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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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AMERICAN EMBASSY  
Paris, December 8, 1955

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Enclosed herewith is a translation of a letter in Lithuanian received by Mr. John W. Pasionis, of this office, from Professor Stasys SYANTAS, leader of the Lithuanian Resistance Alliance, London. He states he was encouraged by the WSA to establish a contact with the Munich office of the WSA, but that he has received a cool reception there. The rest of the letter is self-explanatory. Apparently he takes a dim view of the way Professor MATULIS was handled in New York.

Sincerely,

John E. Horner  
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Translation,  
as stated.

Copy to:

L. Randolph Higge, Esquire,  
Deputy Operations Planner,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Francis B. Stevens, Esquire,  
Director, Office of Eastern European Affairs,  
Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

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Full Translation

Contact has been established with Munich. I have been corresponding with Mr. Lauka of the Voice of America. It would be beneficial to both parties if I could make a trip to Munich, but lack of funds prevents my doing this. I have written a couple of scripts, but I have not heard them broadcast. They found my talk about the Luzerne Conference (Liberal International - Tr) very interesting and that was broadcast.

One confidential and delicate matter was mishandled in a very stupid manner in New York. I have in mind the case of Professor J. MATULIS, member of the Soviet Delegation to the United Nations. Professor Matulis is the President of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, and was brought to New York by the Soviets for the special purpose of inciting the return of D.P.'s to Lithuania. He has always had Leftist views and has been a member of the Communist Party since 1950 or 1952. I happen to know him well as a good Lithuanian and patriot. He was deliberately left in Lithuania (keep this secret) to work as it was not expected that Lithuania would be liberated in the near future. It was his duty to save what could be saved and protected. The option was: see the country and oneself destroyed or adapt oneself. This I consider as a wise policy. Professor Matulis spoke with great bitterness to Miss S. HARKELIUNAS, about the urging of the partisans to take open action against the Russians; stated that history will never forgive the émigrés for that. He blamed the Lithuanian organizations in the United States for that misguided policy. Professor Matulis thought that another war was not foreseen and that the Lithuanian nation should be protected. What did the Lithuanians in New York do? They approached the matter as newspapermen and published the whole story. During a press interview they posed him the most provocative and senseless questions. Naturally, he refused to answer them, being placed in a very difficult situation. Obviously he then had to inform his guardians and since then he has been completely isolated. Probably he will come back to Lithuania and report that the émigrés do not have the least understanding or sympathy with those that remained in Lithuania under the present oppressed circumstances. I doubt that this was the correct method to approach this matter.

The blame for this blunder rests on the Committee for Free Lithuania, Gidsikauskas, Rastentis and the Lithuanian Consulate in New York. This shows again what hot-heads are

conducting

conducting Lithuanian affairs. Mr. Dulles stated quite correctly in Yugoslavia that the enslaved nations cannot be liberated with the aid of exiles only. Allies must be sought also among the people living within the boundaries of those enslaved countries and who are in a position to act legally there. What did we do? We pushed a valuable person directly into the arms of the enemy. Is this one of the methods of western "psychological warfare"? What should have been done, was that a person should have been assigned to contact Professor Matulis in the utmost secrecy and great discretion. Such person should have been somebody whom Professor Matulis could trust. The press should not have been informed, but Professor Matulis should have been informed that the Free World understands fully the difficult situation in Lithuania and the self-sacrifice made by those that remained. An example as to how such matters are handled to be taken from the case of the new bishops recently consecrated in Lithuania. Professor Matulis could have been interrogated thoroughly and left with hope and encouragement. The western world lost a good opportunity here through lack of policy and surplus of incompetent émigré politicians.