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Two photographs taken from graves of "Lietuvos Partizanai" (Lithuania's forest brothers - partisans/guerrillas). Many of the partizanai that fought for Lithuania's independence during WW II were Lithuanian soldiers who had escaped from Soviet control. Others were just young farmers and students determined to save their country. Since many of them died in the forests and fields of Lithuania without proper burial rites and others had their dead bodies defiled in the public squares of Lithuania's towns by the Soviet NKVD, only now in an independent Lithuania can their graves finally be marked and their sacrifice honored.



To Our Readers:

November 23rd is Lithuania's Army Day. A day set aside to honor Lithuania's soldiers who are in service to their country, as well as the veterans and those who have given their lives for the nation's freedom and independence. It is similar to our own American Veteran's Day. November 23, 1918 is also the day that the Lithuanian Army celebrates its founding - the date which marks the receipt of the first official order to the Army from the Minister of Defense to establish a General Staff.

Now, we know that King Mindaugas and all the Grand Dukes that followed him had armies. And that the Lithuanian soldier of the medieval and renaissance eras had to be pretty good, to whip the Crusader Knights and the Czarist Russians, as well as a whole host of Swedes, Poles and potentates, etc. And a few, like nobleman Kosciusko fought in America's War of Independence. But we had to start somewhere in our effort to honor the Lithuanian soldier. Recognizing the fact that we only have a limited number of pages, we started in the modern era with the Republic of Lithuania and its fine soldiers who can serve as a model even at the end of the 20th century.

We've been blessed with a group of knowledgeable and good writers for this issue. Henry Gaidis has one of the best collections of Lithuanian military "stuff" from over the centuries and is writing a book on Lithuania's Army. John Kronkaitis with his colleagues in the Baltic Institute have produced a Defense Concept and military organization plan worthy of any country specifically for today's Lithuania. Greg Baker is a non-ethnic, American who demonstrates the deep well of affection and admiration there exists here in the United States for Lithuania. There are Americans willing to help Lithuania, if we would just ask them. Edward Baranauskas, one of our regular contributors, profiles one of Lithuania's national treasures - Monsignor Svarinskas.

We also hear about a Los Angeles chapter annual event from Liuda Avizonis, and this year's LAC's Cultural Awards from Arnoldas Voketaitis. Our Business Editor, Algis Rimas has an update on Lithuania's economy. And Ramune Kubilius is back with more news briefs from the Lithuanian press both here and abroad. The Congress is still playing chicken, so we've decided to delay any more news from Washington, DC for this issue.

So settle down in your most comfortable chair, and don't fall asleep! From your acting managing editor,

Asta Banionis
LAC, Inc. Office

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Henry Gaidis

The Lithuanian Army - 1918 to 1920

Hank Gaidis lives in Olney, Maryland and is completing a book, soon to be published, on the History of Lithuania's military. He's graciously agreed to share a chapter with us for this special issue of Bridges.

With the assassination of Czar Nicholas II of Russia and the abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, Eastern Europe was thrown into chaos in 1918. That year would see the emergence of several ancient nations on to the modern map of Europe. Among these re-established nations was Lithuania located on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea. With the roots of its statehood buried deep in the 13th century, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, as part of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, had grown to be one of the largest nations in

Europe. But Lithuania ceased to exist in 1795 when the Commonwealth was partitioned by the combined military forces of Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Although three major revolts were mounted during the 19th century they failed to free Lithuania, and ethnic Lithuania remained divided between Russia and Germany until the First World War. As a result of this separation, the Lithuanian soldier fought in the armies of both nations and the country became the left flank of the German front. The fortunes of war found Germany occupying all of Lithuania's territory by 1916 and the nation was brought under the administrative control of the German Army. Mistakenly anticipating that the Lithuanians would request to be annexed to Germany,



Typical Sauliu Sajunga unit; Sestokai Township Sauliai. A partisan company serving on the Polish Front, 1919-20.

the military authorities allowed a Lithuanian council to be formed in 1917. Upon its assembly in Vilnius, the historic capital of the nation, the Council of Lithuania immediately expressed its desire to be separated from Russia, but voted for the re-establishment of the nation as an independent state. The German military authorities refused to recognize the council's decision, so the Lithuanian people declared independence on February 16, 1918 without the approval of Berlin. Kaiser Wilhelm finally recognized the independence of Lithuania on March 23, 1918, but it was conditioned on the Lithuanians paying part of Germany's war debt. This foreign recognition of the independence of Lithuania established a political base from which to build, but the German military continued to curtail the activities of the new government until the November, 1918 armistice.

On June 10, 1918 while still under German military occupation, the Lithuanian Commission of Defense undertook the task of forming an army. Working in secret for the first four months, the commission began open recruitment of volunteers on October 16, 1918 at the abandoned German barracks at Snipiskis in the suburbs of Vilnius. The 1st Infantry Regiment Grand Duke Gediminas was founded on November 1, 1918 with successive units being recruited throughout ethnic Lithuania. The Lithuanian Army celebrates its founding on November 23, 1918 — the date which marks the receipt of the first official order to the army from the Minister of Defense to establish a General Staff.

The work of the fledgling army seemed insurmountable. The nation was still under the occupation of the retreating German Army and directly in the path of the approaching hostile armies of the Russian-Bolsheviks, the mercenary German-White Russian forces of Colonel Bermond-Avalov, and the army of the newly re-established Republic of Poland. Yet the call to arms was received with great enthusiasm by the sons of Lithuania. Volunteers came from students, farmers, and shopkeepers. Returning veterans of German and Russian service filled the ranks of the Officers Corps and provided for non-commissioned officers. A former Czarist Lithuanian General, Silvester Zukauskas, was appointed Commander-in-Chief.

Volunteers were required to serve at least one year and to report for duty with sufficient food for five days. Early volunteers received only a cap, belt and triangle shoulder patch bearing the Lithuanian colors of yellow, green and red. Civilian dress was thereafter replaced with surplus or abandoned German and Russian uniforms. Eventually, the regular army adopted khaki green uniforms with German stahlhelms (helmets) for field service. In 1920, the Lithuanian Government purchased thousands of war surplus American Dough-Boy uniforms from the United States to equip its forces. All available weapons were used and came from such places as captured Russian, abandoned German, and personal hunting arms. The regular army adopted the German Model



Lithuanian Field Grade Officer wearing gold braided collar insignia of a Major, Czarist breast badges and 4th Regiment number on his shoulder Epplets.

98 Mauser as its standard rifle, but the Russian Nagant rifle was widely used. Officers and Cavalry handguns included the German Model 1908 Luger pistol and the Russian Nagant revolver.

In order to distinguish officer ranks and service branches, the regular army adopted the following uniform system. Standard point up chevrons were used by the enlisted ranks and officers a triangle shaped collar patch. The collar patch utilized a color code of yellow for infantry, red for artillery, white for cavalry, maroon for engineers and special units, and sky blue for staff. This color system was also used on garrison cap bands as well as tunic trim. One five pointed gold star was added to the collar patch for progressive ranks of 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant, and Captain. This same progression with the collar patch trimmed in gold braid was used for Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel. General Officers wore a silver "Vytis" design (a charging armored horseman with raised sword), the traditional insignia of ancient Lithuania on their collar patches. This Vytis design would later be worn on buttons and in the center of a yellow, green, and red cap rosette by all ranks.

The Lithuanian partisans or militia known as the "Sauliu Sajunga" or Rifleman's Association took an active part in the War of Independence. They functioned largely in areas where the regular army was weak or none existed. The Sauliai usually dressed in German field gray uniforms and utilized their own officer grading system. The Sauliu collar rank system consisted of one gold vertical bar for the successive ranks of 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant and Captain. Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel ranks consisted of right and left angle gold designs with an acorn for each successive grade to the open side. General Officers wore gold oak leaf branches on their collars.

Returning veterans were appointed to positions of leadership in the regular army and immediately began to train the civilian volunteers. Unfortunately, this training was for the most part learned on the battlefield facing the approaching enemy. While the Lithuanian Army was still in its infancy it was forced into combat on January 5, 1919, against the invading Bolshevik Pskov Division which overran Vilnius from the northeast as the German forces withdrew. The Lithuanian Government withdrew to Kaunas where the army was successful in stopping the Russian invasion. The Lithuanian Army engaged the Bolsheviks in combat throughout 1919 until they were finally driven from the country. A peace treaty was signed on July 12, 1920, with the Russians recognizing the independence of Lithuania.

While fighting the Bolsheviks to the northeast, the nation was invaded from the north on July 26, 1919 by the forces of the German-White Russian mercenary Colonel Bermond- Avalov who occupied Latvia. This force which claimed to be trying to re-establish the Czarist Empire occupied a large part of northern Lithuania. Due to the preoccupation of the Lithuanian regular army with the Bolsheviks, the Bermondist forces were mostly confronted by the Sauliai units. After defeating the Bolsheviks, the regular army turned its attention to the Bermondist front. At Radviliskis (a town in north-central Lithuania), on

November 21-22, 1919, the Lithuanian combined forces decisively defeated the Bermondists and captured a large amount of war booty. The Bermond-tists fled the country and were finally totally defeated in Latvia by a combined force of Latvians, Estonians and the British Navy.

The greatest threat to the survival of the Republic of Lithuania came from Poland, its historic ally. Over the years Poland had come to think of Lithuania as only a province of its nation, even though the Lithuanians were an ethnically different people with their own language and customs. The newly established Polish Government sought to expand its borders to include the old Grand Duchy of Lithuania. For the most part, the leaders of Poland were noblemen and sought to preserve the privileges of class in their society. The Lithuanians totally rejected the idea of a privileged class and sought to form a real democracy with opportunity for all of its people. The rise of Lithuanian nationalism and political differences would lead the two nations into a bloody war.

During Easter, 1919 the Polish Army invaded the Vilnius region from the South while the Lithuanians were still engaged in combat with the Bolsheviks. With the Lithuanians not prepared for such an attack the Polish Army occupied about one-third of Lithuania before being stopped. Throughout 1919 and 1920, the Poles and Lithuanians engaged in combat over the Vilnius and Suvalkai regions. A ceasefire and treaty were finally arranged through the League of Nations, whereby the Poles would receive the bulk of the Suvalkai region and



Lithuanian Regular Infantry Unit. A trench scene (1918-1920); which was where much of the fighting was done. The unit is using German Model 98 Mauser Rifles and a Maxim Water-Cooled Heavy Machine Gun. Notice the soldier on the right using the field radio.

the Lithuanians would retain their traditional capital of Vilnius. As the Lithuanian Army withdrew under the agreement, the Poles launched a new invasion on secret orders of Field Marshall Joseph Pilsudski. Pilsudski, a Lithuanian nobleman by birth could not bear to see his native city of Vilnius given to the Lithuanians who rejected his leadership. The Poles occupied Vilnius and dug in before the Lithuanians could effectively counter-attack. The League of Nations condemned Poland for its action, but did nothing to return Vilnius to Lithuania.

For the next 20 years the so-called "Administrative Line" divided the two nations in a ceasefire without peace. This hostility continued until shortly before World War II with Lithuania never relinquishing its claim to Vilnius.

Vilnius was eventually returned to

Lithuania in October, 1939 by the invading Soviet Army. Vilnius is now again the capital of the nation.

The Lithuanian War of Independence started in January, 1919 against the invading Bolsheviks, continued against the German-White Russian Bermondists, and did not end until 1920 when the League of Nations was able to arrange a ceasefire with Poland. Though Lithuania was not successful in liberating all its ethnic territories, it established itself as an independent, modern nation. The infant army formed in secret in the summer, 1918 grew to include fourteen infantry regiments, three cavalry regiments, and three artillery regiments. Auxiliary units included the engineers, ordnance, armor and air force. These Lithuanian regiments each bore a regimen-

tal number and honorary title of one of the heroes of ancient Lithuania.

It is estimated that 12,000 volunteers joined the Lithuanian Army and several thousands more were drafted during its struggle for independence. 2,611 died in combat and 1,175 were wounded. Of the wounded, 154 became permanently invalids and were cared for by the state. Among the volunteers were 100 American-Lithuanians who returned to their homeland in its hour of need. Lithuania's highest decoration, the Cross of



Officer and NCO staff photograph of the "4th Grand Duke Mindaugas Regiment" (1919-1921). Notice how many different uniforms were in use on the front. The Lithuanian soldier and showed great resourcefulness during the War of Independence.

Vytis, was awarded to 1,375 officers and enlisted men for their courage during the war. The price paid by Lithuania's partisans can never be estimated and their sacrifice is known only to God.

It is worthy to note that the entire population from which the Lithuanian Army was drawn consisted of less than two million men, women and children. They successfully met the challenge of three different invading armies alone. The Republic of Lithuania was established with out outside help and it could rightfully be said it owed its existence to no nation.

Colonel John Kronkaitis, USA (Ret.)

Lithuania: Options for Security

On March 11, 1990 Lithuania declared formally its break from the Soviet Union, creating expectations for a return to Western Europe and its standard of living. Five years have passed, a modest progress is visible, but to the average Lithuanian it is only window dressing. To add to the disappointment of deteriorating living conditions, Lithuania is faced again with renewed threats of reoccupation. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Krylov recently implied that Russia would use force to occupy the Baltic republics if they were to be integrated into the NATO defense structure. Perhaps in an effort to intimidate the Lithuanians, on October 27, Russian forces in the Karaliaucius (Kaliningrad) region, launched a new type, long range, tactical missile. The Russian military's "think-tank", Institute for Defense Studies, recently advocated reoccupation of the Baltic republics to counter NATO's efforts to isolate Russia. It is hard to imagine that a country which spans 11 time zones, occupies a territory of over 6 million square miles with a border of nearly 7,000 kilometers, the largest country in the world, would feel isolated because of Baltic defense arrangements. For that reason the threat is even more serious.

The situation would seem hopeless, except for the resiliency of the Lithuanian spirit and the drained condition of the Russian economy and its armed forces. The poor performance of the Russian military in the battle of Grozny, the Chechen capital, almost a year ago, is an indicator of that. Very importantly, the threat against the Baltics reverberates throughout Central Europe and the "near abroad". Common concerns create conditions for collective action. While NATO is teasing the Central and East European countries with possible NATO membership through the Partnership for Peace (PFP) scheme, conditions exist for the lesser partners to form their own security alliance. NATO membership, when it comes, may be of little conse-

quence, because it will not come while Russia is in turmoil and most dangerous. NATO is being conditioned by Russia to believe that its expansion will trigger an ultra-nationalist backlash with the return of nuclear standoff and a cold war. The West is simply not in the mood to worry about Central and Eastern Europe.

There are some positive signs that the former Soviet subjugated states are reaching out to one another, perhaps recognizing finally that PFP is not a step forward to membership in NATO, but merely a side step. Recently, the Polish defense minister visited Lithuania bringing a small quantity of badly needed military hardware to a neighbor facing a common threat. Poland plans to coordinate its defense policies with Lithuania, is establishing economic and political ties with Ukraine, expanding military-to-military ties with Germany and is developing plans to coordinate weapons procurement with the Czech Republic. Perhaps realizing that collective bargaining is more effective, Hungary's ambassador to NATO suggested that a necessary condition for NATO membership should be Visegrad's (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland Slovakia) regional cooperation. Therein lies the key to Central and East European security, a better prospect for NATO's earlier expansion and a vehicle for Lithuania's eventual membership.

Lithuania needs to join that club. She must make herself attractive to be admitted. To be attractive Lithuania needs to put its economic house in order. "Rule of law" is one of the most critical ingredients for economic development and democracy itself. A strong economy is essential for a modern, reliable military force. "Rule of law" is a subject that should be addressed in Lithuania every day, but the subject of this article is Lithuania's military forces.

I have heard, over and over, from American military officers who have visited Lithuania how impressed they were with the appearance of Lithuanian soldiers. It always made me proud. When a Colonel, who visited Lithuania this summer with the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Walter Slocombe, told me the same thing I could not resist asking him if he knew that those



Mr. Kronkaitis is a past contributor to Bridges writing on issues of foreign and defense policy.



Former President Landsbergis, Former Defense Minister Butkevicius greeting former head of the SKAT forces (national guard) Gecas with a group of national guardsmen on July 6, 1992 near the parliament building in Vilnius.

soldiers have no ammunition and only one change of underwear; he seemed stunned. A colleague of mine, a Lithuanian-American Army Colonel, wrote bluntly to me regarding the sad state of military readiness of Lithuania's armed forces, "Their troops must realize that they are condemned to immediate annihilation in case of armed conflict. That is a crime against Lithuanian youth in their country's service." One smart looking platoon, or a battalion, does not make a fighting force. Modern weapons and good training make good soldiers. Sound strategy and tactics, efficient organization, appropriate military force structure and good leaders keep those soldiers alive.

On June 17, 1995 the Lithuanian-American Officers Branch of the Baltic Institute presented the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, A. Eidintas, with a proposal to reorganize Lithuania's national defense structure (Bridges art., Sept.95). The proposal was delivered to the Minister of Defense and other government officials in Lithuania.

It is not possible to describe the proposal in any detail, but it provides for an organizational structure to assure

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(Army, Navy and Air Force) commanded by a field commander under direct operational command of the President and the Minister of Defense, who constitute the National Command Authority; a concept used by the United States. Our approach goes a step further in that we unify the three services on mission basis similar to the concept used in the United Kingdom. Our reserve concept is similar to that of Switzerland, and the general staff structure is similar to the Joint Military Staff of the United States. Brigades constitute the basic combat unit with logistical support for sustained combat and regional responsibility in peacetime. The structure assures civilian control; defense policy making in the Ministry; military policy, logistical support, education, and personnel support in the general staff; and combat preparedness in the Unified Field Command.

It is important to point out that features of our structure also embody a nation-building role for the military, resurrecting national values, promoting unity of purpose and pride in nation.

We are communicating with a committee charged by the Seimas (parliament) to develop a Lithuanian na-

tional defense concept. Understandably, frustrated by a culture gap, pressured by political realities and lacking Western military experience, they are reluctant to accept some aspects of our proposal. Some of the proposal recommendations have been readily embraced. Some issues are minor and novel, such as their desire to keep the Fire Department as a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Defense. Other unresolved issues go to the very heart of creating a professional military force.

It is up to the Lithuanians to demand from their government prudent and expeditious creation of a reliable security defense system. We can only give them the benefit of our experience and judgement, but what happens in Europe involves us as well. A superpower like the United States can no longer find refuge in isolationism.

We, Lithuanian-Americans need to be concerned about events in the Baltics not because of our heritage, but because events in Europe have and will affect the rest of the world and the United States itself. It is because of our heritage that we have a better understanding of the dynamics of that region and we need to keep our representatives in Congress apprised of our concerns and views. Recent threats by Russia directed at the Baltic states did not generate a swift response by our President. That in itself sends a signal to the Russian government that the Baltics are in the Russian sphere of influence and are there for the taking. There are many members of Congress well attuned to events in Central and Eastern Europe and are working to keep the Administration focused. A person perhaps with the clearest vision for the Baltic region is Congressman Richard Durbin, who is running for the Senate seat to be vacated by Senator Paul

Simon of Illinois in 1996. Congressman Durbin championed the defeat of the Torricelli Amendment (Editor's note: an amendment to H.R. 7 adopted in February, 1995) which would have closed the door on the Baltic republics' admission to NATO. Legislators like Congressman Durbin deserve the benefit of our views, encouragement and support.

The Baltic Institute will continue to advocate the creation of a sound defense structure in Lithuania within a democratic framework. I believe that quick adoption by the Seimas, through a law, of our proposed National Defense Structure will help Lithuania assimilate our democratic principles, create a reliable military force and enhance prospects for entry into a collective security arrangement. Options are limited and Lithuania's survival can not be left to the good will of others.

Editor's note: Imperialist voices in Russia have become ever more strident over the last year. The "new" Russian military doctrine prepared by the Russian Institute for Defense Studies and released in draft form in September, 1995 was written at the request of Defense Minister Pavel Grachev because he fears that Foreign Minister Kozyrev and President Yeltsin's staff are not doing enough to protect Russia against foreign threat. The doctrine describes Russia as "a fortress under seize", and pledges the Russian military to defend the country from the threat posed by NATO expansion eastward, claiming that Russia would launch nuclear weapons to keep the Baltics from joining NATO.

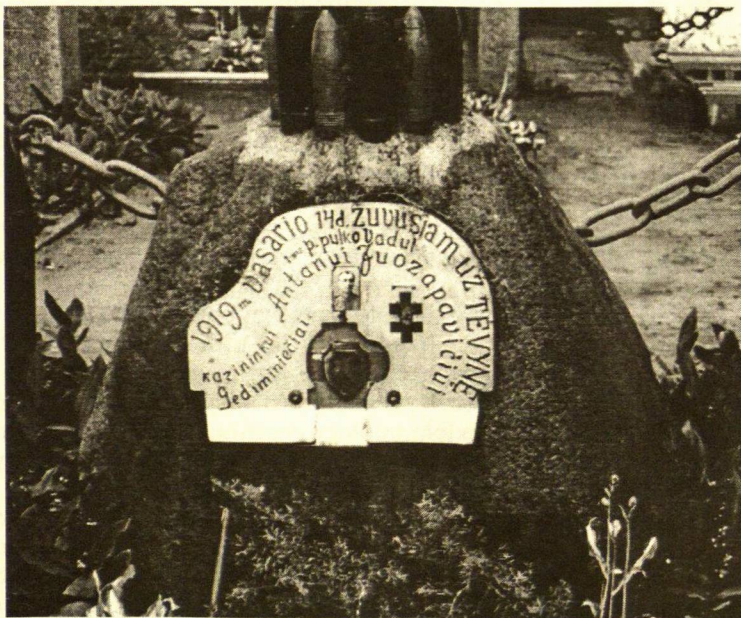
It is true that President Clinton did not publicly comment on these latest Russian threats, but in answer to a reporter's question during the regular U.S. Department of State press briefing on Friday, October 6, 1995, State Department spokesman, Nicholas Burns did provide an answer. We reprint that portion of the transcript so Bridges readers can judge for themselves if the answer is adequate.

Q. To follow up on this, there have been some remarks made out of Moscow to the effect that if NATO were to expand to include the Baltics, that Russia may be provoked to put troops back into the Baltics ...

Mr. Burns: This I believe, can be attributed to an article in Komsomolskaya Pravda, and I believe that Foreign Minister Kozyrev has said publicly that he's not aware that Russia has made any such decision.

I would refer you to something that Vice President Gore said in Tallinn, in Estonia, in March, when he visited there. He said that, "The security of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is of direct and material interest to the United States." and any note by anyone in Russia — that somehow Russia has the right to station its troops or to station nuclear weapons outside the borders of

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The grave of Antanas Juozapavicius in Alytus. He was the first Lithuanian officer to die in the War of Independence.

Gregory Baker

Can Lithuania Afford Not To Have An Air Force?

Mr. Baker was the top graduate of the Empire State Military Academy in 1981 and served ten years as an infantry and military intelligence officer. He has been a writer and broadcaster on military and political affairs for over 15 years, having written for "Strategy and Tactics", "New Breed", and the "American Sentinel" magazines and broadcast for WBAI-FM in New York City. Mr. Baker is currently involved in the Civil Air Patrol and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Lithuania's independence was recognized by Moscow just in time. In the south of Russia, the Chechens tried for independence and paid a high price for it. The Russian Federation Air Force lost much of its ammunition, spare parts, fuel, and aircraft against the Chechen rebels. However, the Russians did manage to destroy the three Chechen air bases in the early part of the war. Without the air bases, the Chechens had to rely on shoulder-carried surface-to-air missiles such as the SA-7 "Strela" and optically sighted heavy machine guns. Only the poor quality of training and bad weather prevented the Russians from dropping ordnance accurately on Chechen fighter positions. After six months, the Russians managed to find veteran pilots and the weather cleared. The result was the bombing of Grozny.

Lithuania is a small country in terms of air space. An A-50 "Mainstay", the Russian equivalent of the U.S. AWACS radar planes, can map the country in detail in one pass. Under the A-50's guidance, fighter-bomber planes could destroy the international airport in Vilnius and the regional airports in Kaunas and Klaipeda in minutes.

A small country cannot defeat a big country in war if the big country wants to win. They only have three options: alliance with great powers other than their hostile neighbor, reliance on diplomacy and non-aggression treaties, or armed neutrality. In the latter case, you don't have to win the war. You only have to make your would-be conqueror decide it's not worth the price to occupy your land.

A Lithuanian alliance with NATO would give the Russians an excuse to reoccupy the country. The slaughterhouse in Sarajevo is a testimony to how well international treaties prevent war if people are determined to fight. If Lithuania wants to stay independent from Russia, Lithuanians should be ready and able to fight Russians.

Without a modern air force to keep the Russians'

heavy weapons away from the homeland, the Lithuanian Army would be forced to become a partisan force. This occurred from 1943 to the late 1950s. They were brave, they were skilled, but they were crushed by Russian tanks and cannon.

Modern warfare is three-dimensional, and air power is essential for destroying tanks and artillery. To allow some of these planes to get through to their targets, the good guys need fighter planes to keep the bad guys from shooting down the ground-attack planes. In addition, these planes need air bases with spare parts, fuel, oil, and munitions to fly, shoot, and communicate. Experienced mechanics must service these planes. To get them to where the bad guys are, commanders need radars and up-to-date communications that the bad guys cannot intercept or jam.

At the minimum, I would suggest the following Order of Battle for a Lithuanian Air Force (LAF):

- Three all-weather fighter squadrons;
- One ground-attack squadron;
- One training squadron, to be converted to the ground-attack role upon war;
- One reconnaissance squadron;
- One transportation helicopter squadron;
- One attack helicopter squadron; and
- One headquarters and liaison squadron.

These aircraft should be able to take off and land from crude airstrips or even stretches of highways. The ideal plane would be the Swedish JA-37 Viggen, which has already proved to be effective in this role, but the F-16 also would work. It needs more runway space for take off, but can out maneuver the Viggen. The French Mirage 2000 or Mirage V is another fine plane available to a new air force.

Unfortunately, Lithuania can't afford this air force. When the Soviets left, so did Lithuania's air power. Lithuanians have no planes. Lithuanians who served in the Soviet Air Forces absorbed a harsh leadership style and an inflexible military doctrine that will not help Lithuania. This year's military budget was strained by the purchase of two helicopters.

For the first few years, the LAF must buy planes and parts as they can, from whatever source they can — even Russia! Fortunately, many nations, such as the Czech Republic, Finland, and Germany are disposing of their Soviet-made aircraft. A small nation like Lithuania

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LAC's Los Angeles Chapter

Liuda Avizonis, President of the Los Angeles, CA chapter of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. writes to tell us about this year's annual "Lithuanian Days" Festival which was held on September 30-October 1, 1995. The festival hosts a banquet Saturday night, and this year's guest speaker was Brigadier General Tiiu Kera, who recently returned from the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius having completed a two-year tour of duty as the U.S. Defense and Air Attache in Lithuania. Thanks to her work, Lithuania now has a cadet in the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Andrius Kaikaris, and a cadet in the U.S Coast Guard Academy, Vytautas Kanaukis. (Editor's note: Thanks also go to the LAC members in Los Angeles who helped get these young men into the U.S. military academies.) Here are the General's remarks:

Gerbiami Lietuviai pusbroliai!

Thank you for inviting me to speak this evening regarding my experiences as the first U.S. Defense Attache to Lithuania.

First, let me say, it is delightful to be among my Lithuanian cousins once again. My service in Lithuania was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a Baltic-American. The generosity, helpfulness, and hospitality of Lithuanians, both here in America and in Lithuania, before, during and now after my tour of duty in Vilnius, assisted me in making the most of the assignment for the United States, for Lithuania, and for me personally.

Being an Estonian-American, I grew up with a natural curiosity in my heritage. In my adulthood, that curiosity transformed into a serious scholastic interest in the Baltic region. In the mid-1960s, I studied the USSR and East Europe as an undergraduate at the Valparaiso University and as a graduate student at Indiana University. In 1990-91, I renewed my acquaintance with the scholarship on the Baltic area during a fellowship year at Harvard University's Center for International Affairs.

At Harvard, I was delighted to find that, by 1990, it was no longer only scholars of Baltic heritage that recognized:

- that the Baltics had not voluntarily gone into the Soviet Union;*
- that nationalism had not been eliminated as a potent political force within the USSR, and*
- that Baltic aspirations had become a catalyst for ending the tragic, failed "socialist experiment" in the Soviet Union.*

As I watched the world changing, I went on record

with the Air Force as a volunteer for attache duty in the Baltics. Because I was a ready and willing volunteer, I was offered the first opportunity, which was to Lithuania.

So what did I find when I arrived in Vilnius in July, 1993? I found that Lithuania was just emerging from its 50 years of occupation by the Soviet Union. During this period, time had just stood still for Lithuania, but in many respects, it had gone backwards.

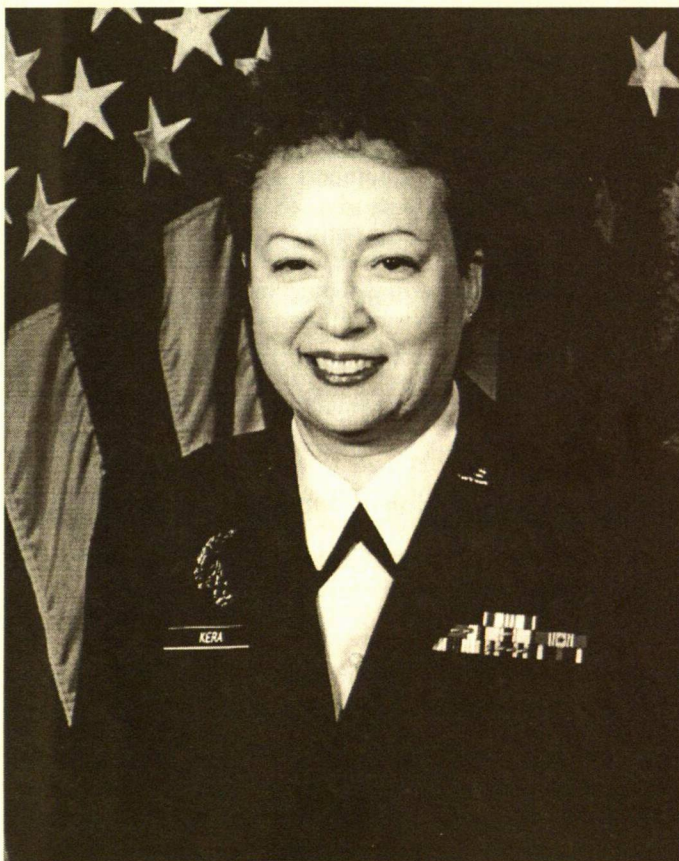


Photo of Brigadier General Tiiu Kera. She served as the first U.S. Defense Attache in the Vilnius Embassy from 1993 to 1995.

The situation was worse for the Baltics than for the communist East European countries. Although the Warsaw Pact countries had been beholden to Moscow during the Soviet period, they still had had their own separate governments, diplomatic corps, militaries, educational systems, and economies, and therefore experience in running things. Lithuania and others in the SU,

on the other hand, had been subsumed into the centralized Soviet system, with every aspect of life controlled from Moscow.

Consequently, the Baltics had not been permitted the experience of decision-making. They were not permitted to decide even how much a theater ticket should cost or how much fertilizer to put on their fields, much less how to organize and run an economy or a government. The Baltics were denied access to the West and, therefore, the ability to compare the Soviet model to alternative ways of doing things.

In addition to dependence on central decision-making, the Soviet republics were made thoroughly economically interdependent:

- no one SSR manufactured any complete product;
- industries were introduced to the Baltics that required raw materials and markets elsewhere in the Soviet Union;
- this resulted in massive importations of unskilled Russian labor to man the factories.

Conveniently for Moscow, these migrations to the Baltics also diluted the indigenous populations as Russians replaced the large numbers of Balts who were deported to Siberia, fled to the West, or were killed during WWII. The tradition of small family farms was destroyed by confiscation and forced collectivization. This was yet another method of control, in the pursuit of which the Soviet Union was willing to kill 20 million of its own in the interwar period.

Even decisions that to us are personal responsibilities and individual decisions were made for Soviet citizens by their government:

- the government told them what to study and where;
- upon graduation, the government issued them their jobs, the positions they knew they would hold for the rest of their lives, with no hope for improvement;
- through their labor unions, still another control mechanism, they were given their apartments and "privileges" such as child care, health care, garden plots, coupons for purchasing appliances, cars, and vacations;
- if one did not remain obedient and politically correct, one would lose one's job and associated privileges and, if that wasn't enough, be condemned as a parasite on society.
- one could even be hauled in for questioning for passing the KGB building too often — even if that was the shortest way to work.

The government furnished housing was abysmal. If one's independence era housing was larger than 99 square meters, the house was not divided, but confiscated (others would live in it, but not the owner). The government even controlled the city central hot water and heat which was piped around town from a central heating plant. The government also controlled the means to repair and maintain property, and individuals were discouraged from doing so lest they be accused of thinking they were better than others. In other words, for two and

one-half generations, the Balts lived in conditions that my parents and I had to endure for only 5 years in a DP (Displaced Persons) camp in Germany. It was worse than postwar Europe without the Marshall Plan.

The confiscation of private property and the dependence on the government for one's livelihood, health, and welfare, coupled with pervasive terror and repression unimaginable to Americans, were designed to break the spirit of the conquered peoples, to discourage initiative and to keep their people beholden to the Communist Party for everything.

So how are the Lithuanians and other Balts doing? Restoring a viable economy is the greatest challenge for Lithuania. They have to reorient their industry to resources and markets that make sense for Lithuania. The huge Soviet-era plants are hopelessly outdated, have never been repaired or renovated since they were built in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and never did produce goods that even the internal Soviet market wanted, never mind an export market. New industry will have to meet export quality and environmental standards to be successful. Highly subsidized sectors, such as the arts and research science, will have to pay their own way or downsize. Unfortunately, these professions are overpopulated because science and arts were safe activities in which one could remain politically neutral and therefore survive.

The overpopulated agricultural sector (30% of population is in the countryside) will have to become more efficient to be more than a subsistence economy. Foreign countries are investing in Lithuania (especially the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, France and Lithuanians from abroad), but the code of law must be developed to attract and safeguard investments. Economic improvements will give the Lithuanian government more independence from Eastern markets and resources, and give the Lithuanian people hope for the future.

You can be very proud of the young people who are seeing opportunities and are willing to take risks. A good example is a group of fifth-year Vilnius University students who organized a moving company and who, after relocating a few diplomatic families and then an entire chancellery, are now representatives of a German international moving company in Lithuania.

Politically, Lithuania and the other Baltics have clearly committed to integrate with the West. They have participated in every Western forum to become a part of the international community of nations. They have boldly, fearlessly, staked their future in the West despite continued political, economic, and military intimidation by Russia. Lithuania has been wise to use Western Lithuanians as advisors, rather than encouraging them to be office holders. In my opinion, public office in the Baltics should be held by those who have a long-term stake in the country, by indigenous Balts who need to gain the experience of making policy and assum-

ing responsibility, and who will be around to live with the consequences of their decisions in office.

In my area of expertise, I believe Lithuanians at home and abroad should be proud of what the Lithuanian defense system has accomplished in a few short years. Many Lithuanians, at great risk to themselves and their families, sacrificed their careers and pensions in the Soviet Army to join an effort whose outcome was very uncertain in order to return to their native country to defend Lithuania and help her form a defense system (editor's note: 1990-91). The Lithuanian military is taking advantage of every advisory, training, and assistance opportunity to learn how Western countries organize and manage their armed forces. In addition to the United States, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, France, Norway, Poland, and the Czech Republic have assisted with specialty training, military education at academies and other service schools, exercises, and a variety of equipment.

Most impressively, Lithuania conceived of a brilliant way to contribute to the international security system while at the same time learning from it. I am speaking, of course, of the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. Lithuania, in agreement with Estonia and Latvia, negotiated with Denmark to train Baltic troops for peacekeeping duty and to have Baltic platoons serve as integral parts of Danish companies in Croatia. Lithuania was the first of the Baltics to organize its own effort and deploy two Lithuanian platoons. (Editor's note: Former Defense Minister Audrius Butkevicius, the first post-Soviet DM negotiated this arrangement with the Danes.) Both the civilian leadership of the Lithuanian defense system and the former Soviet officers want to take advantage of these education and training opportunities to the fullest extent possible. They feel it is a good investment in the future, and they want to learn something other than the Soviet model to develop a defense system that makes sense for Lithuania. They recognize it was a very good way to have the West learn about the Baltics and to assume a stake in their futures.

Let me leave you with these final thoughts. I, like you, wish Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, the best. I think we all believe that, if left alone by their unfriendly neighbors, the Balts will regain a modest prosperity and viable democratic society. I ask you to understand that the Baltic peoples at home and abroad have both suffered and have had their lives forever changed by the events of the 20th Century. It does no good to debate who suffered more and who remained more true. The criticism by Balts abroad that those at home are Communists, coupled with Russia's perennial accusation that the Balts are Fascists, undermines international support for Baltic independence. No matter where we live, there is only one Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, they deserve our support. *Aciu uz demesi.*

LITHUANIAN AIR FORCE continued from p. 10

doesn't need the most modern fighters. Old planes would work until Vilnius can afford new planes. For example, it doesn't matter much if your planes fly slower than sound if you can catch hostile planes in your air space and shoot them down. This is a lesson the U.S. relearned the hard way in Vietnam. The Israelis never forgot this lesson and won over the Sinai with subsonic planes. A Hawk or a F-5E with supersonic Sidewinders and Sparrows can kill a MiG-29.

For many years Israel faced Arab air forces that had more and better planes, but Israeli pilots were better trained and beat the Arabs every time. The Pakistani Air Force flew F-86 Sabrejets and defeated the more advanced Indian pilots in 1964 and 1971-72 for the same reason. There is no reason Lithuania cannot do the same.

The LAF should develop a cadre of long-term professional sergeants and staff officers who would make sure supply, maintenance and personnel training are the best they can be. Several host countries, such as the United States, Britain, Israel, or Sweden can provide this training. No air force is perfect in all things. The most important training will come from observing methods and adapting them to Lithuanian needs and capabilities. They would train the trainers of the next generation. Like the baseball "Field of Dreams", if the LAF builds the training facilities, the pilots and mechanics will come.

The pool of Lithuanian aviators is small, so it is vital that the next generation of pilots were trained NOW. Not everyone can be a fighter pilot, so they should be identified as early as possible. It would be effective for Lithuania to buy light civil aircraft and organize an air cadet organization on the lines of the U.S. Civil Air Patrol or the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. Young men and women, given a chance to fly light planes, catch the enthusiasm and become determined to fly. The best of them will either fly for the LAF or do those thousands of ground jobs that keep the pilots flying.

The third step is to build the low-level radars, radio navigation equipment, and small airstrips needed to bring Lithuania to the standard set by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Small planes can then fly safely in Lithuanian airspace and the LAF would have the small, widely dispersed fields it needs. Furthermore, it would enable Lithuanian businesses to locate near these small airports, import and export goods widely through the country and Europe.

Many changes Lithuania should make to build a modern air force are ones Lithuania must do to enter Europe and leave the Soviet Union behind. Such a process would take time and money. Nevertheless, Lithuania must try to build a modern air force from the ground up, or Lithuanians may need to break out the Russian language textbooks again.

Algirdas Rimas

Business News

Not Too Late Yet To Have Your Company Listed in the LAC's "U.S. - Lithuania Business Directory"

As we announced in an earlier report in *Bridges*, the Economic Council of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc. is preparing a 1996 directory of U.S. business interested in trading with or investing in Lithuania. The directory, intended for a Lithuanian business audience, will have essays in Lithuanian explaining how to do business in the U.S. market. Included will be tips on how to export and import from the United States and where to seek financing. Publication is planned for early next year.

If you are interested in having your company listed, please send us the company's name, address, contact names, product/services lines and your goals in the Lithuanian market. Please mail the information as soon as possible to the Economic Council, Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., P.O. Box 129, McLean, VA 22101-0129. If you wish to purchase the directory when it comes out, you may reserve a copy by enclosing a \$30 check payable to the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.

Events To Promote Trade With The Baltics Held In Toronto And London

A Baltic Business Council was established recently in Toronto, Ontario to promote trade and investment with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Although the BB Council has an understandable Canadian-Baltic orientation, it also welcomes and seeks participation by U.S. firms. The Baltic Business Council is supported by a wide range of Baltic and Canadian organizations and business leaders. One of its first projects was to organize a trade conference named "the Baltic Connection". It took place on November 28, 1995 in Toronto. The conference featured, among others, Mr. William Sholem, Senior Banker for the Baltics from the London-based European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. For details on the Council and the trade conference, please get in touch with Mrs. Regina Pearce, Director General, the Baltic Business Council, 940 Lansdowne

Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4G9, Canada, tel: (416) 534-3677 or (416) 534-9916, fax: (416) 534-2739.

The U.S. Commerce Department and the U.S. Embassies in the Baltics and the Nordic countries hosted a business networking and matchmaking conference November 21-22 at the American Embassy in London, England. The intent was to bring together Baltic/Nordic firms with U.S. companies and their European affiliates interested in the Baltic and Scandinavian markets. For information, please call Ms. Amy Serrill, U.S. Commerce Department, Washington, DC tel: (202) 482-4473.

Interest Rates Paid for Term Deposits By Lithuanian Commercial Banks

Annual interest rates paid for term deposits declined in October, 1995. Here is a sampling of the average rates

	U.S. \$ denominated deposits			Litas deposits		
	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	July	2nd qtr	3rd qtr	July
3 mo. CDs	13.8	14.8	13.3	19.8	20.2	18.1
6 mo. CDs	15.8	15.5	14.3	21.8	18.5	18.3
12 mo. CDs	14.6	14.3	14.0	not available		

paid by seven selected commercial banks.

The Baltic Observer Seeks Subscribers

The English-language weekly news magazine, *The Baltic Observer*, seeks U.S. subscribers. The subscription cost is as follows: \$45 for six months, \$85 for one year, or \$145 for two years. If interested, please contact Ms. Silvija Seimanova, The Baltic Observer, AR, Sv. Ignoto gatve 5-226, Vilnius, Lithuania 2600; tel: (370-2) 624-729 fax: (370-2) 221-545.

Lithuanian Computer Software Company Seeks Business Contacts

Baltic Amadeus is a Vilnius computer services and software corporation founded in 1988. It reports annual sales of five million dollars. It seeks contacts with U.S. companies interested in joint ventures and cooperative

arrangements in software development. One service offered by Baltic Amadeus is to adapt existing programs to Windows 95. For further information please communicate with Baltic Amadeus' U.S. representative based in California, Mr. Zigmantas Viskanta. His tel/fax: (310) 541-1464, or get in touch with Mr. Juozas Zalatorius, Director, Baltic Amadeus, Akademijos g. 4, Vilnius, Lithuania 2600, tel: (370-2) 729-333, fax: (370-2) 729-909.

Lithuanian-Swedish Cosmetics Company Seeks Western Trained Financial Manager

A Lithuanian-Swedish joint venture, "Ori-Flame", is a cosmetics distributor in Vilnius. The company is seeking a western trained financial manager to work in Vilnius on a one-year contract. The position would require skills in measuring financial performance, managing cash flow, and financial planning. Terms of employment are negotiable. If interested, please fax resume to Ms. Eva Valentinas, (370) 670-06270.

International Trade and Finance Consultant Services in Cleveland

Mr. Rimantas Aukstuolis, an experienced international banker, has returned to Cleveland, OH after several years in Vilnius where he advised the central bank and commercial banks under contract from the U.S. Treasury Department. He is now offering services to arrange financing for Lithuanian exports and imports. If interested, please contact him at the following address: R.R. Aukstuolis, International Trade Finance, P.O. Box 24083, Cleveland, OH 44124-0083, tel: (216) 646-8427, fax: (216) 646-8428, e-mail: rraintl@aol.com.

Economic And Business News From Lithuania

First the bad news. Lithuania's official unemployment rate has climbed to 5.6 percent in November, the highest monthly rate reported since the country regained its independence. Almost 55,000 Lithuanians were registered as unemployed in a workforce of about 1.7 million. The labor trend continues to worsen as additional unprofitable manufacturing plants near collapse.

Financial service companies also are facing problems, according to a recent study reported by the Lithuanian Economic Research Center. It estimates that failures among deposit-taking institutions resulted in a loss of over \$100 million to uninsured Lithuanian depositors. Of 27 licensed commercial banks, 10 already have filed for bankruptcy, or have been closed down. Corruption is rife. For more on that topic see below.

On the positive side, a visiting delegation from the international economic watch-dog agency, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), reportedly gave high marks to Lithuania's monetary and fiscal policies and their enforcement (Editor's note: as reported by the Lithuanian

Foreign Ministry). The IMF inspectors found that the fixed exchange rate of 4 litas to the dollar to be working to control inflation. Reportedly they were also pleased with the government's budget and its structural policies. The IMF devoted much of its attention to the country's sickly energy sector. However, no further price increases were recommended. The IMF has lent Lithuania approximately \$250 million, mainly for currency stabilization and budget support. Further proof of a pick-up in the Lithuanian economy was evidenced in the continuing decline of bank interest rates (see article below).

A key Lithuanian-American investor also gave the Lithuanian economy high marks. Mr. Juozas Kazickas, whose telecommunications venture, Omnitel, recently invested some \$25 million and plans to add \$20 million more, is the single largest private investor in Lithuania to date. In an interview with "Lietuvos Rytas", Mr. Kazickas said that in the next five years he expects to see annual inflation drop to 3-4 percent and yearly GNP growth to exceed seven percent. He indicated that the Lithuanian government deserves credit for its economic performance and added that substantial investors, like himself, would not have committed their funds to the Lithuanian market without expectations that the economic situation would improve.

Former U.S. Official To Head Lithuania's Investment Agency

Mr. Algis Avizienis, a former U.S. diplomat from Chicago, IL, has accepted the top job at the Lithuanian Investment Agency, a Lithuanian government institution whose purpose is to attract foreign investment to Lithuania. Prior to his resignation from the U.S. Foreign Service and appointment to the Investment Agency, Mr. Avizienis had been one of the key officials at the American Embassy in Vilnius. In a press interview, Mr. Avizienis said that business prospects in Lithuania have become more attractive during the past five years. Private entrepreneurial activity has spread and the economy is rebounding. However, much of this improvement is not yet fully reflected in official statistics.

Bridges readers are welcome to contact Mr. Avizienis directly for information and assistance. The address is: Mr. Algis Avizienis, Director, Lithuanian Investment Agency, Sv. Jono g. 3,

Vilnius, Lithuania 2600, tel: (370-2) 220-160, fax: (370-2) 627-438

Status of Some Major Projects

The European Union and its controlled European Investment Bank have provided funds to design a container terminal at Klaipeda harbor. According to press reports, a contract for the design stage reportedly was signed between the Klaipeda harbor authority and a

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Edward Baranauskas

Monsignor Svarinskas, Chief Chaplain Of Lithuania's Army

Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas, a renowned, beloved and respected dissident during the agonizing decades of Soviet occupation, celebrated his 70th birthday earlier this year. He fearlessly spoke out for human and religious rights, and managed to survive 21 harrowing years in the prison camps of the Soviet Union. On the question of principle, he never compromised his beliefs. His story supports the saying that "truth is stranger than fiction", and poses an interesting question: How many of us would be willing to sacrifice our well-being and freedom because of our political convictions and religious faith?

Alfonsas Svarinskas was born on January 21, 1925 in the village of Kadrenai. He attended schools in Vidiskiai and Ukmerge. In 1946, while a theological student, he was arrested for allegedly establishing contacts with Lithuanian anti-Soviet guerrillas and was sentenced to serve ten years in special camps.

At the camps he became known for his dedication to sick prisoners, and one of those he nursed back to health was a Ukrainian Uniate Archbishop, Josyp Slipyj, who was later elevated to cardinal. He led his fellow inmates in prayer every morning and evening. When one of them was taken away for interrogation, he led the others in saying the rosary and prayers to help that prisoner survive the beatings and not to betray anyone. He helped them to celebrate Christmas, Easter, and distributed Holy Communion.

Because he demonstrated his spiritual maturity through painful trials, and even though he never com-

pleted his studies at the seminary, Alfonsas Svarinskas was ordained to the priesthood on October 4, 1954 by another prisoner, Bishop Pranciskus Ramanauskas of Telsiai, at the Abize prison camp.

The Soviet Constitution guaranteed religious freedom, but it must be emphasized that these words were only on paper, and were never put into actual practice. Atheism was the official Soviet policy, and all religious activities were severely restricted.

Father Svarinskas was released in 1956, returned to



Monsignor Svarinskas in Vilnius, July 1995. Rank of Colonel and Chief Chaplain of Lithuania's Army

Lithuania, and was assigned to the parish at Kulautava as an assistant pastor. He was loved by everyone, especially the children, and this did not please the authorities. He was then transferred to a larger parish at Betygala. He was there barely two months before he was arrested again on the charge of anti-Soviet activity. The only witness to testify against him at the trial was one of his former parishoners, a secretary of the Kaunas Communist Youth

Edward Baranauskas is a past contributor to Bridges writing on various topics over the years. He resides in Schenectady, NY.

Organization. She convinced the court that he spoke out against the government in one of his sermons, and for that, he was sentenced to six years in the camps. After being released from prison less than two years, he found himself once again condemned to living behind barbed wire.

He was released in 1964 after completing his time. He served at two small parishes before he was given greater pastoral responsibilities at a larger parish in the town of Vidukle, in August of 1976. The authorities did not let up in their threats and harassment, and looked the other way when his parish church was vandalized.

Five dedicated parish priests formed "The Catholic Committee for the Defense of Believers' Rights" whose objective was to have the same rights for religious believers as those given to atheists. They followed the example initiated by the "Moscow Christian Committee". By documenting cases of government discrimination and persecution, they felt it would be more convincing to prove their point. Three of the committee founders, Fathers Svarinskas, Tamkevicius and Zdebskis, journeyed to Moscow on November 22, 1978 and announced the formation of the committee to foreign journalists.

The committee survived until 1983, and during the five years of its existence, they addressed over fifty official documents of protest to various agencies within the Soviet Union and abroad. This caused the greatest concern for the government, which undoubtedly felt that the only way to silence these priests was to destroy the committee.

The first target was Father Svarinskas. TASS, the official Soviet news agency, announced on January 26 that he was charged for instigating "anti-constitutional and anti-state activities". He was the first priest to be arrested in Lithuania since 1971, when three priests were sent to prison for teaching catechism to children. He was taken into custody to await trial, and on May 6 was sentenced to 7 years strict regime labor camp and three years exile.

Father Sigitas Tamkevicius, pastor of Kybartai, was the next victim of "Soviet justice". No sooner had the

trial of Father Svarinskas ended when the court decided to prosecute him, too, and had him confined to the KGB prison in Vilnius. His trial began on November 29, and he was sentenced three days later to 6 years strict regime labor camp and four years internal exile.

The other members of the committee came under severe government attack. They were interrogated, had their apartments thoroughly ransacked and were ille-



Monsignor Svarinskas wearing one in his Soviet labor camp uniforms.

gally detained.

The life of Father Juozas Zdebskis, pastor of the parish at Rudamina, came to a tragic end on February 5, 1986 as a result of an automobile "accident" which occurred under suspicious circumstances. According to the underground journal, "The Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania", issue no. 70, his death was not accidental, but a carefully planned act of violence to eliminate the priest. He was always subjected to threats, and was imprisoned twice earlier for teaching catechism to children.

The release from Siberian labor camps, and internal exile, of prominent Lithuanian political prisoners in 1988 by Gorbachev, signaled an apparent change in Soviet policy on human rights issues. Father Svarinskas was offered to be freed from prison, even though only half of his sentence was served, if he would agree to emigrate to the West. He did so because of health problems, which were not treated during his imprisonment. He was released on July 16 and returned to Lithuania. He was

granted an exit visa on August 1, and left to live in West Germany, as a guest, on the invitation of the Bishop of Augsburg. (Father Tamkevicius was released from prison without conditions and arrived in Vilnius on November 4, 1988.) While exiled abroad, Father Svarinskas had the opportunity to visit various Lithuanian communities in the United States and Canada. He returned home following the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

He is now a monsignor, and lives in the Old City of Vilnius not far from the Cathedral. He is the Chief Chaplain of the Lithuanian Army and holds the rank of Colonel.

During an interview given to a journalist from "Lietuvos Aidas", a daily newspaper published in Vilnius, on the occasion of his 70th birthday, he gave some interesting answers to questions that were asked. His biggest disappointment, so far, is that he has no church of his own in Vilnius where he could gather his young soldiers to pray in a body. "If they could come to their own church, marching in a column and singing, then everybody could see that here is the Lithuanian Army. Now, nobody knows where the army is because nobody sees it. If people loved their own army, then they would do anything to give them their own church. Even the Military Academy faculty acknowledges that it is impossible to have a good soldier without religion."

Father Svarinskas remembers that in pre-war times in Ukmerge, about a thousand soldiers would march into church on Sundays as the band thundered the music. The leaders of the battalions, as did the Colonel with his

family, rode to church in carriages. The young ladies standing on the sidewalks would flash a coquettish smile while dreaming of marrying a dashing officer. The boys dreamed of putting on an officer's uniform when they grew up.

And what does Monsignor Svarinskas think of his fellow countrymen now that they have been freed from Soviet shackles, and are trying to adjust to the free enterprise system? "The Lithuanians want to work like Russians, but want to live like Americans".

He does not consider himself to be a fierce patriot or a hero, but just a normal, average Lithuanian. I am sure that most of his people would disagree, when one considers the 21 years he spent in the gulag enduring cold, hunger, and hard labor fighting the injustices of the Soviet system with only words from the pulpit. Modesty has to be one of his virtues. To our beloved patriot, Monsignor Alfonsas Svarinskas, we wish him many, many years of good health and may he enjoy his 100th birthday.

Editors note: The young soldiers of the Lithuanian Army are very fortunate to have such a spirited father-confessor to nurture their souls and provide them guidance. Let's hope he gets his church. Seeing those marching columns of Lithuanian soldiers might just restore some of the confidence that has somehow been knocked out of the people of Lithuania. The confidence and spirit which was so evident and awe-inspiring during the days of Sajudis.

BUSINESS

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French engineering consulting firm, BCEOM. The estimated cost of constructing the terminal may exceed \$50 million. About \$40 million reportedly has been committed by the European lending agencies to this project.

The Secretary of Lithuania's Department of Energy, Saulius Kutas, has told the press that he would recommend the eventual replacement of the existing Ignalina nuclear energy plant with a new atomic energy generating plant, one that would contain state-of-the-art safety features. The present Chernobyl-style plant, whose safety has been questioned, is scheduled to be totally phased-out by 2010. According to initial estimates, the cost of just closing each of the two reactors will be about \$300 million.

Lithuanian Investigative Press Uncovers Corruption

The dailies, "Lietuvos Aidas" and "Lietuvos Rytas" recently ran stories on corruption in the Lithuanian economy. According to a survey of Lithuanian business

conducted by the World Bank, up to \$50 million annually is spent just in bribes. In a similar vein, "Lietuvos Rytas" estimated that in Kaunas alone, organized criminals skimmed-off almost \$50 million by rigging government auctions of state property and state companies. The government reportedly earned only \$80 million from such privatization.

Smuggling was also found to be widespread. Although adequate data is lacking, a look at the official statistics on the Lithuanian liquer and spirits trade with Germany tells part of the story. German customs reports that in the first nine months of the year, Germany exported 30,000 tons of spirits to Lithuania. But corresponding Lithuanian statistics show that only 3,000 tons were imported. There is obviously quite a bit of unregistered and untaxed liquer sloshing about.

The most recent instances of alleged official corruption involve the recent purchase by Lithuanian Airlines of two used Boeing passenger jets. The State Prosecutor reportedly has already initiated an investigation regarding possible kick-backs. A similar case may be filed regarding the purchase of a corporate jet for the Lithuanian Government.

Arnold Voketaitis

LAC's Cultural Council Arts Awards for 1995



LAC Cultural Awards recipients, November 5, 1995. Standing left to right: Ramojus Mazoliauskas (Fine Arts); Danute Bindokiene (Journalism); Darius Polikaitis (Music); Vytautas Radzius (Music for Lithuanian Opera Company); Algirdas Braziš (Soloist); Dana Stankaityte (Soloist); and Jonas Vaznelis (Soloist).

The Lithuanian Youth Center (Jaunimo Centras) on November 5, 1995 was, again, as it is for many events, the center of activity for Lithuanian-Americans in Chicago, IL. On that day, the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.'s Cultural Council presented its annual, prestigious Arts Awards.

The afternoon began with the Cultural Council's energetic Chairwoman, Mrs. Ale Kezelis, graciously welcoming everyone and inviting each awardee on to the stage to sit in a place of honor. She then turned the proceeding over to Mrs. Joana Krutuliene who performed

her duties as Mistress of Ceremony with the necessary aplomb.

After the beautiful invocation by the Rev. Valdas Ausra, a letter of congratulations from Lithuania's Consul Vaclovas Kleiza based in Chicago was read, followed by the comments of Mrs. Maria Remiene, President of the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. It is the Lithuanian Foundation, Inc. with its generous contribution which allows the LAC Cultural Council to provide a financial gift as part of the award for artistic achievement.

This year's Cultural Award recipients were selected

by a separate Arts Committee after extensive discussion and evaluation of the proposed candidates. The winners names were then submitted to the LAC Cultural Council for public announcement. The Arts Awards for 1995 included a monetary prize as well as the Citation of Achievement. The honorees for this year are:

FINE ARTS - Mr. Ramojus Mozoliauskas for his outstanding and memorable talent as sculptor and artist. (\$1,000 prize)

JOURNALISM - Mrs. Danute Bindokiene, Editor-in-Chief of the Lithuanian language daily newspaper, DRAUGAS, for her dynamic and penetrating editorials; her support to the literary community through DRAUGAS; and her unfailing support of projects to benefit the Lithuanian-American public and Lithuania. (\$1,000 prize)

MUSIC : Given to three recipients

The Lithuanian Opera Company, for 40 years of consistently high performances and making Lithuanians proud of their language and heritage through the musical art form of opera. (\$500 prize)

Citations of Achievement were bestowed upon five of the opera company's long outstanding soloists: MR. STASYS BARAS, MR. ALGIRDAS BRAZIS, MS. DANA STANKAITYTE, MRS. ALDONA STEMPUZIENE, AND MR. JONAS VAZNELIS, without whose consistent vocal participation of the highest order would have made it impossible to mount the Lithuanian Opera Company's productions.

Mr. Darius Polikaitis (\$250 prize) and Mrs. Rita Klioriene (\$250 prize), in recognition and deep appreciation for the inspirational leadership they give unselfishly to various musical and choral groups in their respective cities. Without them and their loyalty to their heritage many of the ensembles they lead would disappear.

Each recipient gave a short acceptance speech. Many in the audience were particularly touched by Mr. Polikaitis when he read his emotional and candidly direct speech prepared in Lithuanian. The Mistress of Ceremonies, Mrs. Krutulienė read Mrs. Klioriene's gracious acceptance letter because she was unable to attend the ceremony. Also absent were Mrs. Stempuziene, and Mr. Baras who was in Lithuania.

After a brief intermission a diverse concert followed which consisted of: soprano Audrone Gaiziuniene, guitarist Peter Aglinskas, pianist Richard Sokas and actress/narrator Nijole Martinaityte who also coordinated the concert program.

Mrs. Gaiziuniene, singing in an impressive full sound, sang songs by Lithuanian composers Tallat-Kelpsa and Dvarionis, as well as Grieg, Puccini and Rachmaninoff. All sung in Lithuanian except the "Vissi d'Arte" from Puccini's opera "Tosca" in Italian. She was joined by guitarist Peter Aglinskas in the beautiful Rachmaninoff selection translated into Lithuanian as "Nebedainuok,

grazuole" (Sing no more, my beauty). Richard Sokas at the piano accompanied with true professionalism and touch.

Peter Aglinskas, the composer/guitarist, played two selections by Johann Sebastian Bach in special arrangements for guitar. His skill continued to shine with a change of pace selection for many of the senior Lithuanian-Americans in attendance when he played a swinging medley of the Bosa Nova dedicated to the memory of its composer Laurindo Almeida.

The program concluded with a tribute to Barbora Radvilaite in a beautifully written script by Judita Vaiciunaite dealing with the various episodes in the life of this queen. A fascinating Lithuanian personage of the early 16th century renowned for her beauty, and her tragic love story. Many believe that she was a victim of intrigue and manipulation.

The presentation utilized projected slides of paintings, carvings and the delicate and appropriate poetic narration of Nijole Martinaityte. One portion of the tribute was hauntingly performed by the concert's soprano and guitarist as the lighting faded in and out as required.

The audience enjoyed this trip through one moment in Lithuania's history. It was an afternoon of individual recognition and talent for which all Lithuanians should be proud.

Editor's note: Barbora Radvilaite was the youngest daughter of Jurgis Radvila one of the most powerful of Lithuania's noblemen in the late 15th and early 16th century. As a young widow, Barbora Radvilaite-Gostautiene, came to live in the Radvila palace in Vilnius in 1544, the same year that the heir to the Polish throne, Zygmantas Augustas took up residence in Vilnius as his father's representative in Lithuania.

The young Zygmantas, who was also recently widowed, fell madly in love with Barbora and married her in 1547 in Vilnius. It was rumored, however, that he was already engaged in a secret liaison with Barbora before his wife Elizabeth died on July 15, 1545. In 1548, when his father died, Zygmantas Augustas ascended the throne of Poland and in 1550 despite the protestations of his mother, Queen Bona, and most of the Polish court, crowned his Lithuanian wife Barbora, Queen of Poland. One year later, in 1551, Barbora died. Some believe that she was poisoned by her husband's mother, Queen Bona who had always objected to her son marrying a Lithuanian nobleman's daughter. Queen Bona and many in the Polish court wanted Zygmantas to marry a woman from a European royal household to expand the influence and wealth of Poland.



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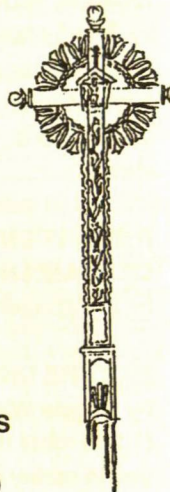
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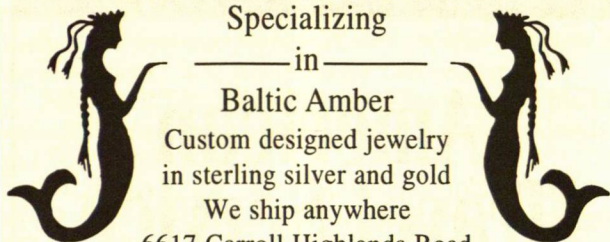
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EGLUTĖ

OCTOBER 1995 SPALIS
Vol. 46 / Nr. 8



EGLUTĖ

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Ramune Kubilius

From the Lithuanian Press...

Selected excerpts from the Lithuanian Press in America.

Kleinaitis In Soccer Hall Of Fame

Alfredas Kleinaitis was inducted into the Soccer Hall of Fame in July, in Oneonta, NY. In August, at a U.S. Soccer Federation banquet at the Cincinnati Regal Hotel, the seven most famous soccer figures were named: Gino Gard, Geoff Coombes, Clay Berling, George Brown, Al Kleinaitis, Al Miller, Willy Schaller. All of the honorees were former soccer players, except Al Kleinaitis who was a referee. He refereed in local leagues, in the Olympics, in the Pan American games, in men's and women's world qualifying games, and the world students' finals. He was the first American to referee in the "A" games in Europe. He has run international courses, and at present, he is Director of Instruction for U.S. Soccer. There are 74,000 soccer referees in the U.S. presently so, A. Kleinaitis is on the road quite often, conducting courses. He tries to come as often as possible to Lithuania soccer club games when they play in and around Chicago, to remember the days when he played on the student and veteran's teams. This past summer he visited Lithuania during the Lithuanian Sports Games, as a guest of the Lithuanian Soccer Federation.

(DARBININKAS, 10-20-95, from an article by E. Sulaitis)

Lithuania's Boxers

A contingent of fifteen persons came to the United States for three weeks. It was the first trip abroad for Lithuania's best boxers. In the group were six boxers from Kaunas, one from Vilnius and one from Panevezys, along with their trainers. They were scheduled to box only once- October 19th - in Waycross, Georgia. The rest of the three weeks in the U.S. were to be spent in early preparations for the Atlanta Olympics.

(DARBININKAS, 10-27-95)

Lithuanian-American Newspaper "Dirva"

The Lithuanian language newspaper DIRVA, based in Cleveland, OH celebrated its 80th anniversary in October, 1995. The keynote speaker was Mrs. Danute Bindokas, editor of the Lithuanian language daily DRAUGAS, published in Chicago, IL.

(DRAUGAS, 10-27-95)

Agriculture Academy For Women

The girls' agricultural school re-opened in Aukstadvaris (Traku Region), Lithuania. The school had been operated by the Dominican order before World War II. The original facility dates back to the 18th century but was closed down for most of the 19th century when the czarist government confiscated the property and built an Orthodox church on the site after the 1831 revolt in Lithuania. With independence, Vilnius Bishop Jurgis Matulaitis turned over the property to the Women's Cultural Society, which opened the agriculture school in 1923. The newly re-opened school will differ from the pre-war school, indicated the principal, Jurate Kremencas. The school will function as a branch of the Kaunas Textile School. 16 students make up the freshman class this year, from Kaisiadorys, Pakruojis, Sakiai and one local girl from Aukstadvaris. The school's admission requirements include completion of a middle school education and a letter of recommendation from each applicant's parish pastor. Studies will take three years, the school is tuition-free. They will learn how to sew, cook, and will also study Holy Scriptures, Church history, theology, psychology, a foreign language, and will also learn to use computer skills and driving skills. Upon completion of the program, the students will be able to continue their studies in theology, be social workers, work in parishes and orphanages. While studying at the school, the students will assist in the care of 15 elderly Aukstadvaris residents who will live in the same building as their school and dormitory. The Aukstadvaris parish pastor Rev. Vytautas Sabaliauskas had earlier hoped to start a new Catholic school, but was told by the Ministry of Education and Culture in Lithuania that there are enough schools of that type.

(DRAUGAS, 10-27-95, from an article which had appeared in LIETUVOS AIDAS of 9-21-95)

NY Artist Robert Kaupelis

While flipping pages in the prestigious art journal ARTnews, I read about artist Robert Kaupelis. His name sounded distinctly Lithuanian, so I decided-why not write about an artist of Lithuanian descent? I called the gallery where his work was being exhibited and got the telephone number to his studio. In talking with the

artist, I found out that he was born in Amsterdam, NY. He is a third generation Lithuanian American whose grandfather emigrated from Lithuania, and whose parents were born in the U.S. They never changed their last name preferring to keep its Lithuanian character. Robert Kaupelis began his art studies at Buffalo College. He received his doctorate in education from Columbia University and for 32 years taught at New York University. In 1988, upon his retirement, he was able to devote himself full-time to his art. His work has been displayed at the New York Circle Gallery where paintings are often priced, beginning at \$1000. He has written two books on drawing -one was published in 1966, the other in 1980. He started exhibiting his work in 1953 when he received the Purchase Award by Collectors of American Art. He has had more than 40 personal art shows and has participated in more than 200 group exhibits, including exhibits at the Whitney Gallery and the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in New York. Corporations such as Mobil Oil, Phillip Morris, Mercedes Benz and others have purchased his works, as have universities, banks, and other businesses. He wanted to be an artist from childhood, and now he has two studios-one in New York and one in Yorktown, Westchester County. His work is abstract expressionist, he works in acrylic paint. He often doesn't realize where his paint strokes will lead.

(DRAUGAS, 11-4-95, from an article by Edita Nazaraite)

Another Brewski, Please

In the center of Vilnius, there are more than thirty bars and restaurants serving beer on tap-more than twenty different types of beer from seven countries. Some of the bars and restaurants serve only a few brands, while "Stikliu" Restaurant serves seven. The least expensive beer is the Lithuanian beer, but even that beer in upscale bars can cost \$1.25-\$1.75 (U.S.D.). Beer makers contend that Lithuanian beer cannot be sold cheaply, since about 45% of the cost represents taxes. The Japanese pay 48%, the English pay 20%, the Americans 20%, the Germans 18%.

Japanese beer makers want to see taxes drop. Beer production in Lithuania has dropped, since the taxes are too high.

(DARBININKAS, 11/10/95 from AGEPE)

Lithuania's Andover Academy?

The "Ausra" High School in Kaunas celebrated its 80th anniversary this year. In 1915, between the Czarist Russian and Kaiser German occupations of World War I, Lithuanians decided to found a truly Lithuanian high school in Kaunas. At first the school built on Laisves Aleja was called "Saule", later it was renamed "Ausra". During the Soviet occupation it became "The Commu-

nist Youth Middle School" ("Komjaunimo vidurine mokykla"), and after the re-establishment of independence in 1990, it once again proudly reclaimed its name - "Ausra". One of the first directors of the high school was Mykolas Birziska (1882-1962; a signatory of the 1918 Declaration of Independence, a university professor, publicist, University rector-rk, from other sources). For the last 24 years, the school has specialized in the arts. The sole surviving member of the high school's first graduating class (1915-1919) still lives in Kaunas, Judge T. Naujalis. A number of well known Lithuanian art specialists graduated from the high school: art analyst Paulius Galauna, writer Antanas Skema, poets Antanas Miskinis and Jonas Aistis, world renowned anthropologist Marija Gimbutiene, maestro Konradas Kaveckas, sculptor Robertas Antinis, basketball player Stepas Butautas... prof. Vytautas Landsbergis...

(DARBININKAS, 11/10/95, from AGEPE)

No One Warned Me About Hitting The Wall

Many sports enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. It's an opportunity for countries such as Lithuania to show that their sports figures can compete equally with athletes from other countries of the world. Wanting to publicize the sports talent of Lithuania and raise a little money for Lithuania's Olympic Team, a three member group: Rimas Gedeika of New Jersey, Petras Vainius of Philadelphia, and Remigijus Suziedelis of Chicago have decided to get Lithuanians to participate in the Boston Marathon which will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 15, 1996. The group has produced t-shirts with Olympic and Marathon themes and are seeking "sponsors" for the runners. Dr. Antanas Juzaitis of Philadelphia is the first to pledge his financial support for the Lithuanian runners. Dr. Albertas and Jura Druktenis already pledged to pay \$4 for each mile run by Rimas and Petras. All of the collected funds will be deposited in the Lithuanian Olympic Committee's fund to support the expenses of the Lithuanian athletes in Atlanta. Everyone is invited to support this effort (yes, by running!) and in that way publicizing Lithuania's name in the world. Those who wish to join this effort and particularly to pledge their dollars per mile to support Lithuania's athletes should contact Rimas Gedeika, 78 Mark Twain Drive, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690...

(DARBININKAS, 11/10/95)

Soon A New Production Of "Jurate And Kastytis"

The Lithuania Opera Company based in Chicago, IL will deposit the proceeds of its annual banquet November 11th at Chicago's Lithuanian Youth Center in an account which will help pay the costs of presenting the Banaitis opera "Jurate and Kastytis" (in the spring of 1996-rk).

(DARBININKAS, 11/10/95)

90 Years And Going Strong

The Our Lady Gate of Dawn ("Ausros Vartai") Parish in Manhattan, NY celebrated its 90th anniversary October 15th. One of the concelebrants of the Mass, Rev. Jonas Pakalniskis is proud of the fact that his parents were joined in the sacrament of matrimony at the parish and that he was baptized there. Other concelebrants were Rev. Vytautas Palubinskas, former pastor, the present pastor, Rev. Eugenijus Savickis, and Rev. Danielius Jenkevicius. The sermon mentioned the symbolic meaning of the numeral "90". Rev. Savickas hoped that the parish would live to see its 100th anniversary. Over 100 parishioners gathered for a program conducted by the Knights of Lithuania 12th chapter whose president is Edmundas Burba Cook. A booklet about the history of the parish was distributed to all attendees. After the luncheon, a bazaar/lottery was held. The parish treasurer Antony Zagarino thanked everyone for their generosity--as yet, the parish has no debts. The wishes of the anniversary organizers was realized. In the following weekend's parish bulletin, a news item announced that the weekend yielded \$6000 for the parish. Long live the small Lithuanian parish in large New York City. Ad Multos Annos!

(DARBININKAS, 11/10/95)

Thanks To American George Soros, Lithuania Has A Law Library

Through its financial support the Open Society Fund (founded by American George Soros) helped establish the law library at Lithuania's Academy of Sciences. The library began to form in 1994 and opened its doors this year. The fund's law program supports the activities of open, democratic legal institutions, encouraging legal scholarly activity. As Lithuania established its legal system and integrated into Europe, a shortage was seen in the areas of legal information. The law library will attempt to collect the newest legal information, beginning with a book collection of 1000 titles-in Lithuanian, English, Russian, German, French, and Polish. New orders are placed, upon consultation with experts in various legal specialties. The most common visitors to the library are students of the Vilnius University Law and Economics programs and the students of Lithuania's Police Academy. There is room for 16 library users in the reading room. Two computer workstations are available. All current Lithuanian laws, including all of their revisions, have been entered into a searchable computer database. In 1995, 30 law journal subscriptions were received (Recht der internationalen Wirtschaft, Panstwo i prawo, European Journal of International Law, to name

just a few). The library already has access to international Internet legal resources and in 1996, it is hoped that the library will have access to the LEXIS/NEXIS legal online system. Library staff members have been actively involved in providing lawmakers with information needed to formulate laws in the areas of advertising, crime prevention, tariffs, etc. On behalf of the library's director, Rima Kupryte, I invite Lithuanians from overseas to support this, the first specialized law library in Lithuania.

(DRAUGAS, 11/10/95, from an article by Arturas Vaitekaitis)

Lithuanian Shutter Bugs Abound

The 24th annual Lithuanian Photography Exhibit opened November 3rd at the Ciurlionis Gallery in Chicago's Lithuanian Youth Center. 84 photographers from Lithuania and North America participated. For the first time in exhibit history, the number of photographs per photographer had to be limited. Although each photographer was permitted to submit up to six photographs, fewer could be displayed on the walls, in some cases only one. In all, 134 photographs were exhibited, all interpretations of this year's theme "Heaven's vaults" ("Dangaus skliautai")-clouds, sunsets, rain, rainbows, lightening, flying birds, planes, feathers floating down to the ground. The director of the Ciurlionis Gallery, Algis Janusas invited the exhibit organizer, Algimantas Kezys and the Director of the Budrys Lithuanian Photography Archives, Dr. Milda Budrys, to say a few words. The exhibit yielded cash awards for the photographers whose works caught the eye of exhibit attendees who voted on their favorite photographs.

(DRAUGAS, 11/14/95)

Trying To Be Responsive

The CBS affiliate in Chicago (WBBM TV) invited representatives from various ethnic groups to visit the studio October 24th and speak with reporters and news directors. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of bettering local coverage of the events in ethnic communities. This was the eighteenth such meeting. The lists of ethnic groups were compiled by Illinois Governor Thompson's Assistant for Ethnic Affairs, Pat Michalski. Lithuanians were represented by Regina Narusis (president of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.), Prane Slutas (who is active in Lithuanian Mercy Lift), and Indre Tijunelis (frequent contributor to the Lithuanian language paper DRAUGAS and activist in various humanitarian groups-rk). Most of the attendees complained that news coverage of new immigrants and ethnic groups often includes crimes and criminals more than about positive events. Regina Narusis mentioned that the Lithuanians, for example, hold large

dance festivals with thousands of participants in the Chicago area, but local TV coverage is not seen. Also, at this time, Chicago's Lithuanians are active in promoting the admission of Lithuania into NATO. As a lawyer and representing the LAC, Regina Narusis is an eloquent and diplomatic speaker.

WBBM TV was represented by Monroe Anderson (Director of Station Services and Community Affairs), Robert McGann (Vice President, General Manager), Gary White (Executive Producer in the News Department). Discussions were moderated by news anchors and reporters Lester Holt, Joan Lovett and Linda McLennon. The station made available its phone numbers, fax numbers and contact names when important events need to be reported on or publicized.

During a studio tour, it was admitted that under the pressure of deadlines, sometimes correspondents show a "lazy" side if they need to travel far to get a story when they know they can get the facts from the "wire News Services". When all of the local news stations track the same stories, it would be unusual for one to miss something important. However, Monroe Anderson also recommended that the Lithuanian Americans not be shy about being persistent if important news needs to be brought to the media's attention.

(DRAUGAS, 11/9/95, from an article by Indre Tijunelis)

BITS AND CULTURE

Internet resources:

World Lithuanian Youth Association. Access via e-mail: darius_suziedelis@csgi.com. The World Lithuanian Youth Association (Pasaulio Lietuviu Janimo Sajunga-PLJS), representing young Lithuanians in 20 countries has an e-mail address for information requests. Questions about how to get involved in Lithuanian youth activities or how to contact Lithuanian Youth Associations in your home country...can be obtained by contacting the PLJS Presidium. A monthly Lithuanian-language newsletter, distributed on the internet is available for interested readers. Simply send a request to the e-mail address above. Plans for the future include a PLJS WWW site...

(Balt-L listserv, from a BALT: 6130 posting of November 16, 1995; posted by Darius Suziedelis)

Baltics Online. Access via World Wide Web (WWW): <http://www.viabalt.ee/>

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also posted at this site, and this is a fine publication for those concerned with information on business-related topics in these states...

(College & Research Library News, March 1995; from a review by John Small, Central Missouri State University)

The Seven Secrets of Stasys

An exhibit of the pastels of artist Stasys Eidrigevicius took place in the Nord Est Gallery in Paris. For the last few years, Eidrigevicius has lived in Warsaw. In Paris, at the Modern Art Museum of the Pompidou Center, a short film "Septynios Stasio paslaptys" ("The Seven Secrets of Stasys") was shown. It was filmed in 1994 by director Andrzej Papuzinski and depicted the work of Eidrigevicius, shown to the music of Bronius Kutavicius. Stasys Eidrigevicius has had 30 personal art shows. In 1991 when he first showed his work, French television's principal news station showed a seven minute film clip of the artist whose work shows the hard life of the Lithuanians... At this time, there is also an exhibit of the work of Eidrigevicius at Western Australia University. (DARBININKAS, 10/20/95)

120th anniversary Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis

Rokas Zubovas, a pianist of growing recognition, teaches music at St. Xavier University in Chicago, IL. To celebrate the 120th anniversary of composer/artist Mikalojus Konstantinas Ciurlionis, Rokas performed pieces by the well-known Lithuanian composer on October 15th in the University's McQuire Hall. Several reprints of the work of Ciurlionis were displayed on the stage and Rokas explained the musical compositions of Ciurlionis between the years 1898 and 1909. The Zubovas family is well known in Lithuanian (cultural-rk) history. Rokas' grandmother, writer Danute Ciurlionis-Zubovas was the daughter of M.K. Ciurlionis. Happy is the nation which has such a talented son as Rokas Zubovas - we should encourage and appreciate such talented people. (DRAUGAS, 10/27/95, from an article by Jonas Grazys)

Balloonists Cross the Baltic Sea

For the first time, on September 27th, two Lithuanian hot air balloonists crossed the Baltic Sea. Fifty-year old Dr. Gintaras Surkus and Lithuanian Airlines captain and former well-known parachutist Valerij Machnorylov left Aland Island (Ahvenanmaa Island in Finland-rk). Seven hours later, they descended in Latvia near the Lithuanian border.

(DRAUGAS, 10/28/95)

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Architecture Office Celebrates 2nd Anniversary

An architecture office celebrated its second anniversary in Kaunas. The director of the joint venture "Jungtines pajegos" ("Joint Forces"-rk) is Algirdas Kauspedas. As a symbol of his appreciation on this anniversary, he gave colleagues and workers various awards, certificates and diplomas. The primary focus of the firm is to renovate existing buildings for new uses. Algirdo Kauspedo wife Audra designed "Ritos Sleptuve" (a popular restaurant owned by a former Chicagoan-rk) in Vilnius. Other projects of the firm include "Respublika" cafe in Vilnius, a private clinic, and the first "Piza Jazz" in Kaunas. Algirdas Kauspedas said that he hopes more people in Lithuania will realize that architectural investment is investment in success. Architect Kauspedas was involved in the rebirth movement of Lithuania as a singer in the band "Antis" and he later was Director of Lithuanian radio and television.

(DARBININKAS, 11/3/95, from AGEP information)

SECURITY OPTIONS *continued from p. 9*

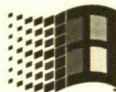
Russia, is irresponsible. It's inconsistent with international law. It's inconsistent with the commitments that Russia has made to the sovereignty of these countries when it withdrew its troops from Estonia and Latvia in 1994.

The United States has made it very clear to the Russian government as well as to the Governments of the Baltic countries that we do have an interest in the security of the Baltic countries in their territorial integrity, in their independence, in their sovereignty. And these words are important. They're important to the Baltic peoples who were occupied for 52 years.

So that's a very clear, I think, enunciation of our policy. Fortunately, it seems that the Russian Foreign Ministry is trying to distance itself from these reports and remarks. One report was that a bill was being drafted in the Russian Duma (parliament) to this effect, and we would hope very much that the Russian Government would do everything in its power to argue against this bill.

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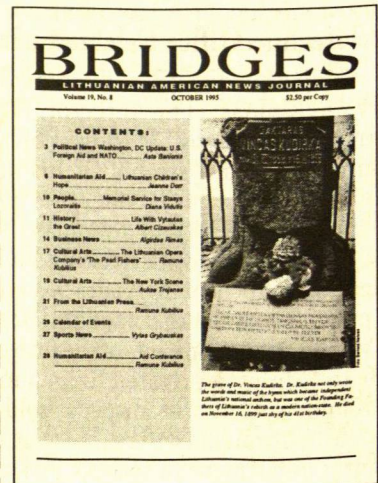
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