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AMERICAN EMBASSY
Paris, France, February 8, 1956

Dear Mr. Stevens:

Enclosed herewith is an analysis prepared by *Stevens* Mr. Mazionis concerning various activities in Lithuanian emigre circles. The relations between VLIK and the Lithuanian diplomats appear to be as strained as ever and the recent changes in VLIK do not appear to have curbed the activities of Dr. Karvelis. The comments on the ACEN Lithuanian Delegation by Mr. Zymantas might be brought to the attention of DER of FEC. He seems to have a point when he observes the absence of cooperation with the Lithuanian diplomats in forming the delegation. Latvian and Estonian diplomats in Europe were invited to participate at ACEN conferences at Strasbourg and New York.

Sincerely,

John E. Horner
First Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Analysis, as stated.

CHARGED FROM RID/FI

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

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS CONCERNING LITHUANIAN AFFAIRS

REMOVAL OF LITHUANIAN PREMIER

The removal of Mecislovas GEDVILAS as Prime Minister of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania, announced on January 19, 1956, evoked some comment among Lithuanian emigre circles. Without going into biographical detail, Mr. Gedvilas is definitely an intellectual who obtained most of his university education in Russia. Gedvilas is more of the Stalinist type of Communist and was always the most servile tool of Moscow. His replacement, Motiejus SUMAUSKAS, was a printer and of little education. During the independence of Lithuania, he was active in organizing the printers into party cells. In 1931 he was caught and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment for treason and Communist activities. In comparing Sumauskas with Gedvilas, he could be described as being closer to the Khrushov type. It is considered that this change indicates a strengthening of the Communist Party's hold on the government and the assumption of power by Khrushov's aides. In other words, the entrenchment of Khrushov is taking definite form. A point of interest is noted, that a person more "Russian" than Gedvilas was not appointed. This could imply more freedom of initiative for the Lithuanian Communists in the future though obviously Moscow will continue to govern. It is safe to assume that Gedvilas, though obedient to the orders of Moscow, has been criticized for the deterioration of conditions in Lithuania (see report enclosed with letter dated January 30, 1956). Sumauskas is expected to do better, though this is doubtful as he will have no freedom of action either. It is presumed that the Kremlin is swinging to the policy of vesting party members of local origin with more power to conduct local affairs to the benefit of all concerned, rather than the previous policy of placing supreme local power in the hands of "imported" Russians, who have proved themselves invariably corrupt.

VLIK

On January 9, 1956, the London Polish newspaper Dziennik Polski announced that a special Lithuanian-Polish Commission has been formed, upon Lithuanian initiative, for conducting discussions between the Polish and Lithuanian Governments in exile, for the purpose of coordinating their activities for the liberation of their countries. It went on to state that the Chief of Lithuanian Foreign Affairs, Mr. KARVELIS, laid forth the Lithuanian propositions to Minister STRASZEWSKI, Chief of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Executive. It mentioned also that Mr. Karvelis was retained as Chief of Foreign Affairs in

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the reshuffled Lithuanian Government. Members of the Lithuanian Commission are: Mr. KAMINSKAS, Vaclovas SIDZIKAIKUSKAS and the former Lithuanian Consul in Vilna, Mr. TRIMAKAS.

The Lithuanian Diplomatic Service found it necessary to issue a statement to the effect that the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service alone represents the State of Lithuania abroad, that it alone is responsible for Lithuanian foreign policy. It has no knowledge of such discussions with the Poles. In the event that the Polish announcement is correct, then it concerns the initiative of private Lithuanians and which obviously does not commit the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service. It should be recalled, continues the statement, that such private initiative is usually preceded by contact and discussion with the appropriate and competent foreign policy institution. It is further said in the statement that on November 20, 1955, a solemn Polish declaration was issued at Manchester, England, in the presence of General Anders, that it is the sacred duty of all Poles to fight for the liberation of Poland with Vilna. Bearing in mind this official statement by the Poles concerning the capital of Lithuania, it is strange, to say the least, that Lithuanians, even though upon private initiative, sought to enter into discussions with the same Poles that issued the Manchester Declaration, hostile to Lithuania and contrary to the solidarity of the nations fighting against the Soviets, ends the statement.

Comment from Lithuanian diplomatic and resistance sources: "Karvelis has done it again". After the VLIK-Karvelis efforts to establish a Legation at Bonn and the attempts to form a Lithuanian Government-in-Exile, there appears to be no limit to the faux-pas and irresponsible actions that Karvelis may take. The appearance of SIDZIKAIKUSKAS on the Polish-Lithuanian Committee has caused raised eyebrows and wonder how compatible are his duties on the Lithuanian Panel of the Free Lithuania Committee with those on said committee. Distrust of what Sidzikauskas says and does can only increase among the Lithuanian diplomats, who held a very dim view of his integrity since long ago. Any credence given him before was only thanks to his association with ACEN and the Lithuanian Free Europe Panel.

ACEN

There is some disagreement as to what the ACEN Lithuanian Delegation represents. VLIK claims that the Lithuanian ACEN Delegation is approved by VLIK and that it represents VLIK in the ACEN. Mr. V. Sidzikauskas replied that the Lithuanian ACEN Delegation was formed and presented to ACEN by the Lithuanian Free Europe Panel and that it represents not VLIK, but Lithuania and that it is the Lithuanian Delegation, and not a VLIK Delegation. He has also informed various Lithuanians that the ACEN Lithuanian Delegation represents the Lithuanian nation and state.

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Mr. Stasys ZYMANTAS expressed the views of many influential Lithuanians, including the diplomats, when he stated: "We all appreciate and value highly the work of ACEN and what ACEN can achieve. On the other hand, we cannot be without some doubts. If the Lithuanian ACEN Delegation is considered the delegation of Lithuania, then such delegation could only be formed by official Lithuanian authorities, and that is the Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service. Its presentation also should be done only through official Lithuanian channels, i.e., via the Lithuanian Legation. Otherwise the ACEN Lithuanian Delegation can only represent Lithuanian emigre political and public organizations, Lithuanian emigres. Even in the latter event, that Lithuanian Delegation should be formed by those Lithuanian political and public organizations, or with their sanction, and such organizations should be duly represented on that Delegation. At present all Lithuanian political and resistance organizations are represented either in VLIK or the LMT (Lietuvos Nepriklausomybes Tarka). Each of those organizations should be invited to send their representative to the ACEN Lithuanian Delegation. But if the delegation is to be the Delegation of Lithuania, then all its members should be appointed by the Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service.

At the present time, the Lithuanian Free Europe Committee is formally made up on an individual basis. It is a very useful organization, but it seems that it is not doing its proper work. It is not a Lithuanian national committee. It cannot form and present either a delegation of Lithuanians to represent Lithuanian political and resistant people in exile, neither a Delegation of Lithuania which would be entitled to speak on behalf of Lithuania. The delegation presently formed by the Lithuanian Free Europe Committee can only represent the Lithuanian Free Europe Committee and speak on behalf of the Committee only.

It is by no means desired to render more difficult the work of ACEN, but the absence of logic in organizing that work, encumbers such work, creates ambiguity." (See letters dated September 27, 1955, and September 1, 1955 addressed to Mr. L. Randolph Higgs).

CIA Activities

According to information received by the Lithuanian Resistance Alliance, Mr. PRAFUOLENIS, who proclaims himself to be employed by CIA in Germany, brought with an agent of the CIA, a person to VLIK who allegedly came from Lithuania and described him as the "Leader of the Partisans in Lithuania". This description is being mentioned quite openly in VLIK circles and it is neither prudent nor discreet. First of all, there

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is no overall partisan organization in Lithuania, neither is there one overall leader. On the other hand, such talk gives substance to rumors that there is partisan activity in Lithuania, that they are fighting the Russians. This is irresponsible, aimless and completely false.

On January 16th a reception was given at the "Harmonie" Restaurant in Reutlingen. The entire VLIK Executive Council was present. Mr. K. VZALKAUSKAS made a speech of welcome. The guest replied with a speech in which he sharply attacked Lithuanian emigres for their disagreements; that the best pro-Bolshevik propaganda would be the circulation of emigre Lithuanian newspapers. The disaccord with the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service also came in for especially strong criticism. According to him, the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service stands in high repute in Lithuania. Dr. Karvelis made a speech in reply, which was nothing but a motley of lies and bluff. He stated that relations with the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service were of the best and that very close cooperation existed with the Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service. There were, however, a few questions that remain to be settled with Mr. LOKORAITIS. Relations with public organizations were excellent, even with the Lithuanian Resistance Alliance. To prove this, Mr. Karvelis mentioned that while in Toronto, Canada, the distributor of "SANTARVE" gave him a ride in his private car. Mr. Karvelis ended up by saying that even in Bonn Lithuanian affairs could not be better. It is stated that this person from Lithuania is well informed on conditions in Lithuania and is a member of one of the secret resistance groups.

Mr. Zymantas states that the purpose of such activities is less than clear. He doubts that any real purpose can be achieved by presenting such a delegate to people that are not bound by any sense of responsibility and who deliberately tell him lies and picture a completely false situation of the conditions existing among the emigres. Mr. Zymantas states that the visitor said that the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service was held in high repute in Lithuania. "But where is that person brought? to VLIK of all places! It is the same VLIK that is fighting with the LDS, the same VLIK that refuses to recognize the Chief of the LDS! Why was that person not brought to a member of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service? Does this imply the complete ignorance of the LDS by that three letter agency? Why no consultation with the Chief of the Lithuanian Diplomatic Service?

In the event that this information is correct, it is suggested that this be brought perhaps to the attention of the appropriate offices in Washington.

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