

FM REYKJAVIK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 019
OF 251730Z JANUARY 91
AND TO IMMEDIATE
INFO [REDACTED]

INDEX	PA	ACCTG

For 0139/8

MOSCOW TELNO 182 OF 24 JANUARY: BALTIC STATES: ICELANDIC
RECOGNITION OF LITHUANIA

SUMMARY

1. RECOGNITION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE EXPECTED SHORTLY.
DETAILS BEING WORKED OUT. NO EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATS LIKELY.
POLITICAL MOTIVATION. APPRECIATION OF HMG'S AND EC STANCE.
ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER INVITED TO LATVIA.

DETAIL

2. I CALLED THIS AFTERNOON ON THE PUS AT THE MFA, THORSTEINN
INGOLFSSON, TO ASK FOR AN UPDATE ON ICELANDIC MOVES TOWARDS
POSSIBLE RECOGNITION OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NO EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATS
WAS CONTEMPLATED AT THIS STAGE. THE MINISTER, JON BALDVIN
HANNIBALSSON, HAD DECIDED TO WAIT FOR THE TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE RUSSIAN REPUBLIC AND LITHUANIA WHICH WAS EXPECTED AT
ANY TIME. THE TALLIN ACCORD OF LAST YEAR DID NOT MEET THE LEGAL
REQUIREMENTS BUT DISCUSSIONS WERE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE
ICELANDIC MFA LEGAL ADVISER AND HIS LITHUANIAN COUNTERPART.

3. INGOLFSSON AFFIRMED THAT THE ICELANDERS WERE AWARE OF THE
POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTION BUT BELIEVED THAT THEY
WERE RIGHT IN TAKING THE LEAD (AS HE PUT IT).

4. THE MOTIVATION WAS POLITICAL, COMING FIRST FROM HANNIBALSSON
SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY, AND CLOSELY BACKED BY THE
OPPOSITION (CONSERVATIVE) INDEPENDENCE PARTY, LED BY THORSTEIN
PALSSON, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER. PRIME MINISTER HERMANSSON
WAS MORE CAUTIOUS AND THE (LEFT WING) PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE HAD NOT
TAKEN A STANCE IN RESPONSE TO LANDSBERGIS' APPEAL. THREE MEMBERS
OF THE ALTHING PLANNED TO VISIT LITHUANIA NEXT WEEK.

5. I ASKED WHETHER SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD YET REACTED.
INGOLFSSON SAID THEY HAD NOT ALTHOUGH THIS COULD BE EXPECTED AT
ANY TIME. TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WERE MEANWHILE CONTINUING AS NORMAL.
INGOLFSSON PROMISED TO KEEP ME BRIEFED ON DEVELOPMENTS. HE

EXPRESSED MUCH APPRECIATION FOR THE FIRM STANCE TAKEN BY THE EC (INCLUDING THE PRESIDENCY DEMARCHE INITIATING USE OF THE CDH MECHANISM). ICELANDERS BELIEVED THAT THE BALTIC SITUATION WOULD BE A TRUE TEST OF SOVIET GOOD FAITH OVER THE AGREEMENTS.

6. ON NORDIC COOPERATION, AND ON THE SITUATION IN THE OTHER BALTIC REPUBLICS, HE HAD LITTLE TO ADD. A LETTER HAD JUST BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA TO STEINGRIMUR HERMANNSSON INVITING ICELANDIC EXPERTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ATTEND A MEETING IN TALLIN IN FEBRUARY. A REPLY HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED.

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