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TELNO 1205
OF 300734Z JUN 90
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FOR RESIDENT CLERK

SUMMARY

1. LITHUANIA AGREES TO SUSPEND INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

DETAIL

2. THE LITHUANIAN SUPREME COUNCIL VOTED ON 29 JUNE TO DECLARE A 100 DAY MORATORIUM ON THE 11 MARCH INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION. THE 100 DAYS PERIOD WILL BEGIN FROM THE MOMENT THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STARTED. ACCORDING TO THE TEXT PASSED BY THE LITHUANIANS THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXTEND OR ABROGATE THE MORATORIUM. THE MORATORIUM WILL AUTOMATICALLY LOSE FORCE IF THE NEGOTIATIONS STOP.

COMMENT

3. THIS LATEST LITHUANIAN FORMULA SHOULD SATISFY GORBACHEV. THE SPECIFICATION OF A 100 DAY PERIOD MAY IRRITATE HIM, BUT THE LITHUANIANS HAVE INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO BE FLEXIBLE AND THE STATE TIME LIMIT IS UNLIKELY TO PROVE AN OBSTACLE IF THE SIDES CAN GET DOWN TO SERIOUS AND FRUITFUL NEGOTIATIONS. THE RECENT MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SOVIET AND LITHUANIAN LEADERSHIPS WILL HAVE HELPED PREPARE BOTH FOR EACH OTHER'S NEGOTIATING POSITIONS BUT THE TASK OF FINDING ENOUGH COMMON GROUND TO CONDUCT SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS MAY NOT BE AN EASY ONE (FOR EXAMPLE IF MOSCOW INSISTS ON LINKING THE DIALOGUE TO THE DRAFTING OF A NEW UNION TREATY).

BRAITHWAITE

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