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The Day of Mourning and Hope...Change for Lithuania...Blessed George Matulaitis

P e r s p e c t i v e s

June starts off with Father's Day, the last days of school finally release the pent up energies of children, the June 14th deportations are remembered by all Baltic people, and finally summer solstice or Joninès (Feast of St. John the Baptist) arrives.

What is an emotional month ends with an appropriate "let out all frustrations" celebration.

This traditionally pagan-which-coincidentally-falls-on-St. John-the-Baptist's-Day is a unique holiday for the Baltic and Scandinavian people. It allows for some magical folklore to creep into our lives.

This longest day of the year brings with it bonfires to frighten away the witches and ghosts who intend to do harm and mischief to humans, crops, and animals. Around these bonfires, families sing, dance, prognosticate the future, and tell tales.

One of the tales told surround the mysterious fern. Since many never saw it bloom and go to seed, it was very unclear how the fern propagated. So it was thought that it magically flowered only at midnight on the day of Joninès. What gets even more interesting is what would happen if one should be at the right place at the right time to witness the fern blossoming.

Older people say that whoever finds a fern blossom can understand animals and birds; can read other peoples' minds; and one can even predict a person's death. Oh, the magic of this night!

Just the other day, a news report stated that it would be most lucky for a person to watch the sun rise and set on this magnificent day. This way a person would know from where to draw strength and inspiration.

Joninès is definitely a day to celebrate — from which to draw strength and inspiration — to build a bonfire with which to scare away the evil spirits — to begin a summer season with promises of a good harvest and many sunny days.

Rasa Ardys-Juška

Editor

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On the cover:

This was the way Lithuanians were transported to Siberian Gulags starting June 14th, 1941. From Stasys Raštikis' book *In Battles for Lithuania* (Los Angeles, CA: Lietuvių Dienų Publishing, 1957)

Happy
Father's
Day!



Happy
Gėnines!

For a Secure and Free Country...



Lithuanian politicians marking June 14th the Day of Mourning and Hope – the day 60 years ago when Lithuanians, Latvians Estonians were rounded up and deported to gulags or summarily executed by Soviet authorities – used the occasion to again call for NATO membership as a guarantee such tragedies would never happen again.

On June 14, 1941 the Soviet occupying force in the three Baltic states began rounding up civilians and sending them to concentration camps, labor camps and prisons in the U.S.S.R.

Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia were occupied by Soviet forces under secret protocols to the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact with Nazi Germany, which divided Central Europe into Soviet and Nazi spheres of influence.

Lithuania's parliamentary chairman Artūras Paulauskas addressed the assembly in the parliament on June 14th, quoting a phrase from the nobility in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Lithuanian-Polish Commonwealth used centuries ago. He said that historical lessons have forced Lithuania to demand the world say and do "nothing about us without us." The

chairman criticized proponents of neutrality and again repeated Lithuania's intention to join NATO. He said so-called neutrality meant nothing other than distraction from important matters.

Paulauskas also said he would thank Czech president Vaclav Havel for recently bringing up the historical debt the West and NATO states owe the Baltics for the results of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Lithuania is hoping to get an invitation to join the Alliance from the fall 2002 meeting of NATO heads of state in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

From June 14th to the 18th, 1941, Lithuania's, as well as Latvia's and Estonia's, people were the victims of mass deportations and arrests, followed by years of continued arrests, deportations, and executions. Yet the world was ignorant of this mass suffering. A little country with a small population couldn't have been that affected – or could it have been?

Let's take a look at the toll of the eleven mass deportations of Lithuania's people to Siberian Gulags.

SOURCES for this article include the Baltic News Service and Lithuania Against Soviet and Nazi Aggression by Adolfas Damušis (The American Foundation for Lithuanian Research, 1998).

• First mass deportation (June 14-18, 1941)	34,260
• Second deportation in retribution for boycott of mobilization into Red Army (July, Aug., Sept. 1945)	36,000
• Third deportation in retribution for armed attacks by Lithuanian fighters for freedom (Feb. 1946)	40,000
• Continuation of genocide (July, Aug. 1947)	24,000
• Continuation of genocide (Nov, Dec. 1947)	20,000
• Mass deportation of farmers in retribution for opposition to collectivization (May 1948)	105,000
• Mass deportation of urban dwellers (March 1949)	120,000
• Continuation of genocide (March, April 1950)	41,800
• Continuation of genocide (1951)	9,800
• Deportation of suspected fighters for freedom and their sympathizers (1952)	8,000
• Last deportation after Stalin's death (1953)	4,000

Total number of deportees

(Damušis 268)

442,060

In addition to the victims of the Nazi Holocaust and random executions and losses due to emigration and repatriation, **Lithuania lost over 1 million of her people** from 1940 to 1959. Lithuania's original population for 1940 to 1945 was 3,081,289, and a projection of her population for 1959 had been 3,706,193. But the actual population in 1959 was 2,486,370.

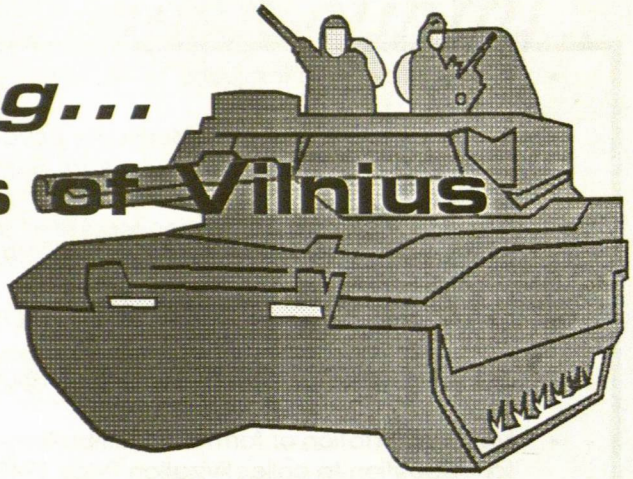
(Damušis 266-284) A third of Lithuania – sacrificed for the greater good of the Soviet Union.

With NATO's Parliamentary Assembly held in Vilnius in late May 2001 and U.S. Pres. Bush's European tour, comes hope for Lithuania's people that a secure and free country can guarantee that history will not repeat itself. ♦

Marcus Warren

Remembering...

The Tanks of Vilnius



Just as criminals supposedly return to the scene of their crimes or old soldiers revisit the battlefields of their youth, so last week I performed a pilgrimage to a now obscure corner of Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania.

Ten years ago the city's northern township, as it was then known, was the Soviet military's main local garrison and thus the principal headquarters for Moscow's efforts to terrorize the tiny Baltic republic into submission and undermine its bid for independence. It was from here, for example, that tanks, paratroopers and KGB special forces set out for the Vilnius television tower and the battle that left 14 people, all but one of them unarmed civilians, dead one cold night in January. In Moscow that evening, I made my first acquaintance with the northern township a few days later. The ordeal qualifies even now as one of the most unpleasant experiences of my life to date.

Briefly, two British colleagues, two guards from the Lithuanian parliament and myself blundered into the wrong place at the right time. After firing some alarmingly convincing warning shots past our ears, a squad of Soviet paratroopers then arrested us and escorted us back to the base.

There, in front of photos of young conscripts digging trenches and generally enjoying army life, the violence began. We foreigners were spared. But, our hands on our heads, we had to watch as the paratroopers, shaking with

excitement, beat the Lithuanians to a pulp, kicking them in the kidneys, flooring them with punches to the jaw. With characteristic Baltic stoicism, the Lithuanians took the punishment without a word of complaint. (Their injuries, we discovered later, included fractured skulls and perforated eardrums.)

After calming down, the boy soldiers hustled us Brits into a room nearby and, in classic gauche Soviet teenager mode, quizzed us about the Beatles. The young Marcus Warren at the time wrote: "Foul-mouthed, frightened and trigger-happy, Soviet paratroopers are enforcing 'law and order' in Lithuania with vengeance." He seemed especially shocked at the lack of control the Soviet officers had over their men. He is a bit wiser in the ways of the world now.

A decade later Lithuania is a free country in line for NATO membership.

The northern township is no more and the gate complex where we were detained has been demolished and the ground leveled ready for construction of a RIMI hypermarket.

General Vladimir Uskhopchik, then head of the Vilnius garrison and still wanted by the Lithuanian authorities for his role in the January 1991 violence, is deputy defense minister

MARCUS WARREN is a British journalist who wrote this electronic article, courtesy of Algimantas Gečys.

in neighboring Belarus. Anatol Lieven, one of our number caught up in that night's mayhem, has moved on to greater things and is now a pundit whose words of wisdom influence international affairs of state. I am the only one of us back in Moscow again.

No one had heard of one Soviet officer based in Vilnius at the time but he has since won fame and notoriety worldwide. Colonel Aslan Maskhadov commanded a local artillery unit. Nowadays the president of rebel Chechnya is hiding from Russian troops somewhere in the forests and mountains of the Caucasus.

A lot else has altered in ten years and, with a touch of smugness, locals greet anyone who has been away for long with a, "I expect you've noticed some changes" opening line. Vilnius, that jewel of Catholic and Jewish Eastern Europe, is looking magnificent. But for a journalist from Moscow there is a good reason other than pure self-indulgence to visit Lithuania, one linked to Col. Maskhadov and last week's Email from Russia.

For a year Russian commanders have been citing the Soviet regime's military campaign against the Baltic "forest brothers" post-World War Two as proof that the war in Chechnya can be won. We defeated the partisans in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (plus western Ukraine); in the end, we will finish off the Chechen guerrillas as well, the argument runs. And we will use the same methods as back then. (The analogy conveniently ignores the fact that the Soviet Union won the war but lost the peace and the Baltic states are now independent.)

What these methods are is left unsaid. But, presumably, the options include the tactics chronicled in the basement of the former KGB headquarters in Vilnius, now a museum. Here are torture chambers, padded cells, even an execution suite with bullet holes in the wall and water pipes to wash away victims' brains, as used in the 1940s and 50s. Photographs document the dumping of Lithuanian partisans' corpses in the streets to intimidate the rest of the population. One young woman has had her

eyes gouged out.

Bronislovas Juozapaitis was the Lithuanian equivalent of one of today's minor Chechen warlords, the leader of a band of 28 partisans. In March 1951 he and his men were overwhelmed in a battle with Stalin's NKVD and he himself stopped seven bullets – but survived. Later his interrogation included hours in a searing hot sauna until he fainted and a form of torture whereby he was put into a straitjacket, which was then inflated so that he vomited blood. The 76 year-old recalled: "I was in the same camps as Chechens in Siberia. The only way to defeat them would be to kill the lot of them. Besides, they have mountains, whereas we only had forests."

The lessons to be drawn from the current Chechen conflict have not been lost on today's Lithuanian military. Brigadier General Jonas Kronkaitis, the armed forces commander who served 27 years in the US military, admitted as much but hastily added Vietnam and Afghanistan to the list of campaigns his staff studied.

As he described contemporary Lithuanian military strategy in his office, more and more parallels with Chechnya occurred. Influenced by the country's experience in 1940 – when Stalin's military occupied the republic without a shot being fired in anger – Lithuanian law forbids anyone from ordering its soldiers to cease resistance.

According to Gen Kronkaitis, the only way an enemy could end a war against Lithuania would be to withdraw from its territory. It is called "total defense". "There is no objective that the enemy could achieve that would stop us fighting," the general explained.

That, in a nutshell, appears to be the Chechen guerrillas' doctrine as well. I doubt that Col Maskhadov spent much time studying the tactics of Lithuanian partisans fifty years ago when he was based in this part of the world. But he seems to have learnt a good deal more from them than many of his former colleagues. ♦

Lithuanian Court to Hear Case Against Soviet Agent Charged with Deporting Lithuanians

The prosecutor in Utena, Lithuania has finished investigations and handed a criminal case to the court against former Soviet security agent Fyodor Syomin, charged with sending Lithuanian civilians into exile. The case is expected to be tried this July.

The Utena Regional prosecutor determined the former Soviet official was responsible for deporting Lithuanian families out of the country to the Soviet Union, where they often died of exposure and starvation or were summarily killed.

Syomin was the director of the Kurkliai township, Lithuania division of the Anykščiai, Lithuania regional branch of the Interior Ministry of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic. Later, he became chief agent for criminal investigation at the Ministry of Security's Anykščiai section.

The Panevėžys, Lithuania area prosecutor released a statement saying information and documents collected in the case confirmed that Syomin was the executor of decisions made by the Soviet occupational regime to send Lithuanians into exile. He traveled to the houses of those about to be sent out of the country, told them to prepare themselves for exile, and escorted them under guard to the railway station, where he transferred custody over to commanders of Soviet rail troops.

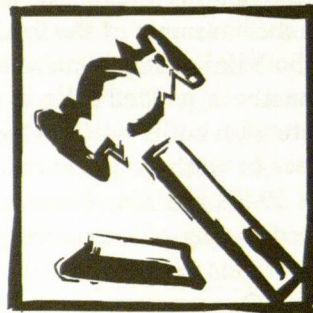
Prisoners were commonly packed into cattle wagons. Those that survived the trip to vari-

ous gulag camps in Soviet Asia and the Arctic were supplied little or no food or fuel.

The Lithuanian criminal code's sentencing guidelines for this crime is from five to 20 years incarceration or life.

Traditionally, prisoners weren't expected to live out such sentences in Soviet jails, where health and living conditions usually meant an untimely death for prisoners sentenced to more than five years. While conditions have improved somewhat in independent Lithuania's jails, old conceptions about the definition of life in prison remain.

Syomin, 85, lives in Utena, a city about 100 kilometers north of the capital Vilnius and some 70 kilometers east of the regional center of Panevėžys. He won't be able to attend court hearings because of his alleged infirmities. The court will decide what kind of medical supervision is appropriate for Syomin after reviewing his case. If he recovers, he can be convicted under Lithuanian criminal law. ♦



From the NATO Parliamentary Assembly...

Reacting to Change... Shaping Change...

The following are excerpts from the speech given by the Secretary General of NATO George Robertson at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Spring Session in Vilnius on May 31st, 2001.

It is a great pleasure to be here today. In the last year and a half I have come to feel very much at home at gatherings of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. As a life-long Parliamentarian I know that you and your decisions count.

I believe that this is both an appropriate place, and an opportune moment, for us to meet. It is an appropriate place because Lithuania occupies a unique place in today's Europe of the 21st century. A country which has for neighbors a NATO member (Poland), Russia, Belarus, and of course the other Baltic republics. It is a country enjoying new freedom and democracy, and moving ever closer to Euro-Atlantic institutions. Lithuania is certainly a fitting place indeed for us to meet and discuss Europe's 21st century evolution.

If it is the right place to have this discussion, I believe it is also the right moment, because today's meeting is being held just two days after the meeting of NATO's Foreign Ministers in Budapest. In just a few days, our Defense Ministers will meet, and on June 13th, NATO's Heads of State and Government will meet in Brussels taking stock of NATO's agenda, as a stepping stone to next year's landmark Summit in Prague.

What I would like to do, therefore, is to update you on these discussions – both in terms of what is being discussed, and where the Alliance is likely to evolve in future. And I think that it is no surprise that four of the main issues on which NATO's leaders are concentrating are all areas in which the NATO PA plays an important role.

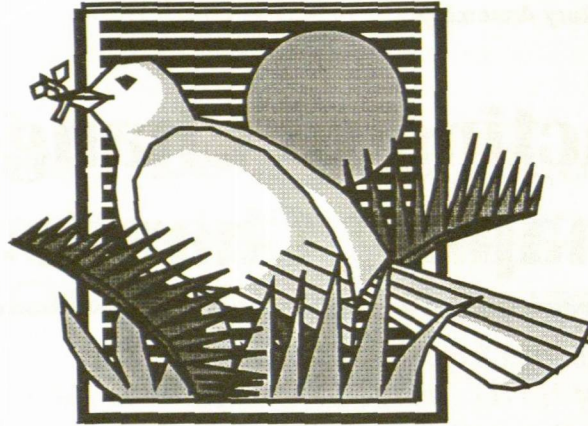
The first item discussed at the Foreign Ministers

meeting was, of course, the Balkans. This is obviously no surprise to anyone here, because despite all the progress that we have made, there are still some very important challenges that we must tackle...

... We are also watching carefully the situation in Southern Serbia. As of now, we believe the situation is being handled as it should be. NATO has released, to the Yugoslav authorities, the last remaining sector of the buffer zone which we established when Milosevic was in power to prevent clashes between Alliance forces and Yugoslav forces. Clearly, with the new democratic regime in place, that is no longer necessary – and the proof of that has been made very clear in the last few days. Yugoslav forces have entered the zone carefully, using targeted, proportional military force to clear the area of armed extremists, without harming any civilians. Proof that Milosevic was indeed the source of the problem in Yugoslavia – the man very clearly behind the violence. And proof that the new Yugoslavia is a country the international community can work with.

There are, of course, many other Balkan challenges to address...All of these are very real challenges. But they must not obscure the overall progress being made in the region. Today, the countries of South East Europe are working together, politically, economically and militarily, to build something that their region has not had for far too long: lasting peace, lasting security and growing prosperity. NATO's leaders remain determined to support this positive trend.

I believe that the NATO PA, too, can take credit for this success. The NATO-led peace-keeping operations in the Balkans have played a key role in winning the peace, and anchoring it in rough seas. It is our Parliaments, which approved these deployments of military personnel. And our Parliaments play a vital role in explaining the importance



of these missions to our publics, to the press – and sometimes even to the Government! So I congratulate you and commend you on the role you have played until now in supporting these operations. The increasing sense of safety and security that people in Balkans are feeling today is due in no small part to your efforts. Your efforts are also crucial to the success of two other projects that NATO's leaders are discussing at their meetings – projects designed to ensure that the Alliance remains capable of making a positive contribution to peace and security also in the future. First, by improving Allied defense capabilities; and second, through improvements to European capacities in particular.

The requirement for NATO to improve its defense capabilities is very clear. Military capability is the heart and soul of the Alliance. To carry out all of NATO's missions – from crisis management, to peacekeeping, to Partnership and cooperation, to collective defense – our forces must be effective, and able to work together effectively...

The purpose of the Defense Capabilities Initiative is to address these challenges. We have already made progress since the Initiative was put in place. We have identified the areas of NATO's military capabilities which need improvement. But we need to continue our efforts to find the resources to move forward...

...We need to improve that return on investment, through innovative management techniques, defense industry consolidation, identification of priorities, and courageous decisions. The NATO PA will play a crucial role here too. It is our Parliaments, which approve our defense budgets. And our Parliamentarians help to explain to our publics that NATO's military capability makes an essential

contribution to our security, and that we must make the necessary investments now, if that capability is to be there when it is needed.

Again, let me congratulate you on the success you have had until now – and encourage you to greater efforts in supporting investment in defense.

Investment is also the key to the success of the third major issue NATO's leaders are discussing at their meetings: the development of European security capacities.

This concept still creates some serious heartburn among some traditional Atlanticists. Many fear it will lead to Europe splitting away from North America.

Of course, nothing could be further from the truth. Every European country in NATO recognizes the vital role the United States plays in Europe. As an essential crisis manager, as we have seen in the Balkans. As a stabilizing factor in Europe on tough political issues. And, in the final resort, as the ultimate guarantor of our collective defense. No one wants that to change.

But that cannot mean that the U.S. must always take the lead for the rest of time or want to do so. Europe understands that in the post Cold War world, there is no reason to expect the U.S. to manage every crisis in or around Europe, no matter how small or far away, simply because the European countries are incapable of taking the lead themselves.

That is why a European capability to lead is not only good for the transatlantic relationship – it is absolutely necessary. It will demonstrate that Europe is serious about doing its fair share. And it will give the United States more of an opportunity to choose where and when it must take the lead...

...The challenge we have today is how best to move forward. How to manage the evolution of European capacities so that they reinforce the transatlantic relationship, rather than putting strains on it. In particular, we must build the right links between NATO and the EU, to ensure that we take advantage of synergies, and at the same time, avoid unnecessary and costly duplication.

Two issues, in particular, must be managed correctly. First, we must ensure that the non-EU members of NATO are given satisfactory participation in EU-led operations. Over the past few months, we have made real progress on this issue, and I am confident we will soon have an agreement between the EU and NATO that satisfies all concerned.

Second, we have to ensure that the coherence of defense planning between the two organizations. EU and NATO forces must be capable of handling the full range of operations they are assigned for: NATO and EU, not either/or. That is why the Alliance is ready to work with the EU on defense planning. This will prevent any unnecessary duplication, and ensure that we have the most effective pool of forces. After all, each nation has only one set of forces, which we have to make the best use of. And once again, we are moving forward...

... Once again, the NATO PA has an important role to play. Our Parliamentarians have to remind governments that they can't have security on the cheap, and that promises made must be kept, if Europe is to have any credibility as a security actor. Once again, I encourage you to be vocal, because the payoff is worth it: a more effective Europe, and a stronger, more flexible NATO.

NATO's leaders are also taking note, at their meetings, of a fourth prominent issue: NATO's enlargement process. And I could not come to Lithuania without addressing this very important element of NATO's broad agenda.

As you all know, NATO's Heads of State and Government will hold a Summit meeting in November 2002, in Prague. The review of the enlargement process will be at the top of the agenda of that summit meeting, but will not be the only issue. Public interest in the whole issue of enlargement is growing, however, in the nine aspirant countries and in the press.

NATO's commitment to the enlargement process remains as firm as ever. Why? Because NATO membership can "lock in reform", and contribute to stability. Because the process itself helps to erase vestigial dividing lines. Because new members make the Alliance even more effective at contributing to Euro-Atlantic peace and security.

Most of all, NATO's door remains open because the Alliance believes that one fundamental principle must be respected: that in today's Europe, every democratic country must have the right to choose

its own security arrangements freely. Europe can never be fully stable and secure if countries are not in control over their own destiny, but have that destiny decided for them by others.

For NATO, adhering to this principle means that when a European democracy is able and willing to make a real contribution to Euro-Atlantic security, the Alliance will consider their application for membership. And let me be very clear, and very blunt: this includes every democratic country in Europe, not just some.

In the new Europe of the 21st century, geography can no longer be destiny. The history of this region is a powerful testimony indeed of the importance of that principle.

That is why work in NATO is continuing as hard as ever. Through our Membership Action Plan, or MAP as we call it, the Alliance is working directly and closely with the Governments and militaries of aspirant countries, to improve their ability to take care of their own defense, and their ability to work with NATO forces on joint missions. That way, we will ensure that if and when they join, they will be net contributors, not simply consumers, of security.

It is, of course, too early for any NATO member, or the Alliance as a body, to discuss possible candidates. At their meeting, Foreign Ministers considered reports on the progress aspirants are making to meet NATO standards. But as we get closer to next year's Summit, these discussions will get much more focused, and inevitably much more heated as the run-up to the Madrid Summit in 1997 showed. Our Parliaments will certainly be central to these discussions as a forum for debate, and, in the end, as the bodies, which will ratify any invitations to join the Alliance.

...I am so pleased at the ongoing success of the NATO PA. This body has adapted so well to the changes in Euro-Atlantic security. Like the Alliance, it has become more open, more flexible, and more effective at building cooperation in Europe. The NATO PA's work with countries such as Lithuania is only one example, but it is a good one. It shows that the NATO PA is not only reacting to change – it is helping to shape change. I congratulate you on that role, and on the many other important endeavours the NATO PA carries out, in support of NATO and Euro-Atlantic security. ♦

NATO Updates...

From the Baltic News Service

Lithuanian Troops Perform Under NATO Command

A NATO rear admiral gave Lithuanian officers excellent grades on their English language skills, and on their ability to work within NATO's military forces command structure.

Second in command of NATO's Allied Forces Northeast Europe headquarters, rear admiral Franco D'Agostino gave Lithuania the high marks during a NATO military terminology seminar for staff officers in Vilnius.

Speaking at a press conference on June 21st, D'Agostino commented on Lithuanian officers'

command of the English language and NATO terminology, characterizing their knowledge as "almost perfect."

The five-day seminar was organized by NATO's Allied Forces Northeast Europe headquarters under the Partnership for Peace program. There were 31 representatives from eleven NATO member and candidate states attending. ♦

NATO Experts End Mission in Lithuania

NATO experts ended their two-day mission on June 20th in Lithuania, giving a positive evaluation to the country's defense system structure and army development plans, the Defense Ministry said.

According to the press release, the five-member group of NATO experts was coordinated by Force Planning Section of NATO's Defense Planning and Operations Division head, Frank Boland. The visit of the NATO group was organized at the initiative of the Lithuanian Defense Ministry.

During the two-day stay in Lithuania, the NATO specialists drew the attention of Lithuanian officials to the necessity to specify the tasks posed before air and navy forces during military conflicts. A request was also made to present more detailed financial plans to implement the set army development projects.

The Defense Ministry said biggest investments were made in Lithuania's land forces, with plans to set up a battalion in line with NATO military standards by the end of 2002 and a stand-by brigade by 2006.

The delegation of NATO experts met Defense Ministry officials in Vilnius, and visited the Regional Air Observation Center in Kar- melava and the Battalion of Lithuanian Grand Duke Algirdas in Rukla.

NATO's last mission in Lithuania took place in the end of February when they worked in the Baltic state on the initiative of the alliance. The experts then applauded Lithuania's development plans and priorities. ♦



Photo: Bernard Narušis

Gratitude Expressed to President Bush

Ambassadors to the United States of the ten Eastern and Central European countries seeking membership in NATO sent a letter to U. S. President George W. Bush, expressing gratitude for his support to the alliance's enlargement.

In his speech delivered in Warsaw on June 15th, Bush confirmed that the best-prepared candidates would be invited to join NATO during the next stage of enlargement in 2002.

The letter, mailed by the ambassadors on June 18th, stated that, "In the Prague Summit in November 2002, NATO will have an unprecedented opportunity to build a firm foundation for a lasting peace based upon freedom guaranteed by democratic nations."

The ten ambassadors said that the president's position demonstrated during his trip in Europe "gives us great confidence that together we shall seize what can only be regarded as a god-given chance to bring a permanent peace to Europe."

The letter was signed by ambassadors of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Albania and Croatia. The countries were ranked as the Vilnius Ten after foreign ministers of nine of these countries met in Vilnius last year to jointly urge NATO proceed with the expansion. Croatia joined the group earlier this year. ♦

Lithuania's Navy Participates in NATO Peacekeeping Exercises

Vessels in the largest ever annual **Baltops** military exercises on the Baltic Sea put into port at Kiel, Germany on June 15th. The objective of the NATO Partnership for Peace training exercise was to increase mutual understanding and develop cooperation skills in operations at sea. The exercises began on June 1 and lasted for two weeks.

Four days were spent at the Polish port Gdynia to coordinate operations and communications. Forty-three vessels put out to sea for ten days. Some 40 aircraft took part in the exercises as well. Soldiers from fourteen countries participated.

Exercises featured troop landing, electronic warfare, anti-aircraft defense, visual and audio communications, mining, trawling and mine sweeping, search and rescue, submarine and airborne operation, and live-fire components.

Lithuania sent her frigates the **Žemaitis** and the **Aukštaitis**. This was the ninth year Lithuania participated in the annual military exercises.

The war games this year postulated a conflict between the fictional states of Nordlandia and

Islandia. Partners defended the latter and supplied her with humanitarian aid. Ships were divided into six teams. Air and submarine forces served as the enemy.

Lithuania's two vessels served on different teams. The **Aukštaitis** sailed with Denmark's the **Niels Juel**, the **Stoeren** and the **Hvidbojernen** and Germany's the **Koln**, suffering the first attack by the suspected aggressor state. On June 10th, the **Aukštaitis** organized firing drills in her group and led her contingent in them.

Lithuania's the **Žemaitis** served alongside America's the **Cape St. George**, Britain's the **Campbelltown**, the Russian Baltic Fleet's destroyer **Bespokoiny** (with Kaliningrad her homeport), and the Danish vessel the **Gribben**. The group of ships was in charge of convoying humanitarian aid to civilians and military aid to other ships.

The Lithuanian naval ships also took part in the annual sea fair at the port of Kiel in Germany over the June 18th weekend and returned to the port of Klaipėda, Lithuania on June 21st. ♦

Lithuania Decorates Two U.S. Congressmen For Help in NATO Bid

Lithuania's president Valdas Adamkus decorated two U.S. congressmen with the Order of Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas on May 29th. Senator Gordon Smith was decorated with the Order of Grand Duke of Lithuania Gediminas, second degree; while Lithuanian-American House of Representatives member John Shimkus got the same medal in the third degree.

The two U.S. congressmen were decorated for rendering aid to Lithuania in its efforts to integrate with trans-Atlantic structures and in an effort to solicit support by members of the U.S. Congress for Lithuania's bid to become a NATO member.

Shimkus is a member of the Baltic Caucus in the House of Representatives, an organization which actively supports the membership of the Baltic states in NATO. Smith was the head of the U.S. delegation for the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly from May 27 to 31.

During the awards ceremony the Lithuanian president thanked Lithuania's loyal friends – the two congressman – for the help they have given to Lithuania. President Adamkus said Lithuania would never disappoint their trust in the nation.

Courtesy of Steve Tomaszewski, Press Secretary for Congressman John Shimkus

A Little Basketball Game for the American Contingency

Americans have once again proven their status as number one players not only in global politics, but also on a basketball court in Vilnius. Lithuanian politicians and journalists lost a basketball game to a team of U.S. diplomats and reporters in an up-and-down match with the final score 57-65 in the Lithuanian capital on May 30th.

Politicians and reporters of the two countries were brought together by the spring session of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, with which Lithuania pins its hopes of joining the alliance in 2002.

House of Representatives' member John Shimkus, who distinguished himself as only missing one three-point shot out of four, was recognized as Most Valuable Player and received an official basketball of the Northern European Basketball League as a prize.

"My friends won't believe it if you write about this," saying that he and his colleagues at the House of Representatives often play basketball after work.

Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S. Vygaudas Usackas was among top scorers in the host team,



which also embraced Parliamentary Chairman Artūras Paulauskas and representatives of the country's key media including Baltic News Service.

Some Lithuanian players and spectators joked following the match that the loss of the Baltic state's team on the basketball court would be yet another move towards NATO entry, saying that membership in the organization should be acceded as a compensation for the defeat.

The team of guests included the leader of the U.S. delegation at the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, senator Gordon Smith; the head of Reuters news agency's Baltic Office Burton Frierson; The Wall Street Journal reporter Benjamin Smith; and John Estridge, captain in the U.S. Navy. Lithuanians also lent ex-NBA player Šarūnas Marčiūlionis to the guests. The match was observed by several dozen of spectators, including U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania John Tefft. ◆

Courtesy of Steve Tomaszewski, Press Secretary for Congressman John Shimkus

Sister Ona Mikaila

A Mission of Inspiring Leadership

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Blessed George Matulaitis' 1926 visit to the United States. His first trip in 1913 had been brief: to establish the Marian Fathers in Chicago. He returned 13 years later, having received a personal invitation from Cardinal George W. Mundelein, to attend the International Eucharistic Congress in Chicago on June 20th to the 24th of 1926. Cardinal Mundelein (1872-1939) knew Archbishop Matulaitis personally from his previous visit to Chicago, and he was very friendly toward Lithuanians having served as pastor at Brooklyn's Queen of the Angels Parish.

Archbishop Matulaitis sailed on the "*Leviathan*" on June 1, accompanied by his good friend and fellow Marian, Father Pranas (Francis) Būčys (1872-1951) who recorded the details of the three-month visit. Upon arrival in New York on June 7th, the honored guests were met by a Lithuanian welcoming committee and immediately surrounded by a group of New York journalists. Archbishop Matulaitis and Father Būčys were then escorted to the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. That evening, about 400 guests attended the welcome banquet, including such dignitaries as the Lithuanian ambassador, Kazys Bizauskas,



Archbishop Matulaitis (center) during the Eucharistic Congress in Chicago on June 1926 with a group of Lithuanian-Americans.

and the honorary consul, Dr. Julius Bielskis. Archbishop Matulaitis then paid a courtesy visit to the Lithuanian embassy in Washington.

From Washington, Matulaitis and Būčys traveled by train to Chicago. They were met at Union Station by a large Lithuanian delegation: greetings and a banquet followed. On the feast of St. Anthony, June 13th, Archbishop Matulaitis dedicated the newly built St. Anthony's Lithuanian Church in Cicero. Its pastor, the Rev. Jeronimas Vaičiūnas was overjoyed to have his church blessed by a Lithuanian archbishop. At that time there were about 50,000 Lithuanian Catholics in Chicago attending thirteen Lithuanian parishes -- all of which had parochial schools. During his three-week stay, Archbishop Matulaitis visited every one of them.

On June 17th, Pope Pius XI's Legate, Cardinal Giovanni Bonzano, arrived for the opening of the Eucharistic Congress. He was met by Cardinal Mundelein, and an impressive motorcade accom-

SR. ONA MIKAILA is a writer and editor of *Bendradarbis*, and a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Lithuanian order in Putnam, Connecticut. Photos courtesy: Sr. Mikaila.

panied the Papal Legate to the Cathedral. Archbishop Matulaitis was part of this procession cheered by some 150,000 people lining the streets. The Lithuanians in the crowd clapped and cheered as their Archbishop went by.

This 28th International Eucharistic Congress had been in preparation since 1924, when Cardinal Mundelein received the red hat in Rome. More than a million Catholics, including twelve cardinals, 64 archbishops, 309 bishops, 500 monsignors, and 8,000 priests made this Congress one of the greatest religious demonstrations ever witnessed in the United States.

Archbishop Matulaitis faithfully attended all the Congress assemblies and processions. The largest gatherings were held at Chicago's Soldiers' Field Stadium, which could hold 250,000.

This was the first time Lithuanians took part in an International Eucharistic Congress as an organized group with its own sector. This Lithuanian sector held its own assemblies, meetings, and processions made up of delegates from all thirteen Lithuanian parishes. A huge joint choir was formed from the members of all the church choirs.

On June 23rd a parade of 100,000 Catholic high school students marched in their school uniforms flaming in "a riot of color" as reported by the Chicago newspapers. Among them marched the Lithuanian students of the St. Casimir Academy.

The closing ceremonies, with solemn high mass, were held in Grand Park, on the shore of a small lake where St. John's Church stood, a little way from the town of Mundelein. Cardinal Bonzano celebrated the Mass, and New York Cardinal Patrick Hayes gave the sermon. In the afternoon a huge procession with the Blessed Sacrament was to take place ending the Congress. As it got underway, dark clouds spattered rain, which soon turned into a real downpour. Some of the people ran for cover under bridges or in the trolley station. Archbishop Matulaitis, wearing a heavy cape embroidered with a picture of the Gates of Dawn Madonna, was soaked through but struggled on heroically. The downpour lasted about twenty minutes, and when the crowd gathered to sing, "Holy God, we praise Thy name," the sun shone once more.



Arch. Matulaitis enjoys a football game during his visit to the U.S.

Among his many visits while in Chicago, Matulaitis was especially interested in spending time with the Marian Fathers, a Congregation that he had revived in 1910. In 1926, there were 38 Marians in various places in the USA and 220 worldwide.

While in Chicago, Matulaitis received many invitations to visit Lithuanian parishes: most of these were on the east coast – in southern New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and also in the old Catholic town of Baltimore. After a farewell banquet at Chicago's Gates of Dawn parish on July 7th, Archbishop Matulaitis moved eastward. On July 10th he visited St. George's parish at Niagara Falls, then went to Rochester, which also had a Lithuanian parish. From there he traveled to Pennsylvania with its 40 parishes clustering around Scranton, Wilkes Barre, Shenandoah, Pittsburg, and Philadelphia. In many of these places he administered the sacrament of Confirmation, celebrated Mass, and chatted with the people. They were overjoyed to see him, and stories of his visit have been handed down through the generations. In all, he visited 92 Lithuanian parishes.

Upon reaching Philadelphia on July 24th, the Archbishop was met by the priests and parishion-



Archbishop Matulaitis visiting St. Francis parish in Lawrence with a Confirmation group of 168 children. At Matulaitis' left, in the first row is Fr. Francis Virmauskas, pastor in 1926; and Fr. Francis Juras, future pastor; first on Matulaitis' right is Fr. Francis Būčys. In 1926, the parish had 24 active organizations.

ers of the Lithuanian parishes. He was first taken to St. Andrew's where he celebrated Mass, and later went to St. Casimir's. He was in Philadelphia at the height of the Sesquicentennial celebration, at the site of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. After completing the parish visitations, Archbishop Matulaitis paid a visit to Philadelphia's Cardinal Dennis Dougherty and to Mayor F. Kendrick. The mayor presented him with a golden key to the Sesquicentennial Exhibition and a police motorcycle escort. He visited Independence Hall, the Exhibition and stadium, and also drove over the newly completed bridge across the Delaware.

From here he traveled further east toward New York and the New England states where a number of Lithuanian parishes eagerly awaited a glimpse of their one and only Archbishop. His last stop was at St. Joseph's in Waterbury.

Matulaitis' arduous but rewarding American tour ended on September 1st, when he boarded the "*Barengaria*" together with Fr. Francis Būčys and, with Lady Liberty fading in the distance, sailed toward Southampton, England. He stopped in London at St. Casimir's Church and was also taken to see Oxford University. Then, finally, home to Kaunas, Lithuania.

In Lithuania, Archbishop Matulaitis used

every opportunity to share his positive impressions of Lithuanian-Americans: he praised their loyalty to the Catholic faith and to their Lithuanian heritage, and their generosity in supporting their parishes and parochial schools. He was impressed with the way parishes were organized and conducted in America, where not only the churches were full, but the parish halls drew people together to socialize in the many Catholic organizations. Everywhere he recommended similar efforts in Lithuanian parishes be-

ginning with Marijampolė, which was in the hands of the Marian Fathers.

His own mission proved to be one of inspiring leadership, for his time was short – he had only four months left to live. His work in this world was almost done, and he was already radiant with a heavenly light. A priest who met him during his stay in Chicago commented:

"I was overwhelmed by the deep spiritual peace glowing in his eyes which gave a special dimension to his personality. He possessed a spiritual harmony within himself, wisdom and goodness overflowing in love for all. You could feel how his spirit was one with Christ – that he saw all things and persons in the light of Christ and drew all his strength from Him..." ♦



* Blessed George Matulaitis died in Kaunas on January 27, 1927 after an unsuccessful appendectomy.

*Information submitted by Nellie Bayoras-Romanas
Edited by Jeanne Dorr*

The Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley

Rachael Zelinsky and Veronica Stark shared a dream. The year was 1928, and the two women from Luzerne, Pennsylvania conceived the idea of a club for Lithuanian women. They contacted as many women as they knew to access the feasibility and interest in such an organization. To their surprise and delight, a total of thirty-four women came together for the first meeting. From that initial gathering was born the Lithuanian Women's Club of Wyoming Valley. Today it is one of the oldest Lithuanian women's organizations on the east coast. Since its inception, the club has contributed to the civic, cultural, and educational growth of the county.

Mrs. Joseph Zelinsky was elected as the first president. At that time it was decided that the club's first public social would be held in November 1928. The card party and dance, held in the Hotel Redington, Wilkes Barre, was a huge success and a profit of more than a thousand dollars was realized. Thus began the biggest affair held by Lithuanians. The formal event attracted the elite of the valley.

The profits from the first card party and dance were sent to St. Mary's Villa in Elmhurst, Pa. At that time the Villa was a home for orphans and older people who had no one to care for them. This monumental task fell to the Sisters of Jesus Crucified. For many years

the Villa was the club's main project. As time went by, the Villa expanded, and to show its appreciation to the club, it dedicated a room to them complete with their name on the door. Eventually the Diocese of Scranton took charge of the Villa. It is now a large, modern nursing home for all nationalities. The club has never forgotten the Sisters and remembers them each year at Christmas; thus retaining a tradition that began in 1928.

Mrs. Joseph Caffrey was the second president, and during her term of office the first educational work was begun with the awarding of prizes to honor students of Lithuanian descent.

Mrs. Peter Brussock, the club's third president, appointed a special committee that distributed baskets to the needy of the valley. They also participated in the first cultural project, "International Night" at the YMCA.

The fourth president, Mrs. Joseph Venalaukas, furthered Lithuanian art by the club's participation in a regional folk festival with Lithuanian costumes and an art exhibit by Lithuanian sculptor, Petras Rimiška. Each succeeding president added to the undertakings of the club.

During the war years, under the leadership of Mrs. Anthony Washesky, members sewed and crocheted for the Red Cross, hosted the USO, and served on the "farewell to the sol-

JEANNE DORR is a member of the Board of Directors of Lithuanian Orphan Care, a branch of the Human Services Council of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. She is also a Social Studies teacher in New Jersey. Photos from J. Dorr and Nellie Bayoras-Romanas.

diers" committee. The members actively participated in war bond rallies and contributed to all war efforts.

During the tenure of Mrs. A. J. Valibus, funds were established for Michael Langel, streptomycin, the Veterans' Hospital, Salvation Army, cancer research, and to many other projects too numerous to mention. Substantial contributions were made to Kings College and Wilkes College. A delegate attended the signing of the petition to liberate Lithuania. A first scholarship fund was established during Mrs. Frank Butcofski's term of office. The first award was presented to Miss. Berkant of Exeter High School. It had the distinction of being the first club to donate twelve memberships to the Catholic Youth Center.

Under each president, donations to charitable organizations, contributions to church and school building funds, and representations of cultural endeavors continued to grow.

The current president, Nellie Bayoras-Romanas, has continued the work of her predecessors. The club's officers are Vice-President Anne Stranch, treasurer Anne Yeager, recording secretary Martha Warnagiris, financial secretary Dolores Maciejaszek, chaplin Karen Flannery, and auditors Dorothy Franks and Lenore Rosencrans. The club sponsors a child through Lithuanian Orphan Care and sends packages as well as financial support to the family. They also support APPLE and send



Charity Committee — 1951.

packages to Msgr. Vasilauskas in Vilnius and the Franciscan Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus in Kaunas.

They contribute books to local libraries and colleges about Lithuanian history and culture. Club members participate in folk festivals and holiday fairs, proudly wearing their Lithuanian costumes and sharing Lithuanian traditions.

Each year the Lithuanian flag is proudly raised over the Wilkes-Barre Courthouse. The club, in honor of Lithuanian Independence Day, has sponsored this flag raising ceremony for many years. Members have currently taken on the task of contacting their members of Congress as well as President Bush to support Lithuania's bid for admission to NATO.

The group meets on the last Tuesday of the month and is keeping alive the dream of Rachael Zelinsky and Veronica Stark. They are continuing to carry out the motto, which was established in 1928, -- "Love of God, Love and loyalty to our country, the United States of America, upholding the traditions of the Lithuanian people; kindness and charity to all." ♦



County declares Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Day

The Luzerne County Board of Commissioners have proclaimed Feb. 16 as Lithuanian Day in Luzerne County. To mark the celebration, a ceremony will be held at 9:15 a.m. in the rotunda of the courthouse.

From left, rear row: Nellie Bayoras, Commissioners

Stephen Urban, Tom Makowski and Thomas Puzano. Row two: Treasurer Mike Murren, Ann Saha, Ed Stankus, Steve Saha, Deputy Chief Clerk Elizabeth Linskey, Martha Warnagiris, Chief Clerk/Administrator Eugene R. Klein.

The Lithuanian Women's Club continues their work.

From Michigan State University — Detroit College of Law

An Opportunity to Train in Transnational Law in Lithuania

Michigan State University-Detroit College of Law (MSU-DCL) will be helping to educate European law students on topics relevant to doing business, practicing law, and governing in an emerging democratic market economy through a graduate-level certificate program offered at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) School of Law, located in Kaunas, Lithuania.

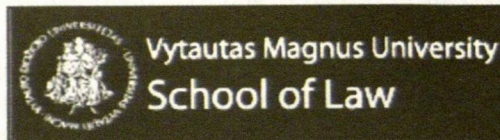
On Wednesday, June 20, 2001, MSU-DCL signed an agreement with VMU to offer a certificate in transnational law to students who complete a prescribed course of study in VMU's master of laws program.

"We hope that by establishment of this program, MSU-DCL can assist Lithuania in the further development of its legal infrastructure, which is an essential prerequisite to the development of a sound economic base for the country," said Terence L. Blackburn, dean at MSU-DCL.

To earn the certificate, VMU students will take courses taught by MSU-DCL faculty or other U.S. professors approved by MSU-DCL who will travel to Lithuania to teach. MSU-DCL sent three faculty members during the 2000-01 academic year to teach courses in constitutional law, property, and business law. The law college plans on sending two faculty members during the 2001-02 academic year to teach at VMU.

Michael A. Lawrence, an MSU-DCL professor who taught constitutional law at VMU in May, noted, "The year 2001 marks the ten-year anniversary of Lithuania's momentous 1991 break from the Soviet Union — a remarkably short time in historical terms. The VMU law program is a profound change from the past Soviet model of legal education that still exists throughout much of Lithuania and eastern Europe. It is my belief that this certificate program will make a significant impact throughout eastern Europe."

"This is an excellent opportunity to observe a country's return to a free-enterprise economy after decades of communism," said John Reifenberg, an

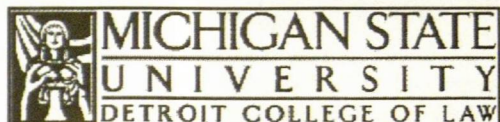


MSU-DCL faculty member who has helped establish the program with VMU. "Our work in central and eastern Europe to help law schools reestablish themselves is designed to foster the rule of law."

VMU's School of Law, founded in 1995, offers a three-year graduate program leading to a master of laws degree. It is the only legal education program in Europe that follows the model of a U.S. graduate professional school. Most European law programs are a continuation of undergraduate-level legal training. VMU requires its entering students to have earned a bachelor's degree before being admitted to law school. Also, VMU faculty members teach using the Socratic method and have completed an ABA seminar training program on this methodology.

"The agreement brings western legal education to the east," said Tadas Klimas, dean of VMU's law school. "Through the joint efforts of our schools, large numbers of law students from all over eastern Europe will be able to learn the law, especially international law, on a level not otherwise available to them."

Both MSU-DCL and VMU participated in a signing ceremony that took place via video conferencing at 9:00 am. EDT on June 20th in room 324 of the Law College Building. Michigan Lt. Governor Dick Posthumus spoke at the ceremony. The Honorable Richard F. Suhrheinrich, president of MSU-DCL's board of trustees, and Dean Blackburn signed the agreement on behalf of MSU-DCL. Rector Professor Vytautas Kaminskas signed the agreement on behalf of VMU. ♦



C u r r e n t E v e n t s

Williams and YUKOS Reach Agreement

Lithuanian Parliamentary Chairman Artūras Paulauskas applauded the agreement between the U.S. company Williams International and Russian oil firm YUKOS on the long-term oil provision to Lithuania's Mažeikių Nafta (Mažeikiai Oil) operated by the U.S. energy group.

"Such an agreement would not only ensure a steady oil supply to Lithuania, but would also give hope that Mažeikių Nafta would start making profit," Paulauskas said on June 20th through his spokesman.

The agreement, reached between Williams and YUKOS, was also welcomed by Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and the U.S. administration. A representative of the U.S. Department of State noted that the agreement would contribute to Lithuanian stability and prosperity, adding it was in line with the U.S. and Russia's constructive commercial interests in the region.

Williams International and YUKOS reached an agreement on long-term oil supplies for the company's refinery as well as on the possibility of the Russian company becoming one of the major shareholders in Mažeikių Nafta. YUKOS would be granted a right to acquire a 26.85 percent stake in Mažeikių Nafta through two new

equity issues. The Russian company would pay 75 million U.S. dollars for the stake and grant another 75 million U.S. dollars in loans.

YUKOS would supply some 4.8 million tons of oil per year and export an annual amount of 4 tons of oil via the Butingė off-shore terminal. The agreement was concluded for a term of ten years.

Starting July 1, 2001, YUKOS promises to supply 300,000 tons of oil monthly to Mažeikių Nafta. As soon as the government endorses the deal, the Russian company would launch negotiations with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in regard to financing the Lithuanian concern's modernization.

Following the placement of the new equity issue, Williams International's shareholding in Mažeikių Nafta would decline to 26.85 percent from the present 33 percent. The government owns a 59 percent stake in the oil concern.

The past two months was the first period of profit following 18 months of loss under American management. Due to irregular oil supplies from Russia, Mažeikių Nafta operated at a loss before the transfer of operating rights to the U.S. company in the fall of 1999. ♦

Lithuanian Firemen – Top Skyscraper Climbers

Lithuanian firemen team won a gold medal at the World Police and Firemen Games in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event was climbing to the 36th skyscraper floor event, according to the Fire Rescue and Prevention Department.

In the "water buckets' lifting to a tower" event and in basketball, Lithuanian firemen placed second; whereas in the body building event a Lithuanian fireman took third place.

The 9th World Police and Firemen Games took place on June 8th to the 16th. Over 8,000 firemen from 53 countries participated. ♦



News from Lithuania – Baltic News Service

Lithuanian Pilot Honored for Service in Royal Air Force

The British Embassy in Vilnius commemorated the Lithuanian pilot who flew with the British Royal Air Force in World War II and died as a Nazi POW, Romualdas Marcinkus. The ceremony took place at a reception held to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's birthday at the embassy on June 21st.

The British Embassy said in a press release that Marcinkus was a captain and an aviator of considerable repute who had taken part in the Lithuanian Air Force's European Tour before he joined the British Royal Air Force.

According to the press release, Marcinkus was posted to France in 1939 and volunteered his services to the French Air Force, with whom he served until the country was invaded in May, 1940. He then joined the British Royal Air Force and passed an officer course and training on the British Hurricane fighter.

In May, 1941 he was appointed flight lieutenant to Fighter Squadron Number One, where he served until February, 1942, when he was shot down near Gravelines in Belgium.

Marcinkus was captured and imprisoned in Stalag Luft POW camp 3 in present-day Polish territory, made famous in the film *The Great Escape*

for the mass break-out of POWs there in March, 1944. The Lithuanian pilot was among some 100 allied airmen who escaped, but was recaptured and among the 50 men who were shot.

After the war his remains were buried in the British Commonwealth War Grave Cemetery in Poznan, Poland (formerly the German city Posen).

Because of the postwar political situation, Marcinkus' relatives never received the three British war decorations to which he was entitled: the 1939-1945 Star, the Aircrew Europe Star and the War Medal, the British Embassy reported.

In order to render historic justice and honor Marcinkus' contribution to the Allied war effort, British ambassador Christopher Robbins presented the awards to the closest surviving relative, his nephew Alvydas Grebliūnas.

The commander of the British Royal Air Force's Number One Squadron and a bagpiper were present at the June 21st reception, and after the presentation of medals, Harrier GR7 fighters from the squadron conducted a fly-over of the British Embassy. They flew in "missing man" formation, with one aircraft trailing the squadron to symbolize their missing comrade-in-arms. ♦

Dear Friends of Lithuanian Partisans

Lithuanian partisans fought against communism for freedom and democracy in their mother country – Lithuania. They fell by the thousands; they were tortured and deported to Siberia. They laid down their lives, so that others could live in freedom.

Lithuanian-Americans under the auspices of the Lithuanian Human Services Council of the U.S.A., Inc (a division of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.) have been working with the Association of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters to assist the now aging partisans and their children. The aims of the Lithuanian Partisan Care Fund (LPG Fund) are the following:

1. Raise funds to help care for former Lithuanian partisans (freedom fighters).
2. Provide help for former Lithuanian partisans, especially ones in poor health, or invalids.
3. Provide assistance to families of fallen partisans.

4. Provide assistance to the children of fallen partisans to enable them to seek higher education in Lithuania.

5. To help fund the publication "The Songs of Lithuanian Partisans"

6. To provide \$200.00 to the families to cover funeral expenses of a partisan.

All assistance is provided through the Association of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters. (LLKS). LLKS was originally established in 1949 (underground) and resurrected in 1992 as a Division of the Association of Political Prisoners and Deportees.

Your donation would ease their declining years. Please help these Lithuanian patriots to live out their lives in dignity. No gift is too big – no gift is too small. Please make out your check to: L.P.G. Fund and send to L.P.G. Fund, 2711-15 West 71st Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629. ♦

Attention Lithuanians in Western Pennsylvania!

Lithuania is a small country, and it's likely that if we go back just a few generations, many of us would be related by blood as well as by our love for the land of our ancestors.

As part of a project to produce a history of Lithuanians and Lithuanian-Americans in Western Pennsylvania, *The Lithuanian Citizens' Society of Western Pennsylvania* will gather information, write articles, and eventually publish booklets or a book. There is some urgency in this task, because many of our members are older, and we want to tap their memories. Also many of our institutions have closed, are merging, or are in danger of folding. We want to collect materials before they are scattered.

One major area of interest is family histories: What places we came from, when our families

came, where they lived in America and what were their original names. As a first step toward answering these questions, we have prepared a short "census" survey to gather information on you, your family and your Lithuanian roots.

Please complete one form for each family member who emigrated from Lithuania. Don't forget to include a phone number and your address in case we have any questions.

The forms will be collected at the end of club meetings, **or they can be sent to Lithuanian Citizens' Society, ATTENTION: Survey, 1725 Jane Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.**

Please complete and return the forms even if you think the information you have is too sketchy or incomplete. ♦

Story of Lithuanians in Western Pennsylvania - Survey

Please print or type all information. Please do only one immigrant ancestor per page.

Your name (last name, maiden name, first name) date of birth

Ancestor's name relationship dates of birth, death

Alternate or original spellings...

When left Lithuania...

Origins-Region Province-Gubernija District-Rajonas City, village, estate parish
Miestas, kaimas, dvaras parapija

Where settled in U.S. and when:

Country State/province County town or village date

Please use a separate sheet to tell any family stories about ancestors. Please write your address and phone number:

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