



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

10 July 1989

Mr J Maksvytis
President
Australian Lithuanian Community
Federal Executive
4/30 Lamrock Ave
BONDI NSW 2026

Dear Mr Maksvytis

Thank you for your letter dated 8 June 1989 addressed to the Prime Minister concerning the situation of the Baltic States. Your letter was referred to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade who has asked me to reply on his behalf.

As you may be aware, many of the concerns you have raised concerning the aspirations of the Baltic peoples, together with broader questions of human rights, are issues which are addressed in Australian Government policy on the Baltic question.

The Australian Government continues to adhere to its policy of refusing to grant de jure recognition of the incorporation of the Baltic Republics into the Soviet Union. The Government has consistently rejected claims by the Soviet Government that its annexing of those States was on the basis of an act of self-determination by the peoples of those States.

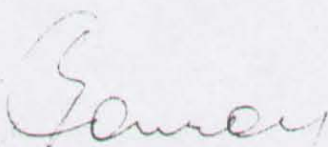
Furthermore, the Australian Government continues to place a high priority on the observance of internationally accepted standards of human rights. The Baltic Resolution adopted by the House of Representatives in September 1986 calls for the question of human rights and self-determination for the Baltic Republics to be raised in international forums. The Government has consistently raised such questions in a number of international organisations, including the meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1987, 1988 and 1989.

Lietuvos valstybės naujasis archyvas

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The Australian Government shares the view of the Australian Lithuanian Community that recent developments in each of the Baltic Republics represent a positive trend in meeting the aspirations of the Baltic Peoples. The Government takes encouragement from these events, which it believes have resulted in an improvement in the position of the Baltic peoples. It is the hope of the Australian Government that the current program of reform will continue in the Baltic Republics.

Yours sincerely



Garry Conroy
A/g Assistant Secretary
East Europe Branch
Americas and Europe Division