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Lithuanian-Russian Border Agreement Imminent

Vilnius, Nov. 14, BNS — Only two or three meetings of Lithuanian and Russian border negotiators will be required before the countries come to an agreement on their borders, Lithuanian delegation leader Rimantas Šidlauskas says.

The foreign ministry secretary headed a group of Lithuanian negotiators which met for two days this week in Moscow with a Russian negotiating team headed by ambassador Aleksej Obukhov. Šidlauskas also met separately Wednesday with Russian foreign affairs vice-minister Sergej Krylov.

"If we work as planned, negotiations could be concluded in the first quarter of next year," Šidlauskas told BNS after the latest round in Moscow. According to Šidlauskas, the countries share "a common vision that only two or three sessions stand between us and the point in time when we can say that the treaty is ready for initialing."

The diplomat's optimism was evoked by the constructive atmosphere at the Moscow talks, at which according to Šidlauskas, "we again returned to concrete speeches and concrete arguments."

Over the course of negotiations, which are now in their

third year, Lithuania and Russia have agreed upon 90 percent of the mainland border, though up until now no agreement could be reached over two small stretches of the border through Lake Vištytis and the mouth of the Nemunas river along the northern border of the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad region. The countries have also unsuccessfully sought a compromise on economic zones in the Baltic Sea, hindered by the potentially rich continental shelf oil deposit D-6.

The drafting of the treaty, it is hoped, will be accelerated by the agreement reached in Moscow to organize meetings of specialists in separate areas between rounds of negotiations. Compromises will also be sought when the two countries' delegation leaders visit, as has been agreed upon, the disputed sections of the mainland border.

As far as the sea border is concerned, Šidlauskas said that at this week's meeting in Moscow "for the first time the countries discussed delimitation of economic zones and continental shelf on the basis of the same or comparable arguments."

The next meeting of delegations is planned for mid-December or at the beginning of January in Lithuania.

New Parliament Comprised of Few Ethnic Minorities

Vilnius, Nov. 11, BNS — The representative of only one Lithuanian political organization of ethnic minorities will receive a mandate in the new parliament. In a country where non-Lithuanians comprise almost a fifth of the population, only 4.26 percent of all MPs will represent this sector of the population.

The Lithuanian parties Polish Electoral Action, the Alliance of Ethnic Minorities and the Union of Russians did not succeed in surmounting the 5 percent barrier required of parties for their representatives to be elected on "multiple-mandate" or party ballots to parliament. Half of Lithuania's MPs are elected in this manner from party lists, while the remaining half are elected directly as individual candidates in "single-mandate" districts.

Only in the 55th Sirvintos-Vilnius electoral district was Gabriel Mincewicz, a candidate of Polish Electoral action, victorious over Conservative Nijolė Ambrazaitytė.

Another Polish Electoral Action candidate, Leonard Talmont, was defeated in yesterday's second round of balloting.

All of the Alliance of Ethnic Minorities' candidates running in the second round in Vilnius electoral districts — Olga Radukha, Viacheslas Shkil and Ryszard Litwinowicz — were defeated.

Five representatives of ethnic minorities, running on non-ethnic tickets, were elected to parliament. These were Conservatives Emanuelis Zingeris, Zygmunt Mackewicz and Vladimir Jarmolenko, the Democratic Labor Party's Arturas Ploks and Social Democrat Nikolajus Medvedevas.

In four electoral districts surrounding Vilnius, where a large

section of the population is of Polish descent, elections were declared invalid due to voter turnout of less than 40 percent. Repeat elections will most likely be held in these districts in the spring at the same time as municipal elections.

Government Posts Devided Up

Vilnius, Nov. 13, BNS — Lithuanian Conservative chairman Vytautas Landsbergis will be elected parliamentary chairman in the new Conservative-dominated legislature when it convenes on November 25. One of his deputies will be a Christian Democrat, and the other two vice-chairman posts will most likely be offered to members of other parties.

After consultations Wednesday between the leaders of the Conservatives and their coalition partner the Christian Democrats — the second most influential party in the new parliament, Conservative board chairman and most likely candidate for premier Gediminas Vagnorius confirmed that the posts of foreign minister and defense minister would be gleaned by Christian Democrats.

The Christian Democrats will most probably offer these ministerial portfolios to their chairman Algirdas Saudargas and ambassador Česlovas Stankevičius.

Saudargas already held the post of foreign minister in the years 1990-92, while Stankevičius at that time headed Lithuania's team for negotiations with Russia.

Vagnorius told journalists that the Christian Democrats would receive one more ministerial portfolio.



Present-day soldiers of the independent Lithuania.

Doctor's Union Strike Plans Continue

Kaunas, Nov. 13, BNS — The leadership of the Lithuanian Doctors' Union (LDU) "does not intend to renege on its plans to organize a strike, despite promises by Conservative chairman Vytautas Landsbergis, made Monday, that the new parliament is determined to correct the unjust plight, afflicting the staff of health care institutions," BNS was told Wednesday by LDU vice-president Liutauras Labanauskas.

On Wednesday afternoon, the leadership of the LDU plans to convene for another session, at which a special statement may be issued.

Negotiations over wage increases have been conducted over the past three years with the administration without tangible results. According to Labanauskas, before recent parliamentary elections, the then-ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDLP) urged the LDU "not to carry out orders from the opposition, whereas now the Conservative leader states it is necessary to go on suffering because the date chosen for the strike is inappropriate."

Vytautas Landsbergis pointed out on Monday that the first session of the newly elected parliament will convene on November 25 on the eve of the planned health care worker's strike.

In the view of the LDU council, the planned medical workers' strike is not overpoliticized, as Landsbergis claims. "Let the future parliamentary chairman take a close look at the law on collective bargaining. That law should be clear that this strike is being organized for economic reasons."

U.S. Congratulates Lithuania on Elections

Vilnius, Nov. 13, BNS — Lithuanians have once again demonstrated their fidelity to the principles of democracy, an unnamed American state department press spokesman said, congratulating Lithuania on successfully conducting parliamentary elections.

Radio Free Europe quoted on Wednesday the above mentioned official, saying that the United States "will successfully collaborate with the new

Relations With Russia Will Not Deteriote

Moscow, Nov. 13, Interfax-BNS — Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Lithuanian Conservatives who scored a decisive victory in recent parliamentary elections, is convinced that the change in administrations in Lithuania will have no negative influence on Lithuanian-Russian relations.

On a live Tuesday interview over Independent Russian Television, Landsbergis stressed that he sees no basis for concern that relations between Vilnius and Moscow will deteriorate.

Landsbergis pointed out that it was precisely during the period when he headed parliament that the issues of citizen-

administration" and is prepared to work together with international foundations, assisting economic reforms in Lithuania.

According to the radio report, Washington hopes that Lithuania in its foreign policy will continue to seek good relations with neighboring countries and integration into Western structures.

ship with Lithuania's Russian-speaking residents and of withdrawal of the Russian army from the country were resolved.

The Conservative leader noted that he cherishes "warm memories" of collaboration with Russian president Boris Yeltsin. Landsbergis wished Yeltsin a rapid recovery from his operation and expressed the hope that they would meet personally "in the near future."

Landsbergis stressed that he continued to believe, as he did earlier, that the Russian federal military operation in Chechnya was a mistake by the country's leadership. "If Russia is now correcting this error, we can only welcome this," Landsbergis said.

In response to the question as to whether he plans to run for president in 1998, Landsbergis replied that he is not yet planning on taking this step. At the same time, according to Landsbergis, "it will be necessary to make up my mind" as the presidential election approaches.

Centrists Opinion For Prime Minister Post Candidate

Vilnius, Nov. 14, BNS — The Lithuanian Centrist Union (CU) will support the appointment of conservative board chairman Gediminas Vagnorius to the post of prime minister, if his candidacy is proposed by president Algirdas Brazauskas. However, if the president were to ask the Centrists' opinion, according to CU chairman Romualdas Ozolas, "we would have something very serious to propose."

In the CU's view, the president, "under certain conditions," might consider the candidacy of the noted US-Lithuanian environmental protectionist Valdas Adamkus for the post of PM. This statement was made at a Thursday press conference by CU board chairman Egidijus Bičkauskas.

Valdas Adamkus actively supported right-wing-centrist parties during the recent parliamentary electoral campaign. Adamkus became actively involved in Lithuania political life this year and recently announced

that the considers for president in 1998.

The CU leaders said Monday that they would not independently submit any proposals for the formation of a new administration, but if the president or future ruling coalition of Conservatives and Christian Democrats were to request their opinion, they have some proposals to make.

Ozolas said that the CU would also discuss a proposal to accept one of the parliamentary deputy chairmen's posts.

The Centrists emphasized that they intend to remain an autonomous "third" force. They have ruled out immediately assuming the role of an opposition to the new Conservative ruling coalition, in contrast to the Social Democrats and the hitherto ruling Democratic Labor Party, whose forces in parliament are comparable to those to the Centrists.

According to Bičkauskas, the position of the CU will be dependent on the policies pursued by the ruling coalition.

Proposal to Establish Lithuania's Northern Baltic Sea Border

Vilnius, Oct. 28, BNS — Lithuanian parliamentary opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Conservatives, supports President Algirdas Brazauskas's temporary draft law, submitted to parliament for immediate discussion, which would unilaterally establish the Northern boundary of Lithuania's territorial waters, exclusive economic zones and continental shelf in the Baltic Sea. "I have no doubt that the opposition will support adopting such a law," Landsbergis said at a Monday press conference.

The president proposed this draft law on Friday after the Latvian parliament ratified agreements with the Amoco and

OPAB companies on oil prospecting in a disputed section of the Baltic Sea.

Landsbergis, who urged comparable steps be taken one week ago, believes that "president's initiative is correct."

The opposition leader criticized statements by Foreign minister Povilas Gylys to the effect that this Lithuanian administration will come to no agreement with Latvia on the sea border. The minister motivated his statement with his lack of desire "to create obstacles" at the end of the current administration's term for actions by the future administration.

"It seems to me that the minister is generally not inclined to do anything or make any efforts. But he still has his duties to carry out, he is still in office and the administration should act," Landsbergis said.



A monument erected to commemorate Lithuanian soldiers, who died in the Battle at Sirvintai (1919-1923). They were heroes of the Lithuanian Independence Wars. After the Independence was declared February 16, 1918, many such wars had to be fought.



Every nation has a special place of honor for its soldiers, who died, fighting for freedom. Sometimes their graves cannot be found, sometimes they remain nameless, therefore it is fitting that their memory be honored with one special monument — The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This one is in Lithuania.

Lithuanians in Sports

PURSuing EXCELLENCE

Continued from Nov. 9



Antanas Barisas, Head of the Canoe-kayak team.

Canoe — kayak

As far back as 1885 kayak contests were staged in Lithuania. In the 1938 Lithuanian National Olympic Games the oarsmen competed in the Curonian Lagoon.

Since 1957 Lithuanian athletes have participated in European, later in world championships and Olympic rowing competitions. The Canoe/Kayak Federation was set up in 1960. That year Mykolas Rudzinskas and Ivan Golovatchiov, of Russia took fourth position in the kayak double.

Kayak competitors Vitalijus Trukšinas, Artūras Vieta, Natalija Kalašnikova, Anatolijus Korolkovas, Petras Šiurskas, brothers Alfonsas and Mykolas Rudzinskas, Jonas Zautra, canoeists Romas Vienažindis, Vyandas Čekaitis, Petras Grigonis were world and European champions and prize winners. Vladas Česiūnas has won the most titles in the canoe double: the 1972 Olympic gold, four world titles and a European championship.

Artūras Vieta came ninth in the 500 metre and 1,000 metre canoe singles.

At present over 500 athletes in twelve cities go in for kayaking and canoeing in Lithuania.

and sixth (200 m breaststroke) in the 1976 Montreal Olympics.

Lithuanian swimmers distinguished themselves at the 1980 Moscow Games. Lina Kačiušytė won the gold (200 m breaststroke) and set the world record which went unbroken until 1988; in the 100 m she was seventh. Robertas Žulpa won the Olympic gold (200 m breaststroke). (Kačiušytė won the 1978 world title and broke the world 200 m record three times.) Žulpa was the 1983 European champion and a cup winner. In the 1988 Seoul Olympics Raimundas Mažuolis won the silver in the 4 x 100 m freestyle.

At the Barcelona Games, Mažuolis twice came tenth (50 and 100 m freestyle) and Nerijus Beiga came 36th (100 m breaststroke) and 31st (200 m). The Lithuanians have achieved some international prizes while training for the Atlanta Games. Mažuolis came third in the 1993 World and 1994 European Championship in the 50 m freestyle; in the 1994 World Cup Championships he was second. In 1996, Dita Želviėnė (freestyle) was the first Lithuanian swimmer to win the World Cup.



Eugenijus Levickas, President of the Lith. Rowing Federation.

Rowing

Neptūnas, the first rowing club in Lithuania was founded in Klaipėda in 1885. In 1931 a rowing club was opened at the Lithuanian Yachting Club in Kaunas. The first international competition was held in Klaipėda in 1932.

In Rome in 1960 Lithuanian oarsmen Zigmantas Jukna and Antanas Bagdonavičius (Coxed Pairs) won the Olympic silver. In Prague the next year they became European champions (cox Gerhardas Morkus). Between 1960 and 1989, Lithuanian rowers won 44 gold, 52 silver and 24 bronze medals in European and World Championships. In the sixties, the Žalgiris eight rose to fame. They won regattas at Henley, England, and Philadelphia and were world and European silver medal winners; the team took third position in the 1968 Olympics. The women's eight was a three-time European champion: in 1963, 1965 and 1967. Rowers Jonas Narmontas, Stasys Norušaitis, Jonas Pinskus and cox Vladimiras Nižgorodovas on the Soviet eight won the 1981 World Championships.

There are rowing facilities in Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Trakai and Birštonas, with 1,500 rowers and 30 coaches. The international Gintarių Irklų (Amber Oars) Regatta is held in Trakai every year. Lithuania has three interna-



Officers of the LFK Club Lithuanica for 1995-1996. First row (1. to r.): E. Šulaitis, A. Glavinskas, G. Bielskus; second row: J. Zakas, B. Mikėnas, J. Žukauskas and L. Juraitis.

tional referees: Jonas Jankauskas, Liudvikas Mileška and Egenijus Levickas.

Pentathlon

The pentathlon was first practiced in Lithuania in 1955. A year later the country's first championship was held. Until 1940, the Military held competitions in fencing, shooting and running, but riding and swimming were not practiced.

Stasys Šaparnis has won the greatest number of medals in the pentathlon: one world gold, three silver and one bronze; in the 1968 Mexico Olympics he won team silver and individual ninth position.

Three Lithuanian pentathletes took part in the 1992 Barcelona Games. Gintaras Staškevičius was 15th with 5,234 points. The team also took 15th position.

The year 1994 was successful for our pentathletes. At the World Junior Championships, the national team (Andrejus Zadneprovskis, Edvinas Krungolcas, Saulius Kerza) won team and relay events. Gintaras Staškevičius won the World Cup bronze! In the 1995 European Championships the relay team — Staškevičius, Zadneprovskis, Krungolcas — was third. Zadneprovskis was fourth at the World Cup.



Kazimieras Baltrušis, President of the Lith. Modern Pentathlon Federation.

Wrestling

The first Greco-Roman wrestling contests in Lithuania were held in Kaunas in 1923. The first Lithuanian Championships took place in 1925.

Juozas Šimkus, a Lithuanian American, became the world champion (light heavyweight) in 1927; the heavyweight professional wrestler, Karolis Požėla, another Lithuanian American, was the 1932 and 1936 World and European champion.

The best Lithuanian wrestler, Rimantas Bagdonas, won the world title at Tampere, Finland, in 1965. Valentinas Mizgaitis won the world junior champion title in 1975.

Remigijus Šukevičius (57 kg) became the first Lithuanian

wrestler to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Ruslan Vartanov (52 kg) and Remigijus Šukevičius (57 kg) are going to the Atlanta Games, having taken sixth and ninth places respectively at the European Championships.

Freestyle championships have been held in Lithuania since 1953. Lithuanian athletes have won prizes at various international competitions. Ričardas Pauliukonis was third in the 1994 European Junior Championships and seventh in the 1996 European Senior Championships in Budapest.



Česlovas Bukelevičius, Head of the Wrestling Federation.

Shooting

So far Lithuanian marksmen have achieved the best results in precision shooting.

Vladas Turla has broken several world records in Rifle and Pistol; he is a frequent European and world championships winner. In the 1980 Moscow Games, the marksman scored 595 points in Rapid Fire Pistol, one point less than the medal winners and was fourth. Aukšė Treinytė was a world record holder, European and World champion.

Hunting has always been popular in Lithuania, therefore Trap and Skeet Championships took place as far back as 1926, continued until 1939, and were revived in 1952. Between 1972 and 1975, Virginija Marcinkevičiūtė-Stankevičienė won the bronze at the World Championships, two golds and a bronze at the European Championships. Olegas Vasilecas was a 1970 European team champion.

In Atlanta, Lithuanian shots will be represented by Daina Gudžinevičiūtė, the country's best woman shot during the last nine years. She was twice a 1988 European champion (individual and team), a 1989 world champion (team). She took second place in the 1992 European Championships (double trap shooting) and third in trap shooting. In the 1994 World Championships she was fourth and in 1995 ninth. Gudžinevičiūtė was the world police champion in 1988, 1990 and 1992.

LITHS SOCCER CLUB

The Lith Soccer Club has concluded their 46th year of soccer activity. The Lith Soccer Club Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the players, members and supporters who all worked together to make it possible for the Lith Soccer Club to sponsor and promote the sport of soccer in the Chicago area.

The club fielded four teams the past season; the Juvenile team managed by Mr. Gary Devorak had an excellent season; the team was made up of players from the Lemont area and they participated in the Chicago Suburban Soccer League; the team took second place and it looked like a skilled and well disciplined team.

The Junior team was managed by Mr. Biaggio Savarino and they played in the Metropolitan Youth Soccer League; the team was made up with players from the southwest suburbs. The Junior team struggled on some occasion specially when a full slate of players would not show up for the games; also the fact that they were playing in a very competitive league did not help

matters.

The Mens team managed by Mr. John Zukauskas has improved compared to the results of the previous year; the team participated in the First division of the Metropolitan Soccer League. Those who had an opportunity to attend the games have to agree that the level of play in the first division has improved steadily over the past two or three years. The team finished in the bottom half of their division but we believe that they worked hard in every game and the reason that we did not do better is because the other clubs have very competitive rosters.

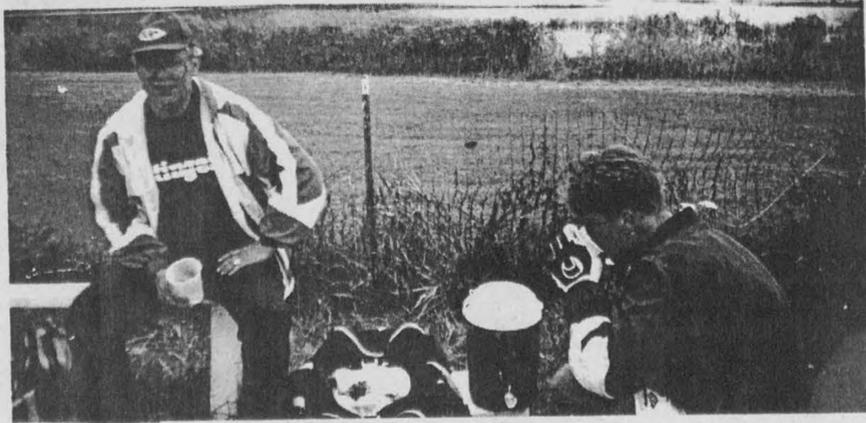
The Old Timers team managed by Adolf Jerger played in the Chicago Old Timers Soccer League. The team held its own specially playing against teams made up of younger players; there are five or six players on the Lith roster who are in the upper fifties; this is quite amazing to be able to play at that ad-

vanced age and they are to be congratulated for their efforts and the love of soccer.

During our home games we have a dedicated group of club members like Mr. A. Glavinskas, Mrs. L. Glavinskas; Mrs. B. Zaksas, Mr. L. Juraitis, Mr. B. Mikenas who organize the preparation and sale of food and refreshments; they are to be congratulated for their efforts because it raises funds for the club to cover their operating expenses and it also helps to quench the thirst and desire of food of our fans who get hungry after watching a good soccer game at our home field in the Lithuanian Center.

The Lith Soccer Club also appreciates the efforts of Mr. Edvardas Šulaitis who always keeps the Lithuanian press in USA and in Lithuanian informed of the activities of the Lith Soccer Club.

Lith Soccer Club Committee



Gediminas Bielskus (left) one of Lithuanica Men's soccer team coaches, and Wes Dapkus at the teams playing field in Lemont, IL.

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LITHUANIA DID IT AGAIN

When the first stirrings of freedom began in Eastern Europe Lithuania was among the very first occupied nations to take advantage of Gorbachev's "perestroika" and "glasnot". Her efforts were not only noticed in the free world but watched with interest and compassion. In the 1989, 1990, 1991 Lithuania soon became the favorite subject of American press and news commentators. When the restoration of Independence came on March 11, 1990, everybody rejoiced and expressed their best wishes. It was also stated numerous times that Lithuania gave an example which was followed all across Eastern and Central Europe. Soon all the occupied countries won their freedom and the Soviet Union became unravelled.

Therefore, when during the first free elections Lithuanians put the same people — ex-communists — in the governmental posts, the Western world expressed disbelief and disappointment. Many other free nations followed suite, and elected ex-communists too.

Parliamentary elections on October 20 and November 10 in Lithuania seemed to restore the hope for real democracy. American media was quick to take notice and make comments. Here are a few examples.

November balloting has ex-communists on the run

"Little Lithuania just can't stop setting precedents in world politics.

The Lithuanian people were at the forefront of the dramatic, even, harrowing drive to secure independence for the Baltic nations captured under Soviet rule after World War II. Once free of Moscow's yoke, Lithuania was able to negotiate a withdrawal of Russian troops from its territory a full year before its neighbors, Latvia and Estonia, became the beneficiaries of such a historic retreat.

But Lithuania also was the first place where the economic

crisis brought by a transition from communist rule to democracy and the free market played itself out at the ballot box: Politicians belonging to a communist party capitalized on popular disenchantment with the founding fathers of independence and took over parliament and the presidency from the original democrats.

This process of newly independent Central European states voting their reformed — or at least renamed — communist rulers back into power has since been repeated in one form or another elsewhere in the former Soviet empire, most notably in Poland, Hungary and Slovakia.

Now, with the results from the Oct. 20 balloting for parliament, Lithuania has done it again. The nation's rehabilitated, post-communist organization, called the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party (LDLP), was driven from parliament by the same politicians who engineered the independence drive from Moscow.

The victory for the Homeland Union, the party that succeeded the once-outlawed independence movement Sajūdis, was sweet revenge for the communist sweep in 1992 that brought the LDLP to power only one year after independence.

Emboldened by the results, Vytautas Landsbergis, the musicologist-chess master who outmaneuvered the Kremlin when Lithuania quit the Soviet Union in 1991, will be given a chance to form a coalition in parliament and name a new government. An opportunity for a complete comeback comes in 1998, when he may again run for president as that post becomes available. The current president is Algirdas Brazauskas, an ally of Lithuania's post-communist party.

The trend was followed by Bulgaria, where a Nov. 3 presidential vote gave victory to the opposition candidate from the Union of Democratic Forces over a rival from the ex-communists. And in Romania,

November balloting has the ruling ex-communists on the run.

But one other, more troubling trend in Central Europe also came into focus during this fascinating vote in Lithuania, and that was a growing apathy and disenfranchisement felt by the citizenry — in stark contrast to the popular revolt for civil freedom that ended communist rule in the eastern half of Europe.

The turnout for the parliamentary vote was only 55 percent, the lowest in three elections held since independence, and can be blamed on disappointment with results of life under new democratic institutions.

Even so, the voting in Lithuania, Bulgaria and Romania shows that multiparty systems are taking deep root throughout the formerly communist world. "The Chicago Tribune," Nov. 16

Normal politics are returning to once Soviet-occupied nations

"Lithuania, a small, Baltic nation at the center of the European continent, was the first ex-Communist state, back in 1992, to turn its first democratic government out of office and put ex-communists back in power. When Poland and then other nations followed Lithuania's example and re-anointed former Communist rulers, much was made of this counter-revolutionary trend: Was the ex-Soviet block already tired of reform and looking for a return to socialism?"

Now Lithuania is in the vanguard again. In elections completed last weekend, voters turned the former Communist out of office once more and restored power to the Conservative Party, which led Lithuania to its post-Soviet independence. Vytautas Landsbergis, the uncompromising hero of that independence struggle, is likely to be elected chairman of the parliament. The ruling Democratic Labor Party, as the former Communists now call themselves, won less than 10 percent of the vote.

What does all this mean? To

a large extent, only this: that normal politics are returning to the once occupied nations of Central and Eastern Europe. The reformed Communist party of Lithuania, it turns out, had no intention of reviving socialism, nor of forming an unhealthy alliance with Russia. In Lithuania as in each of these nations, in fact, every major party was committed to independent statehood, to democracy and to a free-market economy, with differences only of how to achieve common goals and of which constituencies to favor along the way.

Political volatility thus does not reflect any basic ideological divide but speaks rather to the pain of economic transition. Although they do not want a return to the past, voters are unhappy with corruption, economic insecurity and low living standards. Not surprisingly, they blame whoever is in power. Throughout the old Soviet block, many democrats proved themselves more adept at battling communism than at governing newly born states. Now in Lithuania they will have a chance to show what they have learned during four years of opposition. No doubt many neighboring countries will be paying close attention.

"The Washington Post," Nov. 14

Restoring confidence in democracy

"The centre-right coalition led by Mr. Vytautas Landsbergis, Lithuania's former president, emerged yesterday as the clear winner of parliamentary elections after a strong showing in Sunday's second round of polling.

His conservative Homeland Union won a total of 70 seats, one short of a majority in the 140-strong parliament, but the 16 seats won by its partner, the Christian Democrats, give the coalition a comfortable majority.

Mr. Gediminas Vagnorius, the presumptive prime minister in the new government, yesterday backed away from a controversial campaign pledge to scrap the independent currency board,

which fixes parities for the litas, the Lithuanian currency. He said policy would not be changed for at least 12 months.

"We want to preserve a stable situation," Mr. Vagnorius in a telephone interview. "Next year we will start plans to strengthen the central bank, but any exit from the current arrangement would be gradual and not done before 12 months from now."

His comments are aimed at easing investor concerns about an imminent devaluation of the litas, which the currency board currently pegs at four to one US dollars.

Mr. Vagnorius said the Homeland Union would "deepen" privatization efforts through "open public sales with no restrictions on foreign participation."

Analysts in Vilnius, the capital, are confident that the coalition can form a new government quickly when parliament reconvenes in two weeks.

Mr. Landsbergis, a sardonic 65-year-old, is expected to become speaker of parliament, a possible launch pad for a presidential attempt in two years.

He lost his position as head of state in 1992 when the ex-communist Lithuanian Democratic Labour party (LDLP) swept his party out of office after only a year in power. In the new parliament, the LDLP will hold only 12 seats.

The Homeland Union, which benefited from low turnout in both rounds of voting, still faces a difficult task in dispelling the lingering concerns about its ability to manage the economy.

An International Monetary Fund official in Vilnius said that the IMF had received assurances from Mr. Vagnorius after the first round of voting that a currency board would remain the "linchpin" of the current \$200 m. loan that expires next September.

The new government will be watched for any departure from the tight monetary and budget policies pursued by the LDLP, which the Fund expects to keep inflation below 20 per cent this year and produce 4.5 per cent growth in 1997."

Danutė Bindokienė

Armed Forces Day

All citizens who grew up in Lithuania during the period of independence still remembered the battles for freedom. Every locality had inhabitant who had personally fought in the Wars of Independence as volunteers or conscripts. The memory of these battles and the sacrifice they had exacted of the nation were known and appreciated by all.

Armed Forces Day was celebrated on November 23rd. It was designated to remember and honor the Lithuanian army which has won independence for the nation.

The Council of Lithuania, assembled in Vilnius on February 16, 1918, proclaimed the Declaration of Independence. Though this joyous news meant that all the yearnings and hopes of the Lithuanians were being fulfilled, the country did not automatically become free, foreign armies did not leave, neighbors did not cease waiting to seize a portion of the young new nation's territory. Everyone knew that the words needed to be bolstered with arms: it was not enough to declare independence, the world needed to be shown that the nation was capable of maintaining, protecting and defending it.

On November 23rd of that same year (1918) the first order was issued to begin organizing an army. This was a very difficult period for Lithuania, but when the government called, thousands of men joined the armed forces. Conditions for organizing an army were trying: weapons, clothing and the simplest articles needed to outfit soldiers were in short supply. But determination was not lacking. After spending decades fighting for freedom in writing and print, after much hardship and suffering, the Lithuanians now felt freedom very close: it could almost be touched. Just a little more effort was needed, just a little more sacrifice and it could be ensured.

After arduous and long bat-

les, the Lithuanian army secured the country's independence and allowed the nation to direct and establish its own life.

November 23rd was also set aside for the Order of the Vytautas Cross. Homage was paid to soldiers awarded this decoration for participating in the Wars of Independence.

Although Lithuania was a young, newly free state, it attended to the welfare of its armed forces and was proud of their preparedness, weapons' provisioning, and cultural contribution to the nation's life.

However, after the Wars of Independence ended, the ordinary citizen, especially living in remote places far from major cities, rarely had occasion to come into direct contact with the army, understand its importance and exult that the homeland's freedom was still being guarded by such fine men. In about 1936, plans were made for a day to bring the public into contact with the armed forces.

On this occasion, held in the middle of May, the public was able to visit the barracks area and the barracks themselves, inspect military ordinance, weapons, living quarters and even taste military food. These days were popular and attracted people from remote places in Lithuania.

Although Lithuania's soldiers did not receive the government's order to take up arms and fight on June 15, 1940, when foreign troops marched into the country, many joined the ranks of the freedom fighters during the second Communist invasion (1945) and subsequently, for nearly ten years, fought a life and death battle in Lithuania's forests. Therefore, when we commemorate Armed Forces Day on November 23rd, we must remember not only the soldiers who fought in the Wars of Independence but also those who joined the freedom fighters after 1945.

The Balts before the Dawn of History

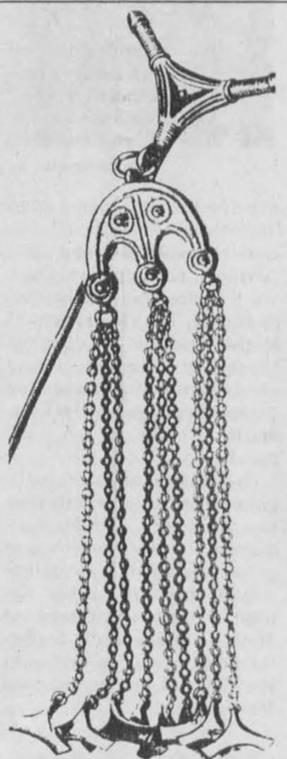
By Dr. Marija Gimbutienė

Several centuries before the written records which illuminate the birth of the Lithuanian state and the ensuing wars with the Teutonic Knights, the Baltic tribes enjoyed their second 'golden age'. Their lands remained intact, economy and trade progressed, arts and crafts flourished. The coastal tribes, particularly the Curonians, were now on the offensive in the war of piracy with the Scandinavian countries.

The Curonians had become Baltic 'Vikings'; they were the most restless and the richest of all the Balts during this period. That the Curonians were attacking Denmark and that its coasts in winter and in summer had to be guarded against them and other Vikings from the east is attested by the "Heimskringla" of Snorre Sturleson, set down during the reign of the Norwegian King Harald Harefoot (1045-66). Snorre Sturle-

son mentions in his "Ynglingasaga" that in 1049 under King Svein, and in 1051 under King Magnus, a special sermon against Curonian pirates was introduced in the Danish churches: 'O mighty God, protect us against the Curonians.' From the early thirteenth-century chronicles we learn that it was customary for the Curonians to devastate and plunder the Danish and Swedish kingdoms and to carry away church bells and other objects.

It is to be expected that Curonian weapons and ornaments would be found all over the western Baltic Sea coasts to Denmark. That they reached Gotland even before the wars with Denmark is shown by a number of Curonian pins, fibulae and swords dating from the tenth century. These articles have been found in various places along the coasts of Gotland. Some are isolated finds, but some come from graves. In Huggleifs near Silte a woman's grave containing typically Curonian ornaments was discovered. Other Curonian finds on Gotland were pins with triangular or cross-shaped heads, and swords such as are found in great numbers in western Lithuania, particularly around Klaipėda and Kretinga. Whether these isolated finds are merely imports from Curonia or the relics of a Curonian colony on Gotland is difficult to tell, but the grave at Huggleifs certainly proves the presence of some Curonians on the island.



Silver-coated bronze pendant.

Other Baltic finds on Gotland, and in Uppland and Oland in central Sweden, point to commercial relations during the tenth and eleventh centuries. A fragment of a silver neckring with saddle shaped end, which is a widely distributed type in central and eastern parts of Lithuania and Latvia, was found on Gotland (Boters near

Gerum) together with Arab, Byzantine, German and Anglo-Saxon coins. Another neckring of the same type comes from Oland.

Trade and wars of piracy between the Baltic and Scandinavian Vikings continued intermittently throughout the tenth and eleventh centuries. Rich and well-settled Curonia attracted the rapacious Vikings from Sweden, Denmark, and even from Iceland, but they, in turn, were decoyed by the Curonians who plundered their coasts. Thus the powers were balanced by piratical raids on both sides, and sources do not mention any larger wars. Bands of marauders anything from seven to 30 strong usually carried out such raids, not far from the coast, to facilitate a fast retreat. For this reason, on both sides of the Baltic the settlements are found a considerable distance in from the sea. Almost all the larger Curonian towns and villages were located from 5 to 25 km. from the coast.

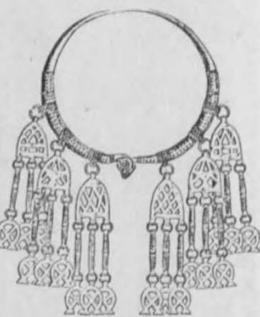
A picturesque illustration of Viking raids and a description of the living standard of the Curonian landowners at the beginning of the tenth century is presented by the Icelandic "Egils-saga." In it we find a long account of how Thorolf and Egil harried in Curonia around 925. It is replete with precious fragments illuminating details in the life of a Curonian feudal lord. We read of fights with swords, spears, and arrows, of

clothes being thrown over the enemy's weapons, of enemies being captured and held in cellars ('holes') for years or being killed by torture. The feudal lord's castle comprised many houses and barns, surrounded by ramparts ('fences'). Houses were built of great logs of timber, and had chambers on the first floor and stairs leading to attics. The chambers had flat shield wainscots. The lord slept in the attic, and servingmen made the beds. In the attics were stored weapons and wooden chests full of silver. The lord and his men feasted in a 'hall', which probably was the largest room in one of the buildings. But that is about all that we learn from the Scandinavian narrators, and for the other gleanings we have to return to the graves.

The graves of the Curonians known now from not less than 30 large cemeteries in western Lithuania and western Latvia are extremely rich in grave furnishings and full of silver, bronze and iron. Let us examine one feudal lord's grave from the cemetery of Laiviai near Kretinga in western Lithuania dating from around A.D. 1000: cremated bones were in a mansized tree-trunk coffin, accompanied by nine fibulae, a leather belt ornamented with bronze and amber beads, three spears, an iron battle-axe with a broad blade and a socketed axe, an iron instrument for striking fire, a sickle, an iron key and bronze scales, a saddle and iron

bridle-bits; there were in addition several miniature tools and weapons, which either were symbols of his other possessions or belonged to his servants and slaves. Women's graves were particularly rich in bronze and silver ornaments. From what is found in the graves we can readily visualize how all these goods must have filled up the treasure chests kept in the landowner's house. Equally rich graves also appear all over the Baltic coasts from the Vistula in the south to Latvia and Estonia in the north, and this explains why the Scandinavians were persistently lurking around the East Baltic coasts.

(To be continued)



Bronze necklace and bracelets.



Lands of ancient Balts.



The emblem of Vytautas the Great was placed at the entrance to the university only a few weeks ago.

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY IN KAUNAS

The University General Characteristics

The University of Lithuania was founded in 1922. 1930 the university was re-named Vytautas Magnus University. The University was closed by the Nazis and again in 1950 by the Soviets. Then studies were re-organized to form Polytechnical and Medical Institutes.

With the rebirth of Lithuanian independence in 1989, through the efforts of Lithuanian scholars at home and abroad, Vytautas Magnus University was restored.

VMU has been organized according to the principles of autonomy and academic freedom similar to the structure of North American and Western European universities.

The University accords special attention to Humanities and to Social Sciences. In the seven faculties there are 2,000 undergraduate students, 530 students in the Master's programs and 150 in doctoral programs. Among the 323 teaching staff there are 74 professors, 128 docents (associate professors). Each year there are about 30 visiting professors and lecturers from the United States and other Western European universities.

VMU has close ties and reciprocal exchanges with institutions of higher education in Austria, Canada, Great Britain, Italy, United States, Poland, Norway, Finland, Sweden and Germany. These relationships develop through visiting professors working at VMU, and the Lithuanian students participating in study programs abroad, as well as joint research projects. The foreign universities support VMU financially with equipment and educational materials.

There are also good relationships with universities in the

United States such as: the University of Illinois, Loyola, Rutgers, Fordham, Crayton, and others.

VMU is located in Lithuania's second largest city, Kaunas. From 1920 to 1940 it was the temporary capital. Presently Kaunas is rapidly developing into a business center.

The University occupies four buildings which include classrooms, laboratories, a dormitory for 350 students and separate housing facilities for staff.

The University offers undergraduate and graduate studies. It takes four years of study to achieve a Bachelor's degree. During the first two years of undergraduate studies students take general humanistic courses as well as basic and introductory courses in the field of chosen specialization. The study of the English language and Informatics (computers) is especially emphasized. For an effective organization of studies there are 6 personal computer classes, special laboratories, other facilities and reading rooms. In the third and fourth years two thirds of the program's time is devoted to courses in the field of specialization.

VMU offers two levels of graduate studies: the first level is a two years Master's program and a three to four year doctoral programs.

Many special programs are organized with other research institutes of Lithuania which have good research laboratories.

Environmental Sciences

There are 155 undergraduate students, 36 in the Master's degree programs and 15 doctoral students. Of the 37 teaching staff members 22 are professors and 11 associate professors.

The Department of Environmental Studies has 9 faculty members of whom 5 are professors and 3 associate professors.

The Department of Biology has 10 faculty members of whom 5 are professors and 4 associate professors.

The Department of Physics has 9 faculty members of whom 6 are professors and 2 associate professors.

In undergraduate studies a Bachelor's degree is obtained in Environmental Studies, Biology and Physics. After two more years of study these students receive their Master's degrees. Doctoral studies are organized in Biology and Physical Sciences.

Faculty of Business and Administration

The Faculty has 308 undergraduate students, 114 in the Master's degree programs and 8 doctoral students.

Among the 19 faculty members there are 3 professors, and 15 associate professors.

The Management Study Center organizes study and research projects.

Undergraduate studies stress business administration skills. In the Master's programs there are three specializations: Organizational Management; Marketing and International Commerce; Finance and Banking. The doctoral students pursue studies in as yet not much explored business administration and management fields.

Faculty of Humanities

In the Faculty there are 522 undergraduate students, 105 Master's and 71 in doctoral programs. There are 132 teaching staff members of whom are 19 professors and 32 associate professors.

Teaching and research are organized by the following departments, English Language and Literature (39 teaching staff members include 1 professor and 5 associate professors), Ethnology and Folklore Studies (9 faculty members, including 2 professors, 6 associate professors), Philosophy (4 teaching members, including 2 professors and 1 associate professors), History (19 faculty members, including 4 professors, 10 associate professors), Lithuanian Language (13 teaching staff members, including 3 professors, 5 associate professors), Lithuanian Literature (11 faculty members, including 3 professors, 3 associate professors), in the Foreign Language Faculty there are 37 faculty members of whom 4 are associate professors. Research is carried out in study Centers: Computer Linguistic, Latonics and Lithuanian in Exile.



Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences building (left); Catholic Theology Faculty building (right) are just two of the many in the Vytautas Magnus University campus.

Bachelor degrees are granted in Ethnology and Folklore Studies, Philosophy, History, English Language and Literature, Lithuanian Language and Literature, German Language and Literature, French Language and Literature. Master's degrees are offered in the English Language and Literature, Lithuanian Ethnic Culture, Lithuanian Language, Lithuanian Literature, Philosophy, Lithuanian History. Doctoral degrees are given in Ethnology, Folklore, History, Linguistics and Literature.

Faculty of Informatics

The Faculty has 214 undergraduates, 52 students in the Master's degree, and 16 in doctoral programs.

Studies and research are orga-



Books donated by American universities.

nized by two departments. The Department of Applied Informatics has 23 teaching staff members, among whom there are 8 professors, 11 associate professors. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has 12 faculty members, among whom there are 6 professors and 6 associate professors. The Informatics Center has 5 staff members.

The Informatics Faculty grants Bachelor's and Master's degrees. In the Master's program there are three specializations: Business Informatics, Applied Informatics, Mathematical Methods in Economics. A doctor's degree may be earned in the fields of Informatics and Mathematics.

Faculty of Catholic Theology

The Faculty of Catholic Theology has 266 undergraduates, and 12 are in the Master's degree program. There are 14 faculty members, including 2 professors and 9 associate professors.

The curriculum follows guidelines of the Congregation of Roman Catholic Studies as well as the bylaws of Vytautas Magnus University.

Since 1995 St. Anthony's Religious Study Institute of Kretinga has been affiliated with the Faculty of Catholic Theology. There are 93 students in Kretinga.

Faculty of Arts

The Faculty has 158 undergraduates and 20 in the Master's program.

There are 26 faculty members, among whom 2 are professors and 11 associate professors.

In undergraduate studies the concentration is a varied studies profile: Visual and Applied Arts, Architecture, Folk Art, Theater, Art of Photography, Art or Movement, Music, Cinema and Video. A Master's degree may be earned in Visual Arts, theory and History of Architecture and Theater Studies.

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Faculty has 218 undergraduate students, 155 in the Master's degree program and 18 doctoral studies.

The Social Sciences faculty consists of 60 teaching staff members, including 9 professors and 33 associate professors.

Study and research work is carried out in the following departments:

Department of Political Science and Sociology (13 faculty members, 3 professors, and 8 associate professors).

Department of Psychology (19 teaching staff members, 3 professors and 13 associate professors).

Department of Law (6 faculty members, 6 associate professors).

Department of Physical Edu-



cation (12 teaching personnel, 2 associate professors).

Pedagogical Center (6 staff members, 1 professor and 4 associate professors).

Center for Social Welfare Professional Education (4 employees professors).

Center for Social Welfare Professional Education (4 employees professors).

Students are awarded a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. A Master's degree is offered in the following areas of study: Educational Psychology, Social Welfare, Applied Pedagogy, Applied Sociology, Vocation, Education, Management of Vocational Education, Commercial Law and International Law. Doctoral degrees are granted in the fields of Education, Psychology and Sociology.

Kaunas Botanical Garden

This scientific center is an affiliate of Vytautas Magnus University with 130 employees. Research work is carried out by 1 professor and 9 doctors.

There are 3 research laboratories and one department.

— The Laboratory of Phytocology (5 workers 3 of whom are doctors);

— Laboratory of Medicinal Herbs (5 workers 3 of whom are doctors);

— Laboratory of Dendroclimatology (4 workers, 1 or whom is a professor and 2 associate professors);

— A Department of Plant Collections and Expositions (25 specialists, 1 of whom is a doctor).

The exhibits and collections contain 5,590 ornamental plants, 465 (279 species) of Herbs, 105 species of spices and melliferous plants, 40 kinds of berries. There is also a collection of aphid preparations, tree ring data bank and a library.

Library

The Central Library of VMU is at S. Daukanto 28. Presently it houses about 90,000 books, textbooks and periodical publications. New books are acquired through the National Library

Foundation, from other libraries, exchange programs and generous donations. One example is the personal library in the archive collection of B. Kviklys.

The library is used by over 3,000 individuals who are students or staff members, instructors and other higher education institution students and visitors who attend lectures at the University.

Besides the Central Library there are six reading rooms for periodicals, Foreign languages, Environmental studies and Informatics and a Theology reading room which houses the personal library of the former Dean prof. V. Butkus.

Computerization of the library is funded chiefly by American Lithuanians. Mr. and Mrs. Sinkis the Lithuanian Fund in Chicago and Open Society Fund — Lithuania are the main contributors.

Through the American Culture Center in Vilnius the Information Agency of U.S. gave the university 1988-1995 periodical collection in computer discs (CD ROM), Periodical Abstracts Research I. In 1996 this subscription was extended for free for a three year period. The program contains 300 full magazine texts, and about 1,500 abstracts. The complete system and equipment was donated and installed in the Periodical Reading room for the use of interested students and others.

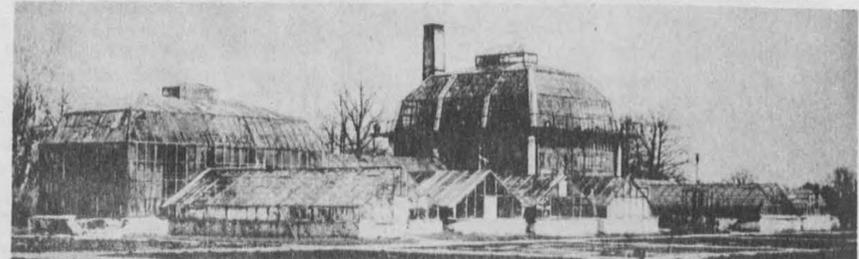
Student Activities

At VMU there are 28 student fraternities and other organizations. There is a Student Council which represents all student interests and concerns. Sports activities are coordinated by the club "Vytis." There is a popular Folkloric ensemble which performs not only at the University but in public as well. Young ladies may choose to belong to the Women's Chamber Choir. The students organize creatively Mardi Gras celebrations, sports festivals, Valentine's Day, and Freshmen initiation.

VYTAUTAS MAGNUS UNIVERSITY is located at S. Daukanto str. 28, Kaunas, 3000, Lithuania.



The building, housing Environmental Sciences of VMU in Kaunas.



Botanical Gardens in Kaunas.

INGRIDA BUBLIENĖ — NEW HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL FOR LITHUANIA

In early October Cleveland, OH, newspapers printed stories about a local resident, an active member of Lithuanian community, Ingrida Bublienė, named by Lithuania's government as a honorary consul general and establishing a new honorary consulate in Cleveland, Ohio.

Ingrida Bublienė is a lady worth knowing, therefore, we will reprint some highlights from these publications and wish the new honorary consul general the best of luck — she deserves it.

William F. Miller (The Plain Dealer, Oct. 5) writes:

"During the Cold War, Ingrid G. Bublys was often on Public Square with other Baltic demonstrators fighting for freedom for their former homelands.

Now, with freedom in her Lithuania, Bublys has a new role. Last week the Willoughby Hills resident was named honorary consul general of Lithuania for Greater Cleveland and Ohio.

Her enthusiasm for promoting trade between Lithuania and the United States brought her to the attention of Lithuania's parliament and diplomatic



Ingrida Bublienė.

corps, and the honorary consul's job offered.

"This is a great responsibility but one I am so proud to have because of my love of Lithuania and the long struggle to see it take its place among the free nations," she said.

Her consulate office is at 18021 Marcella Rd., off E. 185th St., where many Lithuanian immigrants live.

It also is next to the offices of IB Communications, international consultants, of which she is president. She also maintains a trade office in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Bublys, who was born in Lithuania but was reared in Cleveland, is the first honorary consul in the United States appointed by the Lithuanian democratic government.

Bublys came to Cleveland with her family in 1951 and attended elementary schools through high school.

"I went to Lithuanian language and culture schools every Saturday for years and years," she said. "Then I envied my friends who played while I learned the Lithuanian language, but now I am happy I can speak Lithuanian as well as English." She also participated in Lithuanian folk dance groups like Grandinė under master teachers Liudas and Alexandra Sagys.

"The neighborhood was like living in Lithuania, and it pleased my parents because they wanted me and my sisters to continue the Lithuanian culture here. We lived in the middle of Lithuanian culture, and the Rev. Gediminas Kijauskas was and still is the spiritual adviser at our neighborhood Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church."

Bublys has made numerous trips to Lithuania since 1990.

"Lithuania is a small nation of 4 million, but is working to increase its exports to the world and especially the United States in textiles, electronics and spirits," she said. "We make great vodka and herbal drinks."

Bublys said she will be calling on small and large businesses to try to interest them in trade, exchanges and other business.

Her familiarity with the city and its industries will be a plus. She also rescued the Litexpo, a large convention hall in Vilnius.

More than four years ago she lobbied the Lithuanian parliament to keep the massive building for expositions and not turn it into a large stock exchange. She won.

In May 1992, she organized the first Lithuanian products exposition at the International Exposition Center in Brook Park. Eighteen merchants from Lithuania came. "It was overpowering for them because they had never been in America before or at an expo, but the experience was good because some have returned as veterans of the expos with no guides needed."

Bublys has been popular as a board member of the World Trade Association and is active in Rotary International here and in Vilnius.

She is hard to miss. She wears large-brimmed hats of different colors.

"I've always loved hats," she said.

The hats have become an American symbol in Lithuania, where "evebody called me the lady with the hats."

She earned a degree in chemistry and mathematics from Ursuline College. She became a research scientist at Republic Steel Corp., working there for four years, and left to rear five children with her husband, Romas, an engineer and senior manager of an aerospace company.

"Catholi Universe Bulletin," Oct. 18, introduces Ingrida as "Our Lady of Perpetual Help":

grate to the United States, they find a new home at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, an ethnic parish established for them on Cleveland's east side. Helping them make the transition to American life is Ingrid G. Bublys, a parishioner recently appointed honorary consul of Lithuania. She now is one of three honorary consuls in the U.S.

"The key thing is to develop relations and good understanding between the two countries, and further economic and cultural ties," she said of her new post.

Bublys, who fled Russian occupation in her homeland with her parents in 1951, has long been intensely involved in Lithuanian activities based at the parish. She attended "Saturday school" there as a child, learning the language and participating in dance, athletic and cultural events all tied to Lithuania.

After graduating from Villa Angela High School, she earned a chemistry degree at Ursuline College and worked as a chemist. After staying home to raise her five children, she started another career in public relations. Bublys eventually started her own company, an international consulting firm with offices at the parish and Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. Her business works to develop new markets.



At the 21st Awards presentation by the Illinois American-Lithuanian Republican Party held October 20th in Lemont, IL., special award recipients (from 1. to right): Vytautas Jasinevičius and Nijolė Maskaliūnienė — Distinguished Service, Danutė Bindokienė, Editor-in-Chief of the daily Draugas — Lithuanian of the Year; Vaclovas Kleiza, honorary consuls gen. of Lithuania — Spirit of Freedom.

Photo by Vytautas Jasinevičius

LITHUANIANS AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

"I am very tickled to death," Bublys said. "I just hope I can stand up to it, not disappoint my country or Lithuania."

Bublys and her husband, Romas, have five grown children: Tauras, 31, Vija, 27, Rama, 26, Aida, 25, and Gaja 18. They also have one grandchild.

Cecilia V. Dolgan of the "New-Herald" has this to say about the new Lithuanian consul general (honorary, of course):

"The bubbly Bublys, who is president of the international consulting firm IB Communications, is excited about her latest challenge.

"A year ago when the Lithuanian ambassador to the United States asked me to consider the position, I couldn't believe it," said Bublys, who is on the board of Cleveland's World Trade Association and a member of Rotary International. "They knew of my involvement in international trade and how my business links small companies and corporations with those in Lithuania."

Bublys, who emigrated from Lithuania with her family in 1951, grew up in the East 185th Street neighborhood where many of the area's 10,000 Lithuanians reside.

She learned to speak Lithuanian by attending Saturday language classes. She also participated in the Lithuanian folk dance group, Grandinė.

After graduating from the former Villa Angela High School, she earned degrees in chemistry and mathematics from Ursuline College in Pepper Pike. She became a chemist, but decided to stay home to raise her five children.

Her husband Romas is an aerospace engineer/manager. The children are grown, and the couple have one grandchild.

In 1982, Bublys went back to college to study marketing. She changed careers and started a public relations company, which eventually led to the international connections.

Bublys is a popular choice to serve in the diplomatic post, said Ada Stungys, co-president of Cleveland's Lithuanian American Community.

"Ingrid is very bright, articulate, and a good person," said Stungys, of Kirtland. "We are very pleased she was honored by the position. She has worked hard for Lithuania and its independence. She now helps economically by getting trade point between the United States and Lithuania."

Stungys said the selection of Cleveland for a consulate office is a two-fold benefit.

"It gives the Cleveland Li-

thuanian Americans participating actively in Republican politics were Jonas Girnius and Antanas Olšauskas. By 1895 there were nine clubs organized in Chicago as the Illinois Lithuanian Republican Alliance. Chicago banker Juozapas Elias-Elijošius was elected Cook County Commissioner in 1906.

A while later, Jonas Bagdžiūnas-Borden was appointed Park Commissioner of Western Chicago by the Governor of Illinois. Republican attorney Juozas Grizus (Grish) was an assistant to the prosecutor of the state of Illinois.

Our most durable political figure of Lithuanian heritage is John F. Kimbark. He began his elective office career in 1944 in the town of Cicero. He continued holding town office there until he died in 1983.

Lithuanian Republican politics began to show effect at the county level again in 1946 with the election of Anthony Olis as Sanitary District Trustee. Then in 1950, Olis was elected president of the Metropolitan Sanitary District.

Further political effort continued during the Eisenhower campaign of 1952. John Brenza was elected Cook County Treasurer in 1954. Following the untimely death of Anthony Olis in

thuanian community the recognition it deserves for being a strong and vital force politically and culturally," she said. "Secondly, it cuts down on a lot of red tape. Before, we had to go through the consulate office in Chicago."

Bublys plans to continue the trend of other consuls, to have her office in the neighborhood. Croatia has its consulate office in Eastlake.

The offices for Lithuania will be in a building at 18021 Marcella Road, adjacent to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Roman Catholic Church, where Bublys has her communications company.

"This is the heart of the Lithuanian community," Bublys said. "I am representing their homeland. I want to be accessible to the people. I want them to come in and get help if they have trouble with a job visa or if they want tourism information."

She said having the office away from downtown Cleveland should not be a problem. Bublys said: "We have faxes, e-mail, and computers to keep in touch with downtown."

1958 just prior to his bid for reelection there was a period of hibernation in Lithuanian American Republican organization activities.

Various individuals did work for selected candidates. However, it wasn't until 1966 that the League formally organized to support a broad range of Republican party candidates in Illinois.

In 1968 League membership included 2 Cook County candidates Val Adamkus for Sanitary District Trustee and Tony Valukas for Circuit Court Judge. The League affiliated with the newly organized Illinois Republican State Nationalities Council in 1970 and with the new National Lithuanian American Republican federation in 1971.

The League has been encouraging Lithuanians to participate more actively in regular Republican party activities, in particular as candidates. This policy is taking effect. In 1974, Oksas was a candidate for Metropolitan Sanitary District Trustee. During the spring of 1975, Alex Jankūnas was a candidate for Trustee of the Morton Community College Board.

During 1976, the following Lithuanian Republicans were candidates: Anton Valukas — Judge of the Appellate Court, 1st Judicial District; Casimir Oksas — Cook County Recorder; Charles Janulis — State Senator, 27th District; A.C. Bartulis — State Representative, 49th District and Alex Jankūnas — Morton College Board Trustee. In 1977, Stanley Paulauskas was candidate for Park District Commissioner of Oak Park and James Lack (Lachawicz) for City Clerk of Palos Hills. During 1981, Algis Jurkūnas was candidate for Alderman in the city of Berwyn. Earlier, Juozas Bacevičius was a candidate for Alderman in the City of Chicago, Ted Allen ran for MSD, and Joseph Rachūnas was elected Delegate to the Illinois Constitutional Convention.

In September 1980 League officials organized a campaign walk down Chicago's Lithuanian Plaza Court (69th Street) for presidential candidate Ronald Reagan. In 1980 and 1984 presidential campaigns, Anatole Milūnas was designated the National Chairman of Lithuanian Americans for Reagan-Bush, Jonas Talandis was the Republican party candidate for Commissioner of the Chicago Metropolitan Sanitary District in addition to being Co-Chairman of Illinois Ethnic for the

Reagan-Bush campaign of 1984.

Appointed public officials from the ranks of the League include Federal EPA Regional Administrator Valdas Adamkus and Cook County Jury Commissioner Casimir G. Oksas. In 1981, Anton J. Valukas was appointed Associate Judge in Circuit Court of Cook County and Casimir Oksas was appointed by Governor Thompson to the Illinois Ethnic Heritage Commission. In 1982 Anatole Milūnas was appointed by the president to the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee and later he became Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commercial Vehicle Safety. In 1983 Casimir Oksas was appointed to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Air University.

Current appointments include. Anatole Milūnas in 1992 by U.S. Secretary of Interior to Illinois — Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor Commission, Casimir G. Oksas in 1994 by Governor Jim Edgar to the Juvenile Advisory Board of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Francis Šlutas in 1994 by governor Jim Edgar to the Radiologic Technologist Accreditation Advisory Council.

Lithuanian Republicans elected to public office include: Illinois State Central Committeeman Don Adams, DuPage County Board member Patricia Trowbridge, Cook County Circuit Court Judge Anton Valukas, and DuPage County Precinct Committeeman Anatole Milūnas.

During the 1988 Presidential campaign, League members Casimir Oksas and Anatole Milūnas served as National Co-Chairmen of Lithuanian Americans for the Bush/Quayle 88, while Vytautas Jasinevičius was a Regional Vice Chairman with Joseph Šulaitis and Pranas Jurkus as Co-Chairmen for Illinois.

In October 1989, Casimir Oksas was elected chairman of the National Republican Heritage Groups (Nationalities) Council, an official auxiliary of the Republican National Committee. He was also designated as a member of the Executive Committee of the Republican National Committee.

David Shestėkas was the Republican candidate for Congress in the 5th District of Illinois in 1990. Vyt. Jasinevičius was Lithuanian American Co-ordinator of the Lynn Martin for U.S. Senate campaign.

During 1992 Presidential Campaign Anatole Milūnas served as National Chairman of Lithuanian-Americans for Bush/Quale 92. In 1993 League members were actively involved in state wide campaigns. Anatole Milūnas chaired Lithuanian-Americans for Gov. Jim Edgar. Casimir G. Oksas chaired Lithuanian-Americans for George Ryan, Secretary of State. Vytautas Jasinevičius chaired Lithuanian-Americans for Judy Topinka — State Treasurer.

Currently members of the League are involved in the 1996

PARLIAMENT COMPRISED OF 17% WOMEN

Vilnius, Nov 11, BNS — The new Lithuanian parliament will have twice as many women MPs as its predecessor.

According to the preliminary results publicized by the supreme electoral commission, 24 women received parliamentary mandates in the new parliament. There are 10 women MPs among incumbent parliamentarians.

The largest number of women among the 137 newly elected MPs will be members of the Conservative faction — 15. Two female MPs each were elected on the Centrist Union, Lithuanian Democratic Labor (LDDP) and Social Democratic Party tickets. There will also be one woman MP from the Christian Democratic Party, the Democratic Party and the Women's Party.

17 percent women is not a small percentage in comparison with the current parliament. Nonetheless, in terms of "feminization," the Lithuanian parliament continues to lag behind many Western European countries, especially the Scandinavian countries.

JONAS AVYŽIUS PRESIDES OVER PARLIAMENT

Vilnius, Nov. 12, BNS — The 74-year-old Jonas Avyžius, a Lithuanian literary classic, will preside over the first session of the new parliament on November 25 and continue to function in this role until a new parliamentary chairman is elected.

In keeping with the Lithuanian constitution, the eldest parliamentarian opens and presides over the first session of parliament.

The writer Jonas Avyžius was elected to parliament on the party ballot of the conservatives, on which his name was in tenth place. Avyžius did not run for office in a single-mandate district.

Member of the Lithuanian academy of sciences Juozas Bulovas presided over the first session of parliament in 1992, after being elected MP on the party ballot of the hitherto ruling Democratic Labor Party (LDDP). When Bulovas opened the previous session of parliament on November 25, 1992, he was 82 years of age.

Presidential Campaigns, as well as in local campaigns.

Casimir Oksas and: Anatole Milūnas serve as National Co-Chairman of Lithuanian Americans for the Dole/Kemp '96 Vytautas Jasinevičius chairs Lithuanian-Americans — Salvi for U.S. Senate, Pranas Jurkus — Henry Hyde for U.S. Congress, Anatole Milūnas — Harris W. Farwell for U.S. Congress.



The owners cordially invite all Lithuanian-Americans to the Grand Opening of Lemont's Newest Sports Bar on Friday, Nov 22, 1996, at 8 pm.

GAME TIME SPORTS TAP

1134 South State Road, Lemont, IL
In the Lemont Plaza, next to Sears,
behind the First Chicago Bank,

Phone: 630 243-9014
Fax: 630 243-9015
E-mail: van69@mail.idt.net

Lithuanian World Party Center

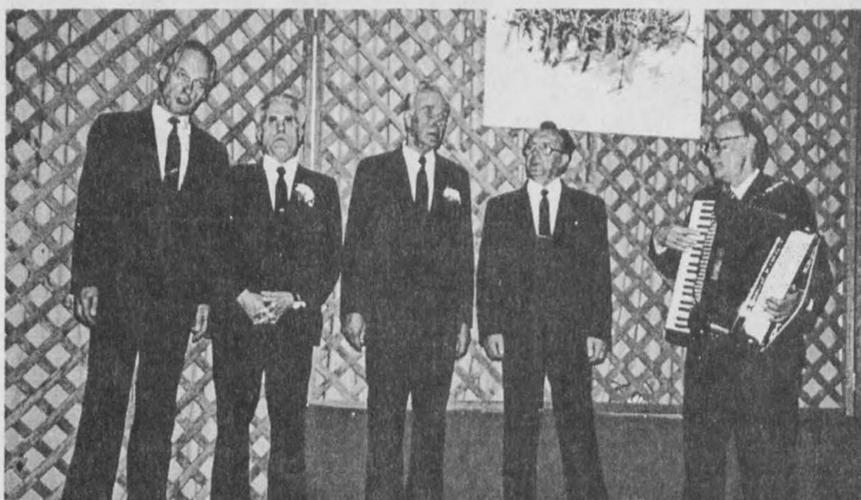


★ Must be 21 to enter ★

People in the News



A memorial in Veiveriai for one of the most famous Lithuanian Freedom-fighters, Jozas (Daumantas) Lukša. It was erected with the help of his brother, also a Freedom-fighter, Antanas, who is at present with the singers Echo of the Forest group.



"Girių aidas" — Echo of the forest — former Freedom-fighters on a concert tour in US and Canada. From left to right: Vincentas Kuprys, Antanas Lukša, Vytautas Balsys, Antanas Paulavičius and Vladas Šiuškta.

Photo by Vytautas Jasinevičius



Committee of the Benefit for the Freedom-fighters Foundation. L. to r.: Povilas Vaičekauskas, Marija Remienė, Leonas Maskaliūnas (president), Birutė Jasaitienė and Antanas Pauzuolis.

FIFTY YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR THE LITHUANIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

In 1946 the Lithuanian Philatelic Society (LPS) was founded by a small group of enthusiastic philatelists; today the Society enjoys a membership of one hundred and forty five. In its inception, the LPS aspired to inform the world of Lithuania's glorious past and lost independence to the brutal Soviet occupation. At the same time the LPS focused on philatelic research, the discovery and identification of valuable items of Lithuanian postal history, and promoting Lithuanian philately in the United States through frequent exhibitions, publication of our journals, the issuance of commemorative covers, and writing articles about Lithuanian philately in U.S. philatelic press.

In the last ten years, as President of our Society, I have witnessed the LPS strengthen its fine tradition of philatelic research and promotion of Lithuanian philately to worldwide audience. In addition, these years have brought an accelerated increase in our membership and a steady rise in the quality of our journal. The LPS is proud to encompass a diverse membership and dedicated readers who appreciate the philatelic authorities regularly contribute articles that bring to light interesting historical events in Lithuanian philately

and its postal history.

The scope of our journal has broadened since Lithuania re-established its independence. We report on the issuance of new Lithuanian postage stamps, postal envelopes and special cancels. We have established a good rapport with the Ministry of Communication and Information, the Lithuanian Philatelic Association and its Kaunas and Vilnius Chapters, as well as many individual philatelists in Lithuania. We maintain close ties with the Lithuanian Philatelic Societies of New York and Toronto, as well as the Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society and the Polonus philatelic Society.

Fifty years after its beginning, the LPS stands on a strong foundation of many achievements, accomplished through the talents, dedication, and financial support of our members. We will continue our tradition well into the future, but our successes will depend upon you. We would greatly welcome articles in the English language and your financial support.

If any readers of "The Friend" would be interested to join Lithuanian Philatelic Society or want more information, they can contact the President of LPS Mr. Jonas Variakojis, 3715 West 68th Str. Chicago, IL. 60629.

By John Variakojis



Lithuanian Philatelic Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a special showing LITHPEX XXVI at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago. Pat Michalski, director of Ethnic Affairs for the Governor of Illinois Jim Edgar was on hand with a special congratulations and presentation.

ONCE THEY FOUGHT — NOW THEY SING

Lithuanian Freedom Fighters (partizanai) are the national heroes who for ten long years after the start of Lithuania's second occupation by the Soviet Union continued to resist the invaders. Although World War II ended in 1945, Lithuania was left to the mercy of the enemy and so remained until 1990, after the Soviet Empire vanished. The Freedom Fighters efforts were not entirely successful — the soviets were not

driven from their beloved Homeland but their determination paid off: not as many Russian colonists dared to settle in Lithuania as, for example, in Latvia or Estonia.

Finally — about 1952 — the freedom movement was crushed, most Partizanai either died in battle, were captured, imprisoned, sent to the Gulags in Siberia. The lucky ones were able to blend into civilian populations and survive.

Though at one time there were many thousands of Partizanai in Lithuania, at present their number has dwindled to about 450. Many are very old and infirm after all the sufferings inflicted upon them by the soviets. The present government of Lithuania, consisting mainly of former communists, refuse higher pensions, medical care, or housing to Partizanai, finding many legitimate reasons for its actions. Lithuanians abroad do their best to help these our national heroes by sending financial support and medical supplies. They also have established a Lithuanian Freedom Fighters Support Foundation (with headquarters in Chicago). Recently a group of Partizanai singers, calling themselves "Girių aidas" (Echo

of the Forest), invited by the LFSF committee gave 12 very successful concerts in United States and Canada. On November 20 they left for their homeland with happy memories, gratefulness and much fuller pockets.

WATERCOLOR EXHIBITION

A young Lithuanian artist, who prefers to be called only by her first name Taura (from Livonia, MI) achieved a measure of success not only in Lithuanian community but also on a broader scope. She has had numerous exhibitions of her watercolor paintings. The latest will open December 13th of this year and will continue through January 10, 1997 at Berman Gallery and Lighting Studio, Ann Arbor, MI (303 Detroit Str., Suite 104, tel. 313-741-0571). The exhibition is called "Masked Revelations." Last summer Taura participated in two important showings: Lithuanian Camp Dainava (Manchester, MI) at a gathering by Ateitis organization on Labor Day weekend, and at the Detroit Scarab Club 53rd Annual Watercolor Exhibition.

PROSECUTOR GENERAL SEEKING VICTIMS OF KGB

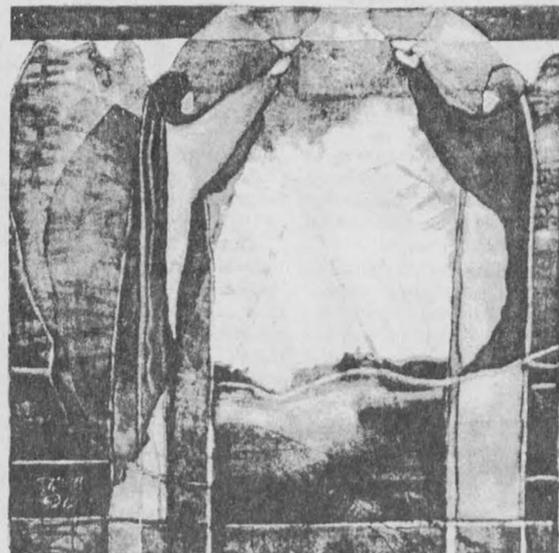
Vilnius, Oct. 30, BNS — The Lithuanian prosecutor general is seeking victims and their relatives who suffered at the hands of former KGB agent Julius Slavinas, nicknamed "Kharis."

The prosecutor general's special investigations department requests individuals who suffered as a result of Slavinas's activities to respond with information. Slavinas was an investigator in the Kaunas department of the soviet NKVD (the predecessor organization of the KGB) in March-November 1945.

BNS was told by special investigations department senior prosecutor Vidmantas Vaičekauskas that after all material has been gathered in Lithuania, the prosecutor general intends shortly to request Germany to extradite Slavinas, who is now residing in Bonn.

The 72-year-old Jew Slavinas is accused by the Lithuanian prosecutor general of having participated in genocide against the Lithuanian people. At the beginning of October, the prosecutor general arraigned Slavinas on criminal charges.

Slavinas is accused of having signed documents, while working in the Kaunas department of the NKVD during the soviet period, on the basis of which persons he had interrogated were repressed.



"The Offering" — by Taura.

AUDRYS BAČKIS REELECTED

Vilnius, Nov. 14, BNS — At a session of the Lithuanian Conference of Bishops (LCB) on Tuesday, Vilnius archbishop Audrys Bačkis was reelected chairman.

The secretariat of the LCB reports that Kaunas archbishop Sigitas Tamkevičius was elected vice-chairman of the conference and that Panevėžys bishop Juozas Preikšas was elected member of the LCB's permanent council. In accordance with LCB statutes, these three members of the permanent council are elected for a three-year term.

At the LCB's Tuesday session, chairmen and their deputies of LCB's commissions were also elected and a report on the last three years of LCB activities was submitted.

ATHLETES HONOR OUR SPORTS EDITOR

Irena Regienė is a Sports-editor in the daily "Draugas", devoting a special page every Friday mostly to Lithuanian athletes their achievements abroad and in Lithuania. She is especially fond of soccer, therefore, the Lithuanian soccer teams get a lot of attention in the sports-page. It was only fitting that the Lith Soccer Club honor this industrious and sympathetic to their Club editor at a dinner-dance which was held on November 16 at the Lithuanian World Center, Lemont, IL. We add our sincerest congratulations to a well-deserving person — our own Irena Regienė.



Irena Regienė.

MONIKA WILL DANCE IN THE NUTCRACKER

Monika Stančiauskaitė of Wheaton has been chosen to perform in DanceWest Ballet's annual production of "The Nutcracker."

Monika is the daughter of Kestutis and Aleksandra Stančiauskas. She is 5 years old and studies dance at Art Moves Dance Studio in Naperville.

DanceWest Ballet, the resident company of Art Moves Dance Studio, will perform the



Audrys Juozas Bačkis.

POPULAR WRITER VISITS LEMONT

A well-known and very popular Lithuanian writer Jurgis Jankus, residing in Redford, MI, was invited to Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL, Sunday, November 3rd to give a recital and meet with the public. The afternoon was very successful, Mr. Jankus was warmly greeted, solidly applauded and also wished a happy Birthday — he has recently celebrated his 90th birthday.



Jurgis Jankus.

Christmans ballet at two locations. Three morning performances open to school children are scheduled for Dec. 18, 19 and 20 at North Central College's Pfeiffer Hall in Naperville. Call 630-778-8400 for school information. An evening performance also will be presented at Pfeiffer Hall on Dec. 20.

Performances of "The Nutcracker" at Naperville Central High School are scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 21 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday Dec. 22.

DanceWest Ballet is a not-for-profit dance company that was founded by Ricardo Moyano, formerly of Hubbard Street Dance Company and Chicago Ballet, and Regina Helmer Moyano, formerly with Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

A SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITION

Sculptor Jurgis Daugvila exhibited his art at the Lithuanian Museum of Art, Lemont, IL., October 19 through November 17. His works reflect Lithuanian folk art and are very popular among Lithuanians.



Jurgis Daugvila with some of his sculptures.