

Stockholm, 12 September 2011

Mrs Irena Degutienė
Speaker of Parliament of the
Republic of Lithuania

VILNIUS

Dear Mrs Degutienė,

It was absolutely wonderful to come back to Vilnius again after so many years and to see the tremendous changes that have taken place. But not only that. It was also wonderful to be received with such enthusiasm and warmth. As I said in my speech in Seimas, most ambassadors will never have the chance to witness and to take part in the rebirth of a nation in the way we did, the first ambassadors in Vilnius 20 years ago. We are a privileged group. And the fact that we are not forgotten by the Lithuanians, that you wanted to celebrate these 20 years in our presence, really warmed my heart.

It was also wonderful to meet with old colleagues from way back then, when we arrived in a Vilnius that cannot be compared with the elegant city we see today. We had so many memories to share. And my Lithuanian, which I had almost forgotten, came back..

Thank you and all your collaborators for a very impressive program. I am sorry that I could not participate in your reception. Thank you very much for the beautiful "diplomatic star". I feel honoured indeed! And congratulations to all the impressive achievements you have made in so many areas during these 20 years in your beautiful country.

My wife could not participate in the visit this time, but I have told her that we have to go back soon again. In the early days she travelled to Vilnius from Kristianstad in southern Sweden by a small Yak 40 airplane. It was a bit of an adventure, but now Vilnius is not far from Stockholm any more.

Until then

Viso gero ir iki pasymatimo

Dar karta labai ačiū

Lars Magnusson
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