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FM MOSCOW  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 1190  
OF 280852Z JUN 90  
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LITHUANIA: GORBACHEV MEETINGS WITH LANDSBERGIS  
SUMMARY

1. ACCORDING TO THE LITHUANIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW, THE FIRST MEETING ON 26 JUNE WENT BADLY. GORBACHEV WAS TOTALLY INFLEXIBLE. HE SAW LITTLE CHANCE OF LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT AGREEING TO ACCEPT INDEPENDENCE MORATORIUM. BUT FURTHER MEETING ON THE EVENING OF 27 JUNE SUGGESTS THE SEARCH FOR A COMPROMISE CONTINUES.

DETAIL

2. TWO MEMBERS OF THE CHANCERY MET BICKAUSKAS, THE LITHUANIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW, ON 26 JUNE, TO HAND OVER THE TEXT OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER TO MRS PRUNSKIENE (FCO TELNO 1184).

3. LONGRIGG ASKED ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN GORBACHEV AND LANDSBERGIS ON 26 JUNE. BICKAUSKAS WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY PESSIMISTIC. HE HAD BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING. IT HAD GONE BADLY. THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN FRIENDLY, BUT GORBACHEV HAD BEEN INFLEXIBLE. BICKAUSKAS SAID HE HAD NEVER SEEN HIM IN SUCH A TOUGH MOOD. HE CONTINUED TO BASE HIMSELF ON THE FORMULA THAT THE INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION SHOULD BE FROZEN "FOR THE PERIOD OF THE TALKS." BUT HE HAD REFUSED TO ENTER INTO DETAIL ABOUT WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN IN PRACTICE, AND HE REFUSED TO DISCUSS ANY OF THE COMMENTS AND ALTERNATIVE WORDINGS THE LITHUANIANS HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM. HE HAD SIMPLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR LITHUANIA TO REVERT TO THE STATUS OF A UNION REPUBLIC AND TO DISCUSS ITS FUTURE WITH MOSCOW WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF DISCUSSIONS ON THE NEW UNION TREATY. IN OTHER WORDS, LITHUANIA WOULD BE TREATED JUST LIKE ANY OTHER REPUBLIC.

4. LANDSBERGIS HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING WITH GORBACHEV IN ORDER TO GO OVER THE GROUND BEFORE THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT DEBATED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN INDEPENDENCE MORATORIUM. BICKAUSKAS THOUGHT THAT IN VIEW OF THE WAY DISCUSSIONS HAD GONE, IT WAS VERY UNLIKELY THAT THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT WOULD NOW ACCEPT THIS IDEA. THE BEST THAT COULD BE HOPED FOR WOULD BE THAT THEY WOULD COME TO NO DECISION. THE LITHUANIAN DEBATE BEGAN ON THE EVENING OF 26 JUNE AND, ACCORDING TO

BICKAUSKAS, COULD LAST TWO DAYS.

5. LANDSBERGIS, ACCORDING TO TASS, WAS A LITTLE LESS DOWNBEAT ABOUT THE MEETING WITH GORBACHEV. HE IS SAID TO HAVE TOLD LITHUANIAN DEPUTIES THAT IT HAD BEEN A USEFUL AND FRIENDLY MEETING WHICH HAD CLARIFIED MATTERS. BUT HE ADDED THAT GORBACHEV WAS DEMANDING UNILATERAL LITHUANIAN CONCESSIONS IN ORDER TO BRIDGE THE GAP REMAINING BETWEEN THE 2 SIDES.

6. LANDSBERGIS ACCOMPANIED THIS TIME BY MRS PRUNSKIENE CAME TO MOSCOW AGAIN ON THE EVENING OF 27 JUNE AND HAD ANOTHER MEETING WITH GORBACHEV WHICH LASTED 90 MINUTES. WE DO NOT HAVE MANY DETAILS YET ABOUT HOW THIS WENT. A LITHUANIAN SPOKESMAN QUOTED BY TASS SAID THAT THE LITHUANIANS HAD BEEN SEEKING A REASONABLE COMPROMISE IN ORDER TO AVOID SENSELESS DECISIONS THAT WOULD BE REJECTED BY THE OTHER SIDE.

#### LITHUANIAN ECONOMY

7. BICKAUSKAS ALSO TALKED ABOUT ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. HE SAID ONLY HALF THE ENTERPRISES IN THE REPUBLIC WERE NOW WORKING NORMALLY. LATEST ESTIMATES WERE THAT PETROL SUPPLIES COULD LAST OUT UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, AND GENERAL FUEL STOCKS UNTIL MID-JULY. OCCASIONAL SUPPLIES WERE STILL GETTING THROUGH FROM OTHER REPUBLICS THERE WAS NO SERIOUS PROBLEM OVER FOOD AND MEDICINES. BUT FUEL SHORTAGES COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN GATHERING THE HARVEST.

8. BICKAUSKAS STRESSED THAT THE SANCTIONS WERE NOT AFFECTING LITHUANIAN RESOLVE. THE LATEST OPINION SURVEYS SHOWED THAT SUPPORT FOR INDEPENDENCE WAS STILL AT THE SAME LEVEL AS IN MARCH.

9. BICKAUSKAS SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT RELATIONS WITH THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION. LIKE MOST OF OUR BALTIC CONTACTS, HE REMAINS SUSPICIOUS OF YELTSIN. HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONTACTS WITH RSFSR REPRESENTATIVES OVER A BILATERAL COOPERATION TREATY. BUT THESE WERE ONLY A PRELIMINARY STAGE. NO FORMAL WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED (AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 26 JUNE, YELTSIN HAD SAID THAT THE RSFSR WAS INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS ON BILATERAL TREATIES WITH A NUMBER OF UNION REPUBLICS INCLUDING THE BALTIC STATES. HE IMPLIED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE SOMEWHAT MORE ADVANCED THAN SEEMS TO BE THE CASE WITH LITHUANIA).

#### COMMENT

10. GIVEN THE PRESSURE THAT GORBACHEV IS UNDER AT PRESENT, AND WITH THE PARTY CONGRESS ONLY A FEW DAYS AWAY, IT IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT HE IS TAKING A TOUGH LINE ON LITHUANIA. BUT THE FACT THAT HE HAS

BEEN PREPARED TO RECEIVE LANDSBERGIS FOR SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS TWO  
DAYS RUNNING SUGGESTS HE IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID A COMPLETE BREAKDOWN.

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