



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ASP/CG 1.40

16 May 1990

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

Dear Mrs Fraser

Thank you for your recent letter concerning 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.

The Coalition Parties have clearly stated the view that the Soviet Union should accept Lithuania's declaration of independence. We therefore welcome the reinstatement of independence by Lithuania and will urge the Soviet Union to facilitate that independence in an orderly and peaceful way.

It is vital that Australia and other concerned nations urge the Soviet Union against continued economic coercion. At the same time, Australia should explore with other nations effective sanctions in support of Lithuania, in the event of the Soviet sanctions being continued or intensified.

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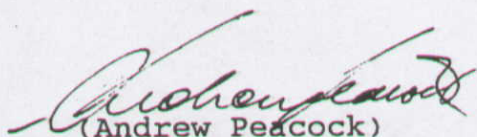
Lietuvos valstybės naujasis archyvas

F. 26 Ap. 1 B. 332 L. 66

The Coalition's Spokesman for Foreign Affairs, Senator Robert Hill, has reaffirmed the Coalition Parties' longstanding support for the right of the Lithuanian people to determine their own destiny.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to inform me of your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Peacock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

(Andrew Peacock)