April 25th, 1990

Dear President Landsbergis;

I am writing you to assure you that the United States will not abandon your cause for independence, even if President Bush and his regime do. I speak as a man, one out of many millions in my country, who are very concerned about the plight of your people. I know the terrible pressures you and your courageous people endure, but please don't lose heart!

Even if this event results in the physical supression of Lithuanian self-determination, it will not stiffle or kill the movement of it. What I'm saying is that the dye has been cast. Your country was stolen by an outlaw country, such as Russia, 50 years ago, and even despite the agonies of World War II, Stalin's supression, and the knucking of Soviet imperialist presence in your country, your people still did not lose heart in one day retreiving their independence. It is alive today, more than ever, and further, I've lit a candle for your country in the hopes that somehow, Gorbachev will see that his outdated tatics will serve no other purpose but taking his country backward and away from a long-lasting world harmony with the world communitty. As was the case with France and Great Britain, Russia cannot stop the tide coming in for self-determination over its colonies. Especially when there is an all-out effort of your people ademently refusing to cooperate with such an illegal occupyer as the Soviet Union. One way or another, Mr. President, your efforts will pay off. Perhaps not exactly as you predict or hope, but they will pay off in the long run. Future generations of your countrypeople, succeeding those around now, will take up the cry for self-determination and win. So, have courage!

I have a friend of mine whose grandfather was a fighter in the 1917-18 strife for Lithuanian independence. He was a journalist from Vill-

-nius named Zuryes, who at first immigrated to the USA in 1917, at the outbreak of the Russian Revolution, to secure his family protection, then returned to Lithuania to fight the invading Bolsheviks. Sadly, he was captured by them and shot. But the legacy he left on his family remains, and my friend, Douglas Zuryes, his grandson, takes part in persuing causes to help Lithuanians the world over, and Lithuanian-Americans. He never knew his grandfather, but keeps his dream alive just the same.

George Bush does not speak for the majority of the USA that call for outright help to your people, unhesitatingly. He is merly a polititian and not a leader, who allows his political bosses to dominate him. If enough pressure is applied to Mr. Bush, he will help you out, and I do hope it is very soon. But remember, sir, that if now does not produce the dream of you and your country people for independence, I say again that the DYE HAS BEEN CAST. Lithuania will be free one day in the future. Like your prayer, I hope the cost of it will not be tragically high. Let us hope Mr. Gorbachev has enough sence of humanity to realize that he cannot live in the past, keeping ethnics in his country sown to the bussom of the USSR against their will.

Very sincerely yours,

Mark McLaughlin

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PRESIDENT V. LANDSBERGIS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
VILLNIUS, LITHUANIA