

AUSTRALIAN LITHUANIAN COMMUNITY

43

SYDNEY

AUSTRALIJOS

LIETUVIŲ

BENDRUOMENĖ

SYDNEJAUS APYLINKĖS VALDYBA



MRS. J. FRASER - PRESIDENT
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TEL: 872 1860 FAX: 872 6465

4th April, 1990.

Mr. Harry EDWARDS
Parliament House,
CANBERRA.

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Congratulaions on your recent victory in Berowra.

As you are undoubtedly well aware, the situation in Lithuania is extremely grave. The Lithuanian nation has endured 50 years of terror, forced exile and gross violation of human rights.

On Sunday, 11th March, 1990, the first freely elected Parliament in Lithuania in fifty years, passed a resolution to affirm that it is an Independent State. Not even the Communist Members of the newly elected Parliament voted against this Declaration of Independence.

Senator Gareth Evans in his Statement of 12th March, 1990, acknowledged that the Australian Government legally recognises Lithuanian Independence. In his words: "Australia has already recognised for many years the legal right of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to exist as independent States." He went on to urge the Soviet Union to recognise and respect the Declaration.

We urge you, on completion of the Australian democratic process of electing a Parliament, by free universal franchise, to lend your voice to the international recognition of Lithuania.

We ask you to do this by passing a resolution confirming that the Australian National Parliament does recognise Lithuania as an Independent State and establish diplomatic relations with the new government of the Republic of Lithuania presided over by President Vytautas Landsbergis and nominate an Ambassador to Lithuania.

We also ask that you strongly condemn the threats of violence and economic blackmail by the Soviet Union against the Lithuanian Government for its stand for democracy, human rights and self determination for the people of Lithuania.

Please take a leading role with other democratic nations in providing practical assistance to Lithuania.

Such recognition can only add to Australia's preeminent position in world politics, where our country is seen as a leader in the quest for freedom and democracy for all.

Yours sincerely,

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MRS. J. FRASER.

Lietuvos valstybės naujasis archyvas

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