

cutoff from oil supplies, as no written contracts with the Soviet Union exist, and present deliveries could be stopped from one day to the other, causing industrial standstill as well as emergencies in heating during winter time,” a professor of economics explained.

‘Cautious optimism’

The openness and readiness to debate and consider political programs is stunning, but less surprising, if one considers the fact that many of the active politicians in Lithuania have no “professional” background in politics. Many of them are philosophers, scientists, and artists who, out of moral conviction, shouldered the burden of political responsibility in a very dangerous period. Unlike most Western intellectuals, these people know the works of the great classical European philosophers and artists very well. In Lithuania, a state with a long Catholic tradition, the writings of the great Cardinal Nicolaus of Cusa, the philosopher, scientist, churchman, and statesman, are definitely better known among politicians than among the politicians in his native land, Germany. (Whenever his name was mentioned in a political discussion, the reply was an immediate and spontaneous “Ah, Nicola Kusietes”—Cusa’s name in Lithuanian.) For them, unity of politics and morals, as demanded so often by Lyndon LaRouche in his writings, is not exotic at all—contrary to almost all politicians and intellectuals in the West.

What will the future hold? There is, despite all the difficulties and dangers, at least a sense of “cautious optimism,” both in leading political circles and in the Lithuanian population at large. Diplomatic negotiations between Lithuania and Moscow must be continued; however, the future of the Baltic republics now very much depends on what the West will do. If the West, particularly Western Europe, follows a policy combining offers of economic cooperation with Moscow with conditions that Moscow, in turn, allow these republics, which were incorporated into the Soviet Union in stark violation of all principles of international law, to regain their independence, then the fight can be won. This was the basic idea expressed by Lyndon LaRouche in his Kempinski Bristol Hotel speech in Berlin on Oct. 12, 1988, which focused on German reunification and Poland and proposed a Food for Peace program.

An exemplary move to support the Baltic republic has been made by the sister city of Vilnius: Duisburg, Germany. In early December, a convoy of five trucks full of medical supplies and food aid was leaving Duisburg, addressed to Vilnius, Lithuania, and not Soviet Union. The convoy is expected to arrive in Vilnius in mid-December. It will be most telling for Nobel Peace Prize-winner Mikhail Gorbachov’s real intentions, whether or not these trucks will be allowed to cross the Polish-Lithuanian border. If not, then the West has all the more reason to support the cause of the Baltic states and demand from Moscow that it grant Lithuania’s right for independence immediately.

Documentation

Baltic states appeal to world parliaments

Five resolutions were passed at the “Extraordinary joint session of the Baltic Supreme Councils” which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Dec. 1, 1990. They were signed by the presiding chairmen of the joint session, the chairmen of the Supreme Councils of the three Baltic republics: A. Ruutel (Estonia), A. Gorbunovs (Latvia), and V. Landsbergis (Lithuania).

Appeal to the parliaments of the world

We, the deputies of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania, meeting in a joint session in Vilnius, the capital of the Republic of Lithuania

Agreeing to the fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act reaffirmed in the Paris Charter for a New Europe;

Regretting that Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania participated on an unequal basis at the Paris meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, as no other state possessed authorization to adopt decisions on behalf of the Baltic states;

Recalling that the Baltic nations, having led an armed resistance to occupation and annexation in the past, are now directing all their efforts to a peaceful and democratic restoration of their violated rights, but do not forget, however, their inalienable right to resist any aggression;

Stating that continuing threats by the Soviet Union to use force against the territorial integrity and political independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania directly contradict the Soviet Union’s renewed pledges outlined in the Paris Charter and Joint Declaration;

Testifying that the Soviet Union has persistently violated the right of all nations, emphasized in the Charter, to determine their own future in accordance with the principles of the United Nations;

Emphasizing the fact that the Soviet Union, by avoiding genuine inter-state negotiations, is escalating the risk of open conflict with the Baltic states in this region of Europe, which, up to now, has remained at peace; and,

Adhering to the pledges of the signatories of the Charter to call upon third nations for the peaceful regulation of conflict,

Call upon the parliaments of the CSCE member-states to

fully apply their influence and contribute to assure:

1) that the Soviet Union end all threats as well as its policy of applying political and economic pressures, and begin, without delay, inter-state negotiations with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the realization of their independence;

2) the withdrawal of the U.S.S.R. Army from the territories of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania within the shortest possible time period, and until such time, its compliance not to interfere in the affairs of the Baltic states;

3) free, direct relations between Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and the world, primarily with Western countries;

4) the participation of third nations as mediators in inter-state negotiations between Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the Soviet Union;

5) the inclusion, without delay, of the issue of the Baltic states, as one threatening constant conflict, in the deliberations of all the executive bodies of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Appeal to the Fourth U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies

We, the deputies of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithu-

Landsbergis deploras Western indifference

While visiting London the week of Nov. 13, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis confronted British journalists with the disparity in Western policies toward the Iraq-Kuwait crisis on the one hand, and the Baltic situation on the other. As he told them, there has been no willingness on the part of Western governments to pressure Moscow to grant independence to the three Baltic nations, illegally occupied by Stalin's Red Army five decades ago.

"The difference is that the Soviet Union is much bigger than Iraq and we have no oil fields," Landsbergis told the Nov. 13 *Times* of London. When journalists said the comparison between the two situations seemed far-fetched, the Lithuanian leader replied that the only difference was that a half-century had passed in the case of the Baltic nations, whereas Kuwait was taken over only three months ago.

British duplicity was underscored by a report in the Nov. 13 *Times*, that British Foreign Office senior official William Waldegrave sent a letter to the Baltic Council (the umbrella organization representing Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) in October, to inform the council that Britain would *not* support the three states in their efforts to achieve observer status at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit meeting in Paris later that month.

A Lithuanian-emigré associate of Landsbergis told *EIR* on Nov. 27 about reports that a deal had been clinched in November, between the United States and the Soviet regime of Mikhail Gorbachov, whereby the U.S. assured Moscow it would do nothing to hinder Moscow's freedom of action "as far as the Baltic states were concerned," in

exchange for a modification of the Soviet position on the Gulf, to be more accommodating to the Bush administration drive for military action. The arrangement, presumably established during U.S. Secretary of State James Baker III's trip to Moscow earlier in November, would have been reinforced during the CSCE summit. One concrete sign that a "deal has been struck," he claimed, was a recent U.S. Senate decision to stop \$10 million in humanitarian aid to Lithuania.

Soon after the Baker visit, the emigré source noted, Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov began to noticeably harden Moscow's position in negotiations with a Lithuanian government delegation, which then broke down. According to reports, Ryzhkov threatened to impose a blockade on Lithuania far more damaging than that enforced by Moscow earlier this year, if Lithuania refused to comply with laws passed by Moscow.

On Nov. 16, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimiera Prunskiene announced that Lithuania would be halting all negotiations with the Soviet government because of Ryzhkov's "intransigence." She said that if Lithuania suffered another blockade, it would take far more resolute action than last time, according to a report by the news agency Interfax.

Landsbergis arrived in Washington, D.C. Dec. 7 on an emergency visit, but President Bush rejected his plea for help. According to the Dec. 11 *Washington Post*, Landsbergis "appealed to President Bush for strong public support of his republic's effort to gain independence from the Soviet Union. In return, he got a low-key restatement of longstanding U.S. policy that calls for self-determination for the Baltic states."

After his meeting with Bush, Landsbergis said his republic was being threatened by the Soviets with "economic catastrophe," and said he is seeking "some sort of political protection from the United States," and "some very clear statements in response to Soviet pretensions that they have a sovereign right over Lithuania."

ania, gathered in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, have resolved to adopt the following appeal to the Fourth U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies.

We are being charged with various accusations without regard to our right to restore our states. Furthermore, advocates of a "united and indivisible" Soviet Union purposely fail to recognize the objectivity of the process of decentralization resulting from the strengthened positions of national liberation movements throughout the territory of the U.S.S.R. The existing system has brought your country to the point of a real threat of famine. The centralized command economy has proven its ineffectiveness. We firmly believe that while ethnic state interests are not taken into consideration, while nations are denied the right to resolve for themselves all issues concerning their existence and are not completely responsible for these decisions, a solution to this crisis is unattainable.

In the past we have recommended to the Supreme Soviet and the leadership of the U.S.S.R. to conduct negotiations on the restoration and realization of the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and on the formulation of treaties of economic and other types of cooperation, but our repeated proposals have not received any response.

With the historical right of our nations and the clearly expressed will of our constituents as our foundation, we inform the U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies that the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania will not join in signing a Union treaty that preserves a unitarian state and the fundamental elements of a unitarian economy.

We firmly believe that if we are allowed the opportunity to freely choose our own path and conduct close cooperation and neighborly relations with the U.S.S.R., we will be able to significantly help our neighbor resolve the crisis and contribute to the relief of food shortages in the Soviet Union.

We strongly protest against attempts to employ methods of economic pressure and threats of military intervention to force the Baltic states to sign the Union treaty, against the completely ambiguous presence of the Soviet Army on the territories of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and against the interference by the Armed Forces of the U.S.S.R. in the internal affairs of our states.

We therefore recommend that the Fourth U.S.S.R. Congress of People's Deputies remove legal and constitutional obstacles and adopt a resolution to commence, without delay, inter-state negotiations on the realization of the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Position on relations with the U.S.S.R. Army

We, the deputies of the Supreme Councils of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, meeting in a joint session, resolve as follows:

The U.S.S.R. Army deployed in our countries is an occu-

pation army, and for this reason peaceful civil actions demanding its withdrawal are completely legitimate. Until a timeline and conditions for the Army's withdrawal are determined through negotiations, U.S.S.R. Army officers and their families will continue to be confronted with protests by citizens of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Military officers in the Baltic states seem to be becoming the hostages of the Kremlin's imperial policies, daily carrying the weight of their government's blame on their shoulders.

However, the equating of the U.S.S.R. Army with the Russian nation, purposely or unintentionally, would be a gift to the opponent's propaganda, creating a negative image of our states.

We believe that peaceful dialogue, demanding patience, offers greater opportunity than do harsh accusations, even when they may be legitimate, delivered at the gates of military facilities.

In demanding the withdrawal of the Soviet Army, we should not take actions that could create hardship for military families or violate their human rights.

At this opportunity, we also urge officers of the U.S.S.R. never to raise their weapons against our peaceful citizens. Any order to commit crimes is immoral and should not be followed.

On the establishment of an inter-parliamentary working committee

We, the deputies of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania, having discussed opportunities for cooperation in a joint session of the Supreme Councils of the Baltic states, have resolved as follows:

1) to establish an inter-parliamentary working committee to develop the principles for cooperation between the Supreme Councils of the Republics of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia.

2) to appoint five deputies each from the Supreme Councils of the Republics of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia to this committee.

On ethnic communities

The deputies of the Supreme Councils of the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia, and the Republic of Lithuania have confirmed, in their joint session, their unwavering aspiration to establish state structures that guarantee the protection of the rights and peaceful mutual relations of all their resident ethnic communities, founded on the norms of international law as well as the respect for the tradition of various ethnic groups that has existed in the Baltic states for centuries.

We invite all ethnic communities to actively support the creation of new democratic institutions that will become the foundation of common welfare and progress in the independent Baltic states.