

3. Imtis visų kitų galimų priemonių, kad būtų nutraukti TSRS Prezidento ir TSRS Vyriausybės agresyvūs veiksmai prieš demokratiją ir taikius Lietuvos Respublikos gyventojus, o padėtis Pabaltijo Respublikose būtų kontroliuojama tarptautinių organizacijų bei Saugumo ir bendradarbiavimo Europoje susitarimų nustatyta tvarka.

4. Kviesti tarptautinės teismo ekspertizės ir kitus, ypač tarptautinės konstitucinės ir politinės teisės, specialistus nepriklausomam TSRS agresijos Lietuvoje padarinių ir žmogaus teisių pažeidimų įvertinimui.

5. Tarpininkauti atstatant Lietuvos Respublikos statusą Tarptautinėse organizacijose, atsižvelgiant į jos, kaip ankstesniojo Tautų Lygos pilnateisio nario, prioritetus.

Parašų po kreipimusi į Jungtinių Tautų Žmogaus teisių komitetą kopijos bus atsiųstos vėliau, kadangi žmonių parašai teberenkami.

Lietuvos Žmogaus teisių gynimo asociacijos komiteto pirmininkas Antanas BURACĖS
Lietuvos Respublikos Aukščiausiosios Tarybos Žmogaus teisių ir tautinių mažumų komisijos
pirmininkas, Nepriklausomybės partijos pirmininkas Virgilijus ČEPAITIS
LŽTGA komiteto Garbės pirmininkas, Lietuvos Helsinkio grupės steigėjas Viktoras PETKUS
Lietuvos Sąjūdžio Seimo Tarybos pirmininkas Juozas TUMELIS

Kovo 11.- 1991 m. birželio 5 d.

STATEMENT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS
COMMITTEE WITH THE REQUEST TO END HUMAN RIGHTS
VIOLATIONS FOLLOWING THE INTENSIFYING USSR AGGRESSION
IN THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

Mart of 1991

The Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania, which was democratically elected in February of 1990, restored the statehood of the Republic of Lithuania, which has been occupied by the Soviet Union since 1940, by proclaiming on March 11, 1990, the Act of Independence. The will of the people was demonstrated in the Baltic Way protest (the joining of hands from Vilnius to Tallinn) against Soviet occupation on August 23, 1989. At that time, 1,576,569 signatures (59.4% of the population) were collected in Lithuania demanding the departure of the occupying Soviet military forces. On February 9, 1991, in a plebiscite vote, 90.47% (or 76.47% of the voting population) voted in favor of a democratic and independent Republic of Lithuania.

The majority of the nations of the world do not recognize the forceful incorporation of Lithuania, a former member of the League of Nations, into the USSR. The leadership of the Republic of Lithuania, in fulfilling the free will of the people of Lithuania, has sought through peaceful means, which include political negotiations, to come to agreement with the USSR on the restoration of statehood as well as normal interstate relations between Lithuania and other states.

Unfortunately, since the declaration of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania in 1990, the USSR has sought and continues to seek the restoration of an occupational regime in Lithu-

ania through various means, such as the use of military force, the slaughter of peaceful inhabitants and the undermining of independent political structures. These acts of Soviet aggression are supported and consolidated by anti-constitutional organizations active in Lithuania. These organizations represent the occupational regime of the USSR which has systematically and brutally violated all documents for the defense of universal human rights.

On January 11-13, 1991, special armed forces and other USSR military divisions, with the use of tanks, armored vehicles and other military equipment, – attacked the peaceful inhabitants of Vilnius in seeking to assist the leaders of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) in Lithuania to forcefully overthrow the constitutionally elected government of the Republic of Lithuania against the will of the inhabitants.

The USSR violates the human rights in the Republic of Lithuania with the intent to destabilize the political situation in Lithuania.

- it attempts to once again force a comprised Soviet regime upon the inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania through the use of the most horrible means of USSR military terror;
- Draft-age men are being taken from Lithuania and forcefully drafted into the Soviet army.
- the right of the people of Lithuania to objective information is being denied as access to the state mass media facilities of the Republic of Lithuania is given exclusively to the representatives of the Lithuanian local division CPSU through the use of the occupied state television, radio stations and publishing houses;
- Soviet military treat journalists with brutality, breaking cameras and often detaining reporters;
- disinformation is being spread in the Republic of Lithuania and on an international level through the seized media of mass communications;
- ecological diversions and ecological blackmail such as threats to cut off energy supplies or even to blow up the Ignalina nuclear power plant are widely spread as extremist diversions to intimidate the inhabitants of Lithuania;
- the economic blockade of the Republic of Lithuania is being intensified;
- the blocking and restrictions of the general use of transportation (train, air and sea transports) for Lithuanian importing and exporting to and from Russia, the Ukraine, Moldova and other Republics of the Soviet Union;
- a state of martial law is being imposed throughout Lithuania through the imposition of USSR military rule and military patrols;
- state and public buildings of the Republic of Lithuania are being occupied and ransacked;
- archives of Lithuanian history, culture and the press are being destroyed;
- border posts of the Republic of Lithuania are being demolished and the inviolability of the state borders of Lithuania are not being respected;
- Peaceful inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania are being terrorized. Soviet soldiers are breaking into private flats without any Procurator's sanction. The people are being beaten and mutilated (only in January, 1991, 13 people arrested by the military patrols of the Soviet Army were badly injured, 9 were hospitalized with brain traumas or skull fractures, and 2 were shot);
- national discord is being sown both in the Republic of Lithuania and beyond it; specially trained agents of the CPSU and KGB are being sent to the Republic of Lithuania to this end;

- institutions of the USSR are using the intellectual property of the Republic of Lithuania and its citizens, without the compensation and without the permission of the rightful authors, for the specific intent to support the functions of the occupation regime;
- the blocking of the opportunity and means for foreign diplomatic representatives to travel to the Republic of Lithuania, thereby prohibiting them from establishing foreign consulates and other facilities in Lithuania as well as interfering with attempts by foreign representatives to participate in international meetings and other conferences and symposiums held in Lithuania. (For this reason, it was impossible to convene the Second International Human Rights Conference in Vilnius in spring of 1990, international conference on privatization in Vilnius in January of 1991 and many others);
- normal trade, postal and international health service relations are being blocked; in certain cases, medical aid and International Red Cross efforts to assist those suffering from injuries as a result of Soviet military actions are being blocked by the occupation institutions of the USSR,

All of the above attest to the terror and blackmail being conducted by the USSR against the Republic of Lithuania and its inhabitants. Below, certain cases and consequences of the USSR aggression against the inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania and other people on its territory are examined in greater detail.

The thread of these aggressions to the security and cooperation in Europe for the most part was not well taken into account at the United Nations' Human Rights Commission 47th session in Geneva in February of 1991, when discussing the human rights violations by Soviet militaries. Representatives from the USSR were only obliged to refer to Commission about purposes of these violations. However, as it is known the leadership of the USSR falsified facts about similar incidents of soviet military aggression in Tbilisi, Baku and Fergana.

I. SOVIET AGGRESSION

In using military force against the political independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Lithuania, the USSR committed an act of aggression as defined by the December 14, 1974 UN General Assembly in Chapter 3, article (a).

The USSR is utilizing various political methods (e.g., resolutions of USSR Congress of People's Deputies, decrees of the USSR President, ultimate appeals from the CPSU, etc.) in seeking to impose its own laws on Lithuania. The USSR is interfering in the execution of the laws passed by the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania in expressing the will of the inhabitants of Lithuania. Citizens of the Republic of Lithuania are being barred from adhering to legitimate national constitutional rights such as not serving in the occupational USSR army, choosing alternative service, etc.

The primary goal of the Soviet Union's political, economic and ecological aggression was and still is to destabilize and overthrow the legitimate, constitutionally elected leadership of the Republic of Lithuania, in this way the rights of the citizens of Lithuania to free self-determination and choice of political power are being grossly violated.

The USSR is refusing to withdraw the Soviet army from the territory of the Republic of Lithuania, despite the fact that 1.6 million inhabitants of Lithuania (over 3/5 of the adult population) signed such a request in the summer of 1989. Furthermore, additional units of the Soviet army

and Special Forces have been deployed in Lithuania after December 1990. Violent „recruiting“ of draft-age men into military service has been continuing in Lithuania. Persons having left the Soviet armed forces of their own free will are being hunted down and forcibly returned. From March 11, 1990, to February 1, 1991, 24 young Lithuanians serving in the Soviet armed forces have been killed and some of them committed suicide. Army supervision is taking place in all of Lithuania on the pretext of searching for draft-age men or „deserters“. Soviet soldiers are terrorizing Lithuanian state deputies, breaking into private flats, injuring, threatening and intimidating inhabitants.

The „state of emergency“ has been attempted to be introduced in Vilnius and other locales of Lithuania by the Soviet military forces in January and February of 1991. Only the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania can declare a state of emergency in Lithuania. Besides, Article 4 of the International Pact on civil and political rights (as well as Article 17 of the USSR Law on the Legal Regime of the State of Emergency) requires informing the UN General Secretary about the introduction of such a state. This was not done by Soviet officials.

On January 11, 1991, Soviet paratroopers seized the press house, the Department of National Defense building, buildings belonging to the Hunter and Fishermen's Society, and the Nemechine television retransmission tower. On January 12, the Soviet paratroopers seized the Defense Department's border post on the Parieche-Druskininkai road, blocked the telephone communications of the Lithuanian State News Agency and other information agencies, and seized the dispatch station of the Vilnius railroad center. Important republican buildings being guarded voluntarily by unarmed inhabitants were surrounded and attacked.

On the night from January 12 to January 13, 1991, Soviet paratroops, together with heavy tanks and combat armored vehicles, stormed and seized the Vilnius Television Tower as well as the television and radio administrative buildings. A representative of the anonymous „National Salvation Committee“ declared through mass communication media to inhabitants that the Lithuanian Supreme Council ended its activity and that this committee was seizing power and that a „curfew“ was being introduced in the republic. Sometime later the international telephone and telegraph station was seized. In the months of March and April attempts again were made to seize various republican buildings of communications, banks. Technical school in Vilnius and Lithuanian paper warehouses were seized by special soviet militia's contingents. On April 19 the Lithuanian border posts near Medininkai were destroyed.

Anti-constitutional utilization of Soviet military units.

The January 11-13 Soviet military unit violence resulted in 702 casualties. Seventeen persons died those of which 11 were shot, 3 were crushed by tank treads, and 2 killed from explosions. Soviet paratroops demonstrated extreme cruelty against the unarmed defenders of the Lithuanian radio and television buildings. Victims were crushed by tank treads that had been using spotlights to blind them. Special Soviet military units used dum-dum bullets (whose use is prohibited by international law), beat people with rifle butts and kicked those who had fallen. 52 persons were injured by bullets, 136 are recovering from stab wounds and lacerations, and 10 are suffering from burns, 416 persons suffered ear injuries as a result of close-range cannon shots. The windows of flats in the surrounding neighborhood were shattered by acoustic waves. In the month of April, 153 victims of these military Digressions are still being held and cared for in hospitals.

Anti-constitutional activities of the anonymous „National Salvation Committee“, founded by the CPSU.

To justify the military coup detach of the legitimate authority of the Republic of Lithuania, the Soviet occupational bodies and collaborators used the excuse for the alleged „division“ of the CPSU property. The „division“ was to be executed not in curt but by Soviet military forces representing the interests of the Soviet empire. That was affirmed by independent USSR military experts Shield („Schit“) including USSR deputies of different levels (their conclusions are attached to this statement),

II. ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE

The environmental pollution of Lithuania and anthropogenic degradation has reached critical limits. The main Lithuanian rivers have been so severely polluted that they no longer can be safely used for drinking or recreation. The Lithuanian coast of the Baltic Sea is particularly the worst polluted area. The damage done to the Lithuanian economy by the Soviet imperial policy exceeds 350 million rubles every year. The damage is increasing from 3% to 5% annually. Far more important and greater damage occurring to Lithuania and neighboring countries are caused by the deformations of the genetic structure which are a result of backward technologies and their wrong use and the negative influence on people's health, fauna and flora is not taken into account.

The structure of Lithuanian economy enforced by the Soviet imperial system and deformed by one-sided specialization inevitably led to the ecological catastrophe of our country, which means gradual dying out of the small Lithuanian nation. The impoverishment of Lithuanian nature and ruined landscape is one of the greatest irreparable damages of compulsory incorporation of Lithuania into the USSR.

The South Lithuania's inhabitants have suffered losses inflicted upon them by the Chernobyl accident. Greater obstacles created by the blackmail of the conservative forces of the great Soviet empire threaten the very survival of the Baltic States. As Soviet troops pull out of Eastern Europe and are moved to the Republic of Lithuania and forced to dwell in bad conditions, aggressive military extremists threaten to blow up the Ignalina nuclear power plant and other key structures which would endanger the ecological system of the entire Baltic region,

III. ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

The Soviet economic blockade imposed on the Republic of Lithuania from April 18 to July 1, 1990, interfered with the normal functioning of the economy and the meeting of peoples needs. The total losses of the Republic of Lithuania including the preliminary loss of potential profit amount approximately to 1.5 million rubles.

As a result of the economic blockade, the supply of the main natural resources, specifically fuel, to Lithuania under contracts was cut short. The Soviet government blockaded rail shipment and set back the development of the Lithuanian national economy at the time when she was making attempts to overcome irrational territorial distribution of the economy and colonial specialization. Fodder contracts which had been broken forced the killing of cattle.

Only within 3 months of 1990 Soviet. Union forced Lithuanian industrial enterprises to lose 415.5 million rubles in unproduced goods. The production of consumer goods was cut in half,

while only 1/10 of fuel stocks were available and transportation was down by 1/3. The Soviet government used the savings of the Lithuanian people for its own interests (6.7 billion rubles) as well as credit stocks of the Lithuanian enterprises and organizations.

The Republic of Lithuania statistics department reports that the total amount of goods illegally seized by the Soviet military during the months of January and February, 1991, reach approximately to 74.9 million. General medical expenses have reached 6 million rubles, of them the treatment of traumas 1.1 million rubles. From the seized radio and television centers alone damage amounts to 45.7 million rubles, with technical equipment reaching 18.7 million rubles in damage and the seized film equipment worth over 21.7 million rubles.

IV. VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The USSR is grossly violating fundamental human rights of the Lithuanian people as defined in the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Civilians were killed during military attacks (violation of the Covenant, Article 6), civilians were shot dead, tortured, assaulted (violation of Article 7), and they were arbitrarily detained and arrested (violation of Article 9). At the same time the Soviet troops violated the 1984 Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (violation of Articles 1 and 2). The freedom of expression of the Lithuanian people is being grossly violated; the main mass media buildings of Lithuania were seized (violation of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 19). The Soviet Union by all these actions also violated its obligations under the Final Act of the Copenhagen Conference and the Paris Charter for New Europe in which the freedom of expression of opinion, as well as the ban of arbitrary detention and arrest, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

The Soviet occupational army without any right has been recruiting conscripts by force, secretly taking them away from Lithuania and subjecting them to army service. In 1990 24 young men were captured and taken away from Lithuania. 17 Lithuanian soldiers who have refused to serve have been framed and sentenced.

The communist organizers of the Soviet military coup d' état in Lithuania backed by the military are still running the national TV and radio networks. The Press Centre, seized by the military, housed 14 Lithuanian newspaper and magazine offices and the printing plant in which almost all national Lithuanian periodicals were printed. 1500 Journalists and printers lost their jobs. About 2000 journalists and technicians were thrown out of the Lithuanian Radio and TV Centre. The main thing is that irreparable and Inestimable damage has been inflicted upon Lithuanian culture, publication of books, magazines and newspapers, radio and TV programmers. The press laws of the Republic of Lithuania are being ignored. The freedom of expression and speech of journalists, writers and composers is -being violated. The exclusive right to copyright is being violated: directors, writers, actors and other cultural workers are protesting the broadcasting (of videotape recordings, etc.) of their works on television and radio station controlled by the Soviet military personnel, yet these protests are being ignored.

V. INCITEMENT OF NATIONAL DISCORD AMONG ETHNIC GROUPS

The Soviet mass media („Vremia“ and „Pravda“) reports of the events in January that the Soviet army brutality against Lithuanian inhabitants was displayed as a fight between supporters of Lithuanian sovereignty and reactionary forces faithful to the imperial policy of the Soviet Union. In fact, 2/3 of Lithuania's Russians and Poles support a democratically independent

Lithuania as was demonstrated in the February 1991 plebiscite results. The anti constitutional hostility to Lithuanian independence propaganda on the Lithuanian TV and radio seized by the military and on the Soviet military radio station should be treated as the CPSU infringement on the right of the Lithuanian people to impartial information. Slander, lies and misinformation are being used in order to create an illusion of national

discord among Lithuanians, Russians and Poles. Moreover, censorship has been imposed on the Soviet mass media. Miscues and consequences of the Soviet aggression against the Republic of Lithuania are being spread in the Soviet Union and all over the world. People are being intimidated and misinformed in Lithuania and outside her borders. High tension is being created especially in Lithuania which is being produced not only by the Soviet mass media. Day and night, tanks and armored cars patrol the streets of Vilnius and other cities to create an atmosphere of danger to human lives. There have been cases when Soviet tanks have crushed cars filled with people.

In the light of the conditions mentioned above and in behalf of 438214 inhabitants of Lithuania we appeal to the United Nations Civil and Political Rights Committee requiring to:

1. Deliberate and condemn the on-going acts of aggression by the USSR against the human rights of Baltic nations;
2. Propose to the United Nations Security Council to convene a special session for deliberation on the consequences of the USSR aggression against Lithuania, Latvia and Soviet Georgia the dangers it poses for international security and peace;
3. Use all possible means to ensure that the aggressive acts committed by the President and Government of the USSR against democracy and the peaceful inhabitants of the Republic of Lithuania would be restrained, and the situation in the Baltic republics would be controlled according to procedures outlined by international organizations and agreements of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe;
4. Invite specialists in the areas of international legal procedures, as well as international constitutional and political law for impartial evaluation of the consequences of the USSR's aggressive acts in Lithuania and human rights violations;
5. Mediate and assist in the restoration of the status of the Republic of Lithuania in international organizations with account of its priorities as former member of the League of Nations.

The copies of signatures will to be attached latter so as signing of the Appeal to Committee is still continued after sending this Statement.

The Chairman of Lithuanian Association for the
Protection of Human Rights (LAPHR)

Antanas BURACĖS

The Chairman, Council of Independence Party, Commission on Human
Rights and National Minorities, Supreme Council
of Republic of Lithuania

Virgilijus ČEPAITIS

Honorary Chairman, LAPHR, Founding Member of
Lithuanian Helsinki Group

Viktoras PETKUS

The Chairman, Lithuanian Sąjūdis Council

Juozas TUMELIS