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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. email	John Duncan to Richard Norland re: Follow up to Jim Steinberg Meeting (1 page)	04/28/2000	P1/b(1) KBH 11/20/2023
001b. briefing paper	Cecilia Leahy Klein to John Duncan re: Points on Lithuania (2 pages)	04/28/2000	P1/b(1) KBH 11/20/2023

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RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
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- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)

From: Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2000 5:15 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Cc: @INTECON - Economic Affairs
Subject: RE: Follow up to JBS meeting with Lithuanian FM ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Dick,

On the Williams oil deal, first we have heard of it. We would also be checking with State to see where they are so we have nothing to add at this time.

On Lithuanian WTO accession, I called Cecilia Klein (395-9437) in the WTO/Multilateral Affairs Office. I hit a raw nerve with that call. Bottom line is there is not much more we can do without Lithuania's help. Cecilia is not at all happy with Lithuania or their negotiating tactics. She says that both Larson and Eizenstat have essentially told them what they need to do is make some difficult decisions and then be willing to negotiate. USTR is of the view that their political people (President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister) need to give their negotiator some cover. Right now he is hanging out there with some difficult agriculture interests ready to leap on him so he is frozen in place. Cecilia thinks they are negotiating in the "Russian" mode and are into high stakes brinksmanship so they are going to take it down to the last minute. She thinks they are just yanking us around and trying to use their small size to make us give them unilateral concessions that we have no intention of providing. She thinks if they do not get it done this year it is unlikely that they will any time soon because of the agriculture negotiations starting in the WTO. I asked her to send me a one-pager on the problem that we can pass to Jim.

John

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2000 3:54 PM
To: @INTECON - Economic Affairs; Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS)
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Subject: Follow up to JBS meeting with Lithuanian FM ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

John, not sure if Lithuania comes under your bailiwick or not, but there were two follow up items to a meeting Jim Steinberg held yesterday with the Lithuanian foreign minister, Algirdas Saudargas.

(1) Williams oil deal -- Jim wants to know whether the U.S. could consider weighing in with the Russians in support of a long term supply contract for the Williams refinery in Lithuania. I understand Al Larson has been involved in this (he visited Lithuania April 6-7), and I've asked State (EUR/NB) if the upshot of Al's meetings is that we are willing to weigh in with Moscow on this -- but any info you have on this score would be valuable.

(2) WTO membership for Lithuania -- Saudargas asked for U.S. support. Jim responded that we want to be sure each new member gets it right, we have concerns about Lithuania's agricultural sector, etc. -- but he has asked us to look into whether there is anything more that could be done to support Lithuania's bid. Should I talk to USTR, and if so, who? thanks. Dick.

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526

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Office of WTO and Multilateral Affairs

600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Date: April 28, 2000

Pages _____ Cover + 1 _____

TO: _____
John Duncan

OF: _____
NSC

Phone: _____

Fax: _____
456-9370

FROM: **Cecilia Leahy Klein, Director for WTO Accessions**

Tel: (202) 395-9437/5097

Fax: (202) 395-5674

SUBJECT: **Points on Lithuania**

Per our discussion.

Background

Lithuania, the last of the Baltic States to accede to the WTO, is very close to completing negotiations. We are working with Lithuania and other delegations to find WTO-consistent solutions to the remaining protocol issues identified at the last Working Party (WP) meeting, e.g., in intellectual property, customs valuation, domestic taxation, and fees for the right to import. Bilaterally, the U.S. has completed negotiations in principle on services and industrial tariffs, leaving agricultural tariffs, supports and subsidies as the major outstanding issues. On March 30, in an apparently sincere but misguided effort to advance the negotiations, Lithuania withdrew the agriculture offer it made in January (which had problems, but was a step forward) and substituted one that proposed much higher tariffs on key products (e.g., poultry, pork, and wheat). In addition, Lithuania is still calculating agricultural support levels in a way inconsistent with mandated WTO methodology. While the new offer would eliminate export subsidies upon accession, the other elements cause serious problems for a number of delegations, not just the United States. At an April 11 plurilateral meeting in Geneva on these issues, a number of other WP members told Lithuania that the new offer was seriously flawed. The EU, which already has preferential access to Lithuania's market, is pressing the United States and the Cairns countries still negotiating (Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) to accept the market access offer, as is.

Talking Points:

- The United States strongly supports Lithuania's WTO accession and we look forward to welcoming you as a new member at the earliest possible time.
- I understand that the most difficult sticking point in negotiations now is agricultural tariffs and support. The United States is a major agricultural exporter and, as you can imagine, this is a very sensitive area for us as well as for you.
- Frankly, your offer in March was a disappointment to us. It would increase tariffs over your previous offer and its provisions on agricultural supports still do not appear to conform to WTO requirements. This is a problem not only for the U.S. but for others.
- In particular, we understand that Lithuania has major agricultural issues outstanding with the other Cairns Group states. You will need to resolve these issues with those countries—we cannot ^{do} it for you.
- We remain committed to working with your delegation to resolve outstanding market access and protocol issues. We want Lithuania to become a member and fully participate in shaping the WTO rules and norms that emerge from the new negotiations just started.
- If this is to happen, it is essential that your Government fully support completion of these negotiations. Your negotiating team needs political-level support to be creative and flexible, bearing in mind that the purpose of the WTO accession is to reduce market access barriers and integrate countries' trade regimes into the existing system.