

DRAUGAS

THE FRIEND

4545 WEST 63rd STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60629
TEL.: 312-585-9500 • FAX: 312-585-8284 • DRAUGAS@EARTHLINK.NET

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There's Still a Chance

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry, Media Roundtable with Norwegian Journalists, Bergen Norway, September 27, 1996.

Secretary Perry: If I may, I'd like to start off with a brief opening statement. This is the third time I've visited Bergen. The first two times were many years ago, and I think it's one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and I'm just delighted to be here.

We had, as you know, two days of meetings with NATO defense ministers. One of those days, we were joined by the Russian Defense Minister Rodionov. The NATO defense ministers meeting was, I thought, very productive. There was a press conference yesterday in which the Secretary General reported on that. I will not review that with you today but will be happy to take questions on it. The meeting with Minister Rodionov I thought also was very useful, the first time that the NATO defense ministers and a Russian defense minister join them in what we call "informal meetings". This is the annual informal meeting of the NATO defense ministers. And again, I'll be happy to take questions on that if you would like.

But besides the NATO meeting, this was also for me an opportunity for a bilateral meeting with Norway. I have met many times with my friend and colleague, Minister Kosmo in Norway, in the United States, and he and I went to Macedonia together about this time last year. Norway continues to be a very strong ally and a very close friend of the United States and Norway continues to play an important security role. First of all, in the region, they have, along with the other Nordic countries, played a critical role, for example, in helping the Baltic nations take their place in the European security structure; for example, by supporting the Baltic Battalion, which is a battalion comprised of troops of all three Baltic nations, which trains at a base in Latvia for which financial, and material, and training support are all provided by the Nordic nations, including Norway. In addition to that, Norway has reached out beyond the region and taken actions to support the security of all of Europe. Two very strong examples of that are their involvement in the peacekeeping operation in Macedonia. In fact, my visit with Minister Kosmo to Macedonia last November was the occasion where he and I and the other Nordic defense ministers went down to visit all of our troops there. We went there on a national holiday in the United States, Thanksgiving Day, and we all had a Thanksgiving dinner with the assembled troops — the Americans, Norwegians, Danes, Finns, Swedes. And, of course, Norway's battalion in IFOR is a part of the multinational division commended by an American. The Norwegian troops are performing very well there, as is all of IFOR.

In addition to that, Norway influences the security relations between Russia and Europe.

Norway always has a special interest in security issues involving Russia, not the least because of the common border with Russia. Yesterday, Minister Kosmo, Minister Rodionov and I signed a three-nation agreement to take very significant actions to control and take actions to restore the environment damage that has already been done in that northern region. This is a very significant step, having the three nations come together and cooperate and try to take actions to reduce the environmental damage that's been done to that area. And, finally, Norway continues to be a very good friend and strong ally to the United States. As I've had many meetings with Minister Kosmo already and, today, Mrs. Perry and I are going to go with Minister Kosmo and his wife to visit the bases in northern Norway, ending up at Kirkenes. With those opening comments, I'd be happy to take questions.

Question: Do you see any possibility, any hope for the Baltic nations to be members of NATO?

Secretary Perry: NATO will proceed to take on some new members. Which nations they're going to offer this to, will be determined at a summit meetings which will take place next year. This will be a NATO summit meeting. I really hesitate to forecast what the outcome of that meeting will be. I have, in my own mind, set a criteria for new NATO members. I've been to the Baltic nations, I've described those criteria and I've told them in my meetings there that I think that they are not yet ready — in my view — but the emphasis is on not yet. In the meantime, the United States, the Nordic nations, Germany, Poland are all working with the Baltic nations so that they will be ready. Even if NATO, at the summit meeting, even if they decide not to offer membership to the Baltic nations, it will be a "not yet", not a "no." In the meantime, all of these nations will continue to work with the Baltics to improve their readiness for membership.

Question: One follow-up on that. Of those criteria you mentioned, are there any countries in eastern Europe that are ready for membership?

Secretary Perry: In my judgement, yes. But there again, I will not be the one making that final decision. It will be made by the leaders of the 16 NATO nations, but I will offer recommendations to our President on that and, in my judgement, some of those nations are ready.

Question: And who would you recommend for membership?

Secretary Perry: I think I will limit my recommendation on that to our President.

Question: Can I ask you, in what way then are the Baltics not yet ready? In what way? What yardstick are you using?

Secretary Perry: NATO is a military alliance. A key feature



Lithuanian Mercy Lift president Jurgis Lendraitis was recently invited to the White House and met with Hillary Rodham Clinton. They discussed possible help to Lithuanian hospitals as LML main purpose of activity is collecting and sending various medical supplies to Lithuania. Their efforts provide about 75% much needed medicine and other supplies with the help of charitable organizations such as Christian Relief Services and others. Hillary Clinton visited Estonia this past Summer, and Mr. Lendraitis invited her to visit Lithuania in the near future.

US House of Representatives Makes a Positive Move

Vilnius, Oct 7, BNS — Chairman of the Lithuanian Conservatives Vytautas Landsbergis had a very positive assessment of a resolution passed by the US House of Representatives on September 26, which deals with Baltic security and the future of the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, among other issues.

In a statement released Monday, Landsbergis noted that the resolution underlined the right of the Baltic countries to join NATO.

"For this reason the resolution of the US Congress, underlining that the independent Baltic countries are truly sovereign in carrying out their foreign policy, is a document of the military alliance is ability to come to the defense, to assist all the other members of the alliance, to come to their defense if they come under attack. And, therefore, each nation in the alliance has to have military forces that have some minimal capability and that have some degree of compatibility with the NATO forces, in order to exercise what we call the Article V responsibility of NATO, self-defense. In my judgment, the Baltic nations did not have that kind of capability yet, but they are working very hard to get it, and Nordic nations and the United States are working with them to help them make that happen. That's why I want to emphasize, it is not "no", it is "not yet."

Question: You have indicated for some time, the United States, that the Nordic countries, all of them should take responsibility for Baltic security. Can you elaborate on how that should be done in your opinion? And what would be the role of Norway as a NATO country in that context, in the view of the United States? Do they have a bearing on that question?

Secretary Perry: The Nordic nations are already taking several very important actions in that regard, both which directly enhance Baltic security and steps which are putting them in a stronger position to be candidates for NATO membership. I mentioned the work that the Nordic nations are doing on the Baltic Battalion, for example. That relates to both of those

which not only strengthens Baltic security but characterizes the strange present situation", the opposition right-wing leader stressed.

Landsbergis noted that the resolution also proposes reducing the size of the Russian armed forces in the Kaliningrad region and expanding the region as a free economic zone. This would be beneficial for Western European governments as well, as they have been very passive regarding

Akmenė Cement Factory to Continue Incinerating Outdated Pesticides

Vilnius, Oct 7, BNS — The Scientific Council for Environmental and Natural Resources has recommended that the Lithuanian Environmental Protection ministry continue to incinerate antiquated pesticides at the Akmenė cement factory. This decision was adopted unanimously Thursday at a session of the Environmental Protection ministry.

Chairman Juozas Virbickas of the Scientific Council said later at a press conference that experimental incineration at the Akmenė cement factory had not caused emission of any poisonous substances into the environment. According to Virbickas, biological test showed that the incineration of pesticides represent no danger to human health or the environment.

The final decision on the incineration of the pesticides will be made by a special commission of the Environmental Protection ministry. Environmental Protection Minister Bronius Bradasuskas at the same press conference stated, that it was still unclear when the industrial incineration of pesticides will begin. According to Bradasuskas, the Ministry is still awaiting results of the negotiations with Akmenė cement factory directors. He announced that preparations for the incineration of pesticides will require "several million litas" in additional funds. Besides, the incineration project is opposed by the regional government of Akmenė.

In an experiment, conducted on September 27-28 at the Akmenė cement factory, 1,556 kilograms of outdated pesticides were incinerated. At present, there are hundreds of tons of these environmentally dangerous chemicals stored in Lithuania. If all goes according to plan, their incineration according to Bradasuskas, will require one-and-a-half to two years.

The resolution was later approved by the United States Senate as well.

Landsbergis, however, criticized the Lithuanian Foreign affairs ministry, which, he said, has showed no interest in the resolution until it was passed in the US Congress.

A Train Accident Poisons the Environment

Klaipėda, Oct 4, BNS — A shipment of carbon disulfide, remaining in a damaged cistern at the Draugystė railroad station in Klaipėda, has still not been transported to Germany.

Director of the Draugystė railroad station Donatas Valantinas told BNS that German-made equipment, which should have transferred the poisonous liquid into an empty cistern on Thursday, turned out to be defective.

According to Valantinas, new equipment for emptying the damaged cistern is expected from Germany. It was hoped that the final cistern with the dangerous chemical can be shipped off to Germany on Sunday, October 13.

The carbon disulfide was en route to Sweden from the Ukrainian Sokolniki synthetic fibre plant and had a transit permit from the Lithuanian environmental protection ministry. The freight was to be shipped from Klaipėda via the German island of Ruegen. Four cisterns of the liquid reached Ruegen on Wednesday, October 2, where one of them was emptied and returned to Klaipėda.

As reported, one of the cisterns was damaged in Klaipėda when a train was being hooked up, and a ton of the lethal liquid carbon disulfide gas poured out onto the railroad tracks.

In the opinion of experts, there were no human victims only because of favorable rainy weather conditions. About 135 people live in close proximity of the accident scene. Damage to environment was extensive.

Valantinas said that the accident occurred due to violations of regulations, for which three station workers were responsible. A criminal investigation has been initiated.

Finally on Sunday, October 6, the last cistern, containing carbon disulfide, was shipped out by ferry from the Lithuanian port of Klaipėda to Mukran near Rostock in Germany.

Before this, it was determined that, as a result of an accident last Monday, 3.4 tons of lethal liquid carbon disulfide gas had leaked out of a cistern into the environment.

The international ferry port's railroad station's administration together with geological services, will analyze the soil at the site of the accident. However, the results of analysis of fruits, grass and drinking water, carried by the Lithuanian food administration revealed traces of carbon disulfide in cabbage growing in the area of the accident. It has been recommended that residents not consume fruit and vegetables from the region.

Kaunas' Mafia Gang Leader to be Tried In Vilnius

Vilnius, Oct 4, BNS — Kaunas mafia leader Henrikas Daktaras will be tried in Vilnius, the Lithuanian Prosecutor General's office and the Supreme court have decided.

On October 2, chairman of the Supreme court's case collegium Vytautas Greičius transferred the case against Daktaras to the Vilnius district court.

"The formerly convicted Daktaras is person of authority in the Kaunas underworld, therefore it is better if he is tried in Vilnius," BNS was told by Greičius.

According to Greičius, by transferring Daktaras' case to Vilnius, it is hoped that criminal attacks on the judges and on the mafia collaborators can be avoided.

The Chairman of the criminal procedures department of the Vilnius district court Artūras Šumskas told BNS that it has not yet been decided who will preside as judge in the case against the "doctors" gang leader. The trial will begin in about a month.

Daktaras is incriminated on four counts — extortion, concealing a crime, concealing a criminal, and intimidation on victims of crimes.

After Daktaras' arrest, attempts were made to intimidate the major witnesses against him. However according to officials of the prosecution, as yet not a single witness has given in to pressure from the "doctors" gang and renounced earlier testimonies.



In July Lithuania's Christian Democrat party chairman Algirdas Saudargas visited Philadelphia, PA, and met with local Lithuanian activists. From left to right: Dr. Gintaras Labutis, Rev. Petras Burkauskas, Administrator of St. Andrew Lithuanian parish, and local Lithuanian Community president Roma Krušinskienė.

A GLANCE AT LITHUANIA

JUOZAS KUDIRKA

Who are the Lithuanians?

The first people who came to live on the present territory of Lithuania in the Paleolithic Period (the second half of the 10th millennium B.C.) were representatives of two cultures. Those who came from the banks of the middle Vistula river in the south-west settled here permanently. Those from the north-west of Europe used to reach these parts in small groups and leave again after some time. In late Paleolithic Period when the climate became colder, this migration stopped, the two peoples settled side by side and it was inevitable that they should mix.

In early Mesolithic Period, i.e. in the 8th millennium B.C. the climate became warmer again the deer retreated to the north and the people who had settled here in the Paleolithic Period, followed them. Those who stayed mixed with the fishermen who moved in from the west to form ethnic groups of Baltic culture. At the end of the 3rd millennium B.C. the new wave of nomadic cattle raisers, who moved in from the south and south-west, brought corded pottery culture. The first typical Baltic culture of brushed pottery formed at the turn of the last millennium B.C. It was the time when the first hillforts and barrows appeared and the cremation of the dead was introduced. The first Baltic tribes emerged in the valleys of the Nemunas and Neris rivers in the period between the 1st and 4th centuries A.D. to lay the foundations for the future Lithuanian nation. The Latvian, Yotvingian and Prussian tribes formed somewhat later. In the 9th century the existence of the Baltic tribes was noted by travelers and historians.

What's in a Name?

"In the east the Svebes washes the shores inhabited by the Aistian tribes (Aestiorum gentes)," this is how, approximately in 98 A.D., for the first time in history, the Roman historian Cornelius Tacitus recorded the name of the Baltic ancestors in his book *Germania*. This name was used in reference to these tribes for quite a considerable period of time. In the 9th century a Bavarian geographer mentioned the name of the Prussians (Bruzai). Lithuania's name (Lituae) was first mentioned in Quedlinburg's annals in 1009. Scholars related Lithuania's name to the verb *lieti* "to pour". At present most scholars support Kuzavinis' hypothesis which derives Lithuania's name from the name of Lietauka river (tributary of the Neris in the district of Jonava) which could have been called earlier Lietuva.

The Aistians were first referred to as the Balts by Professor of Koenigsberg University Ferdinand Neselmann (1811-81). In his book "The Language of the Prussians According to its Surviving Fragments" he came up with the idea of giving the languages spoken on the eastern shores of the Baltic the name of the Baltic languages. At the end of the 19th century this name came to be used also in reference to the people who spoke the languages, the Lithuanians, Latvians and the extinct Yotvingians and Prussians.

The name of the Yotvingians disappeared together with their assimilation by other Baltic and Slavic tribes. The fate of the Prussians was different. After

their subjugation by the Germans, their name was taken over by the new masters of the land and that was how it came down in history not as the name of a heroic people who fought for their freedom to their last breath but as the name of the great citadel of German militarism.

Ethnic Regions

There are four major ethnic regions in Lithuania: Žemaitija (Western Lithuania), Aukštaitija (Center and Eastern Lithuania), Dzūkija (southeastern Lithuania on both sides of the Nemunas river), Suvalkija (the northern parts to the south of the Nemunas river). The westernmost part of Žemaitija around the port of Klaipėda is rather different from the rest of this region. It has been known as Lithuania Minor. (A part of what has been known as Lithuania Minor is now included into the Russian Federation and Kaliningrad region (formerly Königsberg). The formation of Lithuanian ethnic regions was determined by different political, economic and sometimes even religious conditions.

Žemaitija and Aukštaitija have always enjoyed the greatest degree of stability. At the beginning Žemaitija was a geographical concept, it referred to the lowlands to the west of the Neris river. The economic conditions of the Žemaitian peasants have always been better than those of the Aukštaitian peasants. Here farms were larger and older because they were never divided among the sons after the father's death. The culture of Žemaitija and Lithuania Minor have very much in common.

Aukštaitija is the largest ethnic region. It includes the fertile Central Plain and the undulating hills and lakes of Eastern Lithuania. Aukštaitians used to divide their farms among their sons. Therefore there were a lot of small farms. Villages built along the single High Street survived here for a very long time. In the parts which were occupied by Poland in 1920, villages of this kind have survived to the present days. Aukštaitians have managed to preserve better their old crafts and the features of communal life. Eastern Aukštaitians and western Byelorussians have a lot in common, because Aukštaitija and northern Byelorussia used to belong to the same ethnic culture.

Dzūkians saddle the Nemunas river. They owe their name to the phonetic peculiarities of their dialect (they pronounce t, d, tv, dv before i and e as ts, dz, tsv, dzv). Earlier Dzūkija and the adjacent districts of Byelorussia belonged to one and the same unified ethnic area. To the present day Lithuanian residing in the Gervėčiai and Pelėsa district in Byelorussia speak Lithuanian.

Suvalkija is the youngest ethnic region. It derives its name from the town of Suvalkai which belongs to Poland now. Suvalkija has also been known as Užnemunė or Sūdūva. In the middle Ages this country was devastated by the Teutonic Order. In the 15th and 18th centuries it was settled mostly by newcomers from Aukštaitija, Žemaitija, and Lithuanians from Prussia and even Western Europe. After the partitioning of the Polish-Lithuanian state



Žaibas, Lithuanian Folk Dancers of Madison, Wisconsin, at the July 6th, 1996 Lithuanian Dance Festival rehearsal, celebrating their cheesy State.

LET'S KEEP DANCING!

By NIJOLĖ ETZWILER

The stage is dark, then a spotlight opens to illuminate a double line of women in beautiful costumes, moving slowly but rhythmically to the hypnotic strains of Blezdingė. It's a dance that has been performed constantly since 1935, by Lithuanian dance groups all over the world, but this time it was being danced on the stage of the Oscar Mayer theater in Madison, Wisconsin, the first time that Lithuanians had ever danced in Madison. When it was over, not only the audience but the dancers themselves were swept away by emotion and exhilaration, and the Žaibas Lithuanian Dancers had been baptized.

Žaibas was formed in 1991 just in time to participate in the 1992 Šokių Šventė in Chicago (Rosemont, Ill.) At that time our group numbered about 30 dancers, small by Lithuanian standards, but remarkable considering the amount of Lithuanians available in the Madison area. Dismissing such names as Sirio Galva (Cheesehead), Karvutė (Little cow), and Opšrus (Badger), we hit upon Žaibas (lightning) to evoke an image of our Wisconsin home. In the years since, many members have moved or become too busy, but Žaibas still managed to participate in this year's Šokių Šventė, held again in Rosemont, although with a much smaller margin for substitutions. Of the founding members, about 10 are still active.

In 1795 this country, together with Dzūkija as far as the Nemunas river, was given to Prussia, and later, thanks to Napoleon, it was included into the Warsaw Principality. Serfdom was abolished here in 1807, much earlier than in the rest of Lithuania. The movement of farmers from villages to farmsteads started here also much earlier. According to the census taken in 1897, the rate of literacy among the peasants of the Suvalkai Province was the highest in the Russian Empire. Up until as late as 1940, Suvalkija, differently from the other Lithuanian regions, adhered to Napoleon's Statute Book. At present two of the Suvalkai district, Punkskas and Seinai, although inhabited mostly by Lithuanians, belong to Poland.

Although the border lines between different ethnic regions in Lithuania cannot be established very strictly because there is a lot of overlapping in their linguistic, architectural, artistic and natural characteristics, the study and comparison of these characteristics enables us to know and feel better the beauty of Lithuanian folk culture.

"The Lithuanians," Vilnius, 1995

tive dancers who continue not only for the enjoyment of dancing, but for a very strong love of our Lithuanian heritage and the opportunity to bring it to the non-Lithuanian world.

Between Šokių Šventės, Žaibas dances regularly in the Madison area, in conjunction with other folk dance groups at the Madison International Holiday Fair, for the Madison/Vilnius Sister Cities Committee, who have been a generous donor, and at annual events that Žaibas itself sponsors, such as the Vasario 16 Independence Day commemoration, the Christmas Kūčios and Eglutė, and a summer picnic. Žaibas has presented An Evening in Lithuania at the University of Wisconsin Center in Baraboo, has appeared with the Norodno International Dancers at their Folk Ball, has danced at a winterfest in Spring Green, in schools in Marshfield, Wis., Baraboo, and River Forest, Ill., and on television in the wee hours of the morning to promote an upcoming appearance. In 1994, Žaibas was invited to decorate a Christmas tree in the Governor's Mansion, using only real straw, some of it picked in Wisconsin fields. This year, we will again decorate a Christmas tree, this time at the Ethnic Heritage Museum in Rockford, Ill.

Žaibas members range in age from a nineteen year old college student to a fifty-six year old grandmother, and for the 1996 Šokių Šventė, included a 5 year old kindergartner. In our makeup we reflect the true spirit of folk dancing, which was born in the fields, farms and villages of Lithuania, where every generation of a family took part, and revived in the 1930's through the memories of elderly country men and women. Žaibininkai are Lithuanian by birth, by ancestry, by marriage, or by ties of friendship. Some of our most enthusiastic dancers are the American husbands of Lithuanian members. Our most treasured member is not a dancer but an accordionist, Alfonsas Gečas, who tirelessly plays songs and parts of songs over and over again at practices, and gives us that extra element, live music, at performances. Aside from our teacher, Asta Šepetyte, he is our only experienced musician; a few of the Lithuanians who were raised in Chicago or Detroit had danced in school or with some of the established groups in those cities, other had been eager spectators at Šokių Šventės over the years, but many of our members had never even seen a Lithuanian folk dance. Our first steps were hesitant, but with excellent teachers and en-

thusiastic students, it didn't take long for us to discover that we loved to dance.

The Žaibas repertoire has grown from a few traditional standards (Suktinis, Klumpakojis, Blezdingė) to include most of the dances presented at the last four Šokių Šventės, as well as the faster, "jazzier" dances that the American public seems to favor (Vakaruškos, Lenčiūgelis, Malūnas). In addition to dancing, Žaibas has presented as part of its show, skits from Lithuanian folklore, and we plan for our upcoming appearance at the November Holiday Fair in Madison, a concise but telling history of the Lithuanian immigrant, from the 18th ct. to present days.

Žaibas is always searching for new members and welcomes anyone to join them; the only requirement is commitment. Although most of our members are from the Madison area, several travel 45 miles or more to practice, and three couples have come from as far as Chicago. We also welcome "friends" and sponsors, and have long appreciated the support, financial and moral, of the Lithuanian community in Madison, Portage, and Wisconsin Dells. Žaibas is looking forward to its winter season, at the Holiday Fair in Madison, on Nov. 17; at the Rockford Ethnic Heritage Museum, where our Eglutė will be on display for the month of December; and at the Christmas Kūčios and Eglutė in Madison on Dec. 15. We invite all who love Lithuania and its heritage to visit us at these events; for information please call 1-608-255-6315, or 1-608-356-6549. Until the, keep dancing!

SHE HOPES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

For former Detroiters Sr. Michele Garas, OSF, her work in Lithuania these past four years has been a return to her roots.

Although her parents were able to get out of Lithuania after the Soviet takeover, many of her relatives still live in the northeastern city of Utena, and the latest project of the Franciscan Lithuania Mission is the country's first hospice in what once was the hospital maternity wing where she was born.

Set to open this fall, the 30-bed St. Clare Hospice in Utena will enable terminally ill patients "to come and give them spiritual preparation to die with dignity, grace and spiritual strength," Sr. Garas told The Michigan Catholic in a July 17 interview at her parents' farm near Manchester, west of Ann Arbor.

She and other Franciscan sisters have also guided the re-launching of a Catholic school and have plans for new programs to reach the parents of the school children.

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Sr. Garas, 54, grew up in southwest Detroit, attending St. Anthony (Lithuanian) Grade School and Holy Redeemer High School. She entered the Pittsburgh-based Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God in 1963, and taught in Catholic schools in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, as well as at her own old grade school (in 1970, its last year of operation), and at SS. Peter & Paul in Grand Rapids.

But in 1992, she and one other sister accepted the challenge to go to Lithuania, and a year later they were joined by a third.

"We were asked to help teach in the reopened Catholic school, which had been closed for 50 years," Sr. Garas said. The school, called Saulė-Catholic Spirit Middle School actually includes all the elementary and secondary grades, she explained.

Sr. Garas has taught religion and English, served as spiritual director, and set up various faith-building programs for both students and teachers; including spiritual reflection days, retreats and prayer groups.

A priority this fall, however, will be to also launch classes and Bible study groups for adults in the community. Although 90 percent of Lithuanians identify themselves as Catholics, many adults—especially those who grew up during the years of Soviet rule—were never really given adequate faith formation, according to Sr. Garas.

"For 50 years, the people were not really free to practice their faith. If they went to church, their jobs were threatened, they were not accepted for higher education, and their children were harassed," she said.

And Lithuania's half-century of isolation also has meant that only these past few years has the Church there begun to adapt itself to the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

Lithuanian society still suffers from the decades of communism, and now has added to that some of the worst aspects of Western society, according to Sr. Garas. "The decadence of the West has come to the Baltic countries," she said.

People in their 30s and 40s, especially, are "consumed with consumerism," while alcoholism has become prevalent among many adults, the country has one of the world's highest suicide rates, and corruption has become endemic in public life.

Soviet control ended in 1990, and neither the non-Communist government that succeeded it nor the former Communist who were later elected have been



Sr. Michele Garas.

able to get the country's economy going. "There is a lot of joblessness. People are disheartened and discouraged. The banks went bankrupt. There's organized crime. People live on \$30-35 a month. There are no new jobs. Everything just crumbled," Sr. Garas said.

The alcoholism problem has made children often afraid to wear donated clothing or shoes home lest their parents sell them to buy liquor. Many children keep their new or nearly new things at school, and change into them every morning after arriving.

"That's very sad," Sr. Garas said. "It has affected the whole family system. There's a need to work with families, and that's what I'd like to put more and more of my energy into."

She recognizes, however, that rebuilding the social fabric is a longterm task: "Nobody looks happy, and people don't trust each other. Living there four years, I really believe it will take another 50 years for people to return to normal. For 50 years, people were not allowed to express themselves. They thought one way, and spoke another way, and acted a third way."

Despite its problems, Sr. Garas said it would be wrong to think there was no good news in Lithuania. "Our school is good news, and it's good news that people are very receptive and excited about hospice," she said. "Also, there are vocations to the priesthood and religious life."

Sr. Garas said there are opportunities for volunteers to come work at the school or at the new St. Clare Hospice for six months or a year.

By Robert Delaney
("The Michigan Catholic" —
July 26, 1996)

COMMENTS ON DR. JUOZAS JAKŠTAS' HISTORY OF INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA, 1918-1940

By ALAN H. DOMBRA

Dr. Jakštas' last contribution to the Lithuanian history is "Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Istorija," 1918-1940 (History of Independent Lithuania, 1918-1940); this crowning achievement is a comprehensive and almost impeccable document of how Lithuania progressed, practically without any governmental and industrial organizations in 1918, to a modern and well-functioning state in 1940.

A successful land reform during this period eliminated much social injustice lingering from Lithuania's aristocracy-dominated past: it distributed land to small farmers who needed more land for survival, while reducing the estates of large land owners who "had too much to swallow" ("turi tiek, kad negali apžioti", Jakštas, p.55). The land reform increased agricultural production standard of living, exports, and promoted growth of agriculture-oriented industry.

At the same time, Lithuania was pushed and pulled by its big neighbours: Poland, Germany, and the Soviet Union.

Well-earned Merit

Dr. Jakštas started his studies of history at the University of Kaunas in 1923, and received the Doctor of Philosophy degree, also from the University of Kaunas, in 1938 (Encyclopedia Lithuanica, 1972). Being at the center of Lithuania's political and academic capital, he was in intimate contact with national events, and in a unique position to assess political manifestations of this period. From his detailed description of the political scene, it is apparent that he was an expert capable of removing any camouflage that may have been applied to hide the truth.

An example of "reading behind the lines" is given in Dr. Jakštas' assessment of a speech by a newly appointed Prime Minister of Lithuania, Antanas Merkys, December 6, 1939. At that time, Lithuania was still a quiet island, while the war was raging around her. On October 10, 1939, Lithuania yielded to Soviet pressure and signed a treaty allowing a Soviet garrison to be stationed in the country, while regaining Vilnius. Jakštas notes that Prime Minis-

ter Merkys started his speech by emphasizing "the October 10 treaty with friendly Soviet Union". Did Merkys believe that the Soviets were really "friendly"? No, says Jakštas, the Prime Minister merely reflected the position that the Lithuanian ministry had to accept.

There is a general tendency in the Lithuanian history books to emphasize advances in economic and cultural life during the independence period, and to say little about regressive steps (and — alas — there were a few regressive ones). This aspect separates Jakštas from other historians — he seems to give equal priority to both progressive and regressive political changes, or social improvements and injustices, according to their importance. It underlines his strong determination to present the history with "all its warts", as truthfully as possible.

Division of the Independence period

A comprehensive history of a nation must explore political, economic, social and cultural transformations, and the relationship between them. Dr. Jakštas' strong point is the political scene. His coverage of economic, social and cultural progress is less extensive, but sufficient to show the relationship between them.

Dr. Jakštas divides the independence years, 1918-1940, into five distinct periods. He starts with Lithuania's foundation and independence war period, 1918-1920, and ends with the twilight year, 1939-40, when Lithuania yielded quietly to the increased pressure of its big neighbours. The remaining period, when Lithuanians were almost true bosses in their own house, is divided into three politically distinct phases: (1.) Parliamentary democracy, 1920-1926; (2.) Rule by military discipline, 1927-1929; (3.) Autocratic regime, 1929-1939.

A military coup d'état on December 17, 1926, marks an abrupt change in the Lithuanian political life, from a democracy to an autocratic regime of President Antanas Smetona. The first two years of this regime, with Augustinas Voldemaras as Prime-Minister,

were especially harsh. According to Jakštas (p. 125), a total of 522 persons were convicted in 1927-1929, mainly by field military courts, for communist or other alleged subversive activities. Among them, 365 were serving sentences in hard-labour jails or a new concentration camp at Varniai. If prorated to today's population of the USA, the equivalent number of political prisoners, sentenced to hard labour, would be 40,000.

It seems that Dr. Jakštas is the first to publish such revealing statistics among the Lithuanian publications in the west.

Some Shortcomings

Across the already complex internal political scene, Dr. Jakštas adds political activities associated with the Polish occupation of Vilnius, aspirations of pro-German population (and Nazis) in Klaipėda, generally pro-German reaction by the signatories of the Klaipėda statute (England, France and Italy, with Japan abstaining), appeals to the League of Nations, generally pro-Lithuanian decisions by the International Court in The Hague, and sudden changes in the national mood to either joy or depression, depending on whether Lithuania won or lost. All this is interesting to read, but hard to follow. A chronological table and an index of subjects would be worthwhile additions.

A bibliography of the independence period would be another worthwhile addition to direct an interested reader to the sources of related subjects. Concerning the effect of trade restrictions imposed by Germany, 1932-1938, Bronius Povilaitis, "Lietuvos Žemės Ūkis, 1918-1940" (Agriculture in Lithuania, 1918-1940) shows that the exports to Germany fell like a lead sinker from a high of 60% of the total export in 1930, to a low 3.6% in 1935. This makes it obvious why Germany's trade restrictions caused great hardships in predominantly agricultural Lithuania, as noted by Dr. Jakštas.

Dr. Jakštas' description of the 1919 war with the Bolsheviks omits the contribution of Joniškėlis' partisans — Petras Gudelis, "Joniškėlio Apskrities Partizanai," 1979 (The Partisans of the Joniškėlis County) and "Joniškėlio apskrities Partizanų Atsiminimai," 1983 (Memoirs of Partisans of the Joniškėlis County). Readers who remember Joniškėlis, Linkuva, Vaskai, Pasvalys, Krinči-

nai, Pašvitinys, Pušalotas, Saločiai, Žeimelis and Vabalninkas, would probably forgive Jakštas for this omission if at least a reference to Gudelis is included in the bibliography. These readers can claim, with justification that "their partisans drove out the Bolsheviks from the North-East corner of Lithuania long before that slowpoke army from Kaunas arrived at Joniškėlis".

Vivid description of national events

The opening of the Constituent Assembly (Steigiamasis Seimas) on May 15, 1920, was a "great historic event", according to Jakštas (p.42). The "raison d'être" of the Assembly was to promulgate fundamental state laws, which would set the right course for the independent Lithuania towards "a golden age", as expected by many.

A democratic election (of representatives to the Assembly) was an unfamiliar sight in Lithuania at this time. Some party candidates were making speeches on tables or sauerkraut barrels. Still, the assembled humble people, although surprised by such an improper manner, were smiling rather than frowning. They took the election seriously with 90% of the eligible voters casting their votes (edited excerpts from V. Daugirdaitė-Sruogienė, "Lietuvos Istorija, 1987).

The opening ceremony of the Assembly started with a pontifical Mass in the cathedral, held by Bishop Karevičius, and attended by nearly all the high officials of the government, and all the members of the Assembly. A choir of theological students sang "Te Deum Landamus," accompanied loudly by a powerful organ, which dampened somewhat the sound of ringing church bells and booming artillery, outside the cathedral. After the Mass, the military paraded, first past a special platform filled with high officials, and then through the dusty streets of Kaunas filled with crowds of people, who shouted "valio" without interruption (although presumably the artillery was still booming).

Perhaps this was not proper Pomp and Circumstance, but it was dear to the hearts of Lithuanians.

An illegal march through the streets of Kaunas, November 21, 1926, was organized by nationalistic student organizations to protest a soft policy of the ruling liberal government on communists and other perceived

provocateurs (Jakštas, p.111). A mounted police unit attempted to stop the marching students; there was no police brutality, no trampling of students by horses, or beating with sticks and truncheons (lazdoms ir bizūnais), as claimed subsequently by the opposition press. There was much singing instead — both the police and students stood still whenever the national anthem was sung. The students continued to wiggle through the newly reformed police lines, until the War Museum was reached. At this point, an angry director of the War Museum, General Nagevičius, appeared and ordered the police to get out promptly. The police then dispersed.

This demonstration provided fuel for propaganda by the conservative press, notably "Rytas" and "Tautos Valia." Various fabrications and demagoguery were added generously. The propaganda was successful in exciting and irritating the public — it elevated the student demonstration into an important "raison de plus" for the "coup d'état" of December 17, 1926.

Dr. Jakštas' Note 60 (p.116) adds that "lazdos and bizūnai" were invented by the editor of "Rytas," L. Gira, a well-known swindler and a scatterbrain (sukčius ir vėjavaiakis). Receptive minds were easily bamboozed by Gira, perpetuating his fiction to the present day. One author, E. Dirvelė, "Klasiku Lietuvoje 1926 m." (Class Struggle in Lithuania in 1926) actually reverse the role of the participants: his historical "fact" shows that a demonstrating "gang of fascists" attacked the police with sticks, injuring 7 policemen and some horses.

Well, history is easily manipulated. It is a handy tool for unscrupulous hands, but only temporarily, until the truth resurfaces. This element — truth — ensures that Dr. Jakštas' history will withstand the test of time.

It is Impossible to curb Inflation this year

Vilnius, September 12, (ELTA) — Lithuanian Finance Minister Algimantas Krizinauskas excludes the possibility of deflation this year. He insists, that negative inflation is impossible because of 25 percent increase in energy tariffs.

"I am certain, that Lithuanian inflation was reached such a low level only because the government passed no popular decisions," Krizinauskas said at the news conference.

favourable impression on Aukštaitė, when she met him in person (1988:64): "he struck me as a sincere, open man — a far cry from what community members had told me about him". Just as the parishioners were complaining about their priest, Father Bobinas on his part was expressing strong disapproval of the parishioners' behaviour, referring to them as devious and "mischievous". As Aukštaitė saw it, St. Casimir's parish with Father Bobinas at the helm was needed not only to serve the spiritual needs of the community, but to spread ideas of solidarity and national unity among the Lithuanians of Montréal.

Life went on, yet the material side of the Navikevičius's daily existence showed little sign of improvement. Antanas and Algis, then in their adolescence, began to contribute to the family budget by selling dairy products in town, while Aukštaitė herself spent much time at home, making clothes, or, when in a creative mood, writing poetry or playing the piano. Financially, matters eased up when the Navikevičius's moved to the house of Mrs. Martha Llewellyn Royer, where they lived rent-free for eleven years. Instead of payment, she asked her tenants for help around the house.

One exceptionally cold winter, Aukštaitė's apartment became a gathering place for unemployed Lithuanians residing in Montréal. Disillusioned with the new world, without much to look forward to in the future, some of them openly expressed their dissatisfaction with the Canadian government, while others criticised the capitalist system and its inability to curb the profound economic crisis. The Western free-market system was often juxtaposed with the supposedly more advantageous soviet command economy. Those who held such views,

Danutė Bindokienė

Questions and Answers

Like many U.S. citizens, Lithuanian-Americans are preparing for presidential elections in November, but we are also very much concerned about Parliamentary elections coming in about a week far away from the United States — in Lithuania, the land of our ethnic roots. It is hoped that every Lithuanian citizen, living in the homeland and abroad, will exercise the right to cast his or hers vote for the candidate — or candidates — who will devote their energy and knowledge for their country and its people.

Americans are lucky: They have but two candidates running for President of the United States — a Republican Bob Dole, and a Democrat Bill Clinton. The third — Independent party's Ross Perot — at present is a big if and we do not have to be overly concerned about his candidacy. For Lithuanian Parliamentary elections, way over two dozen parties presented more than a thousand candidates. Considering that Lithuania has only about 4 million inhabitants, the division of votes in this coming election will be very considerable. It is expected that the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDLP), mostly made up of former Lithuanian, Communist Party members under a new "whitewashed" banner, will not win a majority of seats in the next Parliament. The LDLP had their chance and made a mockery of reforms, privatization laws, social programs, country's economy. Over the past six years Lithuania became divided between the "haves" and "have nots", the poor making up more than 70% of all people, the remaining 30% consisting either of the very rich or a modest middle class. The sad part is, that the 70% of "have" nots" are included majority of intelightsia, especially educators. Among the poorest are also the elderly, former political prisoners who opposed the Soviet occupation of their country, people returning from exile in Siberia, pensioners, small farmers, etc.

Granted, many positive changes also took place since Independence was restored six years ago, but the basic needs of the common people were mostly ignored, as draft, corruption, organized crime went rampant

and became everyday occurrence. Many people found solace in a bottle of whiskey... Many hope that a chance for the better would ever come. They do not believe elections will make much difference and do not intend to participate. Therefore, much effort is channelled into getting people to the polls. Even quite a few individuals from abroad are helping local election committees to convince Lithuanian citizens that a change is possible only if they themselves will decide to take charge of their country's future.

Meanwhile, in America, we read the papers, watch the news on TV, listen to debates between the Republican and Democrat candidates, and worry... The constant theme is domestic wrongs for which the opposing candidate has a surefire cure: if only people would put for him in the White House. Accusations and counter accusations, insults and inuendos mark the campaign trail. However, America is situated in a world smoldering with problems and conflicts, ripe for an explosion which American president will not be able to ignore. Hiding his head in the sand like an ostrich will not make problems disappear.

There are so many hot spots on our planet today. For instance, the Middle East with Iraq, Iran, Izrael, Palestinians, Jordan; there is also China and Hong Cong; North and South Korea, Africa, Great Britain and the North Irish, Bosnia... What will happen to the future of Russian democracy if Boris Jelcin suddenly dies or becomes incompetent and new elections are called? How about NATO membership for other East European nations, especially the Baltics? How about the demilitarization of Karaliaučius-Kaliningrad (after all, Christopher Cox Resolution #51 was passed by both the U.S. Congress and the Senate).

There are so many questions one might want to ask both candidates for the White House, and so few answers. In the meantime they are bickering over superficial issues. No wonder many Americans are not to enthusiastic about the November 5th elections and voting for either Bob Dole or Bill Clinton.

Aukštaitė (1988:92) observes, were also attempting "to discreetly advocate the ideas of Marx and Engels" and referred to Stalin "as the father and guardian of the working masses." *Liaudies Balsas* (The People's Voice), then a Toronto-based weekly, was a mouthpiece of such extreme leftist leanings among some Lithuanian-Canadians in the 1930's. In fact, the editors of this paper openly stated their "loyalty to the Stalinist agenda" (Aukštaitė 1990:261; see also Danyš 1986:81). Other participants in these debates adamantly opposed the pro-Communist viewpoint, arguing that capitalism, despite the ups and downs of its free market, is the only way for humanity to advance. With great interest Aukštaitė listened to the heated debates of these radically different groups and one evening unequivocally expressed her own political convictions. She flung wide open the door of her apartment and exclaimed: "All you Stalinists and Marxists, get out of here right now!"

Since Antanas was unable to find steady employment, the Navikevičius family was forced to turn to government agencies for financial assistance and to approach religious organizations for donations of food. It is interesting to note that government regulations of those days stipulated that only the husband of a family could apply for welfare benefits. Antanas found that surprising and even offensive: "I find it hard to understand why the government treats women in this demeaning way. Only the husband is recognized as the head of the family... women are pushed aside. That's not very democratic" (Aukštaitė 1988:94).

When Antanas approached Father Bobinas for help, he made it clear that his family could no longer make ends meet, that there was not enough food on the table to feed his children.

To be continued

AN EXPATRIATE'S JOURNEY The Life and Legacy of Marija Aukštaitė

4

Without much delay, Aukštaitė wrote a letter to the paper's editor requesting a renewal; in lieu of monetary payment, she enclosed one of her poems, signed *Nemuno Vilnis*, and offered to collaborate with the paper as a journalist. A few weeks later, her poem appeared in the pages of *Darbininkas*. However, its editors expressed no interest in Aukštaitė's offer, and the subscription lapsed. When some time later, she was hired as a regular Montréal columnist at *Vienybė, Darbininkas* almost begged her for journalistic contributions. She wrote that "Lithuanian] newspaper vied with each other for my pen... this fierce rivalry lasted for over a decade".

Aukštaitė and her family had arrived in Canada not at the best of times. As a consequence of the Great Depression, the economic crisis deepened, resulting in soaring unemployment, declining living standards, and growing pessimism. Around Christmas, her husband Antanas lost his job. As the financial situation steadily worsened, his employer Goldberg was forced to close down much of his dress-making business. From then on, Antanas was called in for only occasional jobs in his now more modest dress-making shop. Needless to say, Antanas's meagre income was insufficient to support the family. Besides, son Jonas kept writing from Lithuania asking for help; his "shoes were about to die on him"

and schoolbook had to be purchased, for "without them, it was so hard to study". Also, the grandmother's failing health was becoming a serious concern. In this period, the, good news was in short supply, and for Aukštaitė's family the first Canadian Christmas was not a cheerful one.

"I just can't sit still. I want to go places, to do things, I like being active, setting goals for myself, even though sometimes they seem quite unrealistic," Aukštaitė (1988:13) wrote in her memoirs. Preoccupied with new plans and ideas, she had no time for complaint and self-pity. Due to her social skills and likeable personality, in a relatively short time Aukštaitė established a number of new contacts and expanded her circle of friends. In the Montreal Lithuanian community, she became known as a writer, singer and social activist. As her mission statement, she chose the words of Mykolas Krupavičius (in Aukštaitė 1978:20):

The emigrés are the envoys of our nation; ...patriotism is an important creative force which should unite rather than divide our compatriots.

Before long, however, she realized that her expectations of the Lithuanian community were rather idealistic. To her great surprise, she soon discovered that it was riddled with organizational problems and personal conflicts. She thought that, given the extremely difficult economic situation compounded by rampant unemployment, the members of the community should do everything possible to help each other, if not materially, at least morally. Unfortunately, such mutual support was seriously lacking. Aukštaitė found especially difficult to understand Father Jonas Bobinas's reputation of arrogance toward his parishioners. However, he made a

IGNALINA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Amanda J. Banks and John J. Todd University of Tasmania

The Ignalina nuclear power plant is a legacy of the Soviet Union's nuclear programme. It is the largest of 16 plants of the same type in Russia and the Ukraine. The first reactor was commissioned in 1983 and the second in 1986. Its size is far greater than is necessary for Lithuania's own electricity needs. It was built to service the region rather than the country, thus increasing the mutual dependence of the former Soviet Republics, reflecting the centralized control of these States. The power plant is located in the east of the country, close to the borders with Latvia and Belorussia.

The two RBMK reactors making the nuclear power plant at Ignalina are large by comparison with other reactor designs. Each is designed to generate 1500 MW (electricity). For safety reasons, the plant is not run at full capacity having a total rated output of 2500 MW. To put the size of this enormous power plant in perspective, the total output of the Tasmanian hydro-electric system in 1994 was 1015 MW (average).

The basic design features of the RBMK reactor are: it is graphite moderated (which means it uses carbon rods as one of the main control mechanisms for the rate of the nuclear reaction); it has no containment pressure vessel (i.e. there is no 'second line of defence' against leakage or radiation in case of an accident); and it uses a direct cycle boiling water process for generating electricity (this provides good efficiency). When discussing environmental aspects of nuclear power generation it is difficult to avoid reference to the reactor disaster at Chernobyl in 1986. It is particularly relevant in this case because the Chernobyl reactors are of the same design as the Ignalina (i.e. RBMK), but smaller. The number 4 reactor at Chernobyl which exploded had a rated electric output of 1000 MW. The boiler water reactor design has some features which make it safer than other designs.

Under normal operating conditions the physical processes taking place in the reactor tend to slow the reactor if something goes wrong, but under conditions of low power it is possible to get sudden 'excursions' (i.e. rapid power increases) which are difficult to control. The Chernobyl reactor was undergoing tests at very low power to check on safety aspects of the reactor under those conditions. The resulting explosion was caused by a combination of operator errors and safety design faults. It was not a nuclear explosion but a steam explosion. The tragic outcome was a large release of radioactive material.

One might argue that the lessons learnt from Chernobyl and the safety improvements being made at Ignalina make a repeat accident nearly impossible. But the extraordinary sequence of events leading to the Chernobyl explosion were unforeseen by those most closely linked to the operation of the reactor and so no one can say with complete certainty that a similar accident (or some other accident based on a different chain of events) could not occur at Ignalina.

Major accidents are not the only risk associated with nuclear power plants. There is a small, but measurable, release

of radiation under normal operating conditions and minor accidents occur with alarming frequency. Some of these cause increased radiation leakage. Reports in "The Baltic Independent" indicate that there have been several accidents of varying causes in the last few years. There were at least three in 1992 and also in 1993 ranging from small fires, to broken cooling pipes, to a leak of radioactive gas. According to Genadij Lipunov, deputy head of the inspection commission in charge of monitoring nuclear safety in Lithuania, the incident on 15 October 1992 involving a leak of radioactive gas could have caused a major accident had the plant not been shut down. It was closed for ten days.

Another serious issue that must be resolved in the near future is the problem of waste storage. Previously, waste was transferred to Russia but since the restoration of independence it has been stored on site. Viktor Shevaldin, the General Director of the plant, said that around 98% of the storage capacity has been filled. Therefore, the plant will have to close very soon or start using outdoor facilities. He argues that such containers will provide a 50 year respite before storage options need to be considered. 'It will be a problem to be solved by our children'.

There have also been some fears of sabotage following threats to the plant in October 1994. A threat was delivered to the German Ministry of Environment which seemed to be connected with the release of underground criminal, Boris Dekanidze. This sparked concerns that Ignalina was indeed a possible terrorist target.

A decision to end nuclear power or at least close down those reactors which have serious design faults, such as the RBMKs, is ultimately dependent on values. While it is often argued that the closing of plants such as Ignalina is not economically feasible, our research demonstrates that, if there was a commitment to do so, it would be possible to end nuclear power in Lithuania. A commitment to end nuclear power, although economic problems must be considered, requires a certain perspective of the trade-offs. What the government, or the people who elect that government, view as most important in terms of the risks involved with generating power from RBMK reactors or from nuclear power in general will ultimately affect the course that is taken. Interviews with politicians, greens, academics, and other citizens revealed a high level of concern regarding the continued operation of Ignalina, yet a general feeling of hopelessness prevailed. Most people seem to be convinced by the arguments of the Ministry of Energy that Lithuania could not afford to close down Ignalina.

The time-frame for the inevitable closure of the existing reactors in Lithuania has been the topic of various reports. In 1993, a World Bank study was prepared in conjunction with the International Energy Agency (IEA) for the group of the seven richest nations (G-7). The report outlined ten scenarios based on varying retirement dates together with fast or slow economic reform forecasts. In terms of the retirement of the reactors, early shut-down was set at 1995, mid-term shut-down in the year 2000 and 2010 for the longer term. Since Ignalina is still running at the time of



Ignalina Power Plant.

this article, the years 1996 and 1997 should now be seen as possible early retirement dates. This was the year suggested by Demarcq in 1993 who argued that it was not feasible to shut-down immediately whereas 1997 (as a low nuclear option) provided time for upgrading replacement facilities and developing alternative supplies.

The National Energy Strategy for Lithuania, prepared in 1993 by independent consultants in conjunction with the Lithuanian Energy Institute, recommended that since there is not sufficient demand to justify two reactors at Ignalina, that only one reactor remain in operation. It was therefore suggested that the oldest unit (number one) be decommissioned in 1996 and not restarted unless long term export contracts are negotiated. It was also recommended that the second reactor be upgraded while the first is still operating. The possibility of a new reactor is also considered if the RBMK were decommissioned. While the Lithuanian Energy Institute and its advisors should be commended for recognising the need to close the oldest reactor and upgrade the second, all suggestions assume that having no nuclear power is not an option.

The problem with running the reactors to the end of their planned 25 year life (2010) is that the reactor channels must be replaced between 15 and 20 years after commissioning (2004 for unit 1 and 2007 for unit 2 at the very latest with 2000 being more appropriate for unit 1). Other sources have elected similar years for absolute closing. The Government of Lithuania made a commitment to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) not to replace the channels which would involve serious risks as a procedure alone, as well as prolonging retirement thereby extending safety risks (Arturas Klementevičius, Lithuanian Energy Institute pers. comm. November 1994). The agreement not to replace the existing channels reduces the life of the reactors leaving only 5 years (with a maximum of 9) until the oldest unit must be shut-down. This is not a question of values. This is what must be done.

Five years is not very long in terms of long-range planning. A decision must be made to seriously develop alternatives, including the rehabilitation of the thermal power plant at Elektrėnai, so that these can be put in place during that time. It has been over five years since Lithuania declared during that time. It has been over six years since Lithuania declared its independence from the Soviet Union, seven years since public protests were successful in halting construction of the third reactor at Ignalina, and almost ten years since the accident at Chernobyl. If a decision regarding the future of Ignalina is

delayed then risks will increase, less time will be available for securing alternatives, and more finances will be spent on improving safety. Money might be better spent on the alternatives. As discussed earlier, 1995 was once seen as an early closure date (and even 1993 in other reports) yet the reactors have continued to run for five years whilst a decision is being made.

Given the almost nonchalant way in which experts referred to the idea of maintaining nuclear power with no definite answers to the issue of waste disposal nor the costs involved in decommissioning and construction of a new reactor (if nuclear is actively pursued), it is feasible that the IAEA agreement might be broken. How could the Government be held to it? If Lithuania has not prepared itself well for alternative sources of energy, when that ultimatum arrives, it might be ignored with the excuse being that Lithuania cannot abandon nuclear power because it has no other alternatives. Rather than risk the running of even more unsafe RBMK reactors, it is possible that the IAEA and governments of surrounding countries would grant a reprieve so that the channels could be replaced.

Further problems exist if the channels are allowed to be replaced. The costs of the replacement is estimated to be US \$100 m further increasing the costs involved in retaining nuclear power. The complicated procedure, which requires the unit to be shut down for several months, has only been carried out once before in Russia at Leningrad 1. The channels at Ignalina are different owing to the higher power density of the 1500 MW reactor cores. So, in effect, a comparable procedure has not been performed in the past.

The option of building a new nuclear reactor after the retirement of the existing reactors is complicated by economic and environmental issues. Nuclear power requires large investment which is unlikely to be available within Lithuania. Traditional sources of capital outside Lithuania might also prove difficult to obtain. According to Inesis Kiškis, Regional Environmental Specialist with the World Bank in Lithuania, grants and loans are not made available from his organization for building nuclear reactors (pers. comm. December 1994). Even if such loans could be acquired, it would mean further indebtedness for the Lithuanian Government with the benefits of the credits remaining in foreign hands. In addition, in order to meet such liabilities, governments often need to cut other funding, usually in the social (education, health, welfare) or environmental spheres.

Western involvement in the nuclear programme initiated in the Soviet Union has increased

since the Chernobyl accident in 1986 and, further, since the breakdown of communism in the region in 1990/1. Funding has naturally focused on upgrading safety and improving training and management. However, a report by Friends of the Earth found that twice as much government money was spent on completing nuclear plants than on increasing safety and three times as much if private investment was also included. Western involvement has tended to prolong the use of nuclear power in the region by upgrading safety (a necessary process in the short term) and by signing long-term contracts which give incentives to continue running unsafe reactors in return for much needed hard currency.

Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has been accused of assisting the Soviet Union in covering up the consequences of the Chernobyl accident. According to its statute, the main objective of the IAEA is to promote the use of nuclear energy throughout the world. Therefore, it was in the interests of the organization to avoid restrictions on the use of nuclear power following the accident. The opening up of EEC and FSU has provided the nuclear industry with an opportunity to reverse the declining trend in its world market.

Despite numerous reports outlining the serious design faults inherent in the RBMK reactors as well as documented problems with the quality of Soviet materials and construction, the direct action required to reduce the risks to millions of people in the region are yet to be taken. Safety improvements cannot bring the RBMKs (and the older VVERs) up to Western safety standards. There seems to be some arrogance among the nuclear organizations and their supporters in that, through their indirect promotion of expanding the nuclear industry and, in particular, the delay in facing up to task of decommissioning unsafe reactors, they condemn countries like Lithuania to a risk they are not prepared to have in their own countries.

Aid has been bilateral such as the Swedish Government's provision of \$1.6 m per year for three years for research and safety upgrades. Swedish concern, following inspections from SKI and news of a minor accident during a visit from the King and Queen in 1992, led to a further pledge of 40 million kronor also for safety improvements. Denmark, fearing impacts in their own country if an accident occurred, provided DKK 2.8 million for safety systems between 1990 and 1993. Then, in 1994, a one year project 'Co-operation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection' was initiated by the Danish Ministry of the Interior.

The aim was to increase preparedness for an accident by installing monitoring stations for early detection of an emergency situation. The German government has also provided assistance in the control of processes in the reactors. Not all such assistance has been from concerned neighbouring countries. Japan is funding training programmes in the areas of nuclear safety, accident prevention, and re-processing of nuclear waste.

There has also been commitments and or provisions of multi-lateral funding from the G-7 and G-24 groups, the EC Commission (\$1.3 billion), and the International Nuclear Safety Fund which was established by Sweden, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, UK, and Canada. A grant of 33 million ecus was given to the power plant for safety upgrades from the fund in March 1994. The project was prepared in close co-operation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Lithuanian Government, and Ignalina management. The EU PHARE programme which funds environmental projects in Aest and Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union began a similar project in 1994 with a budget of 50,000 ecus.

This is by no means an exhaustive account of money vested in the safety improvements of Ignalina. But it shows that a significant amount has been spent so far on improving the plant. Had Ignalina been shut down before now, much of this investment could have been directed toward developing alternative energy sources. Boyle and Froggart argue that the investments have been a waste of resources given that the World Bank/International Energy Agency report points to low nuclear as the least cost option. They add that the Chernobyl accident cost around \$300 billion plus 40,000 lives (to say nothing of other environmental impacts). This is juxtaposed to a cost of \$1.3 per capita to phrase out RBMKs and develop alternatives. They suggest that this is rather "cheap insurance." Of the Baltic States, Lithuania receives the most international support for environmental projects. However, if Ignalina is excluded, it has received the least funding (Swedish EPA 1995). This might suggest that other important environmental project have missed out on support.

The decision on whether or not to include nuclear power as a source of energy is ultimately based on a value judgement. It is the opinion of the authors that it is not feasible for any environmentally sensitive energy policy to include nuclear power. As well as the long term disposal problems, polluting discharge, and potential for disaster, the economic efficiency of nuclear power is questionable. There are, however, more serious concerns for Lithuania because of the problems associated with RBMK reactors. For engineering reasons, Ignalina must be shut down within ten years because it will have reached the end of its life. The exact year for decommissioning is a matter of values (what priority one gives to the risk vs energy trade-off) as well as economic and social considerations.

The preferred option is to close Ignalina in 1996 (unit 1) and 1997 (unit 2). The closing would indeed be expensive and would require further investment to upgrade the Elektrėnai thermal power station including environmental measures to reduce emissions. The investment required to keep Ignalina running until 2004 and 2007 (or 2010 if

channels are replaced) might be better used on developing the necessary alternatives. There are also social problems associated with the loss of employment to the 5,000 or so workers and their families living in the town of Visaginas (formerly Sniečkus) which was built to service the plant. We do not claim there will not be such problems. The aforementioned survey indicated that 65% of respondents believed it possible to develop light industry in the town, while 53% pointed to the microelectronics industry and 48% suggested the development of reserves and forests. But, as we have argued elsewhere, in terms of energy requirements, it would be possible for Lithuania to survive without nuclear power by improving energy conservation and efficiency, increasing prices, and through the use of renewable energy sources. This would require foregoing export revenue yet Belorussia has already failed to pay for supplied electricity which contributed to the virtual closure of Elektrėnai power plant. Thus, Ignalina currently supplies a large percentage of Lithuania's electricity but it would also be possible to run Elektrėnai back at full capacity (1800 MW).

There should also be concern that if Ignalina is kept operating until the very end of its available life (particularly if the channels are replaced), Lithuania might lock herself into a nuclear future. The possibility of building a new reactor has been discussed in Lithuania but the capital costs are enormous. It is imperative that the government acts quickly (the last five years seem to have slipped by) to develop suitable alternatives otherwise Lithuania might well face another energy crisis at the time of decommissioning.

"Lithuanian Papers", volume 9, 1995, University of Tasmania



P. J. Keating, prime Minister of Australia.

A LEADING ACHIEVEMENT

About "Lithuanian Papers" in Tasmania P. J. Keating, Prime Minister of Australia, has this to say:

"The Lithuanian Studies Society was established in 1987 and its success in promoting academic interest in matters Lithuanian is an example to us all. From modes beginnings as a students' organization, the Society is now effectively a Centre for Lithuanian Studies in Australia. It has achieved this status on meagre resources and by cooperating in a focussed manner with selected faculties each year. This strategic approach has gained it international recognition from a range of institutions, including more recently the World Bank.

"The Lithuanian Papers" are now regarded as the leading English-language Lithuanian periodical in the southern Hemisphere.

The Society's achievements are a good example of the Commonwealth's Productivity Diversity concept at work. Here we have local expertise bringing together the academic, cultural and linguistic resources of our Tasmanian population to satisfy both domestic and international demand".

GEORGE SOROS EXTENDS A HELPING HAND

Continued from Oct. 5.

Some Other Programs Culture and Arts

The aims of the culture program are to assist the renaissance, development, and integration of various Lithuanian cultural entities in the context of world culture. The program encourages innovation, experimentation, and cooperation between various Lithuanian ethnic and religious cultures, and creative contacts with foreign (Eastern and Western) cultures.

The culture program was restructured during 1995. It is now composed of three sections: the Cultural Infrastructure Program, the Performing Arts Program, and the Soros Contemporary Arts Centre.

Performing arts program was established in April 1995. It seeks to stimulate the development of modern theater, cinema, and music; to promote innovation, experimentation, and alternative modes of creativity; and to establish international contacts — in other words, to provide for the uninhibited expression of professional artists and to help define the role of the performing arts in an open society.

The program works on three levels: it supports projects by individual artists or art institutions; it collects and disseminates information about institutions productions and financial sources in Lithuania and around the world, and initiates and implements its own projects. The program undertakes one major "Annual Project," which is selected from a different field in the arts every year. In 1995, the cinema forum "Immortalized Time" took place in Vilnius. It was dedicated to recent Lithuanian, Latvian, and Estonian documentary films, as well as to retrospectives and to documentaries from other countries. The forum sought to encourage and foster cinematographic contacts in the Baltics, to promote collaboration between filmmakers and international film institutions and festivals, and to promote an open society's self-awareness by encouraging discussions about the interaction of man and time and the transformations of postcommunist countries, topics reflected in documentary films. Forty-five guests from eleven countries participated in the forum, in which 100 films were shown.

The program initiates presentations of new performing arts works to introduce new ideas of Lithuanian and world authors (composers, playwrights, directors).

The Soros Centre for Contemporary Arts (SCCA), established in Vilnius in 1993, belongs to a network of Soros Centres for Contemporary Arts operating in Central and Eastern Europe. SCCA collects and publicizes information about contemporary Lithuanian art and artists. In three years, more than fifty comprehensive artists' documents have been prepared. Also, archives of files containing slides, biographies, and printed material on over 260 artists have been set up. SCCA provides Lithuanian artists with information about international art events, gives consultations to curators from a variety of countries, and it supports and encourages Lithuanian artists to participate in international exhibitions. With the recommendations and the cooperation of SCCA, Lithuanian artists took part in more than twenty

events in various countries in 1995. SCCA's exhibition of contemporary Lithuanian art "Bread and Salt" (curator R. Jurėnaitė) was displayed in Edinburgh College of Art (Scotland).

Annually SCCA stages a major show of contemporary Lithuanian art. In 1995, two contest-winning exhibitions took place: "Mundane Language", an outdoor project in Vilnius, held October 16-29 (curator A. Lankelis), and "For Beauty," an exhibition that was shown at Vilnius Contemporary Art Centre, October 16 – November 12 (curator S. Skurvidaitė and R. Malašauskas).

The Centre also exchanges exhibitions with other Eastern European Soros Centres for Contemporary Arts. In 1995, an exhibit of young Polish artists' work, "Transhumation," was put on in the Kaunas Picture Gallery. In 1995 SCCA started to prepare exhibitions for the newly opened Open Society House in Vilnius.

The SCCA issues grants to Lithuanian artists, exhibition curators, and art critics, to help them with exhibitions and to publish materials on contemporary Lithuanian art.

Media And Publishing Programs

Toward the end of 1995, OSFL created a Journalism Centre to raise the professional calibre of Lithuanian journalists. Almost the entire Media Program budget was allocated to the establishment of the Centre and to its activities. The Centre arranges two-to three-month courses on various topics including ethics, investigative journalism, the culture of language, desktop publishing, the analysis of radio broadcasts and shows. These courses were attended by seventy-six professional journalists. Various other short courses were also presented.

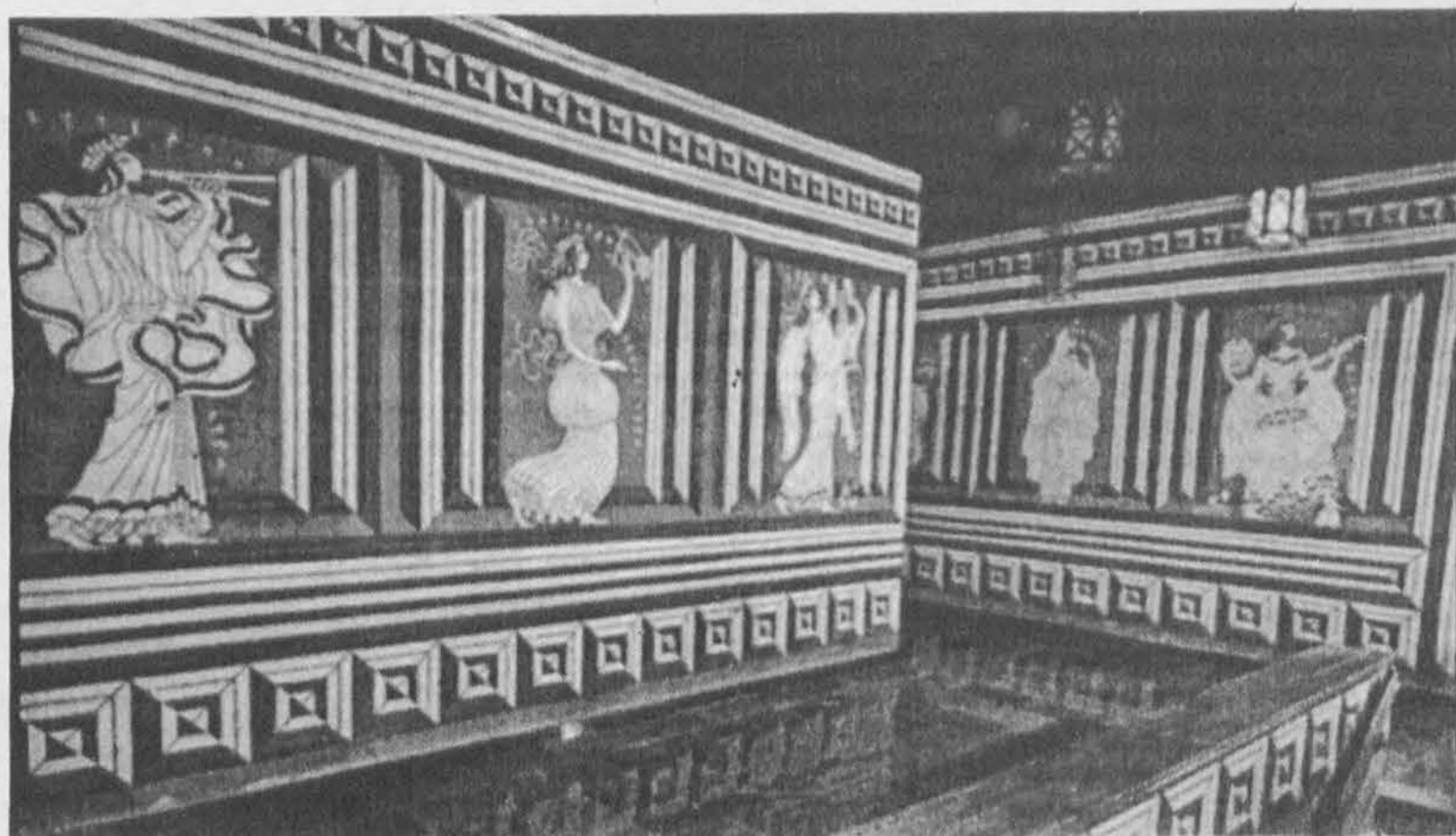
An "Encyclopedia of Journalism" is being prepared. Based on recommendations from the European Union and other institutions, an assessment of Lithuanian's mass media is being carried out. An expanded program is planned for 1996.

Four years ago, OSFL started a long-term program whose goal is to translate into Lithuanian and to publish a series of key books in the humanities and social sciences, contemporary and other. Since 1994, classics in philosophy and political science have been published, as well as a series of practical business handbooks. Since its inception, 54 books have been published (28 of them in 1995 alone) and more than sixty others are in various stages of preparation.

Books are selected after consulting with experts in Lithuania and abroad. Translations have been made from English, French, Russian, Danish, Italian, Polish, Dutch, German, ancient Greek, and Latin. Normally, OSFL pays the copyright fees, finances the translating and editing, and subsidises the publishing by one of eight private publishing companies in Lithuania. OSFL funding and publishing subsidies allow the books to be sold at very moderate prices, usually below production costs.

Foreign Travel And Studies

This program provides travel cost assistance for scientists,



Its not Pompeii or ancient Rome, but a vestibule at University of Vilnius, Philology department.
Photo by Juozas Polia

LITHUANIAN FOUNDATION: PAST AND FUTURE

There is hardly a Lithuanian who is not familiar with Lithuanian Foundation Organization. Many Lithuanians in the US and abroad at one time or another experienced LF financial aid for their projects, studies, and cultural affairs. The Lithuanian Foundation published two extensive books about its organization, members and works. One was published in 1983 (20th anniversary), another in 1992.

Every Fall the LF has a special fund-raising drive among its many members and members-to-be, so its only fitting to know a little more about this worthy organization. The daily "Draugas" supported LF from the very start, supports it at present too. This article is from the book "Lietuvių Fondas/Lithuanian Foundation" 1983, although some information should be updated, especially the resources available at present (there is more than 8 million dollars — the goal: to reach 10 million by the end of this year). However, the idea to start such an institution, the effort to keep it going never changes.

The idea for establishing the Lithuanian Foundation was first brought up by Petras Lickus and Pranas Purnas in 1951. But it was only ten years later, in 1960, that an article by Dr. Antanas Razma, "A Million Dollar Fund for Lithuanian Needs" appeared in "Draugas". This idea created a substantial reaction within the Lithuanian community. At that time spirited discussions arose in the Lithuanian press regarding the establishment of such a foundation. Antanas Musteikis, Vincas Ignaitis, M.G. Vilius, J. Tarulis, Vytautas Ciuprinskas and others began writing about this matter, emphasizing the significance and the need for such a foundation.

There were also negative opi-

academics, teachers, artists, other specialists and students who have received invitations to attend conferences, to study or to improve their professional qualifications abroad. Consideration is given to those applicants invited to make presentations at a conference. This program supports the establishment of professional contacts abroad, and views participation at such functions as the most effective method for the exchange of new ideas.

Priority is given to those areas in which there is a shortage of Lithuanian specialists and to applicants who are applying for travel assistance for the first time. During 1995 731 people received travel assistance.

"Open Society Fund-Lithuania" 1995 Annual Report

nions expressed, especially in the newspaper "Naujienos", in which both the article by Dr. A. Razma and the whole idea of establishing a million dollar fund were criticized. However, these criticisms did not deter the founders from beginning the preparatory work in establishing the foundation.

After a number of preliminary meetings, on March 19, 1961 an organizational meeting was held at the home of Miss Alicija Rugytė. This meeting was attended by 22 people, among them the initiators of the Foundation, the Rev. Mykolas Krupavičius and Mr. Stasys Barzdukas, the President of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA.

After lengthy deliberations the following resolution was adopted: One foundation was to be created, which would be founded jointly with the Lithuanian American Community of the USA. The earnings of this Foundation would be distributed by a committee appointed jointly by the Lithuanian American Community in the USA and the Lithuanian Foundation. The new Foundation's capital would not be distributed, only its earnings.

Later, with the help of lawyer Algis Keželis the Foundation's By-Laws were prepared. At the September 2-3, 1961 meeting of the Lithuanian American Community Board of Directors in New York the Foundation project was presented by Dr. A. Razma and was accepted. The By-Laws of the Foundation were approved and the foundation was named The Lithuanian Foundation. Its main capital was to remain intact, and only the interest was to be appropriated for the support of Lithuanian cultural and educational activities.

From the start, donations began to flow into the Lithuanian Foundation. During 1962, 28 individuals joined, and the capital of the Foundation reached \$19,714.00.

Temporary officers for the Foundation were appointed. The first officers were: President, Teodoras Blinstrubas, secretary, J. Vaičekonis, treasurer, Vl. Šimaitis and members St. Rauckinas and A. Rukštelė. The temporary Board of Directors consisted of 12 members, with Dr. Razma as Chairman.

The first general meeting of the members of the Lithuanian Foundation took place May 15, 1963. At that time, there were 230 members, and the capital was \$71,670.00. At that convention the first Board of the Lithuanian Foundation was elected: 5 members for a 3 year term, 5 members for a 2 year term and 5 for a 1 year term, 15 in all. The first Audit Commit-

tee was also selected, which consisted of St. Barzdukas, J. Grauzinis and T. Meškauskas.

On September 23, 1964 the fund raising committee was dissolved by the Lithuanian Foundation Board of Directors. It was decided to recommend that every Lithuanian Foundation member become a representative for the Lithuanian Foundation fund raising activities.

Nevertheless, the Lithuanian American Community of the USA continued to organize and maintain Lithuanian Foundation fund raising committees. As many as 52 such representative committees were organized.

The Lithuanian Foundation Board of Directors hold an annual Lithuanian Foundation members' meeting, during which six Board members are elected to replace those who have completed their 3 year terms. The Audit Committee is also elected at this time. The president and treasurer report on the work completed by the Lithuanian Foundation, as well as the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the Investment Committee and the Grants Committee. The reports from the committees representing various cities are also presented. Discussions, changes and new resolutions and suggestions follow. At the end of the meetings, resolutions are read and voted upon.

Besides the annual meeting of members, the Lithuanian Foundation officers organize other events: a gala ball, concerts and dinners. The gala balls are organized during the fall on an annual basis. Concerts are organized less often. The more noteworthy concerts were those of Liliya Šukytė in Orchestra Hall on April 5, 1970, the Grandinėlė Concert on March 18-19, 1972 at the Maria High School Auditorium and the concert of the works of Jeronimas Kačinskas on October 25, 1980 also held at the Maria High School Auditorium. All of these successful concerts increased the prestige of the Lithuanian Foundation among the Lithuanians and they encouraged individuals to make contributions to the Foundation. Some of

Draugas, Saturday, October 12, 1996

5

these events, be they balls, concerts or dinners, provide of Foundation upwards of 30,000.00 in contributions.

The Lithuanian Foundation Grants Committee entertains grant proposals from all sectors of the community. The Committee consists of 3 Lithuanian Foundation representatives and 3 Lithuanian American Community of the USA representatives. The greatest percentage is appropriated for educational needs, that is about 30%.

Also, the Lithuanian Foundation has supported the teaching of the Lithuanian language at the University of Chicago, Illinois Circle Campus and at Fordham University. According to the contributors' wishes, the Committee also appropriates money for scholarships for Lithuanian students. It has made a commitment to support the establishment of the Chair of Lithuanian Studies at the University of Illinois Circle.

Individuals working in the Lithuanian press, such as Antanas Juodvalkis, Aloyzas Baronas and Vladas Būtenas have helped to popularize the achievements of the Lithuanian Foundation.

The Lithuanian Foundation fund raising committee and other special fund raising com-

mittees, which were organized in the larger Lithuanian communities, greatly contributed to the success of the Lithuanian Foundation. The first fund raising committee was organized on July 17, 1963. Its members were Dr. G. Balukas, Dr. P. Kisielius, Rev. B. Sugintas, J. Bagdanavičius, Dr. K. Ambrozaitis and J. Švedas. The committee encouraged the establishment of fund raising committees in the larger Lithuanian communities, and in this way the Lithuanian public was kept aware of the Foundation actions.

The Lithuanian Foundation was able to raise such large sums because there were contributors who gave more than \$5,000. There were ten such contributors. A large number of Lithuanians willed their estates to the Lithuanian Foundation. The largest estates were those of Dr. Jonas Gliudelis (\$157,976.43), Jonas Krukonis (\$143,036.57), Kazys Vilutis (\$82,208.60), Dr. Konstancija Rudaitytė (\$33,146.48) and Antanas Reklaitis (\$10,742.26). A total of 94 estates have been received, approximately 50 have been legally processed. The remaining must still await final processing through the courts. A total of \$629,817.09 was received from estates.

PAPAL BLESSING FOR FR. PRANCIŠKUS ŠULSKIS, MIC

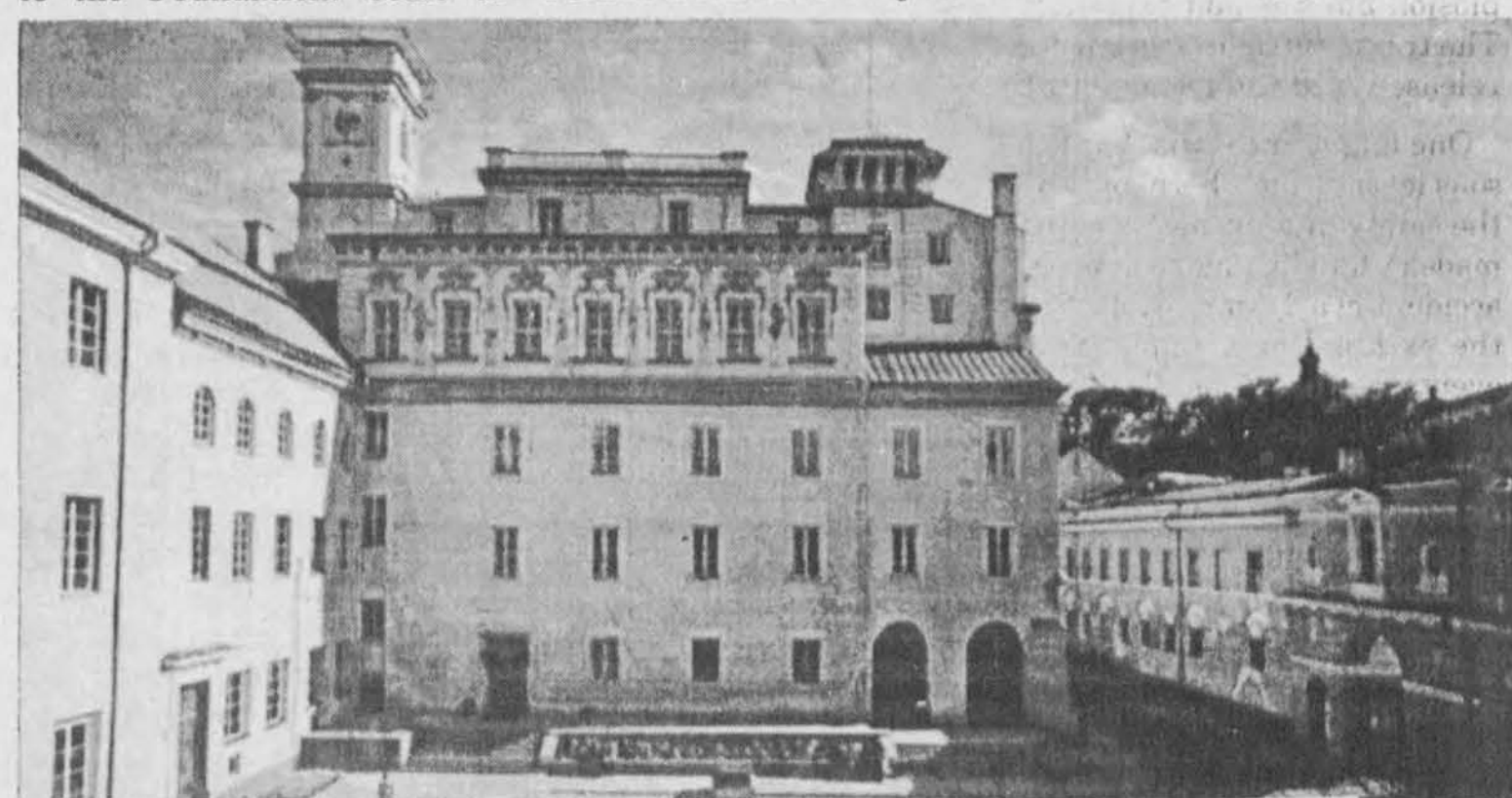
This year 50 years elapsed from the time when Fr. Pranciškus Šulskis, a member of the Lithuanian Province, became bed-ridden with a grave paralysis as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted by a Soviet soldier. On the occasion of this anniversary the Holy Father John Paul II sent an autographed Blessing to Fr. Pranciškus.

Father Pranciškus was born in 1918. He entered the Congregation in 1934, professed his perpetual vows in 1939, and was ordained priest on May 2, 1943. As a young priest he worked in Marijampolė. Among his duties, he taught religion in a catechism room at the side of the church (the Soviet regime removed religion classes from schools). On June 25, 1946, a group of Soviet soldiers seeking transportation tried to seize the truck by which he was transporting religion textbooks obtained in Kaunas. When the driver tried to evade the seizure, the soldiers opened fire on them. Fr. Šulskis was wounded in the upper back which resulted in the paralysis of the whole bottom half of his body. Bed-ridden (he is unable even to use a wheel chair; he celebrates mass at a table) the whole period of the Soviet regime, he stayed in Marijampolė and was cared for by his sister, a religious Sister from the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and by other Sisters from this Congregation. Resigned to the will of God, quiet and serene, he became a center of unity for the

dispersed Marians of the Lithuanian Province. They met at his bed and through him remained in contact with each other. Seven Marian Brothers remained together with him and under his fraternal protection. For two terms Fr. Šulskis directed the Province (which was dispersed and yet persisted clandestinely under the Communist regime) as its Superior.

Father Pranciškus still lives in Marijampolė, near the monastery surrounded by the care of the sisters and confreres and by the veneration of the faithful. The Lithuanian Catholic magazine "XXI Amžius" (XXI Century), printed a facsimile of Archbp Re's letter and its translation, as well as an article entitled: "Such is love", in which the history of the Lithuanian Marians and a spiritual profile of our confrere are presented. It quotes his words: "It was not I to choose for myself such a lot, but God willed it". In the article we read that according to Fr. Vincentas Inkratas, MIC, his classmate during studies and attendant at his side in Marijampolė for six years, it was profound faith and contact with God that helped Fr. Šulskis to discover the sense of suffering, the sense of what is sacred and eternal. The pastor of the Marijampolė basilica, Fr. Kestutis Briilius, MIC, perceives that Fr. Šulskis' daily suffering constitute a willing offering for the intention of the pastoral needs of the Marian Congregation and of the whole Church.

"MIC Information"



The south wing of the University of Vilnius buildings (from the back). Notice the Observatory tower — top left.
Photo by Juozas Polia

SOMEONE WORTH KNOWING

A SISTER'S EXPERIENCE

It has been a year since Sr. Theresa Papis roamed the halls of Maria H.S. on the Southwest Side.

The chairman of the music department took a hiatus last year from teaching at the all-girl Catholic school to travel across the globe to teach other youths to appreciate music.

Sr. Theresa taught both music and religion to high school students in Kaunas, Lithuania, this past school year. She was interested in teaching in the country because her parents were born there and she knows the language.

"Lithuania is one of 15 countries which no longer are under communist rule. I was happy to be of service to a country trying to bounce back from that type of government," said Sr. Theresa whose trip to Lithuania was sponsored by Maria H.S.

Sr. Theresa, who was raised in the Roseland neighborhood of Chicago, taught Lithuanian students at a co-ed Catholic H.S. about ethnic music and jazz. She said many of the students knew nothing about the music of other ethnic groups because the music had been banned under communist rule.

"They always studied music, but didn't know anything about folk songs from other cultures like the Black or Asian cultures," said Sr. Theresa, who left for Lithuania last September and returned to Chicago recently.

The Lithuanian school system is based on trimesters instead of quarters, and teachers are required to do a lot of paperwork. Each teacher has to keep a record book that not only includes the class roll, but also the teacher's lesson plan for the class, the chapter of the book be-

ing studied that day and all oral and written grades for each member of the class.

"It was an unique way to keep records. The teachers passed the book to each other from class to class so everyone knows what the other was doing."

"The students, although they liked to joke around like all teenagers, were serious about their studies and knew they had to get good grades in order to go to college."

"There weren't a lot of jobs there and the students knew they had to excel if they wanted to go to college. There were fewer problems with teens using drugs, and, since there's only one culture and one set of traditions instead of multiple cultures, it was easier to teach them." She also said the students liked learning in a participatory classroom environment instead of under the old style of teaching in which the instructor lectured and the students listened. The students like to banter ideas back and forth. They liked learning the way American students learn.

The school at which Sr. Theresa taught was a Catholic high school. In Lithuania, public and private schools are funded by the state. There are 16 Catholic schools in the country.

During communist rule, there were no nuns teaching in the schools. Most of them became nurses and worked in hospitals. The communists didn't want a Christian influence in schools.

"The nuns want to go back into education, but it's hard for them. There are Sisters coming from other countries to help at the schools now that there is freedom in religion."

"Journeys" (Fall 1996)

SISTERS OF ST. CASIMIR CELEBRATED JUBILEES

The summer Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is an especially joyous occasion for the Sisters of St. Casimir, the majority of whom celebrate it as the anniversary of their profession of the vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. For Sr. Leona Naujokas, it was a very special day marking the occasion of her 75th anniversary of religious consecration on Aug. 15, 1996.

Sr. Leona's initial profession in 1921 took place in the first SSC chapel in the East building of the Motherhouse which later became the library of "dear SCA" and today is once again a beautiful chapel for private and special groups making retreats or prayer days.

On the occasion of her happy 75th jubilee, Sr. Leona renewed the three religious vows with reverent jubilation evidenced throughout the day as the camera caught her in those rapturous moments.

Sr. Leona is remembered by many who gave assistance to Sister in her days as collector of canceled stamps for various causes. She is also remembered by many former pupils of grade and high school. One of her last devoted services was at micro-filming in connection with Holy Cross Hospital. Currently, Sister is an ambulatory resident in the Motherhouse Infirmary.

The Diamond Jubilee

Eight members of the 1936 Profession Group poured out their fervent thanks to God for

the bountiful blessings in the 60 years of their lives as Sisters of St. Casimir. At the early Eucharistic celebration at the Motherhouse, Aug. 11, 1996, all the Sisters present joined with Rev. William Sullivan, OSA, as celebrant, in hymns of praise and thanksgiving for the years of dedicated, generous service in their various ministries.

Warm congratulations and good wishes touched the hearts of these jubilarians throughout this memorable day: sisters Edwarda Burdulis, Celine Zaikis, Alexandra Gritis, Lamberta Novestke, Frances Debulski, Genesora Stakauskas and Maria Cleopha Macelis. Of the original group, four preceded them into eternal life: Sisters Amabilis Uzdavinis, Romana Dabrovolskis, Thomasine Simonaitis and Apolara Kukauskas.

Each, in whatever capacity she is able, continues to live her dedicated vowed life for the greater glory and love of God and the good of His people.

The Golden Jubilee

On Aug. 11, 1996, six SSCs celebrated 50 years of religious profession in the Motherhouse Chapel with family, friends and co-workers present for the Eucharistic Liturgy. The Golden Jubilarians of 1996 are Sisters Maureen Juozapavicius, Louraine Ramoska, Josine Vendzelis, Margaret Mary Mazgelis, Ann Barbara Vilim and Angela Balchunas. Two of the Profession Group of 1946 have been called to their eternal reward: Sister M. Brunona Encheris in



Medical personnel from Chicago, Illinois last Summer visited Lithuania and consulted with local physicians about problems in their everyday medical practice helping Lithuanian people. Frances Slutas, R.N. was instrumental in arranging this visit. From left to right: Dr. Nagamani Dhamapuri from University of Chicago, Dr. Olga Zimantaitė, University of Vilnius Hospital - Santariškės, Dr. Giuseppe Marraro, Milan, Italy, Dr. Arvind Shukla, Christ Hospital, Oak Lawn, IL.

Photo by Frances Slutas

1962, and Sister M. Damien Margis in 1986.

The celebrant for the Jubilee Mass was Rev. Peter Paurazas with the following as concelebrants: Rev. Joseph R. Bennett, Thomas Kasputis, John Kuzinskas, Msgr. Damasus Mozeris, Anthony Puchenski, Lorenzo Ruiz, OFM, Msgr. Ignatius Urbanas and Anthony Zakarauskas. The homilist was Rev. Michael Yakaitis, pastor of St. Barbara Church, who during his homily extolled the abundance of the fruits that resulted from the works of the Sisters who through their vows committed their lives in faith to serve in the Church. As the Jubilarians reached out to others throughout the 50 years, they touched many lives in various ways through their works and service filled with compassion, care, love and faithfulness. Their lives, he said, were a testimony of God's love because through their lives they revealed the face of God. They, through their work, manifested God's presence among us, and the abundance of His blessings. He expressed the wish that as the Jubilarians continue on their journey of life, they would continue to be signs of God's presence among us, and of the abundance of His blessings that cannot be taken away, but would spread throughout the world.

Adding to the jubilation and solemnity of the day, the choir of the Sisters of St. Casimir and some of their Associates, accompanied by Sister Theresa Papis at the organ, Anna Belle O'Shea with the flute and Madeline Spacucello with the trumpet, provided joyous, soul-stirring strains of harmony during the Eucharistic Liturgy. The congregation joined in the singing of the hymns and with their voices added to the celebration of the occasion.

After the Eucharistic Liturgy, the families and friends of the Jubilarians were invited to a buffet dinner in the Motherhouse Auditorium during which they were able to greet the Jubilarians and to visit with them.

"Journeys" (Fall 1996)

A MEANINGFUL ANNIVERSARY

One of the leading Catholic high schools for girls in the Archdiocese of Chicago is Maria High School, standing proudly next to the beautiful Marquette Park on Chicago's southside. Started as St. Casimir Academy by the Lithuanian sisters of St. Casimir, Maria High School is a land-mark in quality Catholic education and the sisters of St. Casimir are very much part of this scene.

Maria H.S. has a special meaning to many Lithuanian girls as their Alma Mater. Recently Maria H.S. celebrated a meaningful anniversary - 85 years of excellence. As Larisa E. Myles writes in the Fall issue of

"Journeys" (Volume 10, No. 3, 1996):

Maria High School officially kicked off its 85th anniversary celebration, Sunday, Sept. 8, with a celebratory Mass and its first-ever Alumnae Hall of Fame Inductions. Appellate court Justice, Anne M. Burke and Azteca Foods, Inc., Vice President, Joanne D. Velasquez, were the inductees.

Both guests of honor have remained active in their support of Maria High School despite their already packed lives. Burke and her husband, Alderman Ed Burke, 14th Ward, return to Maria every year to bestow that coveted Anne McGlone Burke scholarship, a full tuition scholarship given to a student of junior or senior standing with involvement in athletics. Velasquez is a past Chair of Maria's Board of directors and is still an active board member. Both guests of honor hold their alma mater dear to their hearts. Burke's 50th birthday party, a surprise from her husband, was held in Maria gym and cafeteria. Velasquez is co-chair of Maria's first-ever special event to be held April 19 at The Children's Museum at Navy Pier. Both guests of honor are role models for young women everywhere. Both say their successes started at Maria.

"Maria High School has been a stepping stone in my life to work with young children, with the mentally disabled, with the Chicago Park District, with the Chicago Special Olympics, law school, a law practice and the Appellate Court Bench. Wherever I have been, I have carried with me the encouragement, the spirit, the faith and the confidence that were nurtured here at Maria," said Burke in her acceptance speech. After the ceremony, as guests congratulated Velasquez on her many accomplishments, she insisted, "It started here at Maria."

As Sister Margaret Zalot, Maria H.S. President, presented the awards to the two alumnae she spoke of the impact they have had on Maria as well as on the world around them and their "commitment to live Maria's mission each day." She went on to praise them for being "women committed to living gospel values in their homes and workplace, for helping others to have opportunities of success, for taking responsibility for what happens in this world, for being leaders in the community, and for valuing diversity." She then presented each with a desktop globe as a "reminder of the difference they have made in our world."

BANK PRESIDENT HONORED FOR HOUSING PROGRAM

Standard Federal Bank Chairman and President David Mackiewicz traveled to Washington, D.C., recently to accept the 1996 Community Partnership Housing Award from the Federal Housing Finance

Board. The award honors Standard Federal, Mackiewicz and the Illinois League of Financial Institutions, headed by president Dennis Montgomery, for their leadership in creating a partnership that has helped hundreds of low-income Illinois families become homeowners.

The program was one of only two dozen partnerships around the country chosen for this award; Standard was the only financial institution from the Chicago area to be recognized. Under the program, Standard and other lenders provided first mortgages and grants of up to \$2,000 per family for down payment and closing costs for low-income home buyers. Standard worked with local nonprofit organizations to qualify low-income residents for home ownership and to provide pre-purchase counseling. The origin grant of \$300,000 was used to help more than 150 families in 1994. The pilot program was so effective that it has been continued as fullscale program and has served as model for similar programs throughout the country.

This is the second year the Community Partnership Housing Award has been given, says Charles M. Hill Jr., executive vice president/community investment officer for the Federal Home Loan Bank. "We started the awards because we wanted to recognize those members who have been leaders and innovators in creating experimental programs."

According to Hill, the program Standard Federal and the Illinois League helped develop is the first of its kind in the country, in that it allows low-income buyers to use the funds anywhere in the state of Illinois.

This year about \$1 million will be awarded in grants through the program. To be eligible, families must meet income requirements. For more information about the program, call George Cvack, Standard Federal's vice president/community reinvestment officer, at 630-986-7131.

SMALL VERSUS BIG

Contacting all the 50 State Nurses Associations in the US has been adventurous. Many responded, I met many colleagues via fax and telephone. Since the libraries at the Continuing Education Center for Nursing in Vilnius, the newly opened (Sept. 1996) Center for Nursing Studies at the Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius University and the Medical Library in Vilnius have been supplied with needed books, journals, films, videos, audio cassettes, research papers, we can be selective. We no longer send any books published before 1990.

With the help of the American Nurses Association, who celebrated their Centennial this past summer, Nursing programs on the Internet will be available. We still have to integrate the existing Network with the Network at the International Nursing Center. This will be done in the near future. Funding has to be found for the integration.

During this adventure I received a phone call from a Nursing colleague, Barbara Lohse, R.N. in Fairmont, Minnesota. She learned of our organization from their State publication where my letter had been printed. She was asking if Lithuanian Mercy Lift could send some books and medical supplies to Panevėžys? Previously they have been sending medical supplies and paying for it themselves. She and Maryfrances Crist, R.N. came to Chicago and delivered a van full of medical supplies worth 15,000 dollars directly to our warehouse. We met at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture where I felt their warm enthusiasm and their optimism working with the wonderful medical staffs at Panevėžys.

Why Small Versus Big? Fairmont, Minnesota is a small town with 10,000 residents and a small 74 bed hospital. Panevėžys is a city with 129,000 residents and a 1200 bed Panevėžys Republic Hospital. Where is Fairmont? In the SW corner

of Minnesota very close to Iowa and So. Dakota.

In 1990 a Medical Mission made a trip to the still then USSR. They went to: Russia, Byelarus and Lithuania. In Lithuania they visited hospitals in Vilnius, Kaunas and Panevėžys. Among the mission persons were Barbara Lohse, R.N. and Dr. Zemke, Family Practitioner and General Surgery physician. In 1991 they went back to Byelarus and Panevėžys with the intention of creating a working partnership. They were impressed with the Medical Staff at Panevėžys hospital and Dr. Zemke made the choice. Since then its been history.

No one in Fairmont is of Lithuanian background but there is one nine year old young lady who saved her allowance money and bought Lithuanian language cassettes and memorized every word. She just returned from a two month trip to Lithuania where her grandmother Barbara Lohse, R.N. was working with "Partners in Nursing" which she established. Five nurses from Fairmont accompanied Barbara who paid for their own traveling expenses. This is Barbara's fifth trip. She is so enthused with the established program and the exchange of nurses between Small Versus Big.

In 1994 So. Central Nurses Association paid for 3 nurses from Panevėžys to come to Fairmont. They lived with townfolk during their stay. Fifth District Nurses' members shared teaching in main interests: Nursing Education, Maternal Health and Administration.

Dr. Mackevičius, a Pediatric Anesthesiologist from Panevėžys just spent two months at the Fairmont Hospital.

My comparison Small Versus Big only exemplifies the satisfaction, the humanitarian emotion Small creates by achievement to Big. In return Small becomes Big and Big becomes Small. In essence its brother helping brother regardless of nationality or heritage.

By Frances Slutas



Standard Federal Bank President David Mackiewicz (third from left) accepts the Community Partnership Award

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