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TEXT

TAGS: PREL, PGOV, PHUM, CJAN (LILEIKIS, ALEKSANDRAS), LH
SUBJECT: PROSECUTOR GENERAL TO BRING HOLOCAUST CASES TO COURT

REF: 97 VILNIUS 3729

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE JONATHAN MOORE. REASON 1.5 B AND D.

1. (SBU) IN A JANUARY 14 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, LITHUANIAN PROSECUTOR GENERAL PEDNYCIA STATED THAT THE CASES OF FORMER U.S. CITIZENS LILEIKIS AND GIMZAUSKAS -- BOTH ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATING IN THE HOLOCAUST AS SENIOR SECURITY OFFICIALS DURING THE GERMAN OCCUPATION -- ARE ON

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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THEIR WAY TO COURT. HE CONFIRMED THAT THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL CODE FINALLY PASSED BY THE SEIMAS IN DECEMBER (REFTEL) HAS NOW COME INTO FORCE, ALLOWING HIM TO CONTINUE THE WORK SUSPENDED BY LILEIKIS' INDIFFERENT PHYSICAL HEALTH UNDER PREVIOUS LEGISLATION. THE CASE AGAINST LILEIKIS -- THE HEAD OF THE SECURITY POLICE UNDER THE NAZIS -- WILL BE BROUGHT LATER THIS MONTH, WITH GIMZAUSKAS' CASE (WHO SERVED AS LILEIKIS' DEPUTY) WILL FOLLOW IN FEBRUARY.

2. (C) PEDNYCIA CONFIDED HIS FRUSTRATION WITH POLITICAL INTERFERENCE IN HIS EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY THE DELAY IN THE SEIMAS IN PASSING THE REQUIRED AMENDMENT. CHARGE ASKED FOR PEDNYCIA'S UNDERSTANDING AND DEFINITION OF GENOCIDE; HE EXPLAINED HIS BELIEF THAT UNDER LITHUANIAN LAW SOME INSTANCES OF GROUP MURDERS CONDUCTED BY PERSONNEL SERVING IN SOVIET SECURITY FORCES (NKVD) AND OTHER OFFICIAL UNITS MAY ALSO CONSTITUTE "CASES OF GENOCIDE." (COMMENT: IT IS THIS TYPE OF CASE WHICH SOME IN THE MEDIA HAVE TRIED TO COMPARE WITH THE ALLEGED CRIMES OF LILEIKIS. AT LEAST TWO ETHNIC JEWS -- BOTH NOW ABROAD -- ARE SUSPECTED IN SUCH CASES, AS ARE ETHNIC LITHUANIANS AND RUSSIANS. END COMMENT.) HE WAS NONETHELESS ADAMANT THAT THERE IS NO COMPARISON BETWEEN THE HOLOCAUST AND INDIVIDUAL CASES OF WAR CRIMES WHICH OCCURRED UNDER SOVIET OCCUPATION.

COMMENT

3. (C) UNDER THE GENERAL RUBRIC OF GENOCIDE, PEDNYCIA EXPLAINED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 50 PENDING CASES AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE HAS PLACED LILEIKIS AND GIMZAUSKAS AT THE TOP OF THE LIST. PEDNYCIA'S MOTIVES AND INTENTIONS APPEAR TO BE GENUINE; HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD PRIME MINISTER VAGNORIUS LAST JULY THAT NO FORWARD MOVEMENT WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT A CHANGE TO THE CRIMINAL CODE, A CHANGE WHICH WAS ONLY MADE LAST MONTH. WHILE AWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROSECUTOR GENERAL'S WORK, WE WILL REMAIN CAUTIOUS IN OUR ENTHUSIASM UNTIL THE CASES ARE ACTUALLY BROUGHT TO COURT.
MOORE

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

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