

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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