

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM WASHINGTON
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 674
OF 210115Z MARCH 90
INFO PRIORITY MOSCOW, PARIS, BONN, UKDEL NATO
INFO ROUTINE EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS, HELSINKI, STOCKHOLM

LITHUANIA

SUMMARY

1. WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT GORBACHEV'S DECREE. US WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY. ONE HUNDRED CONGRESSMEN URGE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOGNISE LITHUANIA.

DETAIL

2. STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THEY WERE SURPRISED AND CONCERNED BY GORBACHEV'S DECREE ON LITHUANIA, WHICH THEY DESCRIBED AS QUOTE NEEDLESSLY PROVOCATIVE UNQUOTE. THEY WERE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO ISSUE A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT ON 22 MARCH. SUBSEQUENTLY THE WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN SAID THE ADMINISTRATION WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION, AND WAS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY. HE NOTED THAT ON 20 MARCH SHEVARDNADZE HAD INDICATED THAT HE HOPED THE SITUATION COULD BE RESOLVED PEACEFULLY. THE U.S. URGED THE CONTINUATION OF DIALOGUE.

3. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT ONE HUNDRED CONGRESSMEN HAVE WRITTEN TO THE PRESIDENT URGING HIM TO RECOGNISE LITHUANIA.

COMMENT

4. AS OF THIS AFTERNOON THE PRESIDENT HAD STILL NOT WRITTEN TO GORBACHEV (ONE OF THE OPTIONS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS KEPT IN RESERVE). THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS MAY MAKE HIM MORE INCLINED TO DO SO. WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE ADMINISTRATION OUR WISH TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THIS.

ACLAND

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ADVANCE

BA 19.

.EAST WEST SOVIET AFFAIRS

PS

PS/MR MAUDE

PS/LORD BRABAZON

PS/MR WALDEGRAVE

PS/PUS

~~MR P J WESTON~~

MR TAIT

MR GOULDEN

MR BEAMISH

HD/SOVIET D

HD/NAD

HD/SECPOL D

HD/ACDD

HD/DEFENCE D

RESIDENT CLERK

MR POWELL 10 DOWNING ST

MR D NICHOLLS DUS(P) MODUK

D. NUC(POL)SY MODUK

DACU MODUK

CDI MODUK

NNNN