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LITHUANIA: MOSCOW TELNO 1089

SUMMARY

1. LANDSBERGIS ATTENDS COUNCIL OF FEDERATION IN MOSCOW. LANDSBERGIS, GORBUNOV AND RUUTEL HAVE SEPARATE MEETING WITH GORBACHEV AND RYZHKOV. GORBACHEV CONFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS IF INDEPENDENCE DECLARATIONS SUSPENDED FOR THE PERIOD OF TALKS. THIS WILL NOW BE DISCUSSED IN VILNIUS.

DETAIL

COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION

2. CHAIRMAN OF THE LITHUANIAN SUPREME COUNCIL, PROFESSOR LANDSBERGIS ATTENDED YESTERDAY'S MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION IN MOSCOW. THIS WAS LANDSBERGIS' FIRST APPEARANCE AT THE COUNCIL AND HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP SINCE THE 11 MARCH INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION. GORBUNOV (LATVIA) AND RUUTEL (ESTONIA) ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING ALONG WITH THE SUPREME SOVIET CHAIRMAN FROM THE OTHER UNION REPUBLICS INCLUDING YELTSIN IN HIS NEW CAPACITY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RSFSR.

3. ACCORDING TO A SHORT TASS REPORT OF THE MEETING, SPEAKERS STRESSED THE URGENT NEED TO CONCLUDE A NEW UNION TREATY GUARANTEEING REAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY TO REPUBLICS. SUCH A TREATY SHOULD PROVIDE FOR VARIOUS FORMS OF INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN REPUBLICS DEPENDING ON THE HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CHARACTERISATION OF EACH. IT WAS AGREED TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP IN WHICH ALL REPUBLICS WOULD BE REPRESENTED TO DRAFT A NEW UNION TREATY.

MEETING WITH GORBACHEV AND RYZHKOV.

4. AFTER THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION SESSION, GORBACHEV WAS JOINED BY RYZHKOV FOR A SEPARATE MEETING WITH LANDSBERGIS, GORBUNOV AND RUUTEL. THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY TASS HAS REPORTED ONLY THAT THE MEETING TOOK PLACE AND THERE WAS AN EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION.

PRESS CONFERENCE.

5. AFTER THEIR MEETING WITH GORBACHEV, LANDSBERGIS AND GORBUNOV'S GAVE A LATE EVENING PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE LITHUANIAN REPRESENTATION IN MOSCOW (RUUTEL HAD LEFT TO TRAVEL BACK TO ESTONIA). LANDSBERGIS EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD AGREED TO ATTEND THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION MEETING BECAUSE GORBACHEV HAD AGREED BEFOREHAND TO A SEPARATE MEETING WITH THE 3 BALTIC LEADERS. HE HAD FOUND THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION MEETING USEFUL. GORBACHEV HAD SET OUT HIS IDEA OF A FEDERATION OF SOVEREIGN STATES. BUT LITHUANIA WAS NOT GOVERNED BY SOVIET JURISDICTION. GORBUNOV'S OBSERVED THAT YELTSIN HAD PUT FORWARD CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS ON DIRECT CO-OPERATION BETWEEN REPUBLICS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT RELATIONS BETWEEN GORBACHEV AND YELTSIN, HE NOTED THAT THE DIALOGUE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND CONDUCTED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL RESPECT.

6. ASKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH GORBACHEV AND RYZHKOV, LANDSBERGIS SAID THAT HE HAD EMPHASISED THE DIFFICULTY OF CONDUCTING A NORMAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE WHILE UNDER AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE. HE HAD ASKED GORBACHEV TO RELAX THE PRESSURE ON LITHUANIA. HE REFERRED TO A GORBACHEV PROPOSAL THAT BOTH SIDES SHOULD TAKE STEPS SIMULTANEOUSLY. THIS WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN VILNIUS. LANDSBERGIS CONFIRMED THAT ON HIS RETURN TO VILNIUS HE WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL FOR A SUSPENSION OF THE INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION 'FOR THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS'. (GORBACHEV, AS WE SHALL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY, HAD USED THIS LANGUAGE DURING HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE USSR SUPREME SOVIET ON THE MORNING OF 12 JUNE). LANDSBERGIS WAS NOT TO BE DRAWN ON HIS OWN VIEW OF THE PROPOSAL. BUT HE SAID THAT THE LITHUANIANS WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ALL SUGGESTIONS. A VERBAL OR WRITTEN RESPONSE TO GORBACHEV'S PROPOSAL COULD BE EXPECTED SHORTLY.

7. GORBUNOV'S WAS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH THE QUESTION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF HIS REPUBLIC DURING THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. HE CONSIDERED THAT TALKS TO ESTABLISH THIS STATUS WERE A PRIORITY. HE TOO HAD BEEN TOLD BY GORBACHEV THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF THE LATVIAN INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION WERE FROZEN FOR THE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE LATVIAN SUPREME SOVIET. GORBUNOV'S CONSIDERED THAT 2 GUARANTEES WERE NEEDED TO BE WORKED OUT TO COVER THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. FIRSTLY, A GUARANTEE OF FULL LATVIAN SOVEREIGNTY DURING THIS TIME: SECONDLY A BILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR RESOLVING POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH SOVIET LEGISLATION.

BRAITHWAITE