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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

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f. 22

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Please return to
4/6/55 Mr. Haddock

Official-Informal
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American Embassy
Paris, France
September 27, 1955

State

Dear Mr. Higgs:

Lithuanian sources in Paris are highly critical of the two(?) emigres invited by the Lithuanian National Committee to join its ACEH delegation during the October meetings. TURASKAS is considered corrupt and KARVELIS a nonentity.

Following is biographic information on these individuals prepared by John Nazionis of the Embassy staff.

Mr. Edwardas TURASKAS was Chief of the Press Section of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Lithuania until the Russian crisis in 1940. He obtained for himself the position of Lithuanian Minister to the League of Nations and departed immediately. After a stay of some duration in Switzerland, he left for France (some say he was requested to leave) where he bought a farm in the Charente Department. About that time he was arrested in connection with a large smuggling affair involving Swiss watches, which was reported in the press. In 1951 he sold the farm and invested his capital in stocks. He is reported to have received some inside information of the British-Iran dispute and bought shares when they slumped and sold when they rose after the Iranian Agreement was signed. He is one of the wealthiest Lithuanians in exile and is certainly the wealthiest in France. His avarice is legendary and is the butt of stories and jokes even among his own political cronies. He is an ardent Christian Democrat and does not miss any opportunity to proclaim the merits of that party to anybody willing to listen. He is detested by Lithuanian exiles and is treated with reserve even by other Christian Democrats. At present he is the President of the Lithuanian Charity Society, which gives him frequent opportunities for making speeches.

L. Randolph Higgs, Esquire
Deputy Operations Planner
Room 1161, New State Building
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

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He is a smooth talker, speaks French fluently, but does not know English. During the summer of 1955, he applied for employment with the Paris office of the "Voice of America", stating in his application that he was unemployed and in need of funds. This application was signed by Mr. S. Backis, Acting Lithuanian Minister at Paris, who knows very accurately the true financial status of Mr. Turauskas. The application was not approved. Mr. Turauskas always attends Lithuanian and Baltic refugee gatherings and does not refuse to make a speech on any occasion. His aim is to wheedle his way back to a decent status by public activities and influence. His sole support among the Lithuanian community in France is Mr. Backis, who is also an ardent Christian Democrat but who does not care to associate too closely with Turauskas. Whatever cooperation there is between them is on the understanding that it is good for the interests of the Party.

Mr. Petras KARVELIS has been calling himself "Lithuanian Foreign Minister of the Lithuanian Government in Exile" (non-existent) as well as "Lithuanian Minister at Bonn", much to the embarrassment of Mr. Lozoraitis, Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service. He was rebuffed by the German Federal Government, but his hide is so thick he was finally told his visits to the Government Offices were not welcome. Now he is received (so he claims) by the German officials in charge of refugee affairs. He titles himself "Chief of the Foreign Affairs Service of the VLIK Executive Council." He was a member of the Lithuanian Delegation to the recent ACEN meeting at Strasbourg, which Mr. V. Sidzikauskas described as "stage extras" and absolutely useless in the work of the delegation.

Again according to Nazionis, there are far more qualified men available, such as:

- 1) (Prof) Stasys ZYMANIUS - Professor of International Law; member of the Executive Council of the Liberal International; long Resistance record; well-known to Mr. Harrison
- 2) (Mr) Stasys LOZORAITIS - Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service
- 3) (Mr) P. ZUNDE - Secretary General of the European Lithuanian Community; President of the Lithuanian Community in Germany

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4) (Mr.) K. DRUNGA - Representative of the Lithuanian Resistance; long record of public and Resistance activities.

Perhaps DER of FEC can so indicate to Siskauskas.

Sincerely,

Frederick T. Merrill
First Secretary of Embassy

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