

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCUMENT\_ID: 177606145  
INQNO: DOC42D 00464000  
DOCNO: TEL 002122 97  
PRODUCER: VILNIUS  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19970724  
TOR: 050143  
DOCPREC: O  
ORIGDATE: 199707240856  
MHFNO: 97 8613693  
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER  
OO RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
MSI1293  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUEHVL #2122 2050856  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 240856Z JUL 97  
FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8293  
INFO RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2324  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 2380  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0065  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1087  
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 0552  
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0194  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 1255  
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 3824  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1127  
BT

CONTROLS  
C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 002122

NSC FOR DAN FRIED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 7/24/07

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH  
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN PRIME MINISTER REQUESTS U.S. ADVICE  
IN ENDING LILEIKIS IMPASSE

REF: A) STATE 137403 (NOTAL)  
B) VILNIUS 2119  
C) VILNIUS 2113

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE JOHN STEPANCHUK, REASON 1.5 B AND D.

1. (C) ACTING AS CHARGE, POL/ECON CHIEF DELIVERED REF A  
DEMARCHE TO LITHUANIAN PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS JULY 23.  
VAGNORIUS EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency  
Date: 2003 2005

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH STATE  
DoJ/OSI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONCERN THAT PROSECUTION OF ALLEGED WAR CRIMINAL LILEIKIS WAS SUSPENDED SIMPLY DUE TO A REPORT THAT HIS HEALTH WAS POOR. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT FOUR OPTIONS FOR RESOLVING THE MATTER COULD BE CONSIDERED: A) A REPORT BY A NEW MEDICAL COMMISSION; B) A REPORT BY AN INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (INCLUDING U.S. EXPERTS); C) INITIATION OF THE PROSECUTION'S CASE (WHICH WOULD FORMALLY CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF LITHUANIAN LAW); AND D) THE PARLIAMENT WOULD PASS A NEW LAW WHEN IT RESUMES WORK IN SEPTEMBER TO REMOVE THE ACCUSED'S HEALTH AS AN OBSTACLE TO PROSECUTION.

2. (C) CHARGE RESPONDED THAT NEITHER THE UNITED STATES NOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN GENERAL WAS SEEKING TO IMPOSE A SOLUTION OR A VERDICT, BUT THAT THERE WAS UNIVERSAL FRUSTRATION THAT PROSECUTION HAD BEEN SUSPENDED AFTER YEARS OF DELAYS. HE ADDED THAT THE DECISION TO MOVE FORWARD CLEARLY RESTED IN GOL HANDS. PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS RESPONDED, PREDICTABLY, THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT AND PROSECUTORS GENERAL HAD NOT DEALT ADEQUATELY WITH THE CASE.

3. (C) BASED ON INFORMATION FROM FORMER PROSECUTOR GENERAL PAULASKAS (REF B), CHARGE INQUIRED IF LILEIKIS COULD BE CHARGED REGARDLESS OF HIS HEALTH CONDITION. PROSECUTOR GENERAL PEDNYCIA AND INTERIOR MINISTER ZIEMELIS WERE ADAMANT THAT UNDER CURRENT LITHUANIAN LAW THE CASE COULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO LILEIKIS AS IT MIGHT -- IN THE OPINION OF MEDICAL EXPERTS -- DAMAGE HIS HEALTH. TO HIS CREDIT, PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS SHOWED NO GREAT CONCERN FOR LILEIKIS' WELL-BEING; HE ACCEPTED CHARGE'S POINT THAT GENOCIDE WAS A CRIME OF SUCH PROFOUND MAGNITUDE THAT THE CRIMINAL'S HEALTH SHOULD NOT BE A FACTOR.

4. (C) PROSECUTOR GENERAL PEDNYCIA AND HEALTH MINISTER GALDIKAS, WHO MET WITH CHARGE PRIOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ARRIVAL, SHOWED SOME FRUSTRATION WITH EACH OTHER'S POSITIONS. WHILE GALDIKAS AND HIS MINISTRY HAVE HANDLED THIS MATTER WITH GREAT SENSITIVITY AND PROFESSIONALISM -- IT WAS GALDIKAS' LETTER THAT ALERTED US TO THIS OBSTACLE IN THE FIRST PLACE (REF C) -- PEDNYCIA HAS COLLECTED THREE LARGE VOLUMES OF EVIDENCE AND IS OBVIOUSLY EAGER TO PROSECUTE LILEIKIS.

COMMENT

-----

5. (C) THE HEALTH ISSUE IS NOT ENTIRELY A CANARD, BUT AS LONG AS LILEIKIS' MENTAL HEALTH IS NOT IN QUESTION WE SEE NO BENEFIT IN ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS. WHILE WE DEFER TO WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE WHAT ADVICE SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE GOL AT THIS STAGE, WE WOULD RECOMMEND SIMPLY REITERATING THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF LILEIKIS' CRIMES WARRANTS WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO BRING A CASE AGAINST HIM.  
STEPANCHUK

ADMIN

CONFIDENTIAL

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 3