

December 6, 1967

Taped by DNC
[Actual]

[Dec. 6, 1967]

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY TO MEMBERS OF
THE LITHUANIAN COUNCIL

Washington, D.C.

Thank you very, very much, thank you. Well, first may I welcome you. My good friend Tony and Mary and other members of this distinguished delegation. And I especially want to thank you for bringing me this memorandum today and for your letter to me of some days ago telling me of the possibility of our visit. I want also to express to you the heartfelt appreciation of the President of the United States, Mr. Johnson, for your work and for your steadfastness and for your vigorous support of our country and your country -- this great America -- and what it's endeavoring to do now in Asia as it has endeavored to do in other parts of the world. Your support of our policy in Vietnam is very reassuring and may I say deeply appreciated. What we seek to do there is what we sought to do around the world -- provide for independence, promote independence and self-determination -- that's our only objective, we seek no territory, we seek no sphere of influence, we seek no imperial domain. All we seek to do is to help those who are the victims of brutality and aggression -- maintain their freedom and their independence so that they can build their own life and design their own future.

It's particularly gratifying for me to meet with this distinguished delegation on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of Lithuanian independence, and of course we know that Lithuanian independence being reestablished at the end of World War I with a very great and idealistic and forceful leader, Woodrow Wilson who fought so hard for the right of self-determination. Organizations such as the Lithuanian-American Council have played an important role in the shaping of our society from the diverse national elements, but out of this diversity of people comes our strength and the Lithuanian people have truly enriched the culture of America and the industry, and the commerce, and the agriculture of this nation -- made it a strong nation. You have contributed to the enrichment of the fabric of American life and you've done so through the preservation of your own cultural heritage. As you know, the United States government has consistently refused to recognize the forcible incorporation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union and has continued to support the cause of self-determination for all the Baltic peoples. The courage and the dedication with which the Lithuanian people both at home and abroad have maintained the national identity in the face of great adversity is an inspiration to free men everywhere. It was not surprising to me therefore, that this delegation and your people should stand with the government of the United States in its policy in Vietnam. You know that the principle of self-determination applies universally and thank goodness you also know what happens in a totalitarian society and a totalitarian regime.

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We have learned from bitter experience that the cause of freedom throughout the world is indivisible and that human liberty can never be advanced and assured without firmness of purpose and readiness for sacrifice on the part of those who cherish its blessings. It is with this fundamental realization and with this spirit that the government and the people of the United States will, I am confident, meet their responsibilities in today's troubled world. And I want to say to the Lithuanian-American Council that your message in your memorandum to me needs to be brought to the attention of the entire nation. When I heard you speak of our endeavors as we seek them today and of the threats to our society and to the cause of freedom, you speak not as men and women of theory but who have lived through it. I think living is the best teacher of all, so Mr. Rudis, may I thank you very, very much and I will see by the way that this communication is brought to the attention of the President; I will personally see to that; to the Secretary of State and it will also be incorporated in the records of the Congress. As the presiding officer of the Senate I will ask that it be incorporated as a communication to the Vice President in his capacity as the President of the Senate and have it made a part of the record of the United States Senate proceedings, along with, if you don't mind, maybe some of my remarks if the Senate will permit.

Thank you, thank you very much -- that's a wonderful statement, it really is and I'm just so grateful to you, thank you all very, very much.

[Edited]
Actual

RESPONSE BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY FOLLOWING
PRESENTATION BY MEMBERS OF THE LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL,
DECEMBER 6, 1967

Thank you very, very much. First, may I welcome you: My good friend Tony and Mary and other members of this distinguished delegation. And I especially want to thank you for bringing me this memorandum today and for your letter to me of some days ago telling me of the possibility of our visit. I want also to express to you the heartfelt appreciation of the President of the United States, Mr. Johnson, for your work and for your steadfastness and for your vigorous support of our country and your country --- this great America --- and what it's endeavoring to do now in Asia as it has endeavored to do in other parts of the world. Your support of our policy in Vietnam is very reassuring and, may I say, deeply appreciated. What we seek to do there is what we are seeking to do around the world --- provide for independence, promote independence and self-determination. That's our only objective. We seek no territory; we seek no sphere of influence; we seek no imperial domain. All we seek to do is to help those who are the victims of brutality and aggression to maintain their freedom and their independence so that they can build their own life and design their own future.

It's particularly gratifying for me to meet with this distinguished delegation on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of

Lithuanian independence. Of course, we know that Lithuanian independence was re-established at the end of World War I with a great and idealistic and forceful leader, Woodrow Wilson, who fought so hard for the right of self-determination.

Organizations such as the Lithuanian American Council have played an important role in the shaping of our society from the diverse national elements. But out of this diversity of people comes our strength, and the Lithuanian people have truly enriched the culture of America and the industry, and the commerce, and the agriculture of this nation --- made it a strong nation. You have contributed to the enrichment of the fabric of American life and you've done so through the preservation of your own cultural heritage.

As you know, the United States government has consistently refused to recognize the forcible incorporation of Lithuania by the Soviet Union and has continued to support the cause of self-determination for all the Baltic peoples. The courage and the dedication with which the Lithuanian people both at home and abroad have maintained their national identity in the face of great adversity is an inspiration to free men everywhere. It was not surprising to me, therefore, that this delegation and your people should stand with the government of the United States in its policy in Vietnam. You know that the principle of self-determination applies universally. And thank goodness you also know what happens in a totalitarian society and a totalitarian regime.

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I want to say to the Lithuanian American Council that your message in your memorandum to me needs to be brought to the attention of the entire nation. When I heard you speak of our endeavors as we seek them today and of the threats to our society and to the cause of freedom, I know you spoke, not as men and women of theory, but as people who have lived through it. I think living is the best teacher of all.

So Mr. Rudis, may I thank you very, very much. I will see that this communication is brought to the attention of the President and the Secretary of State, and it will also be incorporated in the records of the Congress.



PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL ON YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

733 FIFTEENTH STREET NW.

WASHINGTON 20005

HUBERT H. HUMPHREY
CHAIRMAN

MEMORANDUM

TO: BarBara Ramsey
FROM: Neal Gregory *NG*
DATE: December 7, 1967

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file

I am returning the Lithuanian file.

I have added to it a transcript of the Vice President's remarks (as prepared and as delivered). They were cleared by Mr. Homer Phelps, Eastern European desk, State Department.

A copy of the entire proceedings have been sent to Suzanne Murray. She will arrange for them to be inserted in the Congressional Record, per the Vice President's request.

A recording of the proceedings was made by the Democratic National Committee. Copies have been furnished to Mr. Rudis for broadcast on the 12th over Lithuanian-American radio stations. Photographs were made of the delegation and the Vice President. These will be forwarded to Mr. Rudis upon their receipt.

*Ted -
if we need tape
too, we should ask Neal
to get one.
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