

tion. Gorbachov's demand that Memelland be added to this springboard is critical to maximizing the springboard's logistical capabilities, in addition to the economic and political devastation it would wreak on Lithuania by depriving it of its only port and hence, physical access to the Western world.

The port of Klaipeda (Memel), as *EIR* had documented in its 1985 *Global Showdown* special report, was vastly expanded during the 1980s, to become the key rail ferry logistics port for Soviet forces operating in Central Europe.

'Trojan Horse' Brazauskas

By March 15, the next level of Moscow's counter-offensive had surfaced: the activation of the numerically strong Russian minority in the Baltic republics, to march in opposition to independence, and the activation of Baltic Communist "Trojan Horses," who have pretended to be for independence, but whose true colors are now emerging.

The activation of the Russian ethnics began on March 15 in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, where thousands of Russians demonstrated, preemptively, before the March 18 Estonian elections, against Estonia following Lithuania's road. This is only the prelude to events that will show that Estonia's road will be even harder than Lithuania's. Lithuanians comprise 80% of their republic's population, whereas Estonians make up only some 60% of their republic's population. In Latvia, matters are worst. Latvians form at most 50% of the population. Political freedom in no way is a threat to the well-being of these ethnic minorities—but the Soviet KGB has busied itself in convincing them that it is, and is mobilizing them to oppose independence from Moscow.

In tandem, on March 15, Algirdas Brazauskas, the head of Lithuania's "independent" Communist Party, who had profiled himself and his party as "pro-independence" during the election campaign to secure Sajudis support and thus get some 40 "pro-independence" Communists elected to the Lithuanian Parliament, exposed himself as a Moscow Trojan Horse inside the Lithuanian Independence camp. Radio Moscow announced, with hardly concealed glee, that "the Lithuanian Parliament is split" between Sajudis and "their leader, Landsbergis on the one side," and "Brazauskas and the Lithuanian Communist Party on the other side." Brazauskas and the CP are using what he has termed in post-independence broadcasts, "the economic consequences of independence," to argue for a pullback from full independence, to negotiate with Moscow Lithuania's receiving "complete domestic independence," but remain tied in foreign and defense policy to the Soviet Federation.

Economic warfare has already begun to hit the republic. Moscow has slowed down deliveries of components and parts, and enterprises in Lithuania are feeling the pinch. Shortages are growing. On March 17, demonstrations by non-Lithuanian minorities (Russians and Poles) against independence will be held in Vilnius. A state of siege has begun. The nations of the West, including the nations of Eastern

Europe such as Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary, which historically and culturally belong to the West, must recognize the Republic of Lithuania and come to its assistance.

What happens next concerning Lithuania is an open question. Moscow may even succeed in temporarily ending Lithuanian independence. However, the courageous act by that proud Baltic people, seeking to rejoin the Europe to which they belong, historically and culturally, has unleashed a tidal wave moving toward freedom and independence in Moscow's entire prison of Captive Nations.

Documentation

LaRouche challenges Moscow's intentions

In a commentary issued March 13, U.S. congressional candidate Lyndon LaRouche advised, "We must say [to Lithuania], 'You have every right to assert your sovereign independence, because you have all the reasons for separating yourself from the Great Russians. . . ."

"Now, let me just take one little sticking point which reveals the whole issue. There's a strip of Lithuania, which is associated with the city of Memel. Now, the Lithuanians naturally would be inclined to say, 'Well, give us back this part of our territory, as part of our independent territory.' The Soviets have already said in advance, 'No.' What's the significance of Memel . . . to Moscow? It has only one significance. It is the crucial strategic point for launching a surprise attack on not only Poland, but parts of a united Germany, up to the city of Kiel in Schleswig-Holstein. . . ."

"Therefore, if the Russians are so determined, the Muscovites, to hold onto Lithuania, and particularly Memel as distinct from the rest of Lithuania, we must . . . say, 'Dear Czar Mikhail V of all the Russias: If you grant the Baltic states independence, as they may desire it, that will not hurt the Russians, that will help them in our eyes and you shall gain more by giving the Balts their freedom than you shall by trying to continue to hold them as your slaves and vassals. Because you will have better relations with us, the Baltic region itself will become economically better, much better, and rapidly, than it was or could be under your domination, and you will benefit from having a progressive state on your borders which represents no military threat whatsoever to you. Whereas, if you insist on owning this territory, then we cannot believe a thing you say about all your great humanistic reforms. And if you insist on holding Memel, then we know that aggressive war is lurking somewhere in the halls of the Kremlin.' "