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STATE FOR EUR/NCE KURT DONNELLY
COMMERCE FOR JUDITH BARNETT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/24/01

TEXT
TAGS: PHUM, PREL, LH
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN PROPERTY RESTITUTION UPDATE

REF: A) STATE 257212 C) VILNIUS 1541
B) USEU BRUSSELS 2971 D) VILNIUS 3308

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE JOHN STEPANCHUK. REASON
1.5 (B) AND (D).

2. (U) THE GENERAL PROCESS OF PROPERTY RESTITUTION IN
LITHUANIA REMAINS ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FROM THE
CONDITIONS REPORTED IN REFS B AND C. JEWISH COMMUNITY
HEAD SIMONAS ALPERAVICIUS RECENTLY CONFIRMED OUR
SUSPICIONS THAT ALTHOUGH SOME ADDITIONAL RELIGIOUS
PROPERTY HAS BEEN RETURNED, ALMOST NO PROGRESS HAS BEEN
MADE ON RETURNING PRIVATE PROPERTY.

3. (C) HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT
(WHICH WAS ELECTED THIS FALL AND BEGAN ITS WORK
DECEMBER 10) MAY BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO IMPROVE
AND/OR ADDRESS A HOST OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELATED

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH

STATE
DoJ/OSI

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JUSTICE ISSUES, INCLUDING CASES OF ALLEGED LITHUANIAN
WAR CRIMINALS WHO HAVE LOST THEIR U.S. CITIZENSHIP SUCH
AS **ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS**, THE FATE OF THE "JEWISH
LIBRARY" IN VILNIUS (REF D), AND PROPERTY RESTITUTION.
IN THE LATTER CATEGORY, TWO POINTS WHICH COULD BE
EXPLORED ARE THE POSSIBILITY OF RESTITUTION TO NON-
CITIZENS AND EXTENSION OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
FOR CLAIMS, WHICH HAS NOW ELAPSED. STEPANCHUK

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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Page 2