

LITHUANIAN BULLETIN

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F O R E W O R D

This bulletin is published by the Lithuanian American Council, Incorporated, an organization which embraces all of the patriotic Lithuanian political bodies and fraternal organizations.

The purpose of this publication is to throw light upon the Communist-Bolshevik menace confronting the free nations of the world.

The Lithuanian people are this year observing the 45th anniversary of Lithuania's Declaration of Independence, but the country has been and is occupied by Bolshevik Russia since 1940, by Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1944, then re-occupied by the Soviets, and its people are crying for liberty.

Americans of Lithuanian ancestry — of whom there are approximately one million — being grateful to America, consider it their moral duty to remind others on the meaning of freedom, how it must be cherished, and how independent Lithuania was invaded and occupied by Bolshevik Russian intimidation and coercion, armed force and terror, and is still enslaved in the toils of imperialistic Russian colonialism.

This bulletin will also show how the Lithuanians living in the free world are working and will continue to work for the restoration of freedom to the land of their forebears.

JONAS RIMASAUSKAS COLLECTION

Acq. 73.1

January 3, 1973

Dedicated now and in the future as an expression of Lithuanian appreciation of America's unyielding stand on non-recognition of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, this bulletin also serves as a symbol to the Lithuanians in the free world of freedom for the land of their ancestors, and as the cry for help from a nation which is enslaved and being gradually annihilated.



LITHUANIA, the southernmost of the three Baltic States, lies east of the Baltic Sea and former East Prussia, south of Latvia, north of Poland, and west of the Soviet Union.

Present area: 25,213.

Population: 2,804,000.

Language: Lithuanian, together with the Latvian and the now extinct Old-Prussian, forms a separate Baltic branch of the Indo-European tongues. Of the Lithuanian language, Professor Benjamin D. Dwight, in his book *Modern Philology*, wrote:



“It is the most antique in its form of all the living languages of the world, and most akin in its substance and spirit to the primeval Sanskrit.”

History: Lithuania became a kingdom in 1253, was a Grand Duchy during the Middle Ages and, after 1569, a partner in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The nation played a considerable role in the destinies of East-Central Europe. In 1795, Lithuania was partitioned by the coalition of Austria, Prussia and Russia; except for western region, known as Lithuania Minor, which fell to Prussia, Lithuania was annexed by Russia. Several major revolts (1831, 1863, 1905) against Russian rule, were cruelly suppressed. On February 16, 1918, Lithuania regained its state of independence.

The emergence, or re-emergence, of the Baltic States on the political scene of Europe was not an accident of history. Even in their darkest moments, the Baltic peoples have never given up their struggle for freedom. The proclamation of independence of the Baltic States crowned their efforts. But to implement these acts took two years of bloody wars, mostly against Soviet-Communist encroachment. These wars ended in 1920 with a Baltic victory.

A period of rapid political consolidation and national development followed. Though ravaged by wars often fought on their own territory, the Baltic states rapidly made a unique progress toward recovery in every field of life.

INDEPENDENT LITHUANIA'S RELATIONS WITH HER NEIGHBORS

When, on February 16, 1918, Lithuania proclaimed itself an independent Republic, with a democratic form of State government, all of the Great Powers subsequently granted Lithuania *de jure* recognition. The Soviet Union too renounced for all time all Russian claims upon the Lithuanian nation and its territory, based upon the former tsarist Russian occupation, and recognized Lithuania *de*

jure as a self-governing independent Republic, later concluding a series of treaties and agreements with independent Lithuania.

LITHUANIAN - SOVIET RELATIONS BEFORE WORLD WAR II

Lithuanian-Soviet relations before World War II were fixed by various treaties.

The Republic of Lithuania and Soviet Russia had concluded all of the same kinds of treaties and pacts which the Soviet Union is now proposing to Germany, to Europe, to the United States, and to the world, namely : a Treaty of Peace, a Non-Aggression Pact, and a Convention for the Definition of Aggression (pending in the United Nations).

The Treaty of Peace between Lithuania and Soviet Russia, signed in Moscow on July 12, 1920, provided :

"..... Russia, without any reservation whatsoever, recognizes Lithuania as a self-governing and independent State with all juridical consequences that follow from such a recognition and in a spirit of free and good will renounces for all time all sovereignty rights of Russia concerning the Lithuanian nation and the Lithuanian territory....."

The Non-Aggression Pact of September 28, 1926, provided that:

"The Republic of Lithuania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics mutually undertake to respect in all circumstances the sovereignty and territorial integrity and inviolability of each other".

The Convention for the Definition of Aggression stated that :

" An aggressor in an international conflict, without prejudice to the agreements in force between the parties in conflict, shall be recognized as the State which shall first commit any one of the following acts :

" (1) Declaration of war against another State.

" (2) Invasion by its armed forces, even without declaration of war, of the territory of another State.

" (3) Attack by its land, naval or air forces, even without a declaration of war, against the territory of another State.

" (4)No considerations of a political, military, economic or any other order shall serve as an excuse or justification for any aggression....."

The Mutual Assistance Pact of October 10, 1939, stated :

"The realization of this Treaty must not infringe the sovereign rights of the contracting parties, especially the structure of

their State, their economic and social systems, military instruments and altogether the principle of non-intervention of one State in the internal affairs of the other State".

These treaties and pacts completely and solemnly provided for peaceful coexistence, non-aggression of the contracting parties against one another and non-interference in one another's internal affairs. By these treaties Lithuania's independence was recognized and her territorial integrity guaranteed.

THE SEIZURE OF LITHUANIA AND SUPPRESSION OF FREEDOM

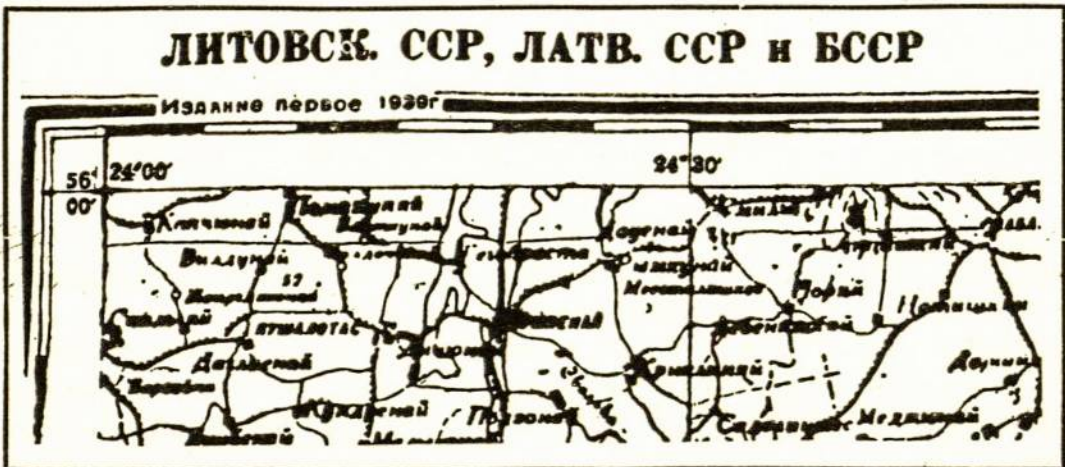
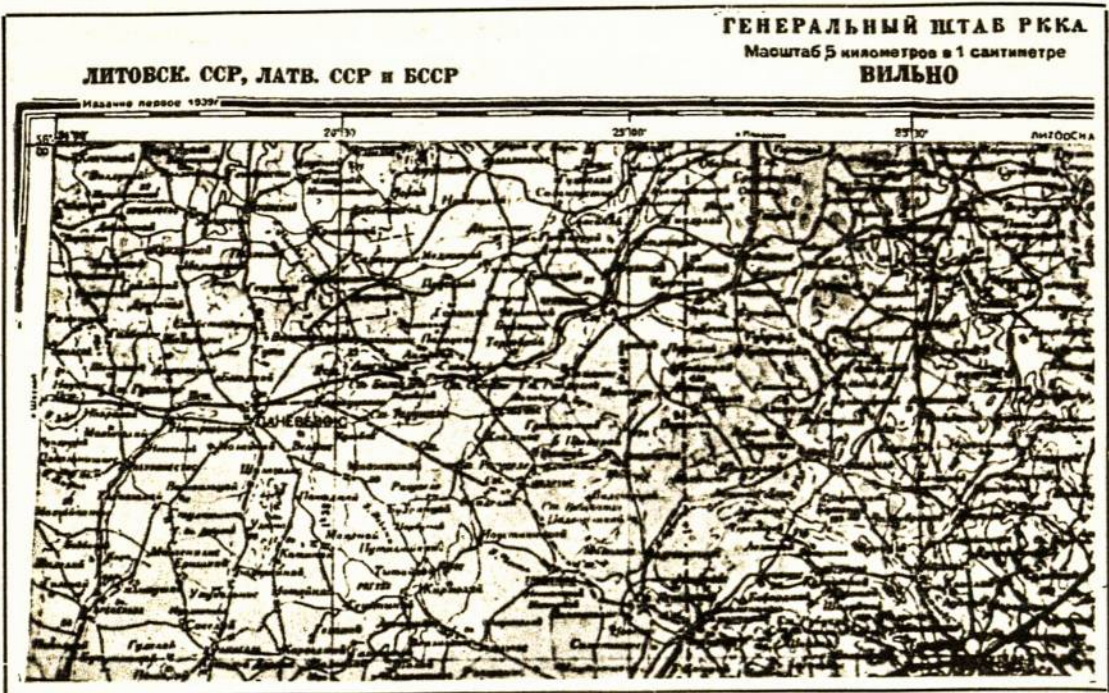
The military invasion and occupation of Lithuania and the suppression of all freedom were a direct consequence of the secret agreement between the Soviet Union and Hitler Germany, known as the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, signed in 1939. In that year the Soviet Russian General Staff had already published military maps indicating Lithuania as a "Soviet Republic".

FREEDOM OF LITHUANIA USURPED BY STALIN AND HITLER

Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany, however, flagrantly violated the aforesaid treaties and pledges and disrupted the freedom of Lithuania. In concluding their non-aggression pact of 1939, they signed a secret aggression agreement to divide Lithuania between themselves. In June of 1940 Russia seized Lithuania, forcibly incorporated it into the Soviet Union, and thereafter paid Hitler \$ 7,500,000.00 for his share of the loot.

In June 1941 Hitler attacked Russia and seized all of Lithuania. This occupation lasted for three years. In 1944 Russia occupied Lithuania for the second time, introduced a reign of terror and began a process of annihilation of the nation. Approximately 300,000 Lithuanians were murdered or deported to Russia for slave labor. Real estate and all private enterprises were confiscated - the Lithuanian people were converted into soviet state serfs. The country was closed off behind a double iron curtain. This situation continues today.

SOVIET RUSSIA CONSPIRACY TO ANNEX LITHUANIA



Map published by Soviet General Staff in 1939, in which Lithuania is represented as a Soviet Socialist Republic.

Translation from the Russian: Lithuanian S.S.R., Latvian S.S.R. and B(yelorussian) S.S.R. First Edition, 1939. General Staff of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army. Scale: 5 km to 1 cm. Vilnius.

THE ILLEGAL ANNEXATION OF LITHUANIA BY THE SOVIET UNION, 1940

As the beginning of World War II approached, Lithuania, in a secret protocol attached to the Russian-German Non-Agression Pact, concluded on Aug. 23, 1939, was placed in the sphere of influence of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union thus proceeded to make preparations for an ultimate incorporation of Lithuania into the Union. By a number of concrete steps — by threats, intimidations — the Soviet Union asserted its interests. On June 15, 1940 the Soviet Union marched its Red Army into Lithuania, clearly violating a number of treaties that guaranteed respect and integrity of the Lithuanian territory.

Once the Red Army was in the country, "revolution by the army" was an accomplished fact. Russian agents, supported by Red Army units, staged mock elections in the communist fashion and "elected" the Diet (National Assembly) which immediately petitioned the Kremlin to accept Lithuania as one of the republics of the Union. The Supreme Soviet immediately responded with an affirmative decree.

A year after the annexation of Lithuania, war with Germany started. The German occupation, lasting until the end of 1944, was followed by a second soviet occupation. As the Germany-bound Red Army again "liberated" Lithuania at the end of 1944, the Soviet Socialistic Republic of Lithuania was reestablished.

ACTION ON BEHALF OF LITHUANIA'S LIBERATION TAKEN BY THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL

Founded for this specific purpose, the Lithuanian American Council has since 1940 been devoting all its efforts and leading the campaign for the restoration of Lithuania's freedom. The Council's delegations have during that time had audiences with every United States President in the White House, on numerous occasions visited in the Department of State and presented pertinent memoranda

and statements, made contact with prominent members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and has taken and takes whatever measures are deemed needed, wherever and whenever necessary, for the cause of Lithuania's freedom and independence.

For many consecutive years during this period the restoration of Lithuania's independence has been brought up in the Congress of the United States; the Congressional Records containing remarks on the cause of Lithuanian independence have been reprinted and made available to institutions, organizations and persons who are interested; Lithuania's Independence Day is officially marked in many states and cities by official proclamation by the Governors, Mayors and other public officials.

The Government of the United States holds firmly to its just refusal to recognize the lawless occupation of Lithuania, and continues to recognize Lithuania as an independent state whose lawful government is under duress. A fully accredited and privileged Acting Minister of Lithuania resides in Washington, D. C., Consuls General of independent Lithuania function in New York and Chicago, and Consuls in Boston and Los Angeles.

The Lithuanian American Council was instrumental in getting the U.S. Congress to organize the "Select Committee to Investigate the Incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R."

Following are some excerpts of statements made by responsible officials regarding the occupation of Lithuania, and a brief bibliography of some relevant publications:

Former Consul of Great Britain in Lithuania E. J. Harrison, author of "Lithuania's Fight for Freedom", wrote and cited official documents:

In view of the foregoing considerations, the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union must be described as an obvious act of aggression and as such devoid of legal foundation or moral justification. Lithuania's sovereign rights have not lapsed any more than those of, for example, Belgium, Holland, Norway or any other country as the result of German occupation. This estimate of the position was confirmed by one of the greatest men of our time, the

late President Roosevelt of the United States who on October 15, 1940, soon after the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, addressing a Lithuanian-American Council delegation in Washington, among other things said:—

“It is stated that Lithuania has lost her independence. It is a mistake to say so. Lithuania has not lost her independence; Lithuania’s independence has only temporarily been put aside. Time will come and Lithuania will be free again. This will happen much sooner than you may expect.”

The attitude of the United States Government was put on record by its Acting Secretary of State who on July 23, 1940 (only two days after the first session of the “People’s Diet”), issued the following statement to the Press:—

“During these past few days the devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three small Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been rapidly drawing to their conclusion.

“From the day when the people of these Republics first gained their independence and democratic form of government, the people of the United States have watched their admirable progress in self-government with deep and sympathetic interest.

“The policy of this Government is universally known. The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities, no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force. They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one state, however powerful, in the domestic concerns of any other sovereign state, however weak.

“These principles constitute the very foundation upon which the existing relationship between the twenty-one sovereign Republics of the New World rests. The United States will continue to stand by these principles because of the conviction of the American people that unless the doctrine in which these principles are inherent once again governs the relations between nations, the rule of reason, of justice and of law—in other words, the basis of modern civilization itself—cannot be preserved.”

(*The Department of State Bulletin*, July 27, 1940.
Vol. III, No. 57, page 48)

Freedom for Lithuania

EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF

HON. THOMAS J. DODD

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 1955

Mr. DODD. Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that on the occasion of the 37th anniversary of the declaration of independence by the people of Lithuania, numerous Members of the Congress of the

United States expressed their sincere expressions of encouragement and support to the American citizens of Lithuanian descent, and joined them in the fervent hope that the day may not be too far



distant when this brave little country will once again enjoy true liberty and freedom.

A number of Members spoke on the floor of the Senate and in the House of Representatives.

Other Members addressed mass meetings in various cities where observances of this significant anniversary were held.

Other Members of Congress voiced their sentiments in statements to the Lithuanian American Council, a nationwide organization of Americans of Lithuanian descent, or to its press agency, the Lithuanian American Information Center in New York City.

We were particularly proud in having had in the Senate and in the House on the days of the observance of Lithuanian independence, two eminent Lithuanian American religious leaders, both members of the Lithuanian American Council, to offer the invocations—the Very Reverend Monsignor John Balkunas, of Maspeth, Long Island, N. Y.; and the Very Reverend Francis M. Juras, of Lawrence, Mass.

In addition to this observance in the Congress of the United States, the governors of several States and many mayors of cities urged other millions of Americans to join in observing this significant anniversary.

With confidence that the people of Lithuania will soon regain their natural rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, Mr. Speaker, I have prepared the following statement on the observance of Lithuania's Independence Day and her right to freedom. Under unanimous consent, I ask that the statement be printed in the Appendix of the RECORD.

The statement follows:

LITHUANIA: VICTIM OF U. S. S. R. AGGRESSION

On June 15, 1940, just 15 years ago, Lithuania, a peaceful and freedom-loving nation was overrun by barbaric Soviet Russian hordes and through terror and fraud, reduced to a slave state in the vast Communist empire.

This sad anniversary is a warning to all free peoples of the evils of the pernicious world Communist conspiracy. It should inspire us with a determination to guard zealously our own liberties and should serve as a

reminder of our obligations toward unfortunate and defenseless peoples, victims of Soviet aggression.

When the Soviet-German war broke out and the Communists were driven out of Lithuania, a number of members of the "People's Diet" and the government made public a joint statement disclosing the true facts concerning the distortion of the will of the Lithuanian nation.

Their statement is quoted here:

"Meeting at Kaunas, on August 30, 1942, we, members of the former Lithuanian Government and the "People's Diet," state publicly:

"1. In violation, by use of force, of the solemn obligations given to the Republic of Lithuania to respect, in all circumstances, her sovereignty and also integrity and territorial inviolability" (paragraph 2 of the Treaty of Nonaggression of September 28, 1926, between the Republic of Lithuania and the U. S. S. R.), the Government of the Soviet Union, on June 15, 1940, occupied Lithuania by its armed forces.

"2. The Lithuanian Government which was created according to the provisions of the Moscow ultimatum and which had obtained assurances that the independence of Lithuania will be respected, later, under pressure from Moscow, was reorganized, without any knowledge or consent of the Acting Prime Minister, Prof. V. Krevė-Mickevičius, by securing its majority for the Communists, headed by M. Gedvila, for the purpose of making it a tool in Moscow's hands.

"3. The Moscow Government ordered the Lithuanian Government, thus reorganized to carry out elections to the 'People's Diet' in order that it should later on, request the incorporation of Lithuania into the Soviet Union.

"4. The 'People's Diet' could not and did not proclaim the will of the Lithuanian people because:

"(a) The composition of the 'People's Diet' was made up in advance by the Communist Party, directed by Moscow's representative, V. G. Dekanozov, and by the Soviet Minister to Lithuania, N. G. Pozdnyakov. Only the Union of Working People of Lithuania was allowed to select candidates who were nominated by the Communist Party. The number of candidates was exactly the same as the number of members elected to the 'People's Diet.'

"(b) As the composition of the 'Diet' was made up in advance, it declared, in order to enhance the effect, that 95.51 percent of all the electorate had voted, while actually, as confirmed by the Supreme Election Commission and by the statement made by the former People's Commissar, M. Gedvila, and

by the President of the U. S. S. R. Supreme Soviet, J. Paleckis, at secret meetings, only 16 to 18 percent of valid voting cards were submitted at the polls.

"(c) A number of members of the 'Diet,' who were not members of the Communist Party, were compelled by threats to become members of the 'Diet' and to vote for incorporation into the Soviet Union.

"(d) When the voting on the incorporation into the Soviet Union took place the votes of the members were not counted; all strangers present at the meeting voted together with them.

"5. Not a single member of the 'People's Diet' could express a protest against the use of force as, under the circumstances, such protest would have involved danger to his life. Moscow's representatives and the members of the Soviet Legation openly threatened all those members of the 'Diet' and their families who would have dared to announce their intention not to vote for incorporation into the Soviet Union.

"6. We, former members of the 'People's Diet,' raise a public protest against the methods of violence and of falsifications which were directed by the Bolshevik Government against the Republic of Lithuania and the Lithuanian nation during the elections to

the 'Diet' as well as during its session. Neither we nor the other members of the 'Diet' could express and did not express the will of the Lithuanian nation for incorporation in the Soviet Union.

"7. The 'People's Diet' itself stated in its declaration of July 21, 1940, 'Now the people, helped by the mighty Red army, did away with the yoke of Smetona's oppressors and established in their own country the Soviet Government. If the people have been able to establish in their own country the only just order, the Soviet order, it is all due to the Soviet Union.' In this way the 'People's Diet' itself admitted the Red army's influence in its decisions and the decisions of other government authorities.

"Former Members of the People's Diet: Dr. A. Garmus, L. Dovydenas, H. Kacinskas, R. Juknevičius, V. Birzietis, P. Mickus, Mrs. S. Vainekiene, Miss P. Milanciute, the former Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the 'People's' government, Prof. V. Kreve-Mickevičius, the former Commissar for Social Care and Forest Industry of the L. S. S. R., Jurgis Glusauskas.

"KAUNAS, August 30, 1942."

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
86th Congress, First Session
SENATE, Monday, February 16,
1959

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in all the annals of injustice and oppression, there is none more saddening or heart rending than the history of Lithuania.

For seven centuries, all the forces of evil aggression have combined against this little nation in an attempt to destroy it. Successive invasions by Teutonic knights, Tartars, czarist Russians, Communists, Nazis, and finally Communists again have made of Lithuanian history a series of terrible blood baths, each worse than the one before.

It has been Lithuania's special fate that invasion has invariably been accompanied by deliberate, organized programs of mass murder, extermination, and

mass deportation that are unsurpassed and probably unequaled in their cruelty and severity.

This anniversary of Lithuanian independence should remind all Americans that we cannot close the door on Lithuania's just claims to independence without betraying our solemn obligations and denying our own heritage.

I do not believe that the United States will ever abandon our moral commitment to eventual freedom for the satellite nations, and I am proud to add my voice to so many others today in pledging that we will keep faith with the forces of freedom everywhere in the world.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the body of the RECORD this morning's New York Times editorial entitled "Enslaved but Not Forgotten."

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ENSLAVED BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Forty-one years ago today the little ancient nation of Lithuania proclaimed her independence of Russia. Her neighbors, Estonia and Latvia, also announced their freedom, Estonia on February 24, 1918, Latvia in November. In 1940 all three were again subjugated by Russian troops and compelled to become "Soviet Socialist Republics." They have had, therefore, 22 years of freedom and 19 years of servitude.

Even while Secretary Dulles was recuperating on Saturday from his operation, a previously prepared statement over his signature was going out to the press. In this he pointed out that in 1920 Russia had pledged herself "to renounce forever all rights of sov-

ereignty in the three countries" and that she had made a similar promise in October, 1939. He speaks from his sickbed, to us and for us, to "assure the people of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia that they are not forgotten." At the same time a proclamation from Governor Rockefeller makes this Lithuanian Independence Day and calls on all of us to join in its celebration.

We do not propose to go to war for the liberation of the Baltic States. Nor do the citizens of those States, still resident there or in exile in other lands, argue for the sort of nationalism that existed between the First and Second World Wars. What they do ask for is political, religious and cultural freedom. They are as aware as the rest of us that such freedom can exist only in a world of freedom.

In the Baltic countries the path to a better future is still dark, but it is not lost and will not be. The day of the overlords will not last forever. The time will come when the three lost little nations will be able to come out and join us.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

February 25, 1957

THIRTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY OF PROCLAMATION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, on February 16 all America joined its sons of Lithuanian descent and freedom-loving people throughout the world in commemorating the 39th anniversary of Lithuanian independence. This brave little country which in 1918, after 120 years of Russian occupation, finally threw off the tyrannical yoke, demonstrated her capacity to prosper as a free and independent nation for a score of years. Once again the Iron Curtain of tyranny has fallen and Lithuania suffers under oppression. It is, I believe, entirely fitting that we recognize the indomitable spirit of those who keep alive

the spark of liberty and continue the struggle for Lithuanian independence by commemorating this 39th anniversary of the proclamation of Lithuanian independence.

I think it is important that we in the United States, to the maximum extent possible, should keep alive in our minds, and in the minds of the people of Eastern Europe, particularly Lithuanians, who do not recognize the status quo and regard Lithuania as a free-country-to-be, that our foreign policy is directed to the end not only of maintaining the security of the United States, but also, whenever possible, the independence of Lithuania.

**MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN
ON JUNE 14, 1952**

On the occasion of the twelfth anniversary of the lawless invasion of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union, I send you warm greetings. The Government and the people of the United States feel instinctive and profound sympathy for the enslaved people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Coupled with revulsion at the acts of the occupying power, whose forcible incorporation of the Baltic States we have never recognized, we pay tribute to the determined endeavors of the diplomatic and other representatives of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on behalf of their homelands. We shall not forget our Baltic friends. We extend through you to them wherever they may be our heartfelt hope that they may have the fortitude and the patience to live through the grinding tyranny now imposed upon them and to enjoy once again independence and freedom within the community of free nations.

Harry S. Truman.

Current News on the Lithuanian Situation. Lithuanian Legation, Washington, D.C. Sept.-Oct., 1952. Vol. IX.

**EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT DWIGHT
D. EISENHOWER'S ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF
CONGRESS, JANUARY 6, 1957**

... International Communism, of course, seeks to mask its purposes of domination by expressions of good will and by superficially attractive offers of political, economic and military aid. But any free nation, which is the subject of Soviet enticement, ought, in elementary wisdom, to look behind the mask.

Remember Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In 1939 the Soviet Union entered into mutual assistance pacts with these then independent countries; and the Soviet Foreign Minister, addressing the Extraordinary Fifth Session of the Supreme Soviet in October 1939, solemnly and publicly declared that "we stand for the scrupulous and punctilious observance of the pacts on the basis of complete reciprocity, and we declare that all the nonsensical talk about the Sovietization of the Baltic countries is only to the interest of our common enemies and all anti-Soviet provocateurs." Yet in 1940, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union.

Soviet control of the satellite nations of Eastern Europe has been forcibly maintained in spite of solemn promises of a contrary intent, made during World War II.

Stalin's death brought hope that this pattern would change. And we read the pledge of the Warsaw Treaty of 1955 that the Soviet

Union would follow in satellite countries "the principles of mutual respect for their independence and sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs." But we have just seen the subjugation of Hungary by naked armed force. In the aftermath of this Hungarian tragedy, world respect for and belief in Soviet promises have sunk to a new low . . .

The Department of State Bulletin, Vol. XXXVI., No. 917,
Jan. 21, 1957.

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE, JOHN
FOSTER DULLES, FEBRUARY 15, 1958**

This year marks the fortieth anniversary of the declaration of national independence of the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Although in 1920 the Soviet Union recognized their independence, renouncing forever all sovereign rights in the Baltic States, in 1940 the Soviet Government forcibly incorporated Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the Soviet Union. This action was quickly denounced by the United States Government.

The United States remains convinced that relations between all nations must be governed by the principle of equality and guided by justice and law. It believes that the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have a firm right to choose their own political, economic, and cultural systems. Determination, industry, and love of freedom characterize the peoples of these Baltic States. These qualities have enabled their kinsmen here to make a valuable contribution to the development of the United States. The United States Government is confident that the same qualities will carry the peoples of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia successfully through the present tragic days and enable them to regain the rights of which they have been unjustly deprived.

State Department, Press Release, February 15, 1958



**MAY THE FATE OF LITHUANIA
STAND AS A CONSTANT WARNING
TO ALL FREEDOM LOVING
PEOPLES THAT APPEASEMENT
OF SOVIET RUSSIA IS THE
INITIAL STEP TO THE LOSS
OF THAT FREEDOM.**

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
Washington

February 8, 1963

Dear Mr. Chargé d'Affaires:

Permit me to convey, in the name of the Government and people of the United States, the warm regard of this country for the Lithuanian nation on the occasion of its forty-fifth anniversary of independent statehood. Americans remain strongly convinced that your people, like all other nations, are entitled to freedom and national self-determination. For this reason our Government continues not to recognize the forced incorporation of Lithuania in the Soviet Union. We are confident that the proven devotion of Lithuanians to liberty and justice, with which many of them have enriched our own shores, will serve their nation well in its efforts to achieve the eventual restoration of its rights.

Sincerely yours,

(s) DEAN RUSK

Mr. Joseph Kajeckas,
Chargé d'Affaires ad interim
of Lithuania.

LITHUANIAN NATION DETERMINED TO FIGHT FOR
LITHUANIA'S FREEDOM

The Lithuanian American Council is firm in its knowledge and conviction that the entire Lithuanian nation yearns for total freedom for Lithuania, and will continue to fight for this cause until eventual victory. In the United States the Lithuanian American Council stands in the forefront of this concerted effort and appeals to all freedom-loving people of good will for assistance in this just cause — the restoration of Lithuania's freedom and independence. The campaign requires much effort and moral and financial support.

Blp (LVA) 1331
1963

Please send contributions to:
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BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS:

Lithuania's Fight for Freedom. E. J. Har-
risson.
Voyage to Freedom.
Lithuanian Folk Art — by J. Baltrušaitis.
Freedom For Lithuania, Extension of Re-
marks by Hon. Thomas Dodd.
The Church and Religious Practices in
Occupied Lithuania.
Lithuanian in the Making by Alfred Senn.
Congressional Record Booklets: 1953, 1955,
1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, are avail-
able at LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL.