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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

30 March 1990

LITHUANIA

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from the 'President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania' which was left at No.10 yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Laima Liucija Andrikiene. I should be grateful for advice in due course as to what response if any we should give.

(CHARLES POWELL)

J.S. Wall, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Laima Liucija ANDRIKIENĖ

DEPUTY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC,
ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER
OF THE LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC



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R-29/3

GR.

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AUKŠČIAUSIOJI TARYBA

Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister,
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
10 Downing St.
London, United Kingdom

Dear Madame Prime Minister:

On February 24, 1990 after a fairly-contested, multi-party campaign, the people of Lithuania went to the polls to elect national representatives for the first time since the Lithuanian nation came under foreign occupation in 1940. With the completion of the final run-off elections on March 10, 1990, the demand of the people of Lithuania was clear and overwhelming - immediate restoration of the Republic of Lithuania recognized *de jure* by Great Britain in 1921, and the entry into force on Lithuanian territory of the fundamental human, economic and political rights proclaimed in the first Lithuanian Constitution of May 15, 1920.

On March 11, 1990, the representatives of the Lithuanian people met in the Assembly Hall of the Supreme Council in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius and expressing the will of the nation solemnly proclaimed the restoration of the Republic of Lithuania on the basis of its *de jure* continuity since 1940. The Lithuanian Supreme Soviet was reestablished as the Supreme Council of the Republic, and the 1977 U.S.S.R. Constitution and other Soviet laws were annulled, insofar as they applied to Lithuania. Only those Soviet laws which did not conflict with the Temporary Fundamental Law of the Republic of Lithuania were permitted to remain *en vigueur*. These laws will be examined and replaced with Lithuanian laws after future legislative review and debate.

I have been asked by the Supreme Council of Lithuania to convey to you and the people of Great Britain the most significant legislative documents enacted on March 11, 1990. In particular you will observe that the Lithuanian state emphasizes its adherence to universally accepted principles of international law, recognizes the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act with respect to international frontiers, and guarantees the rights of all peoples and ethnic communities living in Lithuania.

Madame Prime Minister, it has been nearly five decades since oppression and darkness descended upon the land and people of Lithuania as a result of an illegal and morally reprehensible Non-Aggression Pact with secret protocols entered into by Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin on August 23, 1939. During this period, the Lithuanian people were denied nearly every fundamental human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Commencing in June 1940, hundreds of thousands of Lithuanians of all ages, professions and backgrounds were deported to the U.S.S.R.; our schools and churches closed; our farms and property laid waste; our environment poisoned by industries over which we had little control; and our sons laid to rest on battlefields far beyond our frontiers.

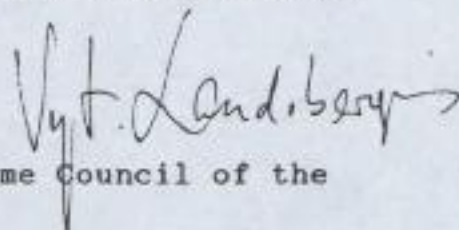
In spite of these heavy burdens, and an unrelenting effort by an alien political system to destroy the religious and moral values of the Lithuanian people, the Lithuanian nation endured. In every Lithuanian heart burned a desire for freedom, justice and peace.

Many of our people have taken great hope and courage from the fact that Great Britain, like many other nations, has repeatedly stressed its non-recognition of the 1940 annexation and occupation of Lithuania by the U.S.S.R. Today, with increasing freedoms and liberties a reality for most Lithuanians, the people of Lithuania are hoping for your nation's support in the process of political, economic and environmental renewal now sweeping across our nation.

Madame Prime Minister, the people of Lithuania and the state Supreme Council have asked me to convey to you and the people of Great Britain their warmest greetings and best wishes. To all the peoples of the Soviet Union and Europe our nation extends the hand of friendship. I sincerely hope that the people of Great Britain will continue to reaffirm and support the right of the people of Lithuania to freedom, dignity and self-determination.

Very truly yours,

Vytautas Landsbergis
President of the Supreme Council of the
Republic of Lithuania



Vilnius, March 24, 1990

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE	DOCUMENT
1	DECLARATION ON THE POWERS ENTRUSTED TO THE DEPUTIES OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR SUPREME SOVIET - March 11, 1990
2	SUPREME COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA ACT ON THE RESTORATION OF THE LITHUANIAN STATE - March 11, 1990
3	LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MAY 12, 1938 LITHUANIAN CONSTITUTION - March 11, 1990
4	LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE PROVISIONAL FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA - March 11, 1990
5	LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE STATE NAME AND EMBLEM - March 11, 1990
6	LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ON THE ALTERATION OF THE STATUS OF FORMER STATE GOVERNING BODIES UNDER THE JOINT JURISDICTION OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR AND THE USSR - March 11, 1990
7	ADDRESS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS - March 17, 1990
8	ADDRESS OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD - March 11, 1990
9	LETTER TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME SOVIET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS - March 12, 1990
10	ADDRESS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USSR - March 11, 1990
11	TELEGRAM - THE LITHUANIAN REPLY TO GORBACHEV - March 18, 1990
12	LETTER - OFFICIAL REPLY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL - March 21, 1990

D E C L A R A T I O N

ON THE POWERS ENTRUSTED TO THE DEPUTIES OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR SUPREME SOVIET

By the decision of the Lithuanian nation, the independent Lithuanian state was restored on February 16, 1918, and confirmed by the resolution of the Constituent Assembly on May 15, 1920 and by the 1922 Constitution of the Lithuanian State. It became a full-fledged member of the world community of nations and expressed its sovereign power as a nation through the formation of sovereign institutions of the Lithuanian State until June 14, 1940.

On June 15, 1940, through violence and aggression, the Soviet Union restrained the sovereign power of the nation and illegally incorporated Lithuania into the USSR.

Even though the nation resisted continuously, this foreign force eventually destroyed the structures of the Lithuanian State, and imposed its own structures upon it.

Since 1988, as new possibilities arose, the nation's movement for rebirth and independence began to express itself openly, encompassing the broadest layers of society. The nation's will, expressed openly by civil actions, through existing institutions became an expression of its sovereign power.

The imposition of the structures forced upon Lithuania by a foreign state should not be interpreted as a recognition of its sovereignty over the Lithuanian nation and its territory by the state which forced them upon it, or as recognition of the annexation executed by that state.

On February 24, 1990, during elections to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet those residents of Lithuania with the right to vote of their own will presented the elected Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet deputies with a mandate to restore the Lithuanian State and express the sovereign power (suprema potestas) of the nation through this Supreme Soviet, which, beginning March 11, 1990, 6:00 p.m., will be called the Supreme Council of Lithuania.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

A C T

ON THE RESTORATION OF THE LITHUANIAN STATE

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, expressing the will of the Nation, resolves and solemnly proclaims that the execution of the sovereign power of the Lithuanian State, heretofore constrained by alien forces in 1940, is restored, and henceforth Lithuania is once again an independent state.

The February 16, 1918 Act of Independence of the Supreme Council of Lithuania and the May 15, 1920 Constituent Assembly Resolution on the restoration of a democratic Lithuanian State have never lost their legal force and are the constitutional foundation of the Lithuanian State.

The territory of Lithuania is integral and indivisible, and the Constitution of any other State has no jurisdiction within it.

The Lithuanian State emphasizes its adherence to universally recognized principles of international law, recognizes the principle of the inviolability of borders as formulated in Helsinki in 1975 in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and guarantees the rights of individuals, citizens and ethnic communities.

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, expressing sovereign power, by this act begins to achieve the State's full sovereignty.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE MAY 12, 1938
LITHUANIAN CONSTITUTION

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania,
-- confirming the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet February 7,
1990 resolution "on the liquidation of the 1939 Germany-USSR
agreements and their consequences,"

-- declaring that the May 12, 1938 Lithuanian Constitution
was suspended illegally when on June 15, 1940 the Soviet Union
committed aggression against the independent Lithuanian State and
annexed it,

-- considering the July 21, 1940 People's Assembly to be
the instrument for expression the will of a foreign country, and
considering its decisions to be illegal,

-- striving to restore the violated sovereign rights of the
nation and the State,

r e s o l v e s :

1. To annul the April 20, 1978 Lithuanian Constitution
(Fundamental Law).

2. To annul the October 7, 1977 USSR Constitution
(Fundamental Law), as well as the "Fundamentals of Legislation of
the USSR and Soviet Republics," insofar as they apply to the
Republic of Lithuania.

3. To reinstate the May 12, 1938 Lithuanian Constitution
throughout the Republic of Lithuania, suspending those paragraphs
and articles governing the status and powers of the President of
the Republic, the Assembly, the State Council and the State Su-
pervisory body.

4. To establish that the reinstatement of the May 12, 1938
Lithuanian Constitution does not in itself reestablish other laws
in effect in the Republic of Lithuania prior to June 15, 1940.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

L A W
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ON THE PROVISIONAL FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, considering the necessity of bringing the provisions of the May 12, 1938 Lithuanian Constitution into accord with today's changing political, economic and other social circumstances,

r e s o l v e s :

1. To suspend the May 12, 1938 Lithuanian Constitution.
2. To ratify the Provisional Fundamental Law of the Republic of Lithuania.
3. To establish that Soviet laws and other legal acts which do not contradict the Provisional Fundamental Law of the Republic of Lithuania shall continue in effect in the Republic of Lithuania.
4. This law enters into force at the moment of its adoption.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

L A W
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
ON THE STATE NAME AND EMBLEM

In accordance with the act of restoring the independence of the State of Lithuania, it is important to observe names and symbols that have deep spiritual and political meaning. Empowered by the will of the citizens-voters of Lithuania, the Supreme Council of the Independent Republic of Lithuania,
r e s o l v e s :

1. To use "Republic of Lithuania" as the single official name of the State in the Constitution and in other laws and legal enactments, "Lithuania", "Lithuanian" in shorter forms and in compound names.
2. To continue to use the official state emblem and symbol of the Republic of Lithuania, the "Vytis" (white knight on red background).
3. To refer to the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet as the "Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania."
4. Henceforth to refer to the post of the Lithuanian SSR Supreme Soviet Chairman as the post of the "Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania."
5. To refer to all further acts of this Supreme Soviet as acts of the First Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania.
6. The names of government bodies shall be altered in accordance with the first article of this law.
7. This law enters into force on the date of its adoption.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

L A W
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

ON THE ALTERATION OF THE STATUS OF FORMER STATE
GOVERNING BODIES UNDER THE JOINT JURISDICTION
OF THE LITHUANIAN SSR AND THE USSR

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania
r e s o l v e s that:

1. All former Lithuanian SSR ministries, state committees and departments, which were under the joint jurisdiction of the Lithuanian SSR and the USSR shall henceforth be under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Lithuania.

2. This law enters into force on the date of its adoption.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

A D D R E S S
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC
OF LITHUANIA TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS

On March 11, 1990 the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania expressed the will of the nation by proclaiming the legal continuation of the independent Lithuanian State, which was occupied and annexed by the USSR in 1940.

With this action Lithuania returns to the world family of independent democratic nations and hopes for their kind assistance. An important sign of political and moral support would be the recognition of the laws and legislative acts adopted on March 11, 1990 and the recognition of the new government of Lithuania. This we kindly request.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 17, 1990

A D D R E S S
OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, having proclaimed the continuation of the independent Lithuanian State and a return to the world community of free nations, has faith in the solidarity and support of these nations.

Our decision is not directed against any one nation, nor is it against any nationality in Lithuania. This is a path that allows us to guarantee the rights of individuals, citizens and national communities in Lithuania, to become open to free association, and to offer to contribute our commitment and work to the world of justice and harmony that is now being created.

May God and all people of good faith help us.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET OF THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

HIS EXCELLENCY
MIKHAIL GORBACHEV

We, deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, elected democratically and freely by the people of Lithuania, who for many decades have striven to restore the independent statehood of their country, wish to inform you that on March 11, 1990, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania adopted legal acts and political decisions establishing the restoration of the independent Lithuanian State.

The texts of the documents are attached to this letter.

We hope that you and the entire leadership of the Soviet Union will show good will and favourably view our resolutions, and that the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics will recognize the Lithuanian Republic as an independent state.

We are inviting you to view this letter as an official proposal to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to start negotiations for regulating all questions pertaining to the fact of the restoration of the independent Lithuanian state. We anticipate that you will pay special attention to the safety of the young people of Lithuania currently serving in the Soviet Armed Forces.

We wish to maintain good and stable political and economic relations with the Soviet Union, and we anticipate that you will exhibit a reciprocal position and attitude.

Respectfully yours

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 12, 1990

ADDRESS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USSR

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, supported by mandates from the Lithuanian nation, states:

1. The government of Lithuania will not impede the activities of Soviet army troops based for a limited period of time in the territory of the Republic while pursuing negotiations with the government of the USSR concerning the status of those troops. Until conclusions are reached, Armed Forces of the USSR, the Internal and Border Army should not execute maneuvers or relocation within the territory of the Republic, and should not increase the present contingency without the agreement of the government of Lithuania. Likewise, the government of the Republic will assure the safety of the Soviet Army's soldiers, military officers and their families in Lithuania.

2. The people of Lithuania and the Supreme Council of Lithuania wish citizens (soldiers, military officers and their families) of the Republic to be immediately and safely returned to Lithuania.

3. We ask you, honorable USSR President, to give the appropriate orders to the government of the USSR.

VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS
CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

LIUDVIKAS SABUTIS
SECRETARY OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Vilnius, March 11, 1990

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BULLETIN: TEXT OF LITHUANIAN REPLY TO GORBACHEV

THE REPLY OF VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA, TO USSR PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S TELEGRAM THREE DAYS AGO IS BEING DELIVERED TODAY BY A DELEGATION HEADED BY VAIDOTAS ANTANAITIS. THE TEXT OF THE TELEGRAM FOLLOWS:

HIS EXCELLENCY M. GORBACHEV

PRESIDENT OF THE UNION OF THE
SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

IN RESPONSE TO YOUR INQUIRY ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA REGARDING A DECISION BY THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLES DEPUTIES, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT:

1. THE DECREE BY THE CONGRESS THAT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA ARE INVALID DOES NOT HAVE LEGAL FOUNDATION.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS IN LITHUANIA ARE GUARANTEED BY THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA WHICH CONFORM WITH UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES AND AGREEMENTS, AND ARE DEFENDED BY THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE COURTS. THE LEGAL USSR INTERESTS IN LITHUANIA SHOULD BE SPECIFICALLY DEFINED THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS AND WILL RECEIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION BY THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

3. THE LITHUANIAN STATE IS TAKING MEASURES THAT LAW AND ORDER IS MAINTAINED IN THE TERRITORY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

MR. PRESIDENT, I AM TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT SEVERAL SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE THIRD SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLES DEPUTIES ON MARCH 15, 1990 AND BROADCAST BY NATIONAL SOVIET TELEVISION MISREPRESENTED THE FACTS AND CONTAINED ELEMENTS OF INTERFERENCE. WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN OF THE OPINION AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ALL PROBLEMS CONCERNING RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES MUST BE RESOLVED ONLY BY POLITICAL MEANS WITH THE UTMOST REGARD FOR PEACE AND GOODWILL.

WITH RESPECT,

PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
V. LANDSBERGIS
VILNIUS, MARCH 18, 1990

END

SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
BUREAU OF INFORMATION

Tel: 62 84 23
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Telex: 261138 LTINF

The following communication was transmitted by telegram on March 22, 1990 from the President of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, Vytautas Landsbergis, to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The original document will be hand-delivered to Supreme Soviet of the USSR in Moscow on March 23, 1990.

March 21, 1990

The Supreme Soviet
of the USSR
The Kremlin
Moscow, USSR

Gentlemen:

The Government and Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania most strongly protest the resolution adopted by the third unscheduled Congress of Peoples' Deputies of the USSR on March 15, 1990, with respect to the international and internal status of the Republic of Lithuania.

In particular, the Republic of Lithuania objects to the description of Lithuania as a "republic of the USSR." The Republic of Lithuania was an internationally recognized member of the League of Nations until its forcible occupation by the armed forces of the USSR in June, 1940, pursuant to the secret protocols of the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact of August 23, 1939.

The annexation of Lithuania by the USSR violated the terms of Lenin's Declaration of Rights of the Peoples of Russia of November 15, 1917; the Soviet-Lithuanian Peace Treaty of July 12, 1920; the Lithuanian-Soviet Treaty of Non-Aggression of September 28, 1926; the Kellogg Briand Pact of 1929; the Lithuanian-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact of October 10, 1939; and the Covenant of the League of Nations. The annexation and occupation of Lithuania, and its neighbors Estonia and Latvia has been reviewed and denounced as a flagrant breach of international law by the former Supreme Soviet of Lithuania, as well as the Supreme Soviets of Estonia and Latvia, the parliament of the Republic of Poland, and the Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. A similar action was taken by the USSR Congress of People's Deputies on December 24, 1989.

In light of the fact that Lithuania had come under Soviet occupation by June, 1940, all subsequent actions of Soviet authorities in Lithuania designed to subvert and destroy the nation's sovereignty were void *ab initio*, including all such actions initiated by the government of Jozef Stalin to portray as juridically valid the inclusion of Lithuania in the USSR on August 3, 1940.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania wishes to bring to the attention of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the USSR Government that international crimes such as forcible annexation of territory do not produce valid legal title, and that the independence of the Republic of Lithuania has been re-established on the basis of the Lithuanian people's right of self-determination and the de jure continuity of the Lithuanian State since 1940.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania also wishes to remind the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that the USSR Government declared in its 1920 Peace Treaty with Lithuania that it recognized without reservation and "for all time" the sovereign rights and independence of the Lithuanian State. It therefore follows that the Republic of Lithuania has never formed, juridically-speaking, part of the territory of the USSR, and that there is no legal justification for the validity of the 1977 USSR Constitution or other Soviet laws with respect to Lithuanian territory.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania wishes to inform the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that although the USSR Constitution does not apply to Lithuania, article 72 of such Constitution does in fact provide for the unqualified right of each Soviet republic to secede from the USSR. In connection with this constitutional provision, the well-known Soviet Constitutional expert, Alexander Lukyanov and other scholars have written:

"This right of Soviet republics to secede is unconditional and for such right to be effectuated, the approval of the highest organs of the Soviet Government is not necessary; nor is the approval of the other Soviet republics."

It is therefore clear that the decision of the Lithuanian Supreme Council to restore Lithuanian independence is even valid from the standpoint of Soviet Constitutional Law. References to articles 74 and 75 of the Soviet Constitution made by the USSR Congress of People's Deputies in the aforementioned March 15, 1990 declaration are irrelevant to a discussion of the legal status of Lithuania in light of the fact that such articles do not modify or restrict the right of self-determination or secession granted by the Soviet Constitution.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania also wishes to inform the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that the Lithuanian Government is vested with all legitimate legal authority in Lithuania, and that any attempt by the government or military organs of the U.S.S.R. to interfere with the enforcement of Lithuanian law in Lithuania will be viewed as a violation of generally-recognized principles of international law including article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, the International Human Rights Covenants, the General Treaty for the Renunciation of War of 1928, the United Nations 1974 Declaration with respect to the Definition of Aggression, and the 1970 United Nations General Assembly Resolution Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States.

The Republic of Lithuania in particular requests the Supreme Soviet of the USSR to urge the Soviet Government to respect the right of Lithuania to control and regulate all customs and passport formalities on its frontiers with the Kingdom of Sweden, the Russian S.F.S.R., Poland, Latvia, and the Byelorussian S.S.R. The Lithuanian Government reminds the Supreme Soviet of the USSR

that in accordance with the terms of the Helsinki Final Act and universally accepted principles of international law, including Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all Lithuanian citizens have the right to leave Lithuania and return at any time. Any efforts by Soviet personnel stationed on and near the frontiers of Lithuania to harass or impede the legal right of Lithuanians to cross into states other than the RSFSR or Byelorussia will be viewed as a serious breach of international legal and human rights norms.

The aforementioned Resolution of the third unscheduled Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR also alleged that Lithuania "ignored" certain unspecified political, economic, social, territorial, legal and other problems connected with the re-establishment of Lithuanian independence. The Government of the Lithuanian Republic wishes to remind the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR that Lithuania has underscored on many occasions its sincere hope that immediate negotiations would commence with the Government of the USSR so that both parties might openly and rationally discuss all issues currently outstanding between them. The Government of Lithuania has set no preconditions for such negotiations, and on several occasions Lithuanian representatives in Moscow have had contacts with the President of the USSR, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Government of Lithuania wishes to convey to the members of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Government of the USSR the sincere wish of all Lithuanians for future mutually-beneficial political, economic and cultural ties with the peoples of the USSR. A forthright willingness to discuss issues of mutual concern will serve to hasten many positive developments in Lithuania, the USSR and East-Central Europe.

Vytautas Landsbergis
President, Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania
Vilnius, March 21, 1990