

DRAUGAS

THE FRIEND

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VOLUME 1 NUMBER 12

ENGLISH EDITION

Saturday, January 25, 1997

Vilnius Commemorates Tragic Anniversary

Vilnius, Jan 13 (ELTA) — Sunday evening several thousand people participated in a solemn ceremony at the Memorial of Freedom Defenders near Seimas building in Vilnius. It was the tragic anniversary of January 13th, 1991, when Soviet Union desperately tried to stop freedom movement in Lithuania and other occupied countries. On that fateful day, soviet tanks and special troops stormed into a crowd of several thousand peaceful, unarmed protesters, gathered in Vilnius. Fourteen freedom defenders died under the tanks and from soviet gunfire; many hundreds were wounded.

Commemorating those events on the sixth anniversary, there were patriotic songs, memories, and address by the chairman of the new Parliament, prof. Vytautas Landsbergis.

"Today Lithuania mourns the death of heroes who perished in the quest for freedom. We won

the struggle against the powerful invader. Lithuania survived and will exist forever," Landsbergis said.

Among the special guests were President of Lithuania Algirdas Brazauskas, Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius, representatives from cultural and science institutions. The participants, holding lighted torches, marched to the Independence Square where Lithuanian people witnessed and were part of the tragic events on January 13, 1991. The government leaders and other high-ranking officials also visited the TV tower and National Television building, where the battles for freedom were fought.

Later that evening there was a concert "In Memoriam" at St. John church in Vilnius given by the Lithuanian Chamber orchestra, Kaunas State choir and folksinger Veronika Povilionienė.

Seimas Session Marks January 13

Vilnius, Jan 13 (ELTA) — In time we will perhaps understand that January 13 marks the day of Lithuanian victory. Maybe somebody in the future will say that it also means human victory. January 13, 1991 showed that enemy of freedom and democracy finally was forced to retreat. So spoke the Chairman of Lithuanian parliament Vytautas Landsbergis, at the Monday's session of parliament. (Seimas).

A solemn session of Seimas invited relatives of those killed during independence battles with Soviet soldiers. President Algirdas Brazauskas, Premier Gediminas Vagnorius, government members, deputies of the Supreme Council-Restoration Seimas, heads of constitutional, high and appeals courts, church hierarchs, and diplomats attended. Brazauskas stressed that everybody in Lithuania had to take care of victims and their relatives saying he expected growth of extraordinary grants annually paid to parents, spouses, and children of the freedom defenders who died under Soviet tanks and from Soviet guns that fateful day in Vilnius six years ago.

Parliamentary leader Landsbergis also announced that municipality workers on behalf of Seimas, the president, and government laid flowers at the graves of victims in Alytus, Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Marijampolė, and Rokiškis.

On Jan 13 special Medals of Honor were bestowed to more than 70 defenders of freedom for their heroic deeds under most trying circumstance. The Medals were presented by A. Brazauskas.

"Following a six-year period since 1991 independence struggle, Lithuania does not witness political disagreements over independence consolidation methods as all people have a single goal — to live in an independent and free country," Brazauskas spoke at a medal presentation ceremony.

The January 13 Medals were granted to more than 20 free-

dom-defenders who took an active part in 1991 January-September struggle and those who suffered injuries during that period.

The awards were also presented to 50 volunteers, members of Riflemen union, border police, and medical workers.

In Lithuania during the tragic events of 1991 fourteen people were killed, several thousand injured, of whom about 100 are still disabled.

Parties to Register for Municipal Elections

Vilnius, Jan 20, BNS — As of Monday, not a single Lithuanian party or organization had officially announced it would be participating in municipal elections to be held in two months. Council members for 56 of Lithuania's municipalities will be elected on March 23.

Last Friday marked the first day on which parties could submit documents to the supreme Electoral Commission (SEC), nominating their candidates for municipal elections. Documents will be accepted by the SEC until February 16.

Organizations which have decided to participate in the elections must submit lists of their candidates for cities or regions.

During the last municipal elections in March 1995, candidates from 17 parties were nominated, of which 16 parties won seats in municipal councils.

Almost 30 percent of all seats in March 1995 were won by the Conservatives, with another 20 percent going to the former ruling Democratic Labor Party (LDDP) and the Christian Democrats coming in third, followed by the Peasants' Party, the Centrist Union and the Social Democratic Party.

In the March 23 elections, the largest number of council representatives — 51 — will be elected by the population of Vilnius. The second largest Lithuanian city Kaunas will elect 41 council members, and other Lithuanian cities will elect between 31 and 25 municipal authorities.



Early Jan. 13, 1991 morning in Vilnius. Soviet tanks are ready to charge Freedom defenders.

100 Million Dollars Invested in Lithuania

Vilnius, Jan 13, BNS — Foreign investments in Lithuania last year amounted to at least 100 million dollars.

According to the information of "Lietuvos rytas," foreign investors last year purchased stock in Lithuanian companies worth \$30 million. In addition, foreigners own about 90 million USD worth of Lithuanian government securities.

Director of the Lithuanian Investment Agency (LIA) Algis Avižienis told the newspaper that foreign investments last year were largely directed into the food processing, communications and oil products markets.

The largest investor in the Lithuanian economy last year was the U.S. Motorola electronics and telecommunications company, which has now invested a total of 40 million USD. Last year, Motorola overtook the U.S. tobacco and food industry Philip Morris, which has

invested 38 million USD in Lithuania.

Large sums were also invested in Lithuania by oil industry, largely for the construction of filling stations. The Statoil already invested 25 million USD, while Shell has invested 20 million and LUKoil — almost 17 million USD. According to Avižienis, the oil companies should invest another 100 million USD in Lithuania over the next two years.

Another 150 million USD in investments can be expected from Danish companies, interested in drilling at Lithuanian oil deposits. 5 million USD has already been invested in the Minijos Nafta company in Western Lithuania. The 150 million USD in oil investments, however, are being held up by high taxes on oil resources. The taxes amount to 29 percent of the total volume of trade from extracted oil.

Seimas rebuffs President's Veto

Vilnius, Jan 16 (ELTA) — The Lithuanian parliament voted on Thursday against veto of President Algirdas Brazauskas on the law which suspended an earlier document on restitution of property rights to the remaining real estate.

On Thursday Seimas repeatedly passed the president-vetoed law which received support of 76 MPs to 27 votes "against" and 4 "abstained".

The adopted document outlines provisional suspension of solving property rights restitution issues in all Lithuanian institutions.

The earlier law was called off until a new property restitution document is passed. The government is due to work out a bill of such law until February 1.

Thursday's law suspended investigation of property return cases in the court, postponed related court orders, and decisions of other institutions.

Lithuanian Border to be Guarded by Russian Troops

Karaliaučius (Kaliningrad) Jan 13, BNS — In Baltijsk in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad, a new division of naval border troops has been formed on an experimental basis. This experiment, however, is not linked with plans for NATO expansion to the East, said Colonel General Aleksandr Tymko, head of the Russian Federation border service supreme headquarters.

Since Russia and Lithuania do not yet have an intergovernmental treaty on state borders, the Russian border troops will have to guard a provisional border through the estuary of the Nemunas River and Vištytis Lake, BNS was told by Colonel General Tymko, who is visiting the Kaliningrad region. Tymko hopes that the Lithuanian-Russian border treaty will soon be signed.

From now on, only one naval border guard division's commander will be responsible for the entire sea-border in the Baltic, along the Nemunas River and through Vištytis Lake. All border checkpoints along the coast, also an infantry regiment and an air force unit will also be under his command.

Commander of the Kaliningrad group of border troops Lieutenant General Yevgenij Bolkjovitin said that the units involved in the experiment have already been reorganized into a new structure. Tymko noted that the experiment, undertaken in the Kaliningrad region, had already yielded positive results and in the future, such amalgamated formations of naval, mainland and air force border troops will be formed along other stretches of the Russian sea border.

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LITHUANIA TO HAVE TAX POLICE

Lithuanian Government would avoid additional costs needed to establish a tax police department by restructuring Interior ministry and State tax inspection, government press service informed ELTA.

The newly established institution is to investigate tax evasion and double accounting cases. Tax police will also control individuals, who are in charge of tax collection. Other tasks and duties of tax police would be defined in Tax Police Regulations, which at present being prepared. (ELTA, Jan 16)

Russia and Lithuania Will Come to Terms on Lithuanian Membership in NATO

Vilnius, Jan 13, BNS — Lithuanian membership in NATO was not be directed against Russia, Lithuanian parliamentary chairman Vytautas Landsbergis says.

Landsbergis hopes that the further normalization of East-West and Lithuanian-Russian relations will inevitably lead to agreement between these two countries on Lithuanian integration into NATO and the European Union.

Landsbergis made these statements in an interview with the Russian news agency INTERFAX last week. He stressed that everything was in a state of flux, that Russia was already seeking to cooperate with the EU and NATO and "was showing the desire to become a European government."

In Landsbergis's view, it was "a question of time and of the democratization of Russia itself" before Russian politicians would draw the conclusion that Lithuanian membership in NATO was not directed against anyone.

At the same time, Landsbergis assessed bilateral relations as being "good or at least not bad". According to Landsbergis, the priorities of the countries' relationship are trade, economic, cultural, and other cooperation.

As far as parliamentary liaisons are concerned, Landsbergis noted that the Russian parliament is dominated by forces which "are not particularly friendly towards Lithuania and other Baltic countries."

Among bilateral problems, the Parliamentary chairman singled out border issues. He stated that it was not Lithuania which was dragging the delimitation of state borders, but expressed the hope that with good will and "taking into account more important interests," the

problem will be solved.

In addition, Landsbergis said that it may be necessary for the countries to review the issue of Russian military transit to the exclave of the Kaliningrad region.

"We would like this transit to conform to international norms, national security and complete guarantees of the sovereign rights of the country, through the territory of which this transit traffic is occurring," Landsbergis stressed. He added that excessive militarization of the Kaliningrad region would not contribute to the region's security.

Landsbergis said that another topical issue is compensation to Lithuania for damages caused by the Soviet occupation.

BRISTOL-MYERS-SQUIBB IN LITHUANIA

The world famous Bristol-Myers-Squibb Co. launched its activities in Lithuania where the company's mission is holding a presentation ceremony on Thursday.

"Bristol-Myers-Squibb was set up in the 19th century by three US pharmacists. Currently the company's medicine research programme is led by a Princeton-based pharmaceutical institute having centres in 12 countries," a firm's spokesperson told ELTA.

"The company employs over 4000 scientists with new inventions and research receiving over \$1 billion annually. Anticancer, heart and nerve system medicine won the biggest recognition," a spokesperson said.

Bristol-Myers-Squibb also produces medicine for cold, vitamins, hygienic goods, baby food, and medical instruments. (ELTA, Jan 16)



TV tower in Vilnius. On Jan. 13, 1991 soviet troopers occupied Lithuanian Broadcasting facilities. There were many casualties.

INTERNATIONAL BALTIC PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

By JURIS G. DRAGŪNS
The Pennsylvania State University

The Second International Conference on Psychology was convened on August 23-27, 1996 in Tallinn. It was attended by psychologists from the three Baltic states, their colleagues from the Baltic diaspora in the West, and a small but active band of non-Baltic participants. The program of the Conference featured a presidential address, five keynote speakers, 55 submitted papers, 14 workshops, and one conversation hour.

Practical and applied papers predominated, with Estonians concentrating on mental health issues, Lithuanians on developmental and educational problems, and Latvians on personality and social psychology. The papers from outside the Baltic region emphasized clinical psychology, especially as it pertained to intervention. Reflecting the title of the proceedings (Niit & Baltin, 1996), three papers dealt with values, six with identity, one with freedom, and three with memory (including two keynote addresses). Other prominent themes included early and/or crisis intervention services (five papers) and gender issues (four papers). It is noteworthy that a total of 17 papers and five workshops addressed children's and/or adolescents' problems.

In his presidential address, Toomas Niit (Tallinn Pedagogical University) provided a thoroughly documented and quantified appraisal of the achievements of Estonian psychologists at home and abroad over the last twenty years. Upon comparing their impact with that of their Finnish colleagues, Niit (p. 87) concluded that "Finnish 'stars' are certainly brighter than Estonia, but the general difference is not as big as could be expected... if we look also at the Estonian emigrants and immigrants, the world looks even brighter."

Albinas Bagdonas (University of Vilnius) traced the long prehistory, tortuous history, and continuing evolution of "psychology in Lithuania" toward a distinct "Lithuanian psychology." His description of the Soviet impact upon psychology (p.26) is worth quoting: "1) the number of scientific communications was reduced; 2) efficiency of investigations weakened; 3) the best professional staff and funding were accumulated and monopolized by Moscow research centers; 4) the inner world of a human, as an object of psychological investigation, was dehumanized; 5) the status of psychology in a society declined; 6) psychology acquired a definitely academic character; 7) the so-called parapsychologization of human consciousness took place; 8) psychology did not become a part of popular culture (the tradition of psychological research was also underdeveloped); 9) dogmatization of psychological conceptions took place."

Two of the keynote speakers focused upon memory. Endel Tulving (University of Toronto) highlighted some of the findings and insights from forty years of memory research and described his current cognitive neuroscience investigations. Lars-goran Nilsson (Stockholm University) proceeded to disentangle the complex triangular relationship between "episodic memory, age, and health," on the basis of a wealth of research data.

The keynote address by Artle

Dyregrov (Center for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway) was devoted to innovative therapeutic approaches as exemplified by psychological debriefing to crisis intervention and to the reduction of posttraumatic stress. Juris Dragūns in his keynote address inquired into the experience of freedom as a psychological concept. So far, psychologists' knowledge and understanding of freedom is fragmentary; the challenge is to put these fragments together and to fill the many gaps.

The Conference was efficiently organized, yet its social and recreational aspects were not neglected. Upon arrival, registrants were surprised to receive the proceedings, complete with the text of the presidential address, several keynote addresses, and well-written and informative abstracts of virtually all papers and workshops. And the trip to the Lahemaa National Park was memorable. Thus, the Conference was an academic, professional, and social success. Psychology in the Baltics is progressing rapidly, the range of its services is expanding, and its approach and outlook are becoming more "Western." Let us hope that it does not lose its distinctiveness in the process.

With the next conference slated to take place in 1998 in Lithuania, the following suggestions are constructively offered. In Tallinn, English was the only official language of the Congress. Yet a fair number of Baltic psychologists are not proficient in it. Thought should be given to developing creative, yet affordable, multilingual solutions to this dilemma. Interestingly, Hans Markowitsch (University of Bielefeld, Germany) provided a balanced presentation of the costs and benefits of relying upon English as the only medium of international scientific discourse.

Without neglecting the established areas of strength, the next conference should venture into new topics. Of necessity, applied and practical concerns will remain in the foreground. It would be good, however, to hear from theoreticians as well as practitioners. And areas of basic investigations should not be overlooked, e.g., experimental research on perception and on psycholinguistics.

Some of the pressing and controversial problems in the Baltic were underrepresented at the Tallinn Congress, e.g., interethnic relations. Yet Baltic psychologists have already shown that ethnic polarization is neither as ubiquitous nor as extreme as some international media would have it. These findings are consonant with the conclusions of other social scientists (e.g., Haas, 1996) and the findings of several speakers at this Congress (e.g., Dimdinš, Sebre).

To judge from the Congress' program, collaborations among Baltic and overseas psychologists are infrequent and, across two or three Baltic countries, virtually nonexistent. Understandably, cross-cultural research in the Baltic region is at this point not a priority, but coordination among investigators of the same topic is not impractical. Similarly, there may be opportunities for association with and integration into networks of international researchers.

As viewed from Tallinn, pros-



A huge crowd gathered for the funeral of one Freedom defender, killed by soviet tanks in Vilnius on Jan. 13, 1991.
Photo by Pranas Abelkis

NATO'S COMMANDER PRAISES LITHUANIAN SOLDIERS

This letter of commendation was sent November 19, 1996 to Colonel Valdas Tautkus, temporary commander of military forces in Lithuania, by Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker KCB CBE, under whose command were International Peace Implementation Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina

"Dear Colonel,

At the end of the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps' mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to thank you for the outstanding contribution your country has made to Operation Firm Endeavour. During this last historic year, which has seen NATO's first ground operation come to fruition, much has been achieved by the many soldiers who make up the Peace Implementation Force. From an uncertain ceasefire, through the separation of the Former Warring Faction Armies and their subsequent withdrawal to barracks, to the trouble-free conduct of democratic National Elections, IFOR has achieved a great deal. We have sown the seeds that may bring a lasting peace to this war-torn country.

There are many reasons for IFOR's success, not least of these, in my judgement, has been the commitment of the International Community to send their finest soldiers to assist in implementing the Peace Agreement. It has been a considerable honour and an enormous privilege to have your soldiers, particularly Second Lieutenant Darius Vaitikuskas and Captain Vladimir Bieliauskas, under my command. They have been worthy ambassadors for your coun-

try and a credit to your Nation. The Lithuanian contribution of Operation firm endeavour has broken new ground. It has brought together soldiers from the Baltic States and NATO countries for the first time in an operational environment. In working with the Danish battalion you could not have chosen a more suitable unit nor a more challenging environment. The area in which your soldiers have worked has been particularly volatile and dangerous. With an ever-present mine threat, your soldiers have conducted operations to ensure military compliance amongst soldiers from all three factions who have constantly displayed open hostility to each other. Throughout their deployment, your soldiers have acted robustly and decisively and earned the respect of both the Danish soldiers, with whom they have worked, and the factions with whom they have dealt. They have been a credit to the battalion, the brigade and to IFOR.

Thank you for your commitment to the ACE Rapid Reaction Corps, for the quality of your officers and soldiers, and the work that your troops have undertaken in support of our mission here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. As the ARRC returns to Germany at the end of our mission, I send my best wishes to your contingent and wish them good fortune for the remainder of the operation."

PARLIAMENT PLANS TO WEED-OUT COLLABORATORS

Vilnius, Jan 13, BNS — In Tuesday's session the Lithuanian parliament's Democratic party's chairman and member of the National Security committee MP Saulius Pečeliūnas presented a draft resolution "On a temporary commission to review the mandates of individuals suspected of conscious collaboration with special services of foreign countries."

According to MP Pečeliūnas, such a commission should have been formed long ago, as required by law, adopted by the Supreme Council in December, 1991, entitled: "On the review of mandates of deputies, suspected of conscious collaboration with special services of foreign governments."

"It is necessary to execute the laws of Lithuania," Pečeliūnas said, rejecting all innuendoes that the commission was being formed due to suspicions against

certain specific parliamentarians. "I do not know — I do not consider myself to be competent in this issue," Pečeliūnas told BNS.

A decision to form such a commission was adopted by the former LDDP dominated Parliament, but the commission itself was never formed.

The 9-member commission will be composed proportionally by members of parties represented in Parliament.

BIRTH RATE CONTINUES TO FALL IN LITHUANIA

Vilnius, Dec 23, BNS — The death rate continues to exceed the birth rate in Lithuania, the department of statistics reports.

In October, the Lithuanian population decreased by 142 persons, with 3467 children born and 3609 deaths recorded.

Over the first nine months, by comparison with last year, the birth rate decreased, though mortality also fell.

The natural population growth over the first nine months of 1996 was negative — 2061 more people died than were born. The negative population growth this year is 27 percent greater than over the same period last year.

In the January-October period, a total of 33,709 births were recorded in 1996 — 1452 fewer than over the same period last year. From January through October, 35,770 deaths were registered this year — 1011 fewer than in 1995.

At the beginning of November, there were 3.7089 million persons living in Lithuania — 2.99 thousand fewer than at the beginning of this year.

DRAUGAS

(USPS-161000)

ENGLISH EDITION

Published Saturday except legal Holidays, as well as Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd by the Lithuanian Catholic Press Society, 4545 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60629-5589.

Periodical class postage paid at Chicago, IL and additional mailing offices.

Subscription Rates: \$60.00.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Draugas—4545 W. 63rd St., Chicago, IL

DRAUGAS SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Yearly	6 months	2 years
USA	\$60.00	\$40.00	\$110.00
Canada	\$75.00	\$50.00	\$130.00

Editor-in chief Danutė Bindokienė
Administrator Ignas Budrys
Moderator: Viktoras Rimšelis

Office hours—8:30 to 4:30 weekdays. Closed Saturdays

Submitted articles are edited at our discretion.

Publication is not responsible for advertisement content

LITHUANIA HAS MADE ITS CHOICE

This statement was made on December 16 by Landsbergis, chairman of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania regarding Lithuania's membership in NATO and the European Union:

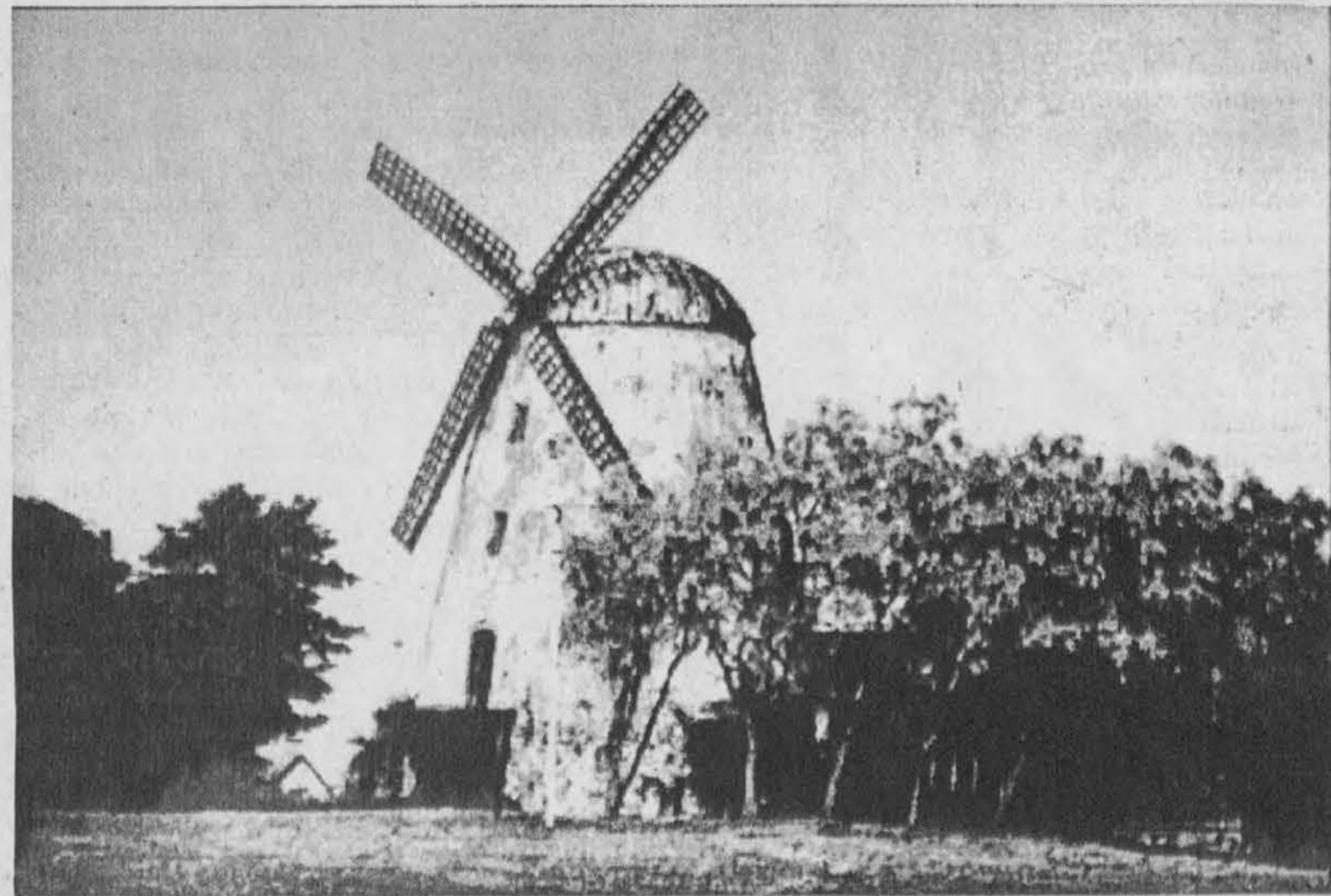
Pending decisions and selection to be taken and completed in 1997 as to which Central European states shall be confirmed the first candidates to the enlarging North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the NATO, in Lithuania and around it there will be continuous escalation of tension caused by anxiety and intimidation. However, even when the list of countries which have been confirmed as first candidates is announced, it shall not answer all questions even if it did not include Lithuania. This list shall pose further questions about the conscientiousness of the West and their mysterious non-transparent logic, maybe even speculations whether the thinking of the West is changing at all.

Lithuania is already posing those questions now, not waiting for NATO decision or verdict. It has been doing this since January 1994, when it submitted its application for membership; it hopes its efforts are appreciated. It is important that any less favorable NATO answer does not provoke anti-Western tendencies in Lithuania. We are a patient and were

exposed to trials; we see that others also being put to test. However, Lithuania has the freedom of choice and is exercising it. This also applies to our western integration in the direction of membership in the European Union. If anybody is allowed to hinder Lithuania's coming closer to NATO — an explicit guarantee of political stability and economic prosperity for new members — it means tomorrow there will occur destabilizing impediments on our road to the European Union. That is why from Lithuania's perspective both roads are to be treated as parallel and of equal importance.

We shall celebrate the day when the last European Union member country ratifies Lithuanian-European Union Treaty, and our state shall be confirmed an associated member of the European Union, just as we will celebrate the day when we see Lithuania's name on the list of future members of NATO to be admitted around 2000 or a little later.

Lithuania has made its choice, it will seek to and it will become a member of the European Union and NATO, because this is beneficial for Lithuania, the West and Russia. Time and efforts are the real open issues. We are in favour of open policy and we know that a task performed well brings the goal closer and accelerates the time.



Once an old windmill, now a cozy pub in Šeduva.

BALTIC REGION'S POTENTIAL

By DR. ALGIRDAS V. KANAUKA

For the last half of this century the Baltic Sea has not lived up to its full potential due to the Soviet presence. Unfortunately, the collapse of the Soviet Union was not followed by improved security and equality between powers. The Russian military presence made for regional instability and psychological pressure on the nations around the Baltic basin, particularly for the Baltic states.

Furthermore, the threatening Russian rhetoric from its government officials, military research institutes and even the press have created an impression of a rather "cold peace." When Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia submitted applications to join NATO and the EU, triggering vociferous Russian objections, the reaction of fellow Europeans was indifference and an apparent lack of understanding of the probable effects of such Russian threats being carried out.

What follows is the way the issue should be seen in all its geostrategic implications.

The political dimension

Russian intelligence services and political leaders have no cause to really think that the West is desirous of conquering Russia, or plundering it. After all, the West has had many opportunities to take advantage of Russia and the USSR during times of crisis — Stalin's death, the 1991 putsch, Yeltsin's problems — and has not done so.

It is plausible that the Russians see the eastward expansion of NATO as the erosion of the Russian traditional strategic position to mount aggressive campaigns against Europe. NATO expansion eastward would strengthen the position of the West to counter aggression from the East.

Without the Baltic states, the Russians are denied a jump-off point, a trampoline for aggressive ventures into Europe. On the other hand, it is to the West's strategic advantage to do battle as far east as possible if war becomes inevitable. That is NATO's gain for expanding eastward and the Baltics' price for NATO membership.

Another way the Baltics states are important to the West is that there are about 190 dif-

ferent states in the world, but only 117 or so can be considered fully democratic. It is in the interest of the West to have more democracy, simply because democracy is good for trade and for cooperative political and cultural interchange. These tend to reduce the possibility of war and foster stability and peace.

What would happen if the Baltic region is left outside of NATO and is reoccupied by the Russians? First, there would be a flood of refugees; the Baltic population would become uncontrollable, with a probable repetition of the Balkan and Chechen tragedies in the centre of Europe. The psychological impact on the rest of Europe through spillover effects would generate sheer panic.

The military dimension

The Baltic region is militarily defensible. It is a question of willingness and resolve to commit minds, hearts and men to its defence.

First, it is defensible by a total resistance by the forces of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, stalling the enemy.

Second, the region is defensible by direct support from the free world: Western naval forces in the Baltic; free world air power could ensure command of Baltic airspace; Western ground forces could be landed along the internal frontiers of the Baltic states and assumed a preventive presence which a potential aggressor would not transgress. Failing in that, guerrilla warfare must be initiated. This is a preferable alternative to surrender, which would expose the Baltic nations to genocide and other forms of ethnic extermination.

It is imperative that a complete occupation of the Baltics be forestalled. Here is why:

Air defence: Russian radar and strategic air and rocket forces have been effectively moved east some 500 kilometres. Through reoccupation of the Baltic countries, these Russian forces could be moved westward again, making the West more vulnerable. It would convert the Baltic region into a first line of Russian defence, putting the Baltic states in a virtual hostage situation.

Naval operations: The only Russian naval facilities in the Baltic Sea are in the Kaliningrad and St. Petersburg areas. Both are vulnerable to blockade and air strikes by the West. Reoccupation of the Baltic states by Russia, the Baltic ports could base an invasion fleet capable of action against other countries around the Baltic.

Ground forces: There are large numbers of Russian ground forces around the Baltic states capable of occupying them in a week or less. The Baltic states could oppose Russia probably with the equivalent total of three divisions only. After the reoccupation of the Baltic states, an extended period of guerrilla warfare and civil disobedience can be expected with severe spillover effects on European stability.

The Baltic region could be strengthened through buildup of their internal defences to a level of a "participant" rather than a "consumer" of security within the Western defence system. This would strengthen deterrence against aggression and toward ensuring peace and stability in Europe.

The economic dimension

The Baltic states' location makes them comparable to the Benelux region in their trade potential: entry points for trade with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine and the Far East. The latter is a rising market area for European goods and vice versa. This vast market is already stimulating a rise in demand for rail, surface road and airway transport systems from Europe via the Baltics and through Russia to the Far East, but it lacks infrastructure.

Through some kind of "Marshall plan," the independent Baltics could be developed much faster than being part of Russia. The Baltic states would become an efficient entry point to the markets of the East. If Russia could be made to see that, through Western guidance, then such realization could prompt Russia to develop its own vast natural resource to become a contiguous artery to the Far East, instead of trying to foray abroad utilizing any available means.

The moral dimensions

Moral considerations must be considered as well in formulating the interests of democratic states. It was the moral dimension that rallied the world

coated with bronze or silver plates and attached to the belt, an iron instrument for tinder, as well as helmet, shield, long iron sword, spear, battle-axe, bow and arrows with iron tips, and spurs.

From the chainholders or brooches hung triangular or trapezoid bronze plates, jingle bells, miniatures of horses and water birds, pincers, combs, and incisors of wild animals. This peculiar assortment of pendants suggests that they were not used for their aesthetic value alone, but had a symbolic significance. They tinkled when the wearer moved or walked, and thus helped to ward off evil spirits.

Our brief survey of ornamental and symbolic art would not be complete without a glance at the artistic skill which went into the decoration of horse harnesses. In their love for the horse, the Balts are on a par with the Scythians. In no other European country — not excluding the Indo-European groups — do we find the horse held in such high esteem down the ages and this is still borne out by present day folklore. In no



The oldest oak tree in Lithuania, called the Stelmuzė Oak and said to be at least 2000 years old.

against the Axis powers during World War II. It was the moral dimension that predominantly led to the fall of the Soviet Union. The Russian people have lost millions of lives and much of their very soul after seven decades of servitude. We must show them compassion and sympathy in their epic journey back. We Balts are extending the hand of friendship to the Russian people, but they must understand we are not and will not be their slaves.

The former prime minister of Sweden, Carl Bildt, said that the litmus test for Russia's sincerity in their way to freedom and democracy will be how they behave toward the Baltics. The same applies not just for Russia but the West as well. If the West abandons the principles of democracy and relies on some narrow selfish interest only, then they lose their "raison d'être".

Therefore, it is the moral imperative of the West not to tolerate international moral outrages that they have the power to prevent. We only have to look at history to see what happens if evil is allowed to fester. It grows into a monster. It is the birthright of democracy, its responsibility and its great

test power to prevent this from happening. Moral force is the driving force of democracy. It must stay that way because without such force, democracy is no different than tyranny.

THE LAST EDITION: TIME HAS RUN OUT

We first introduced the English edition of Draugas during the Folk Dance Festival in July of 1996. The reception was very encouraging. We received many positive comments and expected to gain a large number of subscribers. On September 14th, 1996 we started publishing on a weekly basis. At that time we had only about 60 confirmed subscribers. We believed that once we started, the subscriber numbers would grow rapidly. Sadly, it did not happen that way. At the present we have only 128 subscribers. That is far too short of what is needed to continue. The rate of growth in subscribers also has diminished to the point where we get one or two new subscribers every couple of weeks. I firmly believe that there is a need for a weekly newspaper covering events of interests to Lithuanian Americans. Perhaps

On September 14, 1996 Draugas-The Friend was officially born. At that time its publisher, the daily Draugas, and temporary editor were very hopeful: "There comes a time for talking; there comes a time for planning; finally comes a time when words and plans aren't enough — we have to step over the line between a dream and reality." We chose to take that last important step by starting an English edition of the Lithuanian daily Draugas, because we felt a void between Lithuanians who can speak and read in the language of their forefathers, and between those unable to communicate in Lithuanian. The last group — and a very numerous one — had been addressed more directly, by using the language it is most familiar with — English.

That was a hard step to take but we felt an urgent need for such a publication. Ethnic identity is very important and precious to every person. There are tens of thousands second, third, fourth generation Lithuanians in the United States who are in a way separated from the more active Lithuanian community because they lack Lithuanian language skills. They aren't, by any means, discriminated against, but cannot be fully integrated in the cultural and many other activities, mostly conducted in Lithuanian. These younger generations are proud of their Lithuanian heritage and the small country by the shores of the Baltic Sea who so bravely struggled to preserve its identity, language, faith, and democratic ideal although under the occupation by soviet communist regime that lasted almost half of this century.

When the first opportunity arose, Lithuanians — at the great risk to themselves — chose

we did not know how to market the English edition of Draugas. Whatever the reason, we can not continue at this pace.

With a sad heart I must inform you that this is the last issue of Draugas in English language. Those of you who are our subscribers we thank you for your support and encouragement. We hate to disappoint you but there is no choice. Perhaps in the future, if we can get enough subscribers, the English

the dangerous path to freedom, demanded independence for their beloved country. As the free World held its breath in wonder and perhaps fear, the greatest miracle of the twentieth century happened: Lithuania became independent once more and the mighty Soviet Union eventually was blown away by the fresh breeze of freedom.

Two important dates in Lithuania's history will forever be etched into the minds and hearts of its people — February 16, 1918 when the county declared its independence after the World War I, and March 11, 1990 when once again the Declaration had to be firmly repeated — with hope and prayers that this time the freedom will last forever.

Lithuania will soon celebrate the seventh anniversary of its newly found independence. The events since March 11, 1990 touched every Lithuanian, living in their native country and abroad, even though some of the latter cannot speak the language. That is one of the reasons the weekly English edition of Draugas — The Friend would have been so effective. Unfortunately, the time has come to say good-by — the experiment is over; it has failed.

As the administrator explains, there is not enough subscribers to insure the future of this publication, therefore, with deep regrets we issue this last edition of Draugas — The Friend. We still feel that the potential readers are many, but there is no way to reach them. Perhaps in the future conditions will be "friendlier" — to The Friend and we will be able to resume this venture. Meantime, we thank all our contributors and readers for their support and faith in our efforts.

Ignas Budrys
Administrator

edition of Draugas will see the light again. For now we must close it down.

In the near future we will refund your subscription payments. Again, thank you for your support and I hope we will have you as our subscribers again if the conditions change and the weekly editions of Draugas — The Friend resume.

The Balts before the Dawn of History

By Dr. Marija Gimbutienė

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These are the forerunners of the present girdles, called "juostos", a peculiar Baltic ornament used by men and women for tying around, or decorating the edges of, garments. In teenage girls' graves of the tenth and eleventh centuries, instruments for girdle weaving are frequently found.

Women's and men's costumes from the last centuries of prehistory can be almost fully reconstructed. Although each tribe's costumes varied in details and in the application of local sets of bronze ornaments, in general style they were very much the same all over the Baltic area. Girls continued to cover their heads with a woollen cap decorated with bronze plates and pendants; women used a head cloth secured by a diadem or pins. The linen blouse had a high closed neck around which several bronze or silver necklaces, with glass or amber beads, bronze spirals, or pendants,

were worn. The blouse was secured at the neck with round or horseshoe fibulae. The woollen skirt reached to below the calf; the woollen apron, the lower part of which was embellished by rows of bronze spirals, being shorter. The kerchief worn over the shoulders was made of a relatively thick woollen cloth. It was secured in front either with a massive bronze or silver-plated fibula or with large pins from which hung one or several chains. On each arm were worn from one to two or six bracelets.

Men were dressed in linen blouses secured with pins, woollen trousers, a long woollen jacket girdled by a leather belt, and a woollen cloak pinned with a massive fibula. The richer the man, the more elaborate was his belt, and instead of bronze he used silver ornaments — necklaces, fibulae, bracelets, and finger rings. To complete the warrior's equipment there was a knife in a leather sheath

coated with bronze or silver plates and attached to the belt, an iron instrument for tinder, as well as helmet, shield, long iron sword, spear, battle-axe, bow and arrows with iron tips, and spurs.

From the chainholders or brooches hung triangular or trapezoid bronze plates, jingle bells, miniatures of horses and water birds, pincers, combs, and incisors of wild animals. This peculiar assortment of pendants suggests that they were not used for their aesthetic value alone, but had a symbolic significance. They tinkled when the wearer moved or walked, and thus helped to ward off evil spirits.

Our brief survey of ornamental and symbolic art would not be complete without a glance at the artistic skill which went into the decoration of horse harnesses. In their love for the horse, the Balts are on a par with the Scythians. In no other European country — not excluding the Indo-European groups — do we find the horse held in such high esteem down the ages and this is still borne out by present day folklore. In no

other country but the Lithuania of the eleventh and twelfth centuries do we encounter separate large cemeteries for horses. It was the riding horse, the "zirgas" (this Lithuanian word being connected with "žergti," to straddle), who was the faithful companion of the warrior, and in full decorative splendour went with him to the grave. The headgear and the leather belts of the harness were solidly covered with lead plates coated with silver and embossed with rosettes, intertwined zig-zags and other motifs. Some more elaborate harness decorations were covered with gold plate in patterns combining animal heads and geometric motifs. On both sides of the horses' head or on the forehead, jingle bells or chains with bronze or silver pendants were suspended from the harness belts. The round or cross-shaped spacers between the leather belts of the harness were of bronze, lead or silver, or iron coated with silver and incrustated with bronze. The bridle-bits, and cheek-pieces were usually of iron. The horse belonging to a more important personage had cheek-pieces covered

with silver and curved in baroque style, their ends taking the form of stylized animal heads and their edges having incrustations of bronze or embossings. Saddle-cloths were adorned with triangular and rhomboid plates. The iron stirrups were usually covered with silver, the examples from the twelfth century being decorated with highly stylized animal heads and plant motifs. Even horsetails were not left without ornaments: they were encircled by large spiral rings of bronze.

At the dawn of history the arts and crafts had reached their most advanced stage. Metallurgy, leather working, glass and amber industries, and pottery were in the hands of craftsmen who had their workshops in the larger towns, in feudal castles and in the villages. Only weaving, spinning and sewing remained family affairs, and even here the highest-ranking families probably had local seamstresses, spinners and weavers at their back and call. The potter's wheel, introduced around the tenth century, had gradually replaced the ancient craft of hand made pottery which in

each tribal group had its own distinctive appearance; now it became more uniform, was ornamented with wavy and horizontal bands, and sometimes was marked by the maker's symbol. Also by this time, millstones (revolving querns) had replaced the primitive saddle querns.

Progress is noticeable in all branches of the economy. All tools show a development in form. Iron axes assumed broad edges which in building houses and fortifications and in clearing served better than the previous narrow edges. Scythes became longer; sickles were more graceful, taking on a curved point, and some having a dentate edge. Iron ploughshares became more popular. Some time between the ninth and twelfth centuries the two field system in agriculture appears to have been replaced by the three field, to judge by the preponderance of winter crop grains over wheat and barley in a number of settlements.

Before the tenth century, currency had apparently not yet supplanted the trading of cattle,

fur, amber, silver, and other barter goods. These became inconvenient with the new demands of a growing population, towns, trade routes, and stepped up commerce. Local currency appeared in the form of finger like silver bars with one flattened side, weighing either 100 or 200 grams. Characteristic of the earliest stages of Lithuanian history, they are found in rich graves together with silver ornaments, or in large hoards, and were in use from the tenth to the beginning of the fifteenth century. The silver bars and rare metals were weighed by tiny folding scales made of two bronze dishes suspended on bronze chains attached to a crossbar. The weights were barrel shaped, of different sizes, marked with from one to five circles or triangles and one cross, or a cross with circles in between the cross-arms. Scales and weights were widely used in the tenth and eleventh centuries. They are usually found in rich men's graves.

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(To be continued)

NATO ENLARGEMENT: INTERESTS OF THE ALLIANCE AND LESSONS OF RECENT HISTORY

ROLAND R. ILSÉN

Baltic states' joining NATO is not only in the interest of Baltic states, but also of both NATO and Russia. The reason for this conclusion is that the incorporation of these states into NATO would decrease the probability of the rebirth of Russia as an expansionist power. This would significantly lessen the probability of armed conflicts in Europe. It would also immensely improve the faith of Russian people who have been regularly sacrificed by their successive governments not for the purpose of improving their lives, but for purposes of pride and international standing. Admitting the Baltic states into NATO would be one of the many steps needed to limit Russian imperial ambitions, but it needs to be taken. Russia is entitled to be concerned with its security and be respectfully treated as a potentially great country. It is not entitled to fake fear of NATO and temper tantrums so that the West yields in disputes and acquiesces to reoccupation of the Baltic against its better judgement.

If NATO is politically incapable to expeditiously do what is wise, a good substitute for joining NATO can be concluding mutual defense agreements between states interested in Baltic security (U.S., Denmark, U.K.) and the Baltic states. These bilateral agreements should be narrowly and clearly defined to become operative only if a foreign army sets foot on the territory of the states bound by these treaties. Such agreements will also give NATO a new view of politics.

The Russian Set of Arguments

"We will get the Baltic back... To have these lands is a great Russian strategic, financial, and moral necessity... Their exit — a spit in the face of the not always good and not always honorable great Russia. As history shows, we do not wipe off such spit in the face. Usually we return it to those who spat, together with their teeth. That is our national characteristic."

The above delirium is by A. Nevzorov, deputy of Russian Duma. It is remarkable for the information it does and does not contain. Independence by the Baltic states is considered to be an insult which has to be rectified. It is only natural to subjugate others in Russian national interests. Revanchist tendencies are evident. But most interesting is the absence of any claim that these countries are needed as a defense from a possible attack by NATO.

It is remarkable that internally, Russian discussion of the reasons for expansion do not mention fear of NATO attack or any possible attack. In fact, a survey shows that only 20% of the Russian public think that such an attack is possible. The Russian thinkers and staff people must know the improbability of such an attack even better than that. For example, a member of the presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, who is also the deputy on the committee of the Duma for the defense, M. Surkov, stated that when the

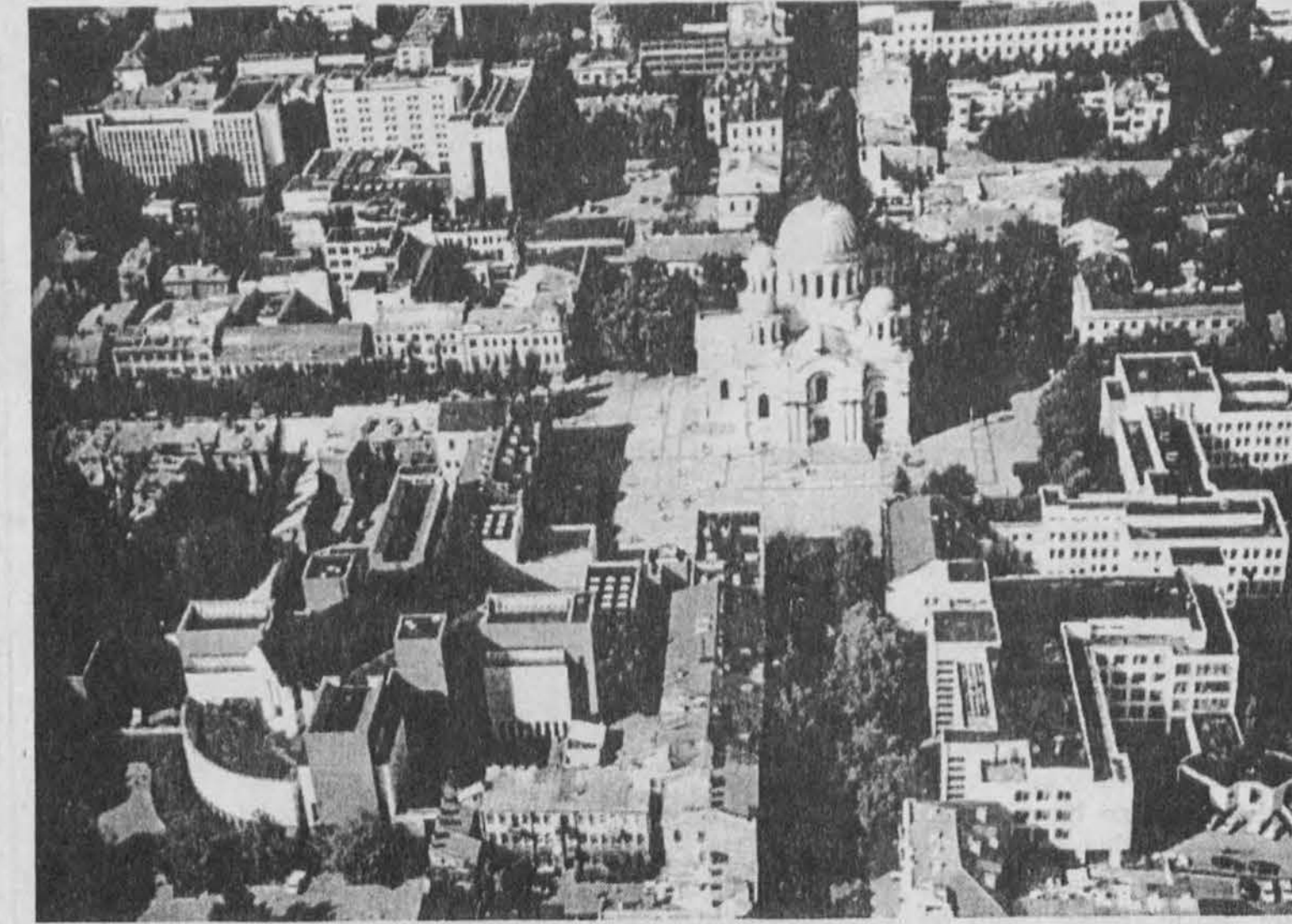
Communists take power, the army will be reduced to 1.5 million men leaving only two divisions of permanent cadre. This does not sound much like somebody who is afraid of a sudden NATO attack.

Probably many of Russian Duma deputies and many in the population do not share Mr. Nevzorov's sentiments, and certainly not the crudeness. However, there is no doubt that many do feel sorrow and humiliation at having lost the "derjava." "Derjava" is a peculiar Russian word that has no exact translation into English. Formally, The Oxford Russian Dictionary translated it as "great power". However, "derjava" is also an object, which, together with the scepter, is held in his hands by the Russian emperor on ceremonial occasions. For this reason "derjava" symbolizes not only a great power, but unlimited centralized power. Sorrow for having lost "derjava" is frequently expressed in readers' letters in the contemporary Russian press, such as *Argumenty i Fakti*.

"He has a deep historical view of Russia's mission as the opposition to the dissolute West", says A. Karatnycky, speaking of the current Communist leader Zyuganov after reviewing his books. The Russian opinion of themselves as having some natural goodness and innate mission against the West in view of their turbulent history, filled with unspeakable atrocities and total impoverishment is wondrous. Without analyzing here why this is so, one must simply accept as fact that as of now Russia still prefers to be an adversary rather than an equal in the Western community. So, the first notable fact of Russian thinking is that they have been deprived of the grandeur to which they are entitled, and they want it back. This is why the threat that the spit will be returned with the teeth.

This fact is substantiated by the latest book of Solzhenitsyn where he states that most wars fought by Russia were fought not for peoples' benefits, but for reasons of pride, feeling of mission (such as liberation of brother Slavs from Turkish oppression), dynastic reasons, etc. Bringing sacrifices to regain some standard of national greatness would be a typical appeal to the population, not that there is much left to sacrifice or a great military potential. However, the potential for creating disturbances by a group of re-born Communist nomenclatura in a variety of ways to enhance its own positions plainly exists. This may include organizing Communists abroad, provoking incidents against Russian minorities, and sabre rattling. We must realize that some Russians in the governing circles think in terms of restoration of some territorial possessions for purposes of enhancing personal and national prestige.

In the past, the USSR used several different methods to rationalize annexation of territories. For example, as many as a dozen national areas have separated themselves from Russia during the revolution in 1917 and 1918. To reannex them, the Soviets would normally organize a group of local stooges that would "invite" the Soviets into the country to defend the interests of working



A birds-eye view of Kaunas.

people. Georgia was re-annexed in this manner in 1921, central Asian republics in 1926, and the Baltic states in 1940. This pretext was again used to invade Afghanistan in 1979. The second explanation is the "liberation of brotherly peoples" (Ukrainians and Belorussians). This explanation was used to occupy Polish territories in alliance with Hitler in 1939. Finally, Molotov expressed fear for the safety of Leningrad due to the proximity of Finnish borders and demanded that Finland move their border twenty miles. Finnish refusal precipitated the Soviet-Finnish war of 1939.

As we have already witnessed in recent months, external Russian communications profess fear of NATO as a reason why the Baltic should belong to them. Internally, they seek revenge and restoration of wounded pride at the loss of "derjava". The current Russian government seems to remember the Soviet methods. Their methods must also be remembered by the West. If the West is not to concede the Baltic states to Russia, it must make it clear that reoccupation of the Baltic states is unacceptable and make plans to create security structures that take the USSR's expansionist methods into account.

A threat more removed in time to Russia is China. First, it has a claim to the Russian Far East and some of Siberia. China takes such claims seriously. Second, China is in ever-increasing need of oil. The former USSR territories of Central Asia have very significant oil deposits which border on China. They are also ethnically close to China. Russia itself may or may not need such deposits because it has other oil deposits, but it will lose oil pipeline business and, above all, have an increased Chinese presence much closer to its heartland. The defense problems of the Far East and Central Asia cannot be quickly solved. This would require increasing the Russian population of these areas; building industry; and building up of communications, garrisons, and military support facilities. This would require years of investment and consistent policy. In view of Chinese policy of reacquiring territories that were previously under Chinese hegemony, this is a realistic threat and it requires wise precautions.

An attack by NATO surely is by far the least realistic of all possible threats. Any small measure of soberminded contemplation will demonstrate it: NATO is a defensive organization.

Military speaking, as the two earlier invasions of Rus-

sia/USSR plainly demonstrated, invasion of Russia tends to turn into a nightmare that far transcends normal military operations: The front line expands due to geography as the invasion proceeds; the territory to be occupied and controlled vastly expands; the lengthening of communication lines poses a logistical problem. All that leads to decreased densities of the invading armies and presents opportunities for guerilla and mobile forces to attack at the points of their choosing. What reason could possibly justify such gamble and sacrifices? Previously, the Communist regime could at least cite fear of Communist world-wide expansion as a reason to attack the USSR. Lately, Communism discredited itself quite enough not to have any sane followers in the rest of the world. Surely, Russians must know that there is no reason for anybody to invade them.

One must assume, therefore, that Russians will not stage any major effort or risk involving themselves into a major military confrontation with NATO just because their pride demands reannexation of the Baltic. Nor do they have power to do so now. However, weaklings do get pushed. The Russians know that the less resolutely the West reacts in stating that the Baltic is off limits, the more must the Russian offensive, moral and organizational, increase to achieve success. An outright military attack is highly unlikely and ever less so if the Baltic is a part of an organized international military structure. Organization of groups of sympathizers and revanchists, and complaints from "oppressed" Russian minority may possibly be orchestrated.

The Western Considerations

One of the reasons there is so little support in the West for incorporation of the Baltic states into NATO is that "...incorporation of a former part of the USSR into NATO would undoubtedly touch a very sensitive political nerve in Moscow." At the very least, this argument is strange. From the moment the Soviet troops occupied the Baltic states, the West, specifically the United States, refused to recognize this annexation as legal. Diplomatic representation by the Baltic states was maintained in Washington D.C. from 1940 to the day of regaining the independence in 1991. There was not an international gathering where the illegality of the occupation would not be asserted, the gold reserves of the countries were maintained in the United States, and during the events of 1990 and 1991 repeated references were made to

the fact that the states were occupied by the Soviets as a result of a criminal conspiracy with Hitler.

Now that the independence of the Baltic states has been restored, the West is reluctant to protect their independence because it concedes that the Baltic states were a part of the USSR after all. Instead of this lapse in logic and morals, the West should encourage the Baltic states to demand reparations for 51 years of Soviet occupation (minus three years of Nazi occupation), including payments for those who lost their life and freedom in the Soviet prisons and labor camps.

The Russians frequently assume that they can bring any deficient and inconsistent arguments such as fear of NATO into a dispute and expect that their opponents will accept them without question, even if they do not believe it themselves. It is possible that coming out of a strict hierarchical society, the Russians do not understand the kind of meticulous scrutiny to which their argument will be subjected. Similar conditions sometimes exist in the West within rigid corporate structures where the boss can say any nonsense he wishes and all subordinates answer in unison, "Right, boss!". This is why when dealing with the Russians, one should be careful in examining their assumptions and the logic of their arguments.

Poor defensibility of the Baltic states is listed as another reason to not include them into NATO. But in case of a Russia-NATO conflict, the first question to be asked is how defensible Poland would be if, in addition to the Königsberg area, it were solidly outflanked by the Baltic states in possession of Russia to start with? Would NATO gain if almost the entire southern shore of the Baltic is in Russian hands at the start of conflict? Would NATO be in a better position if the Russians are not made to spend their resources and time capturing the Baltic? Of course the Baltic area, including Finland and Sweden would never "pull their weight" in NATO for the simple reason that their population densities are too low and the distances are far greater than those in central and Western Europe. Poland will not pull its weight either, because Poland will not be able to defend its Eastern and Northern borders against Russian attack alone. Would Greece be able to defend itself in case of Warsaw pact forces attack through Bulgaria? But then, the idea of a trip wire is not to have it defensible, but to provide a warning, an obstacle. The idea of a forward position is to have an area where the

enemy is met and worn down, and has to extend his logistic lines, and has to defend and guard them later, and so on. In this sense any new territory should be a welcome addition to NATO. We should have no designs to encourage separatism in various parts of Russia and invite them to join NATO, but states whose independence we recognized and supported through decades of adversity certainly should be able to do so.

It must be concluded that guarantees without power, or letting the Baltic states join the European Union with uncertain military guarantees instead of NATO is a poor substitute. But concluding bilateral pacts will serve two purposes. It would indeed preserve some real security to the Balts. Second, it may accelerate formation of a political tide in favor of the Baltic states' admission into NATO.

Bilateral defense treaties with the Baltic countries would also discourage political vacillation. The problem with the Europeans is that they always think that if they only try to duck a direct confrontation with the aggressor or sacrifice somebody else from its midst, they will be spared. Cowardice and extreme disorganization was the earmark of confrontations with Germany on the eve of both world wars. Let us remember that Serbia accepted the Austrian ultimatum emanating from the assassination of the Grand Duke Ferdinand. Churchill reports that on the eve of the war, "The Cabinet was overwhelmingly pacific. At least three-quarters of its members were determined not to be drawn into a European quarrel, unless Great Britain was herself attacked..." However, although Serbia accepted the ultimatum Austria still was not satisfied, and war resulted in spite of the British cabinet's being pacific.

This kind of move would have three practical consequences. First, NATO would be put before a new political reality that if it will not act in the interest of the aggregation of democratic friendly countries to support regional stability, it can be circumvented. Secondly, NATO would have to consider the consequences if indeed an armed conflict erupted in the Baltic with the proposed treaties operating and some of the NATO members involved. This may change the current political equation of NATO. Finally, it would direct Russian interests away from expansionism. This will probably have a most beneficial effect on the economic developments in Russia. There are groups in Russia that historically have always blamed conniving foreigners for all the woes of Russia. Retreat from the policy of expenditures on expansionism and embracing a policy of improving the economic life in Russia would negate the argument that poor economics is due to foreign conniving. Potentially, Russia is a great power. Modern great powers are great primarily because of economic rather than territorial expansion. Germany and Japan are but two examples. The United States is an example that although militarily strong, colonies and territorial expansionism are not needed to be a great power. Russia has potential of such greatness, but it is not achievable if resources are spent on foreign adventures rather than business investments. If the government cannot settle for minding its internal business first, the rest of the world has a right to protect itself.

The offer of membership in the European Union as a quasi security guarantee to the Balts

is an unworthy ploy that does not stand any logical test. If the EU offers any security guarantees, what are they? If in fact membership in EU already offers security guarantees, what is NATO for? What benefits would the Baltic military union, that is, a union of Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania gain if adding Sweden and Finland to NATO is considered undesirable because they cannot "pull their own weight"? If they cannot "pull their own weight" in NATO, what weight will their union with the Baltic states do? In the world where playing is for keeps and transparent ploys carry no weight except as self deception, we should know that our adversaries will not be impressed by such schemes.

If the Western grand strategy is based on increasing the number of secure democracies within NATO, rather than keeping down (temporarily?) disabled adversaries, it should be eager to protect those who genuinely meet its criteria. Such an aggregation of states would tend to make the cold war victory permanent.

Due to its size and potential greatness, Russia would also be a desirable addition to the Atlantic community and NATO. Unfortunately for NATO and Russia, it cannot qualify as a genuine democracy and a potential NATO partner at this time. Expansionism, revanchism, flirting with radical nationalism and Communism by large fractions of population, tenuous protection of civil and human rights, poor law enforcement, and appalling economic conditions are the reasons. If Greece and Turkey are a bit dynamic and disorderly, Russia is infinitely more turbulent and dangerous. If Russia proceeds on the road of reform, including reform of its philosophical precepts of interaction with the rest of the world, it may very well be offered membership in NATO to secure the Atlantic area of interests against some threats in the Far East. This long-range hope, of course, is based on the Russia's understanding that it does not have any threat directed against it from the West. This hope is based on the probable generational change of leaders and reformers. This is not in view as yet. This is the reason that NATO has to be strong, non-aggressive, and acquire people and territories to add to its strength.

Būtingė Oil Terminal Construction to be Completed in 1998

Palanga, Dec. 11, BNS — Construction of the Būtingė oil terminal in Lithuania was markedly speeded up in the second half of this year and is expected to be finished at the end of 1998, head of the stock company Būtingė Nafta stated.

At the press conference on Tuesday in the Lithuanian sea resort of Palanga director general of the Būtingės Nafta Vladislavas Gedvilas said that 32 mln. lits had already been spent for construction work, while the total investment in the terminal made 80 mln. lits.

Gedvilas also agreed that the third share emission of the Būtingės Nafta failed to increase the company's authorized capital to the earlier planned 185 mln. lits and it amounted only to 72 mln. lits at present. According to the director, shortage of time for work with foreign investors determined this situation.

Gedvilas, however, is sure that the Būtingė terminal will recoup if Russian oil flows in.

THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE LANGUAGE

MIKALOJUS DAUKŠA

From the Foreword of Postilla (1599), one of the earliest Lithuanian books. Translation by Gintautas Kaminskas, using the text in "Lietuvių kalbos istorija," by Dr. Zigmas Zinkevičius, Volume III, Page 181, as his source.

Let me ask: is there in the world such a nation, however impoverished it might be, that does not have these three basic things: ancestral homeland, customs and native language? Always and everywhere people have spoken their native language and always struggled to protect it, and to beautify, improve and perfect it.

Nowhere on earth is there such a miserable nation as would abandon its own native language. Every nation aspires to use its native language for its laws, its affairs of state, its literature, and wishes to use it proudly and appropriately at all times, be it in the church, or at work, or at home.

One might ask, would there

not be a sensation amongst the animals if the crow decided to sing like the nightingale, and the nightingale to caw like the crow? Or if the goat began to bellow like a lion, and the lion to bleat like the goat?

It is not the bounty of its crops, nor the distinctiveness of its garments, nor the beauty of its countryside, nor the strength of its castles and cities that make a nation hale; rather it is the maintenance and use of its native language, which strengthens fellowship, peace and brotherly love. For our language is our common bond of love, the mother of unity, the father of civic solidarity, the guardian of nationhood. If you destroy our language you destroy cooperation, unity and wellbeing.

THEY KEEP DANCING!

The Neris Lithuanian Dancers of Pittsburgh have been very busy since their return from the Tenth Lietuvių Tautinių Šokių Šventė held in Chicago this past July. This is the first time in many years that they have extended their dancing season.

In August, Neris was invited to perform for the Prince of Peace Parish Picnic held at South Park. The Children's group joined the adults for a performance that included dances from the Šokių Šventė. The same program was again performed for the Scottdale, PA "Heritage Days" and the Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western, PA Picnic both held in September.

October brought the Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee Annual Dinner Dance. Maxine Bruhns, Director of the Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh, brought slides of her recent trip to Lithuania and the Neris program was the perfect complement to the evening's festivities.

Preparing for the Christmas season kept the Neris Dancers busy in November. The dust was brushed off some old dances while other were revised to put together a Christmas program full of tradition and fun. Participation in Downtown Pittsburgh's "Sparkle Season" was the first stop. In conjunction with the Lithuanian Language Classes of Pittsburgh Singers, Neris performed dances which included "Sadutė", "Mikita",

and "Pradės Aušrelė aušti." Len Barkowski, dressed as "Kalėda", spoke to the audience of Lithuania's version of Santa Claus.

Neris was invited to perform for the University of Pittsburgh Nationality Room Open House held in December. Their program's theme was the role of agriculture in the Christmas traditions of Lithuania. The program was well received and drew many compliments including a beautiful letter of congratulations and thanks from Mrs. Bruhns.

The final performance of the year was saved for the Christmas party held at the Lithuanian Club. To show their appreciation, Neris gave an encore performance of their Christmas show. The children's group joined the adults for several dances and also performed dances of their own.

Upcoming performances for Neris will include The University of Steubenville "International Week", Lithuanian Independence Day celebrations, and the 41st Pittsburgh Folk Festival.

The Neris Dancers would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the Echoes of Lithuania Radio Program, The Lithuanian Citizen's Society of Western PA, The Lithuanian Nationality Room Committee and The Lithuanian Language Classes of Pittsburgh for their undying support and encouragement.

Dalia Yucius,
Suzanne Milius-Plutt,
Rob Medonas



Neris dancers, from left to right: I row — D. Yucius, M. Johnson, A. Johnson, E. Johnson, K. Cordell; II row — A. Baltrus, P. Macey, P. Litwinowicz, E. Milius-Grana, S. Milius-Plutt; III row — J. Baltrus, B. Johnson, F. Bagdes, W. Kurtek, R. Medonas.



Preserving our heritage — an old farm house in the Ethnographic Museum of Rumsiškes.

Photo by Juozas Polis

REGINA DISCOVERS A.P.P.L.E.



She waited years for freedom to return to the country of her birth. And when Regina B. Petrauskas heard of an opportunity to help rebuild Lithuania, she volunteered — not once, but several times.

A librarian at Forest City Regional High School, Petrauskas has spent part of four summers in Lithuania with APPLE: American Professional Partnership for Lithuanian Education.

"I started out as a person introducing something about American children's literature," said Petrauskas, whose accent reveals a trace of her European heritage. Her first trip to Lithuania, a nation the size of West Virginia with a population of less than 4 million, was in 1991 — APPLE's first year. That was followed by return journeys in 1992, 1993 and 1996 to different parts of the country. "We are trying to touch as many corners of Lithuania as we can," she said.

1991 was a heady time to be in Lithuania, which began that year as one of 15 Soviet republics. On March 11, the new parliament declared an immediate restoration of Lithuania's independence as a nation. The Soviet authorities did not recognize that independence until September.

"It was very dangerous, and still can be very dangerous at times," Petrauskas said. "There

are people that had been roughed up. Not in our program, but other programs." Foreigners, who had come to support the fledgling democratic movement were among the targets. "We really were not very sure of ourselves the first year."

That first year was also very experimental. Since then, the program has become more structured. "They're trying to touch as many fields as they can," Petrauskas said. Special education is of great interest; so are programs on childhood and adolescence.

On one trip, Petrauskas spent a week in Kaunas, the city of her birth. She was helping fellow librarians improve their knowledge of library science.

Vaiva Vebra is a founder and director of APPLE. In the fall of 1990, she was attending a conference in Chicago that was also attended by Lithuania's minister of education. She asked him how concerned Americans could support Lithuania's efforts to break free of the Soviet Union. His ideas were the basis of APPLE, Vebra said in a telephone interview from Durham, Conn.

Since the first APPLE program in 1991, 250 teachers, administrators, interpreters, social workers, psychology professionals and others have paid their own way to Lithuania for either two or four weeks of seminars, Vebra said. About one-third of them are repeat volunteers. They come from all over the country, and most are not even Lithuanian.

"Little by little, this grew into quite a professional endeavor," said Petrauskas, a former board member of APPLE.

Asked to recount how she felt when she returned to Lithuania after 40 years, Petrauskas' voice dropped almost to whisper level. "It was very, very emotional," she said. "I left my country at 12. Then I was a DP — displaced person — in Germany after the war. In '49 we came to the United States.

"We were just so thrilled that after 50 years of subjugation, Lithuania was trying to stand on its own feet. We just didn't know what to do with ourselves, we were so happy."

Asked if she's optimistic about Lithuania's future, Petrauskas sighed. It was a brief sigh, but a heartfelt one. "I want to be," she said. "You have to be an optimist to be a teacher, right?"

But those 50 years of subjugation following World War II left a legacy of harm. "The people there, the very first year, were very cautious when they came into our lectures," Petrauskas recalled. "They were still within that very rigid mode — almost fearful of each other and mistrustful of what could be said about them if they expressed their opinions. Very few people dared. It has loosened up quite a bit."

Lithuanian schools have their problems. Some students question why they should get an education when they can make money on the black market. "Parents and teachers are very aware of that," Petrauskas said.

Petrauskas is also concerned about the designs of the former Soviet Union. "The big neighbor to the east has never really given up the idea that it would like to control some of these countries that they did have control over. There is no question in my mind (of that)."

After her first trip back to Lithuania, Petrauskas thought about retiring there. But the South Abington Twp. resident has children and grandchildren here. "This is my home," she said. "The roots are here now."

For more information about ways to assist APPLE — donations of magazines such as National Geographic, Newsweek, Time and U.S. News and World Report are welcome — contact Regina Petrauskas. She is listed in the phone book. Or contact APPLE director Vaiva Vebra in Durham, Conn. at (860)347-7095.

("Sunday Times," Scranton, PA, Jan. 5, 1997)

DAFL

Dental Assistance Foundation to Lithuania / DAFL's goal is to help improve oral health delivery in Lithuania, where for 50 years progress was kept away by the Iron Curtain.

DAFL believes the most effective way to improve oral/dental health in Lithuania is to interact with the School of Dentistry in Kaunas to enhance training and education of dental students and faculty. In 1994, DAFL made a significant major introduction of modern equipment utilizing air and water to run high-speed handpieces/drills and suction for the operative field. DAFL's greatest accomplishment was to help introduce the Oral Hygiene Program to the school's curriculum. Oral Hygiene is the basic science upon which all the other dental disciplines depend upon.

DAFL member Judita Martin, RDH, from Kansas City, was on the teaching staff during the 1994-1995 school year. She developed the program, and taught and graduated several new professionals — the first Lithuanian professional dental hygienists.

Since spring of 1996, Judita is back in Lithuania for an extended period of time to continue her work: to further spread the gospel of Dental Prevention and Oral Hygiene to the people and the profession. World dental authorities agree that is the most cost effective and efficient route to improving dental health.

Currently, Judita is practicing in a private clinic. Since September, she is also teaching at Kaunas School of Dentistry and at the Vilnius University Dental Clinics.

"TULPÉ TIMES" CELEBRATES A BIRTHDAY

"Tulpé Times" is a bulletin, published quarterly by the Lithuanian American Community, Inc., Washington State Chapter. The Editor-in-Chief is Zita Petkienė. Recently we have received December, 1996 issue, volume 16, No. 4. This is an 15th Anniversary issue and the editor writes:

"Tulpé Times" made its debut in December 1981; today, 15 years later, you are reading issue number 61. With this particular number, "Tulpé" celebrates the completion of its 15th years of publication — that's 15 times 4 issues each year.

Over the years "Tulpé" has faithfully chronicled the cultural, political, and social activities as well as family events within the Lithuanian Community in Washington state. The political/cultural aspect in particular has tied us into the global Lithuanian society, while the social/family element has knitted the local community even closer together. We have tried to be educational and informative as well as entertaining and, as needed, motivating. We have steadily rallied the Community to action on important issues affecting Lithuania and her people, both in the old country and in the U.S. News briefs from "Tulpé" are regularly excerpted in "Draugas", the Lithuanian language daily published in Chicago, and in other Lithuanian-American publications. On occasion "Tulpé" has even been referenced by the press in Lithuania.

Feedback from "Tulpé" readers around the country has it that the Seattle Lithuanian Community and "Tulpé Times" are widely respected as "pioneers," none the least for being one of the first to incorporate bilingualism as a means of facilitating access to Lithuanian

activities for all interested parties.

I've had a lot of fun editing the newsletter, and in the process I've had no choice but to learn a lot. Each issue has provided a growing experience for me, and I am grateful for the personal enrichment this has meant. Each issue has also been hours upon hours upon hours upon hours (read "midnight oil") of volunteer work for me, too, but you all know that, enough said.

In browsing through the "Tulpé" archives recently I compiled a list of people who over the years, in one way or another, at one time or another, have provided assistance with the publication of "Tulpé." I'd like to acknowledge them once more, in no particular order: Sandy Kuprenas, Ramule and Bill Crosby, Bruno Morkūnas, Eglė Weiss, Ina Bertulytė Bray, Loretta Werner, Gintas Nalis, Alice Lapatinskas, Irene Kinderis, Irena Blekys, Danutė Musteikis-Rankis, Scott and Maria Strickland, Nijolė Raišys, Daina Kinderis, Inga and Arūnas Gaurys, Rūta Gaurys, Neris and Andrius Palūnas, Jolita Miežėlaitis, Julius Palūnas, Natalie Werner, Aušra Hawkridge, Sylvia and Angelo Comeaux, Juozas Petkus. Ačiū, to you all. A particularly special ačiū to Juozas Petkus, who on more than one occasion has saved "Tulpé" from disappearing permanently into cyberspace when the computer crashed (including this issue!).

As we start upon year sweet sixteen, I thought you'd find it interesting to revisit our origins and see from where we've come; hence, the entire first issue — all one page of it — is incorporated into the current "Tulpé." Also included as a memory teaser is a brief news blurb from each of the years "Tulpé" has been operating.

ARTISTS FROM LITHUANIA

Three renown artists from Lithuania will be performing in concert in the Chicago area. They will arrive in Chicago after a concert tour in Canada. Other concerts in North America will include Boston, Tampa, Miami before they leave for South America. Upon their return to the U.S. their last concert will be in Atlanta.

Antanas Smolskus plays the birbynė which is a double-reed wood instrument with a bull's horn on the end. It has the range of the clarinet and intonation of the flute.

The accordion duet players are Eduardas Gabrys and Genadijus Savkovas. Smolskus and Gabrys were born in Lithuania and Savkovas in Siberia, but has lived in Lithuania most of his life.

Gabrys and Savkovas have been accordion duet partners for 20 years. All three are graduates of the Lithuanian Academy of Music. All three presently are teachers at their Alma Mater.

From 1983 through 1986 the musicians received advanced training at the post-graduate Kiev Tchaikovsky Conservatory. There they received the equivalent of a U.S. Master's Degree in Music. The duet became laureates and diploma winners in Klingenthal and Castelfidardo respectively in international competition. They gave over 500 concerts in Europe and Australia. The pair are active organizers as well as participants of traditional accor-

dian music festivals in Vilnius, Lithuania.

For a concert of natural music without any amplification with "Excelsion" accordions, come to the Lithuanian Youth Center at 5620 So. Claremont in Chicago on Saturday, February 1, 1997 at 6 P.M. For ticket reservations and information you may call 773-238-1536.

Fran Šlutas

REMEMBER YOUR HERITAGE

The 13th annual Lithuanian Language Course at Camp Dai-nava, Manchester, MI, this year will take place August 3-10. This course, operating under the auspices of the Educational Council of the Lithuanian American Community of the USA, is designed for beginners, intermediate and advanced students, or those, just wishing to refresh their Lithuanian language with experienced instructors in a vacation-like surroundings and atmosphere. There are no limitations regarding age or formal education.

For information and application call or write to: Mr. Vytautas Jonaitis, 1546 Quarry NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504, phone (616) 458-6378.

John A. Gibattis
Attorney at Law

6247 S. Kedzie Ave., Chicago, IL
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People in the News

TWO GREAT LITHUANIAN ARTISTS JOIN FORCES

By GILBERT R. JOHNS

On January 20, WFMT in their program, "Live from Studio One," treated its audience to an extraordinary two-hour recital featuring two exceptional artists with Lithuanian connections, pianist Muza Rubackyte and bass-baritone Arnold Voketaitis.

Lithuanian-born Rubackyte, now based in Paris is currently giving recitals in Chicago. She is recorded artist and has won many European prizes including 1st prize at the Budapest Competition. She has a warm, rich, even heavy style (she uses pedal lavishly) that is not heard much in the U.S. But it is musical, thoughtful and expert. She played the Bach/Busoni Chaconne from Bach's 2nd Partita and Beethoven's "Appassionata," in a style I suspect was foreign to most listeners. But she came into her own with a gorgeous interpretation of Liszt's Concert Etude No. 2, as good an interpretation as you are ever likely to hear.

American-born Voketaitis, (his parents were from Lithuania) has for decades been a champion of Lithuanian arts and culture. However, he is known world-wide as one of the great operatic singing-actor bass-baritones, a category that would include such legends as Ezio Pinza, Norman Treigle and contemporary legend, Samuel Ramey. He is best known to Chicago audiences for his work with Lyric Opera where he had major roles in such works as Beethoven's "Fidelio," Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and Britten's "Peter Grimes." He spent ten years as one of the featured performers at New York City Opera in its glory days where his best known colleague was Beverly Sills.

He is a very funny man and brings down the house when he does his basso-buffo roles such as the unctuous Don Basilio in Rossini's "The Barber of Seville," or the almost-lovable fraud, Dr. Dulcamara in Donizetti's "The Elixir of Love."

However, he can also bring out the full menace of Mephistopheles in Gounod's "Faust" as well as Count Bluebeard in Bartok's "Bluebeard's Castle" and all three bass-baritone villains including the murderous Dr. Miracle in Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann." He can bring out both the evil and the torment in the title role of Mussorgsky's "Boris Godunov."

Monday night's radio recital was a spectacular tour-de-force in that he not only reprised many of these roles, but did it without his rather awesome stage presence. (He is a tall, imposing, powerful man). He recreated the characters entirely

with his voice — the mark of a great singing actor.

He sang two concert arias, Beethoven's "Mit Madeln sich Vertragen" and Mozart's "Cosi Dimque Tradisci" with elegant concert platform style.

From "Fidelio" he sang the hailer Rocco's aria (in German) about money and greed. (Who can forget Voketaitis at Chicago Lyric Opera's "Fidelio" as Don Fernando, the king's minister, coming in at the end, almost as a deus ex machina, clad in gleaming white, and with rich, deep soothing tones, setting everything right.)

Many think of Voketaitis as a Mozart bass, and he showed us why Monday night. Even though he freely admits to being over 60, the rich mahogany voice is still agile, expressive and has lost none of its powerful ring. Diction, often a problem with powerful, deep voices, has never been a problem with Voketaitis. He seems better than ever; crisp and clear with every syllable delivered clearly in French, Italian, German and English. Others will have to judge how precise the Lithuanian diction was.

He sang two of Figaro's arias (in Italian) from "Marriage," perhaps the high-points of the recital. He sang "Se vuol ballare," in which the young groom-to-be serves notice that the Count will not have his way with Figaro's bride, Susanna, by trying to re-invoke the feudal right of Droigt du Seigneur. Here Voketaitis used his years of experience to deliver a staccato emphasis to show his determination to have the Count dance to HIS tune.

As a dazzling change of pace, he sang "Non piu andrai" in which Figaro in mock-heroic military style, full of paens to heroism and victory, tells the terrified, love-sick Cherubino who's been banished to be a regimental officer what war and battle will be like.

Voketaitis was a roaring, mocking Mephistopheles in the serenade from "Faust," with the most unnerving, diabolical laugh you've ever heard.

In a puckish, change of direction, he sang Dr. Dulcamara's opening aria from "Elixir," not in the original Italian, but in Lithuanian. It is one of the great scam arias in the repertoire and Voketaitis delivered it with a cheap salesman's almost crooning guile and skill. Those in the radio audience who could understand the Lithuanian must have surely rushed out and bought the nostrums he was flogging.

Voketaitis finished his portion of the recital by giving a different spin to the Mozart-Salieri relationship by singing, in English, the long opening monologue of Salieri in Rimsky-Korsakov's "Mozart and Salieri."

Here Voketaitis used his dramatic skills to bring out the anguish, torment and disappointment that Salieri felt, and great artist that he is, made the work sound better than it probably is.

Gilbert R. Johns occasionally reviews musical events for the Chicago Tribune. He was critical for a dozen years for both the Colorado Springs Gazette Telegraph and KCME FM.



Making music in Lemont, IL.

Photo by Vytautas Jasinevicius

NEW KARMANOS INSTITUTE FACILITY BEARS THE NAME OF DR. VAITKEVICIUS



Dr. Vainutis Vaitkevicius

To the pantheon of legendary doctors: Livingston, Spock, Dr. J., even Dr. Ruth, add the name of "Dr. Vee," Vainutis Vaitkevicius, M.D.

His name now graces the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute's home care and hospice center in Southfield, dedicated in honor of the 69-year-old cancer specialist.

The 16,500-square-foot Dr. Vee Center is the newest building of the Karmanos Institute. The institute was founded in 1995, when Peter Karmanos Jr., chairman of Compuware Corp., donated \$15 million — the largest contribution ever in Michigan to fight cancer — to create the institute in the memory of his late wife, who died of breast cancer in 1989 at the age of 46.

The new hospice facility, at 24601 Northwestern Highway, is expected to provide 24,000 home care visits, in 1996 and treat 1,300 home care patients.

Michigan has the sixth-highest cancer rate in the nation with some 42,000 residents diagnosed with cancer in 1995, according to Karmanos.

The hospice center was donated to the institute by Jean and Sam Frankel of Bloomfield Hills, who asked that it be named for Dr. Vaitkevicius.

"The thing that makes him extraordinary is his compassionate care for his patients," said Tom Angott, chairman of the Karmanos board of trustees and longtime friend of Dr. Vee. "He's still an old fashioned doctor who will make a house call. He invites people to call him in the middle to the night if they need him."

"He doesn't care if they're rich or poor, have insurance or not; he will give them his care and his expertise. He's a very brilliant man in the field of cancer, yet he's got a method of communicating with his patients that is extremely unusual."

Vaitkevicius is widely credited with almost single-handedly bringing together the area's cancer research and treatment efforts as president of the Michigan Cancer Foundation from 1991-95.

"We would simply not have a world-class cancer center in Detroit if not for the efforts of Dr. Vee," said Dr. William Peters, Karmanos Cancer Institute director and CEO.

Vaitkevicius, a native of Lithuania, received his medical degree in 1951 from Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, before moving to Detroit. He is regarded as one of the nation's leading cancer specialists and has served as chairman of several departments and divisions of the Wayne State University Medical School and at the Detroit Medical Center.

"Detroit News" 10.31.96

JOSEPH A. KATAUSKAS — NEW BRANCH MANAGER

Standard Federal Bank, one of area's largest and most service-oriented financial institutions, has expanded to the Naperville community by acquiring a former office of Household Bank. The new branch at 425 W. Ogden, across from Naperville North H. S., is now open with extended hours, new and familiar employees, and an array of products and services for all banking needs.

In addition to maintaining most of the existing staff members, the bank has named a new management team dedicated to enacting the bank's theme of "building the future with you." This team includes Branch Manager Joseph A. Katauskas, Assistant Manager Patricia L. Kehoe, and Gene T. Schield, teller supervisor.



Pictured are: Gene Schield (left), teller supervisor; Patricia Kehoe, assistant branch manager; and Joe Katauskas, branch manager.

LITHUANIAN IS PART OF DISCOVERY TEAM

The discovery and development of the first compound of a new class of drugs to treat hypertension — losartan — has brought recognition to the team of David J. Carini, John V. Duncia, and Pancras C. Wong at DuPont Merck Pharmaceutical Co., and Ronald S. Eydelloth and Michael R. Goldberg at Merck Research Laboratories. Although the introduction of losartan has involved hundreds of individuals at DuPont and later at Merck and DuPont Merck, these five researchers have made particularly noteworthy contributions during the 12-year period between initiation of research and market introduction.



J. V. Duncia

It takes a mouthful to say what losartan is — an orally active nonpeptide angiotensin II receptor antagonist that acts specifically to block the function of angiotensin II at the receptor level. Its effectiveness has been clearly demonstrated, and it marks a key advance in treating hypertension. By binding at the receptor site, it inhibits further activity of angiotensin II that would otherwise cause higher blood pressure. Indeed, losartan provides this activity without the side effects — such as cough, headache, and edema — characteristic of some other antihypertensive agents, including calcium channel blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, beta blockers, and diuretics.

The discovery of losartan began in 1982, when DuPont scientists — including Duncia, Carini, and Wong — set out to find a nonpeptide small molecule that would block the effects of angiotensin II at its receptor. Wong discovered that compounds described in a Japanese patent were weak but true angiotensin II receptor antagonists, which prompted Duncia and Carini to use these leads to design more potent compounds of this type. Duncia and Carini made hundreds of variations and analogs that eventually pointed to a family of N-(biphenylmethyl) imidazoles that showed impressive activity, which was demonstrated by Wong and others. One member of that family of compounds, losartan, was chosen to develop because of its oral activity and duration, desirable traits for a medication that must be taken regularly. Wong characterized the preclinical pharmacological profiles of losartan and its analogs in animal models of hypertension, which facilitated the design of clinical trials of losartan.

This cutting-edge science at DuPont drew the attention of major pharmaceuticals producer Merck, which was also working in this area. As a result, in 1989, DuPont and Merck agreed to a long-term R&D and marketing collaboration specifically for the angiotensin II antagonist program. In early 1991, DuPont and Merck formed a 50-50 joint venture, creating an independent research-driven pharmaceutical company, DuPont Merck. Losartan is credited for bringing the two companies together.

A joint research team was then created to allow the DuPont scientists to collaborate with a team at Merck to search for potential backup candidates and conduct safety and clinical studies for losartan. The joint development team, of which Eydelloth and Goldberg were key members from Merck, facilitated the rapid and smooth development of losartan — shortening the time to market

by two years or more from what DuPont alone might have done. Specifically, Eydelloth led the extensive safety assessment program for losartan, and Goldberg had responsibility for clinical pharmacology investigations with losartan to define how the drug worked in humans, its pharmacokinetics, and biochemical responses to the drug.

The resulting patent for losartan and its family of compounds was issued to DuPont in 1992. Merck began marketing losartan under the Cozaar name in 1995, and is splitting the profits with DuPont. It represents the first high blood pressure drug with a novel mechanism of action to be approved and introduced to the market in more than a decade. According to a DuPont Merck official, sales of Cozaar are the fastest growing to date for any new antihypertensive agent. Global sales for the drug could top \$1 billion by the end of the decade.

In addition to its commercial success, the discovery of losartan and the resulting patents and publications have stimulated a worldwide effort to design and synthesize pharmaceuticals based on similar structures and mode of action.

Duncia, who did much of the molecular design work leading to losartan, received a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1976 from the University of Michigan, Dearborn, and a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry in 1981 from Princeton University. Carini, codiscoverer of the losartan family whose work led specifically to the orally active compounds, received a B.S. degree in chemistry in 1978 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y., and a Ph.D. degree in organic chemistry in 1982 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Wong, whose preclinical pharmacological studies of losartan and related compounds led to the discovery that losartan's metabolite was also active as an angiotensin II antagonist, contributing to losartan's long duration activity, received a B.A. degree in chemistry in 1976 from the University of Oregon, Eugene, and a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology in 1981 from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Eydelloth, who directed the safety assessment supporting worldwide registration of losartan, received a B.S. degree in biology in 1974 from the University of Maryland and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1978 from Ohio State University, Columbus. Goldberg, who designed and directed clinical pharmacology studies for losartan in conjunction with clinical investigators in several other countries, received a B.A. degree in biology in 1970 from Clark University, Worcester, Mass., and an M.D. degree and a Ph.D. degree in pharmacology in 1976 from Tulane University, New Orleans.

CeEn, Jan. 6, 1997



Arnold Voketaitis



Muza Rubackyte.