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Folder Title:

Lithuania: Lileikis War Crimes

Staff Office-Individual:

European Affairs-Norland, Richard

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2630

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
33	5	10	1	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	White House Situation Room to Antony Blinken et al. re: Indictment (1 page)	09/28/2000	P1/b(1) KBN 11/20/2023

COLLECTION:

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

FOLDER TITLE:

Lithuania: Lileikis War Crimes

2011-1038-F
kh1053

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.

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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: Thursday, September 28, 2000 12:36 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Cables; Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: PROSECUTOR GENERAL SIGNS INDICTMENT AGAINST KONRADS KALEJS

ActionAddrees: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5476
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0052
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0660
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0215
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0085
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0076
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0166

DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines, November 6, 2015
By KBH NARA, Date 6/23/2023
2016-0384-M

Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DateTime: 281444Z SEP 00
Distribution: SIT: Blinken NSC Davidson Norland
Identifier: M4650628
InfoAddrees: ////
Line1: OAACZYUW RUEHRAA2968 2721444-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNY CCCCC ZZH
Line3: O 281444Z SEP 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
Originator: AMEMBASSY RIGA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BLINKENA
CABLES
DAVIDSOL
NORLANDR
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHRA
StationSerialNumber: 2968
TimeOfReceipt: 09/28/2000 12:35:18 ET

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ RIGA 002968

DOJ FOR OSI - SSIEGAL
DEPT FOR S/WCI - SCHEFFER

E.O. 12958; DECL 09/28/10
TAGS: PREL PHUM KJUS KCRM LG AS
SUBJECT: PROSECUTOR GENERAL SIGNS INDICTMENT AGAINST
KONRADS KALEJS

REF: RIGA 2938

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR JAMES H. HOLMES.
REASON 1.5 (D).

2. (X) THE MFA'S LEGAL DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED US THAT
THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE HAS ISSUED AN INDICTMENT
AGAINST SUSPECTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KONRADS KALEJS. THE
PG'S OFFICE TODAY BEGAN THE PROCESS OF SEEKING AN ARREST
WARRANT, WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR AN EXTRADITION REQUEST TO
AUSTRALIA. THE PG'S OFFICE WILL MEET WITH THE JUDGE
HANDLING THE CASE THIS AFTERNOON; THE LATTER MAY CHOOSE TO
ALLOW KALEJS OR HIS ATTORNEY TO MAKE A PRESENTATION BEFORE
MAKING A DECISION. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT AS THE CASE
DEVELOPS.

HOLMES



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
2622 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009

TEL: /202/ 234-5860

DATE: Sept. 27, 2000

FAX: /202/ 328-0466

FAX NR. _____

ATTENTION: _____

FROM: ROLANDAS KACINSKAS 2nd Sec. PAGES: 2 + cover sheet

MESSAGE: Regarding the death of accused
war criminal A. LILIKIS.

**PROSECUTOR
GENERAL'S OFFICE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA
PRESS ATTACHE**

press release

Vidmantas Putelis, A.Sinetonos str. 4, 2709 Vilnius Tel.: (22) 227754; fax: 611826

27 September 2000

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania attach great importance to the investigation of crimes of genocide and war crimes and seek to prosecute and punish all Nazi war criminals. Conditions for this have been created by the amendments to the laws passed by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania and amendments to the Republic of Lithuania Code of Criminal Procedure and Criminal Code. An amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure was passed allowing trial procedures to take place without the participation of the defendants charged with the commission of crimes of genocide and war crimes if due to their state of health they are incapable to take part in trial sittings.

The Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Lithuania has instituted 91 criminal cases on the basis of crimes of genocide and war crimes. The criminal cases against 15 persons have already been forwarded to court, including the criminal case against A.Lileikis (born in 1907). The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania have collected enough evidence which substantiate A.Lileikis' guilt in the commission of genocide during the years of Nazi occupation. The Seimas and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Prosecutor General's Office have taken all possible measures in order to commit A.Lileikis for trial. However, on 26 September 2000 the defendant A.Lileikis died in the Cardiac Revivification Department of Vilnius University Hospital before Vilnius County Court could pass its decision in A.Lileikis' criminal case. The following were the causes of his death: gross myocardial infarction, lung edema, cardiac shock, acute insufficiency of renal functions and exacerbation of obstructive bronchitis.

The Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania regret that due to the defendant's illness and death the course of justice in this criminal case was obstructed and it became impossible to pass an important decision.

A.Lileikis was not the only suspected person in the list of war criminals persecuted by the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania. The work will be continued and every effort will be made in order to achieve historic justice because no Statute of limitations is applied in respect of crimes of genocide and war crimes. Lithuania and its Prosecutor General's Office which enforces the national laws and keeps to all the international undertakings in the course of its work will continue their close co-operation with law enforcement authorities of foreign states in order to bring to criminal liability all those who have been suspected in the commission of crimes of genocide and war crimes.

V.Putelis

Translation from Lithuanian into English is done by Viktorija Valantviciūtė, a translator, the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Lithuania. Translation corresponds to the original text.



HOLOCAUST-LITHUANIA-TRIAL

Lithuanian Holocaust trial to resume June 23

VILNIUS, June 15 (Reuters) - The trial of a 93-year-old alleged Nazi war criminal will resume on June 23 with closed circuit video to enable the ailing defendant to follow the hearings, a Lithuanian judge said on Thursday.

Aleksandras Lileikis, a former U.S. citizen who returned to Lithuania in 1996 after the Americans cancelled his passport for lying about his wartime activities, is accused of handing over scores of Jews to Nazi executioners when he headed the Saugumas regional security police during World War Two.

In recently-published memoirs, he said he had worked actively in the anti-Nazi resistance and was innocent of the charges.

The trial stalled last September due to his poor health and inability to attend hearings. Earlier this year lawmakers amended the criminal code to allow seriously ill defendants to monitor hearings by video outside the court.

The court re-opened the trial in late April but immediately called for a medical examination to consider the defendant's physical and mental condition. Earlier this month a medical commission found Lileikis physically and mentally competent to participate in the hearings, although it could still endanger his health.

Nazi-hunters say the case -- the first such trial to be held in a post-Soviet country -- is a landmark in Lithuania's struggle to come to terms with the Holocaust, during which locals assisted Nazi forces in the massacre of over 90 percent of the 220,000-strong pre-war Jewish community.

A similar case is pending against Lileikis's wartime deputy Kazys Gimzauskas, 92.

1643 150600

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2000 5:09 AM
To: Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Cables; Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LITHUANIAN HOLOCAUST COMMISSION UPDATE

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1851
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 120851Z JUN 00
Distribution: SIT: BOLAN NSC DAVIDSON NORLAND YEE
PRT: JACOBSON
Identifier: M4486957
InfoAddres: RUEAWJB/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0151
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHVLA1293 1640851-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 120851Z JUN 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Originator: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BOLANC
CABLES
DAVIDSOL
NORLANDR
YEEH
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHVL
StationSerialNumber: 1293
TimeOfReceipt: 06/12/2000 05:08:35 ET

UNCLAS VILNIUS 001293

STATE FOR S/WCI, EUR/RHA, AND EUR/NB
STATE FOR JD BINDENAGLE
JUSTICE FOR OSI ROSENBAUM
TREASURY FOR DAVID WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, KNAR, LH
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN HOLOCAUST COMMISSION UPDATE

REF: A) VILNIUS 854; B) VILNIUS 538; C) VILNIUS 574

1. SUMMARY: LITHUANIA'S INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE APPRAISAL OF THE CRIMES COMMITTED DURING THE NAZI AND SOVIET OCCUPATIONS IN LITHUANIA GATHERED FOR ITS SECOND ANNUAL MEETING IN VILNIUS FROM JUNE 1-2. THE GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS WERE JOINED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM YAD VASHEM FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMISSION ESTIMATES THAT THE TWO RESEARCH GROUPS (ONE FOR THE SOVIET CRIMES AND ONE FOR THE HOLOCAUST) WILL TAKE A TOTAL OF 2-4 YEARS TO COMPLETE THEIR WORK. THE FIRST REPORT, WRITTEN BY A LITHUANIAN HISTORIAN ON THE MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT, HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IS BEING REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE COMMISSION, ESTABLISHED BY PRESIDENT VALDAS ADAMKUS IN 1998, IS CHARGED WITH ASSESSING THE DAMAGE INFLICTED BY

THE NAZI AND SOVIET OCCUPATIONS. THE COMMISSION HAS SET UP TWO SUBCOMMITTEES OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES COMMITTED DURING THESE PERIODS. RESEARCH WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY LITHUANIAN, BRITISH, GERMAN, ISRAELI, RUSSIAN AND AUSTRALIAN EXPERTS OVER THE NEXT 2-4 YEARS IN A SERIES OF SEVEN CONTRACTS. THE GOL HAS ALLOCATED 420,000 LITAS (105,000 USD) TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS WORK THIS YEAR (NOTE: THIS AMOUNT IS BEING SUPPLEMENTED BY 25,000 USD FROM EMBASSY'S DEMOCRACY COMMISSION; THE DEMOCRACY COMMISSION ALSO GAVE 24,000 USD TO THE COMMISSION LAST YEAR). THE COMMISSION HAS 3 FULL TIME AND 3 PART TIME STAFF WHICH THEY FUND ON A BUDGET OF 35,000 LITAS (ROUGHLY 9,000 USD) A MONTH.

3. SPEAKING AT THE SESSION, PRIME MINISTER ANDRIUS KUBILIUS WAS UNUSUALLY DIRECT ABOUT THE ROLE OF LITHUANIANS IN THE HOLOCAUST, SAYING "WE MUST CLEARLY SAY TO OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN THAT LITHUANIANS PARTICIPATED," ADDING THAT "IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE WITH ONE'S CONSCIENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY." KUBILIUS ALSO WARNED ABOUT THE RESURGENCE OF EXTREMISM IN EUROPE "AND SOMETIMES EVEN IN LITHUANIA," ALLUDING TO THE RESURGENCE OF A NEO-NAZI GROUP AND THE RECENT POLITICAL SUCCESS OF RADICAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS. LITHUANIAN MP EMANUELIS ZINGERIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION, DISCUSSED THE EXTENSIVE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAM LITHUANIA HAS DEVELOPED (SEE REFTELS) AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION. AMBASSADORS OF A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES WHO PLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT (INCLUDING THE U.S.) WERE LATER BRIEFED ON THE HOLOCAUST EDUCATION PROGRAM AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY.

4. THE COMMISSION WAS PLEASED TO WELCOME THE PARTICIPATION OF YAD VASHEM REPRESENTED BY FORMER HEAD OF YAD VASHEM GENERAL ARAD AND PROFESSOR DOV LEVIN. THE COMMISSION HAS INVITED THE YAD VASHEM REPS TO BECOME FULL MEMBERS AND WILL CONTINUE WORKING WITH THEM ON ISRAELI COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN THE COMMISSION'S WORK. THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF A POSSIBLE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION IN ISRAEL NEXT YEAR.

5. COMMENT: AFTER MUCH GROUND-BREAKING AND BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS, THE SUBSTANTIVE WORK OF THE COMMISSION APPEARS TO HAVE STARTED. THE FIRST REPORT (ON THE MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT) WILL NOT ANSWER MANY OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS ABOUT LITHUANIAN COOPERATION AND COMPLICITY IN THE HOLOCAUST. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS MORE TO COME AND WITH THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HISTORIANS AND LOCAL RESEARCHERS, WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE TO HELP DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO LITHUANIA'S DIFFICULT HISTORY. AS ONE COMMISSION MEMBER STATED, THE "QUALITY OF THE WORK, RATHER THAN THE EXPERTISE OF RESEARCHERS" WILL DETERMINE HOW THE COMMISSION IS VIEWED INTERNATIONALLY. WITH THIS IN MIND, THE COMMISSION IS USING SOME LITHUANIAN DOCTORAL AND OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE RESEARCH PROCESS. THIS INFUSION OF YOUNG ACADEMIC TALENT SHOULD ALSO HELP DEVELOP AWARENESS OF HOLOCAUST ISSUES AMONG THE LITHUANIAN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. SMITH

Fax Cover Page

To: Richard B. Norland
Company: NSC, European Affairs
Fax Number: 4569150

From: Embassy of Lithuania
Company:
Fax Number: 1-202-3280466

Message:

Dear Sir/Madam:

I thought you might be interested in seeing the following news report on the resumption of Lileikis' trial.

Sincerely,

Rolandas Kacinskas
Second Secretary

Vilnius, April 27 (ELTA) - Vilnius area court resumed Thursday the suspended criminal action against 92 years old Lithuanian Aleksandras Lileikis, charged with severe war crimes against Jews, and assigned the fifth health examination for the man. Lileikis' action was suspended last September through his weak health condition. The specialists of Forensic Centre and Court Psychiatry Service are due to carry out an additional mental health examination until May 19. With expert conclusions released, Vilnius court will pass a ruling on further fate of the notorious action.

MORE

2000 04 27 16.09 val. J.B.

Flanagan, Stephen J. (CEE)

From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, September 10, 1999 6:04 AM
To: Flanagan, Stephen J. (CEE)
Subject: LILEIKIS GENOCIDE TRIAL UPDATE, CASE TO BE SUSPENDED

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
DTG: 100929Z SEP 99
MSGTO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0775
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
PREC: IMMEDIATE
SSN: 2551
TOR: 990910055918 M4041348

UNCLAS VILNIUS 002551

STATE FOR E, S/WCI, EUR/NB, L/EUR, EUR/RHA
NSC FOR FLANAGAN
JUSTICE FOR OSI/ROSENBAUM AND MACQUEEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, PGOV, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH
SUBJECT: LILEIKIS GENOCIDE TRIAL UPDATE, CASE TO BE
SUSPENDED

REF(S): VILNIUS 02496 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN THE LILEIKIS CASE, VILNIUS DISTRICT COURT JUDGE VIKTORAS KAZYIS REJECTED THE PROSECUTOR'S REQUEST TO ORDER AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE HEALTH OF THE DEFENDANT, STATING THAT THERE ARE NO LEGAL GROUNDS FOR SUCH AN EXAMINATION. THE JUDGE PUT OFF TILL FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER HIS FINAL DECISION ON THE CASE AGAINST GENOCIDE-ACCUSED ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS, 92.

2. FOLLOWING THE READING OF OSI DIRECTOR ELI ROSENBAUM'S LETTER, SENT TO THE LITHUANIAN AMBASSADOR IN THE U.S. STASYS SAKALAUSKAS ON SEPTEMBER 8, THE CHIEF PROSECUTOR OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT OF THE GENERAL PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, RIMVYDAS VALENTUKEVICIUS, ASKED THE JUDGE TO APPOINT AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT PROSECUTOR OFFICE DOES NOT DOUBT CONCLUSIONS OF LITHUANIAN EXPERTS, BUT THE COURT NEEDED TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION CONCERNS THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MIGHT HAVE ABOUT THE COMPETENCE AND OBJECTIVITY OF LITHUANIA'S LEGAL SYSTEM.

3. LILEIKIS'S DEFENSE LAWYER URGED THE JUDGE TO REJECT OSI'S PROPOSAL, WHICH HE CALLED "POLITICALLY MOTIVATED". HE OBJECTED TO THE COURT LETTING ROSENBAUM INFLUENCE THE CASE PROCEEDING.

4. DIRECTOR OF THE LITHUANIAN FORENSIC MEDICAL INSTITUTE AND THE HEAD OF THE LAST MEDICAL EXAMINATION, ANTANAS GARMUS, CALLED THE PROPOSAL "AN INSULT TO THE LITHUANIAN STATE" AND REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK OF ANY INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION. HE CLAIMED THAT ANOTHER EXAMINATION WOULD NOT REVEAL ANY IMPROVEMENT OF LILEIKIS HEALTH, LIKELY THE OPPOSITE. GARMUS INFORMED THE COURT THAT DURING RECENT MONTHS LILEIKIS SEVERAL TIMES CONTACTED MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS DUE TO HIS HEALTH PROBLEMS.

5. THE JUDGE ADJOURNED LILEIKIS' CASE IN FEBRUARY ASKING THE OSI TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON LILEIKIS' HEALTH,

FOLLOWING THE OSI DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD INFORMATION LILEIKIS' HAD BEEN FEIGNING ILLNESS.

6. COMMENT: THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE DECISION TO SUPPORT AN OSI PROPOSAL FOR THE FIRST TIME DEMONSTRATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. PRESS REPORTING ON THE CASE HAS BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY FACTUAL AND MODERATE IN TONE. WE EXPECT THE JUDGE WILL ORDER THE CASE AGAINST LILEIKIS TO BE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY ON SEPTEMBER 10 AND WILL ADVISE DEPARTMENT FURTHER OF DEVELOPMENTS. SPAKAUSKAS

Lithuania forms commission to probe into Soviet, Nazi crimes

VILNIUS, Sep 07, BNS - Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus on Monday formed an international commission to evaluate the crimes committed by the Nazi and Soviet occupation regimes in Lithuania.

Liudas Truska, a history professor with the Lithuanian Vytautas Magnus University, was appointed the executive chairman of the commission, while MP Emanuelis Zingeris was named its chairman.

Apart from the chairmen, the commission includes 13 historians, human rights specialists, representatives of international Jewish organizations, lawyers from Lithuania, Russia, the United States and Germany.

The presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia this spring agreed to set up commissions in their countries to fill the knowledge gaps about the tragic events in 1939-1991, especially during and after WWII.

This project aims at encouraging investigations into the persecution, deportations and annihilation of Baltic citizens during the Nazi and Soviet occupations.

At the meeting with his Latvian and Estonian counterparts, President Adamkus said the results of these

investigations should "finally bring to an end the speculations and myths about crimes committed and not committed by our states."

Flanagan, Stephen J.

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 1998 11:16 AM
To: Braden, Susan R.; Davidson, Leslie K.; Flanagan, Stephen J.; McEldowney, Nancy E.
Subject: LILEIKIS' HEALTH JUDGED SUFFICIENT FOR TRIAL TO

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
DTG: 131429Z OCT 98
MSGTO: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9744
ORIG: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS
PREC: PRIORITY
SSN: 2862
TOR: 981013104953 M3506338

UNCLAS VILNIUS 002862

STATE FOR E, S/WCI, EUR/NB, L/EUR AND EUR/RHA
NSC FOR FLANAGAN
JUSTICE FOR OSI/ROSENBAUM AND MACQUEEN

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH
SUBJECT: LILEIKIS' HEALTH JUDGED SUFFICIENT FOR TRIAL TO
BEGIN

REF: VILNIUS 2543 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE MEDICAL COMMISSION FORMED AT THE REQUEST OF THE JUDGE IN THE CASE OF ACCUSED WAR CRIMINAL ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS (REFTEL) RELEASED ITS FINDINGS OCTOBER 12, STATING THAT WHILE "NEGATIVE STRESS" COULD BE HAZARDOUS TO THE 91-YEAR OLD'S LIFE, HE IS FIT TO STAND TRIAL.

2. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET BY THE JUDGE FOR THE TRIAL TO RESUME, ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WILL DO SO BEFORE PRESIDENT ADAMKUS TRAVELS FROM CHICAGO TO WASHINGTON OCTOBER 20. ONCE THE TRIAL RESUMES, A FURTHER QUESTION WILL BE WHETHER LILEIKIS APPEARS IN COURT VOLUNTARILY, OR WILL BE BROUGHT TO THE PROCEEDINGS BY FORCE; SHOULD THE LATTER BE NECESSARY, THERE WILL BE GENERAL RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF AUTHORITIES AND A MEDIA FRENZY. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE. SMITH

Flanagan, Stephen J.

From: SitRoom
Sent: Thursday, March 05, 1998 7:06 AM
To: Braden, Susan R.; Busby, Scott W.; Davidson, Leslie K.; Flanagan, Stephen J.; Jordan, Donald L.; McEldowney, Nancy E.; Naplan, Steven J.; Ragan, Richard F.; Wechsler, William F.
Subject: LITHUANIA-HOLOCAUST
CLASS: INTERNATIONAL
ORIG: Reuters
PREC: RUSH
TOR: 980305070418 R0418406

a0803

^BC-LITHUANIA-HOLOCAUST

^Lithuania suspends war crimes trial until May
By Jonathan Leff

VILNIUS, March 5 (Reuters) - A Lithuanian court on Thursday suspended the trial of alleged war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis until May, asking prosecutors to find two possible defence witnesses.

Lileikis, 91 and in ill health, denies handing scores of Jews to Nazi murder squads when he headed the Vilnius security police during World War Two.

In a five-minute pre-trial hearing, Judge Viktoras Kazhys granted a defence request to locate and interview a Jewish woman allegedly helped by Lileikis, and another man said to know the defendant. Both apparently live in the United States.

Prosecutor Kazimieras Kovarskas said his case was solid and that he had already rejected possible evidence from the male potential witness as adding nothing to the case.

"These moves from the defence will not change the evidence that is already in the case," he added.

The potential witnesses, Shifra Grodnikaite and Povilas Zhumbakys, will be asked to come to Lithuania to testify. If they refuse or are unable, the case will proceed regardless on May 18.

The judge also ruled that copies of documents authorising the handing of Jews to death squads, the prosecution's main evidence, were not valid and asked for originals. The prosecutor's office said the originals were in the state archives.

"The case is absolutely unprepared and that's why the judge suspended the proceedings," defence lawyer Algimantas Matuiza told Reuters.

Lileikis, who is bedridden after suffering a stroke and heart attacks, says the allegedly incriminating documents are forgeries by the former Soviet KGB security police.

The trial of Lileikis is the first of an alleged war criminal since Lithuania quit the former Soviet Union in 1991, and came after intense international pressure.

It is being played out amid allegations from Nazi-hunters that Lithuania is afraid to face the fact that some of its people played an active and willing role in the massacre of Jews during the German occupation.

Nazi-hunters say the killing rate of Jews in Lithuania was among the highest in all the Nazi-occupied areas, with some 96 percent of the 220,000 Jewish population murdered.

RB-- 03/05/98 06:51:00

85-7-6445 / PAX
Marinaschin
Nesh:

4/388

Flanagan, Stephen J.

From: SitRoom
Sent: Wednesday, August 06, 1997 9:54 PM
To: Braden, Susan R.; Flanagan, Stephen J.; McEldowney, Nancy E.; Peters, Mary A.
Subject: RESPONSE TO GOL INQUIRY ON LILEIKIS DEMARCHE

CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED
MSGTO: AMEMBASSY VILNIUS IMMEDIATE 1248
ORIG: SECSTATE WASHDC
PREC: IMMEDIATE
SSN: 7492
TOR: 970806214332 M2879429

UNCLAS STATE 147492

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, CJAN, LE (LILEIKIS1 ALEKSANDRAS)
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GOL INQUIRY ON LILEIKIS DEMARCHE

REFERENCES: (A) VILNIUS 2122; (B) STATE 137403;
(C) VILNIUS 2113

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) IN RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS' INQUIRY ON HOW THE GOVERNMENT OF LITHUANIA SHOULD PROCEED ON ENDING THE IMPASSE OVER THE PROSECUTION OF ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS, WE CONCUR WITH POST THAT WE SHOULD NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN IMPOSING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. (SBU) POST SHOULD REITERATE TO ALL RELEVANT GOL OFFICIALS THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF LILEIKIS' CRIMES WARRANT WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO BRING A CASE AGAINST HIM. GIVEN GOL ASSURANCES TO THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL, AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THAT IT WOULD FULLY PURSUE THE PROSECUTION OF MR. LILEIKIS, IT IS THE GOL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC FAMILY OF NATIONS.

3. (SBU) REQUEST POST DELIVER FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS TO PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY:

- O WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS CASE AND THE CASES OF OTHER NAZI PERPETRATORS WHO RETURNED TO LITHUANIA FROM THE U.S., HAVE STILL NOT MOVED FORWARD.
- O WE HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED THE FOUR OPTIONS YOU PRESENTED TO OUR CHARGE.
- O AS LILEIKIS, GIZAZAUSKAS, AND OTHERS ARE IMPLICATED IN THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS OF LITHUANIAN CITIZENS, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD CLEARLY BE IN THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL INTEREST OF LITHUANIA TO BEGIN PROSECUTING THESE CASES WITHOUT DELAY.
- O LILEIKIS, WHILE THE MOST SERIOUS CASE, IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL PERSONS IN LITHUANIA WHO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN ACTS OF GENOCIDE.
- O CRIMES OF THIS MAGNITUDE CLEARLY MUST BE PROSECUTED. THE UNITED STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN

GENERAL LOOK TO LITHUANIA TO PROSECUTE ALEKSANDRAS
LILEIKIS AND OTHER ACCUSED NAZI PERPETRATORS NOW.

O WE CANNOT STRESS FIRMLY ENOUGH THE INTEREST OF THE
UNITED STATES IN HAVING THIS LONG-STANDING PROBLEM
RESOLVED.

ALBRIGHT



OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

TELEFAX

TRANSMITTED TO:

TELEPHONE (FAX #): 456-9150

NAME:

DANIEL FRIED

ORGANIZATION:

National Security Council
The White House

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE/EXTENSION (Voice):

TRANSMITTED FROM:

TELEPHONE: 202-616-2491

NAME:

Eli M. Rosenbaum, Director

ORGANIZATION: Office of Special Investigations

ADDRESS: Suite 1000,
1001 G Street, NW, Wash. DC 20530TELEPHONE/EXTENSION (Voice):
(202) 616-2492

TRANSMISSION DATE:

6/25/97

PAGES TRANSMITTED:

7(Do **NOT** count this cover sheet)

CONTENTS/MESSAGE:

*Re: Lileikis**Gratefully,
E.M.R.**N.B.: Note reference
to you in the
Draeger article.*

THIS FACSIMILE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSEE AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY SENDER IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE. THANK YOU.

06/24/97 TUE 15:02 FAX

EU a0997 i r reute BC-LITHUA

PRINTED BY: LumpkinB TIME PRINTED: 2:54:54 PM Tue, Jun 24, 1997

BC-LITHUANIA-LILEIKIS

Lithuania to try ailing alleged war criminal

VILNIUS, Lithuania (Reuter) - Lithuanian prosecutors, accused of being slow to try Nazi war criminals, Tuesday said they intend to try a man alleged to have handed over scores of Jews to death squads in World War II.

But the prosecutor's office said the poor health of 90-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis, head of the Vilnius security police in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, meant any further action had to be delayed for three months.

Nazi-hunters have criticized Lithuania for apparent foot-dragging over Lileikis and other alleged war criminals who were stripped of U.S. citizenship and returned to Lithuania.

"There is a decision to put Aleksandras Lileikis on trial for the genocide of inhabitants of Lithuania," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

But it said that due to Lileikis' ill health, questioning was possible only in three months and with the permission of a medical commission. | *

Lileikis denies he helped to murder Jews during the Holocaust but his U.S. citizenship was revoked last year on the grounds that he had concealed his wartime activities. He returned to Lithuania last June.

Historians say that 94 percent of Lithuania's flourishing pre-war Jewish population of 220,000 was wiped out during the war by Nazis and their local helpers.

In March, Israel's Knesset urged Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas to ensure that Lileikis be brought to trial.

Efraim Zhuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem, cautiously welcomed the news of the intention to prosecute Lileikis.

"It remains to be seen whether Lileikis' advanced age may prevent justice from being achieved," he told Reuters.

"At the same time, it is important to remember that there are numerous other war criminals who have returned to Lithuania and have not yet been questioned let alone indicted," he added.

REUTER

Reut10:36 06-24-97

Lithuania plans trial of Lileikis

His poor health means a delay

REUTERS

VILNIUS, Lithuania - Prosecutors, accused of being slow to try Nazi war criminals, said yesterday they intend to try a man alleged to have handed over scores of Jews to death squads in World War II.

But the prosecutor's office said the poor health of 90-year-old Aleksandras Lileikis, head of the Vilnius security police in Nazi-occupied Lithuania, meant any further action had to be delayed for three months.

A Justice Department official welcomed the Lithuanian government's announcement.

"This confirms what we've said all along that this is a prosecutable criminal case," said Eli Rosenbaum, head of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

The office, which persuaded a federal judge in Boston to strip Lileikis of his citizenship, has described the case as the strongest ever compiled against a Nazi war criminal, because of the large collection of orders turning Jews over to killing squads that Lileikis acknowledged he signed.

Nazi-hunters have criticized Lithuania for apparent foot-dragging over Lileikis, a former resident of Norwood, Mass., and other alleged war criminals.

"There is a decision to put Aleksandras Lileikis on trial for the genocide of inhabitants of Lithuania," the prosecutor's office said.

But it said that due to Lileikis' ill health, questioning was possible only in three months and with the permission of a medical commission.

Lileikis denies he helped to murder Jews during the Holocaust, but his US citizenship was revoked last year on the grounds that he had concealed his wartime activities. He returned to Lithuania last June.

Staff writer Judy Rakowsky contributed to this report.

DATE: 6/25/97

PAGE: 25

Lileikis may face Nazi war crimes trial

By DAVID TALBOT

Opening the possibility of the first war crimes trial in post-Communist Eastern Europe, Lithuanian prosecutors yesterday announced they planned to try former Norwood recluse Aleksandras Lileikis for Nazi-era genocide.

"There is a decision to put Aleksandras Lileikis on trial for the genocide of inhabitants of Lithuania," the government prosecutor's office said.

But the announcement was as uncertain as it was historically significant, because it went on to say they would wait three months, and then proceed only if a "medical commission" deemed the 90-year-old collaborator healthy enough.

Efraim Zuroff, head of the Los

Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, told the Herald last night that he feared Lithuania was making a public relations ploy to defuse international pressure for a trial.

"I fear his advanced age might prevent this trial from ever taking place. I feel the Lithuanians waited so that his health would prevent a trial," he said. "If they had any brains, they would have done it a year ago."

As head of the Vilnius Saugumas, or security police, Lileikis directed a band of Lithuanian officers who hunted Jewish resisters, enforced ghetto rules and delivered Jews to death squads, U.S. officials say.

Vilnius, a pre-war Jewish cultural center, was virtually purged of Jews. In all, 220,000 of Lithuania's 240,000 Jewish popu-

lation were shot in pits — or gassed, starved or worked to death in concentration camps.

After World War II, Lileikis settled in Germany, then successfully appealed for U.S. citizenship based on his fear of persecution by the new Communist regime in Lithuania.

Working as a printer, he settled in Worcester, South Boston and finally retired to a yellow-shingled house in Norwood.

Lileikis and his lawyers admitted he headed the Saugumas, but maintained the agency performed benign functions. But U.S. District Court Judge Richard Stearns, citing death orders bearing Lileikis' signature, stripped his citizenship in 1995.

Lileikis went back to Lithuania last June, before deportation proceedings began.

Announcement of the Lithuanian General Procuracy (25 June 97)

No. 1

The preliminary investigation in the criminal case against Aleksandras Lileikis has been completed, supplemented in the past two months. A decision seeking to bring charges against Lileikis has been completed, accusing him of crimes under §1 of the "Law on Responsibility for the Genocide of Lithuania's Inhabitants." The charging document was to have been ready a week ago and handed to the court no later than 1 July. However, this has not been done because of Lileikis' illness. A medical expert from the Šiauliai Provincial Court has been appointed to review the medical records and consult with the doctors treating Lileikis. He will issue his findings as to whether Lileikis is capable of withstanding trial or if this will endanger Lileikis' health (poor circulation, polycythemia[sic]). When the medical report is written, court proceedings may commence three months after and only with the permission of a doctors' commission. *med report →*

No. 2

Yesterday the press was informed that the General Procuracy of the Lithuanian Republic has prepared charges against former Chief of the Lithuanian Security Police for Vilnius Province Aleksandras Lileikis, accusing him of crimes as described by § 1 of the law "On Responsibility for the Genocide of Lithuania's Inhabitants." But according to the State judicial medical service, an expert of the Šiauliai Province Court will do an analysis and court proceedings may commence only after three months and with the permission of a doctors' commission.

Lithuanian Prosecutor General Kazys Pednyčia voiced doubt concerning the medical report on Lileikis' health, which has been prepared by only one doctor. Therefore, based on §§ 85, 207 and 210 of the Code of Criminal Procedure he has decided to subject Lileikis to additional testing by court-appointed medical experts and requested a commission be appointed by the Vilnius branch of the state judicial-medical service of the Ministry of Health, to include a neurologist and a therapist among its specialists. The experts' commission will determine from what ailments Lileikis currently suffers, if his condition is untreatable, and if Lileikis' state of health permits him to withstand court proceedings. If he is ruled to be unable to participate, the commission will state for what reasons and when he might be able to.

Prosecutor General Pednyčia also decided to create a new prosecuting group in this case. It will be headed by Senior Prosecutor Arvydas Kuzminskas, chief of the Special Investigations Section, who was taken on at his own request.

Priedas: 2 prancėimai spaudai

GENERALINĖ PROKURATŪRA

Nr1

Parongitinis tardymas Aleksandro Lileikio baudžiamojoje byloje per paskutinius du mėnesius papildomai buvo suplanuotas, suaktyvintas ir esmės baigtas. Yra paruoštas nutarimas A.Lileikį patraukti kaltinamuoju, kaltinant jį dėl nusikaltimų, numatytų LR įstatymo "Dėl atsakomybės už Lietuvos gyventojų genocidą" 1 str. Kaltinamojo išvada A.Lileikiui turėjo būti paskelbta jau praėjusią savaitę ir perduota teismui iki š.m. liepos 1 dienos. Tai nepadaryta dėl jo ilgus, nes Valstybinės teisės tarnybos Šiaulių apygardos skyriaus teisės medicinos ekspertas, vadovaudamasis ligos istorijos duomenimis ir gydytojo gydymo konsultacija, padarė išvadą, kad šiuo metu tardymo veiksmus atlikti negalima, nes tai pavojinga A.Lileikio sveikatai (nestabilus kraujospūdis, yra politemija). Medicinos išvadoje rašoma, kad tardymo veiksmai galimi tik po trijų mėnesių ir tik gydytojų komisijai leidus.

Nr2

Vakar spaudai išplatino pranešimą, kad LR Generalinėje prokuratūroje yra paruoštas nutarimas buvusį Lietuvos saugumo policijos Vilniaus apygardos viršininką Aleksandrą Lileikį patraukti kaltinamuoju, kaltinant jį dėl nusikaltimų, numatytų LR įstatymo "Dėl atsakomybės už Lietuvos gyventojų genocidą" 1 str. Bet pagal Valstybinės teisės medicinos tarnybos Šiaulių apygardos skyriaus eksperto išvadą tardymo veiksmai galimi tik po trijų mėnesių ir tik gydytojų komisijai leidus.

Respublikos generalinis prokuroras Kazys Pėdnyčia suabūjojo medikų išvadą dėl A.Lileikio sveikatos, kurią padarė tik vienas gydytojas. Todėl remiantis LR RPK 85, 207 ir 210 straipsniais nutarta skirti A.Lileikiui papildomą teismo medicinos ekspertizę, pavedant ją padaryti Valstybinės teisės medicinos tarnybos prie SAM Vilniaus ekspertinio skyriaus ekspertų komisijai, įtraukiant į jos sudėtį gydytojus specialistus terapeutą ir neurologą. Ekspertų komisijai pavesta nustatyti, kokia liga dabar serga A.Lileikis, ar ši liga yra nepagydoma, ar A.Lileikio sveikata leidžia su juo atlikti tardymo veiksmus, jeigu tardymo veiksmų atlikti negalima, tai dėl kokių priežasčių ir iki kada?

Generalinio prokuroro K.Pėdnyčia nutarimu šioje byloje sudaryta nauja tardymo grupė. Grupės vadovu paskirtas Generalinės prokuratūros Specialių tyrimų skyriaus vyriausiasis prokuroras A.Kuzminskas, kuris bylą priėmė savo žinion.

(Translation)

DRAUGAS (Chicago) 10 April 1997

Article: US Vice-President Meets Chairman of Lithuanian
Parliament

Washington, 8 April

Seimas Chairman Vytautas Landsbergis met with US Vice-President Al Gore, who opened the meeting with the words "You have many friends here in America." The Seimas Chairman answered "The US is Lithuania's friend" and invited Al Gore to visit Lithuania.

////////////////[jump to penultimate paragraph]////////////////

At the end of the meeting Al Gore mentioned the question of the Jewish books and Torahs and also brought up the question of the case of the accused Aleksandras Lileikis. Vytautas Landsbergis affirmed that a solution was being sought to the misunderstandings surrounding the question of the Jewish religious-cultural objects and that further open cooperation would lead to a solution favorable to both sides. In the matter of Lileikis, both high officials agreed that the case must be examined by the justice system.

Participating in the meeting were Leon Furth, the Vice-President's deputy for foreign policy, Daniel Fried, special assistant to the Vice-President (sic), Marshall Adaire, deputy to the Secretary of State, Alfonsas Eidintas, Lithuanian Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the United States, Darius Semaška, assistant to the Ambassador, Vytas Žalys, assistant to the Ambassador and Loreta Zakarevičiene, Landsbergis' press spokesperson.

DRAUGAS

THE LITHUANIAN WORLD

PERIODICALS

April 10, 1997

Vol. LXXXVII Kaina 50 c.

KETVIRTADIENIS — TH

JAV viceprezidento ir Lietuvos Seimo pirmininko susitikimas

Al Gore: Rusija nesutrukdys Baltijos valstybių prėmimo į NATO

Vašingtonas, balandžio 8 d. — Lietuvos Seimo pirmininkas Vytautas Landsbergis susitiko su JAV viceprezidentu Al Gore, kuris susitikimą pradėjo žodžiais „Jūs turite daug draugu Amerikoje“. „JAV — Lietuvos draugas“, atsakė Seimo pirmininkas ir pakvietė Al Gore apsilankyti Lietuvoje.

Susitikimo pabaigoje A. Gore domėjosi knygų bei torų likimu, paminėjo ir įtariamą Aleksandro Lileikio bylą. Vytautas Landsbergis patikino, jog buvę nesusipratimai dėl žydų religinio kultūrinio palikimo išsiaiškinti ir tikimasi tolesnio glaudaus bendradarbiavimo, ieškant abiem pusėms naudingo sprendimo. Dėl A. Lileikio bylos abu aukštieji pareigūnai sutiko, jog reikia teisingo bylos nagrinėjimo ir teisingumo.

Susitikime dalyvavo Leon Furth, viceprezidento patarėjas užsienio politikai, Daniel Fried, specialus viceprezidento patarėjas, Marshall Adaire, Valstybės departamento sekretoriaus pavaduotojas, Alfonsas Eidintas, Nepaprastasis ir įgaliojasis Lietuvos ambasadorius Amerikoje, Darius Semaska, ambasados patarėjas, Vytautas Žalys, ambasados patarėjas, Loreta Zakarevičienė,

kas. Lietuva nenori patekti į „vakarykštės“ Rusijos planus. Būtų gerai, jei JAV padarytų aiškesnį pareiškimą ar patvirtinimą apie savo paramą Lietuvai kelyje į NATO, o taip pat padėtų Lietuvai tą tikslą pasiekti. Al Gore patikino, kad Amerikos diplomatai turės rasti būdus šiam patvirtinimui išreikšti.

Al Gore patikino, kad JAV pasiryžusi padėti Lietuvai tapti pirmą kartą istorijoje susivienijusios Europos dalimi. Lietuvos uždavinys — išspręsti Europos Sąjungos keliamus uždavinius. JAV į tai žiūri teigiamai ir optimistiškai. Vytauto Landsbergio nuomone, kelias į Europos Sąjungą yra ilgas, tačiau Lietuva pasiryžusi atlikti visus namų darbus.

„Lietuvos ryte“ buvo filosofu jama, kad „po ilgos pertraukos istorijoje Lietuvos jaunuoliai ir jaunuolės turi retą proga modeliuoti savo biografiją kaip tinkamai. Geto psichologijos sunykimas yra svarbi sias Nepriklausomybės vėsis“.

Šia tiradele, kaip sudrįsusi marška, bandoma pridėti nenorą, baimę, nepatogumų sau (jeigu tik šitai?) vykdomai konstitucine piliečio pareiga. Ka galėtų reikšti „modeliavimas savo biografijos kaip tinkamas“? Lietuvoje venimas tarnauti kariuomenei



Nuotr.: Balandžio 6 d. Lietuvos Seimo pirmininkas Vytautas Landsbergis, kurį lydi Alfonsas Eidintas, susitiko su JAV viceprezidentu Al Gore.

Politikai reikalauja apie pramoninkus Rusijoje

Vilnius, balandžio 9 d. grupės (BNS) — Seimo liberaliųjų reikšaus formų frakcijos seniūnas Alvydas Medalinskas kreipėsi į trečiojo ūkio ministrą Vincą Babilį, prašydamas oficialiai informuoti apie praėjusią savaitę Maskvoje vykusias derybas su Rusijos pramoninkais.

Seimo narys trečiadienį sakė žurnalistams, kad ministras V. Babiliaus pasisakymai spaudoje jo netenkina. Pasak jo, ministras nekreipia dėmesio į tai, kad visuomenei būtina žinoti apie šiuos pokalbius.



B ' N A I B ' R I T H
C E N T E R F O R P U B L I C P O L I C Y

June 17, 1997

Mr. Dan Fried
Special Assistant to
the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dan:

As you discussed with Dan Mariaschin on Monday, here is the letter on the Lileikis case from our President, Tommy Baer.

Anything the White House can do to move this case forward would of course be greatly appreciated.

It was good to meet you in person the other week. I always enjoy our conversations, by phone or in person.

With warm wishes.

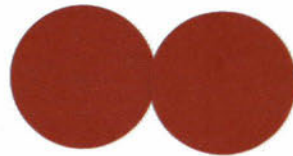
Sincerely,

George L. Spectre
Associate Director

encl.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



6/24 → Dan Fried

For tomorrow

②

June 24, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR SANDY BERGER, DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE
PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

DAN FRIED, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

CC: ALEXIS M. HERMAN, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

FROM: JAY K. FOOTLIK, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
PUBLIC LIAISON *JKF*

RE: NAZI WAR CRIMINALS OF LITHUANIAN DESCENT

I have received many phone calls relating to the President's upcoming meeting with the President of Lithuania. The Jewish community, particularly in New York, is concerned with how Lithuania is treating alleged Nazi war criminals. Many community members have alerted the Jewish press and the Jewish Week has already made inquiries to my office.

I have enclosed the informational packet that was sent to me by Rabbi Friedman of New York. Please let me know if this issue arises in the President's conversations with the Lithuanian President.

Thank you.



מתיבתא רמב"ם
RAMBAM MESIVTA

MAIMONIDES HIGH SCHOOL

25 FROST LANE · LAWRENCE, NY 11559
 TEL (516) 371-5824 FAX (516) 371-4706

RABBI ZEV MEIR FRIEDMAN
 ROSH HAMESIVTA

GARRY R. KATZ
 PRINCIPAL

June 20, 1996

Mr. Footlik
 c/o White House OEOB
 122 Washington DC
 Washington, DC 20502

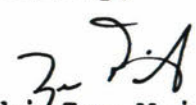
Dear Mr. Footlik,

Enclosed please find 'some' (there are volumes more) of material pertinent to the issue of Lithuanian's refusal to prosecute Nazi War Criminals of Lithuanian descent. Please note the following::

1. NY Times article September 1991, describing pardons granted to 'confessed Nazi killers'.
2. NY Times article September 1994, which leads us to think that Lithuania has 'expressed remorse' and is now going to do something.
3. Jerusalem Post October 1995, stating that there are 5000 Nazi killers in Lithuania. None have been prosecuted.
4. Article from Vilnius Daily, October 1995, showing that Lithuania is concerned about public opinion and upcoming US elections.

WE PLAN TO MAKE THIS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. THE ISSUE IS BEING COVERED IN THE JEWISH PRESS. Jewish Week etc. and the Jewish community will want to know the Presidential position on this. A public statement as Congressman Schumer and Senator Kennedy and Senator D'Amato have made would be very useful.

Sincerely,


 Rabbi Zev Meir Friedman
 Rosh HaMesivta

NEW YORK, N.Y.
M-1,150,000
S-1,700,000

New York Times

SEP 5 '91

page 1

See page 2

Lithuania Starts to Wipe Out Convictions for War Crimes

By STEPHEN KINZER

Special to The New York Times

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Sept. 4 — Lithuania's new Government has begun issuing certificates of exoneration for thousands of people who had been condemned as Nazi war criminals by Soviet courts.

Among those who have already had their convictions as collaborators expunged by the chief prosecutor are people who confessed to mass murder in appearances before Soviet courts soon after the war.

For the Lithuanians the fundamental aim of the rehabilitation of people, living and dead, is to challenge and revoke the authority of Soviet Communist courts to judge the behavior of Lithuanians during a war in which their country was first overrun by Soviet troops and then, two years later, was occupied by the Nazis.

Convictions Criticized

The chief Lithuanian prosecutor, Arturas Paulauskas, said in an interview that his office has issued more than 1,000 certificates of rehabilitation, and expects to issue thousands more.

The certificates proclaim that the recipient is innocent in the eyes of the Lithuanian Government, and that he or his heirs are entitled to compensation for wrongful imprisonment. It is not clear who would pay the compensation.

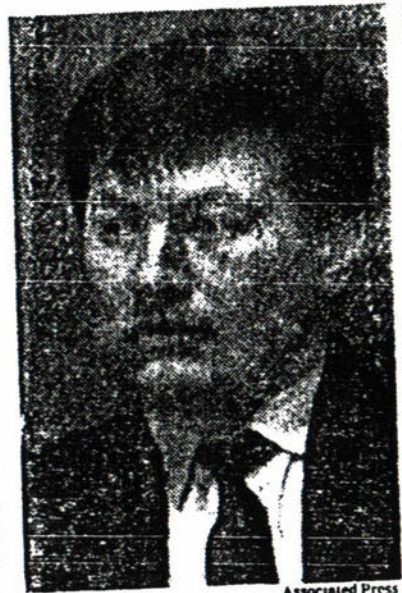
About a third of the people being rehabilitated are still alive, Mr. Paulauskas said. The rest are being reha-

bilitated at the request of their children or other relatives.

Mr. Paulauskas said the Government normally issues the certificates without starting new investigations.

"These people were convicted not by courts of law, but by special commissions established in Moscow after the war," Mr. Paulauskas said. "They

Continued on Page A11, Column 1



Associated Press

Arturas Paulauskas, the chief prosecutor of Lithuania.

Soviet Turmoil: Skeletons in the Closet

Lithuania Starts to Erase Convictions for War Crimes

Continued From Page A1

were forced to make confessions. Witnesses against them were coerced. They had no right to a legal defense. The trials were corrupt, and therefore the verdicts have no legal standing."

Jewish Groups Alarmed

Reports of the rehabilitations have provoked alarm among Jewish organizations in the United States and Israel.

"What they are doing is an insult to history and a very extreme miscarriage of justice," said Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the California-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, which is devoted to tracking Nazi war criminals.

"If they believe that charges against these people were trumped up, then let them have new trials," Rabbi Hier said in a telephone interview. "If it turns out that there is no real evidence in some cases, or that witnesses are too feeble to testify, then an impartial judge can exonerate the person. But that is something for a judge to do, not a government."

The Wiesenthal Center last week ap-

Soviet courts are called corrupt and said to lack 'legal standing.'

pealed to President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania to halt the rehabilitation process. It described the people being rehabilitated as including "some of Hitler's worst collaborators."

Confusion During War Years

No blanket rehabilitation process appears to be underway in the neighboring Baltic states of Latvia and Estonia, many of whose citizens were also convicted of war crimes by Soviet tribunals. But from his office in Los Angeles, Rabbi Hier said the Wiesenthal Center was trying to determine whether pardons for war criminals convicted by Soviet tribunals were being issued more quietly there or in the Ukraine where, as in the case of the Baltics, special Nazi S.S. units were recruited.

After the war hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians were deported to Siberia and central Asia during the period of Soviet rule here. Many were not accused of crimes, but others were convicted of having betrayed the Soviet Union by aiding the Nazi army.

As described in memoirs and by historians, the war years in the Baltics were characterized by great confusion

as Soviet occupation gave way to Nazi rule. Tadeusz Konwicki, the Polish novelist, who spent the war in Lithuania as a partisan assigned to kill Nazi collaborators, has written of bands of anti-Communists, Nazis, German deserters, stragglers from the Soviet army, anti-Semitic killers and ordinary bandits all fighting each other. He also portrayed Lithuanians who had aligned themselves with Germans in what they regarded as patriotic missions to rid their country of Russians.

But there is a good deal of evidence collected by historians of the Holocaust like Martin Gilbert that some Lithuanians and people from other Baltic states took part in the most heinous war crimes, including operations at death camps and the liquidation of the Warsaw ghetto.

Battalion's Mass Murder

Some of those convicted were members of the Lithuanian 12th Auxiliary Battalion, which was identified at the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal as devoted principally to mass murder. During 1941, the 12th Battalion operated first in Lithuania, where it is believed to have carried out the killings of at least 9,000 Jews, and later in Byelorussia, where it and another battalion are believed responsible for about 15,000 killings.

Information provided by the Wiesenthal Center indicates that among the Lithuanians recently granted rehabilitation by the new Government here is at least one member of the 12th Battalion, Alojas Juodes. The information does not include whether he or the others cited are alive.

In 1946, Mr. Juodes was sentenced to a 25-year jail term by a Soviet tribunal. His sentence was later reduced by half. Trial documents made available by Rabbi Hier indicate that Mr. Juodes confessed that he had taken part in mass murder. He recalled one incident in which, on a single day, the 12th Battalion killed 700 to 1,000 people at a village near Minsk.

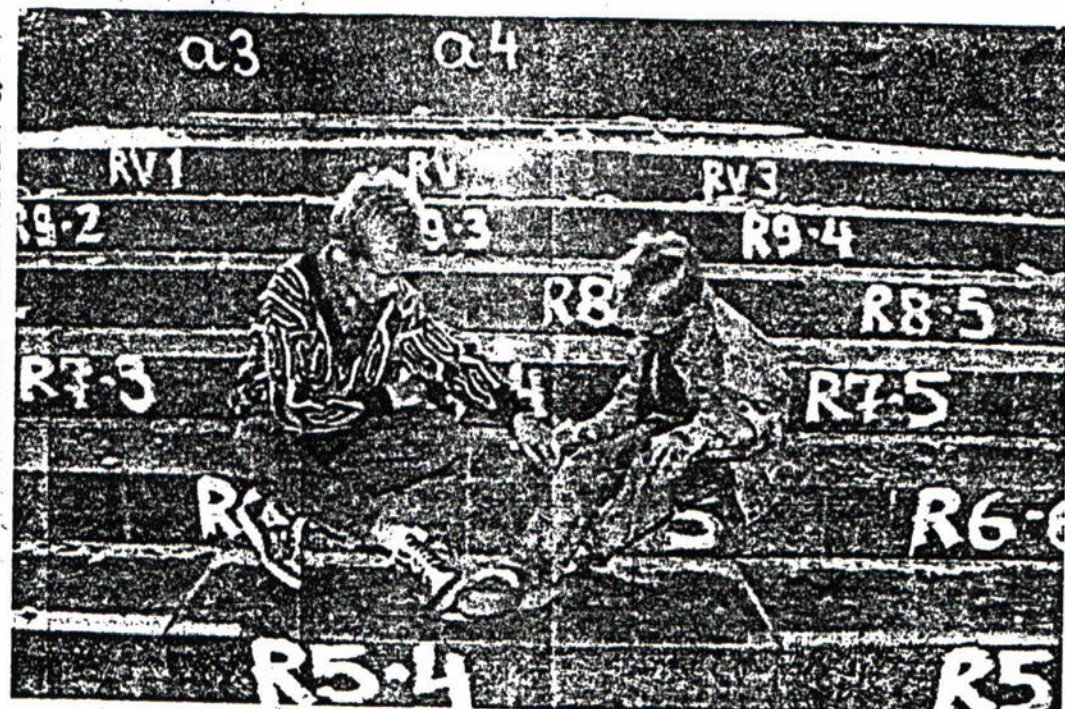
Testimony on War Crimes

The Jewish population, including old men, were driven into graves, alive, and then groups of our battalion approached and executed them by shooting," he told the tribunal. "I personally supervised several times, and many times I saw from the side of the road, the bodies of the persons I executed by shooting."

During the proceedings, two witnesses confirmed Mr. Juodes's account.

Another recently rehabilitated figure is Ignas Asaduskas, who served as a police chief in a rural region of Lithuania during the early 1940's. Witnesses said he supervised the execution of nearly 200 Jews in the village of Oran on a summer morning in 1941.

A third beneficiary of the rehabilitation orders identified by the Wiesenthal Center is Julius Nevera, who testified



A Communist Legacy in Lithuania, Numbered for Removal

Children playing on the base of what had been a monument to Lenin in Vilnius. Pieces of the pedestal were marked with identifying numbers.

that he joined a "German punitive body" in August 1941, and took part in the killings of Jews and others.

"I personally participated in executions of Soviet citizens by shooting, about 20 times," he had testified according to excerpts from the transcript of his trial in December 1948. Another quote attributed to the suspect in the Soviet proceedings had him saying, "I personally participated in the liquidation of the Jewish population, most of them of which nationality were executed by me."

The Lithuanian Parliament passed a law in May 1990, soon after it convened, providing for the rehabilitation of citizens falsely convicted by Soviet tribunals. It specifically excepted those guilty of genocide and the murder of civilians.

Mr. Paulauskas, who is directing the rehabilitation process, conceded that some Lithuanians had collaborated with the Nazis. But he asserted that postwar Soviet tribunals were so biased that no one they convicted could be considered truly guilty.

"There is a lot of talk, but not so much in the way of hard factual evidence," he said.

That view is disputed by outside investigators. Lists exist, for example, of

members of the 12th Battalion. Prosecutors from Britain, Canada and Australia are scheduled to meet in Ottawa in October to discuss ways of finding and bringing to trial members who have sought refuge in those countries.

In June, a group of members of the Israeli Parliament visited Mr. Paulauskas to urge that Lithuania not pardon those convicted of war crimes. He assured them there were no plans to do so, but information that has emerged recently has led them to doubt his word.

"The Lithuanian authorities are not taking the testimony of witnesses and survivors seriously," said Efraim Zuroff, a former investigator for the United States Department of Justice who accompanied the Israeli Parliament delegation on its visit here.

Mr. Zuroff, who has specialized in war crimes committed in the Baltic region, spoke in a telephone interview from Israel, where he now lives.

"They are ignoring evidence in order to rehabilitate people they consider to be Lithuanian patriots," Mr. Zuroff said.

Lithuanians who fought alongside the Nazis were moved by a variety of motives. Some were nationalists who hoped that a Nazi victory might guar-

antee Lithuanian independence. Others were traditional anti-Semites, and still others resented Lithuanian Jews because some of them had worked with Soviet authorities before the German takeover in 1941.

There is no dearth of evidence against many of those now being rehabilitated, but authorities appear unwilling to sift through it.

In a small, cluttered apartment on the outskirts of Vilnius, an elderly Jewish woman, Riva Bogomalnaya, lives surrounded by photographs of relatives who were executed during the war. In a desk drawer, packaged in a plastic bag, she has a sheaf of letters and declarations describing what happened in her home village of Eigirdonys, in southern Lithuania.

"The man in charge of the killings was Juozas Krasinskas," she told a visitor as she sorted through her papers. "I saw him beat and kill people. Other witnesses to his crimes are also still alive."

Mr. Krasinskas, she said, lives in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. When she learned that he was being rehabilitated, she offered her private archive to Government authorities, but she said they did not seem interested.

"No one cares," she said. "They laugh at us. Time is running out for people of my generation. In another five years, it may be impossible to have a trial for a man like this. Now it is still possible. The truth is easy enough to find, but people here don't want to find it."

U.S. Official Surprised

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 — The Bush Administration's chief Nazi-hunter said today that he was unaware of Lithuania's action and hoped that the authorities there would cooperate with the Justice Department's investigations of war crimes committed in that country as well as Latvia and Estonia.

"The evidence that this office as well as the West Germans have gathered leaves no doubt that there were terrible crimes committed by Lithuanians in collaboration with the Nazis and we have prosecuted quite a few of those individuals," said Neal M. Sher, a Justice Department official.

"We in this office are expecting to seek cooperation from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in our cases because they have considerable evidence, so I really need to know more about this process of rehabilitation."

23, 1994

NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER

Lithuanian Calls for Remorse For Crimes Against Jews in War

By STEPHEN KINZER

Special to The New York Times

VILNIUS, Lithuania, Sept. 22 — In the first public effort by a Lithuanian leader to atone for crimes that Lithuanians committed against Jews in World II, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius appeared on television today to urge citizens to acknowledge and repent for shameful aspects of their country's history.

"During World War II, over 200,000 Lithuanian Jews were killed," Mr. Slezevicius said. "Despite the fact that this holocaust was the realization of Nazi policies in our country, we should recognize that hundreds of Lithuanians took direct part in this genocide. This obliges us to repent and ask the Jewish people for forgiveness for the unjust suffering inflicted on our fellow citizens."

"I would also like to say that the Government of Lithuania assumes responsibility for prosecuting those who participated in murder."

Mr. Slezevicius also ordered that at all official buildings, black crepe for mourning should be flown next to the Lithuanian flag on Friday, the 51st anniversary of the Nazi-led liquidation of the Vilnius ghetto.

"The speech is a step forward, but it doesn't go far enough," Efraim Zuroff, head of the Jerusalem office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said in a telephone interview. "In the first place, I don't accept their numbers. Thousands of Lithuanians were involved in the murder of Jews, not hundreds. And second, their pledge to go forward with prosecutions is a lot of baloney."

This week, however, Federal prosecutors in Boston asked a judge to revoke the citizenship of an 87-year-old Lithuanian immigrant, Aleksandras Lileikis, who they said had headed a secret police unit that handed over Jews to Nazis to be put to death from 1941 to 1944. The case, officials said, relied heavily on archives recently made available by the Lithuanian Government.

[Lithuanian officials said they would probably prosecute Mr. Lileikis if he is deported, the Associated Press reported. "If his crimes are clear and he is deported to Lithuania, he will be tried and could be jailed," said Vidmantas Vaicieuskas, a prosecutor in Vilnius.]

Prime Minister Slezevicius has announced plans to visit Israel next month. During his visit, he is expected to propose formation of a joint commission to deal with outstanding issues between Lithuania and the world's Jews.

The Speaker of the Israeli Parliament, Shevach Weiss, met with Lithuanian leaders in Vilnius last month. In a telephone interview, he said he expected that demonstrators would protest against Mr. Slezevicius when he comes to Israel, but added that he considered the visit to be positive.

"I personally consider the new Lithuanian Prime Minister to be a good man," Mr. Weiss said. "There are some people in Israel, especially those with Baltic heritage, who think of Lithuania as one big tragic, terrible and surrealistic cemetery of our nation. This is not an easy stereotype to change."

← LET THEM
PROSECUTE
HIM AND
KAYUS GINSAVAS
(HIS ASSISTANT) -
BOTH OF WHOM
HAVE GONE
BACK TO LITHUANIA
AND EXPECT TO
LIVE FREE THERE

The true face of things

UNDER normal circumstances, the recent opening in Tel Aviv of the Lithuanian Embassy would be cause for genuine satisfaction.

But several outstanding issues in our current dealings with that country cast a heavy shadow over relations. They relate to the past, and how the government in Vilnius chooses to deal with the tragic annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry; but they have extremely important contemporary implications.

Eight months ago, I traveled to Lithuania as part of a joint Israeli-Lithuanian commission of inquiry to review the rehabilitations granted to numerous Nazi war criminals in 1990-1992. This was the culmination of protracted and difficult negotiations with the Lithuanian authorities, who initially denied that the murderers had been exonerated, and later only grudgingly agreed to grant Israeli researchers access to the pertinent files.

After reviewing dozens of cases, it became clear why the Lithuanians had been so reluctant to allow a thorough investigation. In case after case, it emerged that self-confessed murderers of Jews had been rehabilitated by the newly independent Lithuanian authorities. Thus individuals who had served in Majdanek or as members of the infamous 12th Lithuanian Auxiliary Police Battalion – which murdered approximately 47,000 Jews in Lithuania and Byelorussia – received financial compensation for being convicted by the Soviet courts.

Before we left Vilnius, our hosts agreed to send us the names of those convicted of murder who had been granted rehabilitation

EFRAIM ZUROFF

(an estimated 5,000 of the some 50,000 Lithuanians granted rehabilitation). We would check these names against the extensive files of Lithuanian Nazi war criminals at the Wiesenthal Center, and return to examine the files in question.

If the newly opened Lithuanian Embassy seeks to bury the past, Israel doesn't need it

We were also promised that rehabilitations granted unjustly could be canceled. But we have not received a single name from the Lithuanian authorities. And in terms of establishing a mechanism for canceling the rehabilitations, a bill to that effect was apparently passed last month in Vilnius, but not a single word about it has appeared in any of the media, in Lithuania, or elsewhere.

WE HAVE other problems with the Lithuanians. President Brazauskas has on many occasions stated unequivocally that his country would prosecute Lithuanian Nazi war criminals wherever they are living. To date, it hasn't. On the contrary.

Not one Nazi war criminal has been put on trial in independent Lithuania, nor is the Lithuanian government anxious to extradite Lithuanian Nazis living abroad.

Thus, for example, the Ameri-

can government is ready to extradite Lithuanian Nazi collaborator **Alexander Lileikis** who headed the local security police in Vilnius during the war, but the Lithuanians are looking for every possible excuse to delay such a step.

They are even attempting to renegotiate the extradition treaty between the two countries, although, under normal circumstances, they would be only too happy to consider such a treaty as binding. Given the fact that Lileikis recently celebrated his 88th birthday, it isn't hard to imagine the practical implication of renegotiation.

Clearly, the Lithuanians would prefer to bury the past.

Not long ago, the remains of Kazys Skirpa, a noted Lithuanian political figure, were given an official state burial in Kaunas. The local media reminded the public of Skirpa's role in establishing the Lithuanian Army, and of his service in the Seim, Lithuania's parliament.

Unmentioned was his role as architect of Lithuanian-Nazi collaboration in World War Two; and his involvement in the Lithuanian Activist Front which, in its broadcasts to Lithuania prior to the German invasion, called for the annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry.

If the Lithuanian Embassy in Tel Aviv seeks to advance the process of stock-taking, involving an honest confrontation with bitter historical realities, it has its work cut out. But if its opening was intended as a step toward burying the truth of our common past, Israel can do without it.

The writer is director of the Israel office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

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is
1-
their
hands

See page 2

Lietuvos Rytas (Lithuanian Dawn), 2 October 1995 (Vilnius)

The A. Lileikis Case: Questions on Both Sides of the Atlantic

Ramune Sakalauskaite

The Lithuanian Embassy in the United States has received a letter from U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy, in which he inquired if the Lithuanian Government intends to demand the handover of Aleksandras Lileikis to possibly be tried for crimes against Jews during the Second World War.

USA Awaits Deportation

Kennedy's letter expresses the hope that in recent times the Lithuanian Government has accounted for the additional US Justice Department documents and has determined if A. Lileikis should be punished.

"Lietuvos Rytas" has written that the General Procuracy has received additional materials from the US which contain evidence showing that the 87-year old Aleksandras Lileikis of Norwood, USA could be considered guilty. According to well-informed sources, the trial of Lileikis, set to begin in the middle of January, should be a turning point in the case.

The letter of the member of the US Senate voices the concerns of Massachusetts voters about the case of the Second World War criminal of Lithuanian origin living in their state. Kennedy writes that his voters want to know if the Lithuanian Government intends to seek Lileikis' deportation for trial in Lithuania.

Kennedy's letter informs he knows of the 1994 US Justice Department complaint seeking Lileikis' denaturalization and deportation of Lileikis for cooperation in World War II war crimes and his concealment of this when he applied for US citizenship. According to the US Senator, Lileikis' handover to Lithuania could be facilitated before the scheduled trial date.

Kennedy's letter also contains the information that the US Department of Justice has collected evidence which proves that Lileikis commanded the Vilnius District Security Police and personally signed orders on handing over Jews to a special killing unit.

Protests to the Embassy

Confirming that he had received Kennedy's letter, Lithuanian Ambassador to the US Alfonsas Eidintas informed "Lietuvos Rytas" that he responded within three days, as US customs require.

The Ambassador indicated that "the answer is very clear -

(2)

They have
been saying this
for a long time
Let them make
a statement
they say
will prosecute
all may be
criminally
in law
Nidst!!

Lithuania is conducting an investigation of the Lileikis case." For this reason the possibility of extradition can only be weighed after the investigation is finished. Eidintas emphasized that the US-Lithuanian extradition treaty is very old (1924) and does not contain mention of many items which are current today, for example the Holocaust and others.

The Ambassador expressed the hope that a new US-Lithuanian legal assistance agreement, to be negotiated sometime this year, will be supplemented with mention of war crimes and then the "problem disappears."

Ambassador Eidintas said that Kennedy's letter wasn't the first. Some time ago he also got one from New Jersey (sic) Congressman Charles Schumer. Eidintas also said that he had met with a couple of activist Jewish rabbis from Norwood, where Lileikis lives. They told the local newspapers that Lithuania had promised to take Lileikis back to Lithuania.

Asked for the reason for the increased interest in the Lileikis case in recent times, the ambassador repeated the thought of American Jews, that Lileikis is guilty. He is charged with handing Jews over to the Nazis. The rabbis indicated that Lileikis' age is the other factor, on account of which one could not long wait.

Eidintas had no new information on the Lileikis case. "This year there will be a trial to take away his citizenship. We do not at all wish to poke our nose into the trial process."

Asked to confirm or deny the reports that the Embassy had recently received many protests from American Jews, Eidintas answered that "many people are interested in the Lileikis case." He mentioned that in May, for the first time since Lithuania regained independence, there had been a protest of 80 people in front of the Lithuanian consulate in New York. The protestors demanded "punishment for Lileikis and other Lithuanians who killed Jews."

To the question of whether the interest in the Lileikis case was linked to next year's US presidential elections, to extract from the candidates a statement on the treatment of those accused of crimes of genocide, the ambassador stated that this "could be an important force." In his opinion, all the candidates are seeking aid in the election. "Because a part of the electorate is interested in specific themes," said Eidintas, "the make demands to speed up the process."

The President is Informed

The Lileikis matter was mentioned at Monday's cabinet meeting. The participants were informed on the progress of the investigation.

A Difficult Inquiry Into Lithuania's Holocaust Bears Grisly Fruit

By John F. Crossland

LONDON — Amid all the attention being paid to Steven Spielberg's Holocaust film, "Schindler's List," another list, drawn up by the Nazi butcher Karl Jaeger, has emerged from a recently discovered German file in Moscow.

There I found the Jaeger list among closely typed documents, some stamped with the Nazi eagle and swastika, in the so-called Special Archive. Karl Jaeger was the man principally responsible for the extermination of 96 percent of Lithuania's Jews, the highest proportion for any country. The yellow Moscow building houses not only the Jaeger papers but those of more senior Nazis such as General Reinhard Heydrich, head of Reich security, which were carried away by the sackful from Gestapo headquarters in Berlin in 1945.

The Nazis were punctilious about recording genocide — the list breaks down the death toll by execution site and by the victims' sex and place of origin. One entry mentions "two American Jews killed at Kauenas." The date was seven days before Pearl Harbor and 10 days before war was declared, a time when these anonymous Jews were at real risk.

What were they doing that late fall of 1941 in Kauenas (today Kaunas)? "They were doubtless relatives

who had emigrated," said Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem in a telephone interview. "They were caught up while on a rare visit in the German invaders' net." In fact, a third of all Lithuanians are estimated to have settled overseas before World War I, most of them in the United States, and a quarter of the emigrants were Jews.

The subject of Lithuania distressed Mr. Zuroff. "Our investigations are not going well," he said. "Ever since Lithuania became independent, attitudes on the ground there to finding the people who were involved in these crimes has left a lot to be desired."

The center, which has its international headquarters in Vienna, has helped bring many prominent Nazis to justice. But it suffered a double setback over the New Year. First the new Lithuanian government turned down its request to open an office there so that evidence could be gathered in situ, with the help of the Lithuanian legal authorities.

A government spokesman explained the refusal this way: "This Jewish organization applied to investigate when it is for Lithuanians to decide on courses of action. Our lawyers don't know all the facts and there

will be no action taken at present."

Mr. Zuroff said, "The Lithuanian government is afraid of the information which will be made public if we are allowed to do research and find witnesses. The nationalist opposition has incredible difficulty acknowledging the role played by Lithuanian collaborators in the mass murder of Lithuanian Jewry."

The second blow was the recent decision of Scottish legal authorities to drop investigations into the wartime role of one of those collaborators, Antanas Gecas, a retired mining engineer living in Edinburgh. Mr. Zuroff contends that there is enough evidence to prosecute Mr. Gecas, who lost a libel case against Scottish Television in 1987 over a program on the activities of Lithuanian police units under the Germans.

The Germans filmed some of the killing fields of their new eastern empire, following Operation Barbarossa, the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. We are familiar with the images of the victims, caught wide-eyed with terror, seconds before the fatal volley from their captors. But here, available to the public for the first time, is the chillingly impersonal report of a mass murderer of the earliest phase of the Holocaust.

The report is that of Standartenführer Jaeger, commander of Einsatzgruppe 3 and regional head of the Sicherheitsdienst, or Special Security Force. He avoided arrest at the end of the war and worked as a farm laborer near Heidelberg until discovered in 1959. He hanged himself in his prison cell while awaiting trial.

Karl Jaeger wrote to his superiors in Berlin from Kauenas, Dec. 1, 1941: "I am in a position to give you evidence that the Jewish problem has almost been solved here. Today there are almost no Jews left in Lithuania, except the Jews who are working for us."

He puts this number at 34,500 and adds: "I was about to kill these people too but the civil authorities were against it. The Reichskommissar [Alfred Rosenberg] issued an order not to shoot them."

Such special operations are primarily a question of organization, he says. "The Jews must be driven to one, or to several sites, depending on the numbers, and the distance between the assembly point and the grave should be more than 4 or 5 kilometers."

He continues: "The Jews should be divided into subgroups, 500 in each, and the distance between the groups should be at least 2 kilometers. What hard and nerve-racking work this is for us I will illustrate with this example. In a small place called Rokiškis, 3,000 men were moved 4.5 kilometers to the execution place. To do this job we used 80 collaborators. Sixty were used to drive the trucks and as guards;

the other 20, together with my men, did the shooting itself. We lacked transport and there were numerous attempted escapes, which were stopped by men at the risk of their lives. One team at Marianopol shot 38 Jews and Communists who were trying to escape into the woods."

Standartenführer Jaeger proudly announced that 143 Jewish children

Recently discovered documents describe the extermination of 96 percent of Lithuania's Jews, the highest figure of any country.

had been murdered in Kaunas and 599 in nearby Kedainiai. He praised his "rank and file, who had worked very hard." He concluded: "The Jews who have been kept alive for work should be killed after the winter. I also believe that after sterilization of the male Jews an end will be put to them, and if any Jewish woman gets pregnant she should be killed."

Since the start of Barbarossa, the total number of Jews killed in Lithuania alone was 137,346.

Karl Jaeger's enthusiasm brought him the displeasure of the head of the Gestapo, Heinrich Müller, who in a dispatch of May 18, 1942, said: "According to the OKH [the German high command] in Minsk, 630 Jewish craftsmen were given special protection because of their exper-

tise. Despite their qualifications they were later killed. In future I am asking you to take into consideration the opinions of the Reichsführer SS Himmler and police chiefs not to kill Jews in the age bracket 16 to 32, who are capable of doing work. These Jews must be sent either to concentration or labor camps."

In the same captured files I discovered evidence that Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, far from "never having decreed the murder of a single individual" as he claimed at Nuremberg, was a prime mover in the earliest stage of the Holocaust, a year before the plan for the elimination of Europe's Jews was drawn up at the Wannsee conference.

The darker side of this top Nazi is revealed in a 12-point memorandum, drafted by General Heydrich on March 26, 1941, after a meeting with Reichsmarschall Göring to discuss the exploitation of conquered Soviet territory after Barbarossa. Above his signature, General Heydrich wrote this: "The Reichsmarschall said that the troops should be warned about the danger of the OGPU, the political commissars, the Jews and so on. The soldiers should know who to put up against the wall and shoot!"

The whole truth about what happened in Europe must be revealed. Thus the interest in being given access to witnesses of the Lithuanian Holocaust — one of the last unresolved and unpunished chapters of a story of which the world is once more being reminded.

The writer is a British journalist and archivist. He contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

International Herald Tribune

March 21, 1994

STATEMENT OF SENATOR KENNEDY
June 10, 1996

I wish I could be with all of you in New York today and to join in supporting the extradition of Lithuanian war criminals from the United States to Lithuania. The brutal crimes committed by these war criminals must not go unpunished. Those who survived the Holocaust deserve to see these offenders stand trial for their crimes against humanity, and I commend your efforts to bring these individuals to justice.

I have contacted both the President of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States to urge their government to request the extradition of Aleksandras Lileikis from the United States to Lithuania. The U.S. Government has already revoked the citizenship of Mr. Lileikis, and the Lithuanian Government should take immediate action to seek his extradition, so that he can be tried in Lithuania.

I commend you for your leadership today. Friends of justice everywhere must continue to speak out until all of these war criminals are brought before a court of law and made to answer for their atrocities.

ALFONSE M. D'AMATO
NEW YORK

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3202

**Statement of Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato
Rally at the Lithuanian Consulate
June 10, 1996**

Due to previous commitments, I regret that I cannot be here today with you to express my support for the immediate extradition from the United States to Lithuania of Lithuanian Nazi war criminals.

I applaud what you are doing. You seek justice for those who can no longer fight for themselves. What these murderers did cannot go unpunished. Now that they have been stripped of their citizenship, they should immediately be sent back to Lithuania to stand trial for their crimes against humanity.

There is no statute of limitations on murder and therefore we must pursue each and every case to the end. We cannot stop until we have caught every war criminal that we can get our hands on. There should be no place for them to hide and they should be hounded until they are caught. Justice must be won.

I want you to know that I am with you and I will fight to ensure that those who committed acts of genocide receive the justice that they deserve.

2

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2601

218-14 NORTHERN BOULEVARD
BAYSIDE, NY 11361
(718) 423-2154

229 MAIN STREET
HUNTINGTON, NY 11743
(516) 423-2154

Gary L. Ackerman
Congress of the United States
5th District, New York

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
RANKING DEMOCRAT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA
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FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SECURITIES AND GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

January 11, 1996

Mr. Yoram Schwell
Rambam Mesivta
25 Frost Lane
Lawrence, NY 11559

Dear Mr. Schwell:

Thank you for contacting my office to express your outrage toward Lithuania's refusal to call Nazi war-criminals to trial.

I share your concern that all Nazi war-criminals be brought to trial. You will be interested to know I signed onto a letter directed to the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Algirdas Brazauskas, asking that he call for the immediate extradition of Lithuanian war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis. The letter states that the U.S. Government last year instituted de-naturalization procedures against Mr. Lileikis, citing conclusive evidence that he is directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews in Vilnius during World War II. However, the Lithuanian government claims that the extradition treaty between the United States and Lithuania, while "valid," is not legally effective" in the case of Aleksandras Lileikis. By refusing to honor this treaty with the United States, Lithuania is hindering the worldwide effort to bring Mr. Lileikis to justice. We, the signers, find this unacceptable.

Since you are not a constituent of mine, I have also taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to Congressman Dan Frisa. I assure you that I share your desire that Nazi war criminals be condemned.

I appreciate your strong concern on this issue. Of course if my office can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Ackerman

GARY L. ACKERMAN
Member of Congress

GLA/aeg

COMMERCE COMMITTEE

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7

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-3204
(202) 225-5516

DISTRICT OFFICE
250 OLD COUNTRY ROAD
MINEOLA, N.Y. 11501
(516) 739-1800

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

CONGRESSMAN DAN FRISA
4TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

February 1, 1996

Mr. Yoram Schwell
c/o Rambam Mesivta
25 Frost Lane
Lawrence, NY 11559

Dear Mr. Schwell,

Thanks very much for writing to me about the case of the two
Nazi war criminals living in America.

Lithuania suffered terribly during the Nazi occupation in
World War II. The people responsible for these war-crimes should
be punished for their actions.

You can count on me to do everything I can to make sure that
any Nazi criminals in America are brought to justice.

Please feel free to contact me whenever I may be of
assistance to you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Frisa", with a stylized, flowing script.

DAN FRISA



MEDICARE

Safe and sound and better for you!

Signers to date: Schumer, Lantos, Gejdenson, Maloney, an,
Barrett, Beilenson, Berman, Cardin, Collins (MI), Deutsch, Doggett,
Engel, Filner, Fox, Frank, Frost, Gilman, Harman, Kennedy (R)
Levin, Lowey, Manton, Matsui, McNulty, Meek, Owens, Portet
Lehtinen, Sanders, Schiff, Stockman, Torricelli, Yates, Zimmer

Algirdas Brazauskas
President of the Republic of Lithuania
GEDIMINO PR.53
2026 Vilnius

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to ask for your immediate and public call for the extradition of war criminal Aleksandras Lileikis. It is truly outrageous that in the face of overwhelming evidence of his war crimes, Aleksandras Lileikis continues to escape justice.

As you know, the U.S. Government last year instituted de-naturalization procedures against Mr. Lileikis, citing conclusive evidence that he is directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews in Vilnius during World War II. Lithuania's request to extradite Mr. Lileikis, and commencement of criminal procedures against him for crimes committed in Lithuania, would be the swiftest path to justice.

However, your government claims that the extradition treaty between the United States and Lithuania, while "valid", is "not legally effective" in the case of Aleksandras Lileikis. By refusing to honor this treaty with the United States, Lithuania is hindering the worldwide effort to bring Mr. Lileikis to justice.

We firmly believe that the Lithuanian government should be doing everything in its power to complete a thorough investigation without delay and should seek the assistance of the United States government in assembling the evidence of Mr. Lileikis' crimes in order to begin extradition procedures.

Please rest assured that the U.S. Congress will continue to take special interest in bringing war criminals to justice. We await your response.

Sincerely,

JES E. SCHUMER
NEW YORK

JAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8816

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1628 KINGS HIGHWAY
BROOKLYN, NY 11229
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118-21 QUEENS BLVD.
FOREST HILLS, NY 11375
(718) 268-9200

90-16 ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD
ROCKAWAY, NY 11683
(718) 945-9200

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
BANKING AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES
WHIP-AT-LARGE

November 20, 1995

END NAZI WAR CRIMINAL'S SANCTUARY
IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Colleague:

Since the end of World War II those who were responsible for the Nazi genocide of millions have been relentlessly pursued, but now time is running short. Over fifty years have passed and the perpetrators of the Holocaust are disappearing. These are perhaps the last years to bring to justice those who carried out the Final Solution.

Today the effort to bring Nazi war criminals to justice draws largely on newly-discovered evidence from the former Soviet Union. The end of the Cold War allowed American investigators access to archival documents that confirm the involvement of individuals in the systematic round-up and execution of Jews.

~~Alexandra Lileikis~~ is only one example of this. Lileikis, the head of a Lithuanian police force, was directly responsible for the deaths of thousands of Jews in Vilnius, Lithuania, where an estimated 55,000 Jews perished. Lileikis resided in the United States as a naturalized American citizen for decades before the United States accumulated enough evidence, including documents found in official Lithuanian archives, to file a denaturalization lawsuit against him. The case is pending in U.S. Federal Court in Massachusetts.

There is a swifter route to justice. Lithuania may request Lileikis' extradition to stand trial in Lithuania for the crimes he committed in that country. While the United States' pursuit of denaturalization might take five to seven years to resolve, extradition can take place within one year of Lithuania's request.

We ask that you join with us in writing to the President of Lithuania to demand that Lileikis be extradited. The text of the letter is printed on the reverse, as well as a list of the Members who have already signed on.

Please call Clare Coleman (Schumer 5-6616) to sign on. Again, time is short. We look forward to working with you on this issue as it develops.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer

Carolyn Maloney

Tom Larte

Sam Gejdenson

signers
letter
on next
page

New
version

Police Commissioner Howard Safir: First Jewish Commissioner Performs Miracle

By ARNOLD FINE

Police Commissioner Howard Safir was quite tight lipped about the brutal mugging and rape that took place in Central Park when he visited the JEWISH PRESS last week.

"We are working on that case the old fashioned way, with hard work."

Hours later, the police arrested the man who confessed to being the assailant.

Whether the Commissioner knew that the case was just about to be cracked when he sat down to speak with Rabbi Sholom Klass, publisher of THE JEWISH PRESS, and a few staff members, we'll never know.

The interview dealt primarily with Crown Heights. When the problem that had taken place in Crown Heights a few weeks earlier was discussed, the Commissioner said that he was on top of the problem. He had met with the Crown Heights Coordinating Council and said that he and the Mayor were very much concerned that Crown Heights remain the great community it has always been.

Accompanied by his Chief of Staff, Marilyn Moll, the Commissioner said the Crown Heights Jewish Patrol has always done an excellent job and he knows they will be able to continue to work well with the Police Department.

"What took place at the time of the disturbance, was basically a misunderstanding," the Commissioner said. "Our officers get a great amount of sensitivity training. We have special courses at the



Rabbi Sholom Klass, Publisher of THE JEWISH PRESS and Police Commissioner Howard Safir.

Department."

Although it wasn't discussed at THE JEWISH PRESS meeting, very few people realize that Commissioner Safir was an investigator with the federal government when the search was on for Joseph Mengele, the Nazi death doctor. It was Safir's group of investigators who were tracking Mengele and eventually found where he was hiding, but when they caught up with him, Mengele was already dead.

As a former Fire Commissioner, Safir was chosen by Mayor Giuliani because of his extraordinary administrative abilities. As a Fire Commissioner he won the respect of hundreds of fire fighters with

COMMENT:

NETANYAHU VICTORY Is EXODUS FROM EGYPT

By AVROHOM SHMUEL LEWIN

TELAVIV — After the mighty miracle of the exodus from Egypt over 3,308 years ago, the Jewish people had a chance to enter the Promised Land immediately if only they would have relied on the Almighty. He had just shown that just as He could perform the miracles of bringing them out of Egypt, so too could He be trusted to save them from all their fears and apprehensions about conquering Canaan.

But the Israelites did not pass the test and despite all the mighty miracles they witnessed, they were gripped with an inferiority complex as we read in the Torah two weeks ago: "We were in our own eyes as grasshoppers." This caused them to conclude that "so we must have been in their eyes."

As a result of this inferiority complex, the Jews wandered in a desert full of trials and tribulations for 40 years. After entering the Promised Land they were faced with another seven years of wars with the 31 kings in Canaan. It took a good many years before the Jewish people were able to settle in their homeland with peace and tranquility. Nevertheless, the exodus from Egypt is considered release from bondage and is a paramount event in Jewish history.

The recent rise of the right-wing and religious parties in Israel is considered an exodus from Mitzrayim (Egypt). Mitzrayim is etymologically related to the word "metzar" (oppression). Our Sages declare, "All repressive governments are called by the



B ' N A I B ' R I T H
CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY

FAX TRANSMISSION FROM

CENTER FOR PUBLIC POLICY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL,
GOVERNMENTAL, AND ISRAEL AFFAIRS

FAX NUMBER (202) 857-6689

TO:

Sam Fried

FAX #:

456-9150

FROM:

George Specter

DATE:

11/21/96

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER):

6

SUBJECT:

MESSAGE:

By Fax

to Dan Fried
from George Spectre
date 11.20.96

As promised, here is the Boston Globe piece.

encl.

In homeland, Lileikis a victim, not war criminal

By David Filipov
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

VILNIUS, Lithuania - Last summer, back in Norwood, Mass., he was a besieged war crimes suspect, stripped of his US citizenship and accused by Justice Department officials of consigning thousands of Jews to die during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania.

But all that has changed for Alexandras Lileikis since he returned to the forgiving embrace of his homeland.

Five months after coming here, a step ahead of US authorities, Lileikis has not been accused of any crime. Nor does it appear likely that he will be. Lithuanian investigators have questioned him just four times, but only as a witness, and most recently in his new home - a nephew's large flat, bought with money Lileikis had sent from the United States. Rather than facing the rest of his days in jail, he is reportedly considering writing a memoir.

The local prosecutor on the case, Gintautis Starkus, has been ordered to avoid asking "harsh

LILEIKIS, Page A32

For Lileikis, forgiveness is apparent in homeland

■ LILEIKIS

Continued from Page A1

questions" out of concern for the 80-year-old's health. Last month, Starkus spoke of how Lileikis "withstood heroically" a four-hour visit by investigators. Earlier, he described him as "an honest man."

U.S. Justice Department officials have been dismayed by Lileikis' treatment, and the lack of progress on the case. They say the evidence they have compiled against him amounts to one of the strongest war crimes cases ever prepared.

But incurring the displeasure of the international community is widely seen here as a price worth paying to avoid facing the episode of Lithuania's past represented by the Lileikis case.

Reluctance to relive era

Many Lithuanian politicians and commentators, reveling in their tiny Baltic state's hard-won independence after five decades of repressive Soviet domination, resent what they see as attempts to dredge up the ghosts of Nazi occupation at a time when the country is looking forward. Officials say privately that they hope the investigation drags on until Lileikis dies.

A federal judge in Boston ruled in May that Lileikis had signed the death warrants of "tens of thousands" of Jews while working as the chief of a secret police force in Vilnius during World War II. But Lithuanian authorities openly question the validity of that ruling. And even though they admit that Lileikis was responsible for "individual cases" of Jews being sent to Nazi firing squads, they say there is not enough evidence to bring the case to court.

"The accusations do not have much basis," said Vidmantas Valcikas, head of the Lithuanian General Prosecutor's Office for Special Investigations, which handles war crimes cases. "He is accused of 10,000 deaths, but he is only responsible for individual cases. We have checked the documents."

The "individual cases" cited by Valcikas are contained in records found at the Lithuanian Central State Archives that show that Lileikis signed and issued orders to arrest Jews and turned them over to the Ypatingas Bury, or "Special Detachment," a killing squad manned by Lithuanian auxiliaries, and the German Security Police, where they were taken to a wooded area nearby called Paneriai and executed.

Lileikis has not denied that he headed the Saugumas, the Lithuanian security police, for Vilnius region from August 1941 and throughout the period when as many as 70,000 Jews were executed in Paneriai. But he has argued that he had nothing to do with the killings.

his argument was rejected by US District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns, who ruled in May that Lilieikis illegally obtained US citizenship by hiding his wartime activities when he arrived in 1955. Stearns wrote in his decision that Lilieikis's signature on arrest cards, and his role in keeping Jews confined to the Vilnius ghetto, was tantamount to culpability in the murders of the 55,000 Vilnius Jews who were executed.

"Lilieikis shares responsibility for the internment of these people in the ghetto until they could be taken out and shot," said Eli Rosensaum, head of the Office of Special Investigations of the US Justice Department, in an interview last week. "He personally played a leading role in convincing the Jews in the ghetto that it was fruitless to escape and thereby helped convict these people to death."

"If we had a criminal trial in the US, I am convinced that we would get a conviction," Rosensaum said.

But Vaicekavskas, of the Lithuanian Prosecutor's Office, does not see it that way.

"Maybe the US has different laws than we do. There are documents where Lilieikis signed his name ordering to send individuals to special brigades. But ... that has to be proven by witnesses, and there are very few witnesses left alive," Vaicekavskas said.

"But whether he knew what happened to these people still has to be proven. That has to be proven by witnesses, and there are very few witnesses left alive."

He lashed out at the suggestion that his office was not pursuing the case vigorously.

"Do they expect us to interrogate a corpse?" Vaicekavskas said. "Lilieikis is not well. He cannot speak much. He talks for 15 minutes at a time, then takes his medicine, goes to the toilet, rests. Harsh questions are impossible, so I've told the prosecutor, Stearns, not to ask them."

Lithuanian officials refuse to reveal the exact location where Lilieikis is lying in Vilnius, or how the former administrator for a South Boston encyclopedia publisher is supporting himself.

'Maybe the US has different laws than we do. There are documents where Lilieikis signed his name ordering to send individuals to special brigades. But ... that has to be proven by witnesses, and there are very few witnesses left alive.'

VIDMANTAS VAICEKAVSKAS
Lithuanian General Prosecutor's
Office for Special Investigations

Western officials say the way the case is being conducted is inconsistent with Lithuania's drive to join the community of liberal Western democracies and secure a place under their US-led security umbrella, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

"We're annoyed and disappointed that a country that has done a lot of the right things does not want to focus on the fact that some people did a lot of wrong," said a Western diplomat in Vilnius. "They should get this case to trial. ... Otherwise, it will be a permanent stain on Lithuania's record that the West will remember when they come looking for financial aid and NATO membership."

The perceived delay has also brought a sharp rebuke from local Jewish leaders, who see the case as a stark reminder that Lithuania's collaborators - rather than Nazi occupying forces - carried out the near-annihilation of Vilnius' once-thriving Jewish population of 60,000, which before the war earned the city the sobriquet "The Jerusalem of Lithuania."

"The surname Lilieikis has long been a synonym for hardened butcher," said Simonas Alperavichus, head of Jewish Community of Vilnius, an

organization representing the roughly 5,000 Jews who live in the capital. "But in Lithuania, certain individuals are inclined to welcome him almost as some sort of hero."

Lithuanians bristle at the implication that they are anti-Semites. But the country has had a difficult time coming to terms with its wartime past.

Soviet atrocities cited

When President Algirdas Brazauskas asked forgiveness for Lithuania's role in the Holocaust and pledged to pursue negotiations of peace by joining a trip to Jerusalem last year, it generated hope in the United States and Israel that the Lilieikis case would be taken seriously in Vilnius. But his initiative was angrily criticized at home, according to



Lilieikis has become calmer for Alexander Lilieikis since he left his Norwood home to live in Vilnius, Lithuania. He is reportedly considering writing his memoirs.

Arturas Rausas, a political observer for Lithuanian Rytas, Lithuania's most respected daily.

When asked about the 250,000 Jews executed by the Nazis and Lithuanian auxiliaries during the war, residents of Vilnius are likely to respond by raising Lithuanian

casualties of the Soviet clampdown that followed: 25,000 partisans killed rescuing the Red Army; 10,000 executed by Soviets after the war; 250,000 sent on the one-way trip to Siberian labor camps by the dreaded NKVD, Stalin's secret police; thousands more forced

to emigrate.

And many Lithuanians, in a claim that defies the historical record of Stalin's persecution against Jews, will say that Jews played a large role in the Soviet crackdown.

"In Lithuania there is not a village where Jews were not shot. To build a liberal state, we have to wash away the sins of the past," said Gediminas Kirklilas, deputy chairman of Brazauskas' Democratic Labor Party. "But more than a few Jews worked in the NKVD. So they gave back some of what they received."

This sense that Lithuania's sins have already been expunged, however erroneous, powers some of the public resistance to the Lilieikis case. The root comes from the common view that Lithuania's war generation was the helpless victim of the clash between Hitler and Stalin.

"Why should Lithuania be seen as a Holocaust nation?" said historian Arunas Bulys, director of the former KGB archive in Lithuania, whose office is located in the building once used by both the Gestapo and the Soviet secret police. From one window, Bulys can view the open-air cells in the courtyard below where Soviet political prisoners got their daily ration of fresh air. From another, he can look out on the square where Jews were marched to their deaths at Paneriai.

"We barely survived Soviet rule, and now that we are free, we have these accusations again," he said. "We have suffered a lot, we have been victims ourselves. We do not want to take guilt on ourselves, especially the young generations."

*the wind w. . .
They were leading
those people to the
ghetto. They didn't
know that they
would be executed.*

*A mournful
moment. It seemed
like a funeral.'*

ALEXANDRAS LILEIKIS

*In the Lithuanian newspaper
Respublika*

Lithuanian recalled a 'deathly silence'

VILNIUS, Lithuania - Lithuanian authorities debating whether to try Alexandras Lileikis on allegations of war crimes might do well to listen to Lileikis himself.

Local prosecutors have accepted Lileikis' claim that he did not know what became of the Jews rounded up by the Lithuanian security police force he commanded in Nazi-occupied Vilnius.

But Lileikis indicated otherwise in a rare press interview, with the local paper Respublika, as he described the day in 1941 when Jews in Vilnius were ordered to the city's ghetto by Nazi administrators.

"We had a look out the window," Lileikis was quoted as saying. "There was a deathly silence. A kind of mourning. They were leading those people to the ghetto. They didn't know that they would be executed. A mournful moment. It seemed like a funeral."

Lileikis has refused requests for interviews through his attorney, including a request from the Globe. The Respublika interview was published in July.

Lileikis denied in the interview that his police force helped set up the ghetto or took part in the executions of 55,000 Jewish residents of Vilnius. But he said that his force's role was to "look for individual Jews who would escape and arrest them."

US officials, in ruling that Lileikis committed war crimes, said that by his actions he discouraged Jews from

leaving the ghetto and ensured his complicity in their murders.

Lileikis has repeatedly and flatly denied his guilt. But in the Respublika interview, he did not seem so sure.

"All of us were collaborators; the whole nation, since it was acting according to Nazi laws," he said. "I needed to clothe myself and eat. I was offered a job and I accepted it. I got into a mess and I got stuck. . . . So probably I made mistakes. Mistakes, or let's say the 'crimes' which I am accused of."

DAVID FILIPOV

PETE JORDAN

DAN FRIED :

LEON JUST RECEIVED
THIS FAX... I THINK
YOUR POINTS COVER
THIS... YOUR THOUGHTS
?

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April 7, 1997

BY FAX

Honorable Leon Furth
Foreign Policy Advisor and
Deputy National Security Advisor to the Vice President
Office of the Vice President
298 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20501

Dear Mr. Furth:

I understand that the Vice President may meet with the President of the Lithuanian Parliament, Mr. Landsbergis, this week. Our firm is representing the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, on a pro bono basis, in connection with the repatriation of Jewish books and archives belonging to YIVO (which was headquartered in Vilnius from 1925 through 1940) that are still located in Lithuania.

We are eager for the Vice President to be aware of this issue and to use the occasion of his meeting with Mr. Landsbergis to urge him to help resolve it as quickly as possible on the basis of international law and respect for the property rights of the Institute. If you could pass this letter and the accompanying memo to the Vice President, we would be very appreciative. This is a serious and important matter and we believe could be satisfactorily resolved with the help of the Vice President.

Very truly yours,



Max Gitter

Enclosure

THE YIVO ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY IN LITHUANIA

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research seeks assistance in a property dispute between YIVO and the Government of Lithuania. The property at issue consists of books, archival materials, and Judaic publications from pre-World War II Poland, Lithuania, and other parts of Eastern Europe.

* * *

YIVO was established in 1925 to promote the study of Jewish history, culture, and society. YIVO's original headquarters was in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania), with satellite offices in cities throughout the world. As part of its mission to study and document Jewish language and literature, society and culture, YIVO amassed in Vilna a renowned Judaica archive and library from throughout Eastern Europe.

Early in World War II, YIVO transferred its world headquarters and some of its Vilna Judaica collection to its New York office. During the war, the Nazis confiscated and brought to Germany a part of the collection that remained in Vilna to be used in a German institute in Frankfurt dedicated to the study of the "Jewish Question" once the "final solution" was achieved. The Nazis set out to burn what was left. Some of the collection was saved by the residents of the Vilna ghetto, however, who formed a "Paper Brigade" to hide whatever documents they could.

At the end of the war, the U.S. Government honored YIVO's claim of ownership to the part of the collection that had been confiscated and transported to Germany. After the war, the U.S. Government also was instrumental in helping to retrieve YIVO materials from France and Czechoslovakia. These materials, along with the materials previously transferred to New York, form a major part of the YIVO collection today. Much of what was left in Lithuania, by then a part of the Soviet Union, was stored haphazardly in an abandoned church, where it sat for over 40 years, although some of it has been moved to other facilities.

The YIVO collection remaining in Lithuania includes thousands of valuable books and archival materials. Among other things, the collection includes YIVO's own organizational records from the pre-war years and thousands of books and periodicals from personal and institutional libraries in Eastern Europe. In some cases, the books and periodicals in the YIVO collection in Vilna are the only known copies of the material in existence.

The ownership of many of the books and periodicals in the collection is clearly identified with an "ex libris" stamp. These stamps show that a large portion of the materials was part of YIVO's own collection, or belonged to the Strashun Library, to which YIVO succeeded as owner. (Some YIVO-owned materials do not have an "ex libris" stamp.) Other materials are known to belong to the Telsher Yeshiva, which is currently located in Cleveland, Ohio, and to several individuals whose heirs are living and can be identified.

The Lithuanian Government has refused to recognize YIVO's clear title to the collection and, until very recently, has even limited access to the materials by archivists and other scholars. Lithuania has dubbed all the Jewish materials in its possession, including YIVO's property, a "national cultural treasure."

Unlike other Eastern European countries that have regained their independence from the Soviet Union (e.g., the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Bulgaria), Lithuania is refusing to allow repatriation of Jewish assets of all kinds to their rightful owners.

Lithuania has no legal justification for claiming rights in the Jewish books, periodicals, and archives that belong to YIVO, the Telsher Yeshiva, and to the heirs of individuals. Lithuania's current position amounts to nothing more than the continued expropriation of private property, including YIVO's own organizational records.

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March, 1997