

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Maseng, Mari: Files (OPL)
Folder Title: Iceland Trip (2)
Box: OA 14573

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

ARMS REDUCTION AT ICELAND -- HISTORIC PROGRESS

Unlike the past, the U.S. is now dealing from a position of strength and confidence. General Secretary Gorbachev suggested the Iceland meeting, and the President accepted in an effort to further the US/Soviet dialogue in all four areas of the agenda.

- o Because of U.S. strength and confidence, and the inducement of SDI to negotiate, unprecedented progress was made toward dramatically reducing offensive nuclear arsenals.
- o Mr. Gorbachev held progress in all areas, including arms reduction, hostage to his non-negotiable demand that the U.S. cut back and effectively kill SDI. The President insisted that SDI remain viable under the terms of the 1972 ABM Treaty, which, unlike the Soviet Union, the U.S. has complied with.
- o To break the deadlock, the President offered: A 10 year commitment not to deploy any future strategic defense system, coupled with 50% reduction in U.S. and Soviet strategic forces in the next five years and mutual and total elimination of all U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles over the following five years.
- o Mr. Gorbachev rejected the President's offer, refusing to allow SDI testing -- the heart of any research program.

Current Impasse; Future Opportunities

- o Mr. Gorbachev's non-negotiable terms on SDI would have perpetuated America's vulnerability to Soviet missiles. Where the security of the American people and our Allies is involved, no agreement is better than a bad agreement.
- o The USSR wants to continue to base global security on the threat of mutual annihilation. President Reagan seeks a safer world with peace and deterrence based increasingly on defensive means.
- o In 1984, when the Soviets failed to achieve their objectives to weaken NATO's defensive capability in Europe, through negotiating intransigence and continuing SS-20 deployments, they walked out of all nuclear arms negotiations. In 1985, they were back at the table and, in 1986, for the first time, dramatic progress has been made toward mutual reductions.
- o The President believes that additional meetings can build on the major progress toward arms reduction and achieve final breakthrough agreements. The President's invitation for a U.S. Summit -- the objective that Iceland was intended to prepare for -- remains open.

SDI Not the Problem: It's the Solution

- o In SDI, we are investigating defensive systems to enhance future security for America and our Allies by being able to destroy attacking missiles. It will have no offensive function. There is no rational reason to oppose SDI research.
- o Insurance -- Why should the Soviets, in opposing SDI, insist that America and its Allies remain vulnerable to Soviet missile attack? Strategic defenses would help underwrite arms reduction agreements against cheating or abrogation, while defending against attack from other countries.
- o By denying a potential attacker hope of gaining meaningful military benefit, SDI is the best lever to achieve real arms reductions. SDI deters use of offensive systems, thereby rendering future investments in offensive systems imprudent.
- o The Soviets have longstanding and massive strategic defense programs of their own, going well beyond research, and have the only operational anti-ballistic missile system in the world, a system they are steadily improving.
- o By refusing the President's far-reaching arms reduction offer and making his own non-negotiable demand on the United States, Gorbachev refused an historic opportunity for progress toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons.
- o Nonetheless, the ideas and progress for radically reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons presented at Reykjavik can be built upon at the table in Geneva.

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is as important to peace as arms reductions because peace requires trust. The President told Gorbachev the Soviets' human rights performance is an obstacle for improved relations between our two countries.

- o A country that breaks faith with its own people cannot be trusted to keep faith with foreign powers.
- o The Soviet Union signed the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The Soviets should abide by them -- allowing free emigration and the reunification of divided families, and religious and cultural freedoms -- instead of throwing those who monitor the Soviet compliance (e.g. Yuri Orlov) in jail.
- o We will continue to press for improvements in the coming weeks and months.
- o The Soviets, for the first time, agreed to regular bilateral discussions on humanitarian and human rights issues.

Expanded cultural exchanges -- The President reaffirmed his commitment to continue to broaden and expand people-to-people exchanges -- where Soviet citizens and Americans may see first hand more of each other's country and culture.

Regional Conflicts -- The President raised the serious problems caused in the world by Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, and continued military support of the regimes in Angola, Nicaragua, and Cambodia, that are waging war on their own people. We cannot take seriously the token troop "withdrawals" from Afghanistan which they have announced.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SDI

The media and political opponents of SDI have found it convenient to present SDI in caricature, as the "so-called 'Star Wars' proposal." It is no wonder that many Americans are confused about the President's proposal and think the U.S. currently has a defense against missiles!

- o An Associated press-Media General poll released in August found that 60 percent of Americans felt that the U.S. had either a good or an excellent defense against a Soviet missile attack.
- o In fact, the U.S. is utterly defenseless against Soviet rockets.

Americans Want Enhanced Security

When the American people are asked to evaluate concepts, rather than the labels such as "Star Wars," they support SDI. Evidence:

Two days after the President's return from Iceland, polls taken by major news organizations showed the public supports President Reagan's refusal to surrender his Strategic Defense Initiative.

- A New York Times/CBS News poll shows 68 percent support.
- Nearly 60 percent polled by the Washington Post/ABC News poll said Reagan should retain his commitment to SDI.
- According to the Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, only 15 percent of the American people think SDI is a bad idea.

Penn + Schoen Associates (9/27/86)

Question: SDI is a research program to develop a system to destroy incoming nuclear missiles before they reach their targets. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. going ahead with the research and development phases of SDI?

Favor -- 81% Oppose -- 13%

Question: If such a system could be developed, would you favor or oppose using it in the United States?

Favor -- 78% Oppose -- 13%

ABC News (1/4/85 - 1/6/85)

Question: Do you favor or oppose developing such defensive weapons (which use lasers and particle beams to shoot down enemy missiles), or what?

Favor -- 49% Oppose -- 44%

Heritage Foundation/Sindlinger & Co. Poll (5/27/85)

89 percent of the American people would support a Strategic Defense program if it would make a Soviet Missile attack less likely.

THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE (SDI)

The U.S. and her Allies are defenseless against a deliberate or accidental nuclear attack.

- o The U.S. presently deters nuclear attack by threatening retaliation. SDI offers a safer and more moral alternative: employing technology to protect people instead of threatening their annihilation.

Challenge for the Present and Insurance for the Future

- o SDI is a broad-based program to demonstrate the feasibility of effective strategic defenses. Like the Apollo Project, SDI is a revolutionary program that merits a full-scale national effort.
- o SDI taps the finest scientific minds in the U.S. and other countries to investigate a range of defensive technologies. This research will lead toward an informed decision on defensive options in the early 1990s.
- o SDI has induced the Soviets to negotiate for deep cuts in offensive arsenals. It is the best insurance policy that any future arms reduction agreements will be implemented and complied with by the Soviets, and it guards against ballistic missile attack by third countries.

SDI Progress

- o Some in Congress would cripple SDI with short-sighted budget cuts giving the Soviets a key concession they have not been able to win through negotiations. Sustained research has already produced major technical advances:
 - June 1984 -- a non-nuclear interceptor destroyed an unarmed warhead in space;
 - Fall 1985 -- successful laser tests compensate for atmospheric distortion while tracking rockets in flight;
 - Spring 1986 -- A high-power laser destroyed a static target;
 - June 1986 -- a self-guided missile intercepted a target moving at three times the speed of sound;
 - September 1986 -- Successful Delta launch, track, and intercept in space of target vehicles.

SDI: Also a Prudent Hedge Against Existing Soviet Strategic Defense Programs

- o The Soviet Union has upgraded the world's only deployed Anti-Ballistic Missile defense system, which protects Greater Moscow, and is constructing a large missile tracking radar in Siberia, in violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.
- o The Soviets have deployed the world's only operational weapon for destroying satellites.

SDI -- Enhance Peace/Safer World

Gallup Organization (1/25/85 - 1/28/85)

Question: In your opinion, would developing this system (Star Wars or space-based defense against nuclear attack) make the world safer from nuclear destruction or less safe?

Make world safer -- 50% Make world less safe -- 32%

Decision Making/Information (2/8/86 - 2/9/86)

Question: SDI, is a good idea because it will help deter a Soviet attack, increase the chance of reaching an arms control agreement, and reduce the risk of war. Others say that SDI, is a bad idea because it will upset the balance of power, accelerate the arms race, and increase the risk of war. Is SDI research a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea -- 62% Bad idea -- 31%

SDI -- Technical Feasibility

CBS News/New York Times (1/2/85 - 1/4/85)

Question: Ronald Reagan has proposed developing a defensive nuclear system in space that would destroy incoming missiles before they reach the United States, a system some people call Star Wars. Do you think such a system could work?

Yes -- 62% No -- 23%

SDI -- Arms Reduction

Louis Harris and Associates (3/2/85 - 3/5/85)

Question: Agree or disagree...Once the Russians knew we were successfully building a new anti-nuclear defense system, they would be much more willing to agree to a treaty that would halt the nuclear arms race.

Agree -- 52% Disagree -- 44%

Gallup Organization (1/25/85 - 1/28/85)

Question: Would the United States' developing this system Star Wars, a space-based defense against nuclear attack, increase or decrease the likelihood of reaching a nuclear arms agreement with the Soviet Union?

Increase -- 47% Decrease -- 32%

THE PRESIDENT'S ICELAND MEETING WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEVExecutive Summary

The President went to Iceland to promote the main objectives of American foreign policy: true peace and greater freedom in the world. He met with General Secretary Gorbachev for 10 hours of frank and substantive direct talks. We achieved our objectives.

The President focused on a broad four point agenda for improved U.S.-Soviet relations: Human Rights; Arms Reductions; the Resolution of Regional Conflicts; and Expanding Bilateral Contacts and Communications.

Increasing and Overwhelming Public Support

Private media polls immediately following the Iceland meeting found overwhelming support by the American people for the President.

- o The Wall Street Journal/NBC News and the New York Times/CBS News polls registered 71% and 72% (respectively) approved of the President's handling of the Iceland meeting.

Building Upon Iceland Meeting

- o Never before in the history of arms control negotiations has so much progress been made in so many areas, in so short a time.
- o The U.S. and Soviet Union came very close to an agreement that would secure massive reductions of the most threatening weapon systems: offensive ballistic missiles.
- o Mr. Gorbachev's non-negotiable terms on the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) would have perpetuated America's vulnerability to Soviet missiles. Where the security of the American people and our Allies is involved, no agreement is better than a bad agreement.
- o SDI was a main inducement for the Soviets to negotiate for deep cuts in offensive arsenals. SDI remains the best insurance policy that any future arms reduction agreements will be implemented and complied with by the Soviets.
- o Notwithstanding the disagreements on SDI, the President is calling upon the Soviet leadership to follow through on arms reduction accomplishments at Reykjavik and continue to discuss our differences on strategic defense, which have been narrowed.
- o We will vigorously pursue, at the same time, progress in other areas of the agenda, especially human rights.

WHITE HOUSE TALKING POINTS

STORAGE

- o We achieved historic steps because of renewed confidence and strength from: new cohesiveness and optimism on the part of the American people, renewed economic dynamism, refurbished military strength, and allied cohesion.
- o Our differences on strategic defense center on the fact that the Soviets wish to perpetuate a strategic situation based on the threat of mass annihilation of populations.
- o In our view, if our research succeeds (and recent results make us optimistic) we think it far better to rely increasingly on defensive systems--which threaten no one--with sharp reductions of offensive nuclear weapons, near-term elimination of all U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles, and hopefully the ultimate elimination of ALL nuclear weapons.
- o We ask the USSR to consider: Do they really want to hold up historic achievements just so they can continue to have the capability of destroying the world?

ARMS REDUCTION AT ICELAND -- HISTORIC PROGRESS

Unlike the past, the U.S. is now dealing from a position of strength and confidence. General Secretary Gorbachev suggested the Iceland meeting, and the President accepted in an effort to further the US/Soviet dialogue in all four areas of the agenda.

- o Because of U.S. strength and confidence, and the inducement of SDI to negotiate, unprecedented progress was made toward dramatically reducing offensive nuclear arsenals.
- o Mr. Gorbachev held progress in all areas, including arms reduction, hostage to his non-negotiable demand that the U.S. cut back and effectively kill SDI. The President insisted that SDI remain viable under the terms of the 1972 ABM Treaty, which, unlike the Soviet Union, the U.S. has complied with.
- o To break the deadlock, the President offered: A 10 year commitment not to deploy any future strategic defense system, coupled with 50% reduction in U.S. and Soviet strategic forces in the next five years and mutual and total elimination of all U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles over the following five years.
- o Mr. Gorbachev rejected the President's offer, refusing to allow SDI testing -- the heart of any research program.

Current Impasse; Future Opportunities

- o Mr. Gorbachev's non-negotiable terms on SDI would have perpetuated America's vulnerability to Soviet missiles. Where the security of the American people and our Allies is involved, no agreement is better than a bad agreement.
- o The USSR wants to continue to base global security on the threat of mutual annihilation. President Reagan seeks a safer world with peace and deterrence based increasingly on defensive means.
- o In 1984, when the Soviets failed to achieve their objectives to weaken NATO's defensive capability in Europe, through negotiating intransigence and continuing SS-20 deployments, they walked out of all nuclear arms negotiations. In 1985, they were back at the table and, in 1986, for the first time, dramatic progress has been made toward mutual reductions.
- o The President believes that additional meetings can build on the major progress toward arms reduction and achieve final breakthrough agreements. The President's invitation for a U.S. Summit -- the objective that Iceland was intended to prepare for -- remains open.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1986

Dear Editor:

Attached, for your information, is an issue brief on the President's Iceland meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev, arms reduction at Iceland, and the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Also included in this package is the address by the President to the nation on October 13, 1986.

If you have any questions concerning these materials, please contact the Office of Public Affairs at (202)456-7170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Gibs" followed by a horizontal line.

Thomas F. Gibson
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Public Affairs

WHITE HOUSE ISSUE BRIEFTHE PRESIDENT'S ICELAND MEETING WITH GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEVExecutive Summary

The President went to Iceland to promote the main objectives of American foreign policy: true peace and greater freedom in the world. He met with General Secretary Gorbachev for 10 hours of frank and substantive direct talks. We achieved our objectives.

The President focused on a broad four point agenda for improved U.S.-Soviet relations: Human Rights; Arms Reductions; the Resolution of Regional Conflicts; and Expanding Bilateral Contacts and Communications.

Increasing and Overwhelming Public Support

Private media polls immediately following the Iceland meeting found overwhelming support by the American people for the President.

- o The Wall Street Journal/NBC News and the New York Times/CBS News polls registered 71% and 72% (respectively) approved of the President's handling of the Iceland meeting.

Building Upon Iceland Meeting

- o Never before in the history of arms control negotiations has so much progress been made in so many areas, in so short a time.
- o The U.S. and Soviet Union came very close to an agreement that would secure massive reductions of the most threatening weapon systems: offensive ballistic missiles.
- o Mr. Gorbachev's non-negotiable terms on the President's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) would have perpetuated America's vulnerability to Soviet missiles. Where the security of the American people and our Allies is involved, no agreement is better than a bad agreement.
- o SDI was a main inducement for the Soviets to negotiate for deep cuts in offensive arsenals. SDI remains the best insurance policy that any future arms reduction agreements will be implemented and complied with by the Soviets.
- o Notwithstanding the disagreements on SDI, the President is calling upon the Soviet leadership to follow through on arms reduction accomplishments at Reykjavik and continue to discuss our differences on strategic defense, which have been narrowed.
- o We will vigorously pursue, at the same time, progress in other areas of the agenda, especially human rights.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUE BRIEFARMS REDUCTION AT ICELAND -- HISTORIC PROGRESS

Unlike the past, the U.S. is now dealing from a position of strength and confidence. General Secretary Gorbachev suggested the Iceland meeting, and the President accepted in an effort to further the US/Soviet dialogue in all four areas of the agenda.

- o Because of U.S. strength and confidence, and the inducement of SDI to negotiate, unprecedented progress was made toward dramatically reducing offensive nuclear arsenals.
- o Mr. Gorbachev held progress in all areas, including arms reduction, hostage to his non-negotiable demand that the U.S. cut back and effectively kill SDI. The President insisted that SDI remain viable under the terms of the 1972 ABM Treaty, which, unlike the Soviet Union, the U.S. has complied with.
- o To break the deadlock, the President offered: A 10 year commitment not to deploy any future strategic defense system, coupled with 50% reduction in U.S. and Soviet strategic forces in the next five years and mutual and total elimination of all U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles over the following five years.
- o Mr. Gorbachev rejected the President's offer, refusing to allow SDI testing -- the heart of any research program.

Current Impasse; Future Opportunities

- o Mr. Gorbachev's non-negotiable terms on SDI would have perpetuated America's vulnerability to Soviet missiles. Where the security of the American people and our Allies is involved, no agreement is better than a bad agreement.
- o The USSR wants to continue to base global security on the threat of mutual annihilation. President Reagan seeks a safer world with peace and deterrence based increasingly on defensive means.
- o In 1984, when the Soviets failed to achieve their objectives to weaken NATO's defensive capability in Europe, through negotiating intransigence and continuing SS-20 deployments, they walked out of all nuclear arms negotiations. In 1985, they were back at the table and, in 1986, for the first time, dramatic progress has been made toward mutual reductions.
- o The President believes that additional meetings can build on the major progress toward arms reduction and achieve final breakthrough agreements. The President's invitation for a U.S. Summit -- the objective that Iceland was intended to prepare for -- remains open.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUE BRIEF

SDI Not the Problem: It's the Solution

- o In SDI, we are investigating defensive systems to enhance future security for America and our Allies by being able to destroy attacking missiles. It will have no offensive function. There is no rational reason to oppose SDI research.
- o Insurance -- Why should the Soviets, in opposing SDI, insist that America and its Allies remain vulnerable to Soviet missile attack? Strategic defenses would help underwrite arms reduction agreements against cheating or abrogation, while defending against attack from other countries.
- o By denying a potential attacker hope of gaining meaningful military benefit, SDI is the best lever to achieve real arms reductions. SDI deters use of offensive systems, thereby rendering future investments in offensive systems imprudent.
- o The Soviets have longstanding and massive strategic defense programs of their own, going well beyond research, and have the only operational anti-ballistic missile system in the world, a system they are steadily improving.
- o By refusing the President's far-reaching arms reduction offer and making his own non-negotiable demand on the United States, Gorbachev refused an historic opportunity for progress toward ridding the world of nuclear weapons.
- o Nonetheless, the ideas and progress for radically reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons presented at Reykjavik can be built upon at the table in Geneva.

Human Rights

Respect for human rights is as important to peace as arms reductions because peace requires trust. The President told Gorbachev the Soviets' human rights performance is an obstacle for improved relations between our two countries.

- o A country that breaks faith with its own people cannot be trusted to keep faith with foreign powers.
- o The Soviet Union signed the 1975 Helsinki Accords. The Soviets should abide by them -- allowing free emigration and the reunification of divided families, and religious and cultural freedoms -- instead of throwing those who monitor the Soviet compliance (e.g. Yuri Orlov) in jail.
- o We will continue to press for improvements in the coming weeks and months.
- o The Soviets, for the first time, agreed to regular bilateral discussions on humanitarian and human rights issues.

Expanded cultural exchanges -- The President reaffirmed his commitment to continue to broaden and expand people-to-people exchanges -- where Soviet citizens and Americans may see first hand more of each other's country and culture.

Regional Conflicts -- The President raised the serious problems caused in the world by Soviet military occupation of Afghanistan, and continued military support of the regimes in Angola, Nicaragua, and Cambodia, that are waging war on their own people. We cannot take seriously the token troop "withdrawals" from Afghanistan which they have announced.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUE BRIEFTHE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE (SDI)

The U.S. and her Allies are defenseless against a deliberate or accidental nuclear attack.

- o The U.S. presently deters nuclear attack by threatening retaliation. SDI offers a safer and more moral alternative: employing technology to protect people instead of threatening their annihilation.

Challenge for the Present and Insurance for the Future

- o SDI is a broad-based program to demonstrate the feasibility of effective strategic defenses. Like the Apollo Project, SDI is a revolutionary program that merits a full-scale national effort.
- o SDI taps the finest scientific minds in the U.S. and other countries to investigate a range of defensive technologies. This research will lead toward an informed decision on defensive options in the early 1990s.
- o SDI has induced the Soviets to negotiate for deep cuts in offensive arsenals. It is the best insurance policy that any future arms reduction agreements will be implemented and complied with by the Soviets, and it guards against ballistic missile attack by third countries.

SDI Progress

- o Some in Congress would cripple SDI with short-sighted budget cuts giving the Soviets a key concession they have not been able to win through negotiations. Sustained research has already produced major technical advances:
 - June 1984 -- a non-nuclear interceptor destroyed an unarmed warhead in space;
 - Fall 1985 -- successful laser tests compensate for atmospheric distortion while tracking rockets in flight;
 - Spring 1986 -- A high-power laser destroyed a static target;
 - June 1986 -- a self-guided missile intercepted a target moving at three times the speed of sound;
 - September 1986 -- Successful Delta launch, track, and intercept in space of target vehicles.

SDI: Also a Prudent Hedge Against Existing Soviet Strategic Defense Programs

- o The Soviet Union has upgraded the world's only deployed Anti-Ballistic Missile defense system, which protects Greater Moscow, and is constructing a large missile tracking radar in Siberia, in violation of the 1972 ABM Treaty.
- o The Soviets have deployed the world's only operational weapon for destroying satellites.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SDI

The media and political opponents of SDI have found it convenient to present SDI in caricature, as the "so-called 'Star Wars' proposal." It is no wonder that many Americans are confused about the President's proposal and think the U.S. currently has a defense against missiles!

- o An Associated press-Media General poll released in August found that 60 percent of Americans felt that the U.S. had either a good or an excellent defense against a Soviet missile attack.
- o In fact, the U.S. is utterly defenseless against Soviet rockets.

Americans Want Enhanced Security

When the American people are asked to evaluate concepts, rather than the labels such as "Star Wars," they support SDI. Evidence:

Two days after the President's return from Iceland, polls taken by major news organizations showed the public supports President Reagan's refusal to surrender his Strategic Defense Initiative.

- A New York Times/CBS News poll shows 68 percent support.
- Nearly 60 percent polled by the Washington Post/ABC News poll said Reagan should retain his commitment to SDI.
- According to the Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, only 15 percent of the American people think SDI is a bad idea.

Penn + Schoen Associates (9/27/86)

Question: SDI is a research program to develop a system to destroy incoming nuclear missiles before they reach their targets. Do you favor or oppose the U.S. going ahead with the research and development phases of SDI?

Favor -- 81% Oppose -- 13%

Question: If such a system could be developed, would you favor or oppose using it in the United States?

Favor -- 78% Oppose -- 13%

ABC News (1/4/85 - 1/6/85)

Question: Do you favor or oppose developing such defensive weapons (which use lasers and particle beams to shoot down enemy missiles), or what?

Favor -- 49% Oppose -- 44%

Heritage Foundation/Sindlinger & Co. Poll (5/27/85)

89 percent of the American people would support a Strategic Defense program if it would make a Soviet Missile attack less likely.

WHITE HOUSE ISSUE BRIEF

SDI -- Enhance Peace/Safer World

Gallup Organization (1/25/85 - 1/28/85)

Question: In your opinion, would developing this system (Star Wars or space-based defense against nuclear attack) make the world safer from nuclear destruction or less safe?

Make world safer -- 50% Make world less safe -- 32%

Decision Making/Information (2/8/86 - 2/9/86)

Question: SDI, is a good idea because it will help deter a Soviet attack, increase the chance of reaching an arms control agreement, and reduce the risk of war. Others say that SDI, is a bad idea because it will upset the balance of power, accelerate the arms race, and increase the risk of war. Is SDI research a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea -- 62% Bad idea -- 31%

SDI -- Technical Feasibility

CBS News/New York Times (1/2/85 - 1/4/85)

Question: Ronald Reagan has proposed developing a defensive nuclear system in space that would destroy incoming missiles before they reach the United States, a system some people call Star Wars. Do you think such a system could work?

Yes -- 62% No -- 23%

SDI -- Arms Reduction

Louis Harris and Associates (3/2/85 - 3/5/85)

Question: Agree or disagree...Once the Russians knew we were successfully building a new anti-nuclear defense system, they would be much more willing to agree to a treaty that would halt the nuclear arms race.

Agree -- 52% Disagree -- 44%

Gallup Organization (1/25/85 - 1/28/85)

Question: Would the United States' developing this system Star Wars, a space-based defense against nuclear attack, increase or decrease the likelihood of reaching a nuclear arms agreement with the Soviet Union?

Increase -- 47% Decrease -- 32%

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR SENIOR WHITE HOUSE STAFF

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN 

SUBJECT: Iceland

On making SDI a partisan issue -- we are late.

ON THE RECORD

"The only way Star Wars is going to become a bargaining chip [in future negotiations] is if Congress comes back next year and takes a meat ax to it."

--- Rep. Ed Markey
Washington Post, 10/15/86

"...it is difficult to believe that any other President since World War II would have ignored the opportunity that knocked at Reykjavik."

--- Sen. Teddy Kennedy
New York Times, 10/16/86

"Apparently the President got right up to the brink of making and accepting those initiatives and then backed away for some strange reason."

--- Sen. Gary Hart
ABC News, 10/13/86

"The President came within a whisper of getting an agreement and held it all up because he wanted to pursue his dream of 'Star Wars.' To me, his dream is a nightmare." (emphasis added)

--- Rep. Tom Downey
CBS News, 10/13/86

"He [Reagan] made a mistake in rushing to a 'no' judgment. He should have kept the process going."

--- Rep. Bob Edgar
Democrat candidate for Senate
Washington Post, 10/14/86

"The negotiations have broken down over the Administration's commitment to a non-existent system. They seem to ignore the fact that the Soviet warheads are real. I must admit I find difficulty with the logic."

--- Senator Patrick Leahy (VT)
Rutland Herald, 10/14/86

"I think it was a serious mistake to let star wars destroy the chance for real arms control now."

--- Sen. Donald Riegle
Congressional Record, 10/14/86
p. S16014

"...the House gave in to his pleas and untied his hands, and all he did was sit on them at the summit."

--- Rep. Pete Stark
Congressional Record, 10/15/86
p. H10138

"...the United States delegation went to Iceland empty handed, and returned to the United States empty handed and confused."

--- Rep. Berkley Bedell
Congressional Record, 10/14/86
p. H9904

"...the question is why rather than compromise his dream of a 'Star Wars' defense President Reagan walked away from the possibility of achieving the most significant progress on nuclear arms control since the nuclear age began."

--- Sen. Teddy Kennedy
New York Times, 10/16/86

"This weekend we had a chance to cash in Star Wars for the best deal the Russians have offered an American President since they sold Alaska for \$7 million and Ronald Reagan turned it down cold."

--- Rep. Ed Markey
NBC News, 10/13/86

"The President promised results and came back without one. He came back empty-handed. We pay these men alot of money and give them alot of honor to produce results. Every predecessor in the nuclear era has come to an agreement with the Soviets in some way on nuclear arms, but Ronald Reagan.... We lost an historic opportunity."

--- Mark Green, Democrat candidate
for Senate, press conference,
10/16/86

"Mr. Reagan has fueled the widespread fears that when the chips are down he is not serious about arms control."

--- Sen. Teddy Kennedy
New York Times, 10/16/86

U.S. Senate candidate Endicott Peabody charged here yesterday that President Reagan missed an "opportunity for real arms reduction" at the mini-summit the Democrat called the "wreck of Reykjavik."

--- Manchester Union Leader. 10/15/86

"Plainly, the summit was a failure. I'm concerned that the President failed to nail down an opportunity for elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe, for a 50 percent cut in missiles worldwide, and probably an opportunity for some reduction in repression in the Soviet Union. That was not nailed down because the President stuck to a visionary, theoretical, unproven defense of the United States that most scientists feel won't work, a defense that will not be ready for at least another 10 years, whereas these agreements could have been fulfilled instantly."

--- Alan Cranston
San Francisco Chronicle, 10/14/86

"The President has sent the world a message that he doesn't want arms control -- that he has put his faith in the stardust and moonbeams of his Star Wars fantasies."

--- Rep. Ed Markey
Wall Street Journal, 10/14/86

"The Administration has only itself to blame for a summit that was hastily agreed to and poorly prepared. Now it must take responsibility for getting the arms control process back on track."

--- Sen. Edward Kennedy
Congressional Record, 10/14/86
p. S16016

"The administration negotiators had their chance, and they failed."

--- Rep. Tom Downey
Congressional Record, 10/14/86
p. H9904

"Congress should not hesitate to fill the void. Mr. Reagan has not taken us to any summit, on the contrary, he seems to have led the way into one of the deepest valleys in recent arms control history."

--- Rep. Jim Moody
Congressional Record, 10/15/86
p. H10104

"...the Soviets made virtually all of the concessions at Reykjavik on offensive forces. When the President was called upon to make concessions on SDI, he refused -- and the summit fell apart."

--- Sen. Edward Kennedy
Congressional Record, 10/14/86
p. S16016

Seconding the motion:

"We had proposed large-scale, significant proposals and ones that were based on compromise but we saw no attempt on the U.S. side to respond in kind, to meet us halfway."

--- General Secretary Gorbachev
New York Times, 10/15/86



NATIONAL
JEWISH
COALITION

Chris Gersten
Executive Director

RECEIVED OPL-WW

86 OCT 20 A 9: 25

October 16, 1986

Dear Mari,

Thought you'd be interested
in the attached letter.

Regards,

Chris
Chris

(202) 547-7701
415 SECOND STREET, N.E.
SUITE 100
WASHINGTON, DC 20002



NATIONAL
JEWISH
COALITION

October 15, 1986

Max M. Fisher
Honorary Chairman
Richard J. Fox
National Chairman
George Klein
Gordon Zacks
Co-chairmen
Ivan Boesky
Finance Chairman

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:


On behalf of the National Jewish Coalition, we would like to express our profound appreciation for the courage and commitment to freedom that you demonstrated in Reykjavik.

In particular, we commend you for declining to accept severe restrictions on the further development of the Strategic Defense Initiative in exchange for deep cuts in the superpowers' strategic arsenals. We agree that an arms-control accord that does not provide for real guarantees against violations would leave the West weak and vulnerable. SDI seeks to provide such guarantees, to the United States, to Western Europe, to Israel and to our allies everywhere. As such, it must not be bargained away for pledges which may not be met.

In addition, we would like to thank you for making the issue of human rights in general and Soviet Jewry in particular a focus of your discussions with Mr. Gorbachev. The attention that you and your administration have paid to Soviet human-rights violations and to specific cases of abuse is unparalleled. Your efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry, and your commitment to winning their freedom are greatly appreciated by us, and by Jews throughout the world.

Sincerely,


Max M. Fisher


Richard J. Fox


George Klein


Gordon Zacks


Ivan Boesky

Possible events:

Arms Control

1. Briefing and luncheon with RR for science writers and editors
2. VP and Cabinet-level briefing for Washington press corps
3. Luncheon with RR for pro-SDI columnists
4. RR meeting with pro-SDI scientists
5. RR visit to SDI research facilities
6. RR speeches on SDI to appropriate forums outside of Washington, D.C.

Human Rights

1. RR commemorates 30th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution, October 1986
2. RR/VP participation at human and religious rights dinner sponsored by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Waldorf-Astoria, New York, October 25
3. RR meeting with divided spouses
4. RR meeting with Soviet Jewry leaders or address at major Jewish convention

Regional Issues

1. RR meeting with Afghan freedom fighters
2. RR meeting with victims of Cuban violence in Angola
3. RR meeting with Indochinese refugee leaders

Former Presidents: If Carter could be convinced (and he should, since we just did him such a big favor and Brzezinsky is on our side), we should arrange for the three living former Presidents to come to the White House to meet with the President and proclaim support, or at least issue simultaneous statements. Nixon and Ford at least should be willing to do television interviews in support.

Former NSC advisors: At this level, they should be willing to brief jointly at the White House, appear on Nightline and do other interviews.

Scientists for SDI: We have a schedule proposal approved, but pending a date, to bring scientists in to discuss the program with the President. This could be either a Cabinet Room or 450 meeting designed to demonstrate how realistic the program is.

Young scientists: This event would take the opposite format of the one above and would be spun toward the idea of preserving our freedom for the next generation. (Many youth events could be arranged with this twist).

Site visit: As has been proposed, the President should visit a facility where the program is being researched and tested.

450 Briefings: There is no end to the groups we could brief at the White House to provide a continuing forum for our messages. We could also turn a myriad of other events to this purpose. Generally, we should echo the comments of Brzezinsky this morning when he declared the Soviet focus on this program "ominous." We should remind the public at every opportunity of their outrageous and aggressive behavior over the years and around the world. We should point out that the Soviets are well along the way to having their own defense and they want to rob us of ours. We should point out the unsettling manner in which they tried to trick/trap the President. We should remind people how they walked out of Geneva and then walked back in when we stood firm. Our surrogates should attack our opposition for siding with the Soviets; make them appear weak (as they are). We should evoke the same images we did in the past -- peace through strength, deeds not words, dangerous world, etc. After all, the President was not negotiating with Great Britain in Reykjavik, and some people seem not to see the difference. We are not dealing with Great Britain here, and some people seem to forget it.

POST-ICELAND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Administration public outreach efforts in preparation for the Iceland meeting, and the great interest exhibited by the media and general public, gives us an excellent opportunity, especially during the next month, to promote its objectives in three key areas of U.S./Soviet relations; arms control, human rights and regional conflicts. Although the media is focusing 99% of its attention on arms control issues, the Iceland meeting will heighten both media and general public interest in all aspects of U.S./Soviet relations. In this atmosphere, almost any RR or VP event aimed at getting a particular Administration position publicized will have an excellent opportunity for succeeding.

Of course there is no reason to believe that this heightened interest in U.S./Soviet relations will have a long lifespan. Under normal circumstances, this interest would probably taper off slowly after 3-4 weeks. Unfortunately, this time period coincides with this year's election cycle. The Congressional elections will hamper a post-Iceland public outreach strategy by (a) diverting media and public attention from international issues in general, and (b) siphoning off time from RR's and VP's schedules for post-Iceland events.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that U.S./Soviet relations will be a major point on the Administration's agenda over the next two years. Thus, it would serve the Administration well to take advantage of public interest by promoting its foreign policy agenda through an aggressive public outreach effort. Such an effort is especially important, should the Soviets and/or media initiate a "Iceland failed because of SDI" campaign, allowing the Soviets to get off the hook on human rights and regional issues.

Arms Control: Perhaps like no event over the past three years, the Iceland meeting has raised public curiosity about SDI. The heightened public curiosity give us an excellent opportunity to educate the general public on SDI. It is especially important for the Administration to nurture and develop a broad pro-SDI constituency, as SDI's opponents may seek to "punish" the President for his Iceland "failure" by further cutting SDI funding and including harmful unilateral restrictions on arms research, testing and development.

Possible events:

1. Briefing and luncheon with ~~the~~ RR for science writers and editors
2. VP and Cabinet level briefing for Washington press corps
3. Luncheon with RR for pro-SDI columnists

4. RR meeting with pro-SDI scientists
5. RR visit to SDI research facilities
6. RR speeches on SDI to appropriate forums outside of Washington, D.C.

These Presidential and Vice Presidential events should be supplemented by events at the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level.

Human Rights: The issue of human rights is one which naturally puts the Soviets on the defensive. Increased public understanding of Soviet human rights abuses would automatically increase U.S./Western leverage over the Soviets at any future negotiating forums on any issues.

1. RR commemorates 30th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution, October 1986
2. RR/VP participation at human and religious rights dinner sponsored by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Waldorf Astoria, New York, October 25.
3. RR meeting with divided spouses
4. RR meeting with Soviet Jewry leaders or address at major Jewish convention

Regional Issues: Just as is the case with human rights, the media and public will have heightened interest in U.S./Soviet disagreements in regional conflicts.

1. RR meeting with Afghanistanian freedom fighters
2. RR meeting with victims of Cuban violence in Angola
3. RR meeting with Indochinese refugee leaders

DRAFT

POST-ICELAND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Administration public outreach efforts in preparation for the Iceland meeting, and the great interest exhibited by the media and general public, gives us an excellent opportunity, especially during the next month, to promote its objectives in three key areas of U.S./Soviet relations; arms control, human rights and regional conflicts. Although the media is focusing 99% of its attention on arms control issues, the Iceland meeting will heighten both media and general public interest in all aspects of U.S./Soviet relations. In this atmosphere, almost any RR or VP event aimed at getting a particular Administration position publicized will have an excellent opportunity for succeeding.

Of course there is no reason to believe that this heightened interest in U.S./Soviet relations will have a long lifespan. Under normal circumstances, this interest would probably taper off slowly after 3-4 weeks. Unfortunately, this time period coincides with this year's election cycle. The Congressional elections will hamper a post-Iceland public outreach strategy by (a) diverting media and public attention from international issues in general, and (b) siphoning off time from RR's and VP's schedules for post-Iceland events.

Nonetheless, the fact remains that U.S./Soviet relations will be a major point on the Administration's agenda over the next two years. Thus, it would serve the Administration well to take advantage of public interest by promoting its foreign policy agenda through an aggressive public outreach effort. Such an effort is especially important, should the Soviets and/or media initiate a "Iceland failed because of SDI" campaign, allowing the Soviets to get off the hook on human rights and regional issues.

Arms Control: Perhaps like no event over the past three years, the Iceland meeting has raised public curiosity about SDI. The heightened public curiosity give us an excellent opportunity to educate the general public on SDI. It is especially important for the Administration to nurture and develop a broad pro-SDI constituency, as SDI's opponents may seek to "punish" the President for his Iceland "failure" by further cutting SDI funding and including harmful unilateral restrictions on arms research, testing and development.

Possible events:

1. Briefing and luncheon with the RR for science writers and editors
2. VP and Cabinet level briefing for Washington press corps
3. Luncheon with RR for pro-SDI columnists

DRAFT

DRAFT

4. RR meeting with pro-SDI scientists
5. RR visit to SDI research facilities
6. RR speeches on SDI to appropriate forums outside of Washington, D.C.

These Presidential and Vice Presidential events should be supplemented by events at the Cabinet and sub-Cabinet level.

Human Rights: The issue of human rights is one which naturally puts the Soviets on the defensive. Increased public understanding of Soviet human rights abuses would automatically increase U.S./Western leverage over the Soviets at any future negotiating forums on any issues.

1. RR commemorates 30th Anniversary of Hungarian Revolution, October 1986
2. RR/VP participation at human and religious rights dinner sponsored by Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, Waldorf Astoria, New York, October 25.
3. RR meeting with divided spouses
4. RR meeting with Soviet Jewry leaders or address at major Jewish convention

Regional Issues: Just as is the case with human rights, the media and public will have heightened interest in U.S./Soviet disagreements in regional conflicts.

1. RR meeting with Afghanistanian freedom fighters
2. RR meeting with victims of Cuban violence in Angola
3. RR meeting with Indochinese refugee leaders

DRAFT

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 12/28/80

TO:

Mari

*2:00 PM
12/28/80*

FROM:

LINAS KOJELIS *UK*
Special Assistant to the President
for Public Liaison
Room 196 OEOB, Ext. 6573

The attached is for your:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Review & Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct Response | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Draft Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> Signature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please Return By _____ | |

Comments:

the OBSERVER

NOVEMBER 1986

VOL. 3 NO. 11

Reagan, Orlov Meet Lithuanian Leaders

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

Aras Lingys

Three Lithuanian community leaders were among twenty religious and ethnic activists to meet with President Reagan and recently freed Russian dissident Yuri Orlov for a pre-Iceland conference at the White House, October 7th. The Lithuanians were Bishop Paulius Baltakis, bishop of Lithuanians outside Lithuania; Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, executive director of Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid; and Vytautas Volertas, a representative of the Lithuanian American Community.

The conference was held to assure US religious leaders that President Reagan will discuss religious and human rights concerns with Gorbachev during their Rejkavik, Iceland meeting. Reagan mentioned that he will bring up Lithuanian prisoners of conscience and the



Before the Rejkavik summit in Iceland, President Reagan called together twenty religious leaders to the White House to meet with recently freed Russian human rights activist Yuri Orlov (seated to the right of President Reagan). Three Lithuanian representatives

were present: Bishop Paulius Baltakis (seated to the right of Yuri and Mrs. Orlov), Vytautas Volertas, a representative of the Lithuanian Community (seated at the end of the table) and Rev. Casimir Pugevicius, Director of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

violation of believers' rights in Catholic Lithuania.

Orlov, a founding member of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group, recently freed from exile in Siberia, said that the Soviet Union is trying to fool the US. The freeing of token dissidents like himself and Anatoly Shcharansky does not show that the Soviet Union is liberalizing its stance on dissidents and defenders of human rights. Since Simas Kudirka, no Lithuanian political prisoner has been released to the West.

As the world press has reported, the Iceland conference ended in a stalemate on arms control agreements. There have been no indications whether president Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev discussed human rights and religious freedom in the USSR.

Rome Celebrations Rescheduled

The celebrations marking the 600th anniversary of Lithuanian Christianity have been rescheduled for a later date. The commemoration, with Pope John Paul II presiding, will be held June 28th, 1987 at the Vatican. It has been announced by the Vatican that on this day the Venerated Servant of God, Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis will be beatified.

The change of date was made after it was learned that Soviet authorities will not allow any Lithuanians, even priests and bishops, from occupied Lithuania to travel to Rome for the Christianity jubilee. The date of the Vatican celebrations will now coincide with celebrations taking place in Lithuania.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1069
Chicago, IL

LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC
FEDERATION OF AMERICA
4545 West 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60629

9/86

WHO - 436 OROB
White House Office
Executive Office of the President
Washington, DC 20500
ATTN: L. Kojellis

Joking Comrades Page 7

The Observer, ISSN 0887-2600, a newspaper published monthly by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America at 4545 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Illinois, 60629. Telephone (312) 585-8500. Copyright ©1986 by the Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation of America. All rights reserved. Annual subscription \$10.00. Single issue \$1.00.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor

Vida Kuprytė

Associate Editors

Marvin Katilius-Boydston
Gintė Damušis
Mykolas Drunga
Ramūnė Kubilius
Arunas Liulevičius
Grasilda Reinyš
Rev. Antanas Saulaitis
Linās Sidrys

Managing Editor

Jonas Kuprys

Contributing Editors

Algis Krasauskas
Vėjas Liulevičius
Daiva Markelis
Stanley Pleza
Mecys Šikaitis
Marian Skabeikis
Aldona Zailiskas

General inquiries and correspondence on editorial matters and advertising, as well as news, letters to the editors and all other material for publication should be directed to the editorial offices. All material must be signed and accompanied by an address and telephone number for verification. Unsolicited contributions are subject to acceptance by the Editorial Board, may be edited and cannot be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Deadline for submission is the first day of the month preceding the month of publication. Neither the editors nor the publishers assume responsibility for the statements or expressions of opinion made by contributors.

Networking Our Marathon

Antanas Saulaitis

Among the thousands of runners in the classic Chicago, New York and Boston marathons, there is always a small number of foreign athletes. They are usually cheered on by a similarly small number of their fellow countrymen. To make up for their lack of numbers, the flag waving group of supporters encourages their runner continually throughout the race. They are with the runner at the start, then they jump into a car drive ahead of the contestants, position themselves at another station, wave and cheer as their runner passes them by and then rush ahead along the route, waving and cheering their runner till the finish. Solidarity with the runner, good organization and a shared enthusiasm amplify the effect on the participants and the viewers.

Immediately after World War I, the great powers wondered what to do with the newly resurfaced states of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland. It is said that the negotiators wanted a buffer between the newly communist Soviet Union and Western Europe, but did not believe that the relatively small Baltic States could hold their cultural, economic, political and military position. The decisions made were more favorable to the better-known and larger Poland, which included eastern Lithuania — the region of Vilnius. An important factor in the Allied decisions was the presence in France of many of Polish emigres, or rather,

The Lithuanian marathon is not 26.2 miles or 40 kilometers, but (in 1986), 46 years of effort to keep the matter of human rights in Lithuania in the public eye.

the descendents of those who left their native country during the uprisings of 1795, 1831, and 1863.

A young lady of Lithuanian ancestry, having come to the United States from South America on a temporary visa, applied for an extension. Her request was granted in a mailgram which ended in the word "Linkėjimų" (Best Wishes in Lithuanian).

By now most persons of Lithuanian ancestry know, and not merely suspect, that people of the same background can be found almost anywhere on earth. It has happened more than once, that Lithuanian players were on different teams during international basketball championships, the Olympic games and other events. It is no surprise that Lithuanian communities exist in the older Eastern cities of the US and are growing in Western and Southern US cities. As unpleasant as the association may be, we often say that Lithuanians are like cockroaches — they thrive everywhere despite the periodic visits from overt or subtle exterminators.

The Lithuanian marathon is not 26.2 miles or 40 kilometers, but (in

1986) 46 years of effort to keep the matter of human rights in Lithuania in the public eye. On a recent trip to a Northwestern US city, the only Lithuanian adult in a large school requested half hour talks about the Church in Lithuania for ten class groups. Several hundred young people heard about the heritage, faith and hopes of Lithuania because one school official has persevered in this marathon, where so many world, national and local matters vie for attention. They may not be voters in the next election or referendum or volunteers in a public service organization, but when they see "Baltic States" or "Lithuania" in print or conversation, they are bound to remember.

New York is one of the cities which has more than one Lithuanian parish, and rather than delegating the observances of Lithuania's 600 year Christianity jubilee to the dominant parish, the organizers worked out a calendar of pilgrimages to each of the five institutions (four parishes and the Cultural Center) on the day of the patron saints, inviting any and all to participate in the other celebrations, much as the marathon supporters interspersing their support along the route.

Any collaboration among individuals, groups, communities or people of other heritages with similar goals enhances the ultimate effect of our efforts.

subscribe now!

Subscription \$10.00 Canada and overseas \$15.00



New subscription
 Please renew my subscription

Please enter my subscription to the OBSERVER

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

1 year.....\$10.00
2 years.....\$18.00

Address _____

Contribution \$ _____
(Tax deductible)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Total enclosed \$ _____

OBSERVER
4545 W. 63rd St.
Chicago, IL 60629

Make checks payable to The Observer

NOVEMBER 1986

VOL. 3

NO. 11

Presidents of major organizations on steering committee

Catholic Action to be Funded

The Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation has announced the formation of a national steering committee to head the Catholic Action Fund, the funding agency of the Lithuanian Catholic Federation. Headed by Bishop Vincentas Brizgys of Chicago, the exiled bishop of Kaunas, Lithuania, the committee encompasses all the major Catholic organizations in the United States including the Knights of Lithuania,

Ateitis Federation, World Catholic Conference and the Priests' League.

The Catholic Action Fund will be financing the major projects undertaken in connection with the Federation's continually expanding program of the lay apostolate. Among its current projects will be the financing of the American Catholic Congress scheduled for November of 1987 in Chicago. The Fund will also support youth programs and camps,

parish formation and growth, preservation and development of Lithuanian Catholic institutions, publication of materials for the English speaking Lithuanian Catholic community, encouraging new vocations, and numerous other projects which the Federation believes are critical to the future vitality of the American Lithuanian Catholic community. "If a substantial fund could be created, it is planned to increase

the frequency of *The Observer* to at least twice a month," committee member dr. Linas Sidrys noted.

The other members of the national steering committee include: Frank Petrauskas, president of the Knights of Lithuania; Rev. Albert Contons, president of the Lithuanian Priests' League; Msgr. Damasus Mozeris, Spiritual Director of the Catholic Federation; Dr. Leonard Simutis, president of the Catholic Alliance Foundation; Juozas Polkaitis, president of the Ateitis Federation; Dr. Linas Sidrys, president of the Lithuanian World Catholic Conference; Dr. Petras Kisiellus, president of the Catholic Press Society — the publishers of *Draugas*; Aldona Shumway, president of the American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Women's Alliance; and Algis Kazlauskas, president of the Bishop Baltakis' Pastoral Planning Committee.

New Faculties for Bishop Baltakis

The Vatican has announced that Bishop Baltakis has been granted special faculties to direct the ministry to the Lithuanian Catholic Community worldwide.

In a letter from the Pontifical Commission on Migration and Tourism, Archbishop Clarriseo informed Bishop Baltakis of the granting of six extraordinary faculties to aid in this ministry. The faculties granted deal specifically with the transfer and appointment of Lithuanian clergy who are commissioned to serve the Lithuanian Catholic Community. The letter authorizing the new faculties notes that the Code of

Canon Law provides for the erection of personal-national parishes. It goes on to state that the new Code of Canon Law establishes: "A principle of fundamental importance for this apostolate by which it is recommended for ordinaries to permit the transfer of their priests to other dioceses in cases of necessity, and to have them incardinated into the proper territory. The fact has not escaped this Pontifical commission that particular situations exist in which, unfortunately, the Episcopal Conferences of the Churches that receive the emigrants are unable to meet face to face, for various reasons,

with the Ordinaries of the Church of the emigrants' origin."

The Pontifical Commission granted Bishop Baltakis six specific powers dealing with the right to transfer priests between dioceses and to incardinate them into local dioceses.

Such faculties are to be utilized with the authorization and cooperation of local bishops.

Bishop Baltakis has also been granted the faculty to send candidates to the seminary with the intention that they serve the Lithuanian community upon ordination. The bishop is also to oversee their priestly formation and where necessary to incardinate them into Lithuanian dioceses.

Contributions to the Catholic Action Fund are tax-deductible and should be mailed to the Catholic Action Fund, 4645 W. 63rd Street, Chicago, IL 60629. Committee members hope to receive \$100,000 by the end of the year. Contributors are to make their contributions as soon as possible. Because of changes in the tax law, contributors will be able to write off more this year than in 1987. Therefore please be generous, but do not delay.

Lithuanian Christianity Stamp

A stamp has been minted to commemorate the 600 years of Lithuanian Christianity by the Lithuanian Scouts Association.

The stamp was designed by Julius Špakėnas and printed in four colors. A patch of almost black earth

in the foreground of the stamp symbolizes the dark state of occupied Lithuania. Behind it, green land represents hope for the future. A deep purple cross with Lithuanian folk motifs bisects the words, "Christianitas Lituaniae."

The stamp can be used on envelopes and would add a particularly nice touch when sending Christmas greetings.

Each sheet of 25 stamps costs \$1.25. Or you may order 10 sheets for \$10.00. Order them by writing to Aleksas Danasas, Lithuanian Scouts Fund Administrator, 29 Welles Ave., Dorchester, MA 02124. Make checks payable to The Lithuanian Scouts Association, Inc. — LSF. Include a stamped self-addressed envelope with your order.

Lithuanians Exposed in Vancouver



Two Lithuanian folk dance troupes represented Lithuania at Expo 86 in Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Toronto's *Gintaras* and Seattle, Washington's *Lietuvis* performed traditional folk dances for the well attended world class exposition.

1387-1987

CHRISTIANITAS
LITUANIAE

EDITORIALS

Urgent Action Needed Now

As we prepare to commemorate the 600 year anniversary of Christianity in Lithuania, we also note that our Catholic community in the United States has been functioning for some 100 years.

How will we commemorate these two historical milestones? Will we leave behind some institutional entity which will nourish and propagate the values to which our forefathers have dedicated their lives? Our community has numerous needs: the maintenance of our parishes and other community institutions; comprehensive programs aimed to bring our youth back into the community; the formation of new community centers; to bring all the sectors of our community into the work of the lay apostolate — of Catholic Action; a greater concerted effort to aid our brothers and sisters in occupied Lithuania. To accomplish all this and much more the Catholic Federation has initiated *The Catholic Action Fund*. A major fund drive is currently underway to raise \$100,000 before the end of this year. Founders of the Fund are urged to contribute \$1000 or more.

Presidents of all the major Lithuanian Catholic community organizations are represented on the Fund's steering committee. Therefore, the Fund will be a joint effort of the entire community — a most profound expression of its unity and determination to persevere.

The faithful of Lithuania are heroically struggling for and bearing great sacrifices to maintain their faith and cultural values — they look to us for support and a commitment to these same values. A generous response to the Catholic Action Fund drive will be a most concrete and positive statement that we stand together with them in their battle and

that the American Lithuanian Catholic Community for many years to come will continue to witness to their struggle.

Congratulations!

The Brooklyn-based human rights organization, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, is currently celebrating 25 years of public service. This anniversary was commemorated on October 25th with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral followed by a gala reception at the Waldorf Astoria.

Located in a converted two-story garage in Brooklyn, New York, Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid, headed by Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, accomplishes as much, if not more, than other community organizations working in the human rights area. It is noted for its ability to get the job done, and has daringly employed the latest communications technology available. While its primary focus is on directly aiding the persecuted faithful, it has also done an admirable job in keeping the Western world informed about Lithuania and its current struggle. To date the organization has delivered over a million dollars in aid to the Church behind the Iron Curtain. It has also undertaken the translation and publication of the underground Catholic paper, the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. On this occasion we congratulate Rev. Pugevičius and the members of his staff and we wish them God's blessing to persevere doing that which cannot be left undone.

LETTERS

Lithuanians "Guilty" Too

A letter to the editor, in the August issue of *The Observer*, bemoans the practice of changing Lithuanian names into English. He uses the example of *The Observer's* reference to Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis as "George" Matulaitis.

I have news for him. Lithuanians are also guilty of changing foreign names into their own language. When doing research on the Venetian ambassador to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 15th century, I discovered that his name was changed in a Lithuanian history from the Italian "Ambrogio" Contarini to the Lithuanian "Ambraziejus" Contarini. A more recent example of this practice is the reference by pre-World War I Lithuanians to Castle Garden, where prior to 1892,

immigrants were processed for entrance into the United States, as "Kaslegarne." This name stuck even when Ellis Island superceded Castle Garden as the point of entry.

Before casting stones, the letter writer should have done a little research. The practice of nationalizing foreign names, places and things, loosely called "transliteration," is an age-old and universal process of linguistic enrichment. Take the Lithuanian word "istorija." This is a perfect example of transliteration. The word originated in classical Greece as "historia," was borrowed by the Latins, and then by the English. The Lithuanian version may have come from the original Greek, or from the subsequent Latin version, or perhaps even from the English at fourth hand.

A wise man once said something about a rose by any other name smelling as sweet. And so whether

we refer to him as "Jurgis" or "George," all Lithuanians will rejoice in a fellow countryman's beatification next June.

Albert Cizauskas
Falls Church, VA

Taking Up Arms?

I enjoyed the photo of the 1930 Lithuania-Afghanistan non-aggression treaty signing printed in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *The Observer*. The translated fliers that are now being printed by Afghans requesting that Baltic soldiers put down their arms so that Afghans could pick them up was also interesting. I would have liked to see that flier in the original.

The Afghan request is, of course,

very dangerous. How would a Soviet army officer react to a soldier who goes to the front with an automatic rifle and grenades and returns without them? "Where are your weapons, comrade?" he'd ask. The soldier would certainly get a bullet through his head, or at best, a trip to white bear country.

If such risks need to be undertaken, wouldn't it be more effective for Lithuanian soldiers (as well as for Latvians, Estonians and Ukrainians), to shoot at Russian soldiers during moments of heavy fire. Not only would this deplete the Soviet army, but also, if the Soviets got wind of it, they might stop sending Baltic youths to Afghanistan. Of course, the risks are enormous.

In any case, we should always try to weaken the Soviet Union.

Algirdas Gustaitis
Los Angeles, CA

It Would Take a Polish Pope...

Linus Sidrys

I first learned that something was wrong with Lithuanian-Polish relations from my Catholic grade school textbooks. A whole page was devoted to a detailed description of Lithuania's patron saint, Father Bobola. I remember that my parents became quite upset about this rewriting of Lithuania's history. Father Bobola, it turns out, was a Polish priest who had nothing to do with Lithuania.

The St. Joseph missal used by everyone in those days very clearly stated that March 4th is the feast day of St. Casimir, Patron Saint of Lithuania. Thus, either the writers of Catholic textbooks did not attend Mass, did not read the missal, or else this was a deliberate attempt to misrepresent Lithuanian Catholic history.

While in grade school, I discovered that one of my Marquette Park relatives had been in prison for four years with a long stretch in solitary confinement. He had been arrested and imprisoned for Lithuanian activities by the military Polish government which had occupied Vilnius and ruthlessly suppressed Lithuanian cultural and religious life.

It took a Polish pope to return the Seinai Basilica to the Lithuanians. It will take a Polish pope to return Vilnius to the Lithuanian Province.

After World War I Polish Catholic "volunteers" were trying to bring back the glory days of the historical Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth by "reuniting" Lithuania to Poland. Their attacks on Lithuania were repulsed, and they failed. However, a couple days after signing an armistice agreement with the Lithuanians under the crucifix, a treacherous Polish surprise attack overwhelmed the trusting Lithuanians and carried the Poles into Vilnius, which they occupied until World War II, when the Russian Communists replaced them.

My great-uncle is still living in Marquette Park, but I thought the days of Polish imperialism were over. After the tragic lessons of German fascism and Soviet Communism, surely the Polish Catholics had repented of their own greedy desire to swallow their smaller neighbors! Or so I thought—until I

visited the Northeastern section of present-day Poland, an ethnographically Lithuanian region ruled by the Poles. The Lithuanian leaders frankly told me that should the Polish Communists lose control of the government, local Polish Catholic chauvinists would probably murder them and try to eliminate any traces of the Lithuanian heritage.

It was in this town that the Polish Catholic bishop threw the Lithuanians out of the church they had built by forbidding Masses in Lithuanian. When the Lithuanians gathered in the church on Sunday afternoons for the rosary and hymns, the Polish pastor would try to drown them out by playing Polish music over the loudspeakers. This continued for several years until the chauvinistic bishop died. Over the protests of the local Polish hierarchy, Pope John Paul II appointed a new

bishop of German-Polish descent who then reinstated the Lithuanian language Mass. Thus, the Polish Pope who had personally suffered from German fascism had to appoint a German to deal with Polish Catholic intolerance of the Lithuanian Catholic minorities.

I thought that perhaps the historical Polish intolerance of minorities such as Jews, Lithuanians and Ukrainians was due to isolation and lack of education. Surely, the modern, educated Polish Catholic would respect minority rights including their own separate identity? Then on March 4th, 1984, modern, educated Polish priest-employees of the Vatican Radio altered the Pontiff's words spoken at St. Peter's altar in a way to highlight Polishness and to merge Lithuania with Poland. Whenever the Pontiff said, "St. Casimir, patron of Lithuania," the Poles translated into Vatican Radio: "St. Casimir, patron of Lithuania and Poland."

According to Vatican records, the Vilnius region still belongs to the Polish Church province. Some Lithuanian priests say: "Don't worry, when the Communist governments fall, the Polish Catholics will freely return Vilnius to the Lithuanian Catholic Province." I'm not so sure.

It took a Polish pope to return the Seinai Basilica to the Lithuanians. It will take a Polish pope to return Vilnius to the Lithuanian Province. If not now, when? If not John Paul II, who?

Indignation Must Be Voiced

Remarks made by Joseph Cardinal Bernardin during the 25 anniversary dinner of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid. The Cardinal was recognized by LCRA for his work defending the rights of persecuted Catholic believers in Lithuania.



Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

Persecutions today echo those that occurred in the Church's early years. Religious believers continue to swell the populations of concentration camps and prisons. Some are forced into exile. Less known and harder to credit in the social discrimination or permanent restriction of individual liberty experienced by many believers with unrelieved regularity for several decades.

Such oppression is the day-to-day reality for our brothers and sisters in Soviet-occupied Lithuania. The insidious control of Soviet atheism over the lives of the Lithuanian peo-

ple continues to threaten the very life of the Church.

The work of the Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid has, for a quarter-century, answered this call to assist our brothers and sisters. Pioneers such as Bishop Brizgys and Father Raila worked both to provide urgently needed assistance to the Catholics of Lithuania and to prepare a climate where others would heed and answer the call to help. This work has been carried out and expanded under the guidance of Father Casimir Pugevicius, with the cooperation of his staff.

It is necessary that the broader community, both Catholic and non-Catholic, not forget the plight of the

Lithuanian people. Public opinion is a powerful instrument, especially in those areas where it is not possible for people to shape their lives and defend their rights through the ordinary channels open to people like us who live in a democratic society. But, unfortunately, we tend to have short memories. The most recent crisis too often crowds out earlier ones. We surely need to express our moral indignation at the violation of human rights in South Africa, Central America, Northern Ireland, the Middle East and Afghanistan. But that same indignation must also be voiced against the continuing suppression of rights behind the Iron Curtain in such places as Lithuania. The fact that the media do not remind us daily of the persecution of the faithful in Lithuania makes it even more imperative that, as a faith community, we leave no stone un-

Comrades Laughing at Themselves



Is That You Laughing, Comrade?
The World's Best Russian

(Underground) Jokes

By Algis Rukšėnas. Drawings by George Kocar. Secaucus, N.J.: Citadel Press, 1986. \$5.95.

Vytėnis B. Damuėis

Not so recently, I was offered the dubious opportunity by *The Observer* to review a compendium of one-liners and story jokes that make a powerful political statement about a humorless system and its equally dull leaders. So here I am, Mr. Algis Rukšėnas, reviewing in print your compendium of anti-soviet, anti-communist humor, hating the whole business of the review, but liking the book. It provoked smiles, stimulated laughter, and, best of all, provided me with more opportunities to shine in those late, end of the party joke-telling sessions when everyone bores with wisdom and purposeful conversation.

In fact, the true test of any joke

in Rukšėnas' book is in the telling. Delivery, the comics say, is everything. To read jokes is to use the wrong medium for fully appreciating this type of humor, just as reading Shakespeare does not do his plays credit — you have to see them. The original form and real strength of these jokes is in their oral expression, not in their publication. Neither *Prauda* nor TASS publish jokes with members of the Politburo as a butt. These jokes thrive and survive in the sly, knowing verbal exchanges between two close friends, as a way of dealing with frustrations that cannot be expressed in print.

Social anthropologists observe in their cross-cultural comparisons that most experienced interpersonal conflicts are handled either in an aggressive fashion, or jokingly. Of course, joking is a response that, Freud argued, allowed a feeling one's society does not endorse to be expressed in an acceptable form. What better alternative for criticizing a stupid and discredited farm

policy developed for the Ukraine in the Kremlin than by making it the point of a joke? Writing a signed letter to the "editorial pages" of *Prauda* violently opposing the policy, or organizing a grass roots political movement for reversal of that policy would only earn, at best, a stay in a mental hospital or Siberian exile. The unwritten, surreptitiously told joke becomes the safe medium for expressing discontent.

Another elementary purpose of all good humor is to make the mundane and banal reality of life more hearable. People who take themselves and their ideas too seriously, e.g., the members of the Politburo, are frightening in their almost neurotic loss of a sense of joy of living. Like Ahab, their strength and resolve in pursuit of their White Whale — working an unworkable ideology, cannot tolerate a step back and a humorous look at the absur-

dity of their condition.

Their lack of humor is obvious in those laughably chilling group portraits of the Politburo members in dark fedoras and long gray cloth coats flocking buzzard-like on the Kremlin Square reviewing stand as half tracks bristling with armature drive by. Only Khrushchev used to smile, but we know what happened to him. Gorbachev actually seems more given to smiling — certainly more than Brezhnev, Andropov, and Chernenko. However, Raisa balances that out with her Marxist seriousness. Do these guys ever get together and play cards, tell off-color stories, or enjoy a televised basketball game without worrying about who will win? I have yet to see a Russian diplomat or politician smile publicly in a fashion reflecting delight in a moment without Marxist-Leninist implications.

Russian folk humor — it is folk humor since credited authorship of a good joke in the Soviet Union carries the risk of being branded a dissident — is created around the political and personal foibles of their political leaders. It releases coercively subdued and repressed human emotions more directly expressed in free societies. One can only wonder what the core content of Soviet humor would be in a more politically open society. I suspect, as in the United States, the Soviets would probably be caught up in the humor of sexual innuendo and status deflation, though probably not too many good "golf jokes."

The underlying motives emerging in the thematic content of the jokes expressed in Mr. Rukšėnas' compendium are clearly negative.



A citizen walking along a street in Vladivostok noticed a man ahead of him hobbling along with only one shoe.

"Pardon me, comrade. But have you noticed that you've lost a shoe?"

"You're mistaken, comrade," replied the other without breaking stride. "I've found one."

In the Soviet Union, when you dial "Information," you'd better have some.

An industrious factory worker was presented a room in a new housing complex near Moscow. The room was bare, except for one nail pounded in a wall.

As the commissar for housing handed the worker his key, he also handed him a portrait of Lenin and a portrait of Gorbachev.

"Hmmm," the worker mused as he looked around the barren room. "I don't know which one of these to hang and which one to put up against the wall."

Question: Which is the largest country in the world?
Answer: Lithuania. Its border is on the Baltic Sea. Its capital is in Moscow. And its population is in Siberia.



Anger, hate, shame, and guilt, to name a few of the more prominent. Based, according to a far too brief introduction by the author, on the tales of defectors, visitors, and assorted malcontents — of which there are obviously many — with living experiences in the Soviet system, the collection often overwhelms with the sense of political desperation. Bitterly humorous, many jokes recorded by Mr. Rukšėnas tellingly criticize unworkable aspects of Soviet communism, and they offer revealing insights into those fundamental human characteristics which make it fail.

When read for the purposes of review in a newspaper which generally encourages an anti-Soviet editorial position, *Is That You Laughing Comrade* is hard to read as humor. Read piecemeal and in a properly sporadic fashion, with selective extraction and commitment to memory of an occasional joke to be used at the next cocktail party, the book offers the reader those primitive visceral pleasures of producing a full-bodied laugh and an opportunity to better one's social status as a guest worthy of future invitation.

Since putting lampshades on one's head as an attention-getting and laugh-provoking device at parties has become passe, having something witty to say is almost required. If your wit cannot be spontaneous, be wise enough to choose a proper arsenal of stories and jokes. In the right setting, say a gathering of politically and economically conservative displaced Eastern Europeans who have an understandable

axe to grind with Soviet oppression of their homeland and families, this joke compendium becomes a valuable source of conversational lubricant: "Did you hear the one about Brezhnev's daughter and the traveling nuclear warhead salesman?...", or "How about that Raisa Gorbachev, why doesn't she knit Mikhail a rug?..."

Prominent middle American heartland comics, e.g., the Hopes and Carsons, often point delicious barbs at a deserving President and other political figures. Yet, the following day or week, their shows may have the same person as a guest. This is a visible and very encouraging example of the strength of American-style democracy: how people handle deliberately aggressive political humor. A Russian comic who would mimic American insult comics such as Ruckles and Hackett in public attacks on prominent political figures with their acerbic, biting, out-and-out personally damaging material would achieve instant popularity in a Moscow night club — for the night the authorities allowed it to stay open. The night before his exile.

The fear of administrative retaliation and repression was never a factor in the comic work of Lenny Bruce, Mort Sahl, Tom Lehrer, Mark Russell and other American comics who relied or rely heavily on political satire. They did not view what they were doing as joke telling either. All their humor was public, and the humorist did not fail to leave a personal stamp on it, wanting everyone to know the joke's author. Not so for the Soviet underground joke. It is whispered when it cannot

be overheard by someone who might disapprove, an audience most of the American comics would relish. Puncturing overblown demonstrations of self-importance and other established defenses against personal and political criticism is a fertile field for developing quality humor. Hence Russian underground humor thrives.

In the pages of *Is That You Laughing Comrade?* there is little apparent redemption for the joke-teller's target — whether the communist system or an individual Party big shot. The system's weaknesses are on display against the backdrop of human inability to rationally respond to an uncompromising and hypocritically maintained ideology. Whenever an individual is the target, his inadequacies are bared and displayed in an embarrassing form. Brezhnev's dullness, Andropov's duplicity, Stalin's cruelty do not escape the underground humorist's bite.

I recognized a few jokes, having heard them in their native Lithuanian. However, I was pleasantly sur-

prised by how many original jokes there are in the collection. I suspect Rukšėnas' translation, or interpretation of someone else's translation, like all translations into English, often diluted the experienced intensity of a joke's meaning in its native Russian, Polish, Lithuanian, or other original language version. Periodically, the author was forced into an unenviable clarification of Russian expletives whose meaning was essential to understanding the punchline. Since Russian profanities boast few equals and I presume Mr. Rukšėnas is a gentleman, some of the jokes' original power is lost.

If getting it past customs is not a major difficulty, I recommend that every visitor to Eastern Europe this year buy a gift copy of *Is That You Laughing Comrade?* to take to their relatives. It would not only make Algis Rukšėnas a more widely read, internationally recognized, and wealthier author, but would brighten the lives of the visited who, if we think about it, really share in the book's success as original contributors to its content.

Kezys Photo Exhibit at Balzekas Museum

An exhibit of photographs by Chicago photographer Algimantas Kezys will be displayed at the Art Gallery of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd. Chicago, IL 60629 from November 14, 1986 to January 3, 1987. The exhibit celebrates the

result of a ten day visit to occupied Lithuania after forty years.

Kezys was born in Lithuania in 1928. He came to the US in 1950 and joined the Jesuit order in that year. His first one-man show was in 1961, and in 1965 his work was exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago. Kezys has published numerous books of his photographs, *Form and Content* (1972), *A Lithuanian Cemetery* (1976), *Chicago/Kezys* (1983), *Lithuania — Through the Wall* (1985) and his latest book, *Nature* (1986). Kezys also collaborated with George Lane on *Chicago Churches and Synagogues* (1981). His works are in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago; Carnegie Institute, Los Angeles; County Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and in other public and private collections.

The Art Gallery at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is open during regular Museum hours, daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



publication of Kezys' book, *Lithuania Through the Wall* (Loyola University Press, Chicago, 1985). The book and the present exhibit are

Meeting the needs of the oppressed Church in Lithuania for 25 years

"You Must Speak For Us!"



Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, executive director of LCRA, relaying the latest news from occupied Lithuania.

For 25 years Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid (LCRA) has been and remains the only agency in the world aiding western-rite Catholics in the Soviet Union and its occupied territories, the vast majority of whom are Lithuanian.

It was founded in 1961 with a \$20,000 grant from the US Catholic Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund to provide the Church under Soviet oppression with spiritual and material assistance. Today it depends entirely on donations.

In those 25 years, LCRA has channeled over one million dollars in material aid to the Church in Lithuania, including the shipment of much needed Bibles, religious literature, and life-sustaining care packages for prisoners of conscience and their families.

With the appearance of the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania in 1972, the work of LCRA widened in scope. For the first time since World War II, a steady stream of evidence of the persecution of Lithuanian believers began to flow to the West, and the LCRA took it upon itself to make this material accessible to the English speaking world. The LCRA now publishes the Chronicle in English translation and distributes it to news agencies, the press, bishops, scholars, and libraries. In 1980, the LCRA helped found the Lithuanian Information Center (LIC) which collects and translates news and the underground press from Soviet-occupied Lithuania and dispatches it to the news media the world over.

In the following interview conducted by the Toronto weekly, *Tėviškės žiburiai*, Rev. Casimir Pugevičius, executive director of LCRA, speaks on the agency's present work and goals.

Q: We understand that no official aid to the faithful in Lithuania is allowed. Have you found unofficial routes to send aid? Have you tried to obtain permission through official channels, for example, some other organizations have allegedly been permitted to send a number of Bibles?

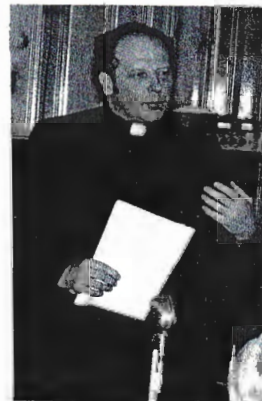
A: Aid to the faithful in Lithuania can only be sent on an unofficial

basis. As far as I know, no organization has been successful in sending Bibles through official channels. Every so often one reads news reports that the Soviet government has granted such permission but that is propaganda, pure and simple. Even when the Vatican sent paper to Lithuania with Moscow's blessing (to print the Lithuanian missal), the paper was stolen and the rest is rotting away somewhere because the atheists will not now allow the pro-

ject to proceed. On the other hand, we have been able to send thousands of religious, as well as, other books through unofficial channels.

Q: Lithuanian prisoners of conscience are suffering in Siberian camps. Is it possible to send them packages?

A: Not only do prisoners of conscience suffer, but so do their families. To send packages directly to prisoners or their families is nearly impossible. But there are other channels which we cannot discuss in public. I would note, however, that



a simple greeting card sent to a prisoner can help him or her greatly. Not only Lithuanians, but non-Lithuanians as well have joined in the action to help prisoners of conscience. Our computers probably have the most accurate and up to date list of Lithuanian prisoners of conscience. Last summer a young Latvian worked in our offices inputting information on Lithuanian and other Baltic prisoners of conscience. This information has been utilized by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. Since Gintė Damušis has begun working for the Lithuanian Information Center, various major human rights organizations have begun to take up the cases of Lithuanian prisoners of conscience.

Q: Tell us something about the Lithuanian Information Center. How is it affiliated with LCRA?

The Lithuanian Information Center, which now works side by side with LCRA, developed naturally. There were three factors which dictated the Center's creation. First, professionals who raise funds for charity know that you must inform the public to get its support. Second, for many years the oppressed in Lithuania have been pleading: "You must speak for us!" Third, in order to achieve credibility in the world press, we must approach it through an objective news generating agency. Besides, since ELTA (a news service of the Supreme Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania) moved from New York to Washington, there has been a noticeable void in New York, which is after all the communications capital of the world. For these reasons we formed the Lithuanian Information Center seven years ago. Ms. Damušis has made it into a full-fledged news agency, highly respected by non-Lithuanians. Marian Skabelkis has brought in computers, word-processing and telex services. For several years the LIC has received funding from the Lithuanian World Community. More recently, the LIC has been funded exclusively by LCRA.

Q: Who does the LIC inform?

A: When we receive the latest underground publications and other material from Lithuania, LIC immediately sends copies to the Lithuanian press and radio centers: Radio Free Europe, Vatican, and Voice of America. The more important news items are then translated into



Ona Sidtis, (left) and Gintė Damušis, associate director of LIC, examine the prison dress of Nijolė Sadūnaitė smuggled out of Siberia.

English and sent to some 900 newspapers and human rights organizations worldwide. We do the same with news reports that we receive from Lithuania. When we receive photographs from Lithuania, we send them to all the Lithuanian newspapers. At the LIC headquarters we probably have the

largest number of catalogued photos from present-day Lithuania. We ask that anyone who has photos from Lithuania send them to the LIC 351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207. What is not for public viewing will be kept confidential and what is, will be made available to news services and other media.

Q: Have you been successful in getting the American and foreign press to write on the Lithuanian situation? Does the media give credence to your press releases?

A: In 1985 alone, press releases prepared by Gintė Damušis have appeared in the *London Times*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *The Toronto Sun*, *L'Osservatore Romano*, *El Mundo*, not to mention the numerous Catholic newspapers in the US, England, and Australia. Various Baltic groups have used information provided by LIC. Gintė Damušis has worked a great deal to prepare for the Vienna Conference.

Granted, some major newspapers are sceptical about the credibility of Lithuanian materials, but that only challenges us to find ways to approach them. The staff at LIC is young, energetic and innovative.

Q: You also publish the English translation of the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*. What sort of audience does it reach?

A: The LCRA has been printing and publishing the *Chronicle* since its 62nd issue. We send copies to bishops, government agencies and educational institutions. This work is funded by institutions and private citizens, who finance the publication of one issue or another. In pamphlet form, the *Chronicle* reaches some 7000 bishops, editors, journalists, consulates, embassies, parliaments,

educational and human rights organizations, as well as, private citizens. The technical editor of the *Chronicle* is Marian Skabeikis. She prepares the text for printing, finds photos, and inputs the entire text into our computer so that one could retrieve any needed information quickly and accurately. We have done this with all the underground publications we have received from Lithuania.

Q: What do you expect from the Lithuanian community at large and are you planning to expand your work?

A: Whomever comes to know the work of LCRA and the LIC agree that our staff: Gintė Damušis, Marian Skabeikis, Jonas Sodaitis-Sidtis, Ona Sodaitienė-Sidtis, Ritonė Ivaškaitė, Audrė and Asta Lukoševičiūtės and Andrius Adams do an incredible service in the field of charity and public information. We have been told that we achieve more than all Lithuanian organizations put together. From experience we know that the more the public learns about our work, the more they support it. We are planning to open up branches in Chicago, and Europe. LCRA directors have planned to expand our work in Brooklyn where we are cramped in a remodeled garage, where we work from 7 to 11 and often on weekends. All this work is carried on by nine American-Lithuanians, all children of pre- and post-war Lithuanian immigrants.

LRCA Anniversary Gala

The Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid marked its 25th anniversary with a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, followed by a benefit dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel on October 25th.

Principal celebrant at the anniversary Mass was Bishop Charles Salakta of Oklahoma City. Concelebrants included Bishop Paulius Baltakis, bishop of Lithuanians outside Lithuania; Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, auxiliary bishop emeritus of Kaunas in exile; Bishop Basil H. Losten of the Ukrainian Catholic diocese of Stamford and some 30 priests who serve the Lithuanian apostolate.

The homilist, Father J. Bryan

Hehir, secretary for international peace and development of the US Catholic Conference, pointed out that the Lithuanian people have managed to "keep alive their spiritual convictions and their cultural identity in the face of almost total political repression."

During a fund-raising dinner at the Waldorf Astoria following the Mass, the LCRA recognized Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, archbishop of the Chicago Archdiocese, for its outstanding service to the cause of human rights for the persecuted Catholics of Soviet-occupied Lithuania. In his remarks the Cardinal stressed, "The fact that the media does not remind us daily of



The procession into LCRA 25th anniversary Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. From left: Magr. A. Norkūnas, Rev. dr. A. Paškus, Magr. M. Ozalas, Rev. M. Harter of *America* magazine, and Rev. V. Palubinkas.



LRCA benefit dinner at the Waldorf Astoria

the persecution of the faithful in Lithuania makes it even more imperative that, as a faith community,

we leave no stone unturned in publicising the plight of our brothers and sisters."

US Bishops to Soviets: Return Churches

National Conference of United States bishops has unanimously passed a resolution calling upon the Soviets to return three confiscated churches in Lithuania. The three churches have become focal points of resistance in Lithuania and numerous petitions have been collected by the faithful protesting their unlawful confiscation and desecration. The churches are the Cathedral of Vilnius, which is currently used as an exhibit hall; the Church of St. Casimir, which is converted into a

museum of atheism; and the Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace, the only church built after the Soviet occupation and which was confiscated upon completion. Army tanks were used to topple its steeple.

The resolution also called upon a world day of prayer for Lithuania set for June 28 and asked all the bishops in the United States to commemorate it in their local diocese.

Finally, the resolution called for the Soviets to allow the publication of the Scriptures in Lithuania.

Three Desecrated Churches

Church of Our Lady Queen of Peace — a concert hall.



**Church of St. Casimir
— a museum of atheism.**



The Cathedral of Vilnius — an exhibit hall

US Bishops' Resolution on Lithuania

In anticipation of the 600th anniversary of the conversion of the Lithuanian nation, to be marked in 1987, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the United States wishes to express solidarity with our brothers, the Lithuanian Bishops and the Lithuanian people.

We respectfully request all Ordinaries to proclaim June 28, the day on which the anniversary will be celebrated with a papal Mass in Rome, a Day of Prayer for the persecuted Church of Lithuania, with an appropriate intention inserted in the prayer of the faithful for that day.

We call upon Soviet authorities, in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Accords of 1975, and other international agreements to honor the human rights of all Lithuanians. We call upon the Soviet authorities to honor the request of the Bishops of Lithuania for restoration to religious use of the Cathedral of Vilnius and of the Church of St. Casimir in Vilnius, together with the Church of the Queen of Peace in Klaipėda.

We also call upon the Soviet government to honor the request of the Bishops of Lithuania to allow publication of a new Lithuanian translation of the Scriptures.

Indignation

Continued from page 5

turned in publicizing the plight of our brothers and sisters. If we do not do it, who will?

At the meeting of the US bishops next month, we will consider a resolution submitted by Bishop Baltakis. This resolution, in anticipation of the 600th anniversary of the conversion of Lithuania, expresses solidarity with the Lithuanian bishops and people. It also calls on the Soviet authorities, in keeping with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Accords of 1975, and other international agreements, to honor the request of the bishops of Lithuania that there be a restoration of the religious use of the Cathedral of

Vilnius, as well as the Church of St. Casimir in Vilnius and the Church of Queen of Peace in Klaipėda. There is also a call to allow publication of a new Lithuanian translation of the Scriptures.

I will support this resolution as I know all the bishops will. What is needed, however, is more than an occasional resolution. We need to give sustained attention to the moral and human travesties which occur daily in Lithuania and other places in the Soviet bloc. This issue should be placed on the continuing agenda of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the US Catholic Conference. A specific staff person should be assigned to a special desk for this purpose.

"We need to give sustained attention to the moral and human travesties which occur daily in Lithuania and in other places in the Soviet bloc. This issue should be placed on the continuing agenda of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the US Catholic Conference. A specific person should be assigned to a special desk for this purpose."

— Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

SERVING YOU SINCE 1926

BALZEKAS MOTOR SALES
Chrysler, Plymouth, Mitsubishi
4030 Archer Ave.
Chicago IL 60632
Phone: 847-1515



STAN BALZEKAS Ltd.
Pontiac Saab
6621 W. Ogden Ave.
Berwyn IL 60402
312-788-5700
Chicago 242-1988



STANLEY BALZEKAS JR.

STANLEY BALZEKAS III



*"Half My Heart
is in Lithuania...
I Pray For Her
Every Day."*

— Pope John Paul II

87% Roman Catholic when the U.S.S.R. took over in 1940, the Lithuanians have heroically preserved the Faith in spite of heavy persecution ever since.

The only organization in the world devoted to helping the persecuted Catholics of Lithuania is Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid.

Send for the Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania—free. Send your tax deductible contributions to:

Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid

351 Highland Boulevard

Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207

Help us to help them!



LITHUANIAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

KASA

New York: 86-01 114th St. Richmond, N.Y. 11418.

Chicago: 2615 W. 71st St., Chicago, IL 60629.

Cicero: 1445 So. 50th Ave., Cicero, IL 60650.

St. Petersburg: 400 70th Ave., St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706.

Detroit: P.O. Box 267, Franklin, MI 48025.

— Total assets at this printing \$54 million —

Services provided personal, real estate and business loans, regular passbook savings, IRA deposits, savings certificates, money orders, travellers cheques etc.

**Highest possible yields for
passbook accounts, Share
Certificates and IRA deposits.**

— EVERY MEMBER ACCOUNT INSURED TO \$100,000
BY NCUA FEDERAL AGENCY —

For up-to-date information on loans and certificate rates write to any KASA branch or telephone:

New York — (718) 441-8799

Chicago — (312) 737-2110

Cicero — (312) 858-2201

St. Petersburg — (813) 387-6304

Detroit — (313) 350-2350

Financial transactions can be made by mail, telephone or by telegraph (wire service).

Here is a rare opportunity to acquire a collector's treasure for you and your family

FULL-COLOR VIDEOCASSETTE

of the historic opening ceremonies of the

500th JUBILEE YEAR OF SAINT CASIMIR IN ROME

VHS format

This 45 minute cassette professionally produced by Vatican Television is available for a \$100.00 donation payable to:

LITHUANIAN RC FEDERATION OF AMERICA

ST. CASIMIR JUBILEE COMMITTEE

351 Highland Blvd., Brooklyn, NY 11207

JOIN LITHUANIAN ROMAN CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Help support the oldest Lithuanian charity organization in the United States. Founders of Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago, and Holy Family Villa, a home for the aged, in Lemont, IL.

Annual membership \$5.00. Perpetual membership \$100.00.

Send check or money order to:

Lithuanian Roman Catholic Charities

4545 W. 63rd Street

Chicago, IL 60629