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THE FRIEND

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Draugas welcomes The Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival

U. S. Support for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Washington, D.C., June 25 (The White House). The Clinton Administration is committed to the integration of all of Europe's new democracies, including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, with the Transatlantic community. The U.S. seeks to eliminate the legacy of Europe's Cold War division — without creating arbitrary new lines. This Administration has and will continue to support the Baltic states' security, sovereignty and democratic, free market transformation.

U.S. relations with the Baltic states are strong and growing; these countries are becoming good economic partners and reliable friends. The Baltic states have provided troops to the NATO-led operation in Bosnia, standing with us in one of the toughest tasks in Europe today.

For decades, successive U.S. Administrations maintained a strong policy of non-recognition of the occupation and forcible Soviet incorporation of the Baltic states. Following the restoration of independence in 1991 by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the United States has been in the forefront of support for both the democratic and free market transformation of these countries as well as support for their security and sovereignty.

President Clinton visited Riga, Latvia in July 1994, the first U.S. President to visit a Baltic state. Vice President Gore visited Tallinn, Estonia in March 1995. As a statement of the American people's support for the Baltic states, Mrs. Clinton also will visit Tallinn in July, 1996.

Since 1990, the Support for East European Democracy program (SEED) has provided \$103 million in assistance to the Baltic nations. Programs include privatization, energy efficiency, public administration training and entrepreneurial support.

In 1994, the U.S. established the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund, capitalized at \$50 million out of SEED funds, to support free enterprise in these nations by promoting the growth of small and medium-sized businesses.

Military training exercises are now being held under the President's Partnership for Peace (PPF) initiative, with which the Baltic states are active participants. „Baltic Challenge”, the next exercise, conducted in the spirit of PPF, will begin July 8 in Latvia, involving platoons from the U.S. Marines and National Guard units from Maryland, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

In 1994, the U.S. launched the Law and Democracy Program to help emerging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe combat organized and white col-

lar crime. The U.S. has provided experts to help the Baltic states cope with bank fraud and strengthen their financial systems. The FBI is scheduled to open an office in Tallinn in the next year.

The United States provided \$8.5 million for the demolition of the ex-Russian large phased-array radar at Skrunda, Latvia.

The Peace Corps is active in the Baltic, with about 150 volunteers, mainly concentrated in English language and small business training.

Twenty grants to Baltic NGOs already have been made under the President's Democracy Network program. The second round of awards will be made over the summer.

The U.S. provided \$2 million for the clean up of the former Russian nuclear reactor facility in Paldiski, Estonia.

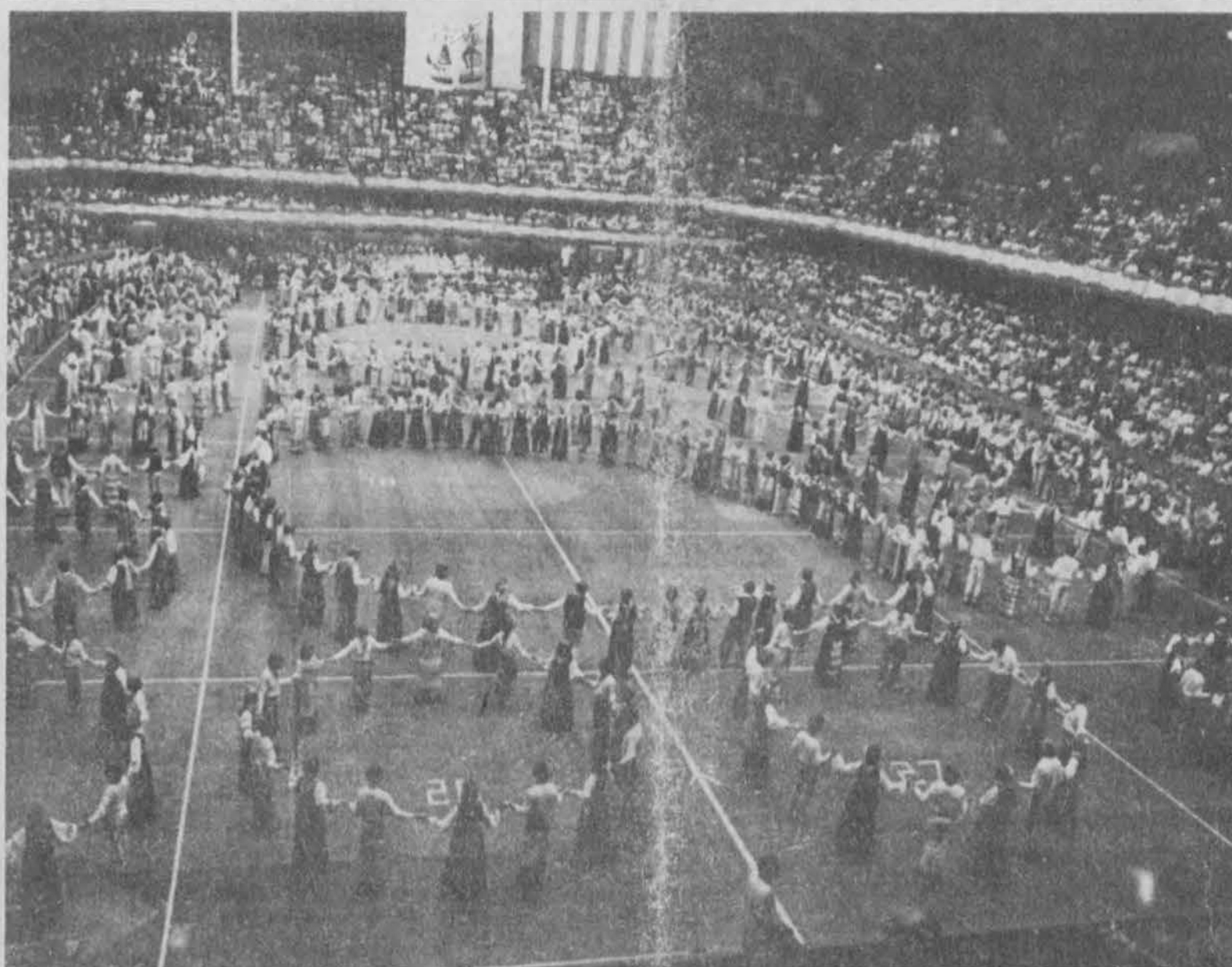
The U.S. has greatly expanded its security and military programs with the Baltic states since 1993.

Each Baltic state is receiving \$1.75 million in FY96 under the President's Warsaw Initiative; the Administration has requested from Congress an increase to \$2.25 million per country in FY97.

In addition, the U.S. has provided over \$10 million in equipment and services for the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion. This year, we will provide to the „Baltbat” additional funding as well as excess military equipment and upgrades to its headquarters in Latvia.

The U.S. has supported airspace integration through the President's Regional Airspace Initiative.

Military contacts are conducted through the Military Liaison Teams in each country. Military training is conducted through the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program, which has more than doubled since FY94 and now is about \$410,000 per country.



A moment from one of many Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals. On July 6th the spectacle will be repeated in Rosemont Horizon arena — with over 2,000 dancers.

President Clinton met with Baltic leaders

Washington, June 25 — President Clinton met today at the White House with President of Estonia Lennart Meri, President of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis and President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas.

The President expressed America's support for the sovereignty, independence and security of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. He underscored his admiration for the progress these nations are making toward rejoining the Western democratic community. He praised the courage and determination with which Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, in their homelands, in America and around the world, fought for and regained independence.

The four leaders discussed the impressive progress made by the Baltic states in their free market and democratic transformation and expressed determination to keep working together to support this process.

They discussed deepening security ties between their countries and expressed satisfaction with their growing cooperation through the Partnership for Peace, IFOR in Bosnia, the President's Warsaw Initiative for security cooperation, the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion and other programs.

The four Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to the integration of Europe's emerging democracies with the Transatlantic community and its institutions. They underscored that NATO's enlargement constitutes a key element of Europe's integration and will increase security for Europe as a whole. They expressed satisfaction that NATO enlargement remains on track and will take place in a steady, deliberate and determined manner over time, open to all of Europe's new democracies and threatening no one.

Baltic Russians support Zyuganov

On June 18, Russian citizens in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia voted in favor of Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov in the Russian presidential elections. In Estonia, with an estimate of 100,000 Russian citizens, over 23,000 people voted in the elections and Zyuganov received 62.7 % of the vote. In Latvia, where 50,000 people have been given Russian citizenship, over 9,000 people voted and Zyuganov received 64.5 % of the vote. In Lithuania, 4,500 Russian citizens voted in the elections and Zyuganov received more than half the vote.

Bob Dole supports Baltics goal on NATO

New York, June 24 (Reuters) — Three presidents from the Baltic States mingled on Monday with Bob Dole, who wants to be one.

The Republican with eyes on the White House met and posed for cameras with presidents of three Baltic countries that were formerly part of the Soviet Union — Algirdas Brazauskas of Lithuania, Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia, and Lennart Meri of Estonia — and backed their goals for eventual NATO membership.

Dole, on a campaign trip here, issued a written statement after meeting with the presidents saying, among the subjects discussed, were recent changes in the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE), “and some of the rhetoric coming from the nationalist quarters in Moscow.”

“I assured the presidents that Baltic security is on the agenda of Washington as we discuss the enlargement of NATO and build our relationship with Russia,” Dole said.

Russian victory in Chechnya dangerous for Baltic countries

Vilnius, June 21, BNS — Duma MP Konstantin Borovoj, deputy from the Economic Freedom party and member of the group on cooperation with the Baltic countries who visited Lithuania, expects that with Alexander Lebed's advent in the Russian security council an end to the war in Chechnya is more likely.

At a press conference in Vilnius on June 21, Borovoj spoke out for the internationalization of the Chechnya problem and reproached Western European governments, including Lithuania, for not having done more to end the conflict.

In his opinion, the only means of regulating the conflict is the withdrawal of Russian troops, the holding of a referendum and elections.

The Duma deputy believes

that Russia has lost the war in Chechnya. According to him, this is better for Russia itself and for neighboring countries. He did not rule out that in the event of a “successful war” in Chechnya, the Baltic countries too would be threatened.

Asked about the Yeltsin-Lebed union, Borovoj said that Yabloko leader Grigorij Yavlinski was still missing from the alliance. In his view, by joining Yeltsin's team, both of these politicians could definitely change Russia. In the MP's opinion, over the past two years the Russian president has been surrounded by people with imperialist thinking.

During his stay in Lithuania, Borovoj met with Lithuanian parliamentarians and parliamentary chairman Česlovas Juršėnas.

Polish parliamentarians support Lithuania's efforts for NATO membership

Vilnius, June 19, BNS — Jerzy Szmajdzinski, chairman of the Polish parliament's national security committee, is convinced that NATO expansion cannot end with the acceptance of the Visegrad countries.

“The Baltic region is very important politically, and we will support Lithuania both politically and materially,” said the influential Polish politician at a press conference Wednesday in Vilnius.

The Polish parliamentary national security committee delegation invited on a return visit to Vilnius by the analogous

Lithuanian committee, arrived June 17. During the three days the committee met with the parliamentary chairman, the interparliamentary group of Lithuanian and Polish MPs and with representatives of the defense ministry and army.

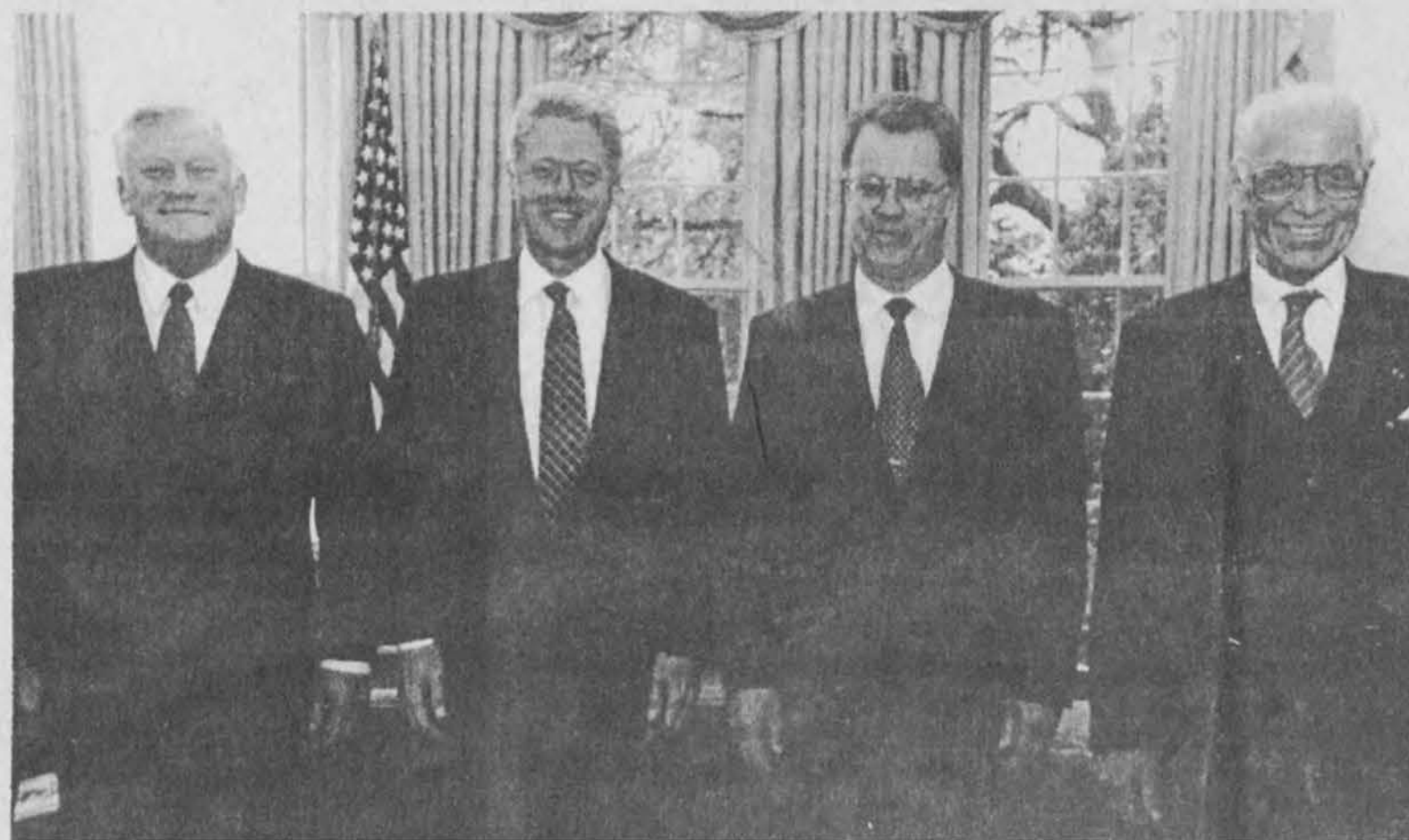
The former Polish defense minister, now committee vice-chairman Janusz Onyszkiewicz, said that Poland will support Lithuania's efforts to join the trilateral Polish, German, and Danish military cooperation.

Onyszkiewicz noted that the Polish government has already prepared a treaty on protection of military secrets with Lithuania, but this document has still to be ratified by the Lithuanian parliament. He urged Lithuanian politicians to resolve the juridical problems as quickly as possible, since only with this treaty in effect can Poland transfer to Lithuania radar devices for the control of regional air space.

Nordic investment bank loan to via Baltica

Vilnius, June 25 (ELTA) — Lithuanian communication ministry and Nordic Investment Bank after long discussions signed 6.5 million dollars loan preliminary agreement for international highway Via Baltica project. Agreement was signed by Lithuanian communication ministry secretary Algirdas Šakalys and Nordic Investment Bank vice-president Klaus Stubjaer on June 25.

The NIB loan will be used for laying road pavement for the Kėdainiai — Pasvalys — Panevėžys highway and buying road service machines, said Šakalys. The loan is to be repaid after 15 years.



Pictured with President Clinton from left to right are Lithuania President Algirdas Brazauskas, Latvia President Guntis Ulmanis, and Estonia President Lennart Meri.

White House Photo

LITHUANIA AT THE ATLANTA OLYMPICS

REMIGIJUS GAŠKA

Lithuanian National Olympic Committee's Attache to the Atlanta Games



Dr. Remigijus Gaška

Lithuania, Reebok, Lithuanian Airlines, Utenos Gėrimai, Karolina hotel.

Each participating athlete in Atlanta had to earn the right to be there: he or she had to qualify, either by reaching certain minimum performance standards set by the International Olympic Committee or by winning one of the open spots designated for Europe. For example, in men's basketball, of the 12 teams participating in Atlanta, 4 slots are allotted to Europe. Looking at the bottom line, Lithuania had more athletes qualify, than it can afford to send to Atlanta.

The final makeup of the Lithuanian Olympic Team will not be known for another week, but it is safe to say, that it will reach 65 athletes. Thus, it will be a full 50% larger than in Barcelona. Together with coaches, trainers, team doctors, managers and officials the size of the delegation staying at the Olympic Village will be close to 100. The delegation will be led by Stasys Šaparnis, veteran Lithuanian athlete and winner of the bronze medal in pentathlon at the Mexico City Games in 1968.

The largest contingent of Lithuanian olympians entered in Atlanta will be the cyclists — 10 men and 5 women. They will be participating in road/street races as well as track (velodrome) competition. We are expecting excellent results from cyclists like Remigijus Lupeikis, Artūras Kasputis, Mindaugas Umasas, Artūras Trumpauskas, and the sisters Rasa and Jolanta Polikevičiūtė. In the opinion of some experts, cycling is the sport where Lithuania has the best chance to win a medal in Atlanta.

Next in size will be Lithuania's track and field team. A total of 13 athletes will be entered. Four are marathon runners, and one of them, Mrs.



A group of cyclists from Lithuania, participating in the 26th Olympiad at Atlanta, GA. From the left to right: Artūras Kasputis, Artūras Trumpauskas, Mindaugas Umasas and Jonas Romanovas.



Artūras Poviliūnas, president of the Lithuanian Olympic Committee.

Stefanija Statkuvienė, did well recently at the Boston marathon. As far as medal possibilities go, watch for Virgilijus Alekna, a discus thrower. At a meet in Germany in late May, Alekna threw the discus 222.5 feet, which at that time, was the best result achieved in 1996 anywhere in the world! Nelė Žilinskienė, Lithuania's premier high jumper, also has an outside chance at a medal. She was the European champion a couple of years ago.

The best known athletes participating in Atlanta, of course, are the Lithuanian basketball players. Led by renown veterans Sabonis, Marčiulionis and Kurtinaitis, the team will be joined by fast rising stars such as Karnišovas, Einikis, Eurelijus Žukauskas, Prškevičius and Štombergas. The nucleus of the team is the same as the one which won bronze for Lithuania in Barcelona and placed second in Europe last year. Lithuania will be playing in Group A and

will be meeting Croatia (July 20), Argentina (July 22), USA (July 24), Angola (July 26), and China (July 28). The quarterfinals are slated for July 30, with semifinals to follow August 1 and finals on August 3. In order to advance beyond Group A play, Lithuania has to place among the top 4 teams. Once in the quarterfinals, one more win would put them in contention for a medal. Lithuania's chances of winning a medal strictly rest on the health and condition of Marčiulionis and Sabonis. It is that simple! If they are healthy and are able to play with the team for 2-3 weeks prior to the Games, watch out! Let's not forget that both had orthoscopic knee surgeries in early May.

The swimmers will be led by Raimundas Mažuolis, who probably has the best chance to place in the top five in the 50 and 100 meter free-style races. Another name you may want to look for is Laura Petrutytė, also swimming the short free-style distances. Both of these swimmers have been training in Miami, FL for some time now and should be in good condition. Another first for Lithuania at the Olympics will be the fielding of a relay team! Backstroke Arūnas Savickas will be joined by butterfly specialist Mindaugas Bružas, breaststrker Nerijus Beiga and anchorman freestyler Mažuolis to field Lithuania's complex-swim relay team.

Another name to watch for is boxer Vitalijus Karpaciauskas,

1993 European champion in the 147 pound class. Last October Karpaciauskas together with seven other Lithuanian boxers trained in Waycross, Georgia and looked sharp. He is not a power puncher, but rather one who is strong technically and skillfull in scoring points. In the Olympic judging system this is what counts, since knockouts are rare.

Lithuania also will enter athletes in wrestling, judo, pentathlon, rowing, artistic gymnastics and canoeing competition.

If you are planning to be in Atlanta we hope you will have the opportunity to cheer for and support the Lithuanian athletes. If you are watching the Opening Ceramones on TV — look for the delegation dressed in light green, better described as "granny apple green". The men's parade uniforms will be light green blazers with straw-colored trousers and hats. The women will wear green suits with straw-colored hats and a Lithuanian olympic scarf. Other than basketball, the competition uniforms will also be light green with white rays and the word "LIETUVA" in yellow. The basketball team will be in traditional white or dark green, adorned with the Lithuanian tricolors.

We hope that the above information will raise your interest in watching the Lithuanians perform as well as help guide you in selecting the Olympic TV programs to watch.

ARVYDAS SABONIS: LITHUANIAN BASKETBALL LEGEND

BY KESTUTIS POCIUS

Although Arvydas Sabonis is a "rookie" in the NBA, he has been a legend in Europe for over a decade, beginning with his days as a 17-year-old star with Kaunas Žalgiris, the Soviet National team, Lithuania's first Olympic team, Real Madrid and now — the Portland Trail Blazers.

Sabonis' first season in the NBA started slowly, although productively. Head coach P.J. Carlesimo, who laso coached Lithuanian star Artūras Karnishovas at Seton Hall University, was reluctant to play Sabas more than half the game, fearful that injuries — new and old — would take their toll on his prize center during the long, eighty-two game grind of the NBA season.

As the season progressed and Arvydas' legs remained strong, his playing time increased and, not surprisingly, so did Portland's success on the court. With Sabonis moved to the starting lineup in early March, the Trail Blazers promptly went on a seven game winning streak, had won eighteen of twenty games at one point and finished the season as one of the NBA's hottest teams.

For the regular season, Sabonis averaged just over fourteen points and seven rebounds per game, while playing twenty-two minutes a contest. More important than the statistics, however, was his impact on the team. Carlesimo says that Sabonis "has a great feel for the game... something that can't be coached... he's one of those rare players who can make his teammates better."

With the regular season end-

ed and the all-important championship playoffs underway. Carlesimo was playing him over thirty minutes a game, with spectacular results: Sabonis was averaging twenty-six points and twelve rebounds per game. According to Arvydas, the biggest adjustments to playing in the NBA have been on defense. In Europe, zone defenses are permitted where in the NBA each player must guard another, one-to-one. The three-second (in the center lane) rule is also more strictly enforced in the USA than in Europe.

Portland's fans have welcomed "Sabas" from the beginning and he has quickly become one of the team's most popular players. Longtime Trail Blazer fans say that Sabonis, reminds them of former Portland's great Bill Walton. Indeed, the similarities between the two are many, including the fact that both had their careers hampered by leg and foot injuries. Although his injuries limit his mobility, Arvydas passes and shoots like a guard, a talent that is not unnoticed by his teammates. "When Arvydas has the ball," says forward Harvey Grant, "you had better be ready for a pass anytime."

Still, Sabas has taken his physical limitations in stride. Like many superior athletes, he has learned to play with the pain that would stop a lesser person. When asked about a foot injury, he replied with a sense of humor. "My foot? It always hurts. I only worry when it doesn't hurt."

If Sabonis was a curiosity at the beginning of the season, he has made believers throughout the year. In February, he was selected to play in the NBA Rookie All-Star Game and was considered one of the top new players in the league. Lately, however, even this early praise seems too bare for his accomplishments. Jack Magruder, basketball analyst for the "Arizona Daily Star", summed it up when he wrote that, "given healthy knees, Sabonis would be a candidate for Most Valuable Player."

If his reputation preceeded him, Sabonis' play has been a revelation to NBA players and coaches. Phoenix Suns' general manager Brian Colangelo says his skills are "unprecedented for a player his size". Portland coach P. J. Carlesimo agrees, adding that Sabonis is that rare player who can make his teammates better. "He has the skills of a smaller player," says Carlesimo, "like a guard who shoots and passes but he does these things at seven-foot-three."

Sabonis' peers are no less impressed. Los Angeles Laker centre Vlade Divac says "he is the best big man I've ever played against." Phoenix coach Cotton Fitzsimmons is more succinct: "Sabonis is a truck."

Arvydas feels revitalized playing in the United States. "I feel like I'm reborn in the NBA... I don't feel like a thirty-one year old... I want to feel young but my body won't let me." Still, he has no regrets over the politics and physical ailments that have hindered a remarkable career. "I am happy to be there and have no regrets where my destiny has taken me." Having signed a five-year contract with Portland, Arvydas expects to end his remarkable career at that time. Enough time for another Olympics and a chance for an NBA championship, he hopes.



Vlas Garastas.

DON NELSON — THE STARMAKER

While Arvydas Sabonis and Šarūnas Marčiulionis are the unquestioned stars of Lithuanian basketball and head coach Vlas Garastas the master technician, much credit must also go to the most prominent non-Lithuanian on the squad: assistant coach Donn Nelson.

Nelson came to the Lithuanian team because of his friendship with Marčiulionis. While an assistant coach for the Golden State Warriors, Nelson was responsible for signing Šarūnas to his first NBA con-

tract. The two — alike in age and demeanor — developed a close relationship during their years at Golden State and the result has been truly beneficial for Team Lithuania. Not only is Nelson a knowledgeable coach, he is young enough to work with the players on the court.

Donn's youth belies his international experience. As the son of legendary NBA player and coach Don Nelson, "Donnie" learned the game early and he has learned it well. He assisted his father at Golden State for several years before becoming an assistant coach for the Phoenix Suns. He was also a scout for the USA's "Dream Team II" at the 1994 World Championships in Toronto and was the first American coach to participate in a Soviet National training camp. He's been a head coach as well — taking over at Golden State in Nelson Sr's absence.

The 1996 Olympics in Atlanta will be Donn's third experience with Team Lithuania in a major international tournament; previously he assisted Garastas during the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona and, most recently, at the European Championships in 1995. With

his proven ability to develop young talent, Nelson is a good complement to the experienced Garastas. Together, they hope to build another medal winning team in Druskininkai.

Donn played basketball at Wheaton (Illinois) college. In addition to his basketball expertise, he is involed with fundraising for Team Lithuania and has helped Šarūnas Marčiulionis with several of his humanitarian efforts. He lives in Phoenix with his wife Lotta and their two children, Christie and D. J.

Considering that life in the NBA is six-months of continuous travel, Nelson's commitment to Team Lithuania during his off-season is substantial. Instead of enjoying a summer with his young family, Donn will be criss-crossing the globe to help the Lithuanians in their quest for another Olympic medal.

Donn Nelson points to Arūnas Karnishovas and Žydrūnas Ilgauskas as Lithuania's premier young stars. Karnishovas is a veteran of Olympic and international play with Team Lithuania and now FC Barcelona, which finished second in the current European championship. Ilgauskas, a seven-foot center who played for Garastas on Kaunas Atletė, has drawn serious interest from the NBA's Minnesota Timberwolves.

Other elite players, according

to Nelson, include Iona College forward Mindaugas Timinskas, Maryland's Šarūnas Jasikevičius, Andrius Jurkūnas, a 6-foot-9, three-point shooting forward for Clemson and Kestutis Marčiulionis (no relation to Šarūnas), who is a junior-college guard. Proving that it's a small world, Jurkūnas and Jasikevičius, who grew up just kilometers apart in Kaunas, now compete in the same college league, the prestigious Atlantic Coast Conference.

Young players who will make an impact as their skills develop are Alvydas Pazdradzis, now playing for McNeese State (La.) University, Marius Janulis, sixth man for Syracuse's national semi-finalist team, and American-born Tony Vilčinskas, a promising, seven-foot center at Valparaiso (Ind. University).

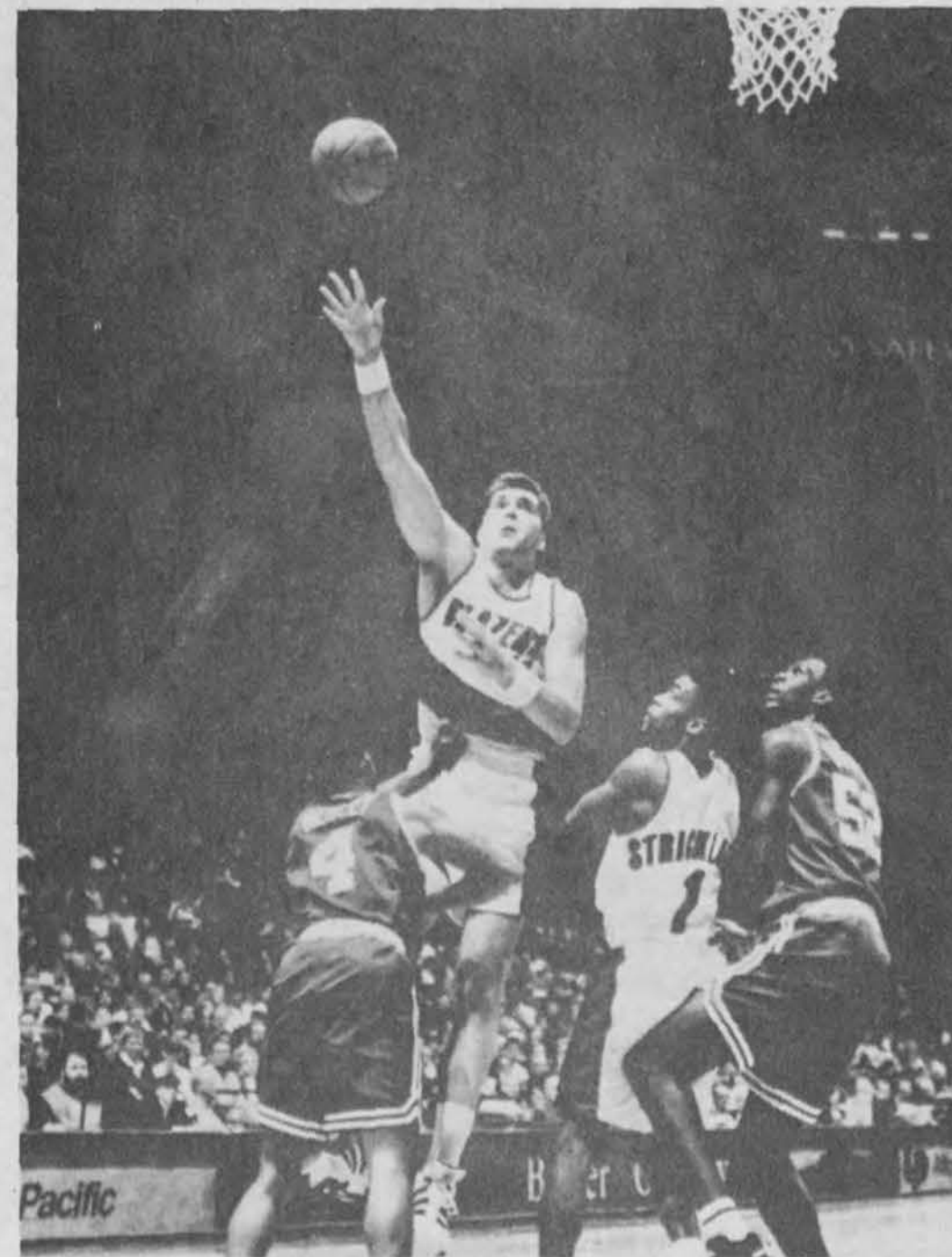
Like many American coaches, Nelson is impressed with the quality of basketball in Lithuania. This he attributes to the sound fundamentals learned by the Lithuanian players as well as the tremendous popularity and emphasis on basketball in Lithuania. He is similarly impressed by the dedication of its players, especially on the national level. "When Šarūnas puts on his 'Lietuva' jersey," says Donn of his good friend, "he always plays more intense."

Referring to Marčiulionis' in-

juries this past season, Nelson is confident. "Don't worry about Šarūnas," he says, "he'll be ready."

And so will the rest of the team, thanks to Donn Nelson.

Kestutis Pocius



Shooting for stardom... Arvydas Sabonis with the Phoenix Suns team.



Donn Nelson.

BALTIC FEDERATION: REALITY OR FANTASY?

BY DR. ALGIRDAS V. KANAUKA

Executive Consultant Strategic Development Center, Vilnius, Lithuania

On the surface, the idea of a Baltic Federation (Confederation, Union, Alliance, or whatever ensures unified action in common cause) appears more fantastic than real. Why? Well, some reasons may be — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania seek separate ways to enter European Union, NATO; and they quarrel about such things as exploration of Baltic Sea oil. Even problems with Russia differ: Lithuanians focus on transit and airspace violations; the Latvians have problems with large Russian minority; Estonia has unique border disputes with Russia. Not much commonality there.

On the military side — in the Baltic Battalion we appear more together; also on the cultural side — last year, Lithuanian and Latvian singers and musicians joined forces to produce Richard Wagner's opera the "Flying Dutchman". Choosing to disregard the criticism this performance received, it roared as an example of Baltic cooperation.

Certain Latvians and Estonians argued that we Balts do not like each other much, at the grass roots level, although, at other levels we work well together. Is this true? I never met an Estonian or Latvian I did not like. Now I'm worried.

Since the Russians oppose NATO expansion we can surely expect an eyeball to eyeball confrontation calling a Baltic Federation a provocation and a threat. We may have to face Russia alone which will demand the greatest resolve on our part. We done it before. Can we do it again? May cost us more blood this time.

I could pontificate on possible advantages of a well orchestrated Baltic Federation. A bundle of sticks tied together is harder to break than three separate ones. The Baltic Federation could have the advantages of economies of scale, common defense, common market, and a unified monetary and foreign policy. Such a federation would have more political clout internationally than what's now.

Wise men say — assumption is the Mother of all catastrophes. I assume, that our different languages will be no barrier. I also assume that we'll preserve our national cultural heritage against the onslaught of consumerism and Western overculture. Baltic singers, dancers, and poets say that our culture, rich in folklore, can thrive only in a state dedicated to its promotion. Maybe we ought to take a careful look at that culture and decide what is still worth keeping and what is not? Culture must evolve, move forward or it becomes stale and dies. One has to let some things go to make room for new creativity. The Japanese, somehow, succeeded retaining much of the old, while bringing in the new.

To bring the Baltic Federation from fantasy into reality we need a new mind set, a viable world view and a compatible set of values. What are the incentives and motivations for the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to meet such new revolutionary demands? First, it'll be easier to withstand Russian efforts to absorb us one by one, pitting us against each other. Second, once organized, we can find a new role, perhaps as mediators and reconcilers of relations between East and West, facilitators of trade with

the vast Eastern markets. I think we know how to deal with the East better than the West does. We Balts have more experience and have developed immunity to Eastern ways. Why not make use of it together rather than apart?

A Baltic Federation could become a conduit for ideas and commerce to Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine, similar to what Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg) is to Western Europe. This will hold true if we try to keep our relations with Russia tension free, wherever possible, while the West is becoming apprehensive of recent reactionary changes in Russia and is recoiling. The Russians must relate with the West, but they have problems doing so. We have to convince them to deal and discourse with the West through us. I know that such a proposition is extremely controversial in principle and whether it is do able and how? Nevertheless, it ought to be explored further than dismissed. The Russians must be made to realize that a free, efficient and independent Baltic Federation is more useful to them, than it be part of Russia. It must be the main thrust of our foreign policy to find ways and means to make it happen without being crushed by it. Never mind that the Russians call us "The Near Abroad". Those are only words, let's not overreact. Actually, we are abroad, and we are near; we cannot change these facts, let's exploit them.



Dr. Algirdas V. Kanauka.

The West may favorably respond to our role as a mediator because they still want to deal with Russia, and vice versa, and will do so through anybody that can be effective. If not through us, then they'll do so through others, to our disadvantage. Those unexplored opportunities of our situation should be incentives for the grass roots peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for a new consciousness for a life of the future together, since we are neighbors forever, for better or worse.

The Western countries already find it convenient to call us the Baltic states. Jointly we do create a larger "critical mass" for political effectiveness. We must convince the West that a democratic Baltic, independent of Russia, will add more to the stability of Europe, than three diverse little countries can.

There are other alternatives. How about a Scando — Baltic Union? That's reemerging idea which includes: Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Denmark and, of course, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Expand this by including Germany and



A forgotten cemetery in Siberia where the bones of many Lithuanians still rest today.

DAY OF MOURNING AND HOPE

Washington, D.C., June 12 (Embassy of Lithuania). According to the order of October 31, 1990 N 1-730 "On memorable days" the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a decree regarding June 14 as a memorable day of "Mourning and Hope".

On the night of June 14, 1941 the Soviet Union which had occupied Lithuania began its first massive deportation of Lithuanian people to Siberia.

A week before the beginning of the war with Germany, echelons of exiles were deported to remote regions of the USSR.

In April of 1941 NKVD of the USSR arranged the list of Russian, Uzbek and Kazakh regions and autonomous republics where Lithuanian residents were planned to be deported for the period of 20 years.

The documents for the use of organizers and executors of deportations clearly demonstrate that expatriations of 1941, first of all, were directed against the most conscious layer of society — the Lithuanian intellectuals who emerged in the period between the wars.

Though there were not a few industrialists, traders and farmers who have been included into the lists of those to be exiled the majority was comprised from high ranking officials and intelligentsia's families of various professions. The so called "nation's enemies" were the most prominent figures of Lithuanian public, Lithuanian nation: officials, officers, archers, volunteers, teachers, doctors, art people, farmers. Tatars and Karaims, Poles, Jews, Russian old believers, etc. Dignified and loyal citizens of independent Lithuania were being deported as well.

Poland, and you have a new superpower. That would shake things up. Call it the Baltic Ring. I fantasize another seductive alliance involving Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Ukraine. They already talk about it in the beerhalls of Europe. Do not dismiss such signs as pure nonsense, history is in our genes. However, first things first. Let me go back to the subject of a Baltic Federation.

Fantasies do enter our collective consciousness and become real. Long ago, Lithuania's Grand Duke Gediminas had a dream on which he built the capital city of Vilnius. We too must move from fantasy to reality. Baltic brothers and sisters, tomorrow may yet belong to us, if we manage to remain our own Masters. To do that we must get moving and create a terrific new entity — BALTICA!

According to the data of the Lithuanian encyclopaedia published in Boston, 34,260 people have been arrested and deported at that time. (vol. 7, p. 139).

According to the data by professor Adolfas Damušis, during World War II and post war years (1946-1956) Lithuania has lost more than 1 million 120 thousand 600 of its people.

The industriously organized action of June 14 was carried out by LSSR NKVD, NKGB employees, militia, troops of SSRS NKVD internal army. They were assisted by the officials of the Ukrainian NKVD.

From the 14th of June, 1990 the Day of Mourning and Hope is being marked by various events. President of the Republic Algirdas Brazauskas, leaders of Seimas (the Parliament) and the government take part in the solemn ceremony of raising the state flag. Holy Mass is celebrated at Vilnius' Cathedral and other churches of all cities. Flowers are laid near the monument on the iron track of the railway at Naujoji Vilnia Railway station, where echelons of Lithuanian residents to be exiled had been formed.

BIRTH RATE CONTINUES TO DECREASE

Vilnius, Jun 24, BNS — In the January-April period, the birth rate in Lithuania continued to decrease and mortality grew.

The natural growth of inhabitants over the four month period was negative — 2,838 more people died than were born. The negative natural growth of inhabitants this year was 54 percent greater than last year over the same period.

In the January-April period a total of 13,081 infants were born which was 859 less last year over the same period. During the first four months of this year 15,919 persons died, or 674 more than last year.

At the beginning of May, 3,708 million people were living in Lithuania — 3.5 thousand less than at the beginning of the year.

The mortality this year in Lithuania increased 16% for diseases of the circulatory system, 38 percent for diseases of the respiratory system, 10 percent for diseases of the digestive tract.

Over the year, however, suicides decreased by 15%, deaths in auto accidents decreased by 41 percent, deaths as a result of murder by 28 percent, deaths due to infectious and parasite diseases by 18 percent, deaths from malignant tumours by 2 percent and deaths due to alcohol poisoning by 9 percent.

BALTICS HAVE NO CHANCE TO ENTER NATO

Moscow, June 19, BNS — The Baltic states have no chance of joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Sergei Karaganov, a foreign policy adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, maintains.

"If NATO should expand regardless of Russia's protests, it is natural that the relations between Russia and the Baltic states would become more complicated," Karaganov told BNS.

In his words, the Baltics will benefit, not from a confrontation of blocs in Europe, but from a close cooperation between Russia and the Atlantic alliance.

Karaganov declared that the Baltic states had no chance of making it to NATO membership. "But, to remain between the anvil and the hammer is the most unpleasant thing that could happen to a small state," the principal author of Russia's foreign policy doctrine emphasized.

Communist Gennady Zyuganov, the runner-up in Russia's presidential elections on Sunday, June 16, has also stated his opposition to NATO enlargement.

Only Alexander Lebed, who surprisingly garnered the third biggest number of votes, said ahead of the elections he was not against the expansion of the Western military alliance if it had enough money for this.

SWEDEN'S GIFT TO LITHUANIA

Klaipėda, June 25 (ELTA) — Director General of Swedish Coast Guard Leif Sjoestroem handed over the documents of coast guard vessel 'Lilian' to Chief Commissioner of the Lithuanian border police department Stanislovas Stanickas.

The handover ceremony, with Swedish and Lithuanian national anthems played, was held on June 25 at the international ferry harbour in Klaipėda; Swedish flag was lowered and Lithuanian one was hoisted in the coast guard cutter.

'Lilian' is 25 m long and 5 m wide, with two mighty engines, electronic navigator and modern communication system. It can reach 21 knot speed. 'Lilian' is to guard Lithuanian economic zone in the Baltic Sea.

This is the fifth cutter given to Lithuania by Sweden as a gift. Four other vessels are sailing at the state border in Kuršių Marios lagoon and Nemunas and are used by fish protection department services.

• In 1984 the Supreme Court ruled that the Jaycees may be forced by state laws to admit women as full members with the same status as men.

A fledgling takes flight

On July 25th the Lithuanian world-wide daily Draugas will celebrate its 87th birthday. As they say: Draugas has come a long way from the time of its birth in 1909 on this side of the Atlantic ocean, far away from Lithuania where most readers of Draugas originated.

Draugas was their faithful Friend (that is what the world draugas means in Lithuanian — friend) and companion through World War I; the awakening of collective Lithuanian ethnic consciousness; the unceasing efforts to help their homeland achieve its ultimate goal — independence.

When this miracle finally occurred on February 18, 1918, Lithuanians abroad, especially in the United States, knew that their work wasn't over — Lithuania still needed support, both financial and political. Their faithful Draugas, already a daily, from 1919 published by the congregation of Lithuanian Marian fathers in Chicago, was the hub of democratic minded Catholic Lithuanians — informing, uniting, and building a strong Lithuanian ethnic community in the US.

After WW II many more thousands of Lithuanians, displaced from their homes and their native land by the horrors of war and dread of a second Soviet occupation, found new life in this country. Draugas was here to greet them, embrace them and enfold the new immigrants into the existing Lithuanian community. (It is still carrying on the noble mission with Lithuanians, arriving to settle in the United States from free Lithuania today).

During the decades since, many younger generations who grew up and were educated in English-speaking lands, lost the ability to freely communicate in the language of their parents

and grandparents. However they did not lose their ethnic identity, they still clung to the heritage, even though unable to read the numerous Lithuanian publications still abundant in the US. Draugas wants to remain The Friend to these people of Lithuanian descent and also to anybody else, who feels a need to be informed about small, courageous country — the Baltic Sea, ancient history, but young in spirit, along with two other Baltic States — Latvia and Estonia — always was and still is the barrier between the West and the East, standing firm between the desired Western culture on one side and dangerous, all engulfing Eastern expansionism on the other. However, it also is an important bridge between the West and the East.

This issue of Draugas — The Friend is the first fledgling boldly flying out of the old parent nest, seeking new readers, new ventures, so it too can inform, unite, entertain, but in another language. Not unlike some of the younger generation of Lithuanians, it too speaks in English, the language they understand best, but the spirit, the purpose, the ideas and ideals are the same as in the original Lithuanian language, Draugas — the only Lithuanian language daily, published abroad.

We, the publishers and editors of Draugas, strongly feel that the time for this new venture is ripe, and hope that the sample issue of The Friend will meet interest and encourage its continuity. Please note the article Welcome by Draugas's administrator Mr. Ignas Budrys and give The Friend a chance. We know you will be glad you did

Danutė Bindokienė
Editor-in-Chief of daily Draugas

WELCOME

Welcome to the first English edition of Draugas (The Friend). We present to you this first issue as our new venture to give you, our potential readers, a flavor of the paper's content and to gauge the level of interest in a weekly publication dedicated to Lithuanian issues.

This new publication is intended for everyone — friends of Lithuania as well as persons of Lithuanian descent. It will contain articles on what is happening in Lithuania and what is taking place in the world relative to its effect on Lithuania and its people. Stories will include current political issues, religion, sports, entertainment, and cultural events. A Readers column will give you an opportunity to share your views with others. You will find in this English edition of Draugas up

to date news stories and special interest stories not available in any other English language publication. The newspaper will be published every Saturday and will cover events and news of the past week.

We have published the first issue for a free distribution so you can get a feel of what the future issue will be like. We need your subscription by August 16 so we can begin publishing by August 31st.

On the last page of this paper you will find a subscription form. If you are interested in seeing this publication on a periodical basis, fill it out and mail it to us with your check. If you do not have a subscription form, please call us and we will be glad to send you one.

Ignas Budrys
General Manager



The joy of folk-dancing... Left to right: Kristina Mikaityte, Audrius Polikaitis and Rima Polikaityte.

THE HISTORY OF THE LITHUANIAN EMBASSY BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

BY ALFONSAS EIDINTAS

The ornate Italian-style building that is now the Embassy of Lithuania was one of several properties owned by Senator John B. Henderson and his wife Mary Foote Henderson, and built especially for the diplomatic row of Sixteenth Street around the turn of the century. Construction of this specific building was finished in 1909, and over the next 15 years it was rented to diplomats of various countries. Lithuania purchased the building in 1924 for \$90,000.

Mary Foote Henderson had a grand vision of transforming the 2200 block of Sixteenth Street into "Embassy Hill near the Meridian Heights." Her husband died in 1913, leaving her substantial wealth. Fascinated with architecture, she sent sketches of buildings to her favorite architect George Oakley Totten, Jr. After building an embassy for France, Mrs. Henderson built embassies for Ecuador, Spain, Mexico, Cuba, Poland, Lithuania and Holland. Many of these buildings included interior decor that was native to each country.

According to the Commission of Fine Arts publication *Sixteenth Street Architecture, Volume 2*, the architect, George Oakley Totten, Jr., attended Newark Technical School. He moved to Washington in 1895, and became chief designer at the office of the supervising architect in the Treasury Department. Over the course of his career he concentrated on designing expensive residences. He was Mrs. Henderson's official architect. His buildings in the Meridian Hill area include 2401, 2437, and 2535 Fifteenth Street, and 2460, 2600, 2620 (demolished), 2622, 2640, 2801, 3145-47, and 3149 Sixteenth Street.

May Foote Henderson's sponsored buildings were constructed by the well-known firm of George A. Fuller Company, founded in 1882. Early this century the Fuller Company built many major U.S. government buildings, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cathedral. On November 1, 1907, Ms. Henderson contracted the Fuller Company to con-

Lithuania's modern history has been a dramatic one, from independence to occupation to re-establishment of independence. The Embassy in Washington has played an important role throughout these events. Immediately after World War I Lithuania's political priority was formal diplomatic recognition. The Lithuanian government set up information bureaus in Switzerland and the United States to pursue this goal. Julius Bielskis headed the Lithuanian bureau in Washington. He was followed by a special Lithuanian government mission in 1919 led by Jonas Vileišis. The mission sought to secure loans for the newly established republic, and recruited Lithuanian-Americans for assistance. Jonas Vileišis' most noteworthy achievement was the sale of Lithuanian Freedom Bonds, which raised 1.7 million dollars. From 1920 to 1921 the U.S. Department of State recognized Mr. Vileišis as Lithuania's unofficial representative. Voldemaras Čarneckis succeeded Vileišis in 1921, and fund-raising was continued.

On July 27, 1922, the United States Government recognized the Lithuanian Government de jure. Voldemaras Čarneckis was officially accredited as the Lithuanian representative on October 11, 1922, and it is from this date that the Legation officially began to function. In

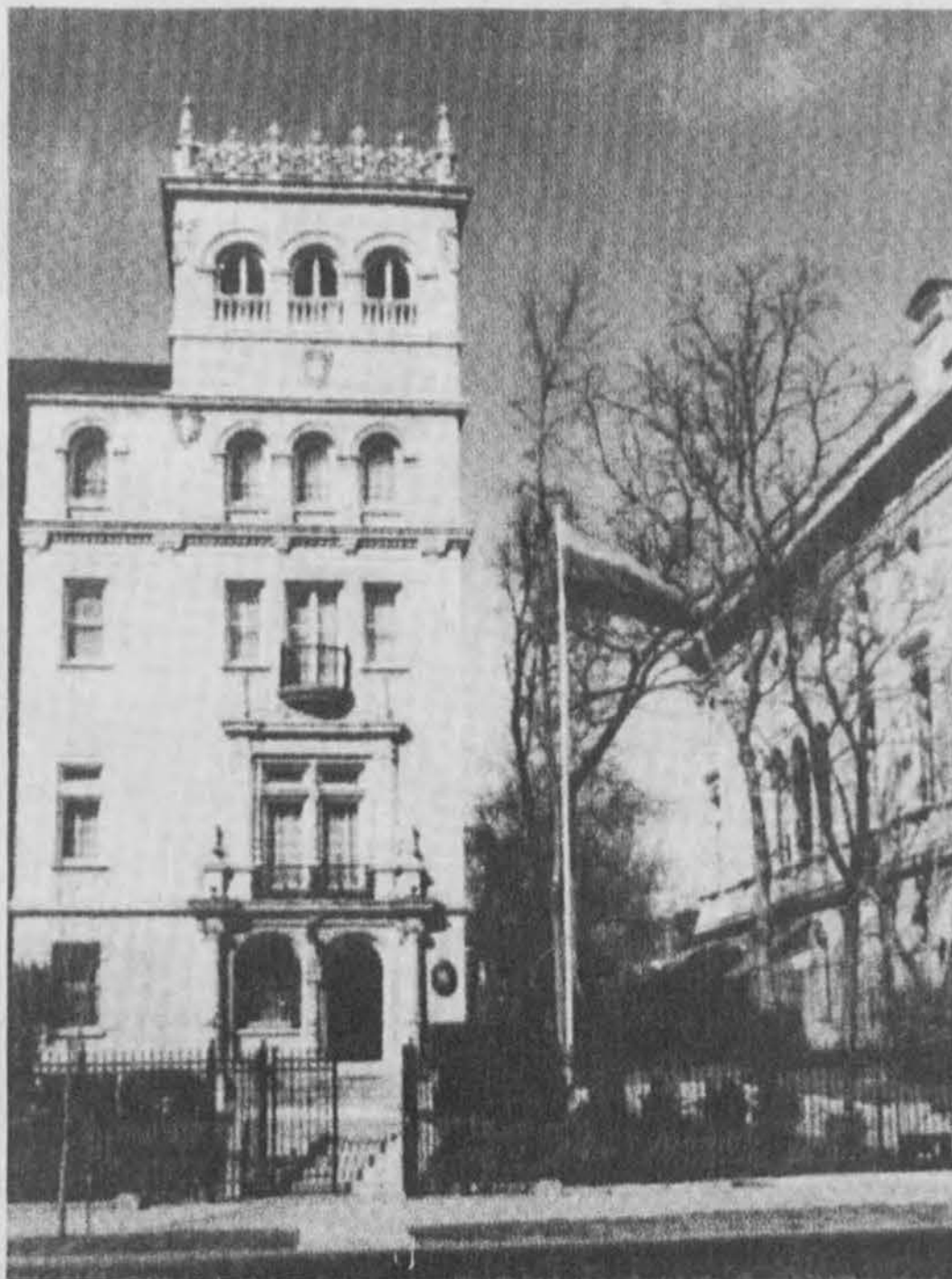


Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr.

1923 Kazys Bizauskas replaced Mr. Čarneckis and served until 1927. It was Mr. Bizauskas who purchased the building on Sixteenth Street. Mikas Bagdonas replaced Mr. Bizauskas in 1927. Bronius Kazys Balutis followed in 1928, and in 1934 was replaced by Povilas Žadeikis.

Mr. Žadeikis continued to represent Lithuania after the Soviet occupation of Lithuania in June 1940. His situation was very difficult, as he had no legitimate Lithuanian government to consult with, and no official funding for the Legation.

Despite the many years of Soviet occupation, Lithuania's independence day was commemorated without interruption at the Legation, which continued to remind official Washington of the illegal incorporation of Lithuania into the U.S.S.R. From 1940 until 1947 the Legation published a bulletin entitled *The Lithuanian Situation*, which was sent to Congress and other official agencies of the U.S. Government. Other Legation publications followed — *Lithuania's Occupation by the Soviet Union* in 1960, and in 1964 and 1969 — *The Story of Captive Lithuania*.



Embassy of Lithuania, Washington, D.C.

Povilas Žadeikis died in 1957, and was replaced by Juozas Kajeckas, who in turn was replaced by Stasys Bačkis in 1976. In 1983, following the death of Stasys Lozoraitis, Sr., Mr. Bačkis assumed the additional duties of chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service abroad. His job was difficult, as the number of Lithuanian diplomats diminished as the years went by. Due to the United States' non-recognition of Lithuania's incorporation into the Soviet Union the Legation was nevertheless able to function.

By the 1980's, the Legation building had fallen into disrepair. A bombing of the Swiss Embassy's Cuban interest section's building next to the Lithuanian legation also damaged the building. Repairs at that time were covered by \$20,000 donated by Lithuanian-Americans.

In late 1981 representatives of the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., and the American Lithuanian Council met with Chargé Bačkis, Consul-General Anicetas Simutis, and Domas Krivickas. The cost of renovation was estimated at \$250,000 dollars. By the spring of 1982, the newly formed "Lithuanian Legation Building Restoration Committee," chaired by Dr. Jonas Genys, had already raised \$35,000. Many local Lithuanian-Americans as well as various Lithuanian community groups throughout the United States actively participated in the fund-raising effort. By 1983, a total of \$131,629 had been raised; of this sum \$129,404 was actually spent on renovation.

A number of capital improvements were made in the building: the roof and walls were renovated, the exterior of all 96 windows were repainted (the building contains 31 rooms, 96 windows and 93 doors), and deteriorated window sills replaced, bathrooms were redone, and the heating system was partially expanded. Most importantly, the electrical system was upgraded.

For many years the Legation stood as a symbol of Lithuania's statehood. On November 15, 1987 Mr. Bačkis was replaced by Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr., who continued to improve the 31 room Legation, which, after U.S. recognition of the re-established independent Lithuania, became an Embassy, one of the most important Lithuanian diplomatic missions.

Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr., was accredited as ambassador in 1991. In October 1993 he was appointed as Lithuanian ambassador

to Italy (Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis, Jr., died on June 13, 1994).

The current Lithuanian ambassador to the United States is Dr. Alfonsas Eidintas, an historian who has researched 20th century Lithuanian history and published seven books on this topic. On December 9, 1993, he presented his credentials to President Bill Clinton.

With the arrival of Ambassador Alfonsas Eidintas, his family and the new diplomatic staff, the functions of the Embassy increased as new responsibilities emerged and work with many institutions and agencies expanded. At the same time, attention was focused on a thorough renovation of the Embassy building. The interior decorations, although beautiful, needed restoration.

The first of many projects included repair of the dilapidated roof, and construction of a driveway to a new parking lot at the rear of the property. Attention later turned towards the interior of the building. During the deep freeze of late December 1994 in Washington the Embassy's heating system broke down. Upon inspection, it was determined that the entire heating system had to be replaced. It was also deemed practical to concurrently install air-conditioning throughout the entire building.

Throughout the renovation process, the Embassy, wherever possible, used products manufactured in Lithuania.

Archives that had been stored in the building for decades were organized and shipped to other institutions. With the assistance of a local freight forwarding firm, documents were sent to Lithuania's National Archives and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Many old Lithuanian books and newspapers were transported from the Embassy to the Lithuanian Research and Studies Center in Chicago.

The grounds surrounding the Embassy also saw changes. The previous old gardens made way for a new entrance and parking spaces. A basketball backboard was erected on the rear parking lot; this sport is a passion for Lithuanians. All exterior doors and windows were reconstructed. To secure the grounds, a new ornate iron fence was erected in front, as well as a chain link fence around the rest of the grounds. During 1994-1995 \$375,000 was invested in renovation.

Finally, the building's most impressive room — the tower room — was restored in 1995.

THE PROBLEM WITH TOMORROW'S AUDIENCES

ARNOLD VOKETAITIS

Springtime in Chicago usually means a trip to Cicero, IL, to many culturally minded Lithuanians and others not so musically oriented because "their" opera company "The Lithuanian Opera Company of Chicago" is about to perform their annual operatic adventure. In April, 1996, the company together with visiting soloists, musicians and scenery from the Kaunas Opera (Kaunas, Lithuania) presented a performance of Banaitis' "Jurate and Kastytis".

How joyous and proud we are of such an event to hear a major Lithuanian operatic composition sung in Lithuanian (or one translated and performed in earlier seasons) by the only perennial ethnic opera company in the United States.

Yet, last year as I looked around Morton High School at the multitude of proud, middle-aged Lithuanians awaiting the opening phrases of the presentation of Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers", I was saddened by the knowledge that the young, for the most part (25 and under) were absent. Unfortunate, yes! Surprising, no!

You may ask "Why no?" The reasons are many. The obvious one is that for most the performance is an "event", not a cultural experience which it should be. Who's at fault? The middle and older-aged persons sitting in the audience rarely attend traditional concerts with their children outside the community. Yes, there is a small core of disciplined and knowledgeable Lithuanian musical enthusiasts who retain the interest in classical music instilled in them by their parents and an educational system that until recent years helped create the interest. But most have not nurtured the next generation of listeners and audiences. More attention must be given to the question of audience development and the growth of its artistic appreciation.

Where tomorrow's audiences are to come from is not just our problem, but one that exists world-wide. Is classical music becoming a cultural dinosaur? Many say, yes. Yet, there are more concert halls, more or-

Other treasures were discovered — a portrait entitled "The Christening of King Mindaugas", which was the fifth of five murals exhibited at the 1939 World's Fair in New York. This portrait, not yet restored, hangs in the Ambassador's office.

Much of the character of the Embassy had been carefully nurtured by Mrs. Ona Bačkienė (especially during the first renovations), later by Mrs. Daniela Lozoraitienė, and now by Mrs. Birutė Eidintienė.

The works of art that adorn the Embassy were donated by individual Lithuanian-Americans, as well as Lithuanian-American businesses and institutions. During Embassy functions Lithuanian products are served whenever possible.

The decades-long cooperation and partnership between the Lithuanian-American community and the Lithuanian diplomatic corps continues. The most recently accredited diplomats recognize the historical traditions of their predecessors and continue this work as the 21st century approaches.

("Lietuvos Ambasados Rūmų Washington, D.C. istorija", 1996)

chestras, more CDs and recordings than ever before. But who's listening? Do they care? Their temperament is definitely not like those who came to these shores following WWII. Yet behind these positive statistics is the nagging problem that our Lithuanian audience for classical music is aging and waning and not only here in America. In Vilnius, Lithuania and other European capitals going to live concerts is still a normal part of cultural behavior. In the major Western cultural cities like New York it is reputed that only 20,000 to 30,000 people out of 10 million, and mainly middle-aged or elderly people participate in the classical scene. London, regarded as the musical capital of Europe, showed in 1994 that the majority of audiences for classical music were over 55 years of age, or 47 percent, compared with only 15 percent for the ages 16 to 34 group. The figure reversed itself for contemporary music like jazz and rock.

The present feeling, regrettably, is the feeling that classical music has no long term viability — and is doomed. How sad for us and the civilized world. Can this also be the proverbial writing on the wall for any type of Lithuanian language production, unless changes are made to stimulate new production values and attract younger audiences? We must see to it that productions, concert ideas, open-mindedness are brought up to date in style, presentation and vision. It's happening in most opera houses and in symphonic programming, as well as recitals; all to generate that "new" audience while holding the old. Those arts companies, organizations and individuals who refuse to change will wither away. Change has been with us since we were divinely put here on earth, and is expected of us in every other facet of life. So we must practice it in the arts as well. Remember, with positive change comes growth. Regional and major opera companies, symphonies, arts organizations just don't think of next year's production, but plan for two and three years ahead. Naturally, this is difficult within our ethnic community, but the spirit of "creative difference" should always be fostered.

As finances put limits on our personal lives, they also have controlled the ambitions of arts organizations. But, with quali-



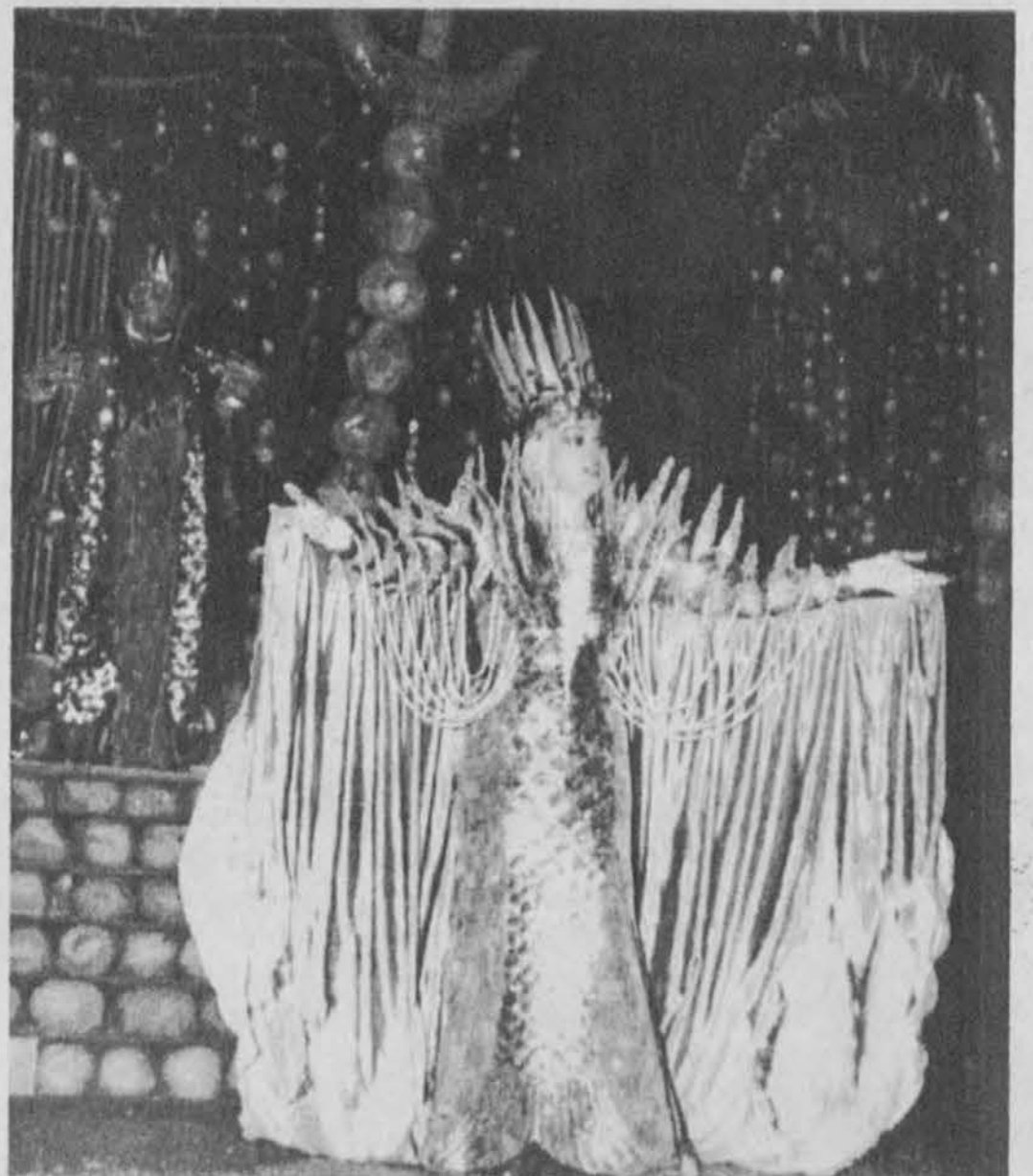
Arnoldas Vokėtaitis.

ty new productions, an ear and eye on musical and arts changes, new interest and a growing audience can emerge, and generate the needed funding through individuals and corporations. It's worth the effort by all proud Lithuanian-Americans including this writer.

School systems (both the English-language schools and the Lithuanian-language Saturday schools) have eliminated most of their art and music courses, so where does that leave our young audiences of tomorrow? Parents, grandparents and other interested adults bear the responsibility to introduce all artforms to their children. Arts education must be the tool to lead our children back to enjoy Lithuanian performances of vocal and instrumental artists like our own Lithuanian Opera Company. We must remember that no childhood exposure to fine music or art can get to children unless their parents make this possible. And parents owe this to their children, even if they themselves aren't interested. Two generations of good music and arts education have already been lost due to costcutting, disinterest of radio/TV bottomliners and a deluge of distortive sounds that emanate from the popular airwaves captivating our youth who have never had the chance to hear the classics and make their own comparisons of quality.

Much of what I've written may be common knowledge to some, but it was written out of deep concern hoping to awaken the responsibility that faces us all — now! We must understand what lies ahead regarding development of tomorrow's Lithuanian cultural audiences. If we don't address this cultural problem, that anticipated Spring journey to Cicero will never come. The Lithuanian Opera Company and any other cultural event will only be captured on the pages of the history books, if at all. If I may suggest a call to arms:

"Long live the arts in all their glory and our Lithuanian musical heritage and traditions!"



Sabina Martinaitė as the Sea-Goddess, Jurate in this Springs production of the Kazys Banaitis opera "Jurate ir Kastytis".



Alfonsas Eidintas.

struct the building that would later house the Lithuanian Legation. Construction was completed April 1, 1909. From 1924 the building has housed Lithuania's diplomatic representation in Washington without interruption. The two buildings at 2620 (demolished in the 1950's) and 2622 were occupied by various diplomats, and in 1911 by the Swedish and Danish legations.

LITHUANIAN MERCY LIFT — A HELPING HAND ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Six years ago, during a peaceful demonstration for Lithuania's independence which was taking place in Vilnius, Soviet troops with tanks and guns murdered thirteen innocent people and injured many hundreds more.

The antiquated, neglected health care system in Lithuania was ill-equipped to handle this major medical emergency. A cry for help went out from Vilnius to the rest of the world. Many responded to this cry, including a small group of Lithuanian-Americans from the Chicago area. Realizing the need to coordinate medical and financial aid which soon began to pour in, they quickly organized to accomplish this task.

The crisis ended, but this spontaneously formed volunteer organization, seeing the dire need for continued medical aid in Lithuania, did not disband. On the contrary, it has grown and matured. To date, Lithuanian Mercy Lift, as it is now named, has sent more than 200 containers of sorely needed medical relief worth more than 53 million dollars to hospitals in Lithuania. One major ongoing project, headed by active member Viligailė Lendraitis, purchases and delivers thousands of

bianovich — member. This executive Committee had to prepare the dance program for the Ninth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, and to organize camp-workshop in two months.

Meanwhile filming of the dances had been started. The video cassettes helped every teacher who participated in the workshop to remember; it also helped those who were not there to see and learn. Also newsletter was started to keep in touch and communicate.

The teachers' conference was called in the summer of 1993. The by-laws had to be adjusted and the preparations made to participate in World Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania in the summer of 1994. The workshop in 1993 was visited by the chief choreographer for the World Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival in Vilnius, Laima Kisieliene. She brought new ideas and advice.

A new Executive Committee was elected by correspondence in the winter of 1994, Dalia Dzikienė — president, Juozas Karasiejus — vice-president, Rasa Poskočimienė — secretary, Rūta Mickūnienė — treasurer, and Juozas Karmūza — member. This committee and Violeta Smieliauskaitė Fabianovich chose the dances for the Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival.

Since Lithuania is now free, there are many opportunities to share knowledge about dances, and to exchange choreographers and leaders with the native land. LFD Institute is in touch with the Lithuanian Folk Cultural Center in Vilnius.

LFD Institute receives small yearly dues from its members, but the financial help comes mainly from the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals, Inc. which was established after the Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival.

LFD Institute will exist for a long time since the new young teachers join in. They gladly work with the children and youth groups. They are the future of the Lithuanian Folk culture and someday will organize the beautiful Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals.

Free translation by
Birutė A. Vindašienė

Draugas, Saturday, July 6, 1996

5

retary-Treasurer Adeline Krizek and Director of Fulfillment Jennifer Patterson. Christian Relief Services is LML's major source of transportation funding. This group returned home both heartened and greatly concerned. They were heartened to witness the dedication and commitment of doctors, nurses and other health care workers to their patients under very difficult conditions. They were concerned to see the severe shortages in medical supplies, physically deteriorating facilities, and lack of government funding under which these daring professionals labored.

LML depends on its many supporters to allow continuation of its work. Major donations of medical supplies are received from Brothers Regis of the

Salvatorian Mission, Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago and the Sisters of Saint Casimir, and Smiths Industries Medical Systems (SIMS), to name but a few.

LML's fund-raising efforts include a yearly lottery and benefit dinner-dance. Currently, lottery tickets for two (2) round-trip tickets to Lithuania, donated by SAS through American Travel Agency efforts, and substantial cash prizes are available. Also, on Saturday, September 7th, 1996, the annual dinner-dance will be held at The Art Institute of Chicago. For further information about this event or about purchasing lottery tickets, please call Lithuanian Mercy Lift at (708) 257-6777.

Help support this worthwhile effort!
M. Nemickas



A delegation of Lithuanian Mercy Lift personnel and guests from Christian Relief Services visiting one of Klaipėda's hospitals. Left to right: E. Krizek, V. Rauba, M.D., V. Lendraitienė, J. Patterson, A. Krizek; in the back, the president of LML Jurgis Lendraitis.

WORTH KNOWING

Diana Černis show-biz debut is short but sweet. It consists of her opening the door to a Chrysler Town & Country minivan and saying the immortal line "Here" in one of Chrysler's minivan commercials.

Diana Černis, a product planner for minivan operations at Chrysler, is one of seven minivan platform team members at the Chrysler Technology Center, chosen to appear in two national TV commercials.

The adds were designed to capture the pride and enthusiasm the platform members have for the vehicle. "When developing a launch strategy for the Chrysler Town & Country, we were looking for an ideal way to highlight the vehicle newest features," said Steve Torok, Chrysler/Plymouth Division General Manager (in the August 24, 1995 issue of "Chrysler Times"). "Who better to do that than the men and women who actually work on the minivan platform team?"

In one of the commercials Černis & fellow platform team members Dennis Krozek, Timothy Emmitt and Dwight Klein-

lein are each shown opening one of the minivan's four doors. Meanwhile team member Floyd Allen explains that in redesigning the minivan the team wanted to put luxury at the customer's fingertips. The team members were selected for the commercials based on their commitment and hard work.

"Diana Černis, of Farmington, Michigan, is a senior engineer at Chrysler, and a member of the platform team that is the creative force behind the automaker's popular minivan. She is a veteran in the front lines of the women's movement into engineering. She admits it wasn't easy in the early days," — writes Bill King in the May 1993 issue of the "Detroit Metropolitan Woman".

Other Diana's activities and accomplishments — 1995-96 Society of Women Engineers representative on Engineering Society of Detroit's affiliate council. 1994-95 Chrysler Management Club secretary, 1993-94 Society of Women Engineers Detroit section president, Chrysler representative at Society of Women Engineers Con-

vention and at various university job fairs and technical conferences. 1990 Dale Carnegie Course Highest Achievement award recipient, 1986 Chrysler Representative for American Society of Body Engineers.

Diana's successful career at Chrysler began in 1983, after graduation from Michigan State University with a Bachelor degree in mechanical engineering. Recently she is striving for Masters degree in Business administration, which she hopes to receive from Oakland University in 1997.

The American Lithuanian community, of which Diana is an active member, is proud of her achievements and activities: Diana Aušra, daughter of Kestutis and Izolda Černis, was born in Detroit. Beside her regular schooling, Diana attended Lithuanian Saturday school, belonged to an Lithuanian folk-dance ensemble, enthusiastically participated in scouting, also was a Lithuanian representative at the Captive Nations festival in Detroit.

LITHUANIAN KILLED IN BOSNIA

Lithuanian peacekeeping detachment LITPLA-4 member Senior Lieutenant Normundas Valteris was killed on April 17 in Bosnia, when his patrol car drove onto an antitank mine.

The explosion killed a Danish soldier Arne Andersen who was together with Valteris and injured two Lithuanian soldiers — Valdas Žalpytis and Gintaras Putys. As a special report of the Lithuanian Prime Minister announced, the wounded were quickly flown to the hospital and, as reported, their lives are not in danger. The millions of land mines left on the territory of former Yugoslavia are considered the greatest danger to NATO peacekeepers.



Remembering a Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival from the years past.

LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE INSTITUTE

JADVYGA MATULAITIENĖ

Ethnic dances portray the national culture: joy, work, celebration, and traditions. They may change with the times, but they never lose their character, just like the music to which they are danced.

The dances that are so dear to us started long ago in Lithuania, and we took them along to the far away countries in Europe, USA, Canada, South America, Australia, etc.

Our dancing teachers understand the importance of keeping up Lithuanian culture which is more than ten thousand years old. They teach Lithuanian children with patience and devotion at the Lithuanian Saturday schools, at various dancing groups, at the youth organizations and summer camps.

After the First Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in 1957, the dancing teachers established the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute which is a part of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. It has its own by-laws.

The purpose of the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute is to research, teach and support Lithuanian ethnic dances, explain their background and tradition, music and/or songs, folklore, folk instruments, and national costumes.

LFD Institute also prepared new dancing teachers.

The first dancing camp-workshop was called together at Vytenis E. Jonynas's summer place, close to Chicago, IL, in 1967. Since then there are dancing workshops held every two years at Camp Dainava in Manchester. They give a very favorable opportunity to prepare new teachers and make preparations for the up-coming festivals.

At these camp-workshops the specialists give lectures on the history of Lithuania dances, their characteristics, music, movements and rhythm and the

characteristics of the national costumes.

The LFD Institute also chooses the chief program leader for the next festival.

The first Executive Committee for the Lithuanian Folk Dance Institute was made up of Irena Šilingienė, Bruno Shotas, Ringailė Zotovienė, Leokadija Brazdienė and Bronė Jameikienė. They established the list of the dances for the next four consecutive festivals and published a book "Mūsų Šokiai" (Our Dances) in 1962. In 1966, with the help of Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Cultural office, the LFD Institute presented a long-playing record for the Lithuanian ethnic dances. In 1967 the descriptions of the dances were published in separate booklets.

In the fall of 1973 the LFD Institute committee called for the dancing teachers' conference and elected a new Executive Committee: Jadvyga Matulaitienė — president, Genovaitė Breichmanienė — vice-pres., Vanda Stankienė — secretary, Vytautas Turūta — Treasurer and Galina Gobienė — a member.



Violeta Fabionovich-Smieliauskaitė, dance program director for the Tenth Lithuanian Dance Festival.



When the Dance festivals started, they were young dancers, participating with their folk-dancing groups. Now their sons and daughters will dance at the Rosemont Horizon July 6.



Bronius Juodelis, Draugas Foundation Board of Directors president.

THE DRAUGAS FOUNDATION

BY BRONIUS JUODELIS

The Lithuanian daily "Draugas" has been published successfully for 87 years. In recent years subscriptions are declining mostly due to death of aged patrons. Printing and mailing expenses are rapidly increasing with inadequate income from subscriptions, advertising, and donations.

In order to raise additional revenue for "Draugas" in the fall of 1993 the Draugas Foundation — a not for profit financial institution incorporated in the State of Illinois on November 12, 1993 was established with the first directors George Riškus, Bronius Juodelis, and Ramunė Kubilius. In 1994 the Board of Directors was expanded with an additional six directors: Birutė Jasaitis, Gražina Liautaud, dr. Antanas Razma, Rev. Victor Rimšelis, MIC, dr. Vacys Šaulys and Jonas Vaznelis. Bronius Juodelis was elected Chairman of the Board. He holds this office and also the treasurer's at the present time.

The bylaws indicate that the Draugas Foundation shall accumulate funds and utilize said funds and revenues derived therefrom to support the publication of "Draugas", the Lithuanian World-wide Daily Newspaper, and the other work of the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society, Inc. The IRS Tax Exempt privilege was obtained in 1994, for all donations to the Draugas Foundation.

The permanent capital of the Draugas Foundations consists of contributions and bequests. The revenue of Draugas Foundation consists of funds received from the invested permanent capital, interest-free loans and other sources. The permanent capital of the Draugas Foundation is not available for distribution except upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the Board of Directors of the Draugas Foundation in case of emergency.

The membership of the Draugas Foundation consists of Honorary members, members and supporters. The honorary member — third level — is an individual, couple or organization with \$1,000 donation; second level — with \$3,000 donation; first level — with \$5,000 donation and supreme level — with \$10,000 donation.

The members of the Draugas Foundation are individuals, couples and organizations with \$200 or more in contributions. Each member shall have one vote for each \$200 donated to the Draugas Foundation. The membership is obtained upon donation received and accepted by the Treasurer of the Draugas Foundation.

The supporter is a contributor with less than \$200 without voting privilege in member-

ship meetings.

At the end of June, Draugas Foundation had honorary members, members and supporters. The names of honorary mem-

"SUNLIGHT" BRIGHTENS LIVES

Being centered, having roots is an important element in our lives. Our interests may be wide and varied, but the activities with which we are mainly associated usually stem from our roots. They may be ethnic roots or the values in which our lives are rooted. A combination of both gives us stability and goals.

Early in the 1900's my great grandmother brought her clan from Lithuania to Chicago. My mother was born here and baptized at St. George's Church in Bridgeport, the famous Chicago stockyard area so aptly portrayed in Upton Sinclair's novel "The Jungle". An enterprising woman, my grandmother, ran a boarding house for workers in the area of 120 and South Vincennes. Despite their new lives in the United States, they always remembered their origins.

When Lithuania was engulfed by the Soviet Union, our concern was to help reestablish Lithuania's independence. However, with independence emerged a number of problems previously skillfully hidden from the world. Fifty years of communist occupation had affected not only the economy, but also the family unit. After imprisonment and exile into the Siberian wastelands, many political prisoners were not allowed to return to their families. Alcoholism also took its toll on the family unit.

Three years ago the "Sunlight Committee" to aid Orphans in Lithuania ("Saulutė") was established under the auspices of the Lithuanian World Community. There are about 20,000 "orphans" in Lithuania. That is a general term, because we discovered, that many are not orphans in the legal sense. They are children whose both parents

are placed on a bronze tablet hanging in the "Draugas" administrative office 4545 W. 63rd Str., Chicago, IL 60629.

Bequests and memorial gifts in memory of the deceased are welcome.

The Audit Committee of three members control the financial affairs of the Draugas Foundation and present the audit Report to the annual meeting of the members and directors of the Draugas Foundation.

The Investment Committee of three members, designated by the Board of Directors, is authorized to handle investments and provide capital gain to the best interest of Draugas Foundation.

During two and a half years time the Draugas Foundation accumulated a half-million dollars of capital. From the capital gain realized the Draugas Foundation gave four grants to "Draugas" in the amount of 102,000 dollars.

Everybody is invited to join and support the Draugas Foundation because it supports the only Lithuanian daily abroad "Draugas".

are deceased, children whose parents' rights were terminated, children from dysfunctional families, abandoned handicapped children. The sudden change from a centralized to a free market economy also brought hardships to many families, especially those with many children, or with single or handicapped parents.

In Lithuania there are over 100 orphanages or children's homes, housing from 50 to 250 children, shuttled from orphanage to orphanage according to age or severity of handicap. There also are smaller, local, often parish based children's homes, which provide a more stable environment, an opportunity to grow up in a familiar area.

Our hearts went out to these children of Lithuania, because unlike larger countries, which often receive media and world attention, there is little focus on the plight of the needy in Lithuania. By sending packages of donated warm clothing, shoes, boots, toys, blankets, hygiene products, aids for the handicapped and multivitamins, the "Sunlight Committee" is working to improve the lives of children in the orphanage. More than the material factor is the knowledge that someone in the world cares. Monetary contributions are distributed to the parish homes, foster families, families with disabled children. In addition there is a "Sponsor-a-Child" program. By contributing \$20 per month, a donor may sponsor a child directly, receives the child's photograph, biographical sketch and corresponding address.

The work of the "Sunlight Committee" is administered not only with compassion, but also



Two of the patients brought to US by Lithuanian Children's Hope. Because of this organization, their future will be much brighter.

LITHUANIAN CHILDREN'S HOPE

Mission: To provide medical assistance to children in Lithuania crippled by orthopedic disease or suffering from burns. We transport and provide living arrangements in the U.S. for severely handicapped children while undergoing treatment at Shriners Hospitals in Chicago and Los Angeles. LCH also provides supplies, equipment and education to the Children's Hospital at Vilnius University with the goal of making them self-sufficient and equal to Western medical standards.

History: LCH was founded in 1991 by the Lithuanian Human Services Council, div. of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. Since that time, LCH has provided specialized medi-

cal assistance to 82 children at the Shriners Hospitals in Los Angeles and Chicago. A typical stay is three months, with some complicated cases requiring multiple surgical procedures staying as long as two years. LCH has sponsored four trips by U.S. medical teams to perform teaching surgeries at the LCH orthopedic unit, established at the Vilnius University Children's Hospital in 1993; shipping over (with the assistance of Lithuanian Mercy Lift) nearly \$5 mil. worth of equipment and medical supplies.

How are the children selected? The process is quite simple. LCH follows the guidelines set by the Shriners Hospitals. Initial contact is made with the LCH-Lithuania division president Elena Gervickiene (Laisvės 78-3, 2600 Vilnius Lithuania). If the child's medical conditions falls within the required criteria, the child is then examined by the U.S. doctors on their periodic visits to Lithuania. These physicians decide which child can be helped in Lithuania or if the child requires complex procedures and needs to be brought to the U.S. Thus, the children are chosen strictly according to their medical needs. At no time is there any discussion of the family's ability to pay, the parents' professions or political affiliations.

Where is Lithuanian Children's Hope headquartered? The main office is in Chicago, located at the Lithuanian Human Services Council facilities. All donations are fully tax deductible. Lithuanian Children's Hope, 2711 West 71st Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629 U.S.A., 312 476-0664 (Tel), 312 436-6909 (Fax), Contact: Ms. Jūratė Budrys.

Celebrating its third anniversary, the "Sunlight Committee" is continuing to seek contributions from foundations, manufacturers and individuals in its efforts to make a difference in a child's life. Donors are encouraged to participate in the Matching Funds program at their place of employment. The members are all volunteers, overhead is low, many expenses are covered by the members themselves.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, become a volunteer, have a suggestion, establish a "Sunlight" branch in your area please write or call — Sunlight Committee, 419 Weidner Rd., Buffalo Grove, IL 60089, Tel. (847) 537-7949, (847) 541-3702.

Indrė Tijūnelis
Chairperson



"Sunlight's" chairperson Indrė Tijūnelis (center) with some Maironis Lithuanian Saturday school students in Lemont, IL.

The Lithuanian-American Community, Inc.,
The Lithuanian Canadian Community
and
The Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival
Organizing Committee
express their deep appreciation to the
ILLINOIS ARTS COUNCIL
for the \$5,000.00 grant targeted for the
folk dance festival project support.

The Tenth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival Organizing Committee expresses its appreciation to photographers BETH HYATT and DIANE PRYDE and the

MODEL IMAGE CENTER
1218 W. Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657
(312) 348-9349

for the preparation of Lithuanian dancer publicity photographs that are being printed in the American press. Their work and all materials—a donation to the Festival.

LITHUANIAN ORPHAN CARE

The Lithuanian Orphan Care Committee was formed in July of 1993 under the umbrella of the Lithuanian Human Services Council of the USA Inc., Lithuanian-American Community, Inc., 2711 W. 71st St., Chicago, IL 60629, Phone (312) 476-2655; Fax (312) 436-6909.

Based on the "foster-a-child" model, Lithuanian Orphan Care provides direct support — through established and directly accountable distribution channels in Lithuania — to Lithuanian's orphans living with foster families as well as in orphanages. Scholarships are also provided to orphan students. The Lithuanian Orphan Care committee also ships vitamins, clothing and educational materials to Lithuanian orphans.

Lithuania is a beautiful country with many good people, but it is experiencing hardships and poverty. Under occupational forces much harm was inflicted on Lithuania and its people. Today the poverty and suffering abounds among those who have the least means of combating

their circumstances — children — especially orphans. In Lithuania there are approximately 20,000 orphans and/or children who have been abandoned by their parents. These children live in various institutions such as infant care centers, orphanages, hospices, etc. Not all these children from these institutions will grow up to become responsible and good citizens.

Not only is this Committee attempting to remove as many orphans as possible from these institutions and place them into good foster homes, but also is trying to prevent the children from being put into orphanages in the first place. This Committee is seeking to find people who would be willing to help take care of a child in these circumstances in Lithuania. The cost of one child for one year, and more specifically to help out the foster family is just \$150. Please help the orphans of Lithuania. In helping the orphaned child we will raise moral Lithuanian citizens and help Lithuania.

Birutė Jasaitis



One of Lithuanian orphans in need of special care.

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