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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

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STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

The President met for one-half hour today in the Oval Office with Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis and an accompanying delegation of officials from Lithuania. Landsbergis, who requested the meeting, is on a private visit to the United States.

The President noted the value of personal contacts with the Baltic leaders who have shown discipline and foresight in their commitment to a non-violent solution to their problems with the Soviet government.

The President reaffirmed United States policy pertaining to the Baltic States. He told President Landsbergis the U.S. supports the right of Lithuania and other Baltic States to self-determination. The President added that the U.S. has never recognized the forcible incorporation of the Baltic States into the U.S.S.R. and assured President Landsbergis that this policy would not change. The President indicated that he and other senior Administration officials had made this point directly on more than one occasion to senior Soviet officials.

The President stressed that the U.S. wanted a peaceful solution to the problem between the Baltic States and the U.S.S.R. and hoped the Soviet government would work constructively with Baltic leaders, without resorting to threats, intimidation or the use of force.

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