

2-16-65

Mr. Fogarty

Mr. Speaker

Once again, on this historic occasion, I join with my colleagues here on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives to mark the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of Lithuania and to pay deserved tribute to the founders of that Republic.

It was on February 16, 1918 that the Republic of Lithuania proclaimed its independence - an independence which we all know was destined to be short lived. After only 22 years of existence this valiant nation was overrun by the Red tidal wave and since then the usual communistic pattern of acute, cruel suffering of her people has continued.

Any attempt to recite in detail the many highlights of Lithuania's great history would certainly be beyond my ability. The story has been told and retold. The valiant deeds of Lithuanian men and women of the past have been repeated over and over again - particularly those deeds of fathers and mothers who have kept alive the fire of freedom which was Lithuania's first love. So also the deeds of children who refused to let Lithuania die in spite of the most concerted efforts in history to destroy all trace of a nation and a people.

The contribution of the Lithuanians in America and their descendants gives us some idea of the national vitality of that country. It is an indication that confidence and faith in Lithuania's future is well-placed. The distinctive culture, the deep-rooted traditions, and the rich folklore of the Lithuanian people have greatly enriched our own country. Their contribution has been magnificent and I am proud that so many of them are citizens of my State of Rhode Island.

To the many persons of Lithuanian descent and origin I extend my congratulations on this - the anniversary of the declaration of independence of Lithuania. On this day, of so much significance to all Lithuanians, I join my hopes with theirs that their mother country may soon be delivered from its present domination and become again a free and independent nation.

And on this day of such significance I can think of no more direct contribution I can make to the cause of peace than to reintroduce the Concurrent Resolution which I submitted to the previous Congress. This Resolution provides that the Senate and the House of Representatives request the President of the United States to bring up the Baltic States Question before the United Nations and asks that the United Nations request the Soviets to withdraw all Soviet troops, agents, colonists, and

controls from Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. It also urges the United Nations to request that the Soviets return all Baltic exiles from Siberia, prisons, and slave-labor camps in the Soviet Union. It further provides that the United Nations conduct free elections in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia under its supervision and punish all Soviet Communists who are guilty of crimes against the people of the Baltic States.

I am pleased to reintroduce this Resolution and I hope that it receives the speedy concurrence of both Houses of this Congress.