

[REDACTED]

THE FUNERALS ON 16 JANUARY IN VILINIUS

6. THE LOGANS ATTENDED THE SERVICE IN THE CATHEDRAL FOR 9 OF THOSE KILLED ON 13 JANUARY. IT WAS PRECEDED BY A STATESMAN-LIKE SPEECH BY THE LOCAL ORTHODOX METROPLITAN WHO TOLD THE CONGREGATION THAT THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE HAD THE SUPPORT OF ALL NATIONALITIES INCLUDING THE RUSSIANS. THOUSANDS GATHERED IN THE SQUARE AND STREETS SURROUNDING THE CATHEDRAL, MANY HOLDING CANDLES, FLOWERS AND PICTURES OF THE DEAD. IT WAS A MOVING EXPRESSION OF NATIONAL GRIEF WHICH, FROM THE START OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE STADIUM AT 10 AM THROUGH TO THE FINAL RITES AT THE CEMETARY, PASSED OFF PEACEFULLY.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

7. THE REPUBLICAN AUTHORITIES ARE DEEPLY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR PREDICAMENT.

[REDACTED]

THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL NOW USE THE OPPORTUNITY OF WESTERN MEDIA PREOCCUPATION WITH THE GULF WAR TO TAKE CONTROL.

[REDACTED]

8. THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES SEEM TO HAVE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE CRACKDOWN. HAVING ENCOUNTERED UNEXPECTED OPPOSITION, AS WELL AS DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM, THEY NOW HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO CONCILIATE, TO USE FORCE OR TO KEEP UP THE PRESENT PRESSURE TO INDUCE COLLAPSE IN DUE COURSE. ALTHOUGH THE BALTS EXPECT THE WORST, THE USE OF FORCE WILL INVOLVE CAUALTIES, AND THIS WILL CARRY A POLITICAL COST WHICH GORBACHEV MAY FEEL HE CAN ILL AFFORD. IF FORCE IS USED, IT MAY BE WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL AUTHORISATION, OR EVEN WITHOUT AUTHORISATION FROM THE CENTRAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, EVEN AMONG SOVIET ARMED FORCES IN THE BALTIC STATES THERE IS EVIDENCE OF LESS THAN WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR THE FUSE OF FORCE.

[REDACTED]