

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Lithuania [1]

Staff Office-Individual:

European Affairs-Norland, Richard

Original OA/ID Number:

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	White House Situation Room to Antony Blinken et al. re: Continuity in Lithuanian Foreign Policy (6 pages)	09/28/2000	P1/b(1) K8H 11/20/2023
002. memo	re: Lithuania (2 pages) <i>Partial release - K8H 11/20/2023</i>	09/06/2000	P1/b(1)
003. report	re: Lithuania: Centrist Coalition (1 page)	10/11/2000	P1/b(1) K8H 11/20/2023
004. fax	FBIS Facsimile [partial] (2 pages)	09/21/2000	P3/b(3), P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Richard Norland)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Lithuania [1]

2011-1038-F
kh1044

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]
P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)



From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2000 2:55 AM
To: Binnendijk, Johannes A. (Hans) (DEFENSE); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Greenwood, Thomas C. (SEE); Miller, Laurel E. (SEE); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LITHUANIAN DIPLOMAT TO SPEARHEAD NATO ENTRY BID
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BINNENDIJK BLINKEN BOLAN DAVIDSON GREENWOOD MILLER NORLAND YEE
Identifier: R14eed20
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 11/17/2000 03:54:27 ET

a0422

^BC-LITHUANIA-NATO

^Lithuanian diplomat to spearhead NATO entry bid

VILNIUS, Nov 17 (Reuters) - Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus on Friday appointed diplomat Giedrius Cekuolis, 41, to coordinate the Baltic state's efforts to secure membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO). Lithuania hopes to secure an invitation to join the defence alliance -- one of its key foreign policy goals -- at the next NATO summit due in 2002.

"The president believes this appointment will consolidate Lithuania's diplomatic efforts in securing NATO membership," Adamkus's spokeswoman Violeta Gaizauskaite told Reuters.

Lithuania, together with neighbouring Baltic states Latvia and Estonia, were deeply disappointed by a NATO decision to exclude them from its expansion last year when former Warsaw Pact members Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary joined.

The three view NATO membership, vehemently opposed by Russia, as the best way of guaranteeing the independence they won from Moscow in 1991 after 50 years of Soviet occupation.

RB-- 11/17/00 03:39:46

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

News Release

November 9, 2000

Contact: Rolandas Kacinskas

Phone: (202) 234-5860 x 21

The new Lithuanian government takes office

Vilnius - On November 9, following last month's parliamentary elections and President's decree on the formation of the new government, Lithuanian Parliament gave a supportive vote for the program of the new coalition government, a move required to authorize the executive body to take office. The coalition government has been formed by center-right Liberal Union and center-left New Union (Social Liberals), led by Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas, Head of the Liberal Union.

Parliament voted 72-48 with 16 abstaining in favor of the new government program, allowing Lithuania's cabinet to take power. The cabinet was sworn in following the vote.

The pursuit of Lithuania's bid to finish European Union accession talks in 2002 and win an invitation to join NATO at the Alliance's next summit, along with the continuation of economic reforms and privatization, are top goals of the new government. The Lithuanian government aims to improve the country's investment climate by abolishing the corporate profit tax and replacing it with a tax on dividends. The government promised to cut the personal income tax rate to 24 percent from the present level of 34 percent. The new government pledged to maintain its strict fiscal policy and to keep the currency board to protect the Lithuanian national currency Litas, which has been pegged to the U.S. dollar since 1993.

Lithuania received a positive assessment on November 8 in the European Commission's latest progress report on EU enlargement. The report recognized Lithuania as "a functioning market economy".

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2000 11:20 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Bruns, Judson L. (Jay) (INTECON); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Duncan, John D. (INTECON); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Samans, Richard (INTECON); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTILAT); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: NEW LITHUANIA PM PROMISES TO CHOP DOWN "TAX JUNGLE"
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BOLAN BRUNS DAVIDSON DUNCAN MCLEAN NAPLAN NORLAND PATTEN SAMANS SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITHP WILCOX YEE
Identifier: R02f3250
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 11/03/2000 12:19:08 ET

a2619

^BC-LITHUANIA-GOVERNMENT (REFILE)

^New Lithuania PM promises to chop down "tax jungle"

By Andrius Vilkancas

VILNIUS, Nov 3 (Reuters) - Lithuania's incoming Prime Minister

Rolandas Paksas set out his government's programme on Friday, pledging to cut taxes that businesses say are choking investment and economic growth.

"The never-ending changes to our tax system...have led us to such a tax jungle where only the law of the jungle is valid," Paksas told parliament.

Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus formally approved Paksas's cabinet on Monday after his Liberal Union party took second place in an October 8 general election and formed a minority coalition with the centre-left New Union.

He must win parliament's approval for his programme of liberalisation and modernisation in the former Soviet country before taking office. A vote is expected next Thursday.

Paksas will have to spur an economy which, he says, is overburdened with taxes. "When if not now must private initiative, suppressed for so many years, recover its strength and self-confidence," he said.

Paksas plans to cut income tax gradually to 24 percent from 29 percent, eliminate a 24 percent corporate tax in favour of a tax on dividends and scrap capital gains tax.

He said he would simplify the tax system and stop officials from constantly tinkering with tax legislation -- a key wish of investors.

PAKSAS ALSO TARGETS "INFORMATION SOCIETY"

Paksas also promised to pull Lithuania into the digital age and continue reforms such as privatisation, which the European Union is expected to mention as a key area where work is needed in its annual progress report next week.

"The government programme is based on three priorities - education and the development of an information society, systematic structural, economic and social reforms, and seeking international integration," Paksas told parliament.

He said Lithuania must create a workforce able to compete in the world economy. For this he said he would invest 1.5 percent of gross domestic product in education and extra funds into creating an "information society."

"Our country has no natural resources. Our resources are

intellectual, industrious people," he told lawmakers.

However, 44-year-old Paksas, prime minister for five months in 1999 before stepping down over a controversial privatisation, will be in for a rough ride.

With only 67 of parliament's 141 seats, he will be under pressure to raise spending for swing groups whose votes he needs -- which could threaten plans to reduce the budget deficit.

He has already promised higher agricultural spending, a nod to the Farmers Union faction whose support is seen as crucial in next week's vote on his programme.

He has promised a comprehensive reform of Lithuania's inefficient agricultural sector, but further concessions could undermine his credibility, opposition parties say.

"A major task for this government will be to prove that it is a pro-reform government," said outgoing Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius.

RB-- 11/03/00 12:17:25

STATE

Washfax Receipt
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
4

15:24

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2000 NOV -2 P 3:25

NOV '00

Message No.: 030795

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

No. Pages: 2

From: Robert O. Blake
(Officer Name)S/S
(Office Symbol)202-647-5302
(Extension)7224
(Room number)

Message Description: Cable to VILNIUS: PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATION

TO PM PAKSAS

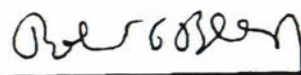
To (Agency):	Deliver To:	Extension	Room No.
NSCS	Robert A. Bradtke Executive Secretariat	456-9461	WHSITRM
	BLINKEN		
	NORLAND		

MUST GO ☐NON-MUST GO ☐

Remarks: Please Clear by: COB November 3.

NSC POC: _____

S/S Officer:



Robert O. Blake

CROSSHATCH

ORIGINAL

11/2

APPR:	DSH	.DH	DB
DRAFT:	ALS	.AS	
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CLR 2:	KTO	.KT	
CLR 3:	LLT	.LT	
CLR 4:	BDH	.BH	BH
CLR 5:	NSC		
CLR 6:	SS		SSO

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EUR/NB:DEGRAZE S/CPR:KTOWNSEND P:LLTEPPER
S/S-CR:BDHORTON NSCS: S/S-O:
S/S:

IMMEDIATE VILNIUS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC (PAKSAS, ROLANDAS), LH

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATION TO PM PAKSAS

1. (U) Please pass the following message to Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas at the earliest appropriate time. The White House does not plan to release the text of the message but has no objection if the Government of Lithuania wishes to do so. There will be no signed original.

2. Begin text:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

On behalf of the American people, I congratulate you as you take the post as Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania.

Under the U.S.-Baltic Charter during the past year, Lithuania has done much to promote our already excellent bilateral ties. Lithuania has led the way in the region in promoting good neighborly relations, and has made remarkable progress in building its own democratic institutions, lowering barriers to trade, and helping create a spirit of common security in Europe. We also

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welcome the "Vilnius Statement" of last spring as a
visionary declaration emblematic of this inclusive spirit.

We remain committed to ^{NATO's} the Open Door and to helping create
the conditions for Lithuania to cross the threshold. We
look forward to working closely with you in pursuit of
these common goals.

Sincerely,
William J. Clinton
End text.
YY

into full integration with the Alliance
and with European and transatlantic
institutions.

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LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

10/30/2000

Mr. Richard Norland
Director
NSC

Dear Dick,
Mr. Paksas has been
appointed the Prime Minister
of Lithuania on October 27,
2000.

Sincerely, Gary

- LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT GIVES FINAL APPROVAL OF NEW PRIME MINISTER

VILNIUS, Oct 27, BNS - Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus signed a decree on Friday appointing Rolandas Paksas to the post of Lithuania's prime minister.

The Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] gave its approval last Thursday.

In line with the constitution, the prime minister is appointed and released by the country's president on the approval of the Seimas.

The president has authorized the new prime minister to form the new cabinet of ministers in 15 days and to present the list of ministers for the president's approval. Ministers in Lithuania are appointed and released by the president of the country on the prime minister's recommendation.

The prime minister will also have to draw up the government's programme in 15 days and to present it to the parliament for approval.

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

News Release

October 31, 2000

Contact: Rolandas Kacinskas

Phone: (202) 234-5860 x 21

President approves the new Government of Lithuania

Vilnius - On October 30, having regard to the recommendations of Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas, President Valdas Adamkus approved by a decree the new government of the Republic of Lithuania of the following composition:

Gintautas Bartkus -	Minister of Justice
Vilija Blinkeviciute -	Minister of Social Security and Labor
Vinsas Janusonis -	Minister of Health
Gintautas Kevisas -	Minister of Culture
Kestutis Kristinaitis -	Minister of Agriculture
Linas Linkevicius -	Minister of National Defense
Jonas Lionginas -	Minister of Finance
Eugenijus Maldeikis -	Minister of National Economy
Vytautas Markevicius -	Minister of the Interior
Algirdas Monkevicius -	Minister of Education and Science
Gintaras Striaukas -	Minister of Transport
Antanas Valionis -	Minister of Foreign Affairs

The decree on the composition of the government enters force on the date of its signing. A new government will be empowered to act after the Seimas (Parliament) approves its program. It is expected that the government will present its program to the Seimas for consideration on November 3.

Minister of Environment is to be appointed in the nearest future, after President meets two candidates nominated for this position.

Ministers of the new coalition government are members or nominees of Liberal Union and New Union (Social Liberals) which signed a coalition agreement together with two other minor parties on the formation of the government after the parliamentary elections on October 8. The coalition named non-party members Antanas Valionis, Lithuania's ambassador to neighboring Poland, as Foreign Minister and Linas Linkevicius, Lithuania's ambassador to NATO, as Defense Minister.

On October 26, newly elected Seimas adopted a resolution on continuation of the country's foreign policy. Resolution reads as follows: "International policy will be continued according to the priorities corresponding to Lithuanian Constitution and laws and defined by the President, in order to achieve invitation by 2002 to the North Atlantic Alliance - NATO - and EU membership in 2004, as well as developing good relations with all neighboring states".



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Handwritten notes:
per steps, until Paksas
sworn in w/
new cabinet
Hold
also
Paksas note

10-25-2000

Mr. Richard Norland
Director
National Security Council

Sick

Dear Mr. Norland,

I have the privilege to inform you that **Mr. Rolandas Paksas**, Chairman of the Lithuanian Liberal Union was confirmed today by the Parliament as the new Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania. According to the Lithuanian Constitution, Prime Minister Paksas within 15 days has to submit to the Parliament for approval the new Cabinet and the governmental program.

Please find attached the news information on the Prime Minister's confirmation.

Sincerely,

Stasys P.

Stasys Sakalauskas
Ambassador

REUTER 2000.10.26 12:23:20

LITHUANIA-GOVERNMENT-PAKSAS URGENT

Lithuanian parlt approves Paksas PM nomination
VILNIUS, Oct 26 (Reuters) - Lithuania's parliament approved the nomination of Vilnius Mayor Rolandas Paksas as prime minister on Thursday, leaving him two weeks to form a cabinet to submit along with his programme for a final vote by lawmakers.

Paksas, 44, held the post for five months in 1999. He stepped down in protest over a controversial oil sector privatisation deal, left the now outgoing ruling Homeland Union party and currently leads the laissez faire Liberal Union.

Boosted by Paksas, the Liberals placed second in an October 8 general election, gaining 34 of parliament's 141 seats, and formed a minority coalition with new Parliament Speaker Arturas Paulauskas's New Union, which has 29 seats.

Parliament approved his nomination, made by President Valdas Adamkus on Monday, in a 79-51 vote with seven abstaining, Paulauskas told the chamber. Only 137 of parliament's members took part in the vote.

Paksas is expected to push a pro-business programme of tax cuts, streamlining government and European Union and NATO integration, although his minority status will limit his room to manoeuvre. He told parliament he expects to finalise his cabinet and programme as early as next week.

REUTERS

1328 261000

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2000 10:54 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Cables; Crawford, Bernard T. (RECORDS); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Greenwood, Thomas C. (SEE); Kass, Nicholas S. (EUR); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Munter, Cameron P. (EUR); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTI); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: DEPUTY SECRETARY EIZENSTAT'S MEETINGS AT VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON HOLOCAUST ERA LOOTED CULTURAL ASSETS

ActionAddrees: RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2300

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 181415Z OCT 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BLINKEN NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON GREENWOOD KASS
MCLEAN
MUNTER NAPLAN NORLAND PATTEN SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITHP WILCOX YEE

Identifier: M4684863
InfoAddrees: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
Line1: OAAUZYUW RUEHVL2941 2921415-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 181415Z OCT 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Originator: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BABBITTJ
BANBURYA
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CRAWFORB
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StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHVL
StationSerialNumber: 2941
TimeOfReceipt: 10/18/2000 10:53:16 ET

UNCLAS VILNIUS 002941

TREASURY FOR OFFICE OF DEPSEC - HMOORE
DEPT FOR: EUR/NB, EUR/OHI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KNAR, PREL, RU, FR, IS, LH

SUBJECT: DEPUTY SECRETARY EIZENSTAT'S MEETINGS AT VILNIUS
INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON HOLOCAUST ERA LOOTED CULTURAL ASSETS

1. SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT

ACCORDINGLY.

2. (SBU) SUMMARY: TREASURY DEPUTY SECRETARY EIZENSTAT MET WITH THE FRENCH, ISRAELI, RUSSIAN AND LATVIAN DELEGATIONS ON THE MARGINS OF THE OCTOBER 3-5 VILNIUS FORUM ON HOLOCAUST ERA LOOTED CULTURAL ASSETS. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH FOCUSED ON GOF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MATTEOLI COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS, THE ONGOING WORK OF THE DRAI FOUNDATION, AND ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT BY PM JOSPIN OF THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT JEWISH CULTURE IN FRANCE. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION RAISED THE ISSUE OF FINAL DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED CULTURAL OBJECTS ONCE THEY ARE DETERMINED TO BE HEIRLESS. THE FOCUS OF THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION BILAT (BOTH GOR AND NGO REPS - REPORTED SEPTTEL) WAS ON UTILIZATION OF AN U.S. PRIVATE-SECTOR GRANT TO ACCESS AND CATALOGUE RUSSIAN ARCHIVES AND IDENTIFY POSSIBLE LOOTED JEWISH PROPERTY TO FULFILL A RUSSIAN COMMITMENT MADE AT THE 1998 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON HOLOCAUST-ERA ASSETS. THE LATVIAN DELEGATION PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATION ADDRESSING RESTITUTION FOR LOOTED AND OCCUPIED PROPERTY (BOTH NAZI AND SOVIET-ERA) AND DISPOSITION OF CLAIMS MADE UNDER THESE LAWS. THE FULL TEXT OF THE FORUM DECLARATION IS FOUND AT PARA 9. END SUMMARY.

FRENCH BILAT

3. (SBU) EIZENSTAT NOTED THE USG'S CLOSE AND ONGOING COOPERATION ON HOLOCAUST CULTURAL ASSETS WITH THE GOF DATING BACK TO THE DRAFTING OF THE WASHINGTON PRINCIPLES. FURTHER, HE HAD MET SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST WITH CHAIRMAN MATTEOLI AND ISSUED A STATEMENT COMMENDING THE MATTEOLI COMMISSION FOR THE RIGOR AND OBJECTIVITY OF ITS REPORT, AND THANKING PRESIDENT CHIRAC FOR ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION. EIZENSTAT ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE GOF'S INITIATIVE OF POSTING SEVERAL THOUSAND PIECES OF ART OF UNKNOWN PROVENANCE FROM UNCLAIMED WORKS RETURNED AFTER WORLD WAR II ON THE INTERNET - HOW MANY NEW CLAIMS HAD BEEN FILED? ALSO, HE ASKED WHAT THE GOF WOULD DO WITH CULTURAL ASSETS FOR WHICH NO HEIR WAS IDENTIFIED - WOULD THEY BE RETURNED TO MUSEUMS? HE NOTED THAT ALL GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE WERE STRUGGLING WITH THE QUESTION OF FINAL DISPOSITION OF "HEIRLESS" ART.

4. (SBU) THE FRENCH DELEGATION, LED BY STATE SECRETARY FOR CULTURE DUFFOUR, RESPONDED THAT THE INTERNET POSTINGS HAD NOT AS YET GENERATED ANY SPECIFIC CLAIMS. UNCLAIMED ART WOULD REMAIN IN PUBLIC COLLECTIONS. HOWEVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WASHINGTON PRINCIPLES THE WORKS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PANEL EXPLAINING THEIR UNCLAIMED STATUS. THE LOUVRE INTENDS TO OPEN A GALLERY DEDICATED TO DISPLAY OF UNCLAIMED ART. ALSO, SOME OF THE MAJOR WORKS WILL BE LOANED ON A ROTATING BASIS TO THE JERUSALEM MUSEUM.

5. (SBU) DUFFOUR INDICATED THAT PM JOSPIN WILL ANNOUNCE ON NOVEMBER 5 THE CREATION OF A FF2.8 BILLION FOUNDATION FOR SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS SUPPORTING JEWISH CULTURE IN FRANCE. HALF OF THE FF2.8 BILLION WERE BEING PROVIDED BY THE GOF WITH THE OTHER HALF COMING FROM

BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES. FOUNDATION PROJECTS COULD INCLUDE SUPPORT OF UNIVERSITY CHAIRS, YIDDISH THEATER, AND YIDDISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS. THE FOUNDATION WILL HAVE 25 BOARD MEMBERS - 10 FROM JEWISH/FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS, 8 FROM THE GOF, AND 7 "QUALIFIED" MEMBERS FROM VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS. DUFFOUR NOTED THE LAST CATEGORY WILL INCLUDE FOREIGN MEMBERS AND THAT AN U.S. AND ISRAELI PRESENCE WOULD BE WELCOMED. THE GOF HAS APPROACHED SIMONE WEILL TO ACT AS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION, BUT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE (DUFFOUR BELIEVES SHE WILL ACCEPT.)

6.(SBU) EIZENSTAT ASKED WHETHER THIS NEW FOUNDATION WILL ALSO INCLUDE FUNDS FOR REMUNERATION FOR PROPERTY LOSS AND SUFFERING. DUFFOUR INDICATED IT WOULD NOT. HE STATED THAT THE DRAI COMMISSION, WHICH CURRENTLY HAS 8,000 ACTIVE CLAIMS, WILL REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR HANDLING ALL REMUNERATION CASES FOR PROPERTY LOSS OR SUFFERING. THE COMMISSION, WHICH GIVES PRIORITY TO CLAIMS FROM AGED AND POOR CLAIMANTS, IS FUNDED ALSO BY THE GOF AND BANKS. BOTH THE GOF AND BANKS HAVE AGREED THAT ALL FINDINGS FOR REMUNERATION BY THE COMMISSION WILL BE BINDING. INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD FRENCH CITIZENSHIP DURING THE WAR AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BECOME CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR REMUNERATION.

ISRAELI BILAT

7. (SBU) THE ISRAELI DELEGATION, LED BY COLETTE AVITAL - CHAIR OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON RESTITUTION OF ASSETS OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, RAISED THE ISSUE OF INCLUSION IN THE FORUM DECLARATION OF LANGUAGE ADDRESSING FINAL DISPOSITION OF UNCLAIMED OR HEIRLESS ART. EIZENSTAT INDICATED THAT REACHING CONSENSUS ON DEFINITIVE LANGUAGE ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, GIVEN DIFFERING NATIONAL LEGAL TREATMENT OF UNCLAIMED OR HEIRLESS PROPERTY. AFTER FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS AMONG DELEGATION HEADS AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE LANGUAGE FOUND AT PARA 6 OF THE DECLARATION (SEE PARA 9 BELOW.)

LATVIAN BILAT

8. (SBU) LATVIAN JUSTICE MINISTER INGRIDA LABUCKA PROVIDED A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF GOL ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF PROPERTY COMPENSATION FROM THE NAZI AND SOVIET OCCUPATIONS. LABUCKA INDICATED THAT LATVIAN LAW ALLOWED INDIVIDUALS WHO HELD LATVIAN CITIZENSHIP DURING THE WAR, BUT HAD TAKEN OTHER CITIZENSHIP SINCE THEN, TO FILE FOR COMPENSATION FOR PROPERTY LOSS AND SUFFERING. UNDER THIS LAW TEN OF NINETEEN JEWISH COMMUNAL CLAIMS (SYNAGOGUES, SCHOOLS) HAD ALREADY BEEN SETTLED. HOWEVER, THE LATVIAN DELEGATION INDICATED THAT NO CLAIMS FOR JEWISH LOOTED ART HAD AS YET BEEN FILED. THEY ALSO NOTED THAT A HOLOCAUST EXPERTS CONFERENCE WAS BEING ORGANIZED IN RIGA FOR OCTOBER 16-17 OF THIS YEAR. EIZENSTAT COMMENDED THE LATVIANS FOR ALLOWING FORMER CITIZENS TO FILE CLAIMS UNDER THEIR LAW, AN IMPORTANT LEGAL PROVISION NOT ADDRESSED IN A MAJORITY OF OTHER

FORUM DECLARATION

9. FORUM DECLARATION TEXT:
(UNCLASSIFIED IN TOTAL)

RECOGNIZING THE MASSIVE AND UNPRECEDENTED LOOTING AND CONFISCATIONS OF ART AND OTHER CULTURAL PROPERTY OWNED BY JEWISH INDIVIDUALS, COMMUNITIES AND OTHERS, AND THE NEED TO REACH JUST AND FAIR SOLUTIONS TO THE RETURN OF SUCH ART AND CULTURAL PROPERTY,

REFERRING TO RESOLUTION 1205 OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PRINCIPLES ON NAZI-CONFISCATED ART,

NOTING IN PARTICULAR THEIR EMPHASIS ON REACHING JUST AND FAIR SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES INVOLVING RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL ASSETS LOOTED DURING THE HOLOCAUST ERA AND THE FACT THAT SUCH SOLUTIONS MAY VARY ACCORDING TO THE DIFFERING LEGAL SYSTEMS AMONG COUNTRIES AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A SPECIFIC CASE,

MAKES THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION:

(1) THE VILNIUS FORUM ASKS ALL GOVERNMENTS TO UNDERTAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THE RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL ASSETS LOOTED DURING THE HOLOCAUST ERA TO THE ORIGINAL OWNERS OR THEIR HEIRS. TO THIS END, IT ENCOURAGES ALL PARTICIPATING STATES TO TAKE ALL REASONABLE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE PRINCIPLES ON NAZI-CONFISCATED ART AS WELL AS RESOLUTION 1205 OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.

(2) IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THIS, THE VILNIUS FORUM ASKS GOVERNMENTS, MUSEUMS, THE ART TRADE AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION NECESSARY TO SUCH RESTITUTION. THIS WILL INCLUDE THE IDENTIFICATION OF LOOTED ASSETS; THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROVISION OF ACCESS TO ARCHIVES, PUBLIC AND COMMERCIAL; AND THE PROVISION OF ALL DATA ON CLAIMS FROM THE HOLOCAUST ERA UNTIL TODAY. GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER BODIES AS MENTIONED ABOVE ARE ASKED TO MAKE SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITES AND FURTHER TO COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHING HYPERLINKS TO A CENTRALIZED WEBSITE IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE. THE FORUM FURTHER ENCOURAGES GOVERNMENTS, MUSEUMS, THE ART TRADE AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO COOPERATE AND SHARE INFORMATION TO ENSURE THAT ARCHIVES REMAIN OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE AND OPERATE IN AS TRANSPARENT A MANNER AS POSSIBLE.

(3) IN ORDER TO FURTHER FACILITATE THE JUST AND FAIR RESOLUTION OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED ISSUES, THE VILNIUS FORUM ASKS EACH GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN OR ESTABLISH A CENTRAL REFERENCE AND POINT OF INQUIRY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND HELP ON ANY QUERY REGARDING LOOTED CULTURAL ASSETS, ARCHIVES AND CLAIMS IN EACH COUNTRY.

(4) RECOGNIZING THE NAZI EFFORT TO EXTERMINATE THE

JEWISH PEOPLE, INCLUDING THE EFFORT TO ERADICATE THE JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE, THE VILNIUS FORUM RECOGNIZES THE URGENT NEED TO WORK ON WAYS TO ACHIEVE A JUST AND FAIR SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF NAZI-LOOTED ART AND CULTURAL PROPERTY WHERE OWNERS, OR HEIRS OF FORMER JEWISH OWNERS, INDIVIDUALS OR LEGAL PERSONS, CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED; RECOGNIZES THAT THERE IS NO UNIVERSAL MODEL FOR THIS ISSUE; AND RECOGNIZES THE PREVIOUS JEWISH OWNERSHIP OF SUCH CULTURAL ASSETS.

(5) THE VILNIUS FORUM PROPOSES TO GOVERNMENTS THAT PERIODICAL INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETINGS ARE HELD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASHINGTON PRINCIPLES, THE RESOLUTION 1205 OF THE PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE VILNIUS DECLARATION. THESE MEETINGS SHOULD ALSO SERVE TO ADDRESS OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND PROBLEMS AND DEVELOP, FOR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER, POSSIBLE REMEDIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES AND INSTRUMENTS.

(6) THE VILNIUS FORUM WELCOMES THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY COUNTRIES TO TAKE THE MEASURES NECESSARY, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN LAWS, TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION AND RESTITUTION OF CULTURAL ASSETS LOOTED DURING THE HOLOCAUST ERA AND THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES.

END TEXT.

10. (SBU) PLEASE NOTE: EMBASSY VILNIUS PROVIDED THE ABOVE TEXT FOR CLEARANCE BY O-I. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS NOT ABLE TO CLEAR THIS TEXT. AMBASSADOR BINDENAGEL HAS CLEARED. WE ARE SENDING IT AS IS PER INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT.
TEFFT

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

October 17, 2000

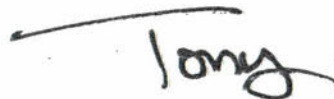
Dear Stasys:

Thank you for your recent letters. I share your assessment that the Vilnius Forum on Holocaust Era Looted Cultural Assets was a success. Deputy Secretary Eizenstat was impressed with arrangements for the Forum, and said he believes it will contribute significantly to efforts to address this important issue, which has dragged on for too long. Lithuania's determination to pursue this and other issues stemming from the Holocaust, including convictions of Nazi war criminals, is deeply appreciated.

In your letter of September 25, you expressed concern about funding for FMF and IMET. As you rightly noted, the Administration firmly supports continued FMF and IMET funding for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Congress voted to use FY 2001 funds foreseen for FMF and IMET for other purposes. Nonetheless, we are optimistic that the FMF and IMET funding for Central and Eastern European countries will be restored in the final FY 2001 allocation. We agree with you, and with your fellow ambassadors from the region, that FMF and IMET funding is a high priority.

Thank you for your dynamic leadership in developing the increasingly broad and full agenda of U.S.-Lithuanian relations. I look forward to active engagement with the new Government in Lithuania once it takes office, and to continuing our close cooperation on issues of mutual interest.

Sincerely,



Antony Blinken
Special Assistant to the President
and Senior Director for European
Affairs

His Excellency
Stasys Sakalauskas
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania
2622 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 6, 2000

Mr. Antony J. Blinken
Special Assistant to the President
National Security Council
Old Executive Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Blinken :

I thought you might be interested in learning about the Vilnius Forum on Holocaust Era Looted Cultural Assets that has successfully ended with the adoption of Vilnius Declaration on restoration of Jewish cultural values.

As you probably know, on the 3 - 5 October, 2000, Lithuania hosted a major International event that followed the work of the 1997 London Conference on Nazi Gold, the 1998 Washington Conference on Holocaust - Era Assets, and the more recent Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust Education. The Forum was held under the auspices of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, Andrius Kubilius and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer, and it was attended by delegations of more than 40 countries and 17 non-governmental organizations.

I hereby have a pleasure to forward to you the text of Declaration. Please find also enclosed some other material, related to the work of the Vilnius Forum.

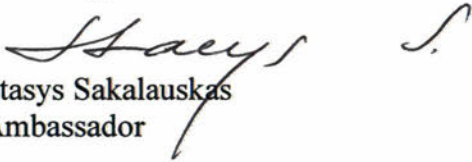
I am especially glad to inform you that wishing to contribute to the historical justice and restitution of cultural heritage, Lithuania passed a law on October 3, providing for the conditions to return holy Jewish writings – Torahs - to the ownership of the Jewish people. Enclosed is information on that too.

Among other issues, the Vilnius Forum discussed the tragic pages of Lithuanian Jewish history. The seminar, organized by the International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania in collaboration with Vilnius International Relations Institute and Lithuanian Academy of Science, was

attended by the participants of the Vilnius Forum, historians, politicians, Lithuanian Genocide and Resistance Research Center, and Prosecutor's General Office. Lithuanian historians called the period discussed in this seminar the darkest pages of the Lithuania history. With this regard, I would like to forward to your attention Prosecutor's General office statement of September 27, 2000 which stresses that A.Lileikis was not the only suspect on the prosecutor's list of indicated war criminals, and the efforts to seek historical justice will be continued.

With all this in mind, let me reiterate my respect to you and your sincere interest in my country. Wishing you all the best,

Sincerely,


Stasys Sakalauskas
Ambassador

2000 04 10; 18.00

SUMMARY OF THE SPEECH BY MR. ANDRIUS KUBILIUS, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, DELIVERED AT THE OPENING; OF THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON HOLOCAUST-ERA LOOTED CULTURAL ASSETS

Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania Mr. Andrius Kubilius addressed the participants of the Vilnius Forum by remembering the painful period of the Jewish history, which befell on the Lithuanian Jews, too. "This is a painful and difficult topic. The Lithuanian public is becoming more and more conscious of the tragedy of Lithuanian Jews as, first and foremost, the tragedy of entire Lithuania. I am convinced that this understanding will become an axiom of the modern life in Lithuania", said Mr. Kubilius.

The Head of the Government expressed his wish that people should not only seek, and find, an answer to the question "why some Lithuanians took part in the Holocaust initiated by Nazis, but also should try to compensate the moral and material damage inflicted on the Jewish people. Lithuania should provide no space for anti-Semitism".

"In the light of immortal spiritual strength of Litvaks, the organization of the Forum to debate on the identification, stock-taking and restitution of cultural assets owned or created by Holocaust victims in Vilnius is symbolic indeed. On the other hand, this is a recognition of Lithuania's policy on the restitution of Jewish cultural heritage."

Mr. Kubilius reminded the audience that decisions pertaining to the tidying-up of neglected Jewish cemeteries, maintenance of the sites of Jewish national tragedy or lost cultural assets were among the first pieces of legislation passed by independent Lithuania.

To solve the numerous questions concerning the Holocaust in Lithuania, the President of the Republic set up an International Commission for the Evaluation of the Crimes of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania a couple of years ago. Mr. Kubilius maintained that in his opinion, it is not only the outcome of the trials of persons charged with genocide, but also the

historical and moral evaluation of the persecution and annihilation of Lithuanian citizens perpetrated by Nazi and Soviet occupations are important for the reestablishment of the historical justice. This is the task assigned to the Commission.

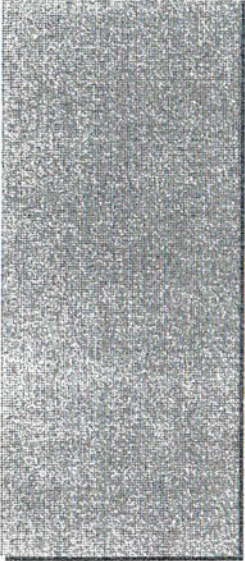
According to the Prime Minister, the people of Lithuania must know facts about the old culture of Lithuanian Jews that has always been an indivisible part of the Lithuanian culture. "Quite recently, I suggested that Lithuania hold a separate Forum on Holocaust aimed at the general public. Today, we have already finalized a national Programme for the Teaching of Holocaust which has been evaluated very highly at the international level. Its purpose is to teach, to educate our young people", said Mr. Kubilius. "Holocaust issues were placed on the education programmes, lectures on this topic are given in the Army, NGOs joined the educational activities".

Mr. Kubilius appealed to the participants of the Forum and the international community in the hope of attracting all kinds of their support to these efforts.

"Dear participants of the Forum", said Mr. Kubilius, recalling the fact that "in the years of Soviet and Nazi occupations, Lithuania was devastated and destroyed as a state. The Soviet and Nazi occupations destroyed most of the Lithuanian national property, completely confused property relations, and Lithuanian Jews lost everything in the years of Holocaust. Since the very restoration of independence, we have attempted to settle the sensitive issues of restitution", said Mr. Kubilius. "Several important laws were passed which entitle Lithuanian citizens, who are not permanent residents of the Republic of Lithuania, to have their ownership rights to the remaining immovable property restored. The property which cannot be restored in kind, is compensated in cash."

According to Mr. Kubilius, Lithuania itself has received no compensation for the damage suffered during the occupations, however, the Government of Lithuania, constantly working towards historical justice, is ready to continue the dialogue with global Jewish organizations, in search of mutually acceptable new ways to reconstitute the property owned by Lithuanian Jews or compensate for it.

"The restitution and fostering of the Jewish cultural heritage is the best possible monument to the victims who endured the most dreadful Holocaust atrocities. With due respect to Jewish religious feelings and wishing to contribute to the historical justice, we have passed a law providing for the conditions to return holy Jewish writings to the ownership of the Jewish people, first of all, the community of Litvaks", said Mr. Kubilius. "Yesterday, the Seimas adopted a separate law on this issue. Now, it is time for us to make next step: upon the proposal of the Lithuanian Jewish Community, we have to set up an international expert commission to take the stock of the torahs



stored in our National Library and carry out their high-quality analysis".

In the conclusion of his speech, Mr Kubilius thanked all the participants of the Forum for their arrival and expressed a hope that the Vilnius Forum will go down into history alongside the London Conference (1997), the Washington Forum (1998) and the Stockholm Forum (1999) as "an event which enabled us to recover from oblivion the unknown facts of Holocaust tragedy and as one more step towards the historical justice".

[Press releases | Latest news]



Last modified: Wednesday, October 4, 2000

LT AAK Jewish Torahs Handover

Seimas demonstrates goodwill in handover of Jewish religious books

Vilnius, Oct 3 (ELTA) - A bill was passed in Lithuanian Seimas Tuesday to outline a procedure for handover of Jewish Torahs, currently stored in state depositories, to either Jewish communities or societies.

This document demonstrated the goodwill of Lithuania which "realises importance of Torahs for the Jewish religious and cultural tradition".

It reads that upon request of Jewish religious communities or societies the Torahs deposited in National Mazvydas Library may be handed over to their ownership gratuitously. However, Torahs of particular significance for Lithuania's cultural heritage shall not be granted to the Jewish communities based in foreign countries.

The criteria for selection of Torahs subject to handover and a list thereof will be approved by the Cabinet as recommended by the ministry of culture and Jewish community.

The bill on Torahs handover binds the national government to endorse the aforesaid procedure and list by December 15, 2000. END.

LT AAK Jews Torahs Handover Comments

Lithuanian MP views Torah handover as goodwill gesture by Seimas

Vilnius, Oct 3 (ELTA) - Shortly after passage of important bill on handover of Jewish religious Torah scrolls to the Jews communities from state depositories on Tuesday, Chairman of Seimas cultural committee Zibartas Jackunas commented that thus Lithuanian parliament paid "proper homage to these cultural values".

"This means a goodwill gesture of Lithuania made in pursuit of expanding good political and cultural links with the Jewish communities based in Lithuania and worldwide," Jackunas told ELTA.

The bill provides for gratuitous handover of Torahs from National Martynas Mazvydas Library to Jewish religious communities or societies upon their request. However, the Torah scrolls considered as of crucial value for Lithuania's cultural heritage shall not be given to the communities based abroad.

The chairman of cultural committee stated that up to now taking of Torahs from the country had been permitted only in two cases – in exchange for some other cultural value important for Lithuania or in the event the country was bound by international law to give back the values which had been seized and brought here illegally.

"Now the parliament established the third option of handing over Torahs by adopting a bill -- when governmental resolution permits this," Jackunas added.

The Cabinet will have to draft selection criteria and a list of Torahs subject to handover by December 15.

Jackunas also affirmed that Torah scrolls, except for those which had been granted to local synagogues, were stored in Mazvydas Library, all in all 370 scrolls, but number of those which can be used at religious ritual without restoration was put at merely 40. END.

PRESS RELEASE

Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania

September 27, 2000

Prosecutor General's Office pays much attention to the investigation of genocide and war crimes and seeks that all Nazi criminals carried criminal liability and were sentenced. Amendments to the Criminal Process Code and the Criminal Code, as well as additions to the laws of the Republic of Lithuania adopted by the Seimas provide for implementing the above mentioned objectives. According to the adopted amendment and addition of the Criminal Process Code court proceedings of cases may take place without the presence of defendants in the court if persons charged with genocide and war crimes are incapable of attending court proceedings due to their poor health. Prosecutor General's Office of Lithuania has initiated and is investigating 91 criminal cases of genocide and war crimes. 15 criminal cases were transferred to the court including the criminal case of Aleksandras Lileikis (born 1907). Prosecutor General's Office claims that enough evidence was collected in Lileikis' case to prove that he was guilty of committing genocide during the Nazi regime. The Seimas, the Government and the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania did everything to make Lileikis face the trial. However, before the Vilnius district court adopted the decision, defendant Lileikis passed away in the department of cardiac reanimation of Vilnius University Hospital on September 26, 2000. The death was caused by heart attack, endema of lungs, cardiac shock, sudden insufficiency of kidney functions, growing more acute of obstructive bronchitis.

General Prosecutor's Office has expressed regret that the important decision to carry out the historic justice has not been adopted in this case because of the disease and death of the defendant.

Lileikis is not the only suspect on the Prosecutor General's Office list of indicted war criminals. The efforts to seek historic justice will be continued, as genocide and war crimes do not have a prescription period. The Republic of Lithuania, Prosecutor General's Office of Lithuania carrying out the laws of the state and adhering consistently to international obligations will closely cooperate with legal institutions of foreign countries so that the suspects of genocide and war crimes would face the trial.

Vilnius International Forum

★ on Holocaust Era Looted Cultural Assets

Vilnius, 3 - 5 October, 2000

[Invitation | Presentations and theses | Greetings to the Forum | Presentations from workshops | Declaration | Concluding presentation | Documents, related to the looted jewish cultural assets]

VILNIUS FORUM DECLARATION

The Vilnius Forum,

Recognizing the massive and unprecedented looting and confiscations of art and other cultural property owned by Jewish individuals, communities and others, and the need to reach just and fair solutions to the return of such art and cultural property,

Referring to Resolution 1205 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art,

Noting in particular their emphasis on reaching just and fair solutions to issues involving restitution of cultural assets looted during the Holocaust era and the fact that such solutions may vary according to the differing legal systems among countries and the circumstances surrounding a specific case,

Makes the following declaration:

1. The Vilnius Forum asks all governments to undertake every reasonable effort to achieve the restitution of cultural assets looted during the Holocaust era to the original owners or their heirs. To this end, it encourages all participating States to take all reasonable measures to implement the Washington Conference Principles on Nazi-Confiscated Art as well as Resolution 1205 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.
2. In order to achieve this, the Vilnius Forum asks governments, museums, the art trade and other relevant agencies to provide all information necessary to such restitution. This will include the identification of looted assets; the identification and provision of access to archives, public and commercial; and the provision of all data on claims from the Holocaust era until today. Governments and other bodies as mentioned above are asked to make such information available on publicly accessible websites and further to co-operate in establishing hyperlinks to a centralized website in association with the Council of Europe. The Forum further encourages governments, museums, the art trade and other relevant agencies to co-operate and share information to ensure that archives remain open and accessible

and operate in as transparent a manner as possible.

3. In order further to facilitate the just and fair resolution of the above mentioned issues, the Vilnius Forum asks each government to maintain or establish a central reference and point of inquiry to provide information and help on any query regarding looted cultural assets, archives and claims in each country.
4. Recognizing the Nazi effort to exterminate the Jewish people, including the effort to eradicate the Jewish cultural heritage, the Vilnius Forum recognizes the urgent need to work on ways to achieve a just and fair solution to the issue of Nazi-looted art and cultural property where owners, or heirs of former Jewish owners, individuals or legal persons, cannot be identified; recognizes that there is no universal model for this issue; and recognizes the previous Jewish ownership of such cultural assets,
5. The Vilnius Forum proposes to governments that periodical international expert meetings are held to exchange views and experiences on the implementation of the Washington Principles, the Resolution 1205 of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Vilnius Declaration. These meetings should also serve to address outstanding issues and problems and develop, for governments to consider, possible remedies within the framework of existing national and international structures and instruments.
6. The Vilnius Forum welcomes the progress being made by countries to take the measures necessary, within the context of their own laws, to assist in the identification and restitution of cultural assets looted during the Holocaust era and the resolution of outstanding issues.

[Invitation | Presentations and theses | Greetings to the Forum | Presentations from workshops | Declaration | Concluding presentation | Documents, related to the looted jewish cultural assets]



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 25, 2000

Mr. Anothony Blinken
Special Assistant to the President
Senior Director for European Affairs
National Security Council
Fax: (202) 456-9150

*Cameron -
We should do
a reply.*

Dear Tony,

I want to bring to your attention a copy of the letter from twelve Ambassadors of Central European countries to Senator Mitch McConnell regarding the funding for the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for the next year. Identical letters were also sent to Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Congressman Sonny Callahan and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. As we spoke earlier, I remain sure that the abolishment of the FMF program would have a negative impact on the development of the U.S. security-military relations with the Central and East European countries. Furthermore, I believe you will agree that such a step by the Congress will contradict the current policy of the U.S. Government.

I thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward for your continuous support and kindly ask you to use all possible means to help to correct this situation.

Sincerely,

Stasys Sakalauskas
Ambassador

Enclose: letter, 2 pages

September 19, 2000

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

Mr. Chairman, recently we were distressed to learn that on July 13, 2000 the House of Representatives while increasing the funding for the issue of international concern of debt relief adopted (Rollcall Vote No. 397) the amendment offered by Congresswoman Waters (Amendment No. 27), which uses the FY 2001 funds foreseen for the above mentioned FMF and IMET programs. We look to you for help in correcting this situation.

Accordingly, we request your intervention during the forthcoming Senate and House Appropriations Conference in restoring the FMF and IMET funding for the Central and Eastern European countries as originally reported in the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Committee. We think these funds and the message they convey are critical as we enter the new millennium.

September 19, 2000

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause of full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

Mr. Senator, recently we were distressed to learn that on July 13, 2000 the House of Representatives while increasing the funding for the issue of international concern of debt relief adopted (Rollcall Vote No. 397) the amendment offered by Congresswoman Waters (Amendment No. 27), which uses the FY 2001 funds foreseen for the above mentioned FMF and IMET programs. We look to you for help in correcting this situation.

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September 19, 2000

The Honorable Sonny Callahan
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Export Financing and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause of full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

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September 19, 2000

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Export Financing and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

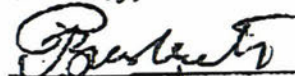
We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of leading officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause of full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

Madam Congresswoman, recently we were distressed to learn that on July 13, 2000 the House of Representatives while increasing the funding for the issue of international concern of debt relief adopted (Rollcall Vote No. 397) the amendment offered by Congresswoman Waters (Amendment No. 27), which uses the FY 2001 funds foreseen for the above mentioned FMF and IMET programs. We look to you for help in correcting this situation.

Accordingly, we request your intervention during the forthcoming Senate and House Appropriations Conference in restoring the FMF and IMET funding for the Central and Eastern European countries as originally reported in the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Committee. We think these funds and the message they convey are critical as we enter the new millennium.

We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important matter.
We commend you for all you have done and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,



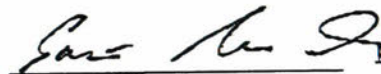
Mr. Petrit Bushati

Ambassador of Albania



Mr. Philip Dimitrov

Ambassador of Bulgaria



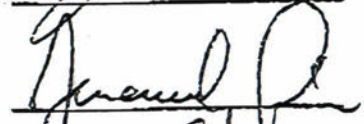
Mr. Alexandr Vondra

Ambassador of the
Czech Republic



Mr. Sven Jurgenson

Ambassador of Estonia



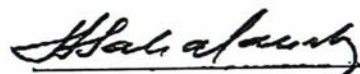
Mr. Geza Jeszenszky

Ambassador of Hungary



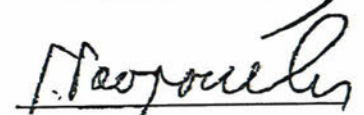
Mr. Aivis Ronis

Ambassador of Latvia



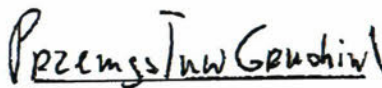
Mr. Stasys Sakalauskas

Ambassador of Lithuania



Mr. Goce Georgievski

Charge d'Affaires a.i.
of Macedonia



Mr. Przemyslaw Grudzinski

Ambassador of Poland



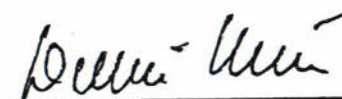
Mr. Mircea Dan Geoana

Ambassador of Romania



Mr. Martin Butora

Ambassador of Slovakia



Mr. Davorin Kracun

Ambassador of Slovenia



LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

9/26
Tony, this letter was sent to
a number of people — I'll check
to see if State etc are answering.
September 25, 2000
we should answer in any case.
LEGISL tells me the money will
be restored.
Cameron
We should do say
a reply.
OK.
Let me know.

Mr. Anothony Blinken
Special Assistant to the President
Senior Director for European Affairs
National Security Council
Fax: (202) 456-9150

Dear Tony,

I want to bring to your attention a copy of the letter from twelve Ambassadors of Central European countries to Senator Mitch McConnell regarding the funding for the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for the next year. Identical letters were also sent to Senator Patrick J. Leahy, Congressman Sonny Callahan and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. As we spoke earlier, I remain sure that the abolishment of the FMF program would have a negative impact on the development of the U.S. security-military relations with the Central and East European countries. Furthermore, I believe you will agree that such a step by the Congress will contradict the current policy of the U.S. Government.

I thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We look forward for your continuous support and kindly ask you to use all possible means to help to correct this situation.

Sincerely,

Stasys Sakalauskas
Ambassador

Enclose: letter, 2 pages

September 19, 2000

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

Mr. Chairman, recently we were distressed to learn that on July 13, 2000 the House of Representatives while increasing the funding for the issue of international concern of debt relief adopted (Rollcall Vote No. 397) the amendment offered by Congresswoman Waters (Amendment No. 27), which uses the FY 2001 funds foreseen for the above mentioned FMF and IMET programs. We look to you for help in correcting this situation.

Accordingly, we request your intervention during the forthcoming Senate and House Appropriations Conference in restoring the FMF and IMET funding for the Central and Eastern European countries as originally reported in the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Committee. We think these funds and the message they convey are critical as we enter the new millennium.

September 19, 2000

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
 Ranking Member
 Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause of full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

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September 19, 2000

The Honorable Sonny Callahan
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Export Financing and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We, the Ambassadors of the Central and Eastern European countries, deeply appreciate your continuous support for the funding of the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) programs for our states. These programs have been of great value in our efforts to transform our military forces in a way that enables them to cooperate with NATO forces in times of peace and crises. Since it is an essential tool in furthering defense reforms, we believe that the training of senior officers who are key to these reforms is an investment of multiple returns. The programs substantially contribute to ensuring the long-term stability in our region and send a very positive and reassuring message throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the world of the commitment of the United States to the cause of full Euro-Atlantic integration of our countries.

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September 19, 2000

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations
Export Financing and Related Programs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pelosi:

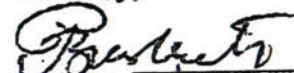
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Madam Congresswoman, recently we were distressed to learn that on July 13, 2000 the House of Representatives while increasing the funding for the issue of international concern of debt relief adopted (Rollcall Vote No. 397) the amendment offered by Congresswoman Waters (Amendment No. 27), which uses the FY 2001 funds foreseen for the above mentioned FMF and IMET programs. We look to you for help in correcting this situation.

Accordingly, we request your intervention during the forthcoming Senate and House Appropriations Conference in restoring the FMF and IMET funding for the Central and Eastern European countries as originally reported in the Senate Appropriations Foreign Operations Committee. We think these funds and the message they convey are critical as we enter the new millennium.

We thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this important matter.
We commend you for all you have done and look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,



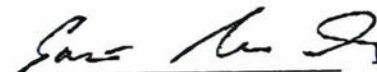
Mr. Petrit Bushati

Ambassador of Albania



Mr. Philip Dimitrov

Ambassador of Bulgaria



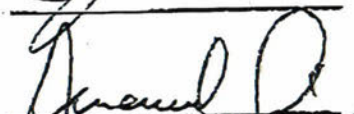
Mr. Alexandr Vondra

Ambassador of the
Czech Republic



Mr. Sven Jurgenson

Ambassador of Estonia



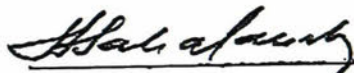
Mr. Geza Jeszenszky

Ambassador of Hungary



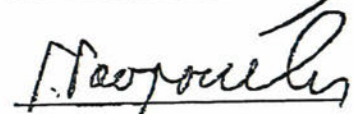
Mr. Aivis Ronis

Ambassador of Latvia



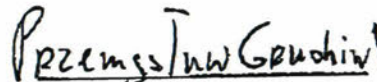
Mr. Stasys Sakalauskas

Ambassador of Lithuania



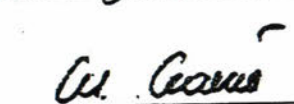
Mr. Goce Georgievski

Charge d'Affaires a.i.
of Macedonia



Mr. Przemyslaw Grudzinski

Ambassador of Poland



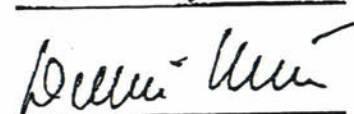
Mr. Mircea Dan Geoana

Ambassador of Romania



Mr. Martin Butora

Ambassador of Slovakia



Mr. Davorin Kracun

Ambassador of Slovenia

**LITHUANIA COMMEMORATES HOLOCAUST IN MEMORIAL CONCERT AT D.C.
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER -- AMBASSADOR STASYS SAKALAUSKAS
(Extension of Remarks - October 10, 2000)**

[Page: E1734] GPO's PDF

HON. TOM LANTOS

in the House of Representatives

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2000

- Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the Embassy of Lithuania here in Washington held a Memorial Concert honoring the victims of the Holocaust in Lithuania. The event here was held in connection with the government of Lithuania's designation of September 23 as a National Mourning Day for Holocaust Victims in Lithuania. That date was chosen, Mr. Speaker, because on September 23, 1943, all of the Jews remaining in the Vilnius ghetto were killed by the Nazi forces occupying Lithuania at that time.
- Because of the press of Congressional business, I was not able to attend the Memorial Concert, but my wife Annette was there and made remarks in my behalf. I want to recognize Ambassador Stasys Sakalauskas for hosting this important event here in Washington to remember the Holocaust victims in Lithuania, and I want to acknowledge the effort of the Lithuanian government for establishing this national day of mourning for Holocaust victims. In Lithuania, 95% of the pre-war Jewish community of approximately 220,000 perished in the Holocaust. In fact, some say that no other nation lost a larger percentage of its Jewish population. Before World War II, Vilnius--`the Jerusalem of the North'--was an impressive cultural and intellectual center of Jewish life. After the war, almost all Jews were gone and everything was destroyed.
- Mr. Speaker, my wife and I have been to Lithuania many times. Last January, we visited the beautiful forest at Panarai, where serenity and peace now stand in stark contrast to the unimaginable horrors that took place in that killing field during World War II. We also visited the KGB museum, where we laid a wreath at the memorial for the martyrs, not just as a protocol procedure or diplomatic gesture, but as a deeply felt tribute to the many men and women who gave their lives for freedom and independence. As Hungarian Holocaust survivors, we both have lived under Communist and Fascist governments, as well as democratic ones, so we both identify emotionally and personally with many of the triumphs and tragedies of Lithuania's national past.
- Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to report to my colleagues that Lithuania has made significant progress since its independence a decade ago in remembering and making restitution for the horrors of the Holocaust. I welcome the many positive steps that the government of Lithuania has taken.
- Mr. Speaker, at the Memorial Concert here in Washington D.C., just a few days ago,

Ambassador Sakalauskas made particularly appropriate remarks. I ask that his statement be place in the **Record**, and I urge my colleagues to give thoughtful attention to his comments and to the progress that Lithuania has made.

AMBASSADOR STASYS SAKALAUSKAS

Ladies and Gentlemen, first, I want to thank you all for joining us at this first joint event with the District of Columbia Jewish Community Center. I take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to the leadership of the Jewish Community Center for co-sponsoring this event. We are gathered here today for a very special, meaningful and sad occasion--the 23rd of September 1943, when the Vilnius Ghetto was liquidated in Nazi-occupied Lithuania. In Lithuania, this day is a national day for mourning, and since 1993, the 23rd of September is marked as Lithuania's national day for the commemoration of victims of the Holocaust.

The absolute majority of the 220,000 strong pre-war Jewish community--colorful, flourishing, full of joy and sorrows--vanished in Nazi-occupied Lithuania. It is shameful that the hands of local collaborators were marked with the blood of innocent children, elderly women and men--people killed because they were Jews. No words are enough to express the pain of the immeasurable loss, and we understand that. At the same time we pay our highest respect to those citizens, who despite the threat of death to themselves and their families saved their Jewish neighbors.

Emerging 10 years ago from the Soviet and Nazi occupations, Lithuania has gone through an awakening of consciousness and conscience. We, individually, and as a people, made mistakes. But the fact we recognize our mistakes and try to do everything to correct them is encouraging and shows our resolve to do better. We are committed to continue the investigation and prosecution of persons suspected in collaboration with Nazi Germany and participation in the mass murders of innocent people.

One accused war criminal died yesterday. We did a lot to bring Aleksandras Lileikis to justice, even resorting to amending the Lithuanian criminal code. He was already on trial, but, unfortunately, we were late to give him a verdict. Today the Office of the Prosecutor General of Lithuania has expressed its regret that due to the defendant's death the course of justice was obstructed. At the same time the Prosecutor strongly pledged to continue the work of bringing to justice other alleged war criminals.

We in Lithuania are committed to examine our history. The Lithuanian historical commission has a mandate from His Excellency Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania, to investigate what happened in Lithuania almost 60 years ago and make it public no matter how painful it is. We have to come to terms with our past. We will continue the discussion that went on for the last 50 years in most European countries and in the United States, but was missing in Lithuania due to the Soviet occupation.

Our future depends on providing all our children the truth, and knowledge of the most horrible crimes committed in the 20th century. Therefore, we are committed to continue our efforts towards Holocaust education, remembrance and research and to implement to the fullest possible extent the National Holocaust Education program, as a vehicle of preventing injustice, discrimination and extremism.

We will stay alert and recognize early signs of extremism and we will continue to combat racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism. We are committed to secure for the small remaining Lithuanian Jewish community all the possibilities to develop and cherish its ethnic culture, education, traditions. Lithuania must once again be built as an open society and a mature democracy where the people of different cultures and traditions would be always united by mutual sympathy, respect and understanding.

Next week Vilnius will host a major International Forum on Holocaust-era looted cultural assets.

We see the Vilnius Forum as another important step in paying tribute to the lost Jewish community. We cannot re-write our past. What we can do is to put forth every effort to make sure that horrors like those are never forgotten and never happen again on the Earth.

Now, I would like to ask everyone to stand up and honor those who perished with a minute of silence.

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AMBASADA
VAŠINGTONAS



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

News Release

October 16, 2000

Contact: Rolandas Kacinskas

Phone: (202) 234-5860 x 21

The results of the election to the Parliament

Washington, D.C - Yesterday, the Central Electoral Committee announced the official results of the general parliamentary election that took place in Lithuania on October 8. 141 members were elected to the Seimas (Parliament). The turnout at the election was 56.15 percent of all registered voters. 71 candidates were elected to the Seimas in single mandate constituencies and 70 candidates were elected proportionally according to a popular vote by party lists that had crossed a threshold of five percent. About 700 candidates have run for election in single mandate constituencies. The following are final results:

Political party	Proportional (pct)	(seats)	Individual (seats)	Total
Algirdas Brazauskas' Social Democratic Coalition	31.08	28	23	51
Liberal Union	17.25	16	18	34
New Union (Social Liberals)	19.64	18	11	29
Homeland Union (Lithuanian Conservatives)	8.62	8	1	9

The rest of the parties have won 4 or less seats.

The new Parliament will convene for its first sitting on October 19. In accordance with the Constitution, the President of Lithuania has to submit to the Seimas for consideration the candidature of a new Prime Minister within 15 days after the Seimas election. The new Prime Minister, within 15 days of being appointed, has to present the Government which he or she has formed and which has been approved by the President of the Republic to the Seimas and has to submit the program of its activities to the Seimas for consideration. A new Government will be empowered to act after the Seimas approves its program by majority vote of the Seimas members participating in the sitting.

The new cabinet is expected to be formed by the Liberal Union and New Union that signed a coalition agreement on October 12.

Valdas Adamkus, the President of Lithuania, has not yet nominated his candidate for the Prime Minister.

After consultations with the representatives of four leading parties of the new Seimas, the President stated that the goals of country's foreign policy - integration into the European Union and NATO - would remain unchanged.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2000 3:34 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Cables; Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: THE QUESTION OF CONTINUITY IN LITHUANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE OCTOBER 8 ELECTIONS

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2211
Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DateTime: 281450Z SEP 00
Distribution: SIT: Blinken NSC Davidson Norland
Identifier: M4650864
InfoAddres: RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
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Line2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
Line3: P 281450Z SEP 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Originator: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BLINKENA
CABLES
DAVIDSOL
NORLANDR
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHVL
StationSerialNumber: 2671
TimeOfReceipt: 09/28/2000 15:33:09 ET

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2016-0384-M (1.40)
K8H 4/23/2023

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 VILNIUS 002671

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2010
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, NATO, MARR, LH
SUBJECT: THE QUESTION OF CONTINUITY IN
LITHUANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE OCTOBER 8
ELECTIONS

REF: A) VILNIUS 2310; B) USNATO 1893

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JOHN F. TEFFT, REASONS
1.5 B AND D

1. (U) SUMMARY: A FUNDAMENTAL THEME IN ALL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL MEETINGS WITH LITHUANIAN POLITICAL LEADERS HAS BEEN WHETHER OR NOT LITHUANIA WILL DEVIATE FROM THE THREE PILLARS OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY -- NATO MEMBERSHIP, EU MEMBERSHIP, AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS -- AFTER THE OCTOBER 8 ELECTIONS. THE PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER AND ALL OPPOSITION FIGURES HAVE STRESSED THAT THEY EXPECT CONTINUITY ON STRATEGIC GOALS. SEIMAS CHAIRMAN LANDSBERGIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS RAISING THE ALARM THAT RUSSIA IS WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES TO PREVENT LITHUANIA FROM JOINING NATO AND INTEGRATING INTO THE WEST LANDSBERGIS ALSO ALLEGES THAT RUSSIA IS FUNDING BOTH LEFTIST PARTIES AND RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS IN ORDER TO RUIN LITHUANIA'S REPUTATION. END SUMMARY

2. (C) PRESIDENT ASKS LANDSBERGIS TO STOP HIS

"RADICAL RHETORIC"; CALLS TOGETHER POLITICAL
LEADERS TO REAFFIRM GOL FOREIGN POLICY GOALS

(C) PRESIDENT ADAMKUS WAS SO CONCERNED ABOUT LANDSBERGIS' ACCUSATIONS THAT THE LEFTIST PARTIES WILL BRING TO POWER A PRO-RUSSIAN COALITION, THAT HE (ADAMKUS) PUBLICLY DENOUNCED IT AS EXTREMIST RHETORIC THAT COULD CAUSE HARM TO LITHUANIA'S REPUTATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN MANEUVERING PUBLICLY AND BEHIND THE SCENES FOR MONTHS TO ENSURE THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT ADHERES TO THE GOL'S OFT-STATED STRATEGIC FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. RECENTLY, PRESIDENT ADAMKUS BROUGHT TOGETHER LEADERS OF SEVERAL MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES TO DISCUSS LITHUANIA'S FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. THE POLITIC RIVALRY AND PERSONAL ANTIPATHY LEAD TO A VERY CONTENTIOUS MEETING, AND DID NOT ACCOMPLISH WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAD HOPED FOR, PROBABLY A JOINT STATEMENT OF POLICY.

3. (C) PRESIDENT EXPRESSES UNEASE ABOUT
ELECTIONS

(C) DURING A MEETING WITH EPA REGIONAL REPS ON SEPTEMBER 13 ATTENDED BY EMBOFF, PRESIDENT ADAMKUS REITERATED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE GOL'S FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. PRESIDENT ADAMKUS BEGAN BY ADMITTING THAT HE WAS "A LITTLE SCARED" ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. HE HOPED THE POLITICAL PENDULUM WOULD NOT SWING TO ANY EXTREME, AND THAT INSTEAD THE ELECTIONS WOULD BRING A CONSTRUCTIVE COALITION TO OFFICE. PRESIDENT ADAMKUS NOTED THAT SOME OF THE LEADING POLITICIANS WERE PUBLICLY TAKING POSITIONS THAT WERE "QUESTIONABLE", AND THAT HE HOPED THAT THE NEXT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT FALL INTO THE TRAP OF FOLLOWING POPULIST PROGRAMS THAT WERE NOT IN LITHUANIA'S LONG-TERM INTEREST. SPECIFICALLY HE WAS CONCERNED WITH THE POSITIONS OF SOME PARTIES ON EU AND NATO ACCESSION. THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO SUMMON THE PARTY LEADERS TO STRESS HIS FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES, AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUITY. HE SAID THAT HE TOLD THE PARTY LEADERS THAT EU AND NATO ACCESSION WERE "UNTOUCHABLE" AND COULD NOT BE QUESTIONED. HE SAID HE WOULD FIGHT WITH ALL THE POWER OF HIS OFFICE TO PREVENT ANY DEVIATION FROM THESE FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. THE PRESIDENT THOUGHT THE PARTY LEADERS UNDERSTOOD HIS POSITION, AND LEFT THE MEETING COMMITTED TO SUPPORT HIS (AND THE GOL'S) FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS.

4. (C) PM TAKES WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE TOWARD
OPPOSITION

(C) PRIME MINISTER KUBILIUS TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ALL MAJOR PARTIES HAVE DECLARED THAT THEY FULLY SUPPORT NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP FOR

LITHUANIA. NOW THEY MUST PROVE THAT THEY MEAN IT. KUBILIUS ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT "THE APPEAL OF POPULIST RHETORIC MAY BE LIMITED." THE PM ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE DID NOT
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 VILNIUS 002671

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2010

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, NATO, MARR, LH

SUBJECT: THE QUESTION OF CONTINUITY IN LITHUANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE OCTOBER 8 ELECTIONS

EXPECT THERE TO BE ANY PROBLEMS WITH FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT GOVERNMENT, WHICHEVER PARTY WINS. (NOTE: KUBILIUS HAS BEEN LANDSBERGIS' TRUSTED RIGHT-HAND MAN IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY FOR MANY YEARS, BUT, UNLIKE HIS MENTOR, IS NOT KNOWN FOR RUSSIA-BASHING.)

5. (S) LANDSBERGIS SEES RUSSIA'S HAND BEHIND LEFT AND RIGHT WINGS

(S) THE PM'S RESERVE IN ATTACKING OPPONENTS TO THE LEFT CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH THOSE OF CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADER, SEIMAS SPEAKER LANDSBERGIS. LANDSBERGIS TOLD AMBASSADOR FLATLY THAT THE LEFTIST COALITION (LITHUANIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS), PAULAUSKAS' NEW UNION PARTY, AND EVEN THE NEO-NAZI GROUP LEAD BY MURZA, ARE FUNDED BY RUSSIAN MONEY. LANDSBERGIS SAID THAT THE LEFTIST COALITION LED BY BRAZAUSKAS AND PAULAUSKAS' NEW UNION WERE MAKING A SHOW OF COMPETING WITH EACH OTHER, BUT ARE ACTUALLY JUST MANEUVERING AS A WAY TO TAKE MORE VOTES FROM THE CENTER. LANDSBERGIS ACCUSED PAULAUSKAS OF COMPROMISING THE VERY IDEA OF LITHUANIAN ARMED FORCES AND OF CAMPAIGNING USING ANTI-NATO, POPULIST ARGUMENTS.

(S) LANDSBERGIS BELIEVES THAT THOSE WHO PROMOTE ANTI-FOREIGNER EXTREMISM IN LITHUANIA TODAY (E.G. NEO-NAZIS AND SUSTAUSKAS, MAYOR OF KAUNAS) ARE PAID PROVOCATEURS PLAYING ON THE FEARS OF A NAIVE POPULACE WHICH IS LOOKING FOR SIMPLE EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THEIR PROBLEMS. (HE NOTED THAT ANTI-FOREIGNER RHETORIC, SUSPICIOUSLY, ALWAYS SEEMS TO MEAN ANTI-WESTERN, NOT ANTI- RUSSIAN.) LANDSBERGIS ASSERTED THAT THE NEO-NAZIS OF SIAULIAI HAVE ADVISORS WHO ARE EX-KGB. THE APPEARANCE OF "HAIDER-LIKE" EXTREMISM IN LITHUANIA, ACCORDING TO LANDSBERGIS, IS MEANT TO COMPROMISE LITHUANIA IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD. LANDSBERGIS ASSERTED THAT SUSTAUSKAS IS A "RABBLE-ROUSING, ANTI-SEMITIC CLOWN" WHO COULD BECOME DANGEROUS IF HE IS NOT STOPPED EARLY. LANDSBERGIS BELIEVES THAT KAUNAS, AN EARLIER BASTION OF NATIONALISM AND THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, WAS "TAKEN OVER" WITH THE HELP OF MONEY FROM LITHUANIAN-RUSSIAN BUSINESSMAN VICTOR USPASKICH (A KEY BACKER OF PAULAUSKAS.) SUMMING UP, LANDSBERGIS WARNED THAT AMERICANS

DON'T REALIZE THE SOCIAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS FACED BY LITHUANIANS, HOW NEAR THE RUSSIANS ARE, AND HOW THE RUSSIANS ARE TRYING TO RECAPTURE THE BALTICS.

6. (C) CENTER BLOC (PAULAUSKAS, PAKSAS, OZOLAS) PLEDGE TO SUPPORT NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP

(C) AS NOTED IN REFTELS, ARTURAS PAULAUSKAS AFFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR TEFFT AND TO AMBASSADOR VERSHBOW IN BRUSSELS THAT HE SUPPORTS NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP. HIS VISITS TO NATO AND EU IN BRUSSELS WERE HIS WAY OF MAKING THE POINT AS CONCRETE AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER PAULAUSKAS IS STILL JUST LEARNING HIS WAY AROUND NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES.

(C) WHILE THE LEADER OF THE LITHUANIAN LIBERAL UNION (LLU), VILNIUS MAYOR RONALDAS PAKSAS DID NOT DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF CONTINUITY IN GOL FOREIGN POLICY, HE DID MENTION THAT THE CENTER BLOC (WHICH INCLUDES PAULAUSKAS' NEW UNION, THE CENTER UNION PARTY, AND THE MODERN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS) HAS AGREED ON A COMMON PROGRAM. THE COMMON PROGRAM CLEARLY STATES SUPPORT FOR NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP.) PAKSAS NOTED THAT EXTREMISM CAN CROP UP ANYWHERE, EVEN IN DEVELOPED STATES SUCH AS AUSTRIA. EXTREMISM IS NATURAL DURING A PERIOD OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT IS NOT A SERIOUS THREAT IN LITHUANIA, ACCORDING TO PAKSAS.

(C) CENTER UNION LEADER ROMUALDAS OZOLAS AFFIRMED THAT HIS PARTY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LITHUANIA'S BASIC FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES. HE NOTED THAT GOL DEFENSE SPENDING MIGHT NOT REACH THE GOAL OF 2% IN 2001, BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THE CENTER BLOC WOULD BE ABLE TO COME CLOSER THAN THE CONSERVATIVES WOULD IN REACHING THE 2% GOAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 VILNIUS 002671

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TAGS: PREL, PGOV, NATO, MARR, LH
SUBJECT: THE QUESTION OF CONTINUITY IN LITHUANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE OCTOBER 8 ELECTIONS

CONSERVATIVES HAD FALLEN FAR SHORT OF THEIR DEFENSE SPENDING GOALS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND DESPITE THE CONSERVATIVES' HARSH CRITICISM THAT OTHER PARTIES WOULD NOT REACH THE 2% GOAL, WERE NOT ON TRACK TO MEET THE TARGET NEXT YEAR EITHER. OZOLAS ALSO INDICATED THAT THE CENTER UNION WOULD CHANGE DEFENSE SPENDING PRIORITIES, AWAY FROM SUCH THINGS AS "INTERIOR DESIGNER BARRACKS," AS HE CALLED THEM.

7. (C) LEFTIST LEADERS INSIST THEY WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NATO MEMBERSHIP

(C) LITHUANIAN DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY (LDDP)

LEADER CESLOVAS JURSENAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOL HAS MAINTAINED A STEADY FOREIGN POLICY COURSE OVER THE LAST DECADE WHEN LEADERSHIP CHANGED HANDS BETWEEN LEFT AND RIGHT, AND WILL DO SO AGAIN AFTER THIS ELECTION. JURSENAS SAID THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION (WHICH INCLUDES THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND OTHERS) CHOSE FORMER PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS AS THEIR CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER "AS A GUARANTEE OF POLITICAL CONTINUITY." HE NOTED, AS OTHERS HAD, THAT IT WAS EX-PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS WHO SIGNED LITHUANIA'S 1994 REQUEST TO JOIN NATO. JURSENAS DECLARED THAT HIS PARTY IS PRAGMATIC, NOT EXTREMIST, AND THAT THE POLICIES OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION ARE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. HE CHARACTERIZED PAULAUSKAS' POLICIES AS MORE LEFTIST THAN THOSE OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION HIS PARTY LEADS.

(X) FORMER PRESIDENT ALGIRDAS BRAZAUSKAS (LDDP LEADER AND HEAD OF THE LEFTIST SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION) ALSO OFFERED ASSURANCES THAT THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE IN THE DIRECTION OF LITHUANIA'S FOREIGN POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN IN PLACE SINCE HE WAS PRESIDENT (1993-1998). BRAZAUSKAS WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF THE CONSERVATIVES' HANDLING OF FOREIGN POLICY, IN PARTICULAR ITS INABILITY TO GET ALONG WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE NOTED THAT THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE NOT MANAGED TO OBTAIN RATIFICATION OF THE BORDER TREATY WITH RUSSIA. BRAZAUSKAS POINTED OUT THAT WHEN HIS PARTY WAS IN GOVERNMENT IN 1993 THE RUSSIAN MILITARY LEFT LITHUANIAN TERRITORY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. WHILE LITHUANIA CANNOT CHOOSE ITS NEIGHBORS, BRAZAUSKAS BELIEVED THAT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION WOULD BE BETTER AT MAINTAINING STEADY PRAGMATIC RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA AND BELARUS. BRAZAUSKAS COMPLAINED THAT LANDSBERGIS WAS ALWAYS SAYING THAT LITHUANIA WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE ARMS OF RUSSIA IF THE LEFT RECEIVED A MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT -- BUT THAT WAS NEVER TRUE IN THE PAST AND IS NOT TRUE NOW. BRAZAUSKAS ASSERTED THAT HIS COALITION IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE SAME FOREIGN POLICY GOALS OF NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS.

8. COMMENT:

(X) PRESIDENT ADAMKUS HAS STATED NUMEROUS TIMES, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY TO US, THAT AS LONG AS HE IS PRESIDENT HE WILL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWERS TO ENSURE THAT LITHUANIA REMAINS ON COURSE FOR NATO AND EU MEMBERSHIP. ADAMKUS POINTS OUT THAT LITHUANIA'S CONSTITUTION CHARGES THE PRESIDENT WITH FOREIGN POLICY AND HE INTENDS TO ACT AS THE ULTIMATE GUARANTOR OF LITHUANIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. THE PRESIDENT USED HIS MEETING WITH THE POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS TO SEND THEM A STRONG MESSAGE - THERE WILL BE NO TURNING BACK

ON THESE ISSUES.

(S) LANDSBERGIS FOCUS ON THE RUSSIANS IS ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE, BUT NOT ENTIRELY BASELESS. WHILE WE WOULD AGREE WITH HIM THAT RUSSIA IS LOOKING FOR WAYS TO PRESERVE ITS INFLUENCE IN THE BALTICS, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT LEFT AND CENTER-LEFT CANDIDATES ARE READY TO SELL LITHUANIA DOWN THE RIVER. RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IS HARD TO PIN DOWN. LANDSBERGIS, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES NOT DISTINGUISH BETWEEN RUSSIAN MONEY FROM RUSSIA (EITHER GOVERNMENT OR "BUSINESS") FROM MONEY FROM ETHNIC RUSSIAN LITHUANIANS SUCH AS USPASKICH. USPASKICH'S
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 VILNIUS 002671

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2010
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, NATO, MARR, LH
SUBJECT: THE QUESTION OF CONTINUITY IN
LITHUANIAN FOREIGN POLICY AFTER THE OCTOBER 8
ELECTIONS

REPUTATION AS A BUSINESSMAN INCLUDES CORRUPTION AND STRONG-ARM TACTICS, BUT NOT ONE WHO DOES MOSCOW'S BIDDING. LANDSBERGIS ESPECIALLY SEEMS TO BE REACHING TOO FAR WHEN HE BLAMES RIGHT-WING POPULISM ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE RUSSIANS.

(S) LANDSBERGIS ASSERTION THAT PAULAUSKAS AND HIS OLD MENTOR BRAZAUSKAS WILL FORM A COALITION, LEAVING THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CENTER BLOC OUT IN THE COLD, IS RAPIDLY BECOMING CONVENTIONAL WISDOM. PAULAUSKAS' OSTENSIBLE COALITION PARTNERS, OZOLAS AND PAKSAS, BOTH MENTIONED THAT PAULAUSKAS MAY OPT FOR A COALITION WITH THE LEFT AFTER THE ELECTIONS. THE ONLY PERSON WE HAVE MET WHO DENIES THIS IS PAULAUSKAS HIMSELF.

(S) THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON PAULAUSKAS. HE IS MAKING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A SINCERE EFFORT TO PROVE TO SKEPTICS THAT HE REALLY SUPPORTS NATO AND THE EU. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT THINK THAT IF PAULAUSKAS OR THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION COMES TO POWER, TOGETHER OR IN A COALITION, THEY WOULD CHANGE LITHUANIA'S FUNDAMENTAL FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. THE REAL QUESTION IS -- WILL THEY DEDICATE THE RESOURCES AND ENERGY NEEDED TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS? LITHUANIA'S PROGRESS TOWARDS THOSE GOALS MAY COME MORE SLOWLY, BUT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REVERSED.

END COMMENT.

TEFFT

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
002. memo	re: Lithuania [partial] (2 pages)	09/06/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Richard Norland)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Lithuania [1]

2011-1038-F
kh1044

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]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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Intelligence Memorandum

Office of Russian and European Analysis

6 September 2000

Lithuania: October Elections Likely to Set Back Western Integration

3.5(c)

The populist center-left coalition projected to win the 8 October parliamentary elections will probably stall Lithuanian efforts to meet NATO and EU membership criteria in favor of increased social spending and concessions to farmers. The Lithuanian economy is beginning to show signs of improvement, thanks to Prime Minister Kubilius's commitment to fiscal discipline, but the anticipated positive effects will be felt too late to benefit the reform-oriented ruling conservative government.

3.5(c)

- As the Lithuanian economy struggles to recover from the 1998 Russian financial crisis, there is widespread economic dissatisfaction among Lithuanians—especially within the hard-hit rural electorate, which accounts for approximately 40 percent of the population.
- Lithuania, along with Latvia, began EU accession negotiations earlier this year and has concluded five less controversial chapters of the 30 EU acquis, *but EU pressure for the early closure of the Ignalina nuclear power plant and sharp reductions in farmer subsidies have dampened popular support for EU accession.*
- *The leading center and leftist opposition leaders likely to take power lack tight fiscal policy credentials and a coherent strategy for western integration.*

3.5(c)

Lithuania has made the most progress of the three Baltics in building fledgling defense forces to meet minimum NATO interoperability standards, given its larger population, and consistent efforts to boost defense spending. A center-left government, however, will likely deemphasize NATO integration and reallocate funds from defense to social programs.

1.4(c)

This memorandum was prepared by the Office of Russian and European Analysis. Analysis is indicated in bold italics. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the

3.5(c)

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PER E. O. 13526

3.5(c)

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2016-0384-M [1.41]

KBH 6/23/2023

- The leading opposition party has centered its campaign platform around reducing defense spending. 3.5(c)

Though Lithuania has maintained the most civil relations with Russia since independence in 1991, Lithuanian-Russian relations have taken a recent downturn. *Criticism from both sides will likely intensify as the Lithuanian elections approach and Lithuania moves closer to meeting NATO membership requirements.*

1.4(c)

- Lithuanian and neighboring Russian Kaliningrad Oblast officials, however, remain committed to continuing border crime and transit cooperation 1.4(c), 3.5(c)

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8

INR

Lithuania: Centrist Coalition Probable (U)

President Adamkus yesterday asked former Prime Ministers Paulauskas and Paksas to form a centrist coalition following Lithuania's October 8 elections, according to Embassy Vilnius. Former President and ex-communist Brazauskas's Social Democratic bloc and Paksas's center-right Liberal Union (LU) both did better than expected, gaining 51 and 34 out of 141 parliamentary seats respectively; Paulauskas's center-left New Union/Social Liberals (NU/SL) managed 29 seats. As expected, **the ruling conservatives took a beating, winning only eight seats.** Before the election, Adamkus and industrialists favored a centrist coalition, and the NU/SL, LU, and Center Union had already formed a loose bloc. (C)

Doc
this is
good,
right?
CM

■ **COMMENT:** Despite a disappointing showing, the NU/SL holds the key to forming a coalition and began talks with the LU and other centrist parties on October 9. Such a coalition would be pro-reform but also would be unstable in view of personality conflicts and some contradictory goals. Foreign policy will remain on course, however, because all party leaders want EU and NATO membership and improved relations with Russia. Paulauskas supports a proposed increase in defense spending to 2% of GDP but wants to delay it until 2002; 2000 defense spending will reach only about 1.7% owing to difficult economic conditions. Economic reforms negotiated with the IMF earlier this year will continue, especially because they are a prerequisite for EU membership. (C)

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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2016-0384-M (1.42)

1884 4/23/2023

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October 11, 2000

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, October 10, 2000 8:10 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Banbury, Anthony "Tony" N. (MULTI); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Shea, Dorothy C. (MULTI); Smith, Peter D. R. (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LITHUANIAN EX-COMMUNIST SLIPS FURTHER IN GOVT TALKS

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT BANBURY BOLAN DAVIDSON MCLEAN NAPLAN NORLAND PATTEN SCHWARTZ SHEA SMITHP WILCOX YEE
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^BC-LITHUANIA-COALITION

^Lithuanian ex-Communist slips further in govt talks

By Andrius Vilkanas

VILNIUS, Oct 10 (Reuters) - Ex-communist Algirdas Brazauskas,

who won Lithuania's weekend election but lost the scramble for government partners, called for a broad coalition with his rivals on Tuesday but faced a battle to get it.

His centrist rivals said they were confident they could scrape together enough members of the new parliament from independents and small parties to form a majority government without Brazauskas's Social Democrats.

Brazauskas's leftist coalition topped the weekend general election to gain 51 of parliament's 141 seats, but was outmanoeuvred by second-place Liberals and third-ranked New Union -- both new political forces.

The liberals secured 34 and the New Union 29 seats.

"The new political bloc has enough mandates to form the leadership of the government and parliament and at this moment is not considering any other variants and continues consultations among themselves," Arunas Daugela, New Union spokesman, told Reuters.

On Monday they had also gained tacit support from President Valdas Adamkus, who must nominate any prime ministerial candidate, although that usually happens after the new parliament convenes, which is expected late next week.

President Valdas Adamkus's spokeswoman made it clear on Tuesday he had not yet decided on a nominee. She said he would wait for the end of coalition talks and for parties to name their own candidates.

Brazauskas's camp said the two new parties would be hard-pressed to build a coalition that could stand the test of time, calling on them to enter talks with the Social Democrats.

"The wisest decision would be to seek a wider coalition and agreement," Kazimiera Prunskiene, a leading Social Democrat, told reporters after a meeting with Adamkus.

Brazauskas and his second-placed rivals rode a wave of economic discontent to sweep Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius's right-wing Homeland Union out of power, but all three parties fell far shy of a parliamentary majority.

The Liberals and New Union, who had a loose pre-election partnership, said they were working on a formal coalition deal, although any majority they build is likely to be razor thin.

If successful, they will have to form a government to fight for European Union membership by 2005 and convince a recession-weary

public to stomach more sacrifice to make it possible.

Despite his communist past, Brazauskas, a 68-year-old who was president from 1993 to 1998, has strong democratic credentials and, like his rivals, strongly supports Lithuania's bids to join both the EU and NATO.

RB-- 10/10/00 08:05:12

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004. fax	FBIS Facsimile [partial] (2 pages)	09/21/2000	P3/b(3), P6/b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Richard Norland)
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Lithuania [1]

2011-1038-F
kh1044

RESTRICTION CODES

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Lithuania Election Monitor 001:
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(b)(6)

21 September 2000
Election Monitor - LT 00-001

ELECTION MONITOR:

This report summarizes media items on the 8 October Lithuanian parliamentary elections. The report was prepared together with FBIS partner and is For Official Use Only.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lithuanian parliamentary elections are scheduled for 8 October 2000. The Seimas, a 141-seat single-chamber legislature, will be elected for a term of four years.

Seventy MPs are elected from parties and blocs on a proportional representation basis, and 71 MPs are elected in single-seat constituencies on a simple majority basis. On 8 October, elections to the Seimas will be held in 71 regional single-seat constituencies as well as in one national proportional representation constituency. The number of voters in each single-seat constituency may not exceed 5,000.

The Central Electoral Commission accepted nominations of candidates from parties and individuals until 4 September. The number and complete lists of candidates were officially announced on 8 September. Twenty-seven of the 39 eligible parties have registered for the elections.

Coalitions may be formed of two or more parties. Sixteen out of the 27 parties running in the current elections formed five coalitions by the closing date of 4 September.

The parties and coalitions registered for elections have nominated their candidates in most of the 71 single-seat constituencies and have drawn up their party lists for the proportional seats. Only four parties are running exclusively in single-seat constituencies. There are a total of 1,180 candidates on party lists and 700 candidates in single-seat constituencies.

Several newly popular parties that have no or very few seats in parliament now will be taking part in the election. Three of them - the New Union-Social Liberals, the Lithuanian Liberal Union and the Lithuanian Farmers' Party - are the most serious contenders for votes.

This report is based exclusively on the content and behavior of selected foreign public media. It is issued without coordination with other U.S. Government components.

21 September 2000
Election Monitor - LT 00-001

This will be the fourth parliamentary election in Lithuania since the restoration of independence (including the Reconstituent Seimas in 1990). About 2.6m people are eligible to vote.

Proportional representation threshold

There is a threshold of 5 percent of the vote for parties and coalitions running under proportional representation. Parties that win less than 5 percent of the total vote are automatically eliminated. The remaining parties share the 70 seats in parliament according to the proportion of the vote they have won. The seats won are filled with the party's candidates starting from the top of its list.

If the same candidates that are on a party's list are also elected in single-seat constituencies, they are considered elected in the majority vote. Their position on the party list is taken by the subsequent candidate.

ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURE

Campaigning in the media

Election campaigning officially begins a month before the election date, on 8 September. All the candidates and parties are given equal free access to state mass media, notably Lithuanian radio and television, for campaigning. Each party list is given no less than 1.5 hours of free air time by the national broadcasting company, and each individual candidate is given no less than 5 minutes of Lithuanian TV air-time and 7 minutes of radio time.

Also, the Central Electoral Commission has the obligation to publish the parties' election manifestos within 20 days of submission. Individual candidates' manifestos are published by local electoral commissions no later than 15 days before the election date.

Campaigning in independent media is only limited by the campaign spending ceiling set in the election law.

Any campaigning on the day of voting is forbidden.

[Some TV campaign videos are available on the Central Electoral Commission website: http://www.lrs.lt/rinkimai/seimas2000/agit_tv.htm]

Campaign funding

All candidates and parties must open a special electoral account subject to the Central Electoral Commission's approval. Individual candidates are not allowed to have more than 50 average monthly salaries (50,000 litas) on the account, and party/coalition lists are limited to 1,000 average monthly salaries (1m litas). Any surplus is automatically

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21 September 2000
Election Monitor - LT 00-001

deducted to the state budget. Use of any other sources of funding for campaigning, including free services or goods worth more than half an average monthly salary (500 litas) is forbidden.

The use of electoral account funds is subject to strict supervision by the State Tax Inspectorate.

Conditions for being nominated as a candidate to the Seimas

Candidates must:

- Be at least 25 years of age
- Be a Lithuanian citizen and must have lived in Lithuania for at least a year before the election date
- Not be in military service or serving court sentences
- Not be recognized by a court as mentally incapable
- Not be a citizen of another state or have taken an oath of allegiance to another state
- Not have collaborated with foreign secret services
- Have no criminal record
- Collect at least 1,000 signatures of supporters to be elected in single-seat constituencies
- Pay a deposit of one average salary (1,101 litas); Parties must pay a deposit of 10 average salaries (22,000 litas). Deposits are forfeited in the event of losing elections

Voting procedures

All Lithuanian citizens 18 years and over, except persons found by a court to be mentally incapable, have the right to vote.

Voting cards are presented to voters by local election commissions in advance.

At the polling station, voters are given two ballots: one for the single-seat constituency and another for the national proportional representation constituency. The ballot papers contain instructions on how they should be filled out.

On the single-seat list, all candidates are listed in alphabetical order. On the list of parties and coalitions, each has a number assigned by the Central Electoral Commission.

Voting is individual and secret.

Election cost

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21 September 2000
Election Monitor - LT 00-001

The election cost is estimated at 12m litas to be covered from municipal and state budgets. A sum of 3m litas in planned election expenditure has been saved by eliminating the second round of voting in single-seat constituencies.

Results

The Central Electoral Commission will announce preliminary results in a press release as soon as it receives data from regional electoral commissions. The press release will be published on the Internet. The media are not allowed to make any reports about election results before the announcement is made.

Results are considered valid if the voter turnout is no less than 40 percent in single-seat constituencies and no less than 25 percent in the national proportional representation constituency.

Final results are announced by the Central Electoral Commission after investigating all complaints. This must be done within seven days of the election date. The results may be declared null and void if considerable irregularities are established and proven.

RECENT EVENTS

Runoff polls abolished in single-seat constituencies

The governing Homeland Union - Lithuanian Conservatives have passed and enacted an amendment to the law on elections, eliminating the second round of voting in single-seat constituencies.

As a result, the winners will be those candidates who collect the largest percentage of votes in the first round.

The president vetoed the bill, but the veto was overruled in parliament by the votes of the governing majority in late July.



Photos of the Seimas building in Vilnius

Central Electoral Commission

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21 September 2000
Election Monitor - LT 00-001

The Central Electoral Commission has a website where it provides information on the candidates and on election results. The page is available in Lithuanian only.

All recent elections: www.lrs/rinkimai

2000 Seimas elections: www.lrs.lt/rinkimai/seimas2000/

List of parties and blocs: www.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/ora7dbcgi/rinkimai/sql/seim/partsarl.htm?13

List of candidates in single-seat constituencies: www.lrs.lt/cgi-bin/ora7dbcgi/rinkimai/sql/seim/kandapgsarl.htm?13



Symbol of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

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Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2000 6:50 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: PENPIX OF MAIN LITHUANIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: Blinken Davidson Norland
Identifier: Rdc585f1
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TimeOfReceipt: 10/05/2000 06:49:26 ET

a0804

^BC-LITHUANIA-ELECTION-PENPIX

^Penpix of main Lithuanian political parties

VILNIUS, Oct 5 (Reuters) - Penpix of main political parties and coalitions running in Lithuania's general election on Sunday.

All of the main parties back Lithuania's bids to join the European Union and NATO.

HOMELAND UNION

The biggest party in parliament. In power since 1996 under the leadership of Parliament Speaker Vytautas Landsbergis, a hero of the early 1990s struggle for independence from the Soviet Union. It ousted the ex-Communist Democratic Labour Party in the last general election.

After Andrius Kubilius took over as its prime minister late last year amid a political and budgetary crisis the party has stood for fiscal restraint and accelerated privatisation. It is expected to lose the election by a wide margin.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC COALITION

Led by former President and ex-Communist boss Algirdas Brazauskas, who came out of retirement to cobble together the coalition made of the Democratic Labour Party, the Social Democrats and two minor left-wing parties.

Brazauskas is not running for parliament himself but has said he would take the post of prime minister and form a government of technocrats.

He pledges to proceed with reforms aimed at easing Lithuania's way into the EU but is expected to slow down the privatisation process as it opposes selling majority stakes in monopoly state utilities. Some members of the coalition favour scrapping the current flat tax in favour of a progressive system.

They see the New Union party as a potential partner in forming a government.

NEW UNION

A centre-left party of populists founded by former top prosecutor Arturas Paulauskas, who narrowly lost the 1998 presidential election.

The party says it will implement selective tax cuts, focus on increasing domestic investment and use monetary policy as a tool to boost exports. They also promise to earmark 10 percent of the state budget to agriculture and offer other incentives to the sector.

The party has a loose partnership agreement with the Liberal Union and Centre Union parties.

LIBERAL UNION

A group of laissez faire free-marketeers led by popular Vilnius Mayor Rolandas Paksas, who was prime minister briefly last year as a member of the Homeland Union. He resigned amid a controversial oil privatisation and defected to the Liberals.

The party, which has only one member of parliament, says

it would slash taxes and decentralise and streamline government. The party sees any party from the centre to the right as a potential coalition partner.

CENTRE UNION

Led by academic Romualdas Ozolas. The party's programme is aimed at cutting red tape and other hindrances to businesses, scrapping the profit tax for at least five years but is reluctant to sell controlling stakes in state-owned monopolies to private investors.

FARMERS' PARTY

A group of Eurosceptics who unexpectedly placed second in the spring municipal elections, they are seen picking up protest votes from farmers still struggling under harsh market reforms.

They do not oppose EU membership outright but want entrance to the 15-nation trading bloc to be "gradual" with long transition periods.

They want 10 percent of the national budget be earmarked for agriculture, suggest tax breaks for energy and fuel used by farmers and call for a re-introduction of subsidies, which were eliminated by the current government.

RB-- 10/05/00 06:30:55

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2000 6:34 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: FACT BOX-LITHUANIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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^BC-LITHUANIA-ELECTION-FACTBOX

^FACT BOX-Lithuanian electoral system

VILNIUS, Oct 5 (Reuters) - The following are key facts about Lithuania's electoral system ahead of a parliamentary poll on Sunday.

ELECTORATE

- 2.6 million eligible voters (out of a population of 3.7 million).

ELECTIONS

- General parliamentary elections are held every four years. Presidential elections every five years. President Valdas Adamkus, a former U.S. citizen, was elected in January 1998.

PARLIAMENT

- The 141-seat unicameral house, or Seimas, is currently dominated by the Homeland Union of Speaker Vytautas Landsbergis and Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius.

- Seventy seats are allocated proportionally according to a popular vote by party list, 71 are decided by races between individual candidates.

- To gain seats under the proportional list system, parties must cross a threshold of five percent of the popular vote, coalitions need seven percent.

- The votes of those parties and coalitions that do not cross their thresholds are shared proportionally among those who do.

- At least 25 percent of eligible voters must cast ballots to validate the proportional system.

- Forty percent of voters in each district are necessary to validate the results of the individual, or single mandate, races.

CANDIDATES

- A total of 1,271 candidates are registered with 27 parties in this year's election. A total of 702 candidates are contesting races for individual races.

- There are 1,151 candidates from 15 parties and coalitions contesting the proportional race. Many of those in the individual races are also running on party lists.

MAIN PARTIES IN PARLIAMENT

- Homeland Union, 50 seats
- Centre Union, 17
- Democratic Labour Party, 13
- Christian Democratic Party, 10
- Social Democratic Party, 6

GOVERNMENT FORMATION

- The election commission must announce official results within seven days of the election and Lithuanian president calls the first session within 15 days of that, afterwards parliament may convene on its own initiative.

- After the election the incumbent government must submit

its resignation to the president, who appoints a caretaker administration, usually the resigning cabinet.

- Within 15 days of the government's resignation, the president proposes a candidate for prime minister to be approved by parliament, after which the president officially nominates him to be prime minister. The premier-designate then presents his cabinet, after approval by president, and his government programme for a parliamentary vote within 15 days.

RB-- 10/05/00 06:30:14