

*Prime Minister*  
*A letter to you*  
*from the President of Lithuania.*



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cc Press

LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKOS AUKSCIAUSIOJI TARYBA

CBD 30/3

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

*We must reply - but*

Dear Madame Prime Minister: *perhaps it would be better to wait a few days yet. no*

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.

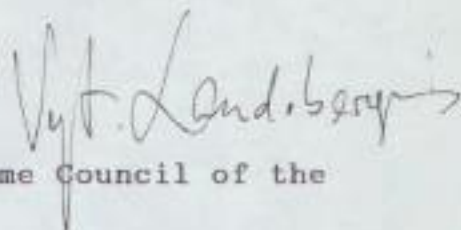
In spite of these heavy burdens, and an unrelenting effort by an alien political system to destroy the religious and moral values of the Lithuanian people, the Lithuanian nation endured. In every Lithuanian heart burned a desire for freedom, justice and peace.

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