

March 23, 1990

Letters to the Times
Los Angeles Times
Times Mirror Square
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Dear Sirs :

What do you mean -- "Not to panic" as far as Lithuania is concerned? (See your editorial of March 22.)

The past two weeks have been the blackest in Lithuania's modern history. Using every means of intimidation short of shooting protesters in the street, Mikhail Gorbachev is determined to break the will of the courageous, independence-minded Lithuanian people.

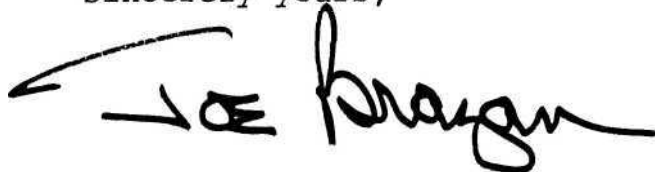
Yet, our president and State Department do nothing. Our government's appalling insensitivity to the plight of the Lithuanian people is a disgrace. To watch helplessly as this tiny, brave, emerging democratic government goes down the drain makes me ashamed to be an American.

Every American president since Roosevelt has deplored the Stalinist takeover of the three Baltic nations. Despite their illegal absorption into the Soviet Union, we continue to recognize their sovereignty. President Bush, however, continues to look the other way and continues to allow Gorbachev to do his bullying of the non-violent Lithuanian people without uttering a word of condemnation.

Of course, the president says it would be nice if the two sides just sat down and started some meaningful discussions. Obviously, this is good advice. It's just too bad that Lithuania is literally bound and gagged with a gun pointed at it's head.

I'm glad to see that the president at least took a tough stand on broccoli. I wish he'd show some emotion and a little compassion for the people of Lithuania. We already recognize Lithuania's sovereignty. He should merely reaffirm it to the Soviets.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Brazan". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Brazan, Sr.