

into supporting his policy and to prop him up. Everybody believed these mystifications, even U.S. President George Bush.

The truth is that the very system has collapsed, quite apart from Gorbachov. The only way out is a real change in the Soviet system; they have to get the economy relaunched, to increase agricultural and industrial production.

EIR: Are you confident?

Tulaba: I'm an optimist. The difficulties to be overcome are immense, but if the Westerners are not so naïve and don't let themselves be deceived by Gorbachov, the situation could evolve positively. Gorbachov is not the savior of the world, he is a man of the secret services, and that's how he should be treated.

EIR: What do you think the Russians think about German reunification?

Tulaba: The leaders of the Kremlin had already foreseen for four years the possibility of German reunification and they have studied what price they wanted Europe to pay to give their assent. The price is neutralization, of course.

EIR: What role is being played by the Holy See in the conflict between Moscow and Vilnius?

Tulaba: The Holy See is doing the impossible to help in finding a solution that will satisfy both Moscow and Lithuania, with respect to the independence and sovereignty of our nation. Personally the Holy Father is very close to the Lithuanian people. Even Poland is helping us. Solidarnosc representatives went to Vilnius to express their solidarity with our people's struggle.

EIR: What is your opinion on the synod of European bishops, recently convoked by John Paul II?

Tulaba: It is an idea that the Pope has been pursuing for many years, that of recreating a Catholic spiritual center in Europe. It will be a fruitful and useful encounter in every respect. The bishops of the West will be able to hear about the difficulties of the Eastern bishops, and vice versa. And who knows, maybe the Western bishops will have things to learn from the Eastern bishops who have endured the long night of communist oppression with heroism!

EIR: What is the situation of young people in the East?

Tulaba: There is a great desire for knowledge. The communist system made a *tabula rasa* of spiritual values. The youth are not educated. There is an enormous spiritual void, and that is dangerous. The young people admire the faith, but they do not know what it really is. Our task is to fill this void.

Landsbergis assails Western 'pragmatism'

On April 17, President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania condemned the lack of morality underlying Western leaders' appeasement of Mikhail Gorbachov, as stemming from the moral affliction of pragmatism. He also ridiculed the myth of Gorbachov propagated by the West. On May 12, Landsbergis commented in an interview with Reuters, "Many foreign governments are looking on indifferently at the events in Lithuania. We cannot say the same of the Kremlin."

The following excerpts are from the broadcast of Landsbergis' April 17 speech on Radio Vilnius, monitored, transcribed, and translated by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service.

World public opinion is yet another weapon that is also very important but which only partially depends on us. Here we encountered an extraordinary competition in people's minds, the press, and all the media that shape public

opinion. This competition was made by the myth of Mikhail Gorbachov in the world and the pragmatism and indifference which had taken root a long time ago in many Western countries. . . .

It looks as if a certain blackmail on an international scale, concerning the future of M. Gorbachov and the hopes of Western states which are linked with it, has also failed. They say: What should be sacrificed? Lithuania or Gorbachov? Or perestroika? As if Lithuania would mean a return to some sort of stagnation and not to a consistent continuation of perestroika itself! Certain threats that the issue of Lithuania may even threaten world peace look too paradoxical, because the whole world could see what these forces of peace were, and how these forces behaved in Lithuania.

There is a certain matter which Western politicians were made to believe: That one should not hurry with recognition of the Lithuanian government or direct diplomatic contacts because this could provoke the most conservative forces of the U.S.S.R. In other words, recognition would provoke madness, and therefore one should not hurry with this. Well, concerning this we can be patient. A month is a very short period of time, in comparison with the several years which Lithuania had to wait after the Declaration of Independence in 1918.