

L. RIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 6

JULY/AUGUST 1994

\$2.50 per Copy

CONTENTS:

- 3 A Tribute to Stasys Lozoraitis (1925-1994)
- 11 Stasys Lozoraitis' Testimony to the US Congress
- 13 Issue.....Kaliningrad "Armed Encampment or Demilitarized Zone?"
- 15 Business News ... *Antanas Dambrionas*
- 17 Bits and Pieces.....
..... *Various sources*
- 18 Cultural Arts.....The New York Scene *Aukse Trojanas*
- 20 Humanitarian Aid...Lithuanian Mercy Lift..... *Jeanne Dorr*
- 23 Sports News.....From Lithuania and the US *Pranas Gvildys*
- 26 News from the Lithuanian Press.....
..... *Ramune Kubilius*
- 28 LAC News.....LAC/Canadian Conference, Part II *Rimantas A. Stirbys*
- 30 Letters to the Editor

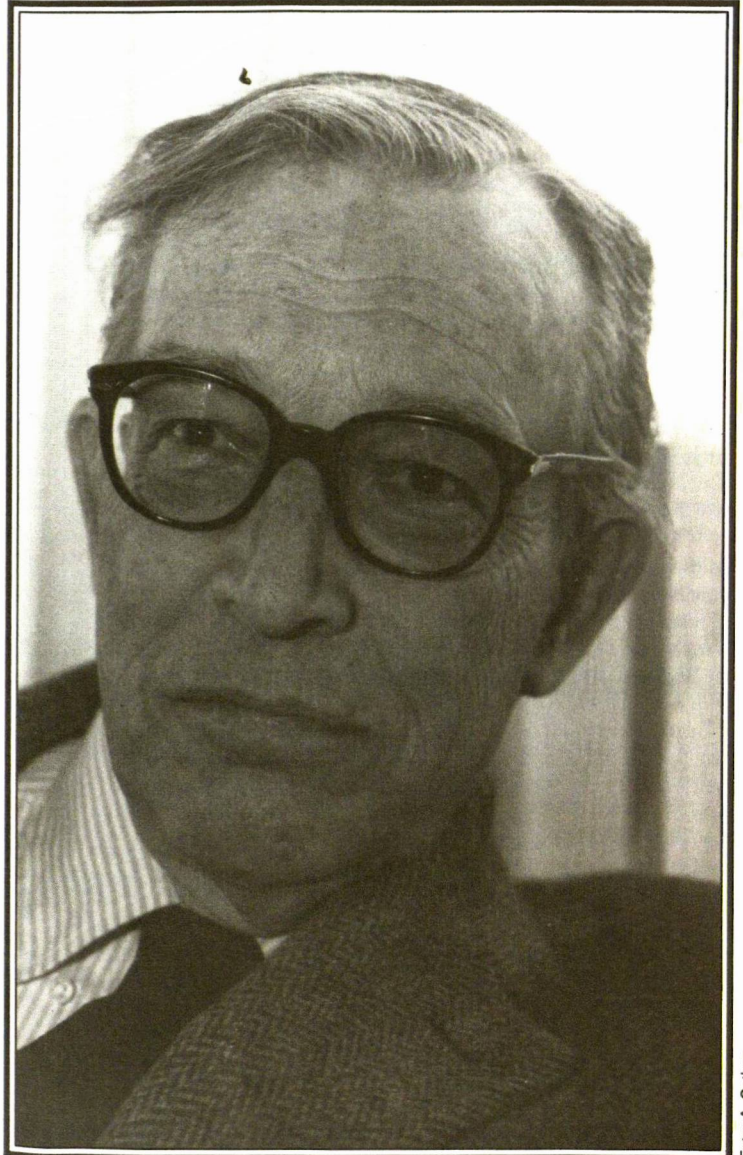


Foto: A. Suikus

Stasys Lozoraitis
1925 - 1994

To Our Readers:

We must pause a moment and bow our heads in silent reflection at the passing of a great figure in the history of modern Lithuania. Stasys Lozoraitis, former Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, died on Monday, June 13, 1994. We have devoted a few pages to his memory. We will all miss him.



Trouble is on the horizon for the Lithuanian Service of the Voice of America. Proposed reductions and personnel cuts in language broadcasts to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are in the works to meet the goal of a \$7 million reduction in the VOA's 1995 budget. Several options are being discussed, all of which envision some reduction in services. One is particularly troubling since it calls for total elimination of Baltic Services — Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian.

We feel that loss of the Lithuanian Service would in fact be a disservice to America's goal of promoting democratization in Lithuania: it would hamper Lithuania's assimilation into the European mainstream and would retard development of a sound, market-based economy.

For over fifty years, since February 16, 1951, the Lithuanian Service of the Voice of America has provided listeners in Lithuania and other parts of the world with objective news and analysis of world events as well as events in Europe and in the Baltic States themselves.

During the half century of Soviet occupation, VOA/Lithuanian broadcast not only statements by US officials on the status of Lithuanian, Latvia and Estonia, but also reported on the activities of the Lithuanian diplomatic corps in the Free World. In the 1970's and 1980's, VOA/Lithuanian reported on the budding dissident movement in Lithuania and provided in-depth coverage on the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania and other underground publications. In the late 1980's and early 90's, VOA/Lithuanian provided nearly daily reports on the Lithuanian Reform Movement, Sajudis.

VOA/Lithuanian currently broadcasts a half-hour program each day on Lithuanian State Radio, as well as a 10-minute morning newscast on the most popular private radio station, M-1. Many Lithuanians continue to rely on VOA/Lithuanian for objective, consistent and informative news reporting, not surprising considering that the mass media in Lithuania is still in its early formative stage. It is ironic that, at a time when Lithuania is beginning to create independent political and free market institutions, Washington is seriously considering slashing if not entirely eliminating this irreplaceable resource.

There's little argument that, when democratization is firmly entrenched and those institutions typical of a free society have full emerged, then the objective service provided by VOA/Lithuanian may be redundant. However, that point in time is not yet on the horizon and terminating the VOA/Lithuanian service now is very premature.

Rimantas A. Stirbys, Editor

BRIDGES: Lithuanian-American News Journal (ISSN 8750-8028), is published 10 times per year by the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. 2715 E. Allegheny Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134

BRIDGES Journal
Editorial / Subscription Offices
2715 E. Allegheny Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
tel. 215-739-9353

Subscription rate is \$18.00 annually (US Mail serviced subscribers; subscriptions to other addresses are \$32.00), payable in advance (US funds). Second Class Postage paid at Auburn, MA 01501; and additional locations. Copyright ©1994 Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. All statements and opinions, including product claims, are those of the organization/advertiser making those statements or claims. The publisher does not adopt, or put forth, any such statement or claim as his own, and any such statement or claim does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the publisher. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if return is desired.

Executive Editor Rimantas A. Stirbys
Managing Editor Audrone Gulbinas
Layout & Design Kazys Razgaitis
Business Antanas Dambrilunas
Cultural Arts Aukse Trojanas
Human Interest Dana Mikuzis
Humanitarian Aid Jeanne Dorr
Political News Asta Banionis
Sports Editor Pranas Gvildys
Youth Association Galle Radvenis
Contributing Editor Ramune Kubilius
Contributing Editor Joseph Arlauskas

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. **BRIDGES** — The Official Publication of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc.

POSTMASTER: Send any address corrections and/or changes to **BRIDGES JOURNAL**, 2715 E. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134.

Stasys Lozoraitis

1925 - 1994

Lithuania has lost a statesman. The Lithuanian-American community has lost a champion. Stasys Lozoraitis is gone, dead at the age of 69. We mourn his passing not only for what he was and what he accomplished in his lifetime, but also for the hope he represented and the potential he still had to offer. We grieve with his widow, Daniela D'Ercole and with his brother, Kazys Lozoraitis, Lithuania's Ambassador to the Vatican.

The following pages eulogize this lost friend with tributes from those who worked for and with him. A short transcript of his testimony on Capital Hill in 1989, while he was Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, serves to illustrate the strength and gentle wisdom of this man, whose courage and clear vision aptly symbolized the best that a free Lithuania could offer.

We remind our readers that a central theme of the campaign of Stasys Lozoraitis, Presidential candidate, was *Vienybė* — Unity. He recognized that for Lithuania to have a future, Lithuanians must reconcile with the past and join in the common effort of reconstruction and rebuilding. That theme reverberated throughout his style and his philosophy. Given the chance, it would have been a mainstay of his administration.

He struggled most of his adult life for Lithuania's freedom. Granted the opportunity to see that goal achieved, he continued to struggle for Lithuania's true political, economic and social independence. We can best keep his dream alive by continuing that struggle with the same compassion, fairness and objectivity with which he imbued his life.

(Please note that, in accordance with the wishes of the family of Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis, any memorial con-

tributions should be made to: Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, 600 Liberty Highway, Putnam, CT 06260.)

A Life for Lithuania

Paul A. Goble, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC
June 20, 1994

Last week, Stasys Lozoraitis died. The various obituaries published so far naturally have described him in terms of his positions and his activities: his longtime service as Lithuania's representative in Washington and later as his country's first ambassador to the United States, his unsuccessful candidacy for the presidency of Lithuania, and his last position as Lithuanian ambassador in Rome. But while all of these epithets capture something of the man, none of them describe the three

things about him that mattered most.

First and most important, Mr. Lozoraitis never confused himself with Lithuania. He never thought he was more important than the Lithuanian cause, and he never sacrificed his country or his principles for his own advancement. In the dark years when so many people thought that Lithuania no longer existed and in the more recent triumphal period when many believed that the victory had eliminated

any need for further effort, confusing the two has been an all too frequent failing. But unlike the case of so many others, it is one that Mr. Lozoraitis never made. Respect for his memory demands that none of us fail in this way or tolerate those who do.

Second, Mr. Lozoraitis always insisted that Lithuania rejoin Europe and recapture the ideals that had energized and sustained the Lithuanian people under occupation.



Foto A. Sabaliauskas (ELTA)

During the 1993 presidential campaign, Ambassador Lozoraitis always found time to talk with the children of Lithuania. He fought this battle for them and their future.



Foto A. Bailey

Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis and the children of the Greater Washington, DC area "K. Donelaitis Lithuanian School" during the Mother's Day celebration at the Embassy.

He was—as he would be the first to concede and proud to claim—a Lithuanian European. For him, having the Lithuanian flag flying over Vilnius was never enough. For him, only a complete return to the values of Europe, to democracy, freedom, openness and fair play would mark the full recovery of what had been taken from Lithuania by the Soviets. Independence without these things would, he was sure, be hollow, and his memory demands that we not forget that fact.

And third, Mr. Lozoraitis believed that the Lithuanian cause was not ended by the events of 1991, that the struggle to rejoin Europe and to make Lithuania into a part of the West continues. His campaign for the presidency, his encouragement of young Lithuanians, and his reaching out to those who shared his values throughout the West all testified to this commitment. Were he still with us today, he would be calling on us to continue the fight. He celebrated the victories that the Lithuanian people and their friends won in the past, but he knew that there were no final victories in the cause of democracy and freedom, that the enemies of these values are still very much with us, and that they are only waiting for us to let down our guard. That too is an important part

of his legacy: his memory requires that we continue the struggle as well.

At his memorial service in Washington, DC, one speaker compared him to a mighty oak, an obvious and appropriate reference to his enormous strength of character. But I believe there is an even more appropriate analogy, one he often made about Lithuania itself. In the dark days of January, 1991, when so many of us feared for the future, he repeatedly said that the Lithuanian struggle for independence is like a tiny flower breaking through a concrete walk. The concrete always looks stronger and capable of crushing the blossom. But in the end, the flower will always break through. That this was true of Lithuania we should always remember; that it was true of Mr. Lozoraitis as well, we must never forget.

Assigned to Italy: America's Farewell

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, June 1993

"You fervently stirred the conscience of America and the international community in support of a free, independent Lithuania during the dark years of Soviet occupation as well as during Lithuania's triumphant reentry among the democratic family of nations. We esteem your professionalism during a dignified career of public service in your family's tradition and honor your tenacious commitment to the respect of human rights at the risk of personal life and liberty. Your bravery and outstanding performance are exemplary of a true patriot and world citizen.

Congressman Richard Durbin, Chairman, Baltic Freedom Caucus, June 11, 1993

Your fortitude and perseverance in the cause of Lithuania's freedom throughout our longstanding relationship has been an inspiration to all who share your concern for democracy and liberty. During the many difficult years of Soviet-imposed exile, you served your country with extraordinary grace and creativity.

Senator Donald Riegle, Chairman, Senate Banking Committee, June 11, 1993

While in Washington, Ambassador Lozoraitis was a leader of Lithuania's democratic movement which planned and implemented the Lithuanian independence drive. His work and advice led directly to the writing of the independence resolutions on March 11, 1990. During my years in the Senate, I have had the pleasure of meeting with Ambassador Lozoraitis and listening to his views on Lithuania. It has been a privilege. He will always be considered a great friend of America and a Lithuanian hero.

Senator Carl Levin, June 18, 1993 in a letter to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Tonight you gather to pay tribute and honor a man who in many ways symbolizes the struggles, hardships,



Foto A. Bailey

Ambassador and Mrs. Lozoraitis waiting to be introduced at a meeting of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in Vilnius, Lithuania, January, 1993.

dedication and ultimate triumph of the Lithuanian nation. I am honored to join you in your well-deserved salute to Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis for his lifetime of service to Lithuania and her people.

The burning desire for freedom was never extinguished from the hearts of the Lithuanian people during the long years of Soviet repression. The embers never died, kept alive by people such as Ambassador Lozoraitis and many of you here tonight. Through the years Ambassador Lozoraitis held the torch, and all people who love freedom are in his debt. I join you in tribute to a patriot who never wavered, and a patriot whose lifetime of effort helped win Lithuania's independence, sovereignty and freedom. Mr. Lozoraitis —we thank you.

*Senator Dennis DeConcini,
Chairman, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, June 17, 1993*

Unlike many diplomats who shuttle from country to country, your personal and professional life were bound together at Fate's decree to incarnate the spirit of human freedom. For decades, you stubbornly refused to accept what appeared to less hardy and visionary souls as the irresistible victories of evil in the twentieth century. Indeed, throughout the epoch, you have been on the right side of the barricades, and often in the forefront of the struggle. From your service in the resistance to Nazi Germany during World War II, to your decades of service to Soviet-occupied Lithuania, you have united the idea of nationalism in its best sense with the urge to liberty and opposition to tyranny. In this way, you have come to symbolize freedom in its particular and most universal aspects.

... For your part, Lithuania will be in good hands if it continues to produce sons and daughters who live according to the precepts and characteristics that you embody: love of liberty, love of one's own nation while appreciating and honoring other nations, and an abiding faith that the human spirit can overcome even obstacles that seem insurmountable.

It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to know you and to work with you. I will continue to seek your advice on matters concerning Lithuania and U.S. relations with Lithuania, wherever your career takes you. Few public servants begin yet another assignment, after 50 years of distinguished service. I wish you the best of luck in Rome, whose government and diplomatic community will now have the most direct benefit of your wisdom and experience.

Joseph Arlauskas, Former Editor of BRIDGES, July 1994

Lithuania will now never have the President She deserved, and so desperately needed to have. Thus Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis' untimely passing is tragic - in the classical sense.

Of course, those of us who were fortunate enough to have known Ambassador Lozoraitis are, in the wake of his death, left with a personal, emotional void, as well.

But all is not sadness and tragedy.

This writer will be a direct beneficiary in the invaluable legacy that Ambassador Lozoraitis has left behind. It is a legacy only a great teacher and leader can have.

By example, Ambassador Lozoraitis demonstrated exemplary, principled resolve. He gave us a modern



Foto A. Sabaliauskas (ELTA)

Amb. Stasys Lozoraitis campaigning for Lithuania's presidency in January, 1993. It was one of the coldest winters in recent years with daytime temperatures well below zero (F) on most days.

example of true humility. He affirmed that dignity can be maintained in all situations, without exception. He showed how to reason, to listen to others; and then, to reach sound conclusions and pursue necessary courses of action. Simply put, Ambassador Lozoraitis was exactly what we could hope others see and experience when they meet the Lithuanian of our ideals!

This writer had the great fortune - the privilege - to see how Ambassador Lozoraitis acted, reacted, responded to a literally overwhelming array of situations, any single one of which would have simply "broken" someone less formidable.

Ambassador Lozoraitis was incredibly challenged, constantly, both professionally and personally. He was literally in the middle of a firestorm - being forced to live from almost one day to the next in alternate situations ranging from that of near hopelessness, to euphoria, to rejection. How many different challenges did one person deserve to face; and what kind of person could successfully face all of those challenges, as did Ambassador Lozoraitis?

The media now, regularly uses the term "role model". Those of us who knew Ambassador Lozoraitis need no suggestions from anyone regarding an appropriate "role model". We had one; and in our memories, we continue to have one. This writer, for as long as he lives, will face future challenges - both personal and professional, will be encouraged to overcome those challenges by knowing that those challenges could never be as great as initially imagined; and as ones which would have been easily overcome by Ambassador Lozoraitis.

For this writer, and certainly, for many others, Ambassador Lozoraitis will be with us for the remainder of our lives as a person to be emulated, as a person who was a true, ideal Lithuanian.

In Memory of Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis

Victor Nakas

In a month that Lithuanians have come to associate with national tragedy and mourning, Lithuania lost one of its noblest, most remarkable sons. After five decades of service to his country, Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis was laid to rest June 17 in Putnam, Connecticut, having succumbed to an illness four days earlier.

Stasys Lozoraitis was an extraordinary man who arguably did more to advance the cause of Lithuanian independence than any Lithuanian living today, with the exception of Vytautas Landsbergis. For most of his adult life he served as a diplomat at Lithuania's legation to the Vatican, representing a cause and a country that was scoffed at by the purveyors of conventional wisdom and "realism", which is to say by the vast majority of the political elite in Europe and the United States. Today in Lithuania the role that Stasys Lozoraitis and a handful of other diplomats like him played throughout the postwar period is poorly understood and often unappreciated. These stubborn men of principle were not merely sym-

bols of independence; with the vigorous support of the diaspora, they provided the foundation for legitimizing the restoration of Lithuania's independence and for making it a cause on which, when the time was ripe, the West found it extremely difficult to turn its back.

By a great stroke of luck for Lithuania, Stasys Lozoraitis took charge of its all-important Washington legation on the eve of momentous changes that were to culminate in the collapse of the Soviet empire. Lozoraitis played a pivotal role when Lithuania began its drive for independence in 1988. He was the main conduit between Lithuania and the United States in the critical period preceding and following Lithuania's declaration of independence on March 11, 1990. He influenced the Lithuanian Supreme Council's decision to declare independence on March 11 — a watershed event in the demise of the Soviet Union — and helped shape the White House's initial positive response to it, placing the issue of Lithuania on the agenda of superpower relations for the next 20 months.

It is difficult to overstate the significance of the position Lozoraitis occupied: He alone held the strands linking the courageous leaders in Lithuania who were risking all by defying the Communist establishment in Moscow and Vilnius; the U.S. government, which was the only power whose influence and pressure counted in the collective mind of the Soviet leadership; and the Lithuanian-American diaspora, which could, and did play an enormously significant role in forcing the White House to go against its inclination to prop up the "democrats" in the Kremlin at the expense of Lithuanian independence.

Lozoraitis was everything a diplomat who occupied center stage should be in such a situation: astute; charming yet tough-minded; ever optimistic without being naive, articulate and persuasive, a knowledgeable and skillful practitioner in the art of dealing with foreign governments; and a coalition builder.

But he was so much more than just a successful diplomat. I had the privilege of working for him for nearly two years at the Lithuanian Embassy following the collapse of the Soviet Union and witnessing countless functions and meetings, large and small, that he held with visitors from elementary school students to senior citizens, from entrepreneurs to artists, from ordinary tourists to high-ranking dignitaries. Time and again, when he walked into a room, his presence instantly commanded the audience. He captivated people through his warmth, self-deprecating humor, and an effortless, uncanny ability to relate to his interlocutors. He had that intangible quality — charisma — that many aspire to, but which is reserved for few.

Lozoraitis related to his guests not just on a personal level. He impressed by his ability to engage them intellectually. He felt at ease discussing any topic: history, art, politics, economics, science. During the time I worked for him, never once did he shy away from a meeting with

someone because he did not feel up to the task. In a world of specialists, he was a member of an endangered species — a renaissance man. His engaging style was grounded in a seriousness of purpose and a knowledge that was broad and deep. Beneath the charisma was a bedrock of gravitas.

His dynamic personality and keen intelligence made him an invaluable asset for Lithuania not just in the offices and conference room of Foggy Bottom and Capitol Hill. These qualities also made him particularly well suited for influencing the court of American public opinion through the mass media. When Lithuania became a top news story, Lozoraitis was everywhere: newspapers, television, radio. After his death, a journalist who had saved clippings of stories in which he was interviewed, enthused to me about the “great quotes” he had given. He was even better suited for the cool medium of television, where his friendly demeanor, natural wit and calm, logical presentation of the facts made the case that Lithuanian independence was not only eminently worthy of support but was also inevitable. On American television he projected the image of the quintessential European. Watching him, the American viewer came to see Lithuania as part of Europe.

The diversity of his interests was reflected in the way he ran the Washington legation and, later, the embassy. He flung open its doors to welcome visitors and win friends for Lithuania: no individuals, no groups were considered unimportant. With the generous financial support of the Lithuanian-American community, he increased the size of the staff five-fold and encouraged them to be creative in helping him not just promote and defend Lithuania’s interests, but also to define them. For example, under his stewardship dozens of Americans were able to adopt Lithuanian orphans and abandoned children who, along with many others like them, would otherwise have remained wards of the state, starved for love and facing an uncertain future. Though his initiative was at once humanitarian and pragmatic, foreign adoptions were controversial in Lithuania.

Ambassador Lozoraitis was different from a typical diplomat in another way. He did not merely conscientiously execute the duties with which he had been entrusted. For decades, for his entire adult life, he lived and breathed the cause of Lithuanian statehood. Most of his energies were devoted to the reestablishment of independence but this was not the end goal for him. The ideal of statehood also meant the consolidation of democracy and the creation of an economically prosperous and just society in Lithuania. It grieved him in the last year of his

life to see how short of the latter mark Lithuania had fallen, both in absolute terms and in relation to its two neighbors to the north.

Notwithstanding all his talents, Stasys Lozoraitis did not suffer from the flaw most common to uncommonly gifted individuals. He was utterly lacking in self-importance. Material wealth did not interest him. He tolerated the trappings of power and prestige only to the extent that they were absolutely necessary to enhance Lithuania’s image. Try as it might, his staff never succeeded in convincing him to do things that were beneath his station: to stop lugging boxes around the Embassy, to let them serve refreshments to guests. To our admonishments he responded with an easy laugh and a joke. But long after the laughter died away, we were left with a powerful lesson in humility and dignity.

It was self-sacrifice, not self-importance, which led him into the campaign for the Presidency in the first six weeks of 1993. He was a long shot as a candidate and



Mr. Lozoraitis drew large and enthusiastic crowds wherever he went in Lithuania during the 1993 campaign. Here he met with the residents of Prienai. With only 28 active campaign days during the middle of winter, he drew nearly 40 percent of the vote.

Foto A. Sabaliauskas, ELTA



Foto A. Bailey

Ambassador and Mrs. Lozoraitis being greeted by the residents of Baltrusiai, Lithuania during the presidential campaign, January, 1993. The Lozoraitis ancestral farmstead where Mr. Lozoraitis spent many a boyhood day was in Baltrusiai.

some considered him a sacrificial lamb against the popular former Communist leader Algirdas Brazauskas. But, to the surprise of no one who knew him well, he did not accept the role of sacrificial lamb. Instead, he literally took his campaign to the people, traveling the length and breadth of the country, demonstrating to the voters and the politicians alike how a modern election campaign should be waged and winning over thousands with his trademark charisma. So vigorous was his campaigning that the opposing camp, which initially had considered victory a foregone conclusion, awakened to the realization that Lozoraitis might have a fighting chance and embarked on a vicious mud-slinging campaign. In the end, Stasys Lozoraitis was defeated, but probably not so much as a result of the scurrilous attacks on him as because the electorate, weary after five years of dramatic change, was not ready for someone who would lead them back into Europe and forward into the 21st century.

Thus far those remarking publicly on Ambassador Lozoraitis's accomplishments in the aftermath of his death have treaded delicately around the circumstances surrounding his transfer from Lithuania's embassy in Washington to its embassy in Rome in late 1993. But I do not think it violates his memory in any way to say that he was purged from his position in Lithuania's most important foreign mission. He was removed not because he was defeated in the Presidential campaign, but because for a few weeks he appeared to have a chance of winning! That which appealed to nearly 40% of the electorate — his integrity, incorruptibility, vision, and dynamism — the apparatchiks in Vilnius, now returned to their former glory, saw as a long term potential threat to their power. They succeeded in their immediate goal of replacing him, but in the end failed utterly to diminish him or break his spirit. Rather, they paid a political price in Lithuania, and in the crude, utterly inept way in which

they went about their hatchet job, became objects of ridicule in the West.

One of the characteristics of great men and women is that they leave their mark, both on their contemporaries and on future generations. Though Stasys Lozoraitis never showed any pre-occupation with his own legacy, it is there for all to see in the form of the independent Lithuanian state. Part of that legacy is also the vision of the future he offered the people of Lithuania in 1993. I know he died confident that one day they will take up that vision of a just and prosperous Lithuania, free of all its Soviet vestiges. And when that day arrives, when Lithuania becomes the country he dreamed of, fought for, and served his entire life, then he will come home to his final resting place in Kaunas.

"A Diplomat's Diplomat" Asta Banionis

As the Clinton Administration comes under increasing criticism for an indecisive foreign policy which threatens to undermine United States leadership in the world, the life of Lithuania's Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis stands in sharp contrast to America's current leadership dilemma and affirms our belief that a single individual can make a difference. Without the resources of a bureaucracy behind him and with meager finances Mr. Lozoraitis brought vitality back to the Legation on 16th Street and more than once checkmated his neighbors down the street - the Soviet Embassy.

Those of us who lived in Washington, DC during the 1980s remember the impact of Mr. Lozoraitis' arrival to take up the duties of Charge d'Affaires at the Lithuanian Legation in November, 1987. Although Mr. Lozoraitis had been a counselor to the Legation since 1983, he had spent most of his time in Rome and the Vatican where he served as Charge d'Affaires at the Legation to the Holy See. Before coming to Washington, Mr. Lozoraitis had said that he would strive to make the Legation a "living center of Lithuanian activity" — and that he did. Youth and political conferences found an enthusiastic supporter, weary visitors and tourists found a welcoming smile, while journalists, historians and community activists found a thoughtful and incisive colleague.

Reflecting on these six remarkable years of his tenure (November, 1987 through November, 1993) believers will conclude that he was truly a gift sent by God. Mr. Lozoraitis would say, "he was just doing his job". It's true that Mr. Lozoraitis was born into a family of public servants. His father was a diplomat who rose to be Deputy Foreign Minister, and Chief of the Diplomatic Service after the Lithuanian government fell in 1940. He had an uncle who was the Chief Comptroller of the Lithuanian government in the 1930s and never tired of reminding the senior Mr. Lozoraitis that, "every automobile purchased by the Foreign Ministry cost the

hardworking Lithuanian farmer three "bakonai" (hogs on the export market), so the Foreign Ministry better take care of those cars." His paternal grandfather, a farmer, was elected as a township "seniunas" (administrator) during the waning days of the czarist occupation. But even this family tradition of public service, can not fully explain why he persevered for over 50 years in the service of his country - Lithuania.

He may have been born into a family of diplomats, and trained as a diplomat, but the reason he stayed a diplomat was his deep commitment to justice - a passion for justice. He wanted to right the wrong that had been inflicted on his fellow countrymen. It was not a blind nationalism that drove Mr. Lozoraitis, it was his sense of outrage at the injustice of the Soviet occupation. This same passion made him a loyal ally of other just causes. Few Chinese students knew that the striking gentleman at their demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy on Connecticut Avenue in May, 1989 as they erected their "Goddess of Liberty" was none other than Lithuania's Charge d'Affaires.

Having received a classical education tempered by some early Montessori training (his mother was an enthusiast of the educator Maria Montessori), he was well prepared as he began his diplomatic training as his father's secretary. On-the-job training, it was. Mr. Lozoraitis would sometimes comment privately on the covey of eager young diplomats and politicians who expected to immediately engage in the art of "high politics", i.e. foreign or public policy-making without ever having read a single piece of diplomatic correspondence, filed and tracked information nor drafted a pro-memoria. The discipline of proper form was as important as content. It taught clarity of thought, precision of language and political nuance - all skills that a good diplomat must have at his command.

It was clear to the journalists that interviewed him and his diplomatic colleagues that Mr. Lozoraitis had a depth of knowledge, a keen intellect, a clever wit, a spartan discipline, and a disarming charm. He could converse on almost any topic from Thomas Aquinas to Artie Shaw, from the advantages of deficit spending to United States policy in Bosnia, from post-modern architecture to the ingenuity of present day stage designers in European theater. Here was a man who never lost his spark for learning, his zest for life, and his belief in the nobility of the human soul. A Washington journalist recently told me that, "Mr. Lozoraitis was a journalist's dream, he was so quotable." With his breadth and depth of knowledge and his agility at molding ideas, Mr. Lozoraitis won over many a cynical journalist and jaded government official.

His remarkable creativity not only enabled him to craft a concise argument, present a novel metaphor or a fresh perspective on the subject of Lithuania's desire for

independence or the illegal Soviet occupation of Lithuania, but made him a delight at social gatherings. He would pepper the conversation with short wry observations which easily hit their mark, or offer an anecdote to illustrate his point which kept us chuckling long after the gathering was over. Mr. Lozoraitis often cautioned us younger activists in Washington, "to not be so didactic all the time". He understood well that neither government officials nor ordinary people wanted to be preached to all the time. To be persuasive, you had to be human, you had to engage your fellow human beings with more than just political concepts and endless data.

Unlike so many Lithuanian activists and patriots over the last half century, Mr. Lozoraitis willingly sought out and befriended hundreds of younger activists. He didn't view their interest in Lithuania or their "new" ideas as a threat to his own authority. Quite the con-



Foto A. Bailey

Mr. Lozoraitis being greeted by some of the high school students of Naujoji Akmene, Lithuania during the presidential campaign, Feb. 1993.

trary, he saw them as the needed reinforcements that would continue Lithuania's struggle into the next century. He understood that part of his duty, part of his responsibility, was to share his knowledge and his experience with younger members of society and most of all to encourage them to think, to argue, to try new ideas, to act. He enjoyed being challenged by their ideas and renewed his own spirit in the deep well of their youthful optimism and boundless enthusiasm.

He followed his own advice of not being didactic and frequently employed those legendary anecdotes to teach us. I remember, very well, him calling me in late 1990 and asking why the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. was again writing a letter to the President? He suggested that we might get a satisfactory answer from someone lower down in the bureaucracy. Never go to the man at the top first, because if he says no, then no one in the bureaucracy will be willing to risk a favorable interpretation of your request. The art of diplomacy and the art of politics is knowing where to ask the question, but

more importantly, how to craft the question to elicit a favorable answer.

And, here's the story he told me to illustrate his point. "In Rome, in a particular neighborhood, there is a Franciscan and a Jesuit seminary. The Franciscans who take strict oaths of poverty noticed one day that the Jesuits across the street were smoking. They resolved to write a letter to the Holy Father and ask his permission to be allowed to smoke, at least occasionally. The response of the Holy Father came back with a resounding no! The Franciscans puzzled for awhile about their predicament and finally walked across the street and asked the Jesuits if they had the Pope's permission to smoke? "Why, of course", came the reply. "But, how did you get permission when we didn't", asked the exasperated Franciscans. The Jesuits explained that they had written the Holy Father to ask whether it was possible to pray while smoking? To which the Holy Father had responded, "Why of course it is possible to pray while smoking".

With his public relations skills, Mr. Lozoraitis made sure that at least in Washington, DC the Soviet propaganda machine was matched and many times outwitted. Whenever Soviet spokesmen came out with a new variation on the tedious theme of why Lithuania couldn't "secede" at the present time, Mr. Lozoraitis was quick to deflect or decimate the Soviet logic. I heard many an audience cheer when Mr. Lozoraitis countered the Soviets ridiculous argument about "Lithuania compensating the Soviet Union for its \$3 billion in investments, before they could secede from the union". Mr. Lozoraitis' response was, "that if the Soviets really thought their investment had value, they were welcome to pack it all up and sell it to the Japanese for scrap metal". The last three years have shown that enormous, industrial wasteland the Soviets constructed over 50 years in Lithuania, let alone their own territory, really was only suited for the scrap pile, just as Mr. Lozoraitis had believed.

It was easy to admire Ambassador Lozoraitis, but Lithuanian-Americans had a special reason to value his friendship. He saw all Lithuanians, no matter where they lived, as an integral part of the Lithuanian nation. He fought for our right to citizenship and he knew that we would have much to contribute to help Lithuania make that historic leap over the cavern that had separated Lithuania from Western culture for the last 50 years. He said that if Lithuanians in the West had taken responsibility for defending Lithuania's right to exist for 50 years, they certainly had a right to share in the responsibility to see her through this difficult transition to a true and prosperous democracy. Having lived his entire life with a single passport - the passport of independent Lithuania - he knew the sacrifices Lithuanians had to make who called attention to their ethnic roots while living abroad in the World. A world which had forgotten about Lithuania.

Mr. Lozoraitis had core values, a vision of a free and

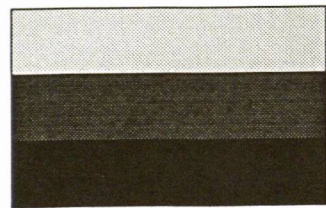
democratic Lithuania and her place in the world in the 21st century. He was a strategic thinker who regularly exercised his diplomatic skills to gain ground for Lithuania inch by inch. He was flexible and pragmatic in his means, while never losing sight of the ends. The words he spoke before the Helsinki Commission of the United States Congress, in the fall of 1989 he often evoked later to describe that vision, that goal.

"In the past Americans had men with a dream of great undertakings. We, Lithuanians, have now men with a vision - a vision of Eastern Europe where free nations could live peacefully together and work for a better and more prosperous future. It is time that the Soviet Union renounced the 19th century mentality of sheer domination and looked at the approaching 21st century when all international problems will have to be solved by reason and not by force."

Ambassador Lozoraitis is buried in Putnam, CT at the cemetery near the Convent of the Immaculate Conception not far from the grave of his aunt and godmother, Grazina Matulaitis-Rannit. It is a peaceful site reminiscent of the countryside of Lithuania he loved so much. His widow, Mrs. Daniela Lozoraitis has explained, that she will take her husband back to his beloved Lithuania only when it is the Lithuania for which he dreamed, he fought and he died.

What Ambassador Lozoraitis has taught us most, is to embrace the future and its endless possibilities. And to never be afraid of the task that lies before us. He would have relished taking Lithuania into the 21st century. Let us help Lithuania find the leaders it now needs to get there.

ADVERTISEMENT



Display your heritage!!

Lithuanian Flags

- all sizes -

Write for price list:

The Flag Center
954 Beechwood Dr
Lansdale, PA 19446-1730
(215) 855-7788

Stasys Lozoraitis' Testimony to the U.S. Congress

On October 19, 1989 Mr. Lozoraitis testified before the Helsinki Commission of the United States Congress on, "The Baltic Question". It was the first time in 36 years that a member of Lithuania's diplomatic corps had been called to the Hill to testify directly before a congressional committee and for the public record. The hearing was originally planned to include the Soviet Ambassador, who declined when he heard that the Baltic diplomats were also scheduled to appear. Mr. Lozoraitis was joined that day by his distinguished colleagues, Dr. Dinsbergs, the Latvian Charge d'Affaires and Mr. Jaakson, Estonia's Consul General.

Statement of Mr. Stasys Lozoraitis, Charge d'Affaires at the Lithuanian Legation in Washington, DC

Thank you, Mr. Co-chairman, for offering me the opportunity to appear at this hearing. I am proud to serve my country in this United States of America, and I am proud to be here today.

Forty-nine years have passed since that sad day, July 23rd, 1940, when the Acting Secretary of State, the Honorable Sumner Wells declared that the political independence and the territorial integrity of the Baltic republics was deliberately annihilated by one of the more powerful neighbors. The Lithuanian people have never ceased to struggle for their independence and the non-recognition policy of the United States was woven into the psychological frame of mind of several generations of Lithuanians. The conviction that change will come is deeply rooted in the conscience of the nation and encouraged manifold resistance to the oppressor.

Forty-nine years later, in March of 1989, the highest authority of the Catholic Church in Lithuania, Cardinal Vincentas Sladkevicius had the courage and political wisdom to stress that if the Holy See officially recognized the annexation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union, it would be against the will of the majority of the people and in a sense would risk damaging the faith itself. "Our people would rise up", said the Cardinal. It shows once more the importance, the paramount importance of the non-recognition policy.

But new situations are being created by the national and democratic movements which express the aspirations of the great majority of Lithuanians, even those who are members of the Communist Party.

It is of paramount importance that the efforts of my countrymen be protected from direct and indirect Soviet intervention and their coercive measures. The democratic structures must expand on all levels of political, economical, and social life. The United States could play a dramatically important role by using all possible private channels in order to help promote the growth and the development of democratic undertakings. The stronger the democracy will become, the easier it will be to attain freedom and independence.

Today, the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in all their aspects is still a matter for concern. harassment of people who participate in political activities and who are not public figures, harsh treatment of young men serving in the Red Army, very subtle persecution in the religious sphere and above all, the lack of radical changes of laws establishing the rights of the citizens, all this is still a threat to the freedoms of men and women in Lithuania.

I also would like to mention the dramatic ecological situation which is a constant menace to the very existence of the population. Babies and young children are especially in danger for lack of good food. The nuclear power plant of Ignalina is a time bomb whose explosion would jeopardize the entire population of Lithuania and adjacent countries.

A high degree of freedom of speech and freedom of mobility has been achieved. But Lithuanians don't control the army, the police, the telephones and the railway system of their country. They don't have the authority over the industries and finances. And the preeminence of Lithuanian laws over the Soviet laws is still partly a dead letter. Reforms in the past two years didn't go far enough.

We expect that in the coming elections, on February 4, 1990, the national democratic movements will get about 70 percent of the seats in the Lithuanian Supreme Soviet. We will not be able to consider these elections as democratic. They will be held not only under Soviet supervision, but with the Red Army in control of the country, and what is much worse, participating in the elections. The results of these elections will, however, be very indicative and will certainly constitute a starting point for further political actions. Therefore, we should

Important Notice

Physicians...Nurses...Medical Lab Technicians

In August of this year, the Baltic-American Medical & Surgical Clinic, a private medical clinic owned by a joint venture of American and Lithuanian physicians, will open in Vilnius. The clinic, which will have its facilities in rented space within an existing hospital, will be the first of its kind and will be furnished, equipped and operated at American medical standards. It will operate on a fee-for-services basis, but the mission of the clinic will include significant efforts to assist in promoting better health care throughout the region. Beginning next year, the clinic hopes to be able to provide certain amounts of free care to people who could not otherwise afford it. There will also be assistance in training physicians, nurses and laboratory technicians from public hospitals. One of the objectives for the clinic is to have at least one American physician, nurse and medical laboratory technician available to the clinic during the first 12-18 months of its operations. The clinic is seeking persons interested in being part of this exciting and pioneering effort.

- Minimum commitment of two months preferred. Clinic will attempt to obtain a Lithuanian medical license for physician participants.
- Only 30-35 hours required each week.
- Clinic will provide roundtrip air travel for participant and spouse and free use of a two-bedroom apartment in Vilnius (utilities included).
- Clinic will pay modest living stipend (in the case of physicians, to the extent that earned fee income from patients is less than \$400 per month). Potential for additional payments if the clinic exceeds its debt service and working capital requirements.

Persons interested in further information should contact:

Dr. Kenneth M. Leavitt
(licensed in Lithuania)
11 Middlesex Avenue
Wilmington, MA 01887
Phone: (508) 658-9774
FAX: (508) 658-2919

not forget that the state of Lithuania—presently under duress—exists and that it doesn't need a new international recognition as such. What is needed is the recognition of a government after it has resumed the exercise of effective sovereign power. It will therefore be very important to establish an objective criterion on which foreign countries could judge whether Lithuania can be considered as an independent country. It is my deep conviction that the main standard for such a judgement would and should be an agreement with the Soviet Union on the future relations between the two countries. Of course, other elements will interact and help reach a decision.

We want to proceed slowly, peacefully, and with the necessary caution. If the Soviet Union will not respond and will refuse any discussions on the independence of Lithuania, we will try to convince Moscow that it is in her interest to have free and friendly neighbors instead of dissatisfied colonies, dominated by force.

I regret that the Ambassador of the Soviet Union is not here. I understand he couldn't come. I regret it because I would have said to him, "Mr. Ambassador, isn't it high time we sat at a table and negotiated and talked about the Baltic problem, and the common interest between our countries?"

At this point, may I, with your permission, recall a statement that was made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his address to the United Nations General Assembly? "It is quite clear," he said, "to us, that the principle of the freedom of choice is mandatory. Its non-recognition is fraught with extremely grave consequences for world peace. Denying that right to people, under whatever pretext or rhetorical guise, jeopardizes even fragile balance that has been attained. Freedom of choice is a universal principle that should allow no exception."

I wish to point out that contrary to the opinion we sometimes hear in the West, the General Secretary is convinced that respect of the right of self-determination is tantamount to the strengthening of world peace. We certainly do agree.

In the past Americans had men with a dream of great undertakings. We, Lithuanians, have now men with a vision—a vision of Eastern Europe where free nations could live peacefully together and work for a better and more prosperous future. It is time that the Soviet Union renounced the 19th Century mentality of sheer domination and looked at the approaching 21st Century when all international problems will have to be solved by reason and not by force. This is also the only way to avoid the catastrophic consequences of communism's complete failure.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

“Armed Encampment or Demilitarized Zone?”

The following document was prepared by the LAC Public Affairs Council and presented as background material to the members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

The Kaliningrad Exclave of the Russian Federation: The Problem and a Proposed Solution

The Problem

Contemporary maps of Europe identify an exclave of the Russian Federation on the southeast rim of the Baltic Sea enclosed by Lithuania to the north and east and Poland to the south. This territory renamed by the Russians as the Kaliningrad oblast was established by the former Soviet Union after World War II in the ancient lands of the Prussian-Baltic tribes. Kaliningrad is 1100 km from Moscow, 840 km from St. Petersburg and 520 km from the nearest point of the contiguous territory of the Russian Federation.

The Potomac Foundation of McLean, VA reports that Polish and Lithuanian government officials have described the Kaliningrad oblast as the most militarized area of Europe with densely deployed Russian armed forces. At the present time, it is estimated that 200,000 Russian military personnel, most of them second echelon units, are stationed in the Kaliningrad oblast. The territory continues to function as a massive military reservation with strong naval, air and land forces as well as missile silos. Extensive areas are utilized for training grounds for bomber and artillery target practice, tank and infantry field exercises.

The military and political stability of Northeastern Europe is jeopardized by both this swollen concentration of military hardware and troops, as well as the demands for unregulated military transit. The Russian government has now linked economic issues such as trade to its demand for Lithuania's acquiescence to unregulated Russian military transit through Lithuanian territory. As the Potomac Foundation reported in December, 1993, "The concentration of Russian troops in the Kaliningrad district of the Russian Federation, as well as disputes over transit of Russian troops through Lithuania and Belarus were also factors in the Polish government's decision to increase the security along the country's eastern frontiers."

Area and Population

The area of the Kaliningrad oblast is 15,100 sq. km. It

is somewhat larger than Northern Ireland (14,100 sq. km.) but smaller than the states of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined (16,100 sq.km.) The total population including Russian military personnel and their dependents is 906,000. The composition of the population by nationality is as follows:

Russians	708,000	78%
Belarussians	80,000	9%
Ukrainians	65,000	7%
Lithuanians	19,000	2%
Germans	12,000	1%
Other	<u>22,000</u>	<u>3%</u>
	906,000	100%

There may be about 1,000 to 2,000 people remaining from the pre-World War II German and Lithuanian population. All others are new settlers. Most Germans now living in the Kaliningrad oblast are Volga-Germans recently resettled from Siberia and Kazakhstan.

Resources

Before World War II, the Kaliningrad territory was northern East Prussia, part of Germany, with a highly developed, rich agricultural economy. At the present time, the civilian population in the rural areas engages in low intensity dairy farming. Some high quality oil has been found near the seashore in the western part of the territory. The oil field extends under the Baltic Sea, but its extent has not yet been fully determined. Amber is found at the seashore, and it is mined from the ground inland. Kaliningrad is also an important base for the Russian deep-sea fishing fleet.

History

The Indo-European Prussians settled in the Kaliningrad area during the Neolithic age about 2,400-2,300 B.C. Together with Lithuanians and Latvians they constituted the Baltic branch of the Indo-European peoples. The three Baltic nations had similar languages, customs and the same pagan religion.

In 1231, the Teutonic Order of the Germanic crusader knights invaded Prussia and started a war of conquest and annihilation as part of the medieval German Drang nach Osten movement. In 1255 the knights erected a castle and founded the city of Konigsberg (renamed Kaliningrad in 1946 by the Soviet Union). By 1283, after 50 years of warfare, the German conquest of the Prussian tribes was completed.

In 1525, during the Reformation, the lands of the Teutonic Order became the secular German Duchy of Prussia. In 1701, it was renamed the Kingdom of Prussia. In the 18th and 19th centuries, that kingdom became a powerful German state, and in 1871 it was the nucleus of the reunified German Empire.

The city of Königsberg was an important center of commerce, culture and learning. The main institution of learning was the Albertus University (Collegium



Albertinum, 1544-1945) where the philosopher Immanuel Kant was a professor from 1770 until 1797.

Königsberg and its surrounding region was inhabited by Prussians, Lithuanians and German settlers. Over seven centuries of German rule, the Prussians became extinct, and the Lithuanians, to a large degree germanized. The region, however, continued to be known as Prussian Lithuania or Lithuania Minor until 1945 since a significant portion of its population preserved the Lithuanian language and cultural traditions.

After World War II, the Potsdam Conference in 1945 placed the northern portion of East Prussia under Soviet administration pending the final determination of territorial questions at the expected peace conference. Taking control of the region, the Soviet Union began a campaign of deportations, mass executions and forced starvation that was successful at completely exterminating the native population. The original inhabitants were replaced by settlers from the Soviet Union. All the historic Prussian, Lithuanian and German place names were changed to newly devised Russian designations. And in violation of the Potsdam agreement, the territory itself was renamed Kaliningrad Oblast and incorporated into the Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic (R.S.F.S.R.).

International Legal Status

On September 12, 1990, the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic signed a treaty with the four victorious powers of World War II on the final settlement with respect to Germany. The treaty declared that "The united Germany shall comprise the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and the whole of Berlin. Its external borders shall be the borders of the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic and shall be definitive from the date on which the present Treaty comes into force." (Art.1, #1).

"The united Germany has no territorial claims whatsoever against other states and shall not assert any in the future." (Art.1, #3). Thus, Germany gave up its sovereignty over its eastern lands beyond the Oder-Neisse boundary and over the Kaliningrad territory. Germany, however, did not sign any treaty to transfer its sovereignty over the Kaliningrad territory to the Soviet Union, Russia or to any other nation. Thus, the international legal status of the Kaliningrad territory remains undetermined since the four powers did not choose to act on this question at the time of German reunification. The legal status of the territory under international

law remains undetermined. Since the former Soviet Union did not possess sovereign rights to that territory, the Russian Federation could not acquire them from the Soviet Union when it dissolved on December 26, 1991. The Russian Federation occupies this territory and maintains it as a military garrison in violation of international law.

Short-term solution - Demilitarization

An exclave, separated by other countries from the main territory of the state to which it belongs, is frequently a source of tension and instability. The Kaliningrad oblast because of its massive concentration of military forces, constitutes a direct threat to the countries of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Belarus.

There is no valid reason to maintain a huge military force in the Kaliningrad oblast since there is no threat to Russia or this Russian enclave from these immediate neighbors.

As early as November, 1991, at the Secretariat of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Vienna, Austria the government of Lithuania called for the demilitarization of Kaliningrad. This view was sup-

continued page 25

Antanas Dambrionas

Business News

Inflation Still Under Control

Despite the recent introduction of the Value Added Tax (VAT) in Lithuania and forecasts that monthly



World Bank agriculture experts visiting a farm in the Molėtai region were doing fact finding for their farm credit program to be started in the spring of 1995. Second from right is the task force leader Robert Finnegan, an American.

inflation would jump into double figures, the inflation rate for the month of May was 6.2% according to the Lithuanian Government Statistics Department. This brings the cumulative 12 month inflation (May to May) to 68.2% and is somewhat higher than the 12 month inflation rates in the other two Baltic States (Latvia @ 38.1% and Estonia @ 50.8%) The health care sector experienced the largest inflationary increases in both Latvia and Lithuania. Meanwhile, the average monthly wage remains lowest in Lithuania (\$ 86.75) and highest in Latvia (\$ 137.56).

Lithuania Ahead of Neighbors in Privatization of Enterprises

A recent article in the London Financial Times analyzed the results of different monetary and fiscal policies in the three Baltic countries as well as the success of the privatization efforts in the three. While Lithuania has fully or partially privatized two-thirds of companies designated for

privatization, Estonia has been able to sell only 52 of 500 and Latvia has been successful in privatizing 86 of 703 companies. In all three cases, the revenue raised from the sale of state-owned companies has had only a very small effect on the national budget or the economies of the each country.

First Quarter Trade Remains High With CIS Countries

According to recently released trade statistics, Lithuanian exports to CBS countries was 53% of the total, while that to the countries of the European Union and EFTA amounted to 26% of the total. Similarly, Lithuania imported 28% of goods and services from EU and EFTA countries and 58% from the countries of the CBS. It is expected that the new trade agreement with EU set to take effect on January 1, 1995 will ultimately lead to increased trade as many of the existing tariffs will be slowly phased out or eliminated entirely. The Lithuanian textile and fishing industries appear to be the primary beneficiaries of the agreement.

Major International Accounting Firm Set Up Permanent Offices

In June, two of the "Big 6" accounting firms formally announced the establishment of permanent offices in



The annual AgroBalt agricultural and food processing equipment exposition at the Litexpo center in Vilnius attracted many visitors.

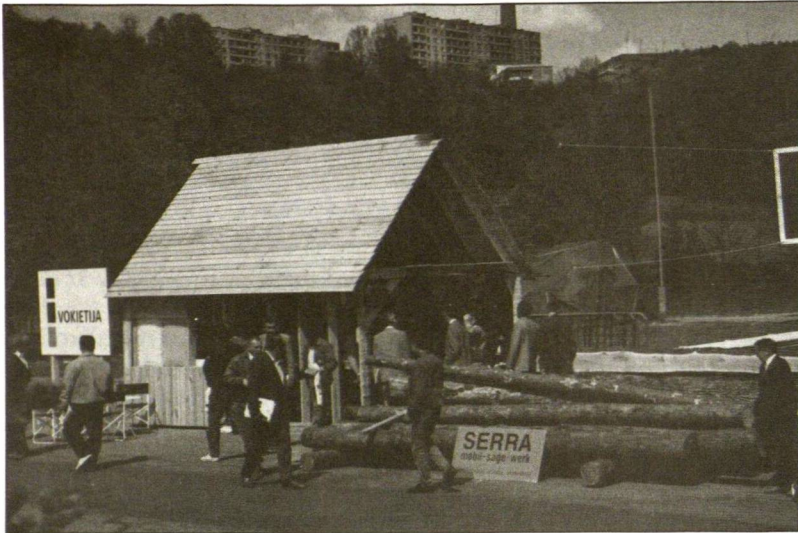


Foto E. Kulikauskas

Several lumber milling machines from Western Europe were exhibited at the furniture and wood processing equipment show at Litexpo in Vilnius.

Lithuania, bringing the total to number of such firms operating in Lithuania to three. Making announcements were Coopers & Lybrand and KPMG Peat Marwick. KPMG Peat Marwick had been operating in Lithuania as advisor to the government in the privatization program since mid-1992. It is currently staff with 5 auditors, 3 of whom are Lithuanian.

Lithuania's Foreign Investment Rating Needs An Uplift

The well-known magazine "The Economist" recently rated the 16 newly emerged Eastern European markets in terms of investment-worthiness. Lithuania came in 14th, ahead of only Croatia and Albania. Primary criteria appears to have been the total foreign capital actually brought into each country. Lithuania fared better when 1993 foreign investments were shown on a "per capita" basis, finishing ninth. Lithuania realized investments to the tune of seven dollars per inhabitant.

174 Stock Brokers Registered With the National Stock Exchange

Although there are over 70 firms registered with the recently formed national stock exchange, only 20 have had their common shares traded in any meaningful quantities. Some of the most active include trading in the shares of PVA "Plasta", PVA "Grigiskes" and PVA "Silkas". Meanwhile, the exchange already has 174 registered stock brokers and agents.

Troubled "APUS" Bank To Be Bailed Out By Spanish Finance Corp.

One of the Lithuania's banks, which has recently been troubled by non-performing loans and unable to pay dividends and interest on time, has been given a new lease on life, according to its Chairman Algimantas Cekuolis. The method of the bail-out appears to be in the form of a 49% increase in share capital, with foreign capital injections occurring during a twelve month period. The contract with the Spanish institution still needs approval by Lithuania's Central Bank.

Lithuanian National Railways Losing \$ 1,000,000 Per Quarter

Due to continuing decline in passenger and freight traffic during the past 18 months, the Lithuanian National Railway "Lietuvos gelezinkeliai" has become an increasing drain on the national budget. Since 1988 there has been a steady decline both in freight tonnage handled and also in the number of passengers serviced. While 44,900,000 passengers used Lithuanian railways in 1988, this decreased to 25,100,000



Foto E. Kulikauskas

Gintaras Petrikas, president of East-Baltic States-West (EBSW) holding company, Lithuanian's largest private company.

in 1993 and is projected to decline to 18,500,000 in 1994. In terms of tons of freight, comparative figures are 83,928,000 tons in 1988, 38,373,000 in 1993, and 1994 estimate is 34,000,000 tons.

Bits and Pieces...

Jurate Kazickas, a free-lance writer in Washington, D.C. and Lynn Sherr (ABC News correspondent) have written a book about famous women titled *Susan B. Anthony Slept Here: A Guide to American Women's Landmarks*. The book contains interesting information about where many famous American women were born, lived and died, in addition to other women's landmarks and museums. Jurate, herself, grew up in New Rochelle, NY, only four houses away from the home of suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. (Time Books, \$18)

From *Chicago Tribune*, Sunday, June 12, 1994.

We, the Balts written by Algirdas Sabaliauskas and translated by Milda B a k s y t e -

Richardson "examines the scholarly attempts to locate the homeland of the Baltic peoples - Lithuanians and Latvians. He also devotes a good proportion of the book to the mysterious Old Prussians, a now extinct Baltic nation that inhabited an area to the west of Lithuania.

"The book is available through Milda B. Richardson, 11 Wallis Road, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 for \$10.00 From a promotional flyer.

The 1994 Update *Zagat Survey of Chicago Restaurants* (ZAGAT Survey, NY, NY) lists Chicago's Lithuanian landmark eatery "Tulpė". The description reads "This tiny Mom-and-Pop Lithuanian BYO in the old Southwest Side wins praise for "outstanding" "old world" food and more of it than "you can imagine" for an incredibly low price; "drafty" in winter is the only complaint. "Tulpė" is located at 2447 W. 69th St. in Chicago.

The new editor of the *Journal of Baltic Studies* is, effective 1 June, 1994, Dr. Saulius A. Suziedelis. He will continue to have the assistance of William Urban and Roger Noel as associate editors, but all correspondence and inquires should be directed to him at Millersville University, Millersville, PA 17551.

Dr. Suziedelis was born in Germany in 1945 and grew

up in the Lithuanian community of Brockton, MA. He graduated from Catholic University of America in 1967, then served two years in Ethiopia with the Peace Corps. He received in M.A. in Russian history from the University of Maryland and in 1977 a Ph.D. in Russian and East European history from the University of Kansas.

From the *Journal of Baltic Studies*.

Baltic News Service, offering news from the Baltics in English is now available to Data-Star users. The service is described as "an important source of current information for anyone with an interest in Baltic-Russian relations or the economy, business, and culture of the Baltic region in general". For more information contact Dialog/Data-Star Help Desk at 800-221-7754.

From "Dialog Chronolog", June, 1994.

The latest guidebook to Lithuania is titled *Bed and Breakfast Lithuania* written by Snieguole Zalatorius. The guide includes available lodging along with other information for 23 cities in Lithuania. Available through Zoom International, P.O. Box 6532, Evanston, IL 60204 for \$12.00 plus shipping and handling.

Another directory of Latvian and Lithuanian Bed & Breakfasts is available through the author, Barb Phillips, 613 S. Circle Dr., Barrington, IL 60010.

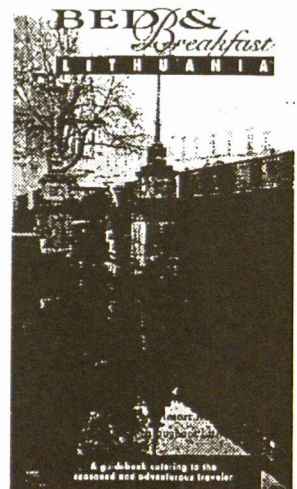
Information from *Internet Balt-L*

The program chairman of the 14th Conference on Baltic Studies (held in Chicago June 8-11, 1994) was Robert A. Vitas. Dr. Vitas is the vice president of the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center which organized a Book and Manuscript Exhibit at the Conference. About

continued page 19

Algirdas Sabaliauskas
**We, the
Balts**
Translated by
Milda Bakšytė-Richardson
Edited by
R.E. Richardson
With an Introduction by
William R. Schmalstieg

THE FIRST EVER!



Your complete guide to where
to stay, what to see and what
to do in 23 cities in Lithuania.



Aukse Trojanas

The New York Scene

May 17th was a great day for creative Lithuanians in New York. In the morning, Stasys Eidrigevicius stopped by to talk about his recent art show at the Chicago International Art Expo and to describe his ongoing play in Warsaw. Stasys is a versatile artist who is especially renowned for his distinctive interpretation of faces in the media of pastels, posters and sculpture. His play, *Baltas Briedis (White Stag)*, is a performance piece which joins live painting and drawing by the artist with original music, rhythmic lighting, choreographed movement and minimal dialogue. The work is a response to his mother's request, during Stasys' student days nearly 20 years ago, that he draw a white stag for her.

That evening, the Andre Zarre Gallery in SOHO held an opening for *Art of the 80's*, including a work by Kestutis Zapkus, called "Tales of Conquest," an anti-Vietnam war piece painted in 1982. It is a vivid work, a greenhouse of contained tension, exploding tropical elements of aqua, magenta and chartreuse into the aerial-like perspective of the viewer.

Among the visitors to the Zapkus show was Lucija Baskauskas the creator of Tele-3, the Lithuanian public television station. She was in town to attend her daughter's graduation from Columbia University. Lucija was taking the opportunity to make some business deals, notably with *Sesame Street*, for her TV station.

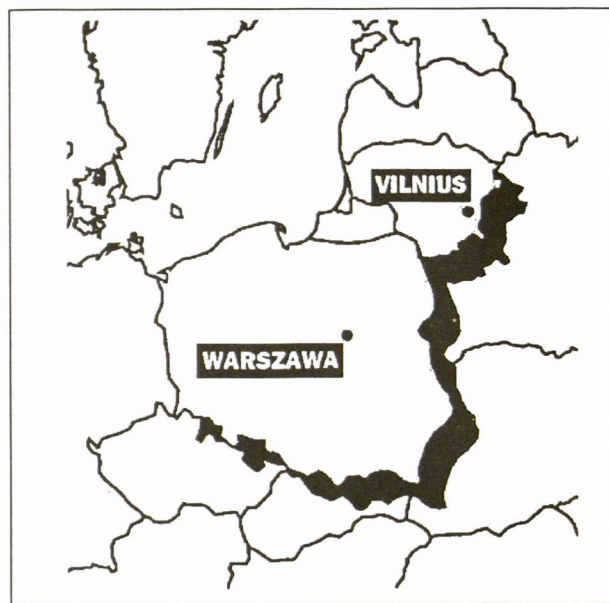
Kestutis Nakas dropped by the gallery before the 8 PM performance of *Jack Ruby Slippers*, his witty and original play at the Ohio Theatre on Wooster St. Kestutis was playing the lead role of a Lithuanian-American who has incredible adventures on both sides of the Atlantic.

Leaving the gallery show, I ran into Jonas Mekas at the corner of Greene and Broome Streets. He was going to New York University to speak at a panel discussion about the Beat Generation. As it was on my way, I went to the discussion and saw the tail end of Mekas' experimental film, "Guns of the Trees." Alan Ginsberg, another panel member, stated that this important film defined the Beat Generation's sensibility of disaffiliation from society. For Mekas, "Guns of the Trees" marked a leavetaking of his European identity and the events of World War II. Thereafter, he directed his vision into the new consciousness of post-war America which became known as the Beat movement. During the panel discussion, Mekas commented that our present culture is the direct offshoot of Beat literature, underground films of the 50's and 60's and the Fluxus art movement, a precursor of conceptual art, in which the late George Maciunas was a driving force.

At the end of that day one could feel that Lithuanians are truly making a creative impact in the United States and in the world.

Polish-Lithuanian Friendship

On May 19th a Polish Lithuanian Friendship evening was held at the elegant Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Manhattan to celebrate the recent



Cover of the Invitation to the Polish-Lithuanian Evening of Friendship at the Consul General of the Republic of Poland

signing of a friendship agreement between the two countries. Warm speeches by the Polish and Lithuanian Consuls, Jerzy Surdykowski and Leonas Kucinskas, welcomed an audience of invited guests and news reporters.

Efforts to solidify friendly relations between Poland and Lithuania had been ongoing for several years. According to *The New York Times* and other news sources, the European Union has been encouraging these and other Eastern European countries to formally negotiate internal border disputes in order to prevent armed conflicts such as those of the Balkan states. Bilateral agreements between Romania and Germany, Poland and Germany, and Hungary and Ukraine are expected to be signed within one year as part of the European Stability Pact. Russia is not committing itself to the round table as yet. It has, however, signed the NATO Partnership for

Peace and applied for membership in the organization.

The evening's program included the presentation of perceptions which Poles and Lithuanians hold about each other. Professor Romualdas Misiunas spoke of the historic interactions between the two countries such as the marriage of Grand Duke Jogaila to the Polish Queen Jadwiga in 1386. There is a general belief that Lithuania was ultimately diminished by this alliance. It led to the cultural and linguistic domination by the stronger Polish power for several centuries. Professor Misiunas made some important observations: Lithuania and Poland will, despite differences in the past, be drawn together by the effort to maintain their identities against the onslaught of the American and Western European cultures. In addition, both countries border the Baltic and must remain vigilant towards their historic enemies, Germany and Russia.

Boleslaw Wierzbianski, editor of the Polish newspaper *Nowy Dziennik*, spoke of past tensions between the

Bits and Pieces...

from p. 17

150 Baltic Studies students and scholars attended the Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago whose theme was "Independence and Identity in the Baltic States". Dr. Rimvydas Silbajoris, professor Emeritus, Ohio State University, delivered the keynote address "National Identity in the Flux of Time". Other Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Americans who gave presentations at the conference included Violeta Kelertas, professor of the Endowed Chair of Lithuanian Studies at the U of IL-Chicago; Saulius Suziedelis of Millersville University and new editor of the *Journal of Baltic Studies*, Vytautas Zalyis of the Lithuanian Embassy, Washington, D.C.; Ginte Damusis of the Mission of Lithuania to the United Nations; Birute Butkeviciene, Director of the Vilnius University Library; Craig Locatis and Dale Lukas of the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD, and others.

Ramune Kubilius

The next Conference on Baltic Studies will take place in Riga, Latvia June 16-18 in 1995. The general theme "Small Nations and States" will be interpreted in the broadest possible way to include aspects of History, Politics, Economic, Sociology, Fine Arts, Literature, Music, and Language, as well as other comparative and inter-disciplinary studies. The official languages of the Conference are English and German. The Conference will be combined with the VIIth Conference on Baltic Linguistics (Baltistica VII). For more information contact:

1st Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe
c/o Prof. A. Varslavans
University of Latvia
Raina bulv. 19
LV - 1586 Riga
Latvia
FAX: (371) 2-225039

two countries but wittily granted that a seizure of Polish territory on a shortlived map of an enlarged Lithuania could be forgiven. The map was drawn up by a Lithuanian-American in Los Angeles in the 1950's.

The last speaker, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United Nations, Ancietas Simutis, eloquently underscored the importance of mutual cooperation in the future economic and political life of Lithuania and Poland.

The good will of the evening was consummated in a powerful performance by pianist Aldona Dvarionaitė of works by Chopin, Ciurlionis, Jakubenas and her father, Balys Dvarionis.

ADVERTISEMENT

Lithuanian Fonts

for Windows 3.1 and

Mac Sys 6 or 7

Available in
TrueType or



PostScript Type 1 formats

Palanga a e u i š č ž è ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

a e u i š č ž è ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė Udraliai

Skuodas a e u i š č ž è ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė

a e u i š č ž è ū
A E U I Š Ž Č Ū Ė Telsiai

My system is a:

Mac Win/PC - 3.5" disk Win/PC - 5.25"

Desired format:

PostScript
 TrueType

Name _____

Yes I want to order:

Palanga \$40
 Udraliai \$40
 Skuodas \$30
 Telsiai \$30
 All 4 fonts \$125

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

add \$5 shipping and handling for total order



Make check payable to
Litnet; mail order to:
litnet Typographics
7 Arthur Rd.
Rosemont, PA 19010

Jeanne Dorr

Lithuanian Mercy Lift

An organization such as Mercy Lift can never be written about too much or receive too much publicity. Mercy Lift has been featured in previous issues of BRIDGES, however each month we have new readers and we want them to be familiar with all the organizations who are working for Lithuania. This is an opportunity for you, the reader, to find a cause that interests you. Although every organization welcomes your financial support they also seek your help in other ways. Perhaps you or someone you know works for a company or hospital that would be willing to donate much needed

items. Are you too shy to ask? Afraid someone might say no? Get in contact with the group you would like to help, they'll do the asking. Maybe you belong to a national or professional organization that would be able to help one of these groups - you'll never know unless you ask. Pass your copy of BRIDGES on to a non-Lithuanian friend, there is always the chance that "someone knows someone" who can help. Lithuania is no longer in the headlines and people tend to have short memories. Donations are not "pouring in", there are other places

with similar needs. Nevertheless, we must not let up or slack off. We have fifty years of damage to repair. It won't be changed in a year or two, or even five. The glitter and allure of newly found independence is wearing off for some people. The demonstrations and celebrations are over - the excitement and euphoria have ceased. Now we have to contend with everyday boring details and aggravations of helping our people stand on their own feet. Some believe we have to let Lithuania make her own way as well as her own mistakes. One place we cannot afford to do this is at the expense of people's lives because they

do not have the necessary drugs or treatment which is available through the west. The orphans, handicapped, and elderly should not have their lives put on "hold", when we, in the west, with some effort, could make their lives a little more bearable. Help someone else, you'll feel a lot better yourself!

Lithuanian Mercy Lift was organized by a group of concerned Lithuanian-Americans who took it upon themselves to provide essential drugs and medical supplies to the people of Lithuania. Its work began in April, 1990 in response to the Soviet Union's economic blockade of Lithuania.

The Kremlin hardliners used health care as a political weapon. The elderly and infants were the most tragic victims of the blockade. In 1990 most of the present Mercy Lift executive committee members were part of a more political oriented group called Lithuanian Hotline. This organization was an information center providing Lithuanian-Americans with the latest news from Lithuania, organizing rallies and petitions, and keeping the American press aware of what

was happening in Lithuania. By spring of 1990, they felt that they had outlived their purpose. It was decided to help the Lithuanian people in a more concrete way. George Riskus, Mercy Lift's first president suggested humanitarian aid. Their goal was to send one container.

This year Mercy Lift is celebrating their fourth anniversary. They not only achieved their goal of one container, in the past four years 73 full 40 ft containers of donated medical goods have reached Lithuania. The total value of the donations is over \$34,000,000. Mercy Lift still remains an all volunteer organization whose



LML Committee members with Christian Relief Services President Eugene Krizek and Director of Fulfillment Jennifer Patterson. Sitting (l to r) B.

Vindasius, L. Ringus, J. Patterson, A. Karaitis, A. Krizek. 2nd row: G. Riskus, R. Riskus, V. Lendraitis, E. Krizek, M. Nemickas, P. Jokubauskas, V. Jokubauskas, G. Lendraitis, M. Utz.



"Onute" at the Antakalnis Children's TB Hospital

members not only donate their time, but pay their own transportation to Lithuania to check on the arrival and distribution of the containers.

According to Dr. Ona Grimalauskiene at the Lithuanian Ministry of Health, LML is the only organization to send medical aid on a regular basis and provides 50% of all medical aid that is sent from the US. At the present time, LML is averaging three containers a month. Without Christian Relief Services financial assistance this continuous assistance would not be possible. Since 1992, CRS has paid over \$260,000 to send 38 containers. LML has a working relationship with Sarunas Marciulionis, Lithuanian Children's Hope, Knights of Lithuania, and S.O.S. Lithuania. They are shipping medical supplies for all of these organizations. The average cost of shipping one container is between \$6,000-\$8,000. Absorption of the shipping costs by LML allows the organizations to use their funds to purchase much needed medical supplies and equipment.

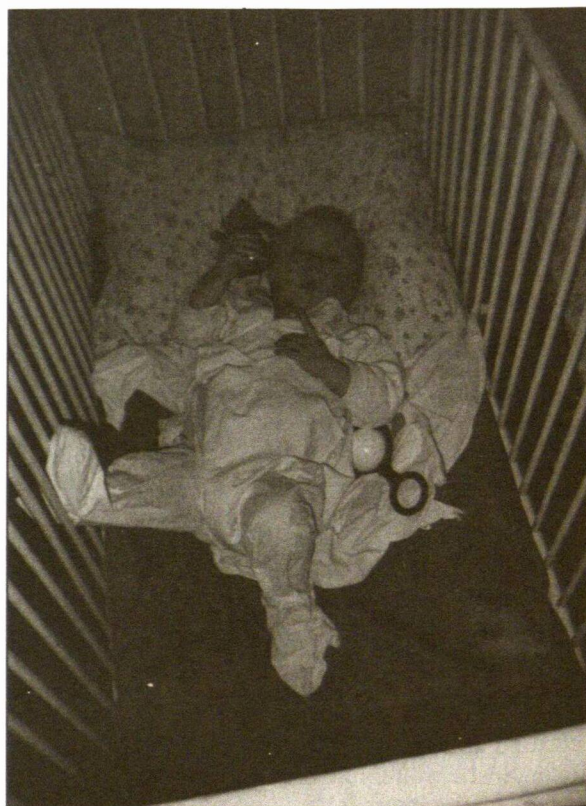
Earlier this year, eleven executive committee members spent two days in Washington where they visited more than seventy offices. They spoke to US officials about LML's humanitarian aid programs and asked for suggestions of where to obtain more funding for Lithuania. During this trip, new contacts were established and new resources for medical aid were discovered.

Tuberculosis remains a problem in Lithuania and the number of reported cases continues to rise. Lithuanian Mercy Lift is committed to helping the Antakalnis Children's Hospital. Since 1992, this hospital has been at full capacity with fifty children suffering from TB. As of last month, 61 were being treated. Even though all the rooms and beds were occupied, 11 more children were admitted. These children are orphans. The minimum stay at the hospital is nine months, some children must stay longer. For the past fifteen months, LML has been sending medicine and vitamins. Diagnostic testing kits are also needed for this hospital, as well as others.

The British-Lithuanian Relief Fund for Children in

Lithuania is helping the Kulautuva Children's TB Sanitarium. Thanks to Mrs. Piscikas and the British-Lithuanians, LML is able to buy the TB medicine in England, where it is less than half the US price. The British-Lithuanians have agreed to transport the medicine to Vilnius at no cost. With this kind of assistance and cooperation, LML is able to treat more children. Without donations, medicine could not be purchased. LML has contacted pharmaceutical companies for donations but were turned down because of the high price of the medication. Without LML's help, these children would have no hope of getting well. Future plans include the expansion of the TB treatment program to include adults.

Mercy Lift has been instrumental in helping nineteen year old Žydrunas in his fight for life against a rare form of leukemia. Until 1993 there was no hope for survival. Every medication and treatment that was available at Vilnius University Hospital was tried without success. Can you imagine what his mother must have felt at this time? She begged the Lithuanian Ministry of Health for help. Dr. O. Grimalauskiene understood there was very little hope of getting the necessary treatment. She contacted LML for assistance. The only hope for Žydrunas's survival was a medication called Anagrelide which is still in the experi-



Infant with TB at Kaunas Infectious Clinics

mental stages and used only for clinical studies. Over one thousand patients have been successfully treated, but the medication is very expensive. Through the efforts of LML member, Virginia Rimeika, Žydrunas has been accepted as part of a Roberts Pharmaceutical's study. His hematologist submitted all the necessary paper work and Roberts Pharmaceutical agreed that the young man's only hope was Anagrelide. The medicine is being sent to Žydrunas's hematologist at Vilnius University Hospital. Roberts Pharmaceutical will continue to treat Žydrunas for the rest of his life. Žydrunas was given a second chance, thanks to LML and Roberts Pharmaceutical, but how many more cases will remain untreated? The number of leukemia cases has risen. Unfortunately, the necessary medicines and treatments will not be available to most people.

Lithuanian Mercy Lift's newest program is "Hearts for Hearing". It will first target children attending schools for the hearing impaired. They will be tested, identified, and fitted with donated hearing aids. This will be a three year program. LML member, audiologist Linda Burba will head this newest project. The goals are to develop pediatric audiology services and to provide audiologic training to physicians and other professionals throughout Lithuania.

Linda is looking for audiologists who would be interested in this project. Individuals who have contacts with manufacturers of hearing aids, batteries, assistive listening devices (Radio Shack, Ameritech, etc.) and audiologic equipment are also needed. Any individuals who can organize hearing aid drives (behind the ear only) in their area would be helpful. The aids will be cleaned and reconditioned to meet standards. Any individual who would like to donate hearing aids would be greatly appreciated. If you or someone you know can help in any way with this project, please contact:

Linda Burba, M.S.CCC-A
Lithuanian Mercy Lift
14911 127th Str
Lemont, IL 60439
Tel (708) 257-6777
FAX: (708) 388-2059

The project received donations of equipment and cash to purchase much needed items that have not been donated, individuals have also donated new and used hearing aids. If you would like to organize a hearing aid drive in your area but don't know how to go about it, give Linda a call.

Wouldn't it be great if something similar to the Lion's Club used glasses collection could be implemented? Just think how wonderful you would feel knowing you helped even one child hear his mother's voice or hear a bird sing instead of lonely silence.

This column is not allotted enough space to tell you everything that LML has accomplished or plans to do in the future, but they cannot provide the funds and acquire equipment without your help. If you live in the Chicago area, your support of their fund-raisers is appreciated. If you live in other areas, your financial support is not only appreciated, it is absolutely necessary. Donations to Lithuanian Mercy Lift are tax deductible. Please send your checks made payable to Lithuanian Mercy Lift to the address above. BRIDGES readers, we thank you in advance for any contacts you may be able to provide that will help Lithuanian Mercy Lift help the people of Lithuania.

Thank you Mercy Lift volunteers for your dedication and the compassion you have shown and continue to show through your commitment to the many programs you sponsor. A sincere thank you to Vilgaile Lendraitis for all the information she provided for this article.

Child of the Month

As a regular feature of the humanitarian aid column, I hope to feature a child who is in need of foster care. The cost for sponsoring a child for an entire year is \$150, however, ANY donations will be gratefully appreciated. This month's child is Ramunas Kaniauskas. He was born June 6, 1988. Ramunas is a pleasant child and has a charming personality. He enjoys playing with other children. He resides with a foster family in Kaunas. Won't you please help this child stay with his foster family? Please send you tax deductible checks to:

Lithuanian Orphan Care
2711 West 71st Str
Chicago, IL 60629

(Please note Ramunas' name on the check)



Pranas Gvildys

Sports News

Sports News From Lithuania

Basketball

The Lithuanian professional basketball league completed its season. Following are the results of the final and consolation games.

In the finals Kauno "Žalgiris" defeated Kauno "Atletas" 3 to 1. The results were 51:69; 81:64; 81:65 and 64:61.

In the consolation games for the 3rd place Vilniaus "Statyba" defeated Kauno "Lavera" 3 to 0. The results were 82:67; 88:87 and 75:55.

The new Spanish professional basketball champion is Real Madrid. It defeated Barcelona 77:64. Three Lithuanians, Arvydas Sabonis, Rimas Kurtinaitis and Joe Arlauskas (*not our previous editor whose talents off the court have long been appreciated by our Bridges readers -ed*) are under contract with Real Madrid.

The Lithuanian National women's basketball team qualified for the final round of the European championships to be held in Brno in the spring of 1995. The Lithuanians edged out Hungary for the Qualifying spot in the semifinal round. The final standings were: Croatia with 4 wins, Italy with 4 wins, Lithuania with 3 wins, Hungary with 2 wins, Latvia with 2 wins and Finland with 0 wins.

The Baltic professional women's basketball league has been established to promote women's basketball. The following teams are divided into two groups. Group A consists of Arcadia from Ryga, Viktorija from Kaunas, Horizont from Minsk and Meelis from Talinn. Group B consists of Moldava, Rina from Vilnius, TTT from Ryga and Apus from Kaunas. Kazimiera Prunskiene, the former prime minister of Lithuania, was unanimously elected as the president of the league.

Handball

The Lithuanian women's handball team "Eglė": from Vilnius participated in the international tournament in France. The Lithuanians came in third losing to Russia 18:29 and to France 19:23, but defeated Holland 26:17. During their trip several Lithuanian players accepted German citizenship and in the future will not be able to represent Lithuania.

Volleyball

Two Lithuanian women's volleyball teams— "Banga-Sabina" and "Heksa" participated in the 10 team inter-

national tournament in Oslo. Both teams reached the semifinals, where "Banga-Sabina" defeated Valentina from Sweden 3:0 and "Heksa" outlasted the Norwegian Champion "Kohl" 3:2. In the all Lithuanian final "Heksa" defeated "Banga-Sabina" 3:0.

Soccer

The Lithuanian professional soccer league completed its regular season with Romar from Mažeikiai winning the championship. The final standings after 22 rounds are:

Mažeikių "Romar"	38 points
Vilniaus "Žalgiris-EBSW"	37 "
Panėvežio "Ekranas"	31 "
Vilniaus "Panerys"	29 "
Kauno "Kaunas"	28 "
Klaipėdos "Aras"	22 "
Klaipėdos "Sirijus"	19 "
Kauno "Inkaras"	15 "
Šiaulių "Sakalas"	15 "
Vilniaus "Geležinis Vilkas"	13 "
Marijampolės "Žydrius"	9 "
Tauragės "Taurus-Kursuva"	8 "

The top scorers in the league, each with 16 goals, were: Robertas Zalys from Kaunas and Vaidotas Slekys from Ekranas.

The last three teams will be demoted to a lower league for the next season.

The top four teams qualified to participate for the Lithuanian soccer trophy. The semifinal between Romar and Žalgiris was an exciting affair. Romar won the first game in Mažeikiai 1:0, but Žalgiris won the second game in Vilnius 1:0. Since the 30 minute overtime was scoreless, the winner was decided by the 11 m penalty kicks, which Žalgiris won 4:3. Ekranas defeated Panerys 1:0 and 1:1.

In the finals Žalgiris -EBSW defeated Ekranas 4:2., thereby earning the right to represent Lithuania in the European trophy competition. To reward the team efforts and dedication, EBSW Company donated 200,000 litai to the Žalgiris team.

Cycling

Lithuanian cyclists are well known throughout the world. Many are participating professionally on the European circuit.

A. Trumpauskas recently participated in 10 races in Belgium during 15 days. He won three races, and came in second in four. In the prestigious "Ronde van Midden

Zeeland" race in Holland, among 140 participants, A. Trumpauskas finished first, R. Lupeikis 10th, G. Romanovas 13th, and K. Stakenas 39th.

A. Kasputis is racing successfully in France. Recently in the prestigious "Dauphine Libre" eight part race in Dauphine, France he finished third.

Rasa Mazeikyte finished third in the world cycle trophy 3 km. race in Copenhagen. Rima Rezmaite finished fifth in the 500 m. race and seventh in the sprint race.

Tennis

For the first time in history the Lithuanians participated in the preliminary rounds of the Davis Cup tournament. Lithuania finished first in their group by defeating Tunis 3:0; Cyprus 2:1 and Congo 3:0. In the semifinal Lithuania defeated Malta 2:1, but lost to a strong Slovakian team 3:0. Performance in this tournament will qualify Lithuania for a higher rated group of the Davis Cup competition in 1995.

The Lithuanian Davis Cup members are: Rolandas Muraska, Gintautas Mazonis, Giedrius Vezelis and 15 year old Denis Ivancovas. The team captain was Remigijus Belzekas.

Lithuanian Sports News in the United States

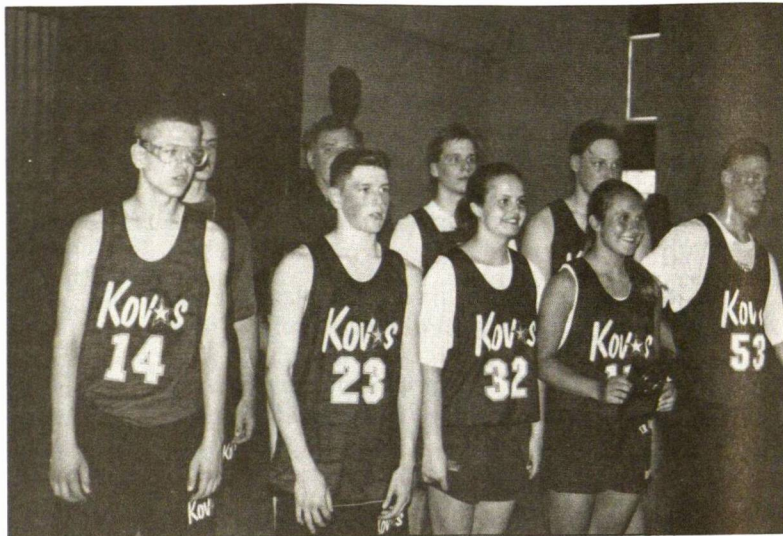
Junior Basketball

The 1994 North American Lithuanian Sports League



Members of Chicago's "NERIS" volleyball team having won 1st place at the North American Lithuanian Sports League games held in Detroit May 28-29.

(ŠALFASS) junior basketball championship was held in Cleveland on April 23, 24. The championship was held



Hamilton, Ontario "KOVAS" basketball team members having taken 2nd place in the Junior A group at the games in Detroit.

in four age groups: Group B – 16 years old and younger, Group C – 14 years, Group D – 12 years and Group E 10 years old. Twenty three teams participated in this event.

Five teams were entered in the B group. The winner was Hamilton "Kovas". It defeated Detroit "Kovas" 63:57. For the third place Chicago "Lithuanica" outlasted Cleveland "Žaibas" 62:57.

Seven teams entered in the C group. The winner was London "Taurus" against Cleveland "Žaibas" 61:52. Hamilton "Kovas" was third defeating Toronto "Aušra" 24:18.

Six teams entered in the D age group. The winner was Hamilton "Kovas" against Toronto "Vytis" 56:29. Cleveland "Žaibas" defeated Chicago "Lithuanica" 42:38 in overtime for the third place.

Five teams entered in the youngest 10 year old age group. Hamilton "Kovas" became champions for the third time against Cleveland "Žaibas" 22:15. Detroit "Kovas" was third against Toronto "Vytis" 25:20.

Men's Basketball

The main 1994 ŠALFASS event, men's basketball championships, was held in Detroit on May 27 to 30. Eight teams entered in the elite, Men's A class, ten teams in the men's B class, and four teams in the junior A age group – 18 years and younger.

This year the men's A tournament

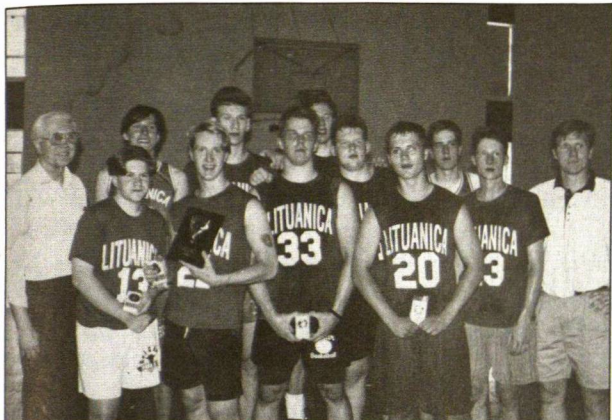


Foto by Jonas Urbonas

Chicago's men's basketball team "Lithuanica" - first place winners of the Men's A class tournament.

was more interesting, because of participation of the players from Lithuania attending schools in the United States. Chicago "Lithuanica" had two such players: the Olympian Alvydas Pazdradzis and a young seven footer A. Vilcinskis. "Lithuanica" won the tournament defeating Detroit "Kovas" 80:63. The defending champion NY LAK won against "Lithuanica" 72:70 in the preliminary round, but lost in the early morning semifinal game against Detroit 80:76. NYLAK defeated Toronto "Aušra" for third place.

In the men's B class the Detroit "Kovas" defeated the defending champion NY LAK 68:65 in overtime. Chicago "Neris" overcame Toronto "Vytyis" 72:65 for third place.

The four team tournament in the junior A age group was won by the Chicago "Lithuanica" against Hamilton "Kovas" 50:34. Detroit "Kovas" came third.

Volleyball

Only four men's teams entered the 1994 ŠALFASS championships in Detroit. The winner was Chicago "Neris" against Cleveland "Zaibas" 15:5 and 15:9. Detroit "Kovas" came in third.

The women's volleyball tournament had to be cancelled due to lack of entries.

Hockey

Four teams, Hamilton "Kovas", Chicago "Gintaras", Detroit "Kovas" and Toronto "Jungtis", entered in the ŠALFASS tournament in Detroit. The winner was Hamilton vs. Toronto 2:0.

Tennis

Tennis was also part of the ŠALFASS games in Detroit on May 28 and 29. Playing conditions were excellent and the weather was beautiful. More participants would have made this tournament more successful.

The results were as follows:

Men's A division

1. Jonas Cikotas from Washington.
2. Tauras Barauskas from Detroit

Men's B division

1. Rimas Ciurlionis from Chicago – a newcomer from Lithuania
2. Darius Gilvydis from Detroit

Women's division

1. Bernadeta Brikaite from Hamilton
2. Laura Ragaite-Valaviciene from Chicago.

Senior division

1. Albertas Zukauskas from Minnesota
2. Dr. Leonidas Ragas from Chicago

Mixed doubles

1. T. Barauskas-L. Ragaite
2. D. Selenis- B. Brikaite

Men's doubles

1. J. Cikotas-D. Selenis
2. R. Ciurlionis- L. Ragas

Track and Field

Andrius Klemas, one of our most successful runners from Albuquerque, NM, has been successfully running overseas, and helping his fellow athletes from Lithuania. He won the 30 km. race in Lithuania from Trakai to Vilnius in 1:41:29 time overcoming by seven seconds V. Vaiskus from Vilnius.

In the cross country race (4720 m.) in Ireland he came 44th in 15:58. Through his efforts another runner from Lithuania, Dainius Virbickas, has been invited to train in the United States.

Armed Encampment

from p. 14

ported by the Polish government as well. Debate on the issue now includes a call for internationally administered self-rule of the territory and transformation to a free trade zone. Thus, a threatening military outpost could be converted to a commercial center benefiting the wider Baltic region. There would be no need for military transit through other independent countries and thus a source of dangerous instability would disappear.

Several Russian military and political leaders have objected to the demilitarization proposal as interference in the internal affairs of the Russian Federation. But continued concentrations of military forces in Kaliningrad, may place Russia in violation of the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe by mid-1995. There is no doubt that the presence of those military forces now pose a threat to the peace and security of the international community. Since Kaliningrad is not an integral part of Russia, but a territory under its administration, members of the international community have a right to support the demilitarization proposal and should do so in the interest of securing the peace in northeastern Europe.

Ramune Kubilius

From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpt from the Lithuanian Press in America.

Ramune Kubilius has a Master's degree in Library Science, and has worked in academic medical libraries in Illinois for over a dozen years. After work hours, she has put her informational skills and interests to practice by writing for the Lithuanian language press in the United States, serving as the "official correspondent" for the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., the DRAUGAS Foundation, the Lithuanian Catholic Association ATEITIS and other groups. While serving on the LAC National Executive Committee, she first began providing information about LAC, its projects and activities to BRIDGES readers, a process she continues to this day for the LAC's Educational Council. In recent years, she has become involved in maintaining ties with library colleagues in Lithuania and is a member of the Lithuanian Library Association of America.



the Soviet controlled borders. In almost four years, 306.2 million Lithuanian stamps have been circulated.

(DRAUGAS, 6/1/94)

Australians Participate in Song Festival

Twenty-seven enthusiastic members of Melbourne, Australia's ensemble (they didn't dare call themselves a chorus) are rehearsing for their participation in July's Song Festival in Lithuania. The group celebrates its 45th anniversary this year - the group gathered in 1949 and had a well-received first annual conference on October 13, 1950. The ensemble has performed many concerts throughout Australia over the years, and has featured more complicated cantatas and new composers' works. A primary rule from the first has been that the singers must learn all of the words so they could sing without songbooks, a fact that has surprised members of other choirs. The group travelled all the way to Toronto, Ontario, Canada in 1978 for the Lithuanian Song Festival, where the group also performed in a concert in Hamilton, Ontario. A subgroup of the ensemble also performed in Los Angeles, Cleveland and Chicago. Two of the original members sing in the ensemble to this day.

(TEVISKES ZIBURIAI, 5/17/94, from an article by the group's chairperson, Onute Lynikas)

Lithuanian Scouts Celebrate Diamond Anniversary

Lithuanian scouting's 75th anniversary was celebrated April 10th in Chicago. Flutist Asta Sepetis and soloist A. Simonaitis-Gaiziunas, accompanied by R. Mockus were part of the program, but participants too were involved in singing Lithuanian (and international) traditional scouting songs.

(From flyers advertising the event and various articles in the Lithuanian press.)

100th Lithuanian Stamp Issued

The 100th stamp issued in Lithuania since its re-establishment of independence came out at the end of May. The block of stamps depicts the first stamp issued after independence, a panorama of Vilnius churches. The run of 60,000 blocks of the stamp was printed in Hungary and its cost was 12 litai. The first Lithuanian stamps were printed abroad and illegally brought across

Lithuanian Sports Museum Opens in Kaunas

Lithuania's Sports Museum was officially dedicated December 27, 1993. Participating at the opening were Olympians, sports veterans and athletes from all over Lithuania. Backers of the founding included Lithuanian Americans Valdas Adamkus, Konstantinas Savickas (Connie Savickus?-rk), Jonas Ramanauskas and many others. The idea for the museum came up in 1978 when Pranas Majauskas began to work at the Kaunas Sports Committee and circus strongman Jonas Ramanauskas visited him with a promise of support. Several letters went out to various organizations, but nothing came of it, since nostalgia for the past was not tolerated in those days. In 1984, a sports veterans' club AZUOLAS was founded in Kaunas. Jonas Ramanauskas brought signatures on a petition for the founding of a sports museum to a meeting of the directors. The beginning of the museum was in a section of the War Museum, with two staffers responsible for the exhibits, and in 1990 permission was given to found the museum; space was found in another building where plans for a technology museum never

materialized. By 1991 a temporary exhibit was prepared for the World Lithuanian Sports Games. Since then, individuals have donated their personal treasures to the museum which seeks to familiarize the public with sports figures who brought Lithuania's name to the forefront all over the world.

(TEVISKES ZIBURIAI, 5/3/94, from an article by Edmundas Volungevicius)

Children's Hope Work Continues...

The Lithuanian Children's Hope Committee in Chicago is currently caring for seven children (4-16 years of age, from Alytus, Kulautuva, Vilnius, Siauliai, Kaunas and Salininkai). The Los Angeles group is caring for one child, and the San Francisco group for one. All of the children are in various stages of pre-operative or post-operative orthopedic treatment in the Shriners Hospitals of the various cities. The Committee's Orthopedic Operative Suite was opened October 2, 1993 at the University of Vilnius Children's Hospital. As of March 1st, over 100 operations were performed. In March over a quarter million dollars' worth of medicines and equipment were sent to Vilnius for the suite. The equipment and supplies were donated by various companies, thanks to the efforts of Lithuanian Children's Hope Operating Suite Chair Dana Kaunas and the Chicago Shriners Hospital's senior operating room nurse Norene Jamieson. The Committee's medical corps, consisting of ten persons, in April went to Lithuania for one week of assisted

operations, during which the Lithuanian operating room teams were to learn new techniques by working alongside their American colleagues. It was the second such trip. The medical team consisted of persons of Lithuanian descent and some good-hearted American medical professionals.

(PENSININKAS, April 1994)

Latvian President Visits Chicago

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis visited Chicago May 22nd. It was the first visit to Chicago by a Latvian president. Latvian Saturday school children were scheduled to greet the president at O'Hare Airport dressed in their folk costumes. He was scheduled to speak at Chicago Evangelical Lutheran Zion Church, and an honorary banquet was scheduled at the Hilton Towers Hotel. He was scheduled to meet with Illinois Governor Jim Edgar, with Latvian Americans, and with representatives of other ethnic groups. It is President Ulmanis' second trip to the United States- the last was September 24th when the presidents of all three Baltic countries met with U.S. President Bill Clinton in New York.

(DRAUGAS, 5/21/94)

President Ulmanis also cut the red ribbon on Latvia's first consulate in the United States, in Northbrook, IL. "What brought Latvia to Northbrook? Two things: Latvia, a tiny Baltic nation of only 2.7 million people,

continued page 31

ADVERTISEMENT

TRANSPAK

2638 W 69th Str. Chicago, IL 60629 (312) 436-7772

Shipping

Now you can ship:

Clothing (new, used), food, medicine - to Lithuania
No weight limit, no customs duty, no forms, no hassles.

We will handle all your shipping needs to Lithuania.....

We'll ship your packages for less than postal rates, including home delivery.

Air freight shipments available for faster delivery.

We bar code and track your packages to their final destinations in our computers.

(Insurance may be purchased for \$5.00 per \$100.00 of insurance.)

Discounts available for packages totalling 100 lbs. or more going to one address.

Other services

Money transfer service
in US dollars.

Food Packages Available

Rimantas A. Stirbys

LAC/Canadian Conference, Part II

During the weekend of April 30-May 1, representatives of the national leadership for the Lithuanian Communities of the United States and Canada met in a conference in Southfield, Michigan to discuss relevant and pressing issues facing their organizations both internally and in relation to the Republic of Lithuania. This is the second of a two-part article which covers that conference.

The second symposium, on the role the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. should play in the evolution of various aspects of Lithuania's governmental, political and social institutions, was opened by Dr. Kazys Ambrozaitis. Dr. Ambrozaitis began by focusing on the 1949 Lithuanian Charter, which granted rights to all Lithuanian citizens and their descendants. He noted that the Charter and the LAC, Inc.'s statutes were amended in 1974 to permit active participation in the political arena, a role previously reserved for the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania (VLIKAS).

Dr. Ambrozaitis outlined a series of topics which will have to be resolved, either internally by the LAC, Inc., or by the fullness of time:

- The role of the political parties in Lithuania and the degree and kind of support they can or should receive from LAC, Inc.
- The nature of the relationship between the LAC and major political parties here in the United States.
- The future of the Public Affairs Office in Washington, DC, in light of the kind and quality of activity of the Lithuanian Embassy and of the Lithuanian Mission to the United Nations.
- The role of new Lithuanian emigres in the domestic agenda of the LAC.

He also stressed that the LAC must continue to stay informed of economic and social conditions in Lithua-

nia, regardless of the degree of direct involvement. According to Dr. Ambrozaitis, it is imperative that the LAC keep the Lithuanian language and culture alive here in North America, using Lithuania as the base and standard by which to judge. In effect, his summary revealed that if the LAC put effort into help keeping Lithuania independent and democratic, that behavior itself would draw the LAC into the governmental and political process in Lithuania.

The next speaker, Liuda Rugienius, left no doubt that



Attendees of the Detroit conference; l to r: R. Sakalaite-Jonaitis, J. Kuraite-Lasiene, A. Barzdukas, L. Siliekis-Hood, A. Banionis, D. Dugan-Hilliard, R. Narusis, G. Taoras

the LAC must continue to supply intellectual, financial and material support to long-established as well as nascent institutions now appearing in Lithuania. However, she drew a line in the sand when she underscored that the LAC's role should be to "help find the path, not to walk it." Mrs. Rugienius pointed out that it might not be appropriate for the Lithuanian government to take responsibility for safeguarding Lithuania's national culture, but rather it was a task for private institutions. With that assumption, the LAC's contribution to Lithuania's development should steer clear of direct involvement in the affairs of government and should

underwrite the future of the private sector instead.

On the other hand, Lithuania, including government organs, must understand what is happening elsewhere in the world in order to put its own situation in perspective. In addition, Lithuanian leaders, public and private sector, must learn to recognize, admit, and understand their mistakes and, most importantly, learn how to correct them. In this vein, the LAC should actively support the dissemination of information to and throughout Lithuania. Whenever necessary, the LAC should serve as a watchdog, monitoring events in Lithuania and providing feedback that typifies Western reaction within the global framework that Lithuania aspires to wear. As a parting thought, Mrs. Rugienius opined that, for geopolitical as well as economic reasons, Lithuania might be better served by aligned with the Scandinavian North rather the European West or the Russian/Slavic East.

S. Algimantas Gecys continued the symposium by briefly summarizing the LAC's role in the reestablishing Lithuania's independence. He highlighted some of the critical work done by Asta Banionis and the Public Affairs Office she heads in Washington (hot topics included Russian troop withdrawals, the impending closing of the VOA/Lithuanian, and USAID funding issues). Mr. Gecys also summarized some of the important meetings and conferences arranged by the LAC, from the meetings with Lithuanian leaders in the resort town of Birstonas, to the Political Affairs and Humanitarian Aid conferences that have been held in Washington and elsewhere.

Mr. Gecys also pointed out that LAC members work wherever possible to assist Lithuanian institutions and

government branches. At the same time the LAC offers its resources to many able individuals and focus groups with proven track records in their endeavors to assist Lithuania. In outlining issues he felt required more concentrated attention, Mr. Gecys mentioned:

- While the citizenship issue now appears to be moot, compensation for or the return of property confiscated during Communist rule is of major concern to many Lithuanian emigres who fled the country during and immediately after World War II.
- Mr. Gecys suggests the Vilnius office of World Lithuanian Community act in a similar manner to the PAO in Washington: distributing information, acting as a sounding board for decision makers, and monitoring government policies as they are being developed to ensure that the rights of the Lithuanian Diaspora and the greater interests of the Lithuanian Republic are well-served.
- A point for discussion with the Lithuanian Seimas (Parliament) is creation of commission similar to the Ethnic Heritage Commission which operates in Pennsylvania under the auspices of the Lieutenant Governor. This body acts as an interface between the central government body (here, the Seimas) and the interested constituency (Lithuanian-Americans, as well as the rest of the Diaspora), conducting hearings, taking expert testimony, receiving evidence, and formulating solutions for implementation by the law-making body of the government.

The main effect of this joint US-Canada Lithuanian Community conference was to raise more questions than to find answers. In that respect, the conference was a success. There is no single next step, except to think about the issues and develop strategies for addressing or implementing them in future activity plans. Many of the topics were not new, but found fresh formulations which suggested new approaches that could be explored. In the US, the next step in formulating LAC, Inc. policy will be taken in September, when the LAC, Inc. Council (Taryba, or Board of Directors) meets to elect a new National Executive Committee President and to name new members to that Committee. That Council session and its implications for the future direction of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. will be discussed in a later issue this Fall.



Foto: Jonas Urbanas

B. Raugas, A. Vaiciunas (Pres. of American-Canadian Community), V. Maciunas (Pres. of Lithuanian-American Community) and B. Jasaitis

Letters to the Editor

We are pleased to see a growing number of letters and memos in praise of BRIDGES' attempts to reach and maintain the high levels of quality you, our readers, expect and deserve. Kudos are due to our contributing editors for the volume and sophisticated content of the material they are providing. Much credit for this must go to our publisher, Vytautas Maciunas, who pulled together a highly competent and productive team, and who continues to provide insight and fresh story ideas. However, his greatest success, and my strongest asset, is the woman he brought on board as Managing Editor. Audrone Gulbinas has done yeoman's service in pulling together each issue and has been the driving force — together with our expert Layout & Design team, first Paulius Mickus and now Kazys Razgaitis — behind this newsletters highly praised and professional layout. Keep up the fantastic work, Audrone; I don't know where we'd be without you!

May 31, 1994

Dear Editor:

I first want to compliment you and the staff of BRIDGES for an excellent publication that seems to get better with every issue. At our house we look forward to receiving it and read it cover to cover the moment it comes in—which leads me to the reason for this letter.

On page 9 of the May 1994 issue you provide a brief synopsis of INSIGHT GUIDES-BALTIC STATES (information credited to Internet). Although I generally concur with what is stated, I was rather concerned with what was conspicuously absent, namely a caveat to the reader about the distorted section on Lithuanian history as presented in the book. A number of major errors appear in that section, and I feel it is important to point their existence out to your readers, not all of whom may have the historical background to spot these errors on their own.

We have just published a review of this book in the most recent issue of "Tulpè Times", the bilingual newsletter of the Washington state Lithuanian-American Community. Please feel free to use the review or portions thereof if you would like to expound on this problem in a future issue.

Respectfully,
Zita E. Petkus
Editor - "Tulpè Times"
Seattle, WA

We'd like to thank Ms. Petkus for pointing out this omission. Here is an excerpt from Tulpè Times and their review of INSIGHT GUIDES-BALTIC STATES:

"We caught at least three screaming errors in the segment summarizing Lithuanian history, including virtually ignoring Lithuanian history prior to the 14th century while assigning a pivotal historical role to the pre-teen Polish princess Jadvyga, who married the Lithuanian knight Jogaila in 1385.

An incredible glaring error of omission is the writer's failure to mention the most important event in modern Lithuanian history, i.e., the declaration of independence of Feb. 16, 1918!

Finally, the writer confuses relatively recent events and misstates that people were killed on March 11, 1990, the day Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union (bloodshed actually occurred 10 months later, when Russian tanks attacked unarmed civilians in Vilnius on Jan. 13, 1991)...

Apart from the historical summary, the book appears to contain much detailed information on tourist attractions; if you can get past your irritation with the distorted section on history, you'll probably find the remaining sections to be useful."

June 6, 1994

Dear Sirs:

I think Albert Cizauskas does a disservice to all Lithuanians, both here and in Lithuania, with his critical and obviously biased reporting on the Lithuanian economy in your May edition.

His article really should begin with the ninth paragraph, where the substance of what he has to say finally emerges without criticism, sarcasm or rancor. It's a good thing you labelled his article under "Opinion", because that's exactly what it was —one man's opinion.

Although I have no objection to the truth when it is reported objectively, I believe the headline and Mr. Cizauskas's initial comments could have an adverse effect on foreign investments and cause further problems in the economy of a tiny, emerging democracy that we all love.

Frankly, I'm tired of all this "former Communist" stuff. Let's get real, as the kids say. Algirdas Brazauskas has been elected for four years. He won by a landslide by U.S. standards. A recent survey published in the Lithuanian Weekly indicates that he's still the No. 1 most popular personage in Lithuania. He's here to stay, whether Mr. Cizauskas likes it or not.

In my opinion, there's entirely too much petty bickering, back-biting and dissention by American Lithuanians over issues that don't really count. During my last visit to Lithuania, the economy under Landsbergis was a disaster. Inflation was in the thousand percentiles, not in the fractional decimals that Cizauskas himself reported.

We're not doing great, but we're doing alright. We should help, rather than hinder, the government whenever we can.

As a public relations professional, I commend Lithuania for taking an ad in the London Economist. That's sound, logical, creative thinking. A 16-page spread in an upcoming July edition of Newsweek is another giant step in the right direction. This is not the thinking of a bunch of bungling, addle-brained former Communist bureaucrats. It's state-of-the-art marketing for a tiny little country which has found it difficult to have its voice heard.

Although I'm not active in the Lithuanian-American community, I'm very proud of the work Lithuanians are doing to help Lithuanians, as reported in every issue of BRIDGES. The name is most appropriate. Your publication does serve as a bridge between all Lithuanians, whether we speak the language or not.

But let's put an end to this negative, biased reporting as evidenced by Mr. Cizauskas's article. It's far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

And, incidentally, for you information, I am not related to Algirdas Brazauskas.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph Brazauskas
Chino, CA

P.S. The responsiveness and courtesy I have always received from the Lithuanian government, news media and private business has always been impressive, as these two recent exchanges of letters and faxes indicate. I think they're trying very hard. We should be more understanding.

Mr. Brazauskas included copies of letters to and from the Lithuanian government and a bank which indeed exhibited timely responsiveness.

Mr. A. Cizauskas has been contributing articles to BRIDGES for many, many years. We are grateful to him and feel an obligation to present opposing views to our readers, especially on controversial issues. We certainly hope that this section can become the forum for an exchange of ideas on articles presented in BRIDGES. ED.

June 7, 1994

Dear Mr. Stirbys:

Your May issue is so good we simply had to write and compliment you on the meaty content and excellent graphic layout.

BRIDGES is wonderful! Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Prof. John A. Rackauskas, Ph.D.
Pres., Lithuanian Research
and Studies Center,
Chicago, IL

May 20, 1994

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have enclosed my renewal fee for a one year subscription to BRIDGES. I really enjoy reading everything in the Journal, but am especially thrilled to read your increased sports coverage.

Keep up the excellent job.

Yours truly,
Bob Harrison
Ville Mont-Royal,
Quebec, Canada

From the Lithuanian Press

from p. 27

cannot afford the high-priced digs of Chicago's Gold Coast, where most foreign missions in the city are situated. And perhaps more importantly, because the new honorary consul, Norbert Klauzens, a Latvian-born Northbrook businessman, wanted to be able to conduct his engineering consulting business while keeping his eye on diplomatic matters. As honorary consul, Klauzens is a U.S. State Department-recognized official for the Republic of Latvia, a job that he says he will define as he sees fit."

(CHICAGO TRIBUNE, 5/24/94, from an article by Jon Hilkevitch)

Korean Government Exhibits Good Will

Korea donated four Hyundai Sonata automobiles to the government of Lithuania in a ceremony May 19th. Korean Ambassador to Lithuania, Won Ho Lee, presented the automobiles to the Foreign Ministry of Lithuania as a gesture of the Korean government's commitment to expand exchanges and cooperation with Lithuania. The keys of the automobiles, decorated with red ribbons, were presented to Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, who conveyed his sincere thanks to the Korean government, which is a country located quite distant from Lithuania, but whose representatives have already scheduled official visits to Lithuania and who have donated computers and other gifts to Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 5/21/94)

Mini Folk Dance Festival in Chicago

Over 100 Chicago area Lithuanian folk dancers are scheduled to participate in a "mini Lithuanian folk dance festival". Over half a dozen groups will participate in the event which will serve as a major rehearsal for their trip to participate in Lithuania's Song and Dance Festival in July. The "mini festival" is scheduled to be held at the Lithuanian Youth Center on June 19th, coordinated by experienced folk dance teacher Nijole Pupius. The event's profits will be donated to the Lithuanian language newspaper DRAUGAS, which is published in Chicago (6000 subscribers worldwide-rk).

(DRAUGAS, 5/27/94)

**We invite you to attend LAC, Inc.'s
Public Affairs Conference to be held in
Washington, D.C.
September 30 - October 1, 1994**

The Public Affairs Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. is hosting a conference in Washington, DC to update our members on issues affecting relations between the United States and Lithuania, as well as issues affecting Lithuania's development. Featured speakers will include government policy-makers, academics and leaders of non-governmental institutions.

The conference will be based at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA, at Columbia Pike & Washington Blvd, tel: 703-521-1900. Single or double rooms are available for \$75.00/night.

TOPICS to include:

- United States Policy and the Security of Eastern Europe
- An Overview of U.S. Aid Programs to Lithuania
- White House Briefing
- Lithuania's Future as Defined by Its Political Parties
- The Legacy of the Soviet System
- Lithuania: How Close to a Free Market?
- Ethnic Minorities
- Organized Crime and Its Threat to a Civil Society

Please contact the Public Affairs Office at 703-524-0698 or by fax at 703-524-0947 for further information and early registration. Early registration deadline: Friday, Sept. 9, 1994.

BRIDGES

LITHUANIAN AMERICAN NEWS JOURNAL

Volume 18, No. 6

JULY/AUGUST 1994

\$2.50 per Copy
