

## Bush attacked for not backing Lithuania

*The President is coming under increasingly harsh criticism for his refusal to upset his condominium arrangement with Gorbachov by backing the Lithuanian republic. Here are some examples (see also Congressional Closeup, p. 76).*

Under the headline, "Double-Crossing Lithuania," syndicated columnist **Pat Buchanan** wrote on April 4: "As the awesome might of Moscow slowly crushed Lithuania last week, President Bush abruptly withdrew his moral support. All we ask now is that President Gorbachov, in carrying out his death sentence on the tiny Baltic republic, do it by lethal injection, not public firing squad. So long as Moscow does not do a Budapest, it has a free hand. . . . Lithuania cannot resist intimidation and pressure without Western moral support. Hence, the U.S. declaration of neutrality is the death warrant of Lithuanian independence."

**Rowland Evans** and **Robert Novak** charged in their April 4 syndicated column that "Bush's refusal to utter a word in public that might undermine President Gorbachov at home is similar to his self-defeating handling of China after Tiananmen Square. Retreat from principle has not improved China. That raises the prospect that Bush's reading of Gorbachov is as flawed as his reading of China. But the President alone decides."

The *Washington Times* on April 4 published an article by the London *Sunday Telegraph's* **Xan Smiley**, saying that an "influential slice of Washington opinion, from both left and right, is angered by Mr. Bush's reluctance to criticize the Kremlin and has started to accuse him of falling hostage to the charms of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov." "It's a return to the Kissinger approach," said one Soviet expert.

The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* published an editorial on March 13, two days after the Lithuanian Declaration of Independence, entitled "To the Republic of Lithuania, a Salute." The paper blasted the Bush administration for waffling, despite the fact that "for 50 years, American officials have refused to recognize Josef Stalin's uania into the Soviet Union." Bush's position is not only "tantamount to withdrawing the American recognition that has been accorded free Lithuania for half a century," but

"it's also tantamount to repudiating the powerful precepts contained in the Declaration of Independence [which] declares that the right to self-determination is not granted by an external power, but resides with the people themselves."

LaRouche for Justice, the campaign committee for **Lyn-don LaRouche's** campaign for the Democratic congressional nomination in Virginia's 10th CD, took out an ad in the *Washington Times* on April 5, entitled "Support Lithuania; Stop Appeasing Moscow." The ad, which ran nearly a full page, carried the texts of two statements by LaRouche on the crisis (these also appeared in the April 6 issue of *EIR*).

### State and local governments respond

Several city councils and state legislatures around the country have passed resolutions calling for a tougher stand in support of Lithuanian independence.

**Baltimore:** The City Council stressed that it is "alarmed at the escalating nature of this crisis and feels concern for the future of Lithuania," and resolved that it "recognizes the right of self-determination and sovereignty for Lithuania and urges that peaceful negotiations be employed to bring about a political settlement which acknowledges and honors Lithuania's right to self-determination."

**Chicago:** The City Council adopted a resolution on March 21 which pointed out that "more than 10,000 persons of Lithuanian ancestry . . . make their homes in the Chicago metropolitan area [and] identify with the struggle of the Lithuanian people for freedom." The councilmen expressed "our support for, and solidarity with the people of the Republic of Lithuania in their declaration of independence, and call upon all citizens of Chicago to support the cause of Lithuanian independence."

**Cleveland:** The City Council's resolution underlined that "after Lithuania declared independence in 1918, the U.S. did extend full recognition to Lithuania on July 26, 1922, and has never recognized the illegal annexation in 1940 of Lithuania by the Soviet Union—meaning that the U.S. recognition of the independent and sovereign state of Lithuania is continuing."

**New Jersey:** On March 29, the State Senate passed by unanimous voice vote a resolution supporting Lithuania. It stressed that events following Lithuania's Declaration of Independence "included expulsion of foreigners from Lithuania by the government of the Soviet Union and hostile activities by Soviet troops as they seized Lithuania's citizens and terrorized her people in hospitals and government buildings."

**Los Angeles:** Proclaiming "we are all Lithuanians now," City Council President John Ferraro greeted the unanimous vote by the Council on March 30 in favor of a resolution supporting Lithuania.

**Texas:** A resolution calling on the President to support Lithuanian independence and to establish full diplomatic ties with Lithuania was passed by Democrats in two Senate District conventions on March 31.