We have been advised that as of now, five months into the

fiscal year, this has not yet been done.

B. Assistance should be particularly targeted to the private sector. We realize that this will mean more work for U.S. staff because identifying unorganized members of the private economy and civil society is more difficult than working with established government agencies and enterprises.

C. The constant rotation of desk officers for Lithuania at all U.S. government agencies must stop. Officials responsible for 1993 programs must have an ability to develop some expertise on Lithuania by staying more than three months on the job. We have attached an updated policy paper which we first provided to President-elect Clinton's transition staff outlining the "musical chairs atmosphere" that existed in the previous Administration.

D. Although FY1994 will undoubtedly see funding decreases for assistance budgets, there is one new spending program which must be identified as a strategic program if a private economy is to have any chance of successfully developing in Lithuania -- a capital for small and medium-sized business in the private sector. The last Administration endorsed such a fund in the heat of the presidential election and actually asked officials in the SEED Coordinator's office to identify funds for reprogramming to allow this fund to be established within FY1993. Authority for such a fund already exists within the legislation establishing the SEED programs. Enterprise funds are already functioning for Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak republics.

E. U.S. assistance programs to Russia should continue to comply with the requirements of the Byrd amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill for FY1993. The amendment requires the U.S. government to withhold 50% of all non-humanitarian aid to Russia in FY1993, if there is no substantial progress in the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

F. The establishment of a Democracy Corps as advocated by President Clinton.

G. Individual Peace Corps country directors need to be appointed and posted for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. By July, 1993 over 40 Peace Corps volunteers will be serving in each of these countries (over 120 in the region), yet they will be without the normal administrative support that exists for volunteers serving in other countries. *To comment, or for more information, write to the Public Affairs Council at: 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134*

**From The Government Affairs Office
(Washington, D.C.), National Executive
Committee:**

Variation Of An Imperialist Theme:

From March 17-19, 1993 American and Russian

foreign policy decision-makers and analysts participated in a conference in Washington, DC entitled, "The Emerging National Security Doctrine of a New Russia". This conference was hosted by the United States Institute of Peace, an independent federal institution "created by the U.S. Congress in 1984 to promote education and training, research, and public information programs on means to promote international peace and the resolution of international conflicts without violence."

What should raise concerns for all Americans concerned about the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former U.S.S.R. was the content and tone of the public comments of most of the Russian participants at this conference which dealt almost exclusively with promoting a dangerous element of a national security doctrine first advanced by the Russian foreign policy establishment early last fall - Russia's Monroe Doctrine.

The broad outlines of the doctrine are that Russia has a right to re-establish a Russian sphere of influence over the countries which now populate the territory formerly controlled by the now defunct Soviet Union because it needs to protect the human rights of Russians and other minorities living in the territory. At this conference we heard a new variation of this theme which justifies because Western nations have failed to prevent or solve conflicts on Russia's periphery, Russia must now create order in these areas or risk being destabilized by these conflicts. Furthermore, Russia must prevent forces from inserting themselves in these peripheral areas which would threaten Russia.

Speakers described a Russia threatened not only by armed conflict in Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia, but a disintegrating Ukraine. Moldova was lauded as an example where Russian forces had pacified a dangerous conflict. Preoccupied with supposed external threats from their closest neighbors (which they call the "near-abroad"), the Russian participants demonstrated that at this time, Russia's national security doctrine is a narrowly drawn, dangerous construct which could easily lead Russia into another military misadventure. While the American analysts demonstrated that U.S. national security doctrine is evolving to meet the new challenges of economic competition and multipolar balance of power; the Russian participants did little to address the interrelationship of domestic and global economic concerns, other than to invoke the mantra of "reforms must continue.. If the American analysts were advocating a U.S. policy to enlarge and invigorate the role of international forums for conflict prevention and resolution, the Russian participants complained about the missing \$24 billion in promised aid to Russia. Judging from the concerns of the Russian foreign policy establishment represented at this conference, the Russian people are too absorbed in defining such basic questions as What is Russia? to serve as constructive partners for the Western world in building international

peace and security.

This conference amply demonstrated a risk which exists for U.S. policymakers. The Clinton Administration has gingerly avoided commenting on or reacting to Russia's Monroe Doctrine opting to observe developments in the region. Such neutrality can only serve to mislead Russian policymakers that their controversial doctrine is acceptable to Western national when in fact their analysis and conclusions are all based on a basic disrespect for international law and a reluctance to come to terms with the democratic revolution which has enveloped a new region of the world expanding the family of democratic nations. Since the Russian Monroe Doctrine is but the first element of a new Russian national security doctrine to be defined by the Russian government, it signals that other elements of that doctrine are likely to be as flawed and dangerous to the Community of democratic nations.

American supporters of the new democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union should actively engage the Clinton Administration to re-examine their position (more precisely, their lack of position) concerning this element of Russia's national security doctrine. All of the new democracies are struggling to meet the challenges of economic and societal transformation; they're attempting to bridge a cavern of 50 years which has kept them from evolving with the rest of the modern world. Russia's Monroe Doctrine serves merely to heighten suspicions among these nations and divert them from their primary task of reconstructing their societies. Not the least of these nations to suffer the consequences of this doctrine will be Russia herself.

The Above, Continued - Notes From The Audience: Will Russians Ever Change?:

The United States Institute for Peace in Washington, DC hosted a conference entitled, "The Emerging National Security Doctrine of a New Russia" from March 17-19, 1993. Both American and Russian foreign policy analysts and decision makers attended the conference which sought to encourage dialogue on Russia's developing foreign policy. Five topics were explored during the conference with audience participation encouraged.

During the first session, both Russian national security will be affected by any new state structures which develop during this period of transition. Currently Russia faces an identity crises because power is continuing to devolve from the center (Moscow) to the provinces. All agreed that if Russia is able to develop into a true constitutional democracy, then Russia will practice a more restrained and responsible foreign policy. One of the speakers, Professor Martin Malia, History Dept, Univ of California at Berkeley, rejected the argument made by many including Henry Kissinger, that Russia is inherently expansionist or

imperialist. Professor Malia advanced the theory that before the bolshevik revolution derailed her, Russian czarist absolutism was dissolving and Russia was moving towards democracy just as the rest of Europe.

All of the Russian participants stressed the crisis of fragmentation which is afflicting the Russian Federation itself. Ambassador Boris Pyadyshev, Director of the Russian Ministry Foreign Affairs, argued that it is impossible for Russia to produce a foreign policy or national security doctrine now (although the Russian parliament is insisting that it be done) because Russians have not yet answered the basic question of Which Russia? or what Kind of Russia? He went on to explain why President Yeltsin has been losing votes in the Russian parliament. It is a reflection of the fact that economic and political power is being exercised by regional leaders who no longer listen to Moscow. These regional leaders must deal with the daily questions of survival for their local residents, i.e., where will they get additional grain, fuel. For instance, only 10% of the residents of Novosibirsk can afford to buy meat. To these regional leaders, the economic reformers in Moscow, like former Prime Minister Gaidar, are out of touch. These regional leaders also don't accept Russia's present foreign policy. They say that arms negotiations don't give them any benefits; they want practical results from Russia's foreign policy. They want the practical help that the promised \$24 billion in Western aid would bring.

As this session ended, many of us in the audience began to have hopeful thoughts that Russians had finally realized that they must concentrate on solving their own problems at home and that the Russian foreign policy establishment as represented by this conference would advocate something truly refreshing and remarkable like a doctrine of non-interference in the affairs of their neighbors. Wrong!

The second session, entitled, "The developing institutional and decision-making structure of Russian national security doctrine" provided a platform for what was called "the centrist position among Russians on foreign policy". Andranik Migranian, an advisor to both President Yeltsin and the Foreign Relations Committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet, spoke for this centrist position. He began by repeating the Russian fear that their Federation may become a loose commonwealth and then proceeded to recite a plethora of statistics to demonstrate that as bad as it is in Russia, it's far worse in the other former Soviet republics. Migranian argued that "Ukraine is at the point of collapse" "Kazakhstan is at the point of internal collapse", "Georgia & Armenia have totally collapsed and there is a strong movement in Belarus to abandon independence". With this specter of chaos before his audience, Migranian went on to postulate that the "Russian Federation is smaller than it should be because 30 million Russians live unprotected in this post-Soviet space." According to Migranian and other "centrists", the Russian Foreign

Ministry from 1992 had formulated a poor strategy for the role of Russia by limiting Russia to Russian Federation borders and avoiding the conflicts on Russia's periphery (the "near-abroad"). Yet these problems are destabilizing Russia. Mr. Migranian then identified himself as the author of Russia's Monroe Doctrine which says that all of the space of the former USSR must be within Russia's sphere of influence to protect Russia from instability.

Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia did not escape Mr. Migranian's attention. According to Mr. Migranian the Russian government made a mistake recognizing the independence of these countries before extracting guarantees for the rights of the Russian residents and Russia's security interest. Mr. Migranian complained that the U.S. had not yet given them the go ahead in this area, but expressed the hope that Russia would receive such a signal in the near future.

The other Russian analysts on this panel did not disagree with Mr. Migranian and it was only after prodding from the public during the question-answer period that one Russian participant ventured to defend the position that Russian government leaders must treat the former Soviet republics just like other foreign countries and abolish such categories and the "near-abroad".

The third session, entitled, "Problems of Emerging Russian National Security Doctrine-I" provided further opportunity for the Russian participants to promote their Monroe Doctrine. This time, Evgenii Ambartsumov, Chairman, of the Foreign Relations Committee of Russia's Supreme Soviet, explained and defended the right of Russia to intervene in conflicts on its periphery. He attacked the Baltic republics for denying human rights to millions of Russians by denying them citizenship. He received support from one of the American panelists, Elizabeth Teague, a fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace who said that it was unwise of the Baltic governments to deny voting rights to its Russian residents. An interesting exchange took place during the question-answer period when Latvia's new ambassador to the United States, Ojars Kalnins, defended his government's policy by reminding Mr. Ambartsumov that although not all Russian residents will have Latvian citizenship their human rights as legal residents of Latvia will be assured. Most Russians (73%) will receive Latvian citizenship even if the most stringent law now being discussed is adopted by Latvia's parliament; if the less stringent law is adopted over 95% of the resident Russians will receive citizenship. Mr. Ambartsumov summarily rejected Ambassador Kalnins' explanation.

Mr. Ambartsumov's response came as no surprise to those who watch Russian-Baltic arguments on the minority rights issue. While vociferously denouncing the Baltic governments for human rights abuses, the Russian government has yet to produce one concrete example of human rights violations in any Baltic state

for international commissions to investigate. It's truly amazing that Westerners still have the patience to listen to Russians on this issue.

William Bodie, National Defense University, an American panelist challenged the developing Russian doctrine of Ambartsumov-Migranian saying that the right to intervene in these new nations' affairs was a dangerous policy affecting international peace and security.

The fourth session, entitled, "Problems of Emerging Russian National Security Doctrine-II", found Russian panelists again explaining Russia's perception of threats and the sources of its imperialist consciousness. However, there was a panelist, Evgenii Volk, Senior Expert, Defense and Security Committee of Russia's Supreme Soviet, who encouraged Western decisionmakers and analysts to react to Russia's foreign policy debate so that "Russians can better develop their national security doctrine" and suggested a joint study between the U.S. and Russia to develop a global security doctrine. Nancy Lubin, a fellow at the U.S. Institute of Peace, although acknowledging that Russia is a system-in-crisis, nevertheless provided a vigorous challenge to Russia's evolving Monroe Doctrine by using specific examples: the Russian military forces which were left in Tadjikistan have not remained neutral, rather they have sided with one faction (the communist party) in the country's internal power struggle and have restored those communists to power. Ms. Lubin invited U.S. policymakers to look at more creative ways of supporting democratic and free market focus within Russian society. Rather than looking to state structures to "democratize" Russia from above, the U.S. should support efforts at the grassroots of society to build new interest groups within Russia. Ms. Lubin also called for more international observers at the sites of conflict to at least document aggression and interject some accountability.

The final session, entitled, "Responses to emerging Russian national security doctrine", included a member of the Clinton Administration, Ambassador Samuel Lewis, Director, Office of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of State. The session was remarkable in that Russian panelists adroitly avoided any mention of their Monroe Doctrine, a policy which they defended so staunchly over the last two days. Instead, the Russian participants which again included, Mr. Ambartsumov, Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee of the Russian Supreme Soviet, concentrated on the change in the strategic environment and the need for U.S. - Russian cooperation in international affairs. The Russians argued that the U.S. should not disengage from Russia. Chairman Ambartsumov in commenting on Russia's growing governmental crisis said that there is no need to dissolve the parliament, but it is necessary to act within the framework of Russia's constitution to get a new parliament - one that is prepared to work for compromise. It will be interesting to see if Chairman

Ambartsumov emerges as one of the conciliatory leaders in the current showdown between President Yeltsin and the Supreme Soviet.

Ambassador Lewis explained the Clinton Administration's foreign policy principles: 1. there is a seamless web between domestic and foreign policy; 2. there is a need to restructure U.S. security forces and policy emphasizing international cooperation in both preventive diplomacy and peace enforcement; and 3. vigorous promotion of pluralism and the rule of law. It was only after a direct question from the audience (by a LAC, Inc. rep.), that Ambassador Lewis ventured to speak about Russia's Monroe Doctrine. His answer should alert supporters of the Baltic states and Ukraine that all is not well in the Clinton Administration when it comes to supporting the security of these countries. Ambassador Lewis admitted that the Clinton Administration had "gingerly avoided commenting on Russia's Monroe Doctrine". Although the U.S. supports the many new states, the U.S. will observe developments in the area. The problems are more to Russia's South than West, but there is little the U.S. can or should do except watch and reiterate our support for the maximum respect for human rights of citizens of all these states and encourage only peaceful resolution of any conflicts.

Audience members with Ukrainian and Baltic interests agreed that without grassroots intervention, there is a real danger that the mistakes of the Bush Administration will be repeated by the current Administration. In conclusion, I will add that unless Lithuanian-Americans again get involved in U.S. policymaking, Lithuania will again be relegated to a afterthought of U.S. interests. *To comment, or for more information, write to the Government Affairs Office at: Suite #217, 2060 North 14th Street, Arlington, Virginia 22201.* □

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