

## Leader of the Opposition

13 March 1990

Mrs J Fraser  
President  
Australian Lithuanian Community  
1A Honiton Avenue  
Carlingford NSW 2118

Dear Mrs Fraser

Thank you for your letter of 8 March concerning recent developments in Lithuania.

In government and opposition, the Coalition Parties have consistently supported the right of the Baltic States, in general, and Lithuania, in particular, to determine their own future in their own way.

We have consistently condemned the formal annexation of the Baltic States by the Soviet Union in 1939. We marked the occasion of the 50th anniversary of that annexation last year by calling on the Soviet Union to renounce formally that shameful and unjustifiable act.

In a personal sense, I am proud of a longstanding association with the cause of Baltic independence. I take particular pride in the fact that as Foreign Minister one of my first actions was to reverse the arbitrary and reprehensible decision of the Whitlam Labor Government in 1974 to extend formal recognition to Soviet sovereignty over the Baltic States.

We join with Lithuanian Australians as they celebrate Lithuania's historic declaration of independence and we urge the Soviet Union to accept it.

The Australian Lithuanian Community has made a valuable contribution to the development of Australian society. The Coalition Parties have always welcomed their support for the values of freedom, security and opportunity which lie at the heart of our beliefs.

For your information, I enclose a copy of a statement which the Shadow Foreign Minister, Senator Robert Hill, issued concerning the Coalition's response to recent developments in Lithuania.

Yours sincerely

Lietuvos valstybės naujasis archyvas

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