

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCUMENT\_ID: 177760974  
INQNO: DOC42D 00539723  
DOCNO: TEL 002300 97  
PRODUCER: VILNIUS  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19970807  
TOR: 104756  
DOCPREC: O  
ORIGDATE: 199708071245  
MHFNO: 97 8749819  
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER

OO RUEAIIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
WSC5997  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUEHVL #2300 2191245  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 071245Z AUG 97  
FM AMEMBASSY VILNIUS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8353  
INFO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1094  
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 3855  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 1132  
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 1262  
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0227  
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI 2385  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEHWR/AMEMBASSY WARSAW 2332  
RUEHSK/AMEMBASSY MINSK 0562  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0066  
BT

CONTROLS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VILNIUS 002300

NSC FOR DAN FRIED

E.O. 12958: DECL: 8/7/07

TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PHUM, PGOV, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH  
SUBJECT: LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT STEP  
FORWARD IN LILEIKIS CASE: ACTION REQUEST

REF: A) STATE 147492 (NOTAL)  
B) VILNIUS 2122  
C) STATE 137403 (NOTAL)  
D) VILNIUS 2113

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

1. (C) CHARGE DELIVERED REF A TALKING POINTS TO  
LITHUANIAN PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS AUGUST 5. VAGNORIUS

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

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

FOR COORDINATION WITH

STATE  
D-57051

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 1

CONFIDENTIAL

ADMITTED THAT UPON RECEIPT OF OUR DEMARCHE (REF B), "WE NOW UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM" AND THAT HE INTENDS TO SEE THAT THE PROSECUTION OF LILEIKIS GO FORWARD. THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MONDAY AUGUST 11 ANNOUNCING THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE CASE AGAINST LILEIKIS PREPARED BY THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD SUBMIT IN SEPTEMBER AN AMENDMENT TO EXISTING LAW TO ALLOW CHARGES OF CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY TO BE BROUGHT AGAINST INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH.

2. (C) VAGNORIUS ALSO ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THIS STATEMENT, ENDORSED BOTH BY PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS AND PARLIAMENTARY CHAIRMAN LANDSBERGIS, TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL PUBLIC RESPONSE FROM THE UNITED STATES AFTER ITS RELEASE.

COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST  
-----

3. (C) THIS MOVE IS CERTAINLY OVERDUE; THAT LITHUANIA HAS NOT HANDLED THIS CASE EXPEDITIOUSLY IS WELL KNOWN, THE PRIME MINISTER ADMITTING AS MUCH IN OUR PREVIOUS MEETING WITH HIM (REF B). HOWEVER, THIS IS A VERY POSITIVE AND IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD: A PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MOST SENIOR FIGURES IN LITHUANIA'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP THAT A CASE HAS BEEN FORMED AGAINST LILEIKIS, THAT HE SHOULD BE PROSECUTED, AND THAT ALL OBSTACLES TO DOING SO MUST BE REMOVED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEREFORE, POST WOULD ASK THE DEPARTMENT TO RELEASE A COMPLIMENTARY STATEMENT FROM THE SPOKESMAN OR DEPUTY SPOKESMAN ON MONDAY AUGUST 11 (SEE DRAFT TEXT PARA 4) TO COMMEND LITHUANIA FOR FINALLY MAKING THIS EFFORT TO SEE JUSTICE DONE.

DRAFT TEXT OF STATEMENT FROM SPOKESMAN/DEPUTY SPOKESMAN  
-----

4. (SBU) MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1997

THE UNITED STATES HAS LONG BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE CASE OF **ALEKSANDRAS LILEIKIS** (AH-LEK-SAHN'-DRAS LIH-LAY'-KISS) AND OTHER CASES OF NAZI COLLABORATORS WHO ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN ACTS OF GENOCIDE HAVE NOT BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL. LILEIKIS AND SEVERAL OTHERS HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF THEIR U.S. CITIZENSHIP FOR CONCEALING THEIR WARTIME ACTIVITIES AND IT IS UP TO LITHUANIA TO PROSECUTE THEM.

IN THIS REGARD, WE WELCOME THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS (VAHG'-NORE-YOOS) THAT LILEIKIS HAS BEEN IMPLICATED IN ACTS OF GENOCIDE AND THAT LITHUANIA WILL REMOVE THE HEALTH OF THE ACCUSED AS AN OBSTACLE TO PROSECUTING THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED SUCH ACTS. ONCE APPROVED BY THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT AND PRESIDENT, THIS STEP WILL CLEAR THE WAY FOR LILEIKIS TO BE BROUGHT INTO COURT.

WHILE THIS IS THE FIRST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE LITHUANIAN GOVERNMENT AT THIS LEVEL, THEIR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN ONGOING:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MR. ZINGERIS (ZING'-GER-ISS), CHAIRMAN OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT, HAS BEEN A LEADER IN THE POLITICAL EFFORT TO BRING LILEIKIS TO TRIAL. WE RECOGNIZE AS WELL THE WORK OF PROSECUTOR GENERAL PEDNYCIA (PEHD-NEE'-CHYA) OVER THE PAST FOUR MONTHS TO COLLECT EVIDENCE AND FORM A CASE AGAINST LILEIKIS, WHICH WOULD HAVE ALREADY GONE TO TRIAL HAD LILEIKIS' HEALTH NOT BEEN A LEGAL FACTOR.

THIS IS CLEARLY AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD; WE NOW LOOK TO LITHUANIA TO BRING ALL OF THE ALLEGED WAR CRIMINALS IN ITS TERRITORY TO TRIAL.

END DRAFT TEXT. STEPANCHUK

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Page 3