

DRAUGAS

THE FRIEND

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Central and East European Coalition Honors Legislators of The Year

On September 19, the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), of which, the Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) is a member, held a reception in the Dirksen Senate Office Building to honor Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), and Representatives Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Benjamin Gilman (R-NY), Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, for their support of freedom, democracy, and development of free market economies for the people of Central and Eastern Europe. The CEEC is an 18 member organization which represents 22 million Americans who trace their heritage to the region.

The CEEC organizations introduced the Congressional leaders, including: the Hungarian American Coalition, the Ukrainian National Association, the Polish American Congress, and Mati Koiva on behalf of the Estonian American National Council and JBANC.

Koiva recognized Congressman Durbin as a legislation who has demonstrated a long commitment to the sovereignty of the region. Koiva stated, "In the early 1980's Durbin brought many of his colleagues to lead the demands in Congress for freedom for the Baltic people. In 1990 Lithuania scheduled its first free elections. Durbin traveled to Lithuania to congratulate Vytautas Landsbergis and the other Lithuanian freedom fighters on their election victory." Durbin said he was proud to have played a part in lifting the Iron Curtain. Now there are opportunities for building new alliances with those countries that share our vision of democracy and free market economies, he stated.

Chairman Gilman also upholds the advancement of efforts in Central and Eastern Europe. He said he supports an assistance program in the newly independent countries, targeted at those most in need. The Chairman's leadership was crucial for the passage of the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996. A representative from the Hungarian American Coalition said Gilman's vision of peace, stability, and democracy throughout Europe also serve the national interest of the U.S.

The Ukrainian National Association commended Senator McConnell for assisting the peoples of the region. McConnell remarked how the CEEC has influenced public perception of the countries as independent nations, he stated, "The Coalition is advocating what is right for America." McConnell was instrumental in the Russian troop withdrawal from the Baltics by offering an amendment on the Senate floor in mid summer of '94, which cut foreign aid for Russia until their troops were out of the Baltics. The Russian troops withdrew in late August of '94.

Senator Mikulski was acknowledged by the Polish American Congress for her outstanding service to the area. Mikulski thanked the Coalition for being united in a cause to ensure freedom and economic stability in Central and Eastern Europe. The Senator stated, "Now that the Cold War is over, greater challenges lie ahead. We have to be sure these nations never again endure what they went through [under a dominant force]." We must work together in a nonpartisan manner, she concluded.

(JBANC)

Baltic Assembly To Be Called in Riga

Vilnius, Oct 2 (ELTA) — The ninth Baltic Assembly session to focus on the Baltic States cooperation in the EU context, discussion of a common labour market creation, and border and customs policy is to be called on Saturday in Riga.

Vice-chairman of Baltic As-

sembly presidium, vice-chairman of Lithuanian Seimas Egidijus Bickauskas told ELTA that the planned session was scheduled to adopt a document containing the assembly position on NATO expansion.

Now the document might be supplemented and passed in the form of an address to NATO countries, as it was worked out before the statement made by the US Defense Secretary William Perry on possibilities of Baltic States to join the Northern alliance.

The Riga session expects heated discussions on abolishment of death penalty in the Baltic States as MPs of three countries intend to express a key position to continue the launched trend on condition that certain terms — reduction of crime rate or reforming of detention centres — were fulfilled.

The session is to adopt a decision on the return of archives orientated mostly to Russia.

The Baltic Assembly plans to confer traditional awards, namely a literary premium to Lithuanian poet Judita Vaičiūnaitė, scientific award for ar-



Lithuania's National Martynas Mažvydas Library Building in Vilnius.

Lithuanian Servicemen Serve in Bosnia

Copenhagen, October 1 (ELTA) — Approximately half of Baltic peacekeeping battalion (BALTBAT) Lithuanian company servicemen are to leave Denmark on Wednesday for Bosnia where they are due to launch a NATO peacekeeping mission.

The remaining peacekeepers are scheduled to join them next Monday. Lithuanian servicemen led by Major Vladimir Bieliauskas stayed in Denmark for two months where they received additional training in Viborg polygon.

Dutch-Lithuanian Agreement Between Defence Ministries

Amsterdam/Vilnius, Oct 1 (ELTA) — The Netherlands will be the eight NATO country to conclude a cooperation agreement between defence structures with Lithuania.

Lithuanian Defence Minister Linas Linkevičius set off on a trip to the Netherlands on Tuesday where he and Dutch Defence Minister Joris Voorhoeve signed a memorandum on bilateral defence structures contacts and cooperation.

The officials of Lithuanian defence ministry told ELTA that during the above-mentioned meeting Voorhoeve informed Linkevičius about the plans of the Netherlands to hand some communications equipment to Lithuania as a future assistance to international peacekeeping training centre in Lithuania Rukla town.

Both ministers exchanged opinion on NATO expansion and the results of the alliance defence ministers meeting in Bergen.

During a four-day stay in the Netherlands Linkevičius is to be escorted by officials from Lithuanian defence ministry and defence attaché to Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg Eugenijus Nazelskis.

architecture research — to Estonian Juhana Maiste, and art award — to Latvian, Peters Vaskas.

The Lithuanian Seimas delegation in the Baltic Assembly has 20 MPs.

The BALTBAT Lithuanian company is to carry out the mission in Bosnia within the Danish battalion. The servicemen are to be stationed in the same location as the fourth peacekeepers platoon LITPLA-4 which already finished its mission.

Near Duboi situated more than 100 kilometres from Tuzla the Lithuanian company is to

observe control posts, and patrol on the roads, bridges and storehouses.

The BALTBAT Latvian company is to be included in the Swedish battalion whereas, the Estonian servicemen have to start a mission in Lebanon within the Norwegian battalion.

Subsequent to the above-mentioned missions, the peacekeepers of three Baltic States are to take part in peacekeeping missions independently starting from next autumn.

UN Report on Social Standards in Lithuania

Vilnius, Sept 25 (ELTA) — In Lithuania children's health is growing worse, the increment of population is further decreasing and the labour market is not reliable. So states the UN report on the Lithuanian social development.

This was already the second survey by UN Development Program (UNDP). The first 1995 report focused on a five-year independence period Lithuania. Next year such a document will highlight poverty reasons and suggest means to overcome it.

This year report covers 14 chapters consisting of Lithuanian macroeconomics, transport, communications, educa-

tion, crime rate, environment, social care, municipal reform and employment market.

The report states that Lithuanian people lack dwelling space. The country's public transport system is insufficiently developed, and it does not have enough means of communication or information.

The document also indicated that the living standards of many people in the country is still rather low. A gap between the rich and the poor, town and rural dwellers is very big in Lithuania, UNDP states.

UN report says that the only positive factor in the country is appearance of the first signs of macroeconomics stability which

Preparing For the Elections

Vilnius, Sept. 18 — According to the Department of Press and Public Relations, the Central Election Committee announced the lists of the candidates of political parties and organizations in multi-mandate and single-mandate constituencies. In the 20th of October elections to the Seimas will participate 24 political parties and organizations.

Only one coalition was established to take part in these elections, which was created by the Democrats Party and Nationalists Union. The Political Prisoners and Deportees Union which was planning to join the coalition on the last minute decided to participate in the election independently.

The statement issued by the Lithuanian Political Prisoner Party says that the association

of the right-wing forces was not created through the fault of the author of the idea, Valdas Adamkus, the famous American environmental activist of Lithuanian decent. The statement also says that the Lithuanian Political Prisoners Party shall not participate in the elections to the Seimas.

The Lithuanian Polish Election Action shall take part in the election together with Russian and Belorussian social organizations. The candidates shall represent 12 social organizations, among them six Polish, five Russian and one Belorussian. From among the 1,347 candidates to the members of the Seimas, only the election poster of Kazimiera Prunskienė, Chairperson of Women's Party, bears indication that she collaborated with the KGB.

VRK Interrupts Delivery of Ballot Papers

Vilnius, Oct 1 (ELTA) — The Lithuanian Chief election Commission (VRK) for the time being interrupted delivery of ballot papers to the Lithuanian diplomatic mission abroad. VRK leaders motivated this by a would-be Seimas decision on inclusion of several more constitutional amendments in a referendum to be held at the same time as a parliamentary election.

VRK chairman Zenonas Vaigauskas told ELTA that a previously drawn-up schedule showed that all diplomatic mis-

sions were due to receive ballot and referendum papers until this Saturday.

The first election tour on October 20 is to encompass a referendum on three constitutional amendments providing for cutting of MPs number from 141 to 111, establishment of a fixed parliamentary election date and allocation of no less than half of budget funds to social needs.

Recently Seimas agricultural commission put forward one more issue for inclusion in the above-mentioned referendum, i.e. sale of land to legal entities. A positive decision requires no less than one third of MPs votes.

The Conservatives faction also offered to include a regulation on principles for further privatization and restoration of lost bank deposits though no formal application was submitted yet.

Vaigauskas noted that a decision of parliament to supplement the existing referendum items could cause some difficulties to VRK which would have to print new referendum ballot papers all the more as less and less time was left before election.

Lithuanian Lecturer to Attend a Conference in Beijing

Vilnius, Oct 1 (ELTA) — Chairman of Lithuanian Science Academy technical division academician Algirdas Zukauskas headed for China on Tuesday where he is due to read a report at the 10th global conference on heat exchange issues, as well as to give lectures in several educational institutions in Beijing.

Zukauskas is known as one of the best experts in heat exchange theory and practice in the world. He gave lectures in the US, Japanese, British, German and other scientific centres.

Zukauskas was invited by Tokyo Technological Institute and a nearby Vaseda University as well. Following a stay in Beijing, the academician is to leave for Japan next week.



Molėtai Lake in Utena County, Upper Lithuania.

Lithuanians in Sports

HE KEEPS ON RIDING

Two by two competitors apprehensively entered the Littlewood ring for jumper warm-ups at the Winter Equestrian Festival. Vincent Butvydas knew Carina, his "sweetheart" charcoal mare, wouldn't fail him.

Robyn Pavone, Carina's trainer, wasn't worried about her, either.

"She's smart, she's athletic and she's absolutely devoted to Vincent," Pavone said.

Truth is Pavone was more worried about the ex-cavalry officer hunched over Carina's neck, a jokester who calls himself "Old Junk." One doesn't know what Butvydas might do — jump early, late, never — least of all "Old Junk" himself.

As Butvydas' turn neared, Pavone scrambled to alert the judges: He'll be a bit late.

She sighed, then laughed: "He's 82, you know."

Sure he is. The deliberate gait, the silver strands sparsely covering his scalp, the tales of a war a half-century ago. Eighty-two sounds right.

Until he rides... Vincent Butvydas was born in 1913 in Lithuania's District of Tauragė to landowning parents, who introduced him to grain and cows and best of all, horses.

"He tells us he learned to ride before he could walk," said one of his three daughters, Audrey Gruss. "And he says he'll ride when he can't walk anymore."

His ambition after high school was to be a forest engineer, but his duty was to join the army. Then, in 1940, Russia invaded Lithuania and made it a Soviet republic.

Butvydas was a cavalry officer who excelled in horse shows for his country's elite. A Lithuanian sergeant, forced to spy on his fellow officers, often warned Butvydas to be careful, because the Russians — aware he was not a communist — were watching.

"They hide bullets in the horse's stall, so they could say I was a revolutionary," Butvydas said.

They coerced him to read Stalin's works, though he considered it "manure in my mouth." They threatened him for not keeping his horses clean, no matter how diligently he scrubbed them. They shipped his friends to Siberia.

He escaped to Germany. Yet trouble awaited him there as well. After resisting proscription into the German army for the purpose of spying in Lithuania, Butvydas was sent to a

secondary concentration camp in Soldau.

"It was political untrustfulness," Butvydas said. "I was not afraid. I knew if I survived until the end of the war, I'd be fine."

He stayed five months before the German army took him out. Soon after, he fled to German-occupied Lithuania, then returned to a displacement camp in Germany after Russia recaptured his homeland in 1944. There he lived ("they fed us, took care of us") until 1949, when he was cleared to emigrate and join relatives in America.

He settled in northern New Jersey, and embarked on a 29-year career. By its end, he was the senior supervisor of mechanical inspection at Kyrefort Aerospace, a division of Singer.

In New Jersey, Butvydas still rode but no longer competed. He retired to Wellington, and his introduction to Carina led him back to the horse shows.

Audrey Gruss' husband bought Carina in 1991 off a racetrack, to train her for polo.

But Carina was too "green" for such enterprise, so Gruss offered her to his father-in-law. The Grusses then approached Pavone, who was training at a show barn at Palm Beach Polo. "They asked if I was familiar with older adults, and I said I've got plenty of them," Pavone said.

But none like this. "I am like you see me," Butvydas said, winking. "Like a kid."

Butvydas worked with Pavone to train Carina.

"What he's done is no small feat, though," Pavone said. "Racehorses are trained to be extremely aggressive. This sport must be very technical and slow, accurate and controlled."

Though other might struggle with his accent, Carina understands Vincent, and that's enough. He orders "stop," she freezes; he bellows "side," she does the lectric slide, as if she were his partner at the beachfront dance hall, where he goes every Monday night.

Butvydas pampers Carina as if she were his second female love. His wife, Hope, is first.

The day before the Littlewood jumping competition, Butvydas stroked Carina's hair after practicing at Pegasus stables.

"Eighty-two, ready for coffin," Butvydas said. "Carina, soon we go in coffin, you and Old Junk."

On his first two Littlewood turns, Butvydas touches nary an obstacle. The second run is timed, and he finishes third out of 40. Then he strolls off.

Pavone yanks him back: "No, no, you're not going anywhere!" After some delay — Pavone repeatedly asks Butvydas if he knew which way he's going before coaxing him to use the new equipment his daughter bought for Carina ("he likes old stuff," shrugs Pavone) — Butvydas cleanly executes a third run.

"Good job, Vincent!" Pavone said. "Carina was tired at the end."

"Me too," Butvydas said, dismounting alongside the Festival stables, each indented by a hand-painted name.

The ex-cavalry man removed his cap, then strutted apst the "Over the Hill Farm," a tent adjacent to terrain he just conquered.

By Ethan Skolnik
("The Palm Beach Post" (Feb. 21,



George Soros

"When I established open society foundations in Central and Eastern Europe, I made it my mission to help in the transition from communism to open society. I am convinced that our future, to a large extent, depends on how successful and effective the transition will be."

"I have been in Lithuania a number of times. I know that your country declared its independence in 1918, that Lithuania wanted to follow the path of democracy, and, after regaining your independence in 1990 following the collapse of the Soviet empire, you are trying to establish a system based on Western democratic concepts and principles. It is a difficult process which will require a lot of effort."

PAINTINGS RECEIVED FROM AUSTRALIA BY LITHUANIAN MUSEUMS

Vilnius, Oct 1 (ELTA) — The Lithuanian Art Museum received from Australia a collection of paintings by a young Lithuanian artist Akvilė Zavisaitė who died there five years ago.

Director of Art Museum Romualdas Budrys said that the paintings were sent to Lithuania of Zavisaitė's mother's accord and are to be stored in the museum funds. In the near future more works which are currently kept in the United States are to reach Lithuania. The whole collection is to encompass 50 paintings, which would be a worthy contribution into a common 20th century Lithuania fine arts treasury.

Born and brought up in Vilnius, Zavisaitė studied art in Australia, and graduated from the New Castle art college. Her works were exhibited in ten exhibitions.

Budrys mentioned that the Art Museum stored a valuable collection including works of Lithuanian emigrants which would be replenished by one more composition by sculptor Vytautas Kasuba.

ESTONIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Vilnius, Oct 2 (ELTA) — Lithuania President Algirdas Brazauskas received credentials of the new Estonian Ambassador Alar Oljum who replaced former ambassador Valvi Strikaitienė.

"It is especially important to coordinate the Baltic States actions in seeking membership in transatlantic and European structures," Oljum said.

Brazauskas noted that both countries were united not solely by a common history but the same future goals as well.

"Our cooperation achieved good results, nevertheless, a lot still has to be done. I would like to put emphasis on creation of a common transit space and a system for exchange of information on transit among three Baltic States," the president said.

The Estonian ambassador told journalists that his near future plans encompassed meetings with political parties in order to know the possible changes in the Lithuanian policy following the October 20 parliamentary election.

GEORGE SOROS EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

The Open Society Fund-Lithuania (OSFL) celebrated its fifth anniversary in 1995. It was founded by US financier and philanthropist George Soros to help a developing democracy on the bumpy road to a much brighter future.

The open Society Fund-Lithuania was established in Vilnius in October 1990 as an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization. It is one of 22 foundations that are operating in Central and Eastern Europe, established and financed by G. Soros. They all share a common purpose — the creation of open societies. Each foundation however, independently determines its own priorities and strategies, taking into account the needs of the country. The first chairman of the board and one of the original founders of OSFL was the late Prof. Česlovas Kudaba.

The purpose of SOSFL is to foster the evolution of a democratic and open society, encourage civil responsibility and participation in the process of democratic development. The last five years have been seen a substantial growth in the amount of financial aid and assistance given to projects: from a budget in 1990 of US \$100,000; 1991 of \$300,000; 1992 of \$1,000,000; 1993 of 1,800,000; to more than \$5,000,000 in 1994 and 1995. The budget for 1996 has also been set at over US \$5 million. The total assistance to Lithuania from the establishment of OSFL to the end of 1996 will be more than US \$18 million, or 72 million Lit.

In 1995, OSFL initiated, financed and funded a wide range of programs and projects. The section "1995 Financial Report" summarizes our funding activities by program. The subsequent sections detail the individual programs and list the grants to Lithuanian residents, institutions and organizations. The foundation not only awards grants for projects developed and submitted by others, we also initiate an increasing number of projects ourselves.

The foundation devotes its funding and its efforts to quite a few different sectors of the society. We support education, higher education and research, culture and arts, mass media, civil society, law reform, social services, translation and publishing, foreign conferences and travel, and particular attention is paid to youth initiatives. The evaluation criteria of grant applications reflects our concern regarding the development of an open, democratic civil society, and the quality of the projects.

1995 saw the inauguration of the Open Society House in Vilnius, which is becoming an important focal point for civil society oriented activities and events. Visitors can use the library offering works in six languages in humanities and social sciences, browse through international periodicals on contemporary culture, use CD-ROM multimedia facilities and have access to Internet. In 1995 plans were completed for the establishment of an inter-university Centre for Educational Studies which will stimulate the modernization of teacher training colleges. The Internet program has launched a project which offers free access to e-mail and Internet to a fast-growing number of NGO's, institutions and individual subscribers. All the new and existing OSFL programs have a

common goal — to have a lasting effect of the emergence of an open society.

As in previous years, OSFL has worked with numerous other foundations from Great Britain, Belgium, Germany, Finland, the Scandinavian countries, USA, Canada, also with European Union's PHARE program and the UNDP, in co-funding or managing projects. Over US \$1 million of additional funding (not reflected in this Annual Report) was attracted to finance these joint or co-funded projects. In the five years of its existence OSFL has worked with many talented and dedicated people in Lithuania, enabling them to implement their projects and initiatives. It is the creativity, initiative and resourcefulness of these people which have enabled OSFL to help them develop self-confidence and enthusiasm, to maintain hope for a better future, and to influence their communities to build an open society.

Education for a Brighter Future

Established in 1993, the project "Transformation of Education for Lithuania's Future" has the following main objectives:

1. to hasten the reform of Lithuania's educational system by encouraging scientific, cultural, and educational contributions from specialists in Lithuania and abroad;
2. to renew curriculum development in Lithuanian schools based on the principals and values of democracy and open society;
3. to stimulate and expand the creativity of educators, and
4. to support and develop innovation in public and private education.

The overall direction of the project has been based on the pursuit of the strategic goals of the education reform program. This OSFL project was consolidated by an agreement of cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science, signed in September 1993. By pooling the resources of OSFL and the Ministry for the development and publication of new textbooks, new teaching materials can reach the schools quickly and become primary or optional sources of learning. The activities of 1995 conclude the first stage of the project. The goals of the second stage are to influence changes in the general curriculum in schools, to encourage the establishment of an active and responsible community of Lithuanian educators of high professional standards, to influence the modernization of educational technology, and to encourage the independence of schools and their communities — all basic elements of democratic education. The project has attracted the interest of many Lithuanian educators and of the general public, and has received favourable press coverage, as well as assistance and cooperation from foreign experts.

In 1995, the primary focus of this program was a competition for the authorship of new textbooks, and the publishing of textbooks translated and adapted from other languages.

The original textbooks competition is now in its final stage. 29 new textbooks were published in 1995 (since 1993 a total of 87 have been published), 29 manuscripts are being prepared for publication, and 26 manuscripts are still being completed. Due to high demand, some text-

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books are being reprinted. D. Dilytė's book "The Light of Hellas" is being translated into Estonian.

Selecting, translating, and publishing foreign textbooks has proved a particularly intensive undertaking. 18 translated books were published during 1995 (since 1993, a total of 29 translated books have been published). A further 9 translated books are being prepared for publication. Among the most popular books were E. H. Gombrich's "History of Art", the historical series "I Was There", and P. Tannenbaum's "Excursions in Modern Mathematics".

During 1995, the Project also assisted in the publication of 13 books not included in the textbook competition — books such as K. Jokantas' "Latin-Lithuanian Dictionary", J. Adomonis' "From Point to Synthesis", and the "Lithuanian Dictionary of Sign Language", among others. During the 1993-95 period, the Project published 94 books, totalling 1,200,000 copies. The textbook competition and the publishing project have significantly changed the conditions of textbook publishing and distribution in Lithuania. In contrast to the previous publishing monopoly, to date 22 private publishers have participated in the project, resulting in a considerable improvement in printing quality of efficiency. A more effective alternative textbook distribution system has

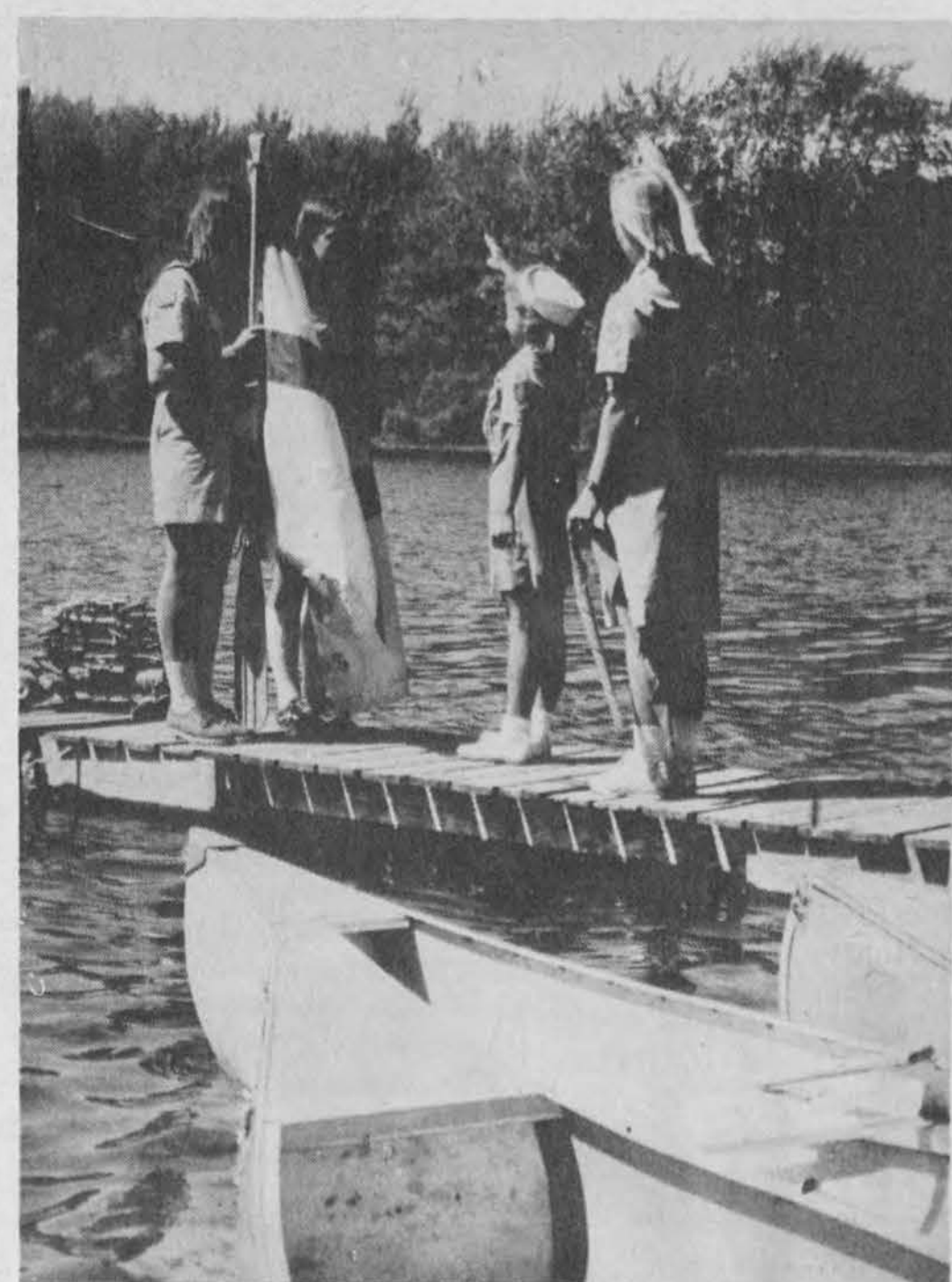
now been established, in turn creating a competitive educational market. Schools are now more selective when choosing textbook alternatives, paying attention to more modern and appealing books and teaching materials. The Project also ensures that books are supplied to ethnic minority schools, centres for higher education, city and regional central libraries, Lithuanian schools abroad, prisoner aid societies, etc.

The Program encouraged teachers to participate actively in education reform and renewal. This program aims to help establish active and responsible school communities and thus ensure the irreversible renewal of Lithuanian education. Since the beginning of the program, over 3,000 educators have participated in various seminars and activities for professional development. During 1995, sixteen teacher training and educational administration programs were financed, including the programs "Psychological Assistance to Schools" and "Homeroom Teachers' Psychological Development," and a series of seminars organized by the Human Rights Centre entitled "Human Rights Education in Secondary Schools." The Program organized seven in-service training projects for teachers and lecturers from centres of higher learning.

To be continued.



Vincent Butvydas.



Some Lithuanian Sea-scouts in the summer scouts in the summer scout camp at Rakas, MI.

SECRET GERMAN-SOVIET AGREEMENTS CONCERNING LITHUANIA

Continued from Sept. 28.

Analysis of the Provisions of the Secret Agreements Concerning Lithuania

By Dr. DOMAS KRIVICKAS

These secret agreements are perfectly explained by the principal public agreements concluded on the same date by the two parties. On August 23, 1939, peace still reigned in Europe. Consequently, the secret agreement of August 23 is drafted in conditional terms, as for example, "in the event of a... rearrangement". On September 28, Poland was already occupied by German and Soviet troops. The Soviet position was strengthened by the declaration of war by France and England on Germany. The latter found herself engaged in a struggle with two great Powers. Soviet diplomacy missed no opportunity to enlarge its claims. It demanded from Germany the cession of Lithuania into its sphere of influence. With Lithuania the U.S.S.R. is installed on the German frontier, on the shortest strategic route between Moscow and Berlin. Germany accepts this transaction because she receives in exchange territories in Poland which forthwith pass under her administration. This was the object of the second, secret agreement concluded on September 28. In this second agreement one sentence has special significance. It is: "As soon as the Government of the U.S.S.R. shall take special measures on Lithuanian territory to protect its interests..."

What are the "special measures to protect its interests?"

res to protect its interests?" What are those interests? A reply to these two questions must be sought in the other agreements concluded on the same day between the U.S.S.R. and Germany, above all in the Boundary and Friendship Treaty.

Article 1 of that Treaty stipulates in the same terms the partition of Poland into two spheres of interest: Soviet and German. "The Government of the German Reich and the Government of the U.S.S.R. determine as the boundary of their respective national interests in the territory of the former Polish state the line marked..."

Article 2 confirms this expression by precisely stating that this boundary of "their respective national interests" is definitive and that any intervention of third powers in this settlement shall be rejected.

In these two articles we find the same expression as in the secret agreements. In one, "boundary of their respective national interests", in the other, "sphere of influence of the U.S.S.R."

But in what consist the "rights" of the acquirer of such a sphere which the ceder "accords" him? Article 3 of the treaty gives us the reply to this question: "The necessary reorganization of public administration will be effected in the areas west of the line specified in article I by the Government of the German Reich, in the areas east of this line by the Government of the U.S.S.R."

Normally the sphere of influence is a territory in which a foreign State is politically interested. These interests may be based on the fact of neighbourhood, of the geographical situation of economic or political factors. When two States sign an agreement on the partition of spheres of influence, they acknowledge that one party has recognized for the other its exclusive interests on the respective territory and pledges itself not to prevent the realization of the interests of the contracting party. It declares its disinterestedness.

Article 3 of the German-Soviet treaty precisely states that the acquirer State of a sphere of influence may proceed with the "re-organization" of the public administration and the other party shall disinterest itself in this re-organization. They are not satisfied with economic and cultural privileges (concessions, railways, rivers, internal commerce, schools, press, radio); they admit the re-organization of public administration (constitution, administration finances, state economy, relations with foreign countries) without any reserve, without any safeguard of the independence, sovereignty and rights of the Lithuanian nation. Here is the sense of the phrase "as soon as the Government of the U.S.S.R. shall take special measures on Lithuanian territory to protect its interests." (Secret Protocol of September 28, 1939). These special measures may go as far as the re-organization of public administration, as far as annexation, because the Secret Supplementary Protocol explicitly states, "...the present German-Lithuanian border, for the purpose of a natural and simple boundary delineation, shall be rectified in such a way that the Lithuanian territory situated to the southwest of the Line marked on the attached map should fall to Germany". It is the partition of Lithuania. Since in one part of Lithuania the Soviets will take special measures, the other part will immediately be annexed by Germany. It is easy to divine in what consist those "special measures to protect its (i.e. Soviet) interests". It is also annexation.

In his note of June 22, 1941, von Ribbentrop cites among other grievances against the U.S.S.R. the non-fulfilment by the U.S.S.R. of its engagement to cede to Germany a part of Lithuania. In the note cited above, Herr von Ribbentrop is honest only in speaking of Germany's reluctance to renounce the interests it had acquired in Lithuania by

the first treaty of Moscow. Its love of peace ("peace at any price"), which is put forward as the prime motive of its high-minded act of self-renunciation, in point of fact, did have a price, and no inconsiderable price at that. In the Secret Supplementary protocol it is particularised in the following terms: "The Secret Supplementary Protocol signed on August 23, 1939, shall be amended in item 1 to the effect that the territory of the Lithuanian state falls to the sphere of influence of the U.S.S.R., while, on the other hand, the province of Lublin and parts of the province of Warsaw fall to the sphere of Germany". In other words, what is depicted as a sacrifice in the interests of peace, in the searching light of incontrovertible documentary evidence, becomes the infamous transaction between two ruthlessly aggressive powers at the expense of a peaceful and defenceless neighbour it, in actual fact, was.

But in 1941 Herr von Ribbentrop had conveniently forgotten the true nature of the bargain Germany made in 1939, just as the details of that other deal which was closed, following the presentation of the Soviet ultimatum, seemed to have slipped, equally conveniently, his memory, for he again high-mindedly speaks of a fresh contribution to a friendly settlement and makes no mention of

the actual price paid, viz.: ten 7,500,000 gold dollars of 31, 500,000 Reichsmarks.

It is noteworthy that M. Molotov had initially offered for the retention of the strip of Lithuanian territory in question "half of the sum the U.S.A. paid to Russia for the cession of Alaska" or, to be exact, 3,860,000 gold dollars, to be paid "within two years", either in gold or goods, as Germany may prefer.

Obviously, during the "troublesome" negotiations, Herr von Ribbentrop had succeeded in outbargaining M. Molotov. Thus, once more were proved the hollowness of Germany's peace-loving professions and its true character of unscrupulous aggressor in all its stark nakedness.

The signing of the secret German-Soviet agreements already in itself constitutes a conspiracy against peace and an act of aggression. The action of the two totalitarian powers is further aggravated by their implementation of the agreements, which were primarily designed to bring about a new partition of Lithuania — a partition as justifiable as those of the Polish-Lithuanian State in 1772 and 1793-1795 — and which eventually led to the suspension of Lithuania's independence in violation of the sovereign will of its people.

"Memorandum on the Restoration of Lithuania's Independence," 1988

FRIENDS OF THE BALTICS AT WORK

Walter Perlick, Dean of the School of Business Administration at California State University Sacramento has an ambitious goal for his school. He wants to develop CSUS into a premier school of international business and where has he aimed his sights? Why, the Baltics and Eastern Europe of course!! Now, we here at the Friends of the Baltics already know that Eastern Europe is one of the hottest regions this decade for international business and soon others will also know. Dean Perlick and his School of Business Administration are presently completing the second year of a multi-year USAID funded project for Latvia, in which they have been providing instruction and counseling in the areas of taxation, entrepreneurship, international business, etc. The first group of Latvians arrived in Sacramento, California in the Summer of 1995 for 30 days of lectures and visits with businesses, non-profit organizations, and chambers of commerce. Those twelve individuals then returned to Latvia and conducted training programs based on the various business skills they learned. The second group of Latvians in the second phase of this program returned to Latvia only a week ago. Next Summer there will be a third and final group.

The final goal of this program is for the program participants to put together a Latvian development center that will help train other Latvians in the above areas. In effect, they are training a cadre of Latvians to train others.

Dean Perlick's intent in going to the Baltic States in July, is multi-fold. First, he needs to establish contact with his Latvian counterparts to see that things are going as planned. And, secondly, he will establish contacts in Vilnius to develop new educational exchange programs or another program along the lines of the current Latvian program. After he finishes his business in the Baltic he will travel next to Minsk to begin developing support for a Byelorussian program. So, where does someone turn to for insider information on the Best of the Best Baltic contacts? Why, to Friends of the Baltics of course!! It didn't take us long (2 seconds) to recommend he contact Audrone Zubaviciene, Peace Corps Program Specialist for Small Enterprise Development in Lithuania. For those of us who know and love Audrone, we know she certainly knows many people! Once

Lithuanians are Cool

One more week, one more weekly English edition of "Draugas — The Friend." It is not easy to stand every week before the eternal question: "To be or not to be." The editors and publishers of "Draugas — The Friend" want "to be" because we know the need is there. There are so many young and older people of Lithuanian descent who are not familiar with the language of their ethnic heritage but want to know more about the land of their roots — Lithuania, about the activities and happenings in the Lithuanian community overseas and on this side of the Atlantic. The "not to be" problem confronts with the fact, that we can not reach these valued people to whom English edition of "Draugas" would be of interest.

As we stated at the start of this venture, its continuance depends on the number of subscribers. At present it is still too small to ensure the future of "Draugas — The Friend." We do plan to continue publishing a while longer, perhaps eventually switching to a biweekly until such a time that we will have enough readers to ensure its future. Otherwise, we will be forced to abandon this venture.

Please consider informing your friends — Americans as well as Lithuanians — about our weekly "Draugas," urging them to become readers and subscribers. Sixty dollars a year isn't high price to pay for a weekly newspaper of special interests to people of Lithuanian ethnic origins.

We also invite contributors with essays, articles, letters to the editor, photos, advertisements. If you belong to an organization, if you visited independent Lithuania for business, work or pleasure, if you work on a special project, participated in sports, academic activities, if you know a person who should be mentioned in our newspaper (graduations, weddings, engagements, births, professional achievements, etc.), we

would welcome such new items. Just write to the editor (for a time being — Danutė Bindokienė, same as for the daily "Draugas"). The article should be typed, double spaced, photos can be black and white or color. If you want them returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

According to the latest U.S. Census information, there are about 800,000 people of Lithuanian descent in the United States. If we compare these numbers with, let's say, Spanish speaking ethnic community in America, they will appear no very significant. Nevertheless Lithuanians are respected and valued members of society. Seldom one hears a negative remark about Lithuanians, seldom their names appear on police rosters or most-wanted lists. Lithuanians are not the usual subjects of ethnic jokes.

There was a time when the general American public and especially the politicians didn't know much about Lithuanians or the country of their origin. In fact, not many could answer in what part of the world Lithuania was situated. The name itself sounded somehow egzotic, unique but elusive. This changed starting with about 1988 when more and more news about strange happenings in a small country on the shores of the Baltic Sea appeared in the American media. Eventually Lithuania was the pebble that perhaps upset the apple cart of the mighty Soviet Union. Stories about the brave Lithuanian people who started a most unusual revolution — a singing revolution — and won their freedom after 50 years of Soviet oppression became common in American press.

Suddenly all Lithuanians, even the ones who could barely say Labas become celebrities. Americans realized that we were a very special ethnic group. We still are and should value our heritage. It is cool to be Lithuanian!

great enthusiasm. Audrone says, "Friends of the Baltics is a great initiative. It gives us, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians, especially those who worked with Peace Corps Volunteers for some time, a wonderful feeling that America is not so far away and it is possible to find friends of the Baltics almost everywhere." We're positive that, because of Audrone, Dean Perlick will meet the right people and create a lasting international educational program that will benefit many Lithuanians!

It's been a pleasure to work with Audrone because of her

"The Baltic Bridge" July 1996



A peaceful park in Šilalė.

AN EXPATRIATE'S JOURNEY

The Life and Legacy of Marija Aukštaitė

3

Equally distressing was unknown that awaited her in a strange land. There were no guarantees or promises for a happy future. She realized that the first few years in her adopted homeland would be difficult, that she would have to build a new life from scratch, relying solely on her own abilities and ingenuity. In her biography she points out that she left Lithuania in 1930 against her will, hoping for a better life for her children.

These feelings of loss and apprehension are expressed in many of the poems she composed during that period, as well as in a work of fiction entitled *An Expatriate's Journey* (*Išieivės kelias*), which is partly based on her life's experiences. The protagonist of this story is forced to leave Lithuania because of unbearable social and economic conditions. On a ship bound for North America, she ponders:

It feels as if I am at my own wake...heading toward a port of the unknown. My identity, my native language and traditions will be lost there forever...just like these waves disappear in the vastness of the ocean... I was born to live in my country, not in a foreign land. Why am I leaving? Who is waiting for me there?... (Aukštaitė 1978:181).

As for the majority of Lithuanian immigrants, the beginnings of a new life in Canada for Aukštaitė's family were fraught with hardship. It is hardly surprising that anyone accustomed to the slow-paced existence of a Lithuanian provincial town, such as Prienai, would find Montréal — one of the major metropolitan areas in North America — at times overwhelming and daunting. In addition to language difficulties, Aukštaitė soon discovered, there were various social and cultural barriers to overcome.

Upon arrival in Montréal with her two sons, she moved in with the Astrauskas family who kindly agreed to put them up temporarily. At that time, her husband Antanas, who had immigrated two years earlier, was renting a room from this same Lithuanian family. Soon, the Astrauskas's introduced Aukštaitė to Antanas's employed David Goldberg who, being a European immigrant himself, was well aware of the problems that

newcomers had to face in Canada. By then he had established a successful dress-making business and was able to offer a great deal of material and moral support to the Navikevičius family.

Not wishing to overstay their welcome, Aukštaitė and her husband began to seek affordable accommodation which, they soon discovered, was not easy to find in Montréal of those days. Aukštaitė was drawn to the Lithuanian community or, as she put it, to her "own kind" who never refused a helping hand. She met the Mačernis family, who, in her words, epitomized, "real žemaičiai" — stalwart peasants from the western part of Lithuania known as Samogitia or *Žemaitija*. For reasonable rent, they offered Aukštaitė and her family a room in their apartment on Frontenac Street.

During the first few months in Montréal, Aukštaitė almost daily wandered back in her thoughts to Lithuania, or, as she writes in her autobiography, those nostalgic memories of her native land gave her much needed strength and hope. She missed intensely the landscape of Lithuanian countryside, her relatives, and, above all, her son Jonas.

As a way to preserve and reinforce their identity in a new, sometimes adverse, cultural environment, Aukštaitė's family would frequently get together for talks about Lithuania's history, folklore, customs and tradi-

tions. Such improvised lectures, that helped to while away many long, frosty evenings of Canadian winter, were often followed by the singing of Lithuanian folk songs. The Mačernis's, who were usually also present at these gatherings, remarked that their tenants — Aukštaitė and her family — were "the soul and pride of their home" (Aukštaitė 1988:23).

Shortly after settling in Montréal, Aukštaitė became interested in the periodicals published by the Lithuanian community, which, in her words, "helped suppress nostalgic longings and were a good source of information" (Aukštaitė 1980:24). Four newspapers with rather different political orientations were delivered to the Mačernis home: the leftist *Keleivis* (Pilgrim), the religious *Darbininkas* (Worker), and the nationalist *Vienybė* (Unity) and *Tėvynė* (Fatherland). Because the subscribers to these periodicals, the Mačernis's male tenants, were temporarily away, working on government contracts at logging camps in the Canadian west, Aukštaitė was their only reader at that time. Given her religious sentiments, *Darbininkas* (Worker) became Aukštaitė's favourite. Yet the subscription to this periodical was about to expire, and to renew it was beyond her means.

To be continued.

LITHUANIA RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS

In March of this year the US Department of State compiled an extensive report on human rights practices in Lithuania. The report extends only to the year 1995.

The report states that the Government of Lithuania generally respects the human rights of its citizens, but there are certain areas where problems do arise. Some excerpts from this report will shed more light on the conditions of everyday dealings between Lithuanian Government and the citizens. Its not always according to the Constitution.

Lithuania — a budding Democracy

Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy. With its statehood widely recognized as continuous for more than 70 years, Lithuania restored its independence in 1990 after more than 50 years of Soviet occupation. The Constitution, adopted by referendum in 1992, established a 141-member unicameral legislature, the Seimas; a directly elected President, who functions as Head of State; and a Government formed by a Prime Minister and other ministers, appointed by the President and approved by the Seimas. The Government exercises authority with the approval of the Seimas and the President. In fair elections in 1992, the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDDP) — the successor to the Communist Party of Lithuania, which in 1989 broke away from the Soviet Communist Party — won a majority of parliamentary seats and formed the Government. In 1993 voters elected Algirdas Brazauskas, then Chairman of the LDDP, as President. Local government elections in March, however, gave the ruling LDDP its first electoral defeat since 1992. Right-of-center candidates captured a majority of local government councils in most of the country's towns and cities.

Since independence, Lithuania has moved to a market economy. More than 40 percent of state property, including most housing and small businesses, has been privatized. Industry employs 42 percent of the labor force. The agricultural sector's continuing high proportion of the work force (18 percent) reflects a lack of efficient consolidation of small private farms and represents a vocal protectionist current in economic policy debates. The banking system remains weak, with the Government moving just before Christmas to suspend operations at two prominent private commercial banks for illiquidity and fraud. The inflation rate of 35.7 percent was significantly higher than had been projected. Per capita gross domestic product was estimated at \$1,000 per year. Trade is diversifying, with a gradual shift to Western markets. Major exports include textile and knitwear products, timber and furniture, electronic goods, food, and chemical and petroleum products.

Human Rights are Respected — Most of the Time

The Government generally respects the human rights of its citizens, but problems remain in some areas. Police on occasion beat detainees and reportedly abuse already excessive detention laws. Some journalists allege that government officials apply pressure on them not to criticize governmental policies

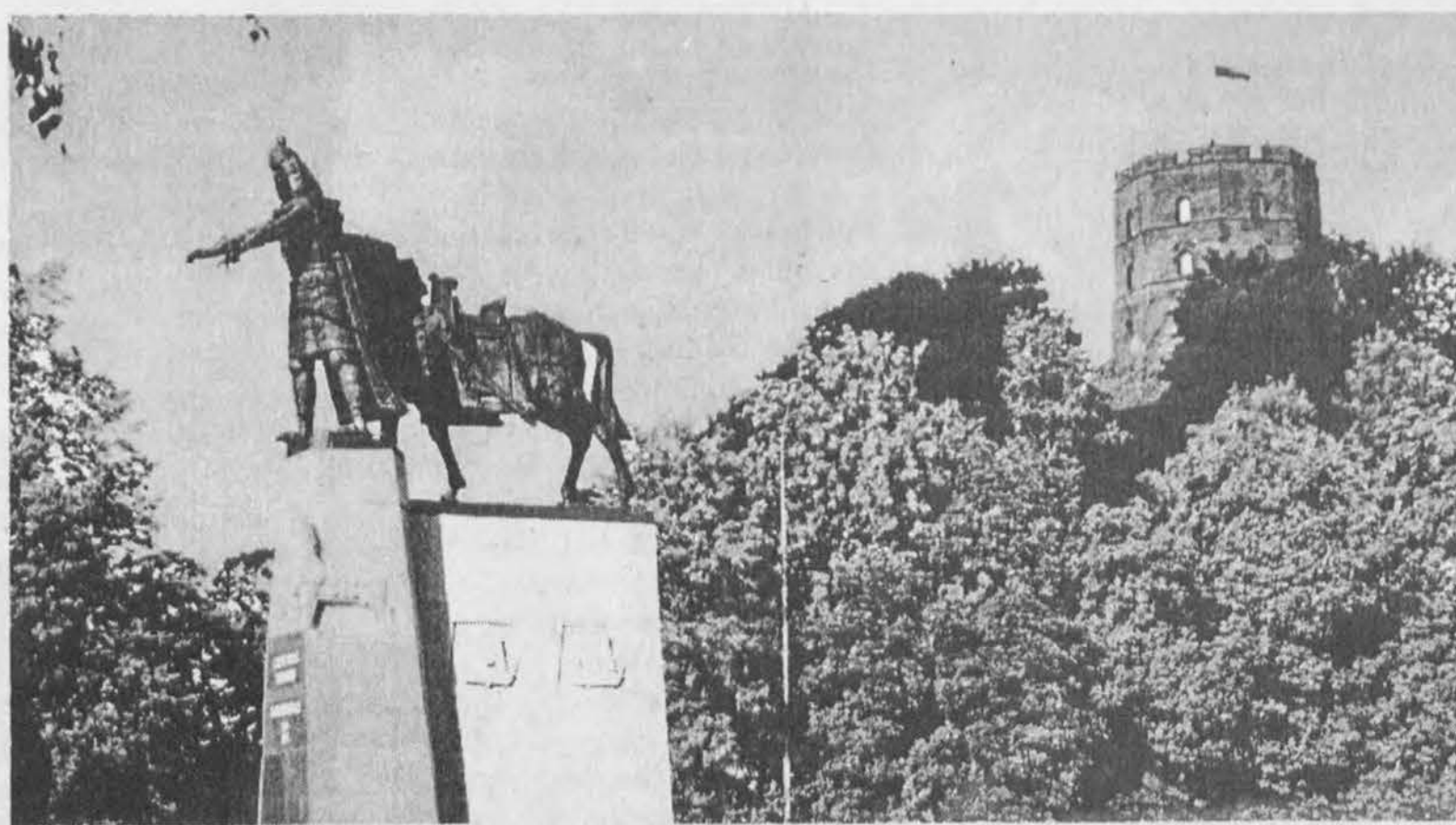
or acts. Jewish cemeteries are sporadically subjected to vandalism and pilfering. Violence and discrimination against women and child abuse are problems which the government has failed to address. In April the Parliament ratified the European Convention on Human Rights and Basic Freedoms.

There were no reports that of officials engaged in or condoned torture. However, police sometimes beat or otherwise physically mistreated detainees. The local press reported that incidents of police brutality are becoming more common. In many instances, the victims reportedly are reluctant to bring charges against police officers owing to fear of reprisals. The Ministry of the Interior generally has been unwilling to publicize statistics on reported cases of police brutality. Sources in the Parliament, however, reported that there were 116 complaints concerning employees of the Ministry of the Interior, of which 15 had been resolved and 74 are still under investigation. Owing to limited resources and motivation, many of Lithuania's prisons are poorly maintained.

Violent and Organized Crime

In an effort to cope with the rise in violent organized crime, Parliament in 1993 passed the Preventive Detention Law pertaining to persons suspected of being violent criminals. This law, which was passed as a temporary measure, allowed police, but not the internal security or armed forces, to detain suspected violent criminals up to 2 months rather than for the standard 72-hour period. The effect of this law is to give prosecutors and investigators additional time to conduct an investigation and file formal criminal charges against the detainee. Those apprehended must be released after 2 months if an investigation does not lead to formal charges. Local police commissioners must obtain the Prosecutor General's approval of each arrest carried out under the provisions of this law.

Parliament voted in 1994 and 1995 to extend this temporary law for an additional year but with several new provisions, including checks on prosecutorial abuse. The law now requires that a detainee (1) must be informed within 3 hours following arrest of the length of the preventive detention under consideration (not to exceed 2 months), and (2) must be brought before a court within 48 hours of arrest for a ruling on the legality of the detention. Furthermore, a detainee has the legal right to consult with an attorney during the period of detention. The law gives law enforcement officials wide latitude in making arrest decisions and may be open to abuse. Police detained over 500 suspected members of criminal gangs under the provision of this law. In several well-publicized cases, the law helped to convict and sentence dangerous criminals to lengthy prison terms. In many other instances, however, the suspects were freed without charge after expiration of the maximum detention period, leading some observers to believe that the police are abusing the lengthy detention period provided by this temporary law. The Constitution provides defendants the right to counsel. In practice, the right to legal counsel is abridged by the



Recently completed statue of Lithuania's Grand Duke Gediminas in Vilnius.

Photo by Viktoras Kučas

shortage of trained lawyers, who find it difficult to cope with the burgeoning numbers of criminal cases brought before the courts. Outside observers have recommended the establishment of a public defender system to regularize procedures for provision of legal assistance to indigent persons charged in criminal cases. By law, defense lawyers have access to government evidence and may present evidence and witnesses. The courts and law enforcement agencies generally honor routine, written requests for evidence. There were no political trials.

Government rehabilitation of more than 50,000 persons charged with anti-Soviet crimes during the Stalinist era led to reports in 1991 that some people alleged to have been involved in crimes against humanity during the Nazi occupation had benefited from this rehabilitation. A special judicial procedure was established to examine each case in which an individual or organization raised an objection that rehabilitated person may have committed a crime against humanity. In 1994 the Supreme Court overturned the rehabilitation of three persons whose cases were pending from 1993; there were no such ruling by the Supreme Court in 1995.

There were no reports of political prisoners.

Freedom of Speech and Press

The Constitution provides for freedom of speech and the press, which the Government observes in practice. The law prohibits the government from issuing prior restraint orders over the print or broadcast media or setting restrictions on the disclosure of information unless the Government determines that national security is involved. Nevertheless, journalists working for the state-owned electronics media complained about pressure by superiors to avoid criticism of government policies in their television and radio reporting. Most independent news publications and many prominent journalists protested against the provisions of a draft public information law, which they thought severely restricted freedom of the press. The draft law failed to pass in a November 6 vote, but parliamentary debate on a press law was expected to continue. The ruling party announced the formation of a committee to review the proposed press law and the provisions which prompted protests.

Many investigative journalists covering organized crime have been harassed by or received death threats, ostensibly from organized "crime families." In October 1993, a copublisher and editor of a widely read daily, who wrote extensively on organized crime, was murdered. In October 1994, the

Supreme Court convicted four persons with criminal backgrounds of murder in the case. One person received a death sentence, which was carried out in July. On November 17, a bomb destroyed a major new building under construction for the largest Lithuanian daily, Lietuvos Rytas. The newspaper had been writing a series on Lithuanian organized crime families. It is widely assumed that one or more of these families were responsible for the bombing, although the Government had filed no charges by year's end. Some observers also expressed concern over the government's motives in sending tax inspectors to the scene shortly after the blast. Press reports of the meeting between Lietuvos Rytas editors and President Brazauskas 2 days after the bombing stated that editors for publishing charges against organized crime figures without supporting evidence. These events took place in the context of a parliamentary debate in which opposition members criticized the Government for making antipress statements in reaction against journalists' investigation of official corruption.

Five private radio stations including one broadcasting in Polish, are on the air. Two private television stations also broadcast regular programming to wide audiences. Representatives of the private electronic media have complained for some time about unfair transmission fees and advertising rates set by the government. These rates reportedly favor the state radio and television stations.

Freedom of Religion

The Constitution provides for religious freedom, and the Government respects this provision in practice. The Law on Religious Communities and Associations passed in October gives religious communities, associations, and centers property rights to prayer houses,

homes, and other buildings and permits construction necessary for their activities. Nine religious communities have been declared by the new law to be "traditional" and therefore eligible for governmental assistance: Latin Rite Catholics, Greek Rite Catholics, Evangelical Lutherans, Evangelical Reformers, Orthodox, Old Believers, Jews, Sunni Muslims, and Karaites. There are no restrictions on the activities of other religious communities.

The Government Structure

Lithuania is a parliamentary democracy. The election law provides for a secret ballot in parliamentary elections. Of 141 parliamentary seats, 71 are elected directly and 70 through proportional representation. A party must draw a minimum of 4 percent of the national vote in order to gain a seat through proportional representation. National minority slates are exempt from this rule. Two of the four Polish Union representatives won their seats on a proportional basis, even though the union slate captured only 2 percent of the nationwide proportional vote.

The Citizenship Law, adopted in 1991 and amended in October, is inclusive with regard to the country's ethnic minorities. This law provides citizenship to persons who were born within the borders of the republic; who were citizens of Lithuania prior to 1940 and their descendants; or who became citizens under previous legal authority. More than 90 percent of Lithuania's ethnic Russian, Polish, Belarussian, and Ukrainian inhabitants received citizenship. Qualification for naturalization of persons not mentioned by the above-mentioned categories requires a 10-year residency, a permanent job or source of income, knowledge of the Constitution, renunciation of any other citizenship, and proficiency in Lithuanian.

The Rights of Women and Children

Abuse of women at home is reportedly common, especially in connection with alcohol abuse by husbands, and institutional mechanisms for coping with this problem are only now being formed. One private women's organization is attempting to establish a shelter for abused women. According to one sociological survey, 20 percent of women reported an attempted rape, while another 33 percent reported having been beaten at least once in their lives. Official statistics on the incidence of abuse of women in the home are not filed separately from other categories of assault. Women's groups report some resistance among law enforcement officials to collecting and releasing such statistics. Persons convicted of rape generally receive sentences of 3 to 5 years in prison.

The Constitution provides equal rights for men and women, and official policy specifies equal pay for equal work. Generally, men and women receive the same pay for comparable work. However, women are largely underrepresented in some professions and in the managerial sector as a whole, and significant inequalities in Lithuanian society based on sex continue. Lithuanian society still has very conservative views about the role of women in society. The fact that women's enrollment now exceeds that of men in some university facilities has prompted university administrators to introduce preferential entrance criteria for men to redress what is perceived as an abnormal state of affairs. Parliamentary deputies speaking about female deputies in public sometimes make unflattering comments based on gender stereotypes, without eliciting any public reactions.

Child abuse is a problem. The authorities reported that 10 children were killed as a result of severe beatings by parents in the first half of 1995. Social welfare workers believe that much of the abuse occurs in connection with alcohol abuse. The prevalence of authoritarian values in family upbringing had discouraged more active measures against child abuse.

The Ministries of Social Protection and of the Interior shared official responsibility for the protection of children's rights and welfare in 1995. Starting in 1994, the Children's Rights Service of the Ministry of Social Protection took on many of the functions formerly handled by the Ministry of the Interior and its subordinate police officers throughout the country, thereby focusing more attention on the social welfare needs of children. The Government showed its commitment to children's rights and welfare by ratifying the United Nations

Convention on Rights of the Child in July.

Dealing with Minorities

Ethnic minorities comprise roughly 20 percent of the population and include Russians, Poles, Belarussians, Ukrainians, and Jews. Ethnic Poles in particular have expressed concerns about the possibility of job discrimination arising from implementation of the language law. The law requires that public sector employees possess a functional knowledge of Lithuanian within a specified time. The authorities have granted liberal extensions of the time in which this is to be achieved. During the first 4 months of 1995, language-testing committees tested 6,975 people for whom Lithuanian is not a native language. Of those examined, 6,048 were certified as language qualified. There is no documented evidence of dismissals based on application of this law. Lithuanian authorities have indicated that the intent of the law is to apply moral incentives to learn Lithuanian as the official language of the State and that no one would be dismissed solely because of an inability to meet the language requirements. This appears to be the case.

The Working Conditions

The legal minimum age for employment of children without parental consent is 16 years. The legal minimum age with the written consent of parents is 14. Free trade union representatives assert that the mechanisms for monitoring minimum age legislation are rudimentary. Complaints about infringement of child labor regulations generally are referred to local prosecutors who investigate the charges and take legal action to stop violations. Available evidence suggests that child labor is rare.

The legal minimum wage is \$30 (120 litas) per month, while the average wage in the state industrial sector is \$128 (512 litas) per month. The Council of Ministers and the Ministry of Social Protection periodically set the minimum wage. Every 3 months these two government bodies must submit their minimum wage proposals to the Parliament, which has the right to approve or revise the minimum wage level. Enforcement of the minimum wage is almost nonexistent, in part because the Government does not want to exacerbate the current unemployment problem. The 40-hour workweek is standard, with a provision for at least one 24-hour rest period.

The Constitution provides that workers have the right to safe and healthy working conditions. In 1993 a Labor Safety Law went into effect, setting down the rights of workers confronted with hazardous conditions and providing legal protection for workers who file complaints about such conditions. The State Labor Inspection Service, which the law established, is charge with implementing the Labor Safety Law. Regional labor inspection offices, each of which have only two or three officials, are severely understaffed. They closed 1,882 enterprises or departments of enterprises found to be in violation of safety regulations during the first 6 months of 1995. Some 170 persons were fined, and 83 cases were referred to local prosecutors' offices. Unsafe conditions caused by worn, outdated industrial technologies are reportedly widespread, and 46 work-related deaths were recorded in the first 6 months of 1995.



Lithuanian bishops during a dedication ceremony in the convent of Pažaislis. From left to right: bishops — V. Michelevičius, A. Vaičiū, cardinal Vincentas Sladkevičius, bishops R. Krikščiūnas and S. Tamkevičius.

Photo by Pranas Abelkis

LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT: PAST AND PRESENT

Parliamentary elections throughout Lithuania will be held October 20 of this year. All Lithuanian citizens, even those living abroad and properly registered to vote, will participate in the elections as they are vital to the democratic future of the country. Therefore, it is important to familiarize ourselves with one of the governing bodies of Lithuania — Seimas — Parliament. These excerpts are from the booklet "Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Short Guidebook, published in Vilnius.

History

Seimas is the legislative body of the Republic of Lithuania and the main institution of representation of the People, with traditions dating back hundreds of years. However, many times the history had forced us to abolish these traditions.

The assembly of country's noblemen held at Salynas by the river Nemunas in 1398 during the negotiations between Lithuania and the Teutonic Order should most probably be considered the earliest prototype of the Seimas. The assembly named Vytautas the King of Lithuania thus expressing its support to Vytautas's struggle for the independence of the State of Lithuania.

In 1401 when establishing a new relationship between Lithuania and Poland and drafting the so-called Vilnius-Radome Act, not only the agreement documents between Vytautas and Jogaila and between the noblemen of the two countries were drawn up, but, moreover, the independence of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was recognised.

In 1413 the first joint congress of Lithuania and Polish magnates was convened in Horodlo. The legal acts drafted there established the relationship of a union, not that of subordination, between Lithuania and Poland and officially highlighted the political significance of the leading noblemen of Lithuania.

When Casimir, the Great Duke of Lithuania, ascended to the Polish throne, the supreme power in Lithuania had thus become vested in the Council of Lords emerging at that time. It eventually became the upper chamber of the Seimas. Later on, alongside with the Council of Lords, the numerous assemblies of the noblemen appeared whose participation in the consideration of the most important state affairs became indispensable. The Seimas used to assemble in Vilnius or Brest-Litovsk.

The Statute of Lithuania (a Code of Laws) promulgated in 1566 gave the Seimas the legislative power.

The Lublin Union of 1569 merged the independent parliaments of Poland and Lithuania, however, despite this fact, for some time our gentry continued to convene their meetings to consider the matters of state.

At the time of the final partition of the Commonwealth (of Poland and Lithuania) of 1795 effectuated by Russia, Prussia, and Austria, Lithuania no longer had either its own Seimas or joint with Poland.

Only in 1905 the Great Seimas of Vilnius was convened, the two thousand delegates of which discussed affairs of the nation experiencing a rebirth at that time.

Seimas During the Inter-war Period

The Council of Lithuania which on 16 February 1918 officially declared the independence of the State of Lithuania, had also stated that "The foundations of the Lithuanian State and its relations with other states" shall be determined by a Constituent Assembly (Seimas) to be elected by the inhabitants of Lithuania on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage.

The elections to the Constituent Seimas took place on 14-15 April 1920. One hundred and twelve representatives of the nation were democratically elected to the parliament. Seats in the Seimas were distributed as follows: the block of Christian Democrats — 59, Peasant and socialist Populists (liaudininkai) — 28, Social Democrats — 12, Jews — 7, Poles — 3, Germans — 1 and Independents — 2. On 15 May the Constituent Seimas began its work. In 1995 this day was declared the day of commemoration in Lithuania.

The first adopted document was a resolution which said that "the Constituent Seimas of Lithuania, expressing the will of the people of Lithuania, hereby proclaims, that the Independent State of Lithuania is re-established as a democratic republic within its ethnologic borders and free from any official obligations that had ever been undertaken in respect with other states." The Seimas also elected Aleksandras Stulginskis the first President of Lithuania. The coalition Government was formed by Kazys Grinius.

In June 1920 the Seimas adopted the Provisional Constitution and the Constitution itself was formally promulgated on 1 August 1922.

During its tenure the Constituent Seimas concluded a very important Peace Treaty with Russia, however, during that period Vilnius was insidiously seized by Poland. In September 1921 Lithuania was admitted into the League of Nations.

Following approval of the Constitution, the elections to the First Seimas of Lithuania were called for. The Seimas convened on 13 November 1922. It was composed of 78 representatives chosen by the nation. As the position and the opposition had practically equal representation in the parliament, government became exceedingly difficult and, therefore, in March 1923 this Seimas was dissolved.

The Second Seimas was elected on 12-13 May 1923. There were 78 members of the Seimas who represented the nation. The Christian Democrats had majority in this Seimas. During work of this Seimas, sovereignty of Klaipėda Territory was handed over to Lithuania, and more stability was introduced into the economic situation of the country. This Seimas served the full term in office, i.e. three years. However, even four Governments changed during that time. They were led by Ernestas Galvanauskas, Antanas Tumėnas, Vytautas Petrulis and Leonas Bistras.

The First and the Second Seimas elected Aleksandras Stulginskis the President of Lithuania. Elections to the Third Seimas took place on 8-10 May 1926. The right-wing parties which used to dominate in the Seimas were now replaced by the moderate leftists (Peasant Populists and Social Democrats.) Kazys Grinius was elected the Presi-



A castle in Kaunas.

dent of Lithuania and the Government led by Mykolas Slezevičius was sworn in. The Non-aggression Treaty was signed with the Soviet Union in which Lithuania's rights to Vilnius which was under Polish occupation at that time were recognised. The new government abolished the martial law and the restrictions of the democratic freedoms.

Work of the Seimas was interrupted by a coup d'etat executed by the right-wing opposition on 17 December 1926. The Seimas was dissolved on 12 April next year. An authoritarian regime with nationalists ruling the country was introduced in Lithuania. The parliamentary rule of the country was terminated.

The Seimas was not convened in Lithuania again until 30 June 1936.

In the Seimas elections of 1936 the rights of voters were restricted. The political parties were disbanded and the candidates, persons loyal to the regime, were nominated by county and municipal councils. According to the Constitution of 1938, the powers of the Seimas were reduced: it could only consider the draft laws and give the recommendations to the President.

As President Antanas Smetona wielded the authority to make vital decisions, the pre-war Seimas remained absolutely inactive in the face of the disastrous events (loss of the Klaipėda Territory, Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and occupation of the country by the Soviets).

The Occupation Years

In July 1940, when Soviet tanks were already stationed in the country, by falsifying and usurping the will on the Lithuanian People, the rigged elections to the so-called People's Seimas were held. Documents drafted by this assembly to Moscow's dictation formally legalized the annexation of Lithuania.

The Supreme Council of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic which functioned throughout the period of Soviet occupation did not represent the nation; it obeyed the will of the occupants.

The last Supreme Council of the LSSR led by Algirdas Brazauskas, urged by the nation determined to regain its freedom, abolished the political rule by one-party (the Communist Party) and the censorship of press, declared the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact null and void, and the act of incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union illegal.

Freedom Once Again

In the wake of reforms started by M. Gorbachev in the Soviet Union, the Lithuanian people rose up determined to regain their freedom. The symbol of na-

tional rebirth was the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sąjūdis, the massive democratic movement of people. Majority of the Lithuanian Communist Party members, and obedient CPSU unit for decades, had also chosen the interests of the nation and dissociated themselves from Moscow.

On 24 February 1990, after fifty years of occupation the first free elections to the Supreme Council were held. Winners in the elections were the candidates backed by the Sąjūdis.

The new Supreme Council reinstated the tradition of parliamentarism in Lithuania. On 11 March 1990 it promulgated a historic document, the Act "On the Re-establishment of the Independent State of Lithuania." It stated that "The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, expressing the will of the Nation, decides and promulgates that administration of the sovereign powers of the State of Lithuania which was interrupted in 1940 by the alien forces, is reinstated and henceforth Lithuania shall be an independent state... The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania as a body of the sovereign powers shall implement the complete sovereignty of the State by this Act."

Validity of the 1938 Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania was briefly reinstated and on the same day the Provisional Fundamental Law was adopted.

Vytautas Landsbergis was elected the Chairman of the Supreme Council, and Bronislovas Juozas Kuzmickas, Kazimieras Motieka and Česlovas Stankevičius were chosen the Vice Chairmen; Liudvikas Sabutis was elected the Secretary of the Supreme Council.

Besides the leadership, other members elected to the Presidium of the Supreme Council were Aleksandras Ambrazevičius, Egidijus Bičkauskas, Romas Gudaitis, Mečys Laurinkas, Eugenijus Petrovas, Aloyzas Sakalas, and Gediminas Vagnorius.

Before expiration of their term of office, deputies of the Supreme Council established the following parliamentary groups: Joint Sąjūdis, Polish, Liberal, Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party as well as the Moderate, Reformed Nationalist, Sąjūdis Centre, Sąjūdis Union, and Nation Progress groups.

During the tenure of the Supreme Council four governments were formed led by Kazimiera Danutė Prunskienė, Albertas Šimėnas, Gediminas Vagnorius and Aleksandras Algirdas Abišala.

While consolidating the independence of Lithuania, the Supreme Council together with the whole country had to undergo a horrifying trial and to witness the bloodshed. But the nation withstood. After the

coup failed in Moscow in August 1991 one after another the most powerful countries recognized the restored independence of Lithuania.

By the end of its term, the Supreme Council drafted the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania and also enacted the Law on the elections to the Seimas.

Powers and Obligations

Article 5 of the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania sets forth the principles of the activities of the parliament, elections to the Seimas as well as the powers of this institution.

The Seimas consists of 141 members who are elected for a four-year term on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Any citizen of the Republic of Lithuania who is not bound by an oath or pledge to a foreign state and is at least 25 years of age on the day of election and has been permanently residing in Lithuania may be elected a Seimas member.

A member elected to the Seimas assumes all the rights of representative of nation only upon taking an oath in the Seimas to be loyal to the Republic of Lithuania.

Seimas convenes annually for two regular sessions — one in spring and one in fall. The Chairman of the Seimas may call for extraordinary sessions upon the proposal of at least one-third of all the Seimas members. In the cases envisaged by the Constitution the extraordinary sessions may be called by the President of the Republic.

The Seimas considers and adopts amendments to the Constitution, enacts and adopts resolutions to hold referendums; approves or rejects the candidature of the Prime Minister proposed by the President; considers the programme of the Government submitted by the Prime Minister and decides whether to approve it or not; supervises the activities of the Government and may express non-confidence in the Prime Minister; appoints Judges of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court as well as the Chairpersons of these Courts; appoints and dismisses the State Controller and the Chairperson of the Board of the Bank of Lithuania; sets up the Central Election Committee; announces elections to the Municipal Councils; approves the State budget and supervises its implementation; ratifies and denounces international treaties whereto the Republic of Lithuania is a party, and considers other issues of foreign policy; imposes direct administration and martial law, declares a state of emergency; announces mobilization and adopts decisions to use the armed forces.

VISIT TO THE PRISON HOSPITAL IN VILNIUS

In this hospital in downtown Vilnius is an old building that was built during the Russian Czar occupation of Lithuania. An addition to the prison was built in 1929. Needless to say these facilities are devastating. No matter what remodeling would be done would not help the situation. Understanding these crowded conditions a new prison hospital will be built in the next ten years in the complex of the University hospital, Santariškės complex.

The hospital treats prisoners who are sentenced with deprivation of liberty. Prisoners are treated from the entire Republic. The hospital has 300 beds. Prisoners are both men and women. At present 5 pregnant women are being held who have not yet been convicted.

The hospital is divided in: 100 tubercular beds, 50 psychiatric beds, 75 surgical (trauma and gynecological), 60 therapeutic beds, 15 dermatovenereal.

Ages of these prisoners varies. On the increase are younger men below the age of 30.

The tuberculosis units are deplorable. There is no ventilation of those cubicles. Because of the overcrowding each cubicle had six patients. They are all kept together regardless of the stages of disease.

The same is for the hepatitis infected patients. The only isolation provided is for very severely ill prisoners. All cubicles are under very highly guarded under very strict security rules. These patients are also bedded in six to a cubicle, with three double bunk beds.

The chief physician, Dr. Vidas Misevičius states that they are not short of personnel because doctors and nurses who work in this facility are paid much more than others working in a non prison system. He is concerned with the AIDS problem because of the increase of prisoners who

have been narcotics users and the increases of venereal diseases. The patients are not only Lithuanians but are also minorities in Lithuania i.e. Russians and Poles and Byelorussians.

The conditions are the same for women. When in labor the woman prisoner is sent to a local birthing hospital to deliver. After delivery if she chooses she may keep her baby with her. If her family wants to take the baby home they are encouraged since there is no facility, not even a crib in the cell for her infant. The crowding in these units is abhorable.

I was sent there because the need for prevention is very real.

Dr. Misevičius has compiled a very effective study on AIDS and hepatitis B infections. This independent study was done confidentially. Included in my report are the computer graphs.

This article was written for the University of Illinois at Chicago go for the World Aids Proposal project which was completed, June, 1994. The project involved countries where there is a humongous incidence of AIDS: Brazil, Thailand, Botswana, Swaziland. Unfortunately, the proposal did not produce financial support. If it would have books on AIDS would have been translated in the Lithuanian language and prevention would have been enhanced in Lithuania. As of date, they have a fantastic AIDS Center in Vilnius under direction of Dr. Saulius Čaplinkas and have opened an affiliate in Klaipėda, the port city where transients of the sea frequent the houses of ill repute.

Kathleen Norr, PhD, R.N., is working on another proposal. Our previous materials are being used. The visit to the Prison Hospital was essential for this study.

Frances M. Šlutas, R.N. Lithuanian Mercy Lift member

The structure and procedure of activities of the Seimas are determined by the Statute of the Seimas which has the power of law.

The Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Seimas presides over the sittings of the Seimas. There are three Vice Chairmen of the Seimas.

The Seimas Chancellor monitors the drafting of documents and consideration of the draft documents in the Seimas. The Seimas has a Board consisting of the Chairman and three Vice Chairmen of the Seimas and the Seimas Chancellor. The principle task of the Seimas Board is to settle organization issues of the work of the Seimas.

Seimas members may form parliamentary groups for implementing their political goals. The parliamentary groups are headed by their spokespersons. Seimas parliamentary groups or their coalitions which disagree with the Governmental programme, may declare themselves the opposition groups.

The Assembly of the Spokespersons, convened regularly, considers the work programme of a session, the agendas of the forthcoming week or day-long sittings of the Seimas; it also coordinates other issues.

The Seimas forms committees from among its members for the consideration of draft laws and other issues. It also forms standing and temporary commissions such as Commission on Ethics and Procedure, Administrative, and other commissions.

Four sittings — two on Tues-

days and two on Thursdays — are held during sessions of the Seimas. On Thursdays, the evening sitting is assigned to the Government, interpellations, and replies to the questions of Seimas members given by the Seimas officers and heads of State institutions appointed by the Seimas.

During the last half hour of every evening sitting, the Seimas members read their statements and consider urgent issues of state or electoral areas or international problems.

The agendas of the evening sitting of every third Thursday are drawn up by parliamentary groups of the opposition.

Laws of the Republic of Lithuania, resolutions of the Seimas, and other decisions of the Seimas are adopted at the sittings of the Seimas by simple majority vote (i.e. more than half) of the Seimas members participating in the sitting.

Draft laws on the amendments of the Constitution must be considered and voting in the Seimas thereon must be held twice with an adjournment of at least three months between voting. A law on amendment of the Constitution is deemed to have been passed by the Seimas provided that at least two thirds of all the Seimas members voted in favour thereof during each voting.

Other constitutional laws are adopted by simple majority vote of all the Seimas members.

The Office of the Seimas is formed to ensure the work of the Seimas.

Art News



Mūza Rubackytė.

THE MAGNIFICENT MŪZA

By ARNOLD VOKETAITIS

In recent years there has been a deluge of Lithuanian musicians of various talents visiting our shores to perform and, hopefully, make an impression on all who hear them. One who has already made an impression outside Lithuania on the European continent and now here on our shores is the "beautiful and talented pianist" Mūza Rubackytė. Her recordings and CDs have garnered exquisite reviews in many major record journals and, thusly, brought her to the attention of many impresari. With an extended repertoire of programs and orchestral concerti plus the recognition as being a superb interpreter of Liszt, Mūza Rubackytė is well on her way to becoming a "major artist of her generation."

It should be with extreme pride that we as Lithuanians rejoice in Mūza Rubackytė's success as we would other deserving Lithuanians. She will be making a concert appearance at the Lithuanian Jesuit Youth Center in Chicago on Nov. 10, 1996 at 3:00 PM to the delight of all Lithuanians and those pure music and piano lovers in a program of Bach/Busoni, Čiurlionis and, of course, Liszt.

Those who know this writer as a bass-baritone soloist of some repute will ask why has a vocalist undertaken to write about a pianist. Well, (1.) I was asked. (2.) Why not! (3.) She's fellow artist and, thusly, a colleague.

With introductions aside, Mūza's playing in mind and handfull of materials about her musical accomplishments, let me tell you about — Mūza Rubackytė.

Born in Lithuania into a family of musicians she made her professional debut in Vilnius at the age of 7 with the Lithuanian National Chamber Orchestra. At 13, she won 1st Prize in the National Young Artist Competition and was admitted to the famous Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory. During those years of study she competed and won 1st Prize at the International Tallinn Piano Competition and shortly thereafter awarded the Conservatory's 1st Prize in piano plus chamber music and accompaniment.

In 1981, Mūza Rubackytė entered the Budapest International Piano Competition otherwise known as Liszt-Bartok and resoundingly won the Grand Prix.

With the welcome arrival of "perestroika" in 1989 she moved to Paris where she then entered the prestigious Paris International Piano Competition "Les Grands Maitres Francis" and took 1st Prize. Her European career was now off and running. She travels extensive-

ly giving concerts and recitals through out Europe and now for the second year the USA where this summer she captivated audiences at the prominent Newport Music Festival (NY). Her repertoire besides Liszt and Čiurlionis is extremely impressive with a list of composers reaching from Bartok through to Von Weber. In between one must not forget Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Mozart, Beethoven and on and on. Brava, Mūza!

Academia reached out to her and she now serves in professorial positions at the Lithuanian National Academy of Music, the European Conservatory in Paris and gives Master Classes at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory of Moscow in Sarlat, France. Besides all those concerts and academic duties Mūza adjudicated the Lithuanian International Piano Competition when held.

It is only proper that I mention a few of Mūza Rubackytė's press reviews as all artists are proud to inform a new public of what others have thought of their talents and performances. Some are as follows:

1. Fanfare-USA (The Magazine for Serious Record Collectors.)

"The sultry Lithuanian beauty, Mūza Rubackytė is a born Liszt player with an instinctive grasp of the way that flourishes, fioritura, rippling arpeggios, tremolos and massive chords call for in color and skill."

2. Gramophone-2/95.

"Mūza Rubackytė performs all the works of Čiurlionis with distinction and is clearly a musician of rare talent as is evident from her wholly convincing transcription of the three extant movements of Čiurlionis's string quartet. I recommend artist and recording with enthusiasm."

3. Classic Co.

"Mūza Rubackytė's selfless poetry makes Liszt even more exciting. An excellent Lithuanian pianist, Ms. Rubackytė is an accomplished virtuoso who makes no show of virtuosity. Even in the formidable Erikonig bravura... she can make flesh creep."

4. Boston Globe-7/95.

"... her huge intrepid performances, fulminating and girlishly whimsical by turns brought people shouting to their feet at the end of each piece."

5. Providence-7/95.

Mūza Rubackytė was back for another lesson in just how the piano should be played.

6. London Musical opinion.

"Mūza Rubackytė... a rare treat of a rare talent."

As an artist, who has known many fine pianists in my career, I look forward to Mūza Rubackytė's coming and playing

and so should you, the public. Remember what "Fanfare" Magazine wrote: "Mūza Rubackytė is an artist of phenomenal powers who must be counted among the most gifted pianists of her generation." So, pencil in and reserve your seats for Nov. 10 in Chicago at the Lithuanian Jesuit Youth Center.

On a personal note: Last April this author was flattered to be asked by Chicago's premier classical FM radio station WFMT to give a concert celebrating my 42nd debut anniversary. The concert proved to be such a success that the station asked me to sing another concert this season celebrating my five decades of opera/concert longevity. Naturally, I was flattered and readily accepted, but only if I could share the two hour time slot with the gifted Mūza Rubackytė. The producer who was unfamiliar with the Rubackytė name had to be convinced even though my recommendation was sufficient. So, after listening to excerpts from one of her recordings he was delighted at what he heard and honored to have her for our "Live from Studio One" concert. Alė Kėzelis, the dynamic Lithuanian-American Community Cultural Events director, who arranged for Mūza Rubackytė's Nov. 10 concert, contacted her regarding the radio concert and she generously accepted the idea of a joint concert. Please stay tuned to WFMT, read Draugas and other local newspapers in the future months for actual broadcast date.

BALTIC ARTS '96



Baltic Arts '96 is the first all-embracing festival of art and culture from the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to take place in Great Britain. The festival includes music, theatre, poetry, films, and exhibitions.

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have developed very different cultures in the face of a long history of conquest and oppression. Yet all three countries have developed their cultural identities through the power of their native languages and folk traditions. Independence between the two world wars affirmed the development of the cultural explosion which had begun in the middle of the 19th century, and the culture of the three countries has once again found free expression since regaining independence in the 1990s.

Baltic Arts '96 features not only outstanding artists from each country, many of whom are new to this country, but also significant innovative work in many genres. Patrons of Baltic Arts '96 are the Ambassadors of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania: Neeme Jarvi, Mariss Janson, Ingeborg Dapkūnaitė.

Baltic Arts '96: Festival Office: 45 Nottingham Place, London, W1M 3FE Tel: 0171 312 0040; Fax: 0171 312 0042.

The festival will run from October 8 through Oct. 26, although some events scheduled as early as the middle of September.

Lithuanians are participating in all the events: music, film, theatre, art exhibitions, poetry. Among the participants are:

Music: M. K. Čiurlionis String Quartet; David Geringas (cello);

ABOUT LITHUANIAN NAMES

By JUOZAS KUDIRKA

By tradition, Lithuanians have two names — the surname, inherited from one's father (more rarely, from mother) and the given name. Surnames appeared in Lithuania with the introduction of Christianity when at baptism people were given a Christian name which was, as a rule, used before the ethnic name. This was how from the very beginning Lithuanians got surnames of foreign origin. Among the privileged classes surnames took root much sooner (in the first half of the 15th century) where as among the peasants surnames became established as late as the 17th century or even later. To the present time 50,000 surnames have been registered in Lithuania. The majority of them are of foreign origin derived from proper or common nouns of other languages.

Surnames of Lithuanian or Baltic derivation constitute rather a small percentage. The origin is usually traced to ancient Lithuanian personal names such as Budrys, Girdenis, Tylenis, Vilkas, Amantas, Bukantas, Rimgaila, Vizgirda, Tarvydas. Other surnames can be traced to common nouns which were used as nicknames such as Baltakis "White-eyed", Didgalvis "Big-headed", Kuprys "Hunchback", or to names of trades and professions such as Dailidė "Carpenter", Kubilius "Cooper", Puodžiūnas "Potter", Raciūnas "Wheelwright", or even to place names such as Bugailiškis "from Bugailiai", Pažeimys "from Žeimys", Puniškis "from Punia" and so on.

Surnames of foreign origin came to Lithuania at different times and in different ways. There are surnames of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Slavic, Germanic, Tatar and other origin. Some came through direct contacts with the speakers of foreign languages, for example, the majority of Slavic, Germanic, Jewish surnames; other came via a third language, mostly via one of the Slavic languages, as for example, the surnames of Greek, Roman and Hebrew origin.

The greatest number of Lithuanian surnames and first names are derived from Greek names which came to Lithuania via the Slavic countries or Western Europe together with Christianity, for example, Aleksas, Aleksandras, Andrius, Dinizas, Eugenijus, Ipolitas,

some leading rock groups; also folk music;

Theatre: Mažasis Teatras of Vilnius;

Film: "Jausmai" (Feelings) (Algirdas Dausa & Almantas Griekėvičius). "Kadaise Lietuvoje" (Once Upon a Time in Lithuania) (Zenonas Šteinys). "Motėris ir keturi jos vyrai" (A Woman and her four Men) (Algimantas Puipa), "Baubas" (The Bogey Man) (Ila Bereznickas). "Žemės Keleiviai" (Pilgrims of the Earth) (Gytis Lukšas). "Ikarus" (Icarus) (Henrikas Vaugauskas). "Ir jis pasakė jums sudie" (And He bid You Farewell) (Audrius Šiuša). "Laimės žiburys" (The Light of Happiness) (Nijolė Valadkevičiūtė). "Praėjusios dienos atminimai" (In Memory of a Day Gone By) (Šarūnas Bartas). "Neregį žemė" (Earth of the Blind) (Audrius Stonys). "Už slenkstio" (Behind the Threshold) (Diana & Kornelijus Matuzevičiai).

At the poetry readings "baltic Voices: Poetry From The Baltics" appears Lithuania is represented by Sigitas Gėda.

men, artists in particular, to use their maiden names.

Up until the end of the 14th century Lithuanians used to be given ethnic names. Christian names of Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German and Slavic origin came with the introduction of Christianity (e.g. male names: Andrius, Antanas, Jonas, Juozas, Jurgis, Kazys, Leonas, Petras, Simonas; female names: Agota, Ieva, Magdalena, Marija, Ona, Veronika, Simona and others).

The revival of Lithuanian ethnic names came with the national rebirth at the turn of the 20th century. The first calendars with ethnic names were published in the 1920's. In 1930, the jubilee year of Vytautas the Great, his name became extremely popular. At present the popularity of Christian and ethnic names has increased again. Some people have two or even three names because only a Christian name can be given at baptism.

Today Lithuanians are often given the names of the Lithuanian Grand Dukes (Algirdas, Vytautas, Mindaugas, Birutė), Christian names, ethnic names of other nations, mythological names (Austėja, Laima), names of literary origin (Adam Mickiewicz's Gražina, Vydūnas' Dai-va), names derived from place names (Naglis, Neringa are place names on the coast of the Baltic Sea which are used also as personal names). Very often female names are derived from male names merely by changing the ending, for example, Vytautas — Vytautė. At present, the list of names which are in use or are recommended for use, include 3500 names.

At the beginning of the 20th century babies were often given names which they "had brought at birth", that is, the names of the saints on whose day the baby was born. The tradition of

giving babies the names of the family is still alive, provided the relative is or was an honorable person.

"The Lithuanians," An Ethnic Portrait. Vilnius



Ingrida Bublienė.

A NEW HONORARY COUNSUL OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, Sept. 17 — Ingrida Bublienė a very prominent and active member of Lithuanian community in the USA, was appointed by the Seimas (Parliament) the Honorary Consul of Lithuania in Cleveland, Ohio. There are two other Honorary Consulates of Lithuania in the US: Mr. Vytautas Čekanauskas is the Honorary Consul in Los Angeles, Calif., and Mr. Vaclovas Kleiza, Chicago, IL. There is but one acting Consulate in New York, NY.

POLICE ARRESTS 28 IL-LEGAL MIGRANTS

Vilnius, Sept 16 (ELTA) — Lithuanian border police last weekend detained 28 illegal migrants from Asian countries. The group included people from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, and Afganistan. This year the Lithuanian border police already detained 862 Asian Citizens trying to gain illegal entry into Lithuania.

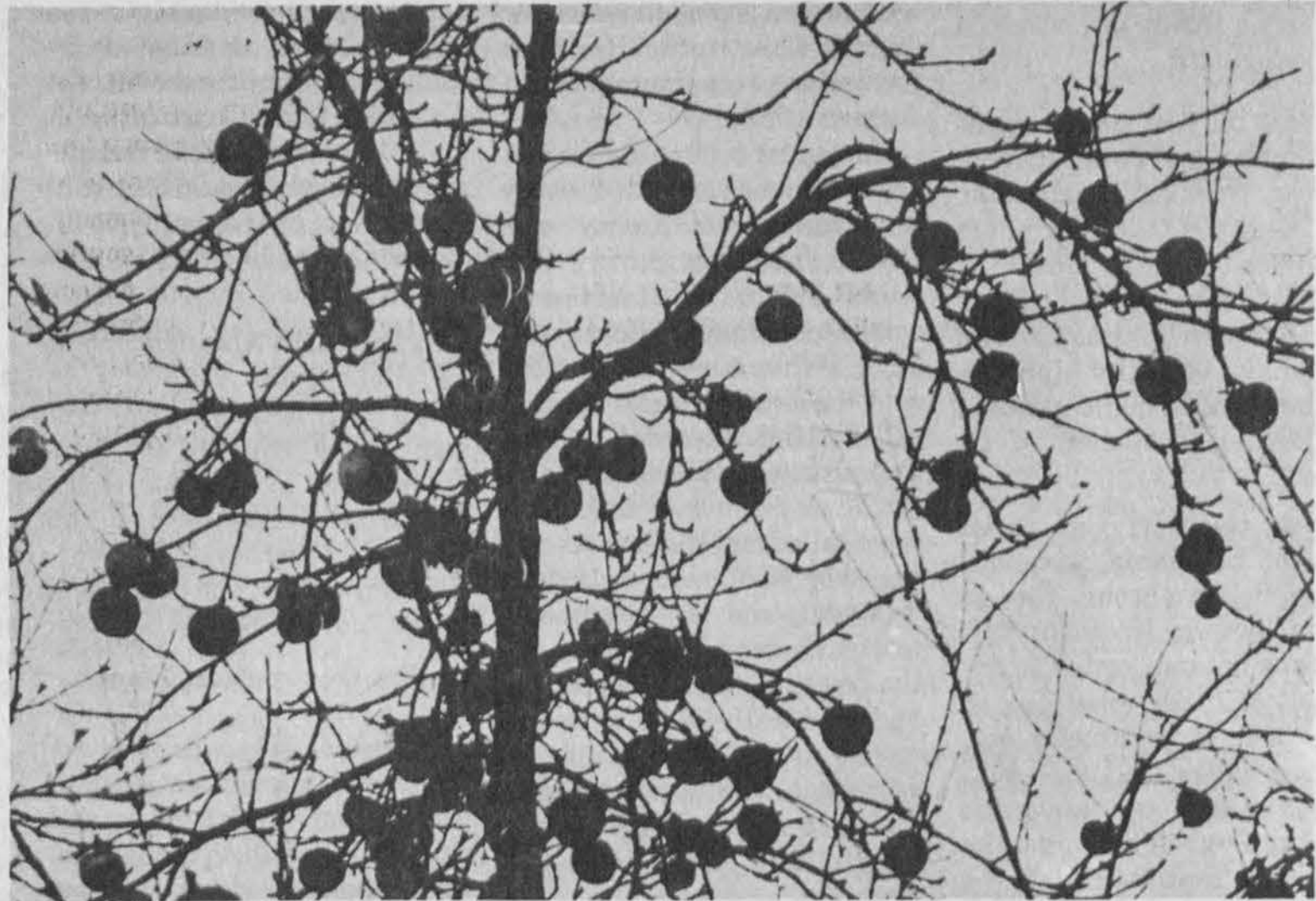


Photo by Kazys Ambrozaitis

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