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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

January 6. 1942

My dear Mr. President:

The Lithuanian Minister, Mr. Zadeikis, left with us a note dated December 18, 1941, a copy of which I am enclosing. In this note the Minister, after expressing appreciation of the sympathetic understanding that has been shown by us of the plight of Lithuania, suggests that at the proper moment we use our influence in trying to bring about the reestablishment of normal relations between Lithuania and the Soviet Union and that President Smetona, who is now in the United States in a private capacity, be given the privilege of organizing a Lithuanian Government in exile in this country or in some friendly neighboring country.

When handing us this note the Minister made it plain that he fully appreciated the complexity of the prevailing world situation and the significance of the problems immediately facing us. In view of this and the fact that

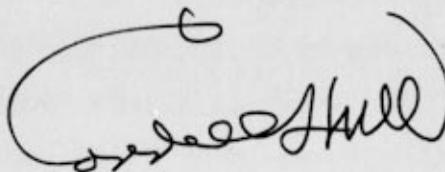
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The President,  
The White House.

the Minister placed the points touched upon in his note before us in the form of suggestions, his note has been for the present only briefly acknowledged with the statement that a copy of it has been forwarded to you for your information.

The points raised by the Minister can, of course, be reviewed at a later date if in the light of future developments such action appears desirable.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Cordell Hull". The signature is written in dark ink and is centered on the page below the typed name.

Enclosure:

From Lithuanian Minister,  
December 18, 1941.

THIS COPY  
LEFT  
TO  
OFFICE

Department of State

BUREAU | Eu  
DIVISION |

ENCLOSURE  
TO

Letter drafted ..... 12/31

ADDRESSED TO

The President .....

(COPY: LIS: Eu)  
(COMPARED: W: 92)

LITHUANIAN LEGATION

Washington, D. C.

No. 1344.

December 18, 1941.

Sir,

In connection with recent events when the United States of America, the hope of enslaved nations, has taken arms to defend herself against formidable and treacherous forces of three-cornered Axis aggression and to protect lofty ideals she stands for: democracy, the four freedoms, decency of international relations based on freely negotiated agreements, freedom of the seas, and the brighter future of all nations as defined in the eight points of the Atlantic Charter, - it behooves me as duly accredited representative of the sovereign Republic of Lithuania, also victimized by foreign aggression, on behalf of my Government, to express sympathy as well as confidence in the victorious exploit of American armed forces, and to restate my country's case: her fundamental rights, her tasks and problems and her hopes.

Just like many other European nations, Lithuania presently is enslaved by the Germans. In fact, Lithuania is suffering from the effects of two foreign invasions which in recent months followed one after another. Following those invasions, Lithuania's Constitutional Government has been unable to function and remains under duress; the liberties of the people have been taken away and their property destroyed or wasted while thousands of citizens have been forcibly deported or detained in foreign lands and subjected to intolerable sufferings and exploitation.

I have stated these grievances of my country on many occasions in my notes and statements addressed to the

American

The Honorable Cordell Hull,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

American Government, and I take this opportunity to voice most sincere appreciation, profound satisfaction and heartfelt thanks of the Lithuanian people to the American Government for the sympathetic understanding of our problems, and especially for the magnificent moral support given us by President Roosevelt in our vicissitudes, - for courageous and vigorous condemnation of the aggressions and for applying in our case the farsighted American policy of non-recognition of political changes resulting from use of military force or threat of force.

The reason why I am recounting Lithuania's misfortunes at this time is obvious: Lithuania needs help to rise again to her rightful place among the free nations. Lithuania in her plight has tried desperately to help herself, but her efforts have failed in view of overwhelming onslaught of the invader. Though Lithuania is a small nation and her geographical situation is unenviable, she refuses to be buried alive or to be sacrificed for the benefit of her great neighbors. Lithuania has rich historical traditions which are a part of her soul, and she has will and ability to lead an independent life, in no way interfering with the legitimate interests of her neighbors. It should be remembered that Lithuania, confronted with a unique international situation, for the sake of peace gave back to Germany her precious and most vital possession, her only Baltic port of Klaipėda (Memel) and the Klaipėda territory claimed by Lithuania since time immemorial; having none of the former Russian ports on the Baltic to give back to Russia, Lithuania, for the sake of peace, permitted on her soil some Soviet garrisons, negotiated the actual return of Vilnius (Vilna) to Lithuania as was agreed upon by Russo-Lithuanian Peace Treaty of 1920, and extended her non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union until 1945; for the sake of peace, Lithuania proposed to Poland to settle their mutual boundary problems by peaceful means. Lithuania, a staunch supporter of the League of Nations, believed in collective security: at no time, even when the crisis of 1940 threatened her independence, did she seek military assistance from one neighbor against another neighbor. Although Lithuania's policy of peace did not save her from aggression, she is not disillusioned: she believes in collective security even now. Lithuania hopes and insists that all those facts be not forgotten.

Lithuania, a natural democracy, sometimes referred to as farmers' republic, unequivocally, places her future in

cooperation

cooperation with the Allied democracies now fighting for liberty and self-respect. Lithuania's prime and ultimate task is: to get rid of German enslavement and to restore sovereign rights to her people. Her first problem, in line of cooperation with the Allies, on the way to fulfillment of her task, is the organizing of her government in exile and resuming normal relations with her immediate neighbors now resisting German aggression and enslavement. The second series of her problems constitute: freeing of all Lithuanian exiles and deportees to foreign countries, organizing proper care for them, and at the same time, mustering every feasible support for the Allied cause - for Lithuania is eager to contribute in her modest way towards victory of the democratic world.

The Lithuanian nation bases her hope in achieving her task of liberation on the right of all peoples to be masters of their native land, defended by generations of their ancestors and on the solemn words of the Atlantic Charter that "sovereign rights and self-government should be restored to those nations who have been forcibly deprived of them."

In the prophetic words of President Roosevelt:

"We are going to win the war and we are going to win the peace that follows.

"The vast majority of the members of the human race are on our side. Many of them are fighting with us. All of them are praying for us. For, in representing our cause, we represent theirs as well - our hope and their hope for liberty under God,

all suffering humanity finds inspiration that will turn the wheels of destiny in the right direction, and as far as Lithuania is concerned, she wishes to be during this conflict with the fighting part of humanity against the injustice of aggression.

I have the honor, therefore, to request the Government of the United States of America to use its good

offices

offices in any way possible to facilitate arrangements of certain preliminary conditions to bring about the realization of Lithuania's above stated objectives. In this connection may I venture to respectfully suggest:

First, that the American Government at the proper moment, and without compromising in the slightest degree its own interests, would lend its influence and assistance in efforts to bring about a change in the Soviet Russian attitude towards Lithuania with the view of facilitating the reestablishment of normal relations between Lithuania and the Soviet Union by inducing the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to honor Lithuania's status quo ante June 15, 1940, in accordance with the principles set forth in the Atlantic Charter, thus straightening the line of the democratic front resisting German onslaught.

Second, that the American Government would look with favor upon the formation here in this country of a Lithuanian National Council, an unofficial body for the present, composed of Lithuanian citizens, trustworthy friends of America and supporters of the Allied cause, devoted to their country's cause of liberation and independence, and loyal to the authority of the ranking official representative of the legal Government of Lithuania in this country.

Third, that the Constitutional President of Lithuania, now visiting this country in a private capacity, be accorded the privilege to foster relief as well as political efforts in the task of his country's liberation: especially, the formation of a Lithuania government in exile, if possible in this country, or in some other friendly neighboring State.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

P. Zadeikis  
Minister of Lithuania.

*Lithuanian Folder*

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

**Memorandum of Conversation**

DATE:

January 9, 1942

SUBJECT:

PARTICIPANTS: The Lithuanian Minister, Mr. Povilas Zadeikis,  
Mr. A. A. Berle, Jr.

COPIES TO:

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The Lithuanian Minister came in to see me at his request.

He referred to his note stating that he adhered, on behalf of the Lithuanian Government, to the Declaration by United Nations. He said that in spirit and in willingness he and every Lithuanian did so adhere; he wanted to know about formalities.

I said that I personally had a deep sympathy for Lithuania and the American people had every sympathy with the Lithuanian people.

The complications existing in the situation must be obvious to him and for that reason, I suggested that

he

he simply let his note stay on file without pressing it. I hoped the evolution of circumstance might give rise to an occasion when adherence might again be brought up; and that we, here, would keep that matter in mind. For the time being, I thought it would be unwise from every point of view to press the problem.

The Minister agreed to this. He said of course the ultimate fate of Lithuania must rest in large measure on the kindly and understanding attitude of the people and Government of the United States.

A.A.B., Jr.