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# LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, Inc.

2606 WEST 63rd STREET ♦ CHICAGO ♦ ILLINOIS, 60629

Phone 778-6900 / 778-6901

NATION-WIDE ORGANIZATION  
FOUNDED IN 1940

AN AMERICAN CIVIC MOVEMENT AGAINST COMMUNIST EXPANSION  
UNITED FOR THE RESTORATION OF LITHUANIA'S FREEDOM

August 15, 1972

TO: 1972 Republican National Convention  
Platform Committee  
Miami Beach, Florida

## MEMORANDUM

The Lithuanian American Council expresses the sincere gratitude of the patriotic Americans of Lithuanian ancestry to the Republican Administration and to the Republican Party for the steadfast support given to the cause of the restoration of freedom and independence to Soviet occupied and oppressed Lithuania.

We feel that this auspicious year--the 50th Anniversary of the de jure recognition of Lithuania by the United States on July 28, 1922--is an opportune time for the Republican Party Convention to reaffirm the Party's stand for the liberation of all the Soviet-subjugated countries, including Lithuania, and for the Republican Administration to restate its recognition of Lithuania and the continuation of the just American policy of non-recognition of the results of Soviet aggression and violation of international law.

From the tragic experiences of Soviet domination of the ancestral land, the Lithuanian Americans urge the Republicans to take a more firm stand against Communist infiltration and the attempt to undermine our government and destroy the principles of democracy. The Communist ideology has brought only enslavement for the millions behind the Iron Curtain. Those who had lost freedom once are more alert to the approaching dangers and aware of the methods used in destroying the democratic principles and foundations.

The Soviet occupation barred Lithuania from the free world. There is no free press and also free world publications are not allowed into Lithuania. Since the Soviet Union is a signatory of the International Postal Union, the Republican Party platform should include a statement calling for the Soviet Union to abide by the regulations of the Postal Union and allow entry and guarantee delivery in Lithuania of all mail, including all newspapers, periodicals and books from the free world.

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At present the only news from the outside world to reach Lithuania is by means of the Voice of America. The platform would do well to stress the importance of continuing and even expanding the Voice of America broadcasts.

The USSR wants trade agreements with the United States, and is desirous of obtaining goods -- particularly grain-- on a credit basis. In exchange for this privilege the United States Government should, in return, do whatever is possible to induce the Soviet Union to reduce the exorbitant custom duty imposed on parcels sent to Lithuania. Such shipments, for the most part, are packages of clothing, materials and various other goods sent to relatives and friends in Lithuania who asked for them.

Basic human rights of the people in Lithuania: freedom of religion, travel, press, and other rights accorded the people in the free world, should be granted to the people of Lithuania. A striking example of the Lithuanian people's cry was the petition, signed by 17,000 daring Lithuanians, presented to Moscow and to the United Nations, pleading for a halt to the cruel persecution of the church, clergy and the faithful by the Soviet occupants. The United States should take a strong stand in requiring the USSR to stop the persecution of religion and to grant basic human rights to the people living under Soviet rule.

At the forthcoming Security Conference in Europe, the United States should insist that the legal representatives of the independent Baltic States be included in the Conference talks.

In the present and future discussions on ecology between the United States and the USSR, it should be brought out that since the industrialization of captive Lithuania by the Soviet occupants, the rivers, lakes and waterways of Lithuania have been and are being polluted and the forests decimated, which has seriously affected Lithuania's natural resources and fish and wild life. The United States should require that the Soviets stop this pollution and destruction in the Baltic States.

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The Republican Party would do well to call to the attention of the people of the United States and the free world that despite the long years of Soviet occupation and oppression, the Lithuanian people, of all ages and walks of life, aspire to regain their total freedom and independence. Recent displays of this unquenchable spirit of freedom were the self-immolation of three young students to call attention to their yearning for liberty and the subsequent student demonstrations, quelled by Soviet militia and followed by arrests and imprisonment, and seaman Simas Kudirka's brave statement even as he was being sentenced for trying to flee to freedom, that Lithuania must be free. The Republican Party should include in its platform a statement that continued United States efforts be directed to help Lithuania and the other Baltic States to regain their freedom and independence. The support should be the continuous non-recognition of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania, and the unfaltering recognition of the lawful representatives of the independent Baltic States.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Kazys Bobelis  
President