









# LITHUANIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

## Historical Background

Lithuania's membership in the European family of organized nations dates from the end of the twelfth century. Since that time Lithuania has kept constant vigilance over her liberty and has continued to struggle for her existence as a free nation against the attacks and incursions of her great neighbors. It is largely due to Lithuania's resistance that Europe was saved from the Tartar invasion and that the *Drang Nach Osten* of the Teutonic Knights was brought to standstill for many centuries. The extinction of the Lithuanian state, together with that of Poland, known as the "greatest crime of the eighteenth century," was perpetrated by Czarist Russia in 1795 as a result of a conspiracy between Russia, Prussia, and Austria. Since that time the Lithuanian nation has risen in arms against the Russian yoke on numerous occasions, namely, in 1812, 1831, 1863-64, and 1904-5, and in 1919-20 she fought against the Bolshevik invaders who sought to enslave her.

The Lithuanian people proclaimed the restoration of an independent Lithuanian state in 1918. This declaration was approved by the Lithuanian Constituent Assembly on May 15, 1920, and in the same year the Soviets abandoned their claims to Lithuanian territory in favor of an independent Lithuania. No Lithuanian government ever contemplated renouncing Lithuania's right to independence in favor of any foreign power. The Lithuanian nation resolutely defended its re-established independence against all attempts by her imperialistic neighbors to enslave her.

In the period between the two World Wars, the Lithuanians consolidated their state and fully justified its independent existence. This fact has been recognized and emphasized the world over by impartial observers who witnessed the progress of the Lithuanian state in every respect.

Struggles for national independence expressed both in active and in passive resistance have continued under the Soviets and under the German occupation of Lithuania, during World War II. In June, 1941, as the result of an armed insurrection, the restoration of independent Lithuania was solemnly proclaimed by the Lithuanian Provisional Government. After its leadership had been dispersed by the Germans, the Lithuanian underground movement was taken over by the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania which enjoyed the confidence of all political parties.

Lithuania's losses during both foreign occupations amount to 500,000 persons killed, imprisoned, or deported. The destruction of property and material wealth has been enormous.

## Lithuania in the Family of Nations

Lithuania has always stood for the solution of international conflicts by peaceful means. This was evident from her actions in

the period between the two World Wars (especially in the protracted dispute with Poland over Vilnius). Lithuania scrupulously stood by her pledges as expressed in international treaties. Some of these treaties were specifically intended to prevent war and to guarantee peace in that part of the world. Among them may be mentioned the Lithuanian-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty of 1926, the Pact of Paris of 1928, the Convention for the Definition of Aggression of 1933, and the Lithuanian-Soviet pact of Mutual Assistance in 1939. Among the treaties which sought especially to foster international collaboration was the Treaty of Good Understanding and Cooperation of September, 1934, known as the Baltic Entente. Lithuania lived up to her solemn pledges. When, on the eve of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania in June, 1940, the Soviet government advanced accusations against Lithuania, her government repeatedly sought to have them investigated according to the provisions of the Lithuanian-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty (which still remains valid), but she failed, through no fault of her own.

Lithuania supported the Hague Court of International Justice, sought its good offices, and accepted its decisions. Lithuania has always been a fervent supporter and a loyal member of the League of Nations. Without exception, every Lithuanian government pledged loyalty and willing cooperation. The Lithuanian attitude was expressed by S. Lozoraitis, Lithuanian Foreign Minister and chief delegate to the League of Nations Assembly, when he said on September 16, 1935:

"Lithuania has always been, is now and will in the future be numbered among the nations most loyally and most entirely devoted to the League and to the fundamental charter upon which it is based.

My country's attachment and loyalty to the League are due, not only to the profoundly peaceful spirit of my people and to its feeling of solidarity with all nations, but also to its enlightened self-interest.

Conscious of my country's responsibility to the whole international community and also of the part it plays in the problems of Eastern Europe, I wish today to make the following solemn declaration from this platform to the whole civilized world:

That the loyal and complete observance of all international engagements is of the essence of the external and internal policy of the Lithuanian Government;

That same government is always ready to engage in a friendly and frank exchange of views with anyone concerned on the fulfillment of its international undertakings;

That my Government is willing that any divergence of views with regard to its international obligations shall, if necessary, be submitted to the procedure provided for by the treaties.

This line of conduct has

## Lithuania's Grief

Beloved "Niemen," Lithuania's pride,  
Like the land o'er which you daily must glide,  
You are silent and sad and surely you weep  
For your Mother Earth, whose sorrows are deep!

Oh loved Lithuania, Fatherland ours  
Once known and respected as greatest of powers,  
Invaded by savages now and abused,  
Crucified, tortured, battered and bruised.

Your glories unnumbered, your fame was world wide,  
Your robes were unstained, you had noting to hide;  
Until came the storm, that destroyed your all,  
An avalanche broke and that made you fall.

The fire and sword that passed over thy head,  
Had mangled and slain till rivers ran red;  
Crushing all that lived and leaving instead  
At thy feet thine own children-bleeding and dead.

But that storm had ceased, the bleeding arose!  
Thy wounds healed—and then, as each nation knows  
The spring came again, and summer and all,  
And thou Lithuania, emerged from the fall.

The dawn came in view, you recovered from grief,  
Like a maiden to wed, you were pleating a wreath;  
Thine white robes completed, thine long tresses hung,  
All calmly awaited—till the great bell was rung.

The war god, the monster, spat fire and smoke,  
And destructive missiles came each time he spoke;  
Ah, 'twas but the beginning of fire and sword,  
The visiting storms and the enemies borde.

Then for days, weeks and months, the terrific storm raged  
Like a monster when freed after long being caged;  
He pranced back and forth according to will,  
Till nearly exhausted, and a moment lay still.

Huge holes ploughed in the soil, the homes are destroyed,  
The harvests left rotting, all efforts are void;  
The tombstones are shattered and crosses are bent,  
All, all demolished, as though lightning rent.

The rivers flow tears and willows there sway,  
For the life that once was, but now brushed away  
Only hawks and the crows weirdly fill the air,  
With their follow shrieks as they fly here and there.

Oh Mother Earth dear, now bitten by frost,  
What price hast thou paid for thine power lost;  
What hast thou done—to deserve such a fate,  
Why didst thou incur the All Mighty God's Hate?

But again Mother Earth—where is thy pride,  
That thou on thine bosom allow foes to ride?  
Where are thy rulers—thy heroes of old?  
Thy strongholds—thy arms, and Knights once so bold.

Thy hopes they are blasted and head bowed in grief,  
Thy heart pressed by sorrow, and lost is thy wreath  
The war god is resting and soon, who knows?  
He may stir again and strike thee new blows.

And ere many weeks pass the shower of shell  
May turn thee dear fatherland into a hell;  
So weep Nieman weep and sway willows sway,  
For much sorrow yet is to come your way.

William B. Neuwells

been followed on numerous occasions, and always with success. I am profoundly convinced that this attitude on the part of my Government must be regarded as a sufficient basis for loyal collaboration among all those concerned.

I think it desirable to add, in conclusion, that my country has placed her trust and her hope in the solidarity of the nations whose duty it is not only to settle disputes but also to prevent them.

The annals of my country's history are full enough of the injustices she has suffered, but her faith in the noble ideal of humanity has never wavered. Lithuania remains serene in the consciousness of the integrity of her honor.

(From S. Lozoraitis' speech at the Tenth Plenary Meeting, September 16, 1935, *League of Nations Official Journal*, 1935, Special Supplement No. 138, page 87.)

On the eve of World War II, on September 21, 1938, this same attitude was expressed in another meeting of the League of Nations Assembly by the Lithuanian chief delegate.

What has been said of the Lithuanian attitude toward the League of Nations applies equally to her support of any just and effective international security organization which may take its place. At this particular time, when the United Na-

tions are meeting in San Francisco, the Lithuanian Legation in Washington reiterates the stand of the Lithuanian government and the Lithuanian people in regard to international cooperation and the peaceful solution of international disputes. Lithuania hopes that this time effective means will be found to prevent future aggression, from whatever quarter or under whatever pretext it may come.

Lithuania firmly believes that her record as a peaceful and progressive nation, her struggles for independent existence, and her present martyrdom will not be underestimated by the United Nations, and that her liberty will not be sacrificed for the sake of so-called strategic interests, of expediency, or of any other consideration, to any foreign power. Relying on the sense of justice and the moral principles of the United Nations, Lithuania is confidently awaiting the termination of her present domination by an unscrupulous neighbor, and the restoration of her independence and her fundamental rights in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter.

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## LITHS IN THE SERVICE

Sgt. Victor Krasnickas, 24, AAF, son of Mrs. Anna Krasnickas, of 121 G. Dutch Point Colony, Hartford, Conn., has been awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation Ribbon as a result of a Presidential Citation to the Ninth Air Force's 67th Reconnaissance Group. The group was commended "for extraordinary performance in action against the enemy in executing the most extensive low-altitude oblique photographic assignment ever undertaken over enemy territory.

"Successful accomplishment of this mission," the citation reads in part, "required long flight over heavily defended coastal areas, with the pilots foregoing evasive action and flying straight, level undeviating courses in spite of constant enemy fire... The brilliant achievement of the 67th Group in providing these indispensable photographs was a significant factor in the successful invasion of the continent."

Sgt. Krasnickas, husband of the former Elizabeth M. Beckman, and father of a son, Victor Ellsworth Krasnickas, whom he has not yet seen, entered the service on January 28th, 1943, and went overseas in December of last year. He now is stationed in France, at the present writing.

Tech. 5th Class Joseph S. Marcinkus, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter P. Marcinkus, of 51 Harlem St., Worcester, Mass., is a member of the Headquarters Company of the 325th Engineer Combat Battalion which was awarded the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque for "superior performance of duty during its service in France and Germany." Before entering the service on December 9, 1942, Corp. Marcinkus attended High School of Commerce, and was employed at the Chicago Beef Company. He went overseas in October, 1944. His brother, Staff Sgt. John P. Marcinkus, is with an Air Force ground crew in England.

Lt. William W. Kuchinskas, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Kuchinskas of 35 Houghton St., Worcester, Mass., who has been missing since December 23 over Germany, has been listed as a "prisoner of war" by the Army. His parents have not heard whether he has been liberated in the course of recent liberations, and have not heard from him since he was first listed as a casualty. Pilot of a B-21 Bomber, he has been in the Army since January, 1943, and overseas since August, 1944. He is a graduate of the High School of Commerce, for whom he played football. He was employed by the American Steel and Wire Company.

Pvt. John K. Sutkus, husband of Mrs. Jean (Rudolph) Sutkus, of 122 Drexel St., Worcester, Mass., was slightly wounded on April 5th, and is in a hospital located in France. His parents Mr. and Mrs. John Sutkus, of Lawrence, Mass. Pvt. Sutkus is a graduate of Classical High School, and worked for the Johnson Steel and Wire Co., before entering the service. He has been in the U. S. Army for two and one-half years, and went overseas last September.

Pvt. Albert L. Poskus, son of Mrs. Anna Poskus of 426 Park St., New Britain, Conn., and Staff Sgt. Peter A. Slomski, son of Mrs. Beatrice Slomski, of 99 Gold St., New Britain, have been cited by the 86th Mountain Regiment and awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for participation in combat against the enemy on the Fifth Army front in Italy.

Pvt. Cubellis has been overseas since January, 1944, and fought in Belgium and Luxembourg. He was awarded Three Bronze Stars "for gallantry in action." He was employed at Walter Kidde and Company, Inc., before his induction on October 7, 1942.

Pfc. Benjamin A. Shimkus, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Shimkus, of 208 North Grant Avenue, Scranton, Pa., was seriously wounded in Germany on April 20th, according to a War Department notice, and telegram to his parents.

Lt. Bruno Oskinis, of New Britain, Conn., commanding officer of the Civil Air Patrol Cadets in New Britain, has re-

signed, and at a meeting on May 22nd, Cadet Ernest San Lorenzo, in behalf of his associates, presented an identification bracelet to him. Mrs. Robert C. Vance will be acting commander of the Unit.

Sgt. Chester Palutis, son of Mrs. Mary Palutis, of Detroit, Mich., formerly of West Locust St., Scranton, Pa., was wounded in Germany early in April, according to word received by his mother, from the War Department.

Pfc. Charles E. Supsinskas of 333 Stanley St., New Britain, Conn., has returned after 38-months with a Anti-Aircraft Unit in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, and is now at Lake Placid (at present writing), N. Y., Redistribution Station. He participated in the Dutch East Indies, New Guinea and Papuan campaigns. J. R. D.

## AMERICAN SYMPATHIES TO "LIBERATED" LITHUANIA

We quote from speeches made by members of Congress on the occasion of the conference of the Lithuanian-American Mission in Washington, D. C., on March 23-24, 1945:

**Hon. Martin Gorski:**  
... No people have a better right to self-government and independence than the people of the Republic of Lithuania. When war broke out they were an independent nation, at peace with the world and on friendly relations with their neighbors. They were not aggressors and did not do anything to bring about this terrible conflict.

The Republic of Lithuania was reestablished on February 16, 1918, as a modern nation under constitutional government... They were a peace-loving nation, happy and contented. They are now one of the conquered nations, suffering the terrible hardships of this war...

It is the fervent hope and prayer of many millions... that when this war is ended, those who will represent the nations at the peace conference will restore the small nations to their freedom and independence...

Lithuania and the other small nations will then take their rightful place among the family of nations and contribute their share towards peace, happiness and the prosperity of the world... (Congressional Record, March 23, 1945.)

**Hon. Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr.:**

Lithuanians, ethnically, are neither Slav nor Teuton. Therefore any allotment of her territory to, or subjugation by, any of her neighbors would prove to be a disturbing influence upon the future peace of Europe. Just as Americans of Lithuanian extraction contributed to the progress of the United States, so also, it is an established fact, did the Republic of Lithuania contribute to the cultural progress of Europe, a right which she has been deprived of by her aggressive neighbors. During her period of independence she justified the trust placed in her and proved to the civilized world her capacity to properly govern herself, true to the established principles of democracy...

It is my sincere hope that the delegates to the San Francisco Conference will adhere to the principles of the Atlantic Charter, so that Lithuania and other small nations will retain their rightful place in the sun... (Congressional Record, March 24, 1945.)

**Hon. Edward A. Kelly:**

Americans of Lithuanian descent are mighty proud to be citizens of the United States.

And as Americans they are doing their share in fighting this war...

They are determined... to reestablish freedom and independence in those countries whose innocent peoples have been trampled upon.

We are hopeful that Lithuania will remain as an independent nation when peace comes to this world...

Out of the depths there comes a cry from this nation... It is not a demand for privilege, for territory... it is a cry for life, and if we really believe in our own professions... in the definition of self-determination... (of President Wilson)... we Americans must listen to this cry from... the hearts of the Lithuanians.

We cannot close our ears to it. (Congressional Record, March 26, 1945.)

## SUTAUPYTA 52,000,000 KELIONES MYLIŲ

Washingtonas. — Karo Meto Komitetas Suvažiavimų Reikalams praneša, kad po paskelbimo suvažiavimų suvaržymų, per tris mėnesius sutaupti virš 52 milijonai kelionės mylių. Laikė vašario, kovo ir balandžio mėnesių komitetas gavo 1,088 apiaucijas šaukti suvažiavimams bei grupiniams susirinkimams. Iš to skaičiaus, pritarimą gavo 69, atmeta buvo 684 ir 335 leidimai išduoti susirinkimams, kurių suvaržymai nelietė. OWI

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons concerned that the Accountants in the following estates have settled their accounts in the Office of the Register of Wills of Luzerne County and that the same will be presented to the Orphans' Court of said County for confirmation nisi on Monday, June 18, 1945 at 10:00 o'clock a. m. Estates of James B. Whitlock, Emma McKaig and Russell Whitlock, Exrs; David Fowler, Elizabeth Fowler and Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exrs; Thomas A. Lawall, Hoyt E. Heller and Miriam I. Heller, Admrs; Mary A. Kanopki, Hazleton National Bank, Hazleton, Exr; John Simbaldi, Angelo Volpicelli, Admr; Jessie L. Morgan, Waiter L. Morgan, Exr; Jimmie M. Law, Miners Savings Bank, Pittston, Trustee; Minnie L. Hoskins, First National Bank, Avoca, Exr; J. Joseph Mullin, T. J. McLaughlin, Admr; Joseph D. Fluri, Jeanie D. Fluri, Admx; J. K. Griffith, Winifred Griffith, Exrs; Dora Ellsworth, George S. Wilcox and Coray B. Ransom, Exrs; Annie McCool, Anna M. Mahoney and Camilla G. Burke, Exrs; Elizabeth Motchnick, Charles P. Parnot, Exr; Nicola Dilello, Dr. W. J. Kosik, Admr; Millard F. DeMun, Miners National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exr; Stanley Iracki, Joseph Iracki, Admr; Jane McFadden, J. Campbell Collins, Admr; Joseph Paustala (2 Accounts), Second National Bank, Wilkes-Barre, Exr. and Trustee. JOHN SRIVELL, Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court

As we enter the inner ring of the Japanese defenses more and more exertions and sacrifices will be demanded of all Americans. Our boys are doing the fighting for us. Let us supply them the things they need in order to bring the Japanese enemy of human freedom to his knees as soon as possible. BUY WAR BONDS! SAVE YOUR MONEY! HELP PREVENT INFLATION!

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