

MARKED THE SPOTS WHERE THE 13 LITHUANIANS WERE KILLED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING, A LARGE MODERN STRUCTURE WHICH IS NOT EASILY DEFENSIBLE, HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY MAKESHIFT BARRICADES WHICH ARE CONTINUOUSLY BEING STRENGTHENED WITH CONCRETE BLOCKS, EARTHWORKS ETC. OUTSIDE, CROWDS WAIT AROUND LOG FIRES WITH POSTERS, FLOWERS AND CANDLES. INSIDE SANDBAGS HAVE BEEN PILED AGAINST WINDOWS, METAL BANNISTERS HAVE BEEN RIPPED OUT FOR USE AS MAKESHIFT WEAPONS. GUARDS WITH SHOTGUNS ARE AT WINDOWS AND DOORS. MORE THAN A THOUSAND PEOPLE ARE NOW BARRICADED INSIDE. ESCAPE IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK OR EVEN AN ACCIDENTAL FIRE HAS BEEN RENDERED ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE BY THE DEFENDERS.

POLITICAL SITUATION

5. (A) LATVIA: SOVIET ATTACKS ON THE POLICE SCHOOL, A POLICE STATION AND ON A NUMBER OF VEHICLES IN THE EARLY HOURS OF 15 JANUARY HAD LED THE LEADERSHIP TO EXPECT VIOLENCE, FOLLOWED BY MILITARY ATTACK ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, AFTER THE PLANNED INTER-FRONT DEMONSTRATION LATER IN THE DAY. IN THE EVENT, THE LATTER PASSED WITHOUT INCIDENT. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF SECOND THOUGHTS AFTER THE DEATHS IN VILNIUS: YELTSIN'S INTERVENTION IN THE CRISIS: OR THE STRENGTH OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN CRITICISM. BOTH GORBUNOV AND GODMANIS EMPHASISED THEIR CONVICTION THAT A SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS WAS ACHIEVABLE WITHOUT THE USE OF FORCE.

[REDACTED] THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT THERE WAS LITTLE THE LATVIANS COULD DO TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS: THE PROSPECT WAS OF REVERSION TO OLD STYLE REPUBLICAN STATUS.