

# DRAUGAS

## THE FRIEND

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### After the First Round of Elections

Vilnius, Oct 22, BNS — Newly reported figures on the Lithuanian parliamentary electoral results indicate that the Conservative candidates are guaranteed first place and will have an impressive majority in the new parliament, perhaps even 80 mandates out of 141.

Conservative leaders Vytautas Landsbergis and Gediminas Vagnorius won absolute majorities in their single-mandate electoral districts.

Another 46 Conservatives will be the top candidates in the second round of balloting on November 10. In addition, the Conservatives have won 32 seats in parliament in the proportional multi-mandate part of the election, where votes are cast for parties rather than individuals.

Most of the Conservatives will be running in the second ballot against representatives of their closest allies — the Christian Democrats.

Meanwhile, the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party, which appears to have won about seven seats in the new parliament in proportional multiple-mandate voting, is satisfied with the results of the October 20th election and promises to be a constructive opposition in parliament.

The party's chairman and parliamentary deputy chairman in the out-going parliament Aloyzas Sakalas promised at a Tuesday press conference that the Social Democratic faction would not hinder Conservative board Chairman Gediminas Vagnorius, whose party is leading in electoral returns, from becoming prime minister. In addition, the Social Democrats doubt whether it would be possible to prevent Vagnorius's appointment, since they are convinced that the Conservatives, together with the Christian Democrats and, if necessary, the Centrist Union, will form an absolute majority.

The Social Democrats do not plan to collaborate with any specific party but to support decisions in line with their program. "Up until now, we have not formed a block either with the ruling Democratic Labor Party (LDDP) or with the Conservatives," Sakalas said.

The Social Democrats do not expect any major political

changes.

Sakalas believes that Lithuania's foreign policy will continue along its present course. In his view, the Conservatives will not revise the results of privatization or make any major changes in economic policy. "The support of wealthy people for policies must be retained," the Social Democratic chairman said. His party does not approve of plans to privatize the country's important strategic facilities.

Commenting on the electoral results, Sakalas said he was glad that the Social Democrats had confirmed their position as a political party. He is also satisfied that the numerous new parties, founded before the elections, did not make a good showing. "I hope that these results will cool off the desire of many of these 'eminent personalities' to found their own party," the Social Democratic leader said.

The Lithuanian Conservatives, leading in the parliamentary electoral returns, is prepared to form larger coalitions if it does not receive and absolute majority with its electoral allies, the Christian Democratic Party.

"Without a doubt, we believe that broader coalitions are possible, first and foremost, apparently, with the Centrist Union," said Conservative leader Vytautas Landsbergis at a press conference Monday. He also hopes that the representatives of right-wing parties, elected in the single-mandate districts, will join in a coalition with the Conservatives and Christian Democrats.

The undoubted candidate of the two parties for the post of prime minister, if they succeed in forming a majority in parliament, is the Conservative board chairman Gediminas Vagnorius, who headed the Lithuanian administration in 1991-92.

"Gediminas Vagnorius is our candidate for prime minister, and we hope that there will be no obstruction on the part of the president in this issue," Landsbergis announced. In accordance with the constitution, candidates for prime minister are proposed by the president.

The second round of parliamentary balloting will take place on November 10.



Poster-plastered stand in Vilnius before the parliamentary elections.

### Violations of Secret Balloting Did Occur

Vilnius, Oct 22, BNS — Parliamentary elections in Lithuania took place in accordance with international democratic standards, but there was concern about violations which arose due to lack of funding, state experts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

A report by the group of experts circulated Tuesday indicated that voters often were forced to vote openly, thus violating the right to privacy stipulated by the electoral law.

"This practice creates conditions for pressure to be exerted on voters and for voters to be manipulated," the OSCE observers report stressed.

The requirements for the right to privacy in voting had been violated, because in many electoral districts there were not enough voting booths. The OSCE observers explained this with insufficient funding for districts' voting equipment allocated by the government.

The OSCE experts, headed by professor Franko Aarebroto, observed the electoral campaign and balloting in Lithuania from October 9-20.

The group of experts will soon submit to the OSCE's permanent council and Lithuanian governmental institutions a detailed report on the elections and recommendations as to how the violations can be eliminated.

### Elections in the "Polish" District Were Invalid

Vilnius, Oct 21, BNS — Preliminary results of voter turnout in four polling districts in Southeast Lithuania showed that elections to the Seimas here probably did not take place.

Constituencies of Širvintos — Vilnius, Vilnius-Šalčininkai, Vilnius-Trakai cover districts with many Polish residents. In these constituencies, their candidacies among others had presented leaders of Electoral Action of the Lithuanian Polish Jan Senkevicius and PM Gabriel Jan Mincevicius.

Turnout in these four so called "Polish" electoral districts was low and did not get to 40 proc. In this case, elections are considered invalid in single-mandate districts.

According to the Law of General Elections, balloting in these constituencies will be repeated no later than in six months, starting with registration of candidates.

In each of the "Polish" electoral districts, voters had to choose from 10 to 13 representatives of political parties and independent candidates. Candidates to the districts among others were the Lithuanian Democratic Labour Party and current Parliament members: Seimas vice-chairman Juozas Bernatoniš and Leonas Alesionka, Conservative MPs Nijolė Ambrazaitytė and Juozas Dringelis, a member of Christian Democratic Union and MP Kęstutis Jeskelevičius.

### Unemployment in Tauragė District

Vilnius, Oct. 14 (ELTA) — Number of unemployed registered at Lithuanian Labour Exchange is constantly shrinking since April 1996, however, it is higher as compared to the same period of the last year.

In September, the number of unemployed in Lithuania was 2.1 percent — lower as compared to September 1995. During nine months of this year total amount of unemployed grew by 23.7 percent, as compared to the same period of the last year. Lithuanian Statistics Department informed ELTA.

In September unemployment stood at 6.4 percent of total Lithuanian work force. It was 6.3 percent in September 1995. The highest unemployment in September was registered in Tauragė (10.9%), Alytus (8.6%) and Vilnius (12.2%) districts. Lowest unemployment was in Kaunas and Marijampolė districts (4.9% each).

Women made 55.4 percent of the total number of unemployed in Lithuania.

### A Document Strengthening Security

Statement By Vytautas Landsbergis, Chairman of the Homeland Union (Lithuanian Conservatives) concerning U.S. Congress Resolution No. 51.

Resolution No. 51 was unanimously passed on September 26, 1996 by the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress and has also been subsequently approved by the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. The main propositions of the Resolution pertain to the security of the Baltic States and the future of the Kaliningrad region. The Resolution points to the great damage inflicted upon the ecology of the region by its militarization after World War II, and proposes a further reduction of Russian troops there, as well as development of the region, for the benefit of its people as a free economic zone — a bridge between Europe and Russia. In all likelihood, Lithuania

and Poland are being attributed to Europe. The liberty and future welfare of Lithuania and other Baltic States are linked in the Resolution with the development of Kaliningrad as a free economic zone. Thus, the militarization of this area would be assessed negatively regarding the security concerns of its neighbors as well.

The right of the Baltic States to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which is underscored by Resolution No. 51, would seem a quite natural matter if not the current political ecology — the pollution of international atmosphere by all kinds of threats. Therefore, the U.S. Congress resolution stressing the fact that the sovereign Baltic States are really sovereign in conducting their foreign policy, is not merely a document strengthening their security, but also one that characterizes the strangeness of the present times.

### The who and what of Seimas Elections

On October 20, the first round of Seimas elections took place and it will be the last for the parties competing in multi-mandate elections system because, according to the Seimas elections law, elections are considered valid if more than one fourth of electorate took part in the elections. The elections will be held in accordance with the Law on elections basically amended on June 27, 1996. The most essential are the amendments of the 88th and 89th Articles of the Law.

According to the amendment of the Article 89, a system of polling of candidates to the Seimas and setting the final order of the lists will be introduced. According to the amendment of Article 88, elections barrier to the parties has been raised from 4 to 5 percent, and for coalitions — up to 7 percent.

Time of elections — is not only the period of hard work, programs and coordination of actions but also time for political intuition, understanding and forecasts. Majority of parties are optimistic about their chances.

### Who Claims to Occupy 141 MP Seats?

1,351 candidates claim to be members of the Seimas, 1,072 men and 279 women among them. Average age of the candidates is — 47.9 years old, 48.5 of men and 46.1 of women. The oldest candidate to the Seimas K. Eriugis is 75, the youngest are K. Petrikonis and V. Verbickas who was born in 1971.

Representatives of 11 nationalities claim to be members of the new Seimas. Among them — 1239 Lithuanians, 45 Poles and Russians, 6 Byelorussians, 4 Tatars and Ukrainians, 3 Jews, 2 Armenians, 1 Gypsy, 1 Greek and 1 Latvian, 1112 candidates have University education, 19 — not finished University education, 168 — higher, 52 — secondary education. Among the candidates — 29 professors, 71 assistant professors, 1 habilitated doctor, 2 masters of Science, 8 senior scientific workers, one senior teacher, one deserved actor, 58 candidates were previously elected to the Supreme Council of Lithuania, 98 candidates — to the Lithuanian Seimas.

### Lithuanian Parliament Approves One More Referendum

On October 9 the Lithuanian parliament approved an additional issue to be voted upon during the second round of parliamentary elections on November 10. 39 MPs of the ruling Democratic Labor Party (LDDP) faction voted to put up the issue of an amendment of article 47 of the constitution for a referendum, despite the protests of the few oppositional MPs present. Lithuanian citizens will vote on the issue of whether "Lithuanian corporations should have the right to purchase agricultural land in accordance with procedures and conditions established by legislation." The opposition criticized the LDDP for this initiative,

stating that the "agriculturalists" wanted to create conditions to allow cooperatives to purchase land, LDDP faction MP and chairman of the agrarian committee Mykolas Pronckus, presenting the draft referendum, stated that unless this amendment to article 47 was made, the real estate market would not function, since owners of land could sell property only to private individuals. This, according to Pronckus, limits the rights of land owners. In addition, Pronckus said that if article 47 were not amended, the law on mortgages would be inoperative, since if an owner of land mortgaged his property to a bank and did not pay back his loan, the bank would be unable to claim the mortgage property. Democratic Party faction MP Valdas Petrauskas stated that this constitutional amendment would violate Lithuania's associate membership treaty with the European Union. According to Petrauskas, the amendment would give preference to Lithuanian corporations, since foreign corporations are unable to acquire agricultural land. Foreigners are allowed to acquire land only for buildings needed for manufacturing activity. This will be the third referendum issue to be voted upon during the first and second rounds of parliamentary elections on October 20 and November 10. The LDDP proposed a referendum on three articles of the constitution, and the Conservatives proposed a referendum on compensation for residents' deposits.

### Electoral Campaign Proceeding Without any Violations

The Lithuania's Supreme Electoral commission has not received a single complaint concerning violations of the law on elections in the first ten days since the beginning of the parliamentary electoral campaign on September 20.

"Maybe the phase of the month is not conducive for complaints," Supreme Electoral Commission assistant Nijolė Žemaitienė said. According to her, "the situation has never occurred before that we have not received any complaints by the campaign's midway point."

24 political parties have been registered for the parliamentary elections on October 20, along with 19 independent candidates. A referendum will be held at the same time as the first round of voting in the parliamentary elections.

At the initiative of the ruling Democratic Labor Party (LDDP), a referendum on amending three articles of the Constitution will be held. The issues are the reduction of the number of parliamentarians from 141 to 111, the holding of parliamentary elections every fourth year on the second Sunday in April and a constitutional confirmation that no less than half of the national budget will be allocated for social needs annually. Lithuanian citizens began voting by mail on October 8.

By Ž. Tarasevič and A. Kundrotas



Some of the winners in October 20th parliamentary elections. From left to right: prof. Vytautas Landsbergis of the Conservative Party, Rimantas Smetona of the Tautininkai Party, and Algirdas Saudargas of the Christian Democratic Party. Next to him is mons. Kazimieras Vasiliauskas, pastor of the Vilnius Cathedral.



## Lithuanians in Sports

### VILNIUS NATIVE MARCINKEVIČIŪTĖ IMPRESSIVE IN NCAA CROSS COUNTRY ACTION

Jurga Marcinkevičiūtė, a native of Vilnius, Lithuania, has become an integral member of the Villanova University cross country team in 1996, posting consecutive top 10 finishes in both the Wildcats' meets so far this season. Marcinkevičiūtė joined the Pennsylvania (USA) school last season after transferring from Vilnius University.

At the Iona Invitational on Sept. 28, 1996, Marcinkevičiūtė finished sixth overall, running a time of 18:31 on the New York, N.Y., course. Her race was the fourth-best performance by a Villanova runner of the day. The 21-year-old sophomore followed that race with an eighth-place effort two weeks later at the Walt Disney Cross Country Classic, recording a time of 17:38.34 on the 5,000-meter course.

Marcinkevičiūtė helped power the Wildcats to two team titles in both competitions. Head coach John Marshall's squad scored 23 points at the Iona Invitational, 30 points better than second-place Coastal Carolina. On Oct. 5, 1996, the Wildcats registered 29 points, outdistancing 11 other squads in a meet

that featured over 850 competitors.

Marcinkevičiūtė has become an impressive performer on a Villanova squad that is rich in tradition. The Wildcats won an unprecedented six-straight NCAA Championships from 1989-94, and placed third at the national competition last season. Villanova has become synonymous with cross country excellence, as the program attracts only top-notch athletes, both nationally and internationally. Marcinkevičiūtė is a perfect example of this tradition.

In addition to cross country competition, Marcinkevičiūtė was a standout on the Villanova track and field squad last spring. She served as anchor of the Wildcats' distance medley relay team that competed at the prestigious Penn Relays, and finished fifth in the 1500-meter run at the Big East Championships. The Lithuanian product also qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 800-meter run in her first season of intercollegiate competition.

The daughter of Vytas and Marytė, Marcinkevičiūtė is a chemical engineering major at Villanova.



David Phillips

### GO BLAZERS! GO DAVID!

David Phillips has the basketball fever, common to many Lithuanian youths, adults and even children, although only David's mother is Lithuanian (Kristina Mažeikaite). David lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan, is 10 years old, a 5'5" tall, attends fifth grade and probably doesn't know a lot about Lithuanians, can barely say "ačiū labai" or another short phrase, but he knows about Lithuanians in basketball, and he knows about Arvydas Sabonis. David also plays a basketball with the "Lakers" under the direction of coach Wayne Stefanich — his number is 43.

This past summer David won a medal for the Olympic School project on his report about Arvydas Sabonis. The report was titled "Shooting for the Bronze — The Story of Arvydas Sabonis." David's paper was on display for the whole Lake Michigan Catholic Elementary School district (St. Joseph, MI)

to see. His fifth grade teacher Mrs. Linda Fish wrote in her remarks. "Wow! What an outstanding project. I am so very impressed with all your details and your excellent workmanship."

David is very proud of his Lithuanian heritage — in part because Sabonis, who plays for the "Portland Trail Blazers" is also Lithuanian. One wonders how many more youths these outstanding people like Šarūnas Marčiulionis, Arvydas Sabonis and many others inspire. We can only say, "Ačiū labai" and — Go, David!

### FOUR LITHUANIANS IN THE NBA

"Minnesota Timberwolves" recently signed one year contract with a former "Atletas" basketball player from Kaunas, Lithuania, Virginijus Paškevičius. He is the fourth Lithuanian basketball player in the NBA. The other three are:

Šarūnas Marčiulionis plays



Play ball! Children in the Lithuanian city of Utena practice an American past-time.

## UN CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

An African mayor once tried to 'improve' the town he governed by transporting 20,000 Zulu away to a desert island. The result was that war broke out — and 30,000 Zulu moved back to the same town.

Things do not always go according to plan in terms of municipal policy, as this story from the Habitat II conference shows. Other factors — local, social and economic — get in the way, although not always quite so drastically as in this example. In May and June, all these factors were thoroughly explored at Habitat II and a sub-regional colloquium in Warsaw.

Lithuania's contribution to the colloquium came from V. Miliauskas, a member of Vilnius city board, and R. Staskevičius, deputy head of the architecture and construction division. Together, they presented a report on 'The strategic planning process for territorial development in Vilnius under the new geo-political conditions'. This, like other reports, offered useful information on metropolitan and municipal governance. More importantly, they analysed what is being done to attract local and foreign capital, how to support private sector development, how to guarantee sustainable management, and how to draw up town budgets and plan investments.

The report on Tallinn city made a good impression, so some Lithuanian public servants may go to Tallinn to learn from their Estonian colleagues. Delegates felt that Vilnius municipality should address problems such as strategic planning, the city economy, organizational governing structures, personnel skills and employee training in a more professional way, with the help of experts and consultants.

A week later, the main event happened — the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul. The official Lithuanian delegation was headed by Ms. A. Baranauskienė, Minister of Construction, who was accompanied by Danas Ruseckas, chief architect of Vilnius and Dalia Bardauskienė, head of the territorial planning division of Vilnius City board. The latter two were

for the "Denver Nuggets" (eight season);

Arvydas Sabonis starts the second season with "Portland Trail Blazers";

Žydrūnas Ilgauskas, a newcomer in the "Cleveland Cavaliers" is another top player from "Atletas" in Kaunas. We might add that Ilgauskas is a very appropriate name for a basketball player, as the name is derived from "ilgas" — long.

funded by the Canadian Urban Institute, and on 3 June, presented their report as part of a Lithuanian-Canadian cooperation programme, along with a book called 'Vilnius Vision 2015'.

The main conclusion reached by delegates at Habitat II was that cities and towns will determine economic, social and cultural policy in the 21st century. Half the world's population will live in urban areas by the year 2000, and nearly two-thirds by 2025. This rapid growth is shown by the fact that at the beginning of the century there were just three 'megacities' of over 20-30 million residents. Now there are about 30 and by the year 2015 there should be around 250.

The goal in developing these urban areas is not to have town-museums, but livable towns with a sustainable environment. The issues are partly economic, since towns and cities are the main creators of GDP. But Habitat delegates concluded that economic development is closely related to human and social capital. The most effective social capital can be created by supporting decentralization, community development and social integration and by drawing attention to the value of communities.

A discussion organized by the UN Regional Development Centre gave a vision of the town of the future. In this vision, urban development should be internal, town and city centers should be revived, and their identity preserved. But there is no uniform ideology for urban development in the 21st century. Everything depends on regional requirements and a state's economic, political, cultural, social and geographic position.

Some states already think and live in the 21st century. For example, some have returned to widespread public transport in an effort to cut congestion and pollution. In Austria, there are some regions in towns where only bicycle transport is allowed.

The U.N. Bulletin, No. 10

### SMUGGLED ALCOHOL

Officials of Lithuanian State Security and the Prosecutor General's office in September have confiscated a record quantity of smuggled alcohol, arrested a suspected customs official, border guard and another three individuals.

According to press reports, it is hoped that this time a large criminal group, encompassing various governmental structures will be exposed.

Four lorries loaded with 118

thousand liters of smuggled alcohol were detained with their drivers in the region of Raseiniai. The shipment of alcohol, which according to documents was to be in transit through Lithuania to Russia, was followed surreptitiously by law-and-order officials from the port of Klaipėda to an unloading point in a forest in the Raseiniai region.

After leaving the freight in the woods, some of the smugglers left for the Saločiai customs station on the Latvian border where, after visiting the customs and border officials, notes were found in the registration journals that the alcohol had been shipped out of Lithuania.

A customs official and border policeman were arrested for forging documentation.

According to the newspaper "Lietuvos Rytas", this group of smugglers had been under observation for some time. It is believed that every month they had illegally imported about 900 tons of alcohol into Lithuania.

Prosecutors of the Prosecutor General's office who are investigating the case told daily "Lietuvos Rytas" that they have sufficient evidence and the officials arrested will be convicted.

The import and trade in smuggled alcohol, sold as vodka, is currently one of the most profitable illegal businesses in Lithuania. According to press reports, certain police officials are also involved in this business.

The alcohol smuggling business is not for Lithuanians only. Recently a Latvian citizen was arrested for smuggling alcohol.

In the Joniškis region, bordering Latvia, the Latvian citizen A. V. was arrested, illegally car-

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rying in his Volkswagen transporter 884 liters of alcohol. This was reported by the Lithuanian Ministry of Internal Affairs' information center.

### INFOBALT-96 COMPUTER TRADE FAIR

Vilnius, Oct 17, BNS — On October 22-25 at the Litexpo trade fair pavilion in Vilnius, the third international exhibition of computer technology, telecommunications and office supplies, Infobalt-96 took place. 134 Lithuanian and foreign firms from Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Germany and Finland participated at the exhibition.

In an area of 7044 square meters, computers, peripheral and programing equipment, data transmission, conventional and mobile telephone systems, radio and satellite communications equipment and a broad spectrum of office supplies and services was displayed.

The largest area of exhibition space has been rented by the rapidly developing Lithuanian Omnitel company (168 square meters) and by Mobilios Telekomunikacijos and Alna (136 square meters each).

Infobalt president Kestutis Naujokaitis said at a press conference Thursday that interest in this year's Infobalt exhibition had been particularly high. In stead of the planned 15 thousand invitations, 25 thousand had been printed and sent out.

For the first time this year, the German federal state of Thuringen is participating at the exhibition, represented by eight firms.

### WE ARE STILL HERE!

Last weekend (Saturday, October 19) Draugas — The Friend didn't appear and some people started to worry, that it ceased to exist. Not yet. Because we can not afford to hire extra personnel and some were on vacation the preparation and printing of this new weekly was interrupted. We will try to continue but it is very important to get more subscribers, otherwise the newborn will die an untimely death. Please tell your English speaking friends about Draugas — The Friend.

### SOME WELCOME WORDS

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the introduction of "Draugas" in an English language edition.

By offering an opportunity for the many Lithuanian Americans and Canadians who find it easier to read in English, this new edition of "Draugas" will be a valuable asset to the preservation of our Lithuanian identity in North America.

The Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (ŠALFASS), with a membership of over 800 athletes of Lithuanian descent, recognizes that it is possible to retain our heritage in both Lithuanian and English.

In the future, I plan to be not only a faithful reader, but an active contributor to the English edition of "Draugas".

**Audrius Šileika**  
President  
Lithuanian Athletic Union of North America (ŠALFASS)

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# JOINT DECLARATION OF BALTIC AMERICANS ORGANIZATIONS

Americans of Baltic descent are deeply concerned that the Administration has publicly declared Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania "not yet ready" for NATO membership. Singling the Balts out openly at a time when the readiness of other prospects may still be in question, has already sent a signal to Russia that the Balts may be excluded from NATO in the foreseeable future. It appears to the Americans of Baltic descent and their other American supporters that the Administration has no clear policy on Baltic security and seems unable to devise one in the face of Russian pressure.

Even though softened after causing heightened security concerns in the Baltic countries, the statement was reiterated in Bergen in the presence of the Russian Defense Minister. Moscow immediately expressed its approval. Why? Because Moscow seeks to reassert its influence, if not control, of the region. It is totally unacceptable to us if the Administration leans toward abandoning U.S. influence in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. As expressed in the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, Congress has provided a clear statement of what U.S. policy should be towards the region, i.e. that the Balts have legitimate security concerns which must be addressed, and that the U.S. should not discriminate against the Balts in joining NATO just because they were once occupied by the Soviet Union.

We feel that scattered Administration reassurances are not strong enough to erase concerns that an openly expressed "not yet ready" may signal relegation of the Baltics to a "grey zone," tantamount to being in the Russian sphere of influence. To the Balts, Russia remains a volatile and hostile neighbor. We do not see the emergence of a democratic Russia in the near future in the face of constant anti-Baltic verbal threats.

We find it offensive that a "high U.S. official" would repeat false Russian propaganda about discrimination of ethnic Russians in Estonia and Latvia. Oddly, on the same day in Tallinn, OSCE Ambassador

Herbert Grubmayr stated that there is no human rights discrimination in Estonia. This only reiterated dozens of international reports and official Western statements, including those of the U.S. Department of State, that there are no human rights violations in the Baltic countries. We are deeply concerned about human rights violations anywhere, including those on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Let us state our joint position very clearly: 1) The U.S. must support publicly early NATO membership for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, since it is the best long-term guarantor of Baltic security; and 2) the United States should be an active participant in any interim guarantees prior to NATO membership.

The Stuttgart speech by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, giving Russia priority in negotiations with NATO, may give Russia explicit or implicit veto power over NATO membership. The subsequent "not yet" by Defense Secretary William Perry may serve as a vehicle to exclude the Balts from NATO. Thus, the twin Administration statements that "the first will not be the last" and "the door will remain open" can lose their credibility. We will take the Administration at its word when it has stated that "no deals" will be made with Russia on the Baltics. We remember 1939 only too clearly.

Americans of Baltic descent are ready to assist the Administration in fostering credible security for the Baltics countries. The "U.S. — Baltic Action Plan" is a start, but it needs teeth and substance to guarantee interim security that will pave the way for NATO membership.

In the meantime, we ask the Administration to issue an unambiguous public statement in support of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; first, to rebuff the constant Russian verbal threats against the Baltics; and second, to declare strong support for Baltic security, independence, territorial integrity and eventual NATO membership. These words should then be translated into action to help the Baltics on their way to NATO.



Invited by the U.S. Baltic Foundation, four officials from various city of Lithuania had an opportunity to enrich their knowledge of governing and visit different municipalities. The program is supported by the Martin Gruss Foundation. From left to right: Dr. David Ambroski, Alfredas Jonuška (Šiauliai), Audronė Pakštytė, Leokadija Janušauskienė (Vilnius), Kęstutis Jasiulevičius (Lazdijai), Pranas Alsys (Anykščiai) and Linas Kojelis.

This document was under-

signed by: The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc., The Estonian American National Council, Inc., The Estonian World Council, Inc., The American Latvian Association, Inc., The Lithuanian American Community, Inc., The U.S. Baltic Foundation.

**Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. calls on President Clinton to designate Lithuania as ready for additional assistance.**

On the evening of October 21, 1996 the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. along with other Baltic-American organizations sent a request to President Clinton urging him to designate Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia as eligible to receive additional United States assistance to help them qualify more quickly for NATO membership.

The call for designation comes out of discussions between the organizations and representatives of the Clinton Administration on Friday, October 18, 1996 in Washington, D.C. The discussions had called on United States support for the security of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as well as the tangible evidence of that support contained in the Administration's Baltic Action Plan.

Regina Narušis, J.D., President of the Lithuanian-American Community, Inc. presented the concerns of her members, "It

## ADDRESS BALTIC SECURITY WITH YOUR CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES BEFORE THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

### Take Action

1. Have you registered to vote for the November elections?
2. Call your candidates for Congressperson and Senator today.
3. Let them know your opinions regarding Baltic security.
4. Ask them their position on the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the Baltic countries.

is our hope that the Baltic Action Plan is actually a Baltic NATO Plan, but that can only be determined by the elements of the working document. We have given the Clinton Administration a list of specific programs which we believe the plan should encompass."

The Baltic Action Plan is the Administration's new initiative to deepen United States relations with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, as well as demonstration of the Administration's confidence that the three countries can qualify for NATO membership. Mrs. Narušis added, "By designating the countries as eligible to receive additional assistance to qualify for NATO membership, the President can prove his commitment to the security of the Baltic states."

### Know the Facts

1. On September 27, in Bergen, Norway, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry made a statement that the Baltics are not yet ready for NATO membership. In a press conference, Mr. Perry told reporters that a critical criteria for NATO membership is "the ability to come to the defense and assist all the other members of the alliance if they come under attack. The Baltic nations do not have that kind of capability yet, but they are working very hard to get it," he said.

2. Also in Norway, Igor Rodionov, Russia's Defense Minister, said his government opposes NATO's plans to expand into Eastern Europe, calling it a violation of the force limits in the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty.

3. The Presidents of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania issued a Joint Declaration, stating, "We seek the clearest statements possible about the security of the Baltic states." They said they intend to launch an intensified diplomatic effort to strengthen Baltic security. (JBANC)

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## Danutė Bindokienė The Election Year

A very important event took place in Lithuania on October 20th — parliamentary elections. This was only the second time since declaration of Independence in 1990 that Lithuanians had a chance to participate in free democratic voting process and elect the Seimas (Parliament) for the next four year term.

The results show that this Baltic nation finally shook off the last remains of Soviet occupation by casting the majority of votes for people not in any way connected with the former communists. Four years ago the story was quite different — almost all key government positions were given back to the same people who were in similar offices during the occupation years. The Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (Lietuvos Demokratinė Darbo Partija — LDDP) made up the ruling majority in Seimas, President Algirdas Brazauskas, as well as all the ministers, were also members of LDDP.

The first steps toward democracy after five decades of totalitarian rule are hard work for any society, but this progress in Lithuania was greatly hindered by one-party rule, who's main concerns were selfish, disregarding the welfare of the country and its people. However, things changed with the October 20th parliamentary elections. Even though this process will be in part repeated on November 10th, it is clear that the LDDP is not omnipotent anymore. The majority of votes were gathered by the Conservatives (close to 30%) with the Christian Democratic Party second, the LDDP at present pushed to the third place. The one candidate who outshone the rest by a very large percentage was prof. Vytautas Landsbergis, leader of the opposition in Seimas.

His name became familiar to the Western world from about 1988 when news of freedom stirrings in Lithuania and later — Sajūdis — reached through the Iron Curtain. Although Landsbergis abroad is regarded as the first President of Lithuania after restoration of Independence in 1990, Lithuania itself calls him by a name of lesser importance. Of course this had a lot to do the ruling party's wishes.

The recent victory of Landsbergis was widely acknowledged by American media, at the same time expressing old concerns that he again might "rock the boat" by taking a tough stand with the Russians as he was known to do with Gorbachev and later with Boris Yeltsin. It is said that Landsbergis so infuriated Gorbachev with his demands for freedom and his strong opinions, that the later refused even to call him by name, referring only as "that musician." As most of us know, V. Landsbergis is a reknown pianist and professor of music.

Lithuanian, as well as the other two Baltic states — Latvia and Estonia — is desperately seeking NATO membership as the only possible way to preserve the hard-won independence in the face of constant threats and insinuations from Moscow that Balts belong to Russia and it was a great mistake to let them slip away.

Though all present NATO members tentatively agree that some East European nations might be ready to enter into the Alliance, the Baltic Republics are not among them. As far as the Clinton Administration is concerned, they will never become eligible unless Kremlin will agree to say that they are. What is the main reason Russia is so reluctant to let the Baltics into NATO? Officially — because this would somehow endanger the Russian borders, especially in the case of Lithuania, as this country is geographically closest to Russia. Probably not even a little child would accept this explanation...

The Presidential election date is drawing ever closer, therefore, Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians in the United States believe the time to be very suited to present their case to the candidates and ask how they feel about NATO membership for the Baltics. It is believed, that both Bob Dole and Bill Clinton at this time tend to listen more openly to all requests by U.S. citizens. Although the efforts at present have not produced more tangible results, some small steps in the right direction were already taken.

Election year is like a fresh breeze blowing across the land. Who can tell what changes it will bring?

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

Yet the priest was in no hurry to offer help; instead, he gave him a long harangue, outlining various bureaucratic requirements that a parishioner had to meet in order to qualify for assistance. In the end, he washed his hands of the matter altogether by sending Antanas to the parish committee. However, relief from St. Casimir's never came through, and the Navikevičius's were left to their own devices.

For a while, they were forced to buy groceries and other daily essentials on credit, pledging to pay for their purchases in better times. However, Lithuanian storekeepers — Wertinsky, Juškevičius-Miller, and Paplauskas, among others, who never turned down customers in dire need — were always happy to help the Navikevičius family.

Aukštaitė's journalistic and literary career in Canada was launched rather unexpectedly when on a late summer day, Jonas Tyšliava, the editor of *Vienybė*, knocked on the Navikevičius's door. Initially, Tyšliava's offer to collaborate with his paper, then published in Brooklyn, New York, was received by Aukštaitė without much enthusiasm. After the disappointing experience with the editors of *Darbininkas*, she became more hesitant when periodicals approached her for contributions.

Before long, however, she succumbed to Tyšliava's persistent requests and, under the spell of this imposing personality and erudition, agreed to show him some of her work. By then she had accumulated a considerable

number of poems and short stories written both in Lithuania and in Canada. Although experienced for years as a writer, Aukštaitė viewed her own work very critically, realizing many imperfections of her style. As she admitted: "My writing still needs a good deal of polishing" (1988:117). Despite a few obvious shortcomings, Tyšliava was most favorably impressed and saw great potential in her writing. He immediately accepted for publication her short story *Black Wreaths (Juodi vainikai)* and offered Aukštaitė a permanent position as a Montreal columnist for *Vienybė*. Moreover, the flamboyant editor suggested that their new employee drop the pseudonym *Nemuno Vilnis* and assume a more literary sounding pen-name; in his view, *Marija Aukštaitė* was a good choice, for it alluded to Julija Žemaitė, a nineteenth-century Lithuanian literary classic. Shortly, a "baptism" took place, and a new name appeared in Montreal's Lithuanian community.

When Tyšliava approached Aukštaitė, he did not envision *Vienybė's* forthcoming success. As the newspaper's subscription increased, Aukštaitė was inundated with letters from readers extending to her their words of gratitude and congratulations. Aukštaitė's courage in exposing the gravest problems of the community, her insightful coverage of relevant community issues in her highly accessible journalistic style, as well as her religious sentiments and compassion struck a chord not only with the Montreal readership, but with Lithuanians throughout North America. Her articles, as well as poetry and prose, began to appear regularly in such Lithuanian emigre periodicals as *Amerikos Lietuvis (Lithuanian-American)*, *Lietuva (Lithuania)*, and *Moteris ir Pasaulis (The Woman and the World)*, among many others.

Aukštaitė's success was soon noticed by *Darbininkas* whose editors and financial supporters, mostly priests, went out of their way to sway the promising journalist

to their side, offering her generous pay, in addition to various privileges. Further, they argued that "Vienybė is a godless paper and no Catholic girl should get mixed up with it" (Aukštaitė 1988:129). Yet the popularity of the *Vienybė* weekly was steadily growing. So, too, was the flow of correspondence addressed to Aukštaitė. However, letters became increasingly common wherein community members expressed their indignation at Father Bobinas's high-handed behaviour, as well as their discontent with the divisiveness of the Lithuanian community which was manifest primarily in all-pervasive mutual distrust and resentment.

In addition to dealing with daily problems such as the critical situation of Lithuanian schools, financial misunderstandings, and endless legal wrangles, it was apparent that new methods were needed to reunite the community and to rekindle its spirit. Having assessed the situation Aukštaitė approached Lithuanian diplomatic officials for guidance. As a result of her efforts, a council was convened in Montreal, whose members included the Lithuanian consular general in Toronto, G.L.P. Grant-Suttie, the consul in New York City, Jonas Budrys, and a number of prominent community representatives. Although the highly-esteemed guests listened sympathetically to the problems of their compatriots, they were unable to offer any concrete assistance or sound advice. It became clear that it was entirely up to the community to pull itself out of the crisis. Hopeful and undaunted, Aukštaitė wrote: "With unity and patience, we'll find a way out of this darkness" (Aukštaitė 1988:136).

Eventually, some of the most critical problems that plagued the community were successfully resolved. Father Bobinas busied himself with the construction of a new parish office, while more active community members, under Aukštaitė's leadership, were trying to muster enthusiasm and resources for the establishment

of the Montreal chapter of the Vilnius Liberation League (VLL). Its objective, as summarized by Aukštaitė (1988:138), was "to speak out for the torn out heart of Lithuania — Polish-occupied Vilnius."

The Montreal chapter of the VLL, whose headquarters were located at Aukštaitė's residence, had a cultural and educational agenda, with its principal goals being to popularize the history of the Vilnius region and Lithuanian cultural heritage in general, as well as to spread literacy and learning. "Drawing on our heritage, this organization provided the community with a better defined cultural identity" (Aukštaitė 1988:143; see also 1990:217).

In February of 1938, the VLL organized the celebrations of the twentieth anniversary of Lithuanian independence. Among those present at the ceremony were Father Bobinas and Tyšliava, whose speeches were received by the audience with approval and enthusiasm. The official part of the festivities was followed by a premiere of Aukštaitė's new play, *Motherland Traitor (Tėvynės išdavikas)*.

Not surprisingly, the popularity of the VLL caused a great deal of spite in various leftist organizations. Vilnius Liberators were accused of subversive activities, their pacifist, "elitist" approach, as well as excessive preoccupation with issues pertaining to culture and education, were also harshly criticized (see Aukštaitė 1990:206). It was Aukštaitė's unshakable belief, however, that the strength of a nation was reflected primarily in the richness of its language and culture. Moreover, she underscored, any culture with all its constituent elements should be continuously nurtured and reinforced, for it cannot "exist on its own". The responsibility for this reinforcement lies primarily with the educated. To quote Aukštaitė (1990:271):

To be continued



## LITHUANIA'S TWILIGHT PERIOD: MARCH 1939 — JUNE 1940

By ALLAN H. DOMBRA

### Hitler's Scheme For Lithuania

Hitler's "diplomatic means" were a mixture of lies, coercions, calculated friendliness, show of force, and threat of terror. These "diplomatic means" succeeded, so far, to reoccupy the Rhineland, to annex Austria, to occupy Sudetenland, to annihilate the Czechoslovak state, and to extort an agreement from the Lithuanian government for the incorporation of the Klaipėda territory into the Reich, without a single shot being fired in anger. After the annexation of Klaipėda, March 23, 1939, Hitler turned volte-face, becoming very friendly to Lithuania.

Hitler was now preparing the stage to trap his next victim — Poland. In his scheme of things, Lithuania became an important *raison de plus* towards this objective. He made an offer to assist the Lithuanian liberation of the old capital, Vilnius, in return for joining in an attack on Poland, if necessary. The offer was sweetened with a commercial treaty which opened the door to a huge German market for Lithuanian goods, a free harbor zone in Klaipėda for Lithuanian shipping, and an invitation to General Raštikis, and others, to visit him in Berlin for a friendly chat.

Hitler's Machiavellian powers, however, failed him this time. Lithuania declined the offer to liberate Vilnius, and remained steadfast in its determination to stay neutral. Poland showed no sign of yielding to the German pressure, various staged provocations, and turmoil in Danzig, England and France reiterated their pledges to support Poland. The Pact of Steel fell apart with Japan's unwillingness to join, and Mussolini's late announcement that, regardless of his earlier bragadoccio, Italy will stay neutral. Italy's neutrality at first was kept secret at Hitler's request, so that substantial British and French forces would be diverted to the Mediterranean; Mussolini's son-in-law, Count Ciano, however, disclosed the secret by

a calculated indiscretion). Most important, Stalin's true intentions were far from clear, while the marathon negotiations with the British and French dragged on through most of the summer of 1939.

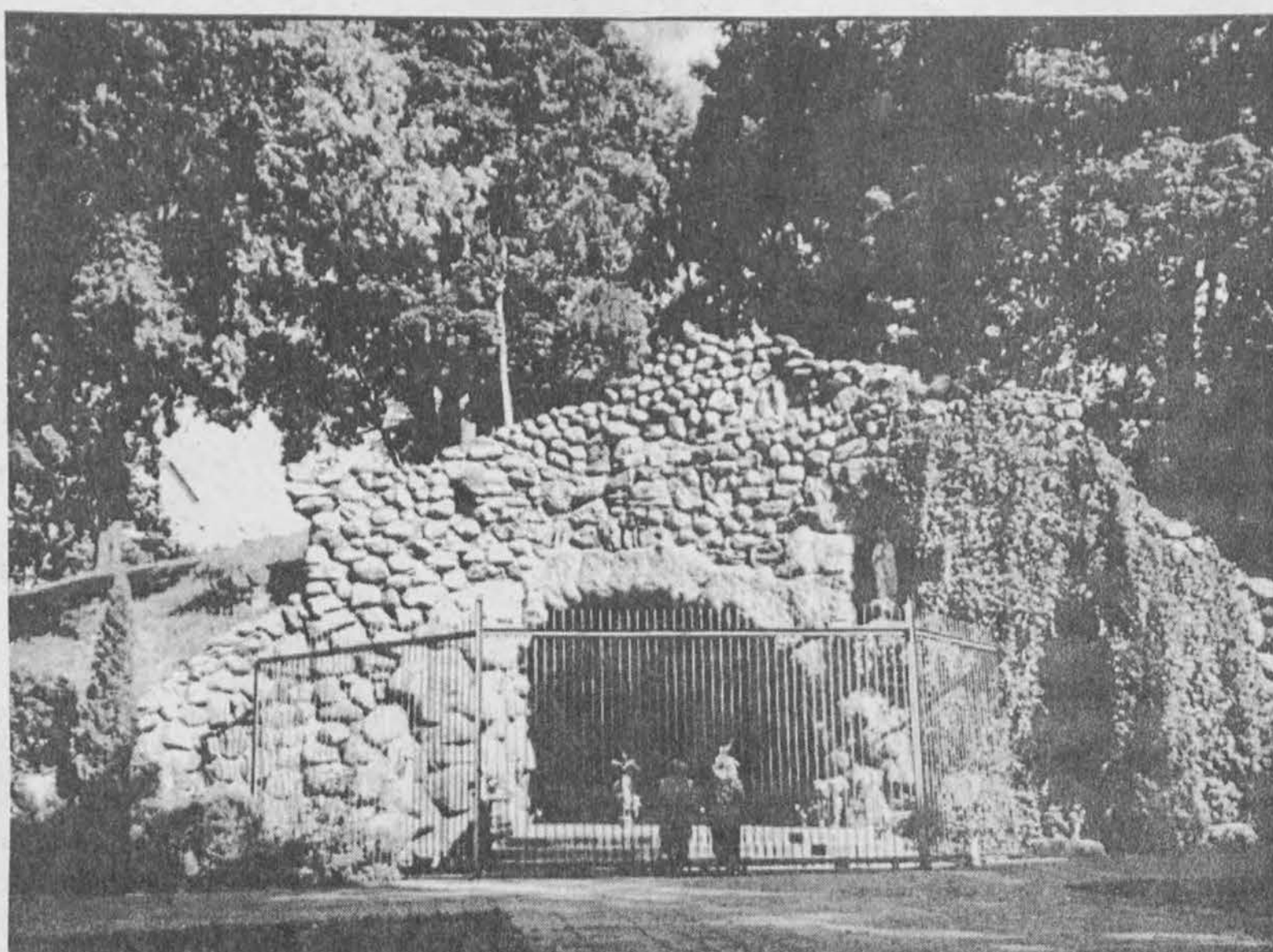
The furious Fuhrer was now determined to attack Poland, still believing that the British and French would not intervene, and accept the occupation of Poland as a fait accompli, as graciously as they could.

### The Stage Is Set For The Start Of The War

Hitler's top-secret directives from July onwards called for the invasion of Poland on August 25, later reset to September 1. On the diplomatic front, the only alternative left was to neutralize the Soviet Union with an invitation to share in the partitioning of Eastern Europe, from the Baltic to the Black Sea. Hitler was now in a hurry as the military regarded August 25 as the latest date for an attack on Poland before the mid-September rains would mar the blitzkrieg. Stalin, however, knew about Hitler's timetable from reports of his moles and could wait to see if the British had something better to offer as well as to keep Hitler in suspense.

The last meeting with the British and French delegation, August 21, led nowhere and adjourned sine die. From the Soviet point of view, the British-and-French offer presented a likelihood of getting involved in a bloody war with Germany, for which the Soviet Union received nothing in return, not even the tiniest of the Baltic States. The Germans, on the other hand, made a concrete proposal to expand the Soviet influence to a large part of Eastern Europe with a good prospect to stand aside and watch the war between the western democracies and Germany, without risk and without cost.

On August 19, Vyacheslav Molotov outlined the Soviet requirements to the German Ambassador, Friedrich von Schu-



The Grotto of Lourdes in Ketinga.

Photo by Valerija Žadeikienė

lenburg. Molotov insisted that the Soviet-German trade agreement (which had been dragging for several months) must be signed as soon as possible, before proceeding with other negotiations. He was not particularly concerned with the Non-Aggression Pact, suggesting that the Soviet pacts with Poland or the Baltic States (i.e., the usual diplomatic stuff) could be used as a model. Molotov was interested mainly in a "special protocol defining the interests of the contracting parties", that is, the partitioning of Eastern Europe into The German and Soviet spheres of interest.

The German Foreign Minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, arrived in Moscow on August 23, and one hour after arrival was shaking hands with Stalin in the Kremlin. The trade treaty was already signed, at two o'clock in the morning of August 20. Ribbentrop brought with him a Soviet-style draft of the Pact with a preamble that he prepared saying nice words about the new Soviet-German cooperation. Stalin was not interested in the Pact, but he did not like Ribbentrop's preamble. Who would believe this "after six years of pouring buckets of filth over each other's heads", said Stalin.

Stalin was interested only in the secret protocol. He objected against the proposed partition of Latvia along the Daugava river, and wanted all of Latvia. On receiving Ribbentrop's telegraph about Stalin's objection, Hitler agreed to give all of Latvia to the Soviets, sending a reply with a single word "Ja". Bessarabia was also assigned to the Soviet sphere of interest.

By the Non-Aggression Pact signed late at night on August 23, and the accompanying secret protocol, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Bessarabia were declared to be within the Soviet sphere of influence and Poland was partitioned along the rivers Narev, Vistula and San. Germany retained Lithuania, enlarged by the inclusion of Vilnius.

This pact, known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, set the stage for the German attack on Poland, consequent declaration of war by Britain and France, and the start of World War II.

The German troops crossed the Polish border at 4:40 a.m., Friday, September 1. Attack on Poland by the Soviet Union followed on September 17.

After the conquest of Poland, a second secret protocol — signed in Moscow by Ribbentrop and Molotov on September 28 — moved Poland's partition line eastwards from the Vistula line to the line of Bug. Germany renounced its interest in Lithuania, except for a small Užnėmu-

nė region in the south-west corner of Lithuania.

### June 15, 1940: Lithuania's Independence Extinguished For 50 Years

The Baltic Sea was already a "German lake" before the war. As the war started, the Baltic States were completely isolated from Britain and France. In September 1939-1940, Germany adhered closely to the clauses of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, and made no attempt to undermine the Soviet activities in Finland, Bessarabia and the Baltic region. The economic impact of the war outside the Baltic borders in 1939 and 1940 was not great as new trade treaties with Germany compensated for most of the lost Western trade.

The Baltic governments knew from various political signals that they were given into the custody of the Soviet Union. They adopted a docile policy towards the Soviet Union, as it became apparent that nobody would assist them in the case of a conflict with the Soviets. They also knew that the Baltic States were not prepared psychologically and defensively to wage a war alone with the Soviet Union, as the Finns did for 104 days, November 30, 1939 to March 13, 1940.

The Soviets first concluded Defense and Mutual Assistance Pacts with the Baltic States, which were forced to establish Soviet military and naval bases on their territories. Molotov invited the Estonian Foreign Minister, Karl Selter, to come to Moscow on September 28. Ribbentrop was also in Moscow on the same day to sign the second Pact which transferred Lithuania from the German to the Soviet sphere of influence. While the German party went to see the performance of Swan Lake in the Bolshoi theatre, Molotov went back to negotiate with Selter. An argument ensued as Selter protested that the proposed Soviet garrison of 35,000 would outnumber the entire Estonian army (16,000) whole Molotov threatened to find other means to put the Soviet garrison in Estonia. At that point, Stalin walked into the room and reproved his Foreign Minister, "Come, come, Molotov, you are being rather harsh on our friends". Stalin suggested to limit the garrison to a maximum of 25,000, impressing the Estonians with his understanding. The Estonian-Soviet Mutual Defense Pact was signed before the German party returned from the Bolshoi.

A similar Pact with Latvia followed on October 5, allowing 30,000 Soviet troops to be stationed in the country. The Pact

with Lithuania, October 10, set the Soviet garrison at 20,000, and returned Vilnius and other regions to Lithuania with the total population of 600,000. The return of Vilnius uplifted the mood of the country, and with the Soviet soldiers remaining within the limits of their bases, and out of sight, normal and relatively calm conditions prevailed until June, 1940.

On June 15, 1940, Lithuanians were shocked and numbed by a sudden Soviet invasion of their country, and capitulation of the government. (In France, the German troops were entering Paris at this time.) There was an earlier warning of the impending danger from the incidents staged by the Soviets as "proof" that Lithuanians kidnapped two Soviet soldiers and engaged in other provocative activities against the Soviet Union. In the end, the Soviets brushed discussion of the incidents aside, and presented to the Lithuanian government an ultimatum at midnight of June 14 which, among other items, demanded that an unlimited number of Soviet troops be allowed to enter the country. During a brief meeting of the Lithuanian cabinet, the majority of the ministers decided to surrender. The President, Antanas Smetona, quickly left the country, before the Soviet troops started to arrive on June 15.

The Soviet government did not bother to stage incidents in Latvia and Estonia for justification of the occupation. On June 16, Molotov sent similar ultimata to Latvia and Estonia with a time limit of 6-8 hours. The Latvian and Estonian governments surrendered quickly, and the Soviet troops started to arrive the next day, June 17. The occupation was completed by June 18.

### September 1939 — May 1940

The war on the Western Front started on Sunday, September 3, 1939. Actually, it was a nice sunny day with the guns staying silent throughout the day. In fact, there was very little action on the Western Front during the following eight months, known as the "Phony War", or Sitzkrieg (the Sitting War), from September 3 to May 10, 1940.

At 9:00 a.m., September 3, the British envoy, Sir Nevil Henderson, delivered the final ultimatum from His Majesty's Government to the Reich's Foreign Ministry. As the translation of the ultimatum was read to Hitler, he sat in a stony silence for a long time, completely immobile, staring straight ahead. Stalin was in a joyous mood on September 3. At long last his intention of in-

stigating a war between Germany and the West has been realized. According to Lenin, such a war was the salvation of the Soviet Union, and Stalin was taking credit for making Lenin's dream a reality.

Although not as optimistic as the British soldiers were at that time, Stalin was hoping that the French army, which he himself regarded highly, would give the German army a good mauling, as at Verdun in 1916. He also had a healthy respect for the British Navy. In spite of repeated German promptings, Stalin delayed the attack on Poland for 14 days until he was certain that the French would not break through the thin German defence line in the West, possible forcing Germany to abandon Poland. (The German command had eight regular, and 25 second rate divisions in the West at that time, confronting 70 French divisions with 3000 tanks and command of the air, The German tank force in the west was insignificant. The Poles placed much hope on an early French attack in September, but to no avail. In the meantime, the British Royal Air Force confined its activities to dropping leaflets on German towns.

The Soviet army crossed the Polish border on September 17, and within a week occupied their part of Eastern Poland. There were hardly any Polish forces at the border. Larger Polish groups further inland were in retreat, trying to escape capture by the Germans, and surrendered readily to the Soviets. The Soviet losses were light: 737 dead and about 2,000 wounded.

### Spoiler of Stalin's Scheme

Stalin's scheme for East Poland was well on target in 1940: the existing social order of the country had already been destroyed by the NKVD tactics, eliminating resistance against its integration in the Soviet Union.

The occupation of Finland, Baltic States and Bessarabia, followed by a "voluntary" transformation of these countries into constituent republics of the Soviet Union, were the remaining end-points of Stalin's scheme for Eastern Europe, allocated to him by the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. The surprising speed by which the battle (and fall) of France developed after the German panzer attack across the Ardennes in May 1940, forced Stalin to take immediate action to complete the unfinished business in the Baltic and Balkans, before the victorious Germany should move its troops back into Central Europe.

The Baltic States were occupied June 15-18, 1940, as noted earlier, including the Užnėmuė region of Lithuania. For the latter intrusion into Germany's sphere of influence, Stalin compensated Germany with payment of 7.5 million gold dollars. Before the end of the month, the Soviet Union delivered an ultimatum to Romania, and two days later occupied Bessarabia and North Bukovina (the hastily prepared protocol of August 23 has not specified Bukovina).

The only spoiler of Stalin's scheme was Finland.

On October 5, 1939, Molotov invited the Finnish Foreign Minister, Elias Erkko, to come to Moscow for discussions of "certain concrete questions of a political nature". He expected quick results, as with the Baltic States. Erkko, however, kept on delaying his journey to Moscow, and replied that he is dealing with the matter in a normal

diplomatic manner. Eventually, the Finnish delegation under a special envoy, Juho Paasikivi, began negotiations in Moscow on October 12.

While the Finnish politicians took their time to respond to Moscow's pressure, the Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish armed forces, Field Marshal Gustaf Mannerheim, wasted no time in preparing Finland for war. Full-scale mobilization was called on October 9.

There were proposals and counter-proposals during negotiations in Moscow, and angry exchanges between Molotov and Paasikivi. Molotov shouted, "Is it your intention to provoke a conflict?" Paasikivi shot back, "We want no such thing, but you seem to". The Finnish delegation did not yield to the Soviet demand to establish military bases on the Finnish mainland, in particular on the Hanko Cape, the gateway to Finland's industrial region. Even Stalin's "show of understanding" to reduce Hanko's garrison to a mere 4,000 failed to impress the Finns, contrary to the impression he made on the Estonians on September 28. The negotiations continued until November 8 without success.

Andrei Zhdanov, the Party boss of Leningrad, Nikita Krushchev, and other hardliners were urging Stalin not to waste more time on negotiations, and to take what they wanted by force. Marshall Kliment Voroshilov guaranteed that his tanks would be in Helsinki in six days. Still, Stalin hesitated for 22 days being certain that Mannerheim would not give up so easily. It was Stalin, himself, as representative of the Bolshevik government, that had to sign the humiliating Dorpat treaty on October 14, 1920, by which the Bolsheviks reaffirmed the Finnish independence, gave Finland an ice-free port of Pechenga towards the Arctic Ocean, and agreed to put the Finnish border only 18 miles west of Leningrad. Stalin, of course, knew that the Dorpat treaty was precipitated by Mannerheim's victory over much larger Bolshevik and Finnish Red Guard forces in 1918, and capture of the strategically important swampland of the Karelian Isthmus, a striking distance away from Leningrad. He must not underestimate Mannerheim again in the future.

Finally, Stalin decided to attack Finland on November 30, "We cannot move Leningrad", said Stalin, "so we must move the [Finnish] border".

Still, Stalin would not take any risks — he insisted that an overwhelming force of four armies be used in the initial attack on little Finland: Seventh army (240,000 men, 1,500 tanks, 900 guns), Eighth Army (150,000 men, 545 tanks, 520 guns), Ninth army (95,000 men, 275 tanks, 360 guns), and Fourteenth Army (55,000 men, 165 tanks, 220 guns). Reserves would move in as the battle develops. Some Soviet generals probably grinned discreetly that "Stalin is trying to kill a fly with a sledgehammer!"

### LITHUANIAN McDONALD'S TO OFFER "McCHICKEN"

Vilnius, Oct 1 (ELTA) — A traditional McDonald's menu in Vilnius was replenished by a new "McChicken" dish to be offered for visitors of the restaurant starting from Tuesday. "McChicken" was first produced in 1988 and weights 160 grams and costs 6.5 litas.

Currently in Lithuania, McDonald's has already invested \$3.6 million in three restaurants employing 300 people in Vilnius.





## DAINAVA — THE CULTURE CAMP

You've heard of Capture the Flag. But what about Book Carriers?

Just outside the village of Manchester, young people at Lithuanian Youth Camp Dainava play "knygnešiai." Instead of carrying the team flag over a line, their symbolic mission is to smuggle Lithuanian books over the border.

The game is based on a period of history between 1864-1904 when Russia occupied the Eastern European nation and forced residents to adopt the Cyrillic alphabet. Manly Lithuanians risked punishment by manning an underground effort to save the written language.

For 39 years, Camp Dainava has done its part to keep Lithuanian traditions alive.

The camp's 226 acres have become a mini-Lithuania. Ethnic costumes line a hallway, carved crosses stand sentry on a hill, and the sound of accordion music is accompanied by children's voices singing consonant-heavy folk songs.

Even the camp's rolling hills, birches and evergreens resemble the small country's landscape.

"It's almost like Lithuania's been transported to middle America," said camp counselor Marijus Gudinskas, who met his wife, Felicia, at Dainava 25 years ago. "That's what we hope to do here."

Gudinskas' 8-year-old son, Vincas, attended camp with 120 other children and 55 staffers during a recent two-week session for grade schoolers.

"It seemed to me like the natural thing to do," Gudinskas said.

"We've been raised that way and we're going to carry it on."

Most of the campers come from large Lithuanian communities in Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit. Others, like Gudinskas — a French teacher in Hamilton, Ontario — travel from Canada.

Throughout the summer, the camp offers a variety of sessions — some for grade schoolers, some for high schoolers and some for college-age campers. There also are sessions geared for families. Dainava is one of two Lithuanian camps in the United States. East Coasters generally attend a camp located in Vermont.

The Lithuanian Catholic Youth Association runs the Michigan camp and stresses five life principles: to be a good friend, family member, seeker of knowledge, Catholic, and last, but not least, a good Lithuanian.

As part of the last principle, campers make a pledge to speak Lithuanian as much as possible.

"It's very hard to learn from a book, it's like Latin," said camp director Ona Daugirdas, a pediatrician from Chicago.

With as many as 60 difference ending choices for nouns, depending on use, you almost have to learn it from the cradle, she said.

Lithuanian is considered the oldest spoken language still in existence, Daugirdas said. Ironically, the language spoken at the camp is probably purer in form than even in Lithuania, some of the counselors commented.

During almost 50 years of Russian occupation, the cadence of modern Lithuanian has changed, they said. And since Lithuania regained its independence in 1991, Westernization has taken its toll as well.

In addition to speaking the language on a full-time basis, campers take a virtual tour of the country of 3 million by learning the types of fish in the Baltic Sea, famous cathedrals in the capital of Vilnius and the commerce, customs, and dialects of various regions.

In the camp's large lunch and meeting room, Cleveland dentist Živilė Vaitkus is busy teaching a group of boys how to make traditional sashes on hand-held looms. The boys use Popsicle sticks and pencils to draw blue and gold threads over white threads, bringing out geometric patterns popular on traditional clothing.

Boys clad in Chicago Bulls T-shirts sit next to others wearing shirts decorated with the logo of Lithuania's national basketball team. The team won the bronze medal at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, the boys point out. And a Lithuanian was recently drafted by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The sashes the boys make will probably become presents for mom, bookmarks, or decorations for their folk dancing costumes.

Outside of Camp Dainava, Lithuanians in America find other opportunities to keep their culture alive.

More than 2,000 Lithuanians meet every four years in Chicago to perform what each community practices separately. Besides dancing, Lithuanian communities remain tight through Saturday School. Held in most large cities in the United States, children meet for half a day every Saturday to learn Lithuanian language and customs.

Fifteen-year-old Rūta Švarcas of Cleveland and two Saturday school friends — Kristina Kliorys and Kristina Stankus — worked kitchen duty at the grade school session this summer at Camp Dainava.



Camp Dainava is attractive to young and old.

Too old to attend the session, but too young to be counselors, the teens still wanted to be a part of the camp. Dainava offers a time to reunite with friends from around the country and to meet people with similar backgrounds, they said.

"This is like a second home," Švarcas said, taking a break from clearing off cups of pink lemonade and bowls of "šaltibarščiai" — a cold soup made of buttermilk, beets, cucumbers, dill and hardboiled eggs.

Švarcas said she hated her name when she younger because it made her stick out from her non-Lithuanian friends. Now she cherishes it as something unique. "When I was little I remember thinking of Saturday school as such a burden, but now I wouldn't have wanted to do anything else," Stankus said. "It's like a special thing we have."

Various groups of Lithuanian-Americans meet at Dainava all summer and other times of the year as well. Other groups use the facilities as well, like the Lithuanian Boy Scouts, Saturday School teachers, and Heritage Camp, which caters to children who might not be as fluent.

For someone who lives in Lithuania, like guest teacher Zita Kelmickaitė, the camp is a pleasant shock.

Kelmickaitė is an ethnographer who travels the Lithuanian countryside collecting traditions, songs, and stories.

Sitting in a hallway in the concrete block dormitory building one recent afternoon, Kelmickaitė placed a phone call to a state radio program in Lithuania.

"It's unbelievable," she tells the radio interviewer, who will later transmit her comments to a million listeners.

The difference in relationships between children and their teachers is perhaps most striking,

she said. American children are inquisitive, concrete and pragmatic in a way that is not encouraged in her country, Kelmickaitė said.

"Kids here are very curious. They're always asking questions," she said. "No matter what region is being discussed, no matter what topic, they always want to know 'Why?'"

Later that night, she tells the interviewer, the children will celebrate St. John's Eve, a popular annual event steeped in pagan customs tied to sun worship.

In the local rendition of the festival, girls will collect flowers from fields and fashion them into wreaths that they will throw into the lake. Boys will jump over a bonfire to show their strength and attempt to win the wreath of the girl they like.

At the entrance of Dainava — which means Land of Song — a carved wooden piper welcomes visitors. A group of girls walking by on their way to the lake explain that just about everything at the camp is Lithuanian in some way. They even tell of Lithuanian spirits in the woods.

But for now, ghost stories and rituals aside, it's time for a swim.

By Sarah Hollander  
"Ann Arbor News," Aug. 4, 1996

## THE ORCHID DOLL

By FRANCES M. ŠLUTAS

I was always shy around this woman and she knew it. Finally, she asked me to come closer. Slowly, with finger in my mouth, head bent, I approached her and stood alongside. She took her hand from behind. In her hand was a doll. The doll wore an archid colored, croche-

ted dress and cap, the woman had made herself. The doll was without hair, her arms and legs moved. I took this doll reluctantly. In my mind it was not what I expected in a doll. I tossed this doll violently through the open door of the bedroom which was off the front room. The doll landed under the bed against the wall. I was only five.

I had a beautiful doll with hair, a Shirley Temple doll, and a wicker buggy. One evening when mother and I went to a bunco party at the church, my father was home, but after a hard day's work at the Stock Yard's, fell asleep on the sofa in the front room. He was not aware of the event that was taking place in the kitchen until he smelled smoke. There were my brothers, four and three, between the stove and the sink trying to put the fire out.

We came home later in the evening only to find my doll and the buggy gone. I was devastated. I cried. This is why the landlady went through all that effort to bring me another doll. Nothing could replace my loss at the time.

My mother made me go and get that doll from under the bed. I had to say, I'm sorry, as shy as I was, to the landlady. Mother shook me by the shoulders, scolded me. She was embarrassed by my behavior. The landlady took her doll, closed the door and went upstairs.

I did not get another doll. The one I had and loved burned to death. The one without the hair in the little orchid dress and cap sat on a table near the door in the landlady's front room. Each time I saw this doll, I regretted not taking her.



A lovely peaceful road in Camp Dainava.

Draugas, Saturday, October 26, 1996

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## HOW LITHUANIANS CURSE

By DANUTĖ BINDOKIENĖ

A nation's character can be identified from many things: customs, traditions, folk art, folklore; how people make merry, how they mourn, how they treat others and so on. But a nation's traits are also mirrored by negative qualities, for instance, how people express their anger, how they curse.

When a person curses he most often expresses anger toward another, he upbraids and degrades him. To voice these ill wishes, the person cursing uses words or phrases he considers to be the angriest, foulest and most offensive and which he would never use in ordinary conversation.

Certain nations are notorious for the abundance of their curses. They are often unconsciously mixed into daily conversation and are almost used as adages. The linguistic influence of neighboring nations (in particular Slavic) is felt in certain oaths used by Lithuanians. Emigrants also borrow expletives from the language of the country where they live. However, we cannot judge the true nature of the Lithuanian nation from these foreign profanities. If we examine the purely Lithuanian swearwords we will note they are distinct from the expletives and curses of other nations.

Lithuanian oaths are an amalgam of folk beliefs from various timespans. They contain remnants of ancient paganism and Christian elements. At times references are made to ancient mythological beings: the god thunder, fairies, witches and certain living creatures; at others, to the devil, hell, Lucifer and so on. Curses are closely related to magic. Primitive man believed in the magical power of certain words or sayings, thus curses wish: "May thunder strike you down!" or "May the earth swallow you up!"

Most Lithuanian expletives are based on the words devil, hell, toad, snake, thunder and serpent. In curses, these words are embellished by other vivid expressions, producing coarse and angry invocations. The most striking curses help the person voice his feelings better and have a stronger impact on the person cursed.

The format of vulgarities depends on the degree of anger being expressed. The vilest Lithuanian curses are called profanities. They convey the direst things to another: a shameful death, eternal suffering, terrible calamities. For example: "May nine demons take you", "May you hang yourself from a dead branch!", "May your tongue not fit in your mouth!", "May the spring's first thunder kill you!"

Admonishing curses are more restrained. They do not invoke disaster nor intend vengeance, but merely express hatred for and outrage at another. It is a form of angry namecalling or dismissal of an annoying person. For example: "You pock-marked toad!", "You slug of a serpent!", "You son of a snake!", "You cursed fairy!", "You horned witch!"

Another type of curse is the non-malicious invocation using the format of a profanity. The things such curses intend are certainly not terrible, a smile usually hides behind the anger. For example: "May a rabbit butt you to death!" "The deuce take you!", "May a shoe swallow you!", "May you drown in a spoon!"

Sometimes certain swear-words are replaced by sound-alikes which have nothing to do with evil-wishing. When a person flares up and has an urge to curse, he pulls himself together and stops in midstream. The expletive's angry content is turned into a joke.

From these few paragraphs it is evident that Lithuanians were not accustomed to using vile words, especially those degrading women or certain relationships between people. Their curses, in comparison to those of other nations, are relatively "clean" and "innocent" but they do not lack wit or inventiveness.

For examples of Lithuanian curses please refer to the Lithuanian text since translation would rob them of their colorful meaning.

Some examples of Lithuanian curses:

Po šimts gegučių!  
O tu rupūžgalvi!  
O tu žaltys prakeiktas!  
Tu avigalvi!  
Tu paršo koja užpakalinė!  
Tu šunų kumpi!  
Kaplantanti!  
Lįsk tu vabalio blaizdon!  
Eik į peklą molio minti!  
Eik šunų šukuot!  
Kaip tave šventa žemė  
nešioja!

Suk tave devynios!  
Kad tave perkūnas be žaibo  
trenktų!

## CONTROLLING MIGRATION

At the end of march, UNHCR sent a training proposal on 'Advance implementation of the refugee law' to the Migration Department, Ministry of the Interior. Officials from the Danish Immigration Service and from UNHCR will teach interviewing techniques for determining refugee status to Lithuanian government officials from the Migration Department and Board for Refugee Affairs. The training is tentatively planned to last two months, starting September. During the training exercise, applicants for asylum and refugee status will be interviewed and their status will be determined on a preliminary basis.

If it is established that an applicant is a potential refugee she/he will be transferred from the present detention place in Pabradė to accommodation yet to be identified by the Ministry of Social Security, pending enactment of the refugee law and admittance to the government asylum procedure. It is expected that the first building of the refugee reception centre will be completely renovated and operational by the end of this year. Meanwhile, the 3 mln DK cost of training will be covered by the Danish Ministry of the Interior, the Lithuanian Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Social Security. The Danes have also promised a joint assistance plan for the Lithuanian Government to implement the refugee law.

The costs of accommodating 'potential refugees' will be covered by UNHCR Stockholm, which has already signed a sub-agreement with the Ministry of Social Security totalling \$198,000. Those who are categorized as economic migrants will be sent back, if possible. Some, if they agree voluntarily to return to their home country, will be sent within the IOM Voluntary Return Program.

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The White House of Camp Dainava.



## People in the News

### DR. SUGINTAS HONORED BY INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM ASSOCIATION



Dr. Nora Sugintas.

of Who's Who in Medicine and Health care. Her interests include travel, photography and international politics.

At its annual Washington, DC, convention, the International Platform Association attracts 40 to 50 established lecturers and distinguished spokespersons in their fields. Recent speakers have included Gerry Colin Powell, Ross Perot, Dick Cheney, Jessie Jackson, Nanette Fabray, Jack Anderson, Malcolm Forbes Jr., Mark Russell, G. Gordon Liddy, Elizabeth Dole, William Proxmire, Tom Brokaw, Bernadine Healy, Harry Blackstone, Betty Bao Lord and Peter Arnett.

Founded by Daniel Webster and Josiah Holbrook in 1831, the 5,000 member International Platform Association is the leading organization for those on the lecture platform. A champion of free speech and debate without the time and space constraints of the commercial media, it provides an open marketplace for up and coming as well as recognized speakers from all political persuasions. Its members include booking agents, program chairpersons, and anyone interested in the issues of the day.

Winnetka, IL, September 6, 1996: Dr. Nora M. Sugintas, has been elected to membership in the International Platform Association.

Sugintas, West Bloomfield, is the director of national accounts for an international medical equipment manufacturer. She is listed in 1996 editions of Who's Who in Finance and Industry, Who's Who in the World and will be listed in the first edition

### GRUSS FOUNDATION SPONSORS MUNICIPAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

Washington, DC — Four municipal finance specialists from Lithuania arrived in the United States in October for an eight-week planning and training program sponsored by the Martin Gruss Foundation and organized by the U.S. — Baltic Foundation (USBF). This program, a collaborative effort between USBF and Baltic municipal associations, is the first phase of a major decentralization and democratic reform program which has received generous support for the third straight year in 1996 from Audrey But-vay Gruss, President of the Martin Gruss Foundation.

Mrs. Gruss stated that she supports this training program because it "provides new leaders with the skills they need to make local democracy work for the Baltic people." In addition to the training they will receive, the Gruss Fellows will be developing USBF's Municipal Empowerment Program. The program is designed to provide support for increased local autonomy on the issues that most challenge Baltic municipalities, such as financial decentralization.

The municipal associations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are committed to the achievement of independent municipal revenue generation and finance and budget authority consistent with Western models and with the recommendations of most international and Western assistance and development agencies.

Lithuania will embark on the pilot program, which will be monitored closely by the Estonians and Latvians. The partners feel that the political conditions for the implementation of this significant reform will be most promising in Lithuania, with the election of a new parliament on October 20 and the extension of the terms of the current reform-minded municipal officials to 1998.

Mr. Alfredas Jonuška, Vice Mayor of Siauliai District will be hosted by the City Treasurer Clerk's Office in Tallahassee, Florida. President of the Vilnius District Council, Mrs. Leokadija Janušauskienė will be received by the Southeast Georgia Regional Development Center in Waycross, Georgia. Providing training for Mr. Kęstutis Jasilevičius of the Lazdijai Regional Government is the City of Edgewater, Florida, and, Mr. Pranas Alslys, Head of the Anykščiai Region Tax Office, will be located in Athens, Georgia.

### A WELL-DESERVED REST

Joseph Vilimas, President and Owner of Bayside Nursing House (South Boston) and Glendale Nursing Home (Woburn) has just retired after 25 years of health care management of 153-beds of skilled nursing facilities in Massachusetts.

Since 1949 Vilimas' "serial career" has ranged over business, community, social and health executive positions. His specific posts included assistant to the President of Boston College; creator and director of the John F. Kennedy Family Service Center, Boston; Assistant Director, Organization for the Southwest Community, Chicago; Field Representative, Industrial Areas Foundation, Chicago; Field Representative, Industrial Areas Foundation, Chicago; and Sales Manager and Director, Fides Publishers Association of Chicago and Director, Fides Publishers Association of Chicago and University of Notre Dame.

Vilimas was born in 1929 at Holy Cross Hospital and grew up in Marquette Park, Chicago. He was a parishoner of Nativity BVM Parish, attended St. Rita High School and graduated from DePaul University in 1951



Lithuanian Opera of Chicago this summer went to Lithuania and participated in the production of K. Banaitis opera Jūratė and Kastytis produced both in Kaunas and Vilnius. In this photo — the staff, producers and soloists from the opera.

### POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH

Economic growth is not meaningful unless it leads to improvements in health, educational attainment and a reasonable income equity for all, in other words to a higher level of human development. Growth is a means, not an end in itself. On the other hand, growth depends on strong foundations in human development: it needs healthy, educated people who enjoy access to the right kind of employment. Human development is thus not only an end in itself, but also a means for growth.

This basic relationship between economic growth and human development is well known in Lithuania. The past few years have witnessed a sharp economic decline, which has hit health, education and living standards for many people and deprived them of access to equal opportunities. Yet Lithuania's potential still lies in its strong foundations in all these areas. This potential should not be wasted.

This year's report stresses the relationship between economic growth and employment. It shows the importance of government policies to ensure that growth gives people more opportunities and choice of employment. There are different kinds of growth, each the result of deliberate policies:

**Jobless growth**, where the economy grows but there is no expansion of employment opportunities. And when employment expands, it may only be in low-productivity, low-paid or temporary jobs. Economic growth is real to people only when they can find productive and well-paid work.

**Ruthless growth** is where economic growth benefits the rich, leaving millions of people struggling in ever-deepening poverty. Increasing polarization of incomes and of opportunities, between and within countries, invites instability. The report shows a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, between rural and urban areas, and between genders.

**Rootless growth**, where the economy grows, but cultural identity is submerged or outlawed.

**Voiceless growth** occurs if economic growth is not matched by democracy or individual empowerment.

**Futureless growth** involves consumption of resources that are the basis of this growth.

with a B.A. in Economics and Philosophy. He was an active officer of the 13th Ward Democratic Committee and a member of the Lithuanian Chamber of Commerce.

Today he resides in Newton, Mass. with his wife, Jacqueline, of 44 years. Both are active art collectors and tourists, and are growing three grandchildren.

Environmental destruction and unjustified growth in external debt can be masked by strong economic statistics.

The right combination and enforcement of policies ensure that economic growth helps citizens to expand their choices and to gain adequate health, education and employment for themselves and for their children — to achieve sustainable human development. The country comparison shows that there are plenty of success stories. Countries like Korea, China and Singapore have achieved rapid growth in both per capita GNP and in employment. Investment in human capital, through education and social services, has paid big dividends. Worker productivity has risen, triggering an increase in real wages.

There is no one model to follow, and the following actions may not be the solution for Lithuania, but they have worked very well for some countries.

Intervention in the labour market is needed, because labour markets do not work as smoothly as commodity markets. After independence, Mauritius deliberately retrained its workers to build up its service sector. In one area of India, a government employment guarantee programme provided work within 5 kilometres of each person's home, and cut 7% off rural unemployment.

The informal sector is often discouraged by governments because, as Lithuania is aware, it leads to tax avoidance. But encouraging it, at the same time as supporting new small businesses, can also expand employment. In Latin America over the last decade, 82% of all new jobs were in the informal sector, which employs 59% of the region's urban poor.

Providing access to land and credit is important to eliminate

poverty and support small businesses. Countries like India and Malaysia now have quotas for commercial bank lending to small businesses.

These are specific policies, but on a more general level there are five main elements to bear in mind: First, sustainability, so that what is achieved today is not lost tomorrow. There must also be equity, not only in wealth but in basic capabilities and opportunities, and in access to productive assets. Income earning opportunities should be encouraged, as should empowerment, participation and community action. And the final priority is social spending, both on immediate needs and to maintain a healthy, well-educated population.

These are some of the ways to strengthen the link between productive growth and human development. But the Report's most important lesson is that wealth alone does not bring better lives, and poverty does not just mean lack of income. As Lithuania tries to overcome its problems and maintain its strengths, this is an opportunity to learn from the mistakes and the successes of other countries.

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### Art News

#### HISTORY OF LITHUANIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

The scientists of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Institute compiled the "Lithuanian Literature History" book devoted to foreign scholars and readers to the published by Vaga publishing house within several months.

The book provides an analysis of Lithuanian literature history dating back to ancient times. The first chapter covers letters

of Lithuanian duke Gediminas and the last one — review of literature from recent decade. This is the first book on Lithuanian literature in the English language.

The "Lithuanian Literature History" was compiled on the basis of the academic literature book with the first volume "20th Century Literature" published last year and the other two on ancient and 19th century literature still being prepared.

The Lithuanian Language Institute also compiled a scientific grammar of Lithuanian language to be published next year. (ELTA, Oct. 15)

#### INTERNATIONAL THEATRE FORUM EXCHANGE POINT

The leaders of the three Baltic States and Georgian youth theatre are to be introduced at November 7-11 forum "Exchange Point" in Vilnius, organized by the Lithuanian Open Society Fund.

The organizers seek to intensify cultural exchange among the Baltic countries, Georgia, and other states, to promote creativeness and professional improvement among young artists.

The "Exchange Point" encompasses five parts: Performances, play reading, workshops, review of films "From the Global Theatre Fund" and discussions.

The forum invited Tallinn theatre group to show "Pianola or Mechanical Piano", Tallinn's Music Academy higher Theatre School students group to perform "A White Crow's Story", and the New Riga Theatre to offer "Seagull".

The Lithuanian theatre is to be represented by four groups from Vilnius, Kaunas and Siauliai.

The guests from Georgia intend to present "The Life of an Idiot".

The "Exchange Point" programme will also cover the performance "Immobile Traveller" to be offered by honorary guests from France led by famous stage-manager Philippe Genty. (ELTA)

#### FOLKLORE ARCHIVE TO BE REPLENISHED

This year the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Institute archive is to be replenished by 20 thousand units as a result of expeditions organized by scholars, students and local ethnographers.

The Institute scholars joined an expedition in Trakai district, and the students from Vilnius University — a similar tour in Prienai district. They gathered

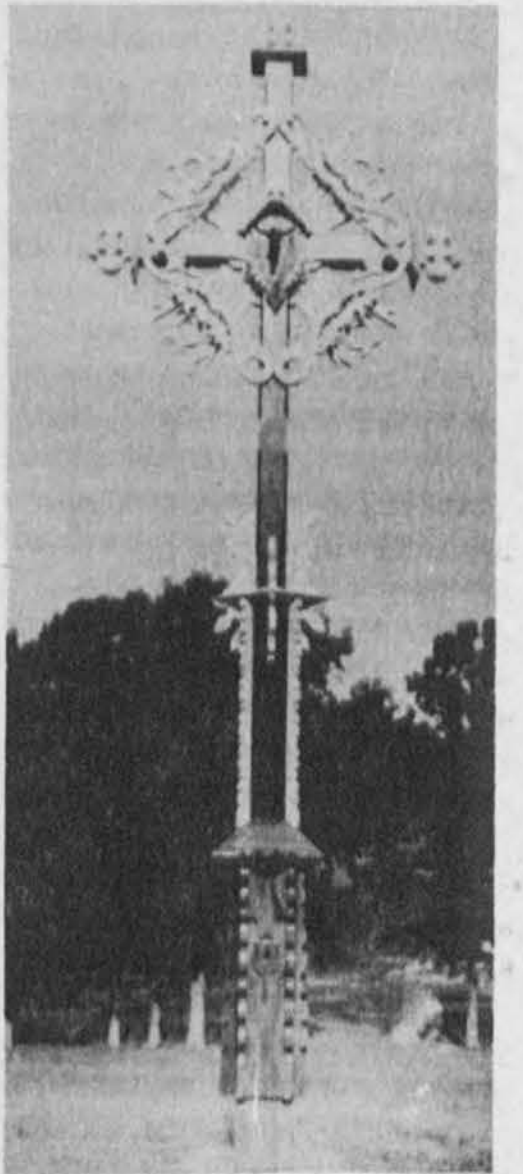
several thousand songs, tales, proverbs and sayings. A lot of material was supplied by amateur ethnographers from various parts of Lithuania.

Currently the Lithuanian folklore archive stores about 1.5 million units. Head of Folklore Archive Kostas Aleksynas informed that Vilnius archives were among the biggest such type collections in the world.

The archive provides basis for the largest "Book of Lithuanian Folklore Songs" to come out within several months. The 12th and 13th volumes are also under way.

The publishing of this book was launched in 1980 with plans for final work in 10-15 years.

The publishing of another book "Lithuanian Proverbs and Sayings" volumes has already started. (ELTA)



A wayside cross.

### A STABILIZING FACTOR IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Holy Cross Hospital, sponsored by the Srs. of St. Casimir, continues to excel in its efforts to address health care and its changing needs. The hospital's "Built to Last" program has developed new and inventive ways to address the changes happening at the hospital and in the health care venue. Mindful of their values — Service, Excellence, Respect, Values, Enthusiasm, and the mission of the sisters of St. Casimir, they have created a Career Development Center to provide support, career counseling and placement assistance to all whose jobs will be eliminated as a result of the implementation of their new patient care delivery system. However, through attrition management over the next six to nine months they will be able to accommodate most, if not all, of the full time equivalent reductions planned for in the new patient care delivery system in process redesign.

Continuing to accrue top ratings measured by Press-Ganey out of Notre Dame, IN, Holy Cross Hospital has raised its patient satisfaction scores to the rank of number seven in the country, number one in the State of Illinois and number one in its peer group. God bless you Holy Cross Hospital, Mark Clement, President, CEO, Administrative Team, all leaders and partners, Board of Trustees, and all who contribute to this success story.

Holy Cross Hospital is very important and stabilizing factor in Marquette Park neighborhood still home to many Lithuanians (especially senior citizens).

(From "Journeys", No. 3, Fall 1996)



Street musicians in Vilnius on a Sunday afternoon.