

FM REYKJAVIK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 017
OF 241400Z JANUARY 91
INFO PRIORITY
INFO PRIORITY
INFO PRIORITY

INDEX	PA	CLASS.

74
u/

F01 0739/5

REYKJAVIK TELNO 015: BALTIC STATES: VISIT BY ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY

1. MFA STATEMENT MAPPING OUT ICELANDIC INTENTIONS ON THE BALTIC IN MORE MEASURED WAY. CHAIRMAN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT CURRENTLY VISITING.

DETAIL

2. A PRESS RELEASE (COPY BY BAG) FROM THE MFA, ISSUED ON 23 JANUARY, STATES THAT THE MINISTER HAS TAKEN A NUMBER OF DECISIONS AND MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT LAST WEEKEND TO THE BALTIC REPUBLICS. THESE INCLUDE:
- ACTION, ALREADY TAKEN, BY THE ICELANDIC AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW UNDER THE CDH MECHANISM OF THE CSCE SEEKING INFORMATION ON EVENTS IN LITHUANIA AND LATVIA OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS.
 - PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN URGED TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THE BALTIC.
 - NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE BEING ASKED TO TAKE JOINT ACTION AT THE UN TO SET UP A CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS AND THE SOVIET UNION.
 - IF VIOLENCE CONTINUES, ICELAND WILL PRESS FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING.
 - THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH LITHUANIA IS TO BE CONSIDERED BOTH BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE ALTHING, FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S VISIT BY THE MINISTER, WHICH IS REGARDED HERE AS ESTABLISHING DE FACTO RELATIONS.
 - ICELANDIC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE IS TO BE INSTRUCTED TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS.
 - THE NORDIC COUNCIL IS BEING URGED TO QUOTE ADOPT A CLEAR STANCE ON THE BALTIC REPUBLICS' STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE UNQUOTE.

1,

3. OTHER COMMENTS WORTH NOTING IN THE STATEMENT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF LITHUANIA, FIRST RECOGNISED BY ICELAND IN 1922. ICELAND HAS NEVER RECOGNISED THE ANNEXATION BY THE SOVIET UNION. IN ANY CASE, THE SUPREME SOVIET REAFFIRMED LITHUANIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN DECEMBER 1989 WHEN QUOTE IT DECLARED NULL AND VOID THE MOLOTOV-RIBBENTROP PACT ON THE ANNEXATION OF THE BALTIC STATES UNQUOTE.

COMMENT

4. THE STATEMENT IS MORE MEASURED IN TONE THAN RECENT STATEMENTS BY ICELANDIC POLITICIANS AND MEDIA. IT ALSO EMPHASISES INTENSE ICELANDIC INTEREST IN EVENTS IN THE BALTIC REPUBLICS. THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT HERE IS THE CURRENT VISIT BY EMANUEL ZINGERIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE LITHUANIAN PARLIAMENT. ZINGERIS IS MEETING A VARIETY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AND GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES. HE HAS BEEN REPORTED WIDELY TODAY (24 JANUARY) AS SAYING QUOTE ICELAND IS OUR WINDOW ON HUMANITY UNQUOTE.

BEST

YYYY