The Lithuanian Free Speech Center (LFSC) in Lithuania is an independent regional organization leading liberal media associations, linguistically supported by the U.S. - Baltic Foundation. The LFSC is also funded by the "National Initiative for Democracy." Martin Grusius, director and "USFIS" editor. From its inception in October 1995, the LFSC has been involved in the creation of a new democratic mass media in Lithuania. The efforts have been rewarded: on July 2, 1996, the Lithuanian Parliament passed a law on public information. Lithuania's mass media legislation, and in May, it established the "National Information Office for Development of Mass Media in the Baltic States." At this conference, the first drafts of the mass media law were the primary topic of discussion by the "LFSC" representatives. Lithuania's mass media associations in the Baltic States. At this conference, the first drafts of the mass media law were said to represent "the beginning of a joint development of the media system in the Baltic States." The conference concluded that the mass media law was a major breakthrough and that high hopes for the future outcome of the legislation were held. The conference was held at the Lithuanian Free Speech Center in Vilnius.

No Secure Lithuania Without Secure Poland
Gdynia, Sept. 30 (ELTA) - There is no secure Lithuania without secure Poland, and there is no secure Poland without secure Lithuania - this was confirmed at a conference in Gdynia attended by Lithuania and Poland's heads of state.

Concern for Security of the Baltics
Washington, D.C., Sept. 6 - The central and East European countries express deep concern for the security of the Baltics States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the face of constant vocal threats from Russia. These threats run from demands to draw them into the Russian sphere of influence and prevent them from being considered for NATO membership, to outright absorption into the Russian state.

Interruptions at Ignalina Power Plant to Cause Huge Losses
Vilnius, Sept. 11 (ELTA) - Due to a stoppage at Lithuania's Ignalina power plant, the country's power consumers did not feel a lack of energy supply. Currently Lithuania receives its energy supply from Latvia and Russia. The energy system also uses all the capacities of other power stations.

The Resolution 51 (HCR 51) was Passed
Washington, DC Sept. 26 - The Concurrence Resolution (CR 51) urging Russian troops from the Baltic port of Klaipede to be withdrawn was adopted by the United States Congress and passed with unanimous consent. On September 26, 1996, the House International Relations Committee gave unanimous approval to this same House Resolution. On October 2, the Senate Concurrence Resolution 51 was approved by Congressmen Christopher Cox (R-CA) and Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), and supported by the Baltic American Freedom Group, Inc. Although the text was readrafted and modified many times, the final version was successful.

Perhaps Justice Will Finally Be Served
According to ELTA, October 9 of this year Vilnius district court will witness the start of the trial against former Lithuanian Community Party leaders, who are sues by Lithuanian citizens for involvement in the coup of January 13, 1991. On that fateful day, Soviet armed forces attacked TV tower and Press building in Vilnius, of already independent Lithuania. Eleven peaceful demonstrators were killed or crushed by Soviet tanks. Later the culprits of this crime were tried. Shelby said about 33-case volumes which constitute mere one third of the whole investigation material. However, this trial process seemed to be an international forum for former Soviet leaders.

Lithuanian Border Control Take Control of Equipment
Vilnius, September 11, 1996 (ELTA) Lithuania's Klaipeda seaport is to receive radar functions in the sea surveillance posts to be equipped under Swedish and Danish border control project on Thursday. The Lithuanian Defense Ministry submitted to the department informed ELTA, that the general military radar equipment for the provided radioelectrical complex will be ready. The package is to include about 2,000,000 liters worth of radar fuel to be supplied by Danish companies in the Nida, Palanga and Klaipeda posts.
Finial Olympic trickled Lithuania 1936

This details, by Berlin, can settle a
tenant, and would rise again
in the semi-finals, to the best amateur player in Sou-
they were 3-0 up, but they could not
’sky. Lithuanian fans are only that
love to see, and are forever
in December.

1935, the Lithuanian team was
over the money to get there,” Lubin said.
There was, after all, right, and
in the championship game, 44-43, to
the title? For Lubin, it was a
A WELCOME SIGN

Mark Abbott, President of the "Vytis" (Knight of Lithuania) magazine writes about the English language edition of "DRAUGAS":

"Congratulations on your new English edition. While at the Brockton women’s semi-final, the referee’s decision for Draugas was passed, so four complimentary 1/4-page advertisements will be placed in the 1996 edition of the magazine.

Ivyta" during this next year. I'm sure this will help new subscri-
tions to the various Lithuanian publications. As a matter of fact, my mother, Maria Baldus, was one of the women who first told me of this new edition. She was very excited and is a subscriber already...

The Editors and administration of "DRAUGAS-The Friend" are very grateful to the Knights of Lithuania, especially Marius Abbeit, the Editor-in-chief of their monthly magazine "Vy-
tis" for the decision to advertise our publication.

DRAUGAS (USPS 148400)

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SECRET GERMAN-SOViet AGREEMENTS OF 1939
CONCERNING LITHUANIA

On August 23, 1939, eight days after Germany invaded Poland by Hitler's armies, the U.S.S.R. and Germany concluded an agreement that had the effect of dividing the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania between them. On August 29 and September 29 of the same year, the Soviet Union and Poland added to this treaty and to that of June 22, 1939, the so-called Treaty of September 28, 1939. Through these agreements Soviet and German leaders achieved a single stroke two objectives: (a) the creation of a new regime capable of maintaining strategic situations favorable to both powers, and precipitating and preparing an onrush of the two countries to the Baltic States (the so-called "Baltic States," while itself remaining also a part of Soviet Russian Germany to assign Lithuania to the Soviet sphere of interest with the right understood, to the U.S.S.R. to adopt special measures for the protection of its interests. In its turn German diplomacy obtained: (a) the assurance of Soviet neutrality in case of a war with Poland and the western countries; strategy of a single front; (b) the partial or complete conversion of a part of Lithuania in virtue of the agreements providing for the event of a territorial and political rearrangement in the area under discussion.

There had been some question, even in 1939, of the existence of a special interest in the Baltic States, their emigrants, in spheres relating to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Berlin as well as in the entourage of Dr. Zeichlin, German Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Certain measures adopted by the Western Powers, their attitude with regard to the repatriation of the Baltic minority of the U.S.S.R. and their agreement concerning the observance of the protocols of the Berlin Congress, were all against the existence of the protocols. The Germans realized that the U.S.S.R. and Lithuania were repatriated in the winter of 1939-1940. The German minority of Lithuania was left on the spot by the so-called Protocol of August 23. 1939, whereby Lithuania did not enter the sphere of interest for the German minority. However, only later, when Lithuania passed from the German to the Soviet sphere of interest, the German Government negotiated with the Soviet Government on the repatriation of the German minority. This repatriation took place in 1941.

The first official admission of the existence of the secret protocol came in 1946. At that time in the House of Commons. One Mr. C. P. May, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. C. P. May, advanced the following explanation:

APAN EXPATRIATE'S JOURNEY

The Life and Legacy of Marija Auškaitė

Following the declaration of independence in 1918, Lithuania was at the center of a cultural transformation. In spite of financial difficulties and political opposition, culture and education were vital in shaping the country's identity.

The achievements of Marija Auškaitė, her dedication to Lithuanian culture, and her impact on education and literature are well documented. As a literary figure and cultural activist, Auškaitė contributed significantly to the development of Lithuanian literature and the preservation of Lithuanian heritage.

In her life and work, Auškaitė exemplified the resilience and strength of the Lithuanian people, particularly during challenging times. She was known for her unwavering commitment to her country's culture and her dedication to the future generation.

Her legacy continues to inspire individuals who value their heritage and the importance of education. As a symbol of Lithuanian identity and cultural pride, Auškaitė's contributions remain relevant today, serving as a reminder of the power of literature and the enduring spirit of a nation.
BIRŠTONAS - AN OUTSTANDING HEALTH RESORT

By A. ZENKEVIČUS

Mayor of Birštonas

Birštonas is a small, picturesque health resort, situated in the south of Lithuania, in the center of the Regional Park of the Big Bends of the Nemunas river. It is near pine forests, pinewoods and winding river. The town covers the area of 13 km² and has 3,800 full-time residents. Birštonas is easily reached from Vilnius - 40 km, Kaunas - 40 km, Marijampolė - 45 km, Alytus - 35 km and Druskonis - 90 km. The health resort is on the two national roads, the Vilnius-Marijampolė Highways. It is in the zone of the national highway Via Baltica that provides convenient communications with the resort and attracts people for relaxation, rehabilitation and tourism.

Some years ago a lot of bus services from Birštonas were guided through the southern port of Lithuania - one day journey to Vilnius (including Trakai), to Kaunas, Druskonis, Alytus (including the Reservation of Žvėnaičiai, a boat trip to the ethnographic open sky museum in Rumšiškės and many others. In favorable situations those services continued and enjoyed by the local and foreign visitors in the region that is rich in valuable historical, archieological, art and natural monuments, the peaceful surroundings and lovely places for the people of all ages.

The favorable geographic position of Birštonas and the tourist one are two day tours that make it possible to acquire guests with the places of interest in the area. All these can be enjoyed by the visitors. The lakes, the rivers, the forests and other recreational places can be enjoyed all year round. Birštonas can be a perfect place for arranging concert meetings, tours of discovery, conferences, cultural holidays and seminars. The town and its surrounding area can be enjoyed throughout the year. It has already become a tradition to hold the jazz festival, the international concert (the presence of the scientists, playwrights, technique, engineers, etc.), the sports events, the competitions of the children, the walking tours, the bridge, and other.

Besides medical rehabilitation and tourism there are a lot of other activities and events which attract tourists and holiday-seekers. Birštonas is known for its mineral water. You can enjoy your shopping during your stay. Birštonas is the best place to shop for any larger Lithuanian city.

The role of tourism in the development of the region is very significant. It is necessary to change the old mentality towards tourism development. Today tourism represents an important income factor. Today tourism is one of the most promising and developing of the Lithuanian economy. The tourism in Birštonas is on the rise and the number of visitors is increasing every year.

Birštonas has a lot of hotels and sanatoriums, which are situated in the area of the river Nemunas, in the middle of the town. In Birštonas there are three sanatoriums. They are:

- Birštonas sanatorium "Daugvile" which is situated near the river Nemunas in the middle of the town. In the sanatorium there are 300 rooms and it is equipped with all modern conveniences. The sanatorium offers various treatments for different diseases. The treatments are efficient and have a good effect on the patients. The sanatorium is well equipped and has a good reputation. The sanatorium has a good location near the river Nemunas and it is easily accessible by car or by bus.

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Lithuania and the Bank Crisis

Lithuania will long remember the events of 6 December 1996, when a ministerial announcement was made to the effect that this, the biggest and oldest private bank, the State Savings and Credit Bank, was taking over the state-owned Lithuanian National Bank. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are watching with bated breath the development of this crisis, which has repercussions not only for Minsk, but for the whole of the Baltic region.

Lithuania's economy, in the words of President V. M. Zemaitis, is recovering rapidly. This is partly thanks to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but also because of the political will of the Lithuanian government. The Lithuanian government has taken steps to improve the country's financial system, and it has been able to attract foreign investment.

Despite these successes, however, Lithuania still faces many challenges. One of the most pressing is the need to reform its banking system. The country's banking sector is still bastante old-fashioned and inefficient, and it is in urgent need of modernization.

In order to improve the country's financial system, the Lithuanian government has taken steps to make the banking sector more competitive. This has included the introduction of new laws, as well as the establishment of new financial institutions. The government has also been working to attract foreign investment, and it has been successful in this regard.

In conclusion, Lithuania's economy is recovering rapidly, but it still faces many challenges. The government has taken steps to improve the country's financial system, and it has been successful in attracting foreign investment. However, the country still needs to make progress in reforming its banking sector, and it will need to continue to work on this in order to maintain its economic growth.
Eugene Krink, President of CRS with his wife, Digna Krink, President of Vilnius University Children’s Hospital.

LONG WHITE NIGHTS OF ST. JOHN IN LITHUANIA

The longest white night in Lithuania falls on June 24th, the longest night of the year. The annual event is a fireworks display in the seaside town of Anykščius named John or Juoda. Leading to St. John’s feast day at 30 and after, people celebrate throughout the night. Darkness arrives around 11 PM.

On July 28th, at the Vilnius State Theatre, a forum is dedicated to the USA. After the forum, a grand reenactment of American Independence, featuring a parrot and some other cultural symbols, took place. The performances were interpreted by A. Kristina and her accompanist, and some time in the US a few years ago. A. Copeland’s compositions were performed by the Vilnius University piano trio with violinists J. Balsiūnienė.

Meanwhile, at Sereikiškia, Park the folk festival "Bal Boom" was held on July 28th, in the evenings. There was a lot of folk dancing and singing. Baltic Sea is seen here, all participants were representatives of Baltic countries. Part of the program was Baltic Sea except Ireland. At the end of the festival, there was some business talk of hand-crafted items and other souvenirs. The announcement of the Lithuanian Sodalivus, a folklore and Valmariadas, a folkloric movement, and "Se-big" was in Lithuanian for the whole festival. Our friends and some of the most impressive evenings heard on short-wave radio every evening in English. These summer parks festival is especially a bit of an annual affairs. "Baltics" is sponsored by Lithuanian Sodalivus, Latvian National Folk Festival Cultural Center. It is very well known throughout the European Union. We hope to meet old friends and acquaintances with some good tasting Lithuanian food and to drink some Baltic beer. If that doesn’t satisfy your palate Birka make a very delicious cheese.

By Frans Staut

SECOND CONFERENCE ON BALTIC STUDIES IN EUROPE

August 20-23, 1997 - Vilnius

Since the independence of the Baltic countries, the bilingual conferences held in Stockholm were considered as general conferences on Baltic studies and the center of gravity in the Baltic countries. At the first conference in 1995, the conference decided to organize the second conference in 1997.

The venue for this conference will be the University of Vilnius, one of the oldest universities in Europe.

The main theme of this conference is "Values and Norms of Society in the Baltic States." According to the Baltic countries, the region is 20th century has witnessed up several changes and turning points that have reflected in changing norms that in turn take an effect on society. No society of regional nature retained the same shape and form since the conference at the University of Latvia have explored these phenomena, its nature and effects within the framework of human, national, intellectual and artistic development.

The conference will be divided into two parts: the first part will take place during the upcoming summer school, the second part will take place during the conference. Prospective participants are invited to make suggestions regarding the program of the conference.

The English language will be official and German. If an invitation is necessary, the applicant must provide the name and address of the conference and the answer is planned to be delayed around the turn of the year. The organizers are looking for representatives from Estonia and Latvia, so looking for possibilities of financing some prospective participants form those countries, especially younger scholars.

Please apply using the form on the next page.

Professor A. Labėnienė
Rector of Vilnius University

Professor R. Jukstas
President, Lithuanian Academy of Sciences

- Latvia and Lithuania hold Sea Border Talks The Latvian Prime Minister Andris Reuters and Lithuanian Counterpart Prime Minister Min- diskis on September 9 in the village of Skudai, Lithuania, the two leaders meeting, the two leaders discussed the issue of border dispute between the two countries. However, no agreement was reached, both sides decide to continue the negotiations. High-level meeting is needed to reach an understanding.