

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “1976/09/05 - Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, Chicago, Illinois” of the Frances K. Pullen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MRS. FORD'S REMARKS, LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL,
September 5, 1976

Thank you for this beautiful piece of amber. And thank you for inviting me. America is more lively and more lovely because of our many ethnic traditions.

I know your deep pride in your Lithuanian inheritance is matched by your concern about your first homeland. The President asked me to tell you he shares your interest. He has long supported "the aspirations for freedom and National independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means." And that support will continue.

We both admire your commitment to freedom and your joyous traditions. I'm delighted to join your celebration of Lithuanian folk dance. What a very special treat for a retired dancer!

(Presentation of Costume)

*Make
speech table*



Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

Thank you for this beautiful piece of amber. And
thank you for inviting me to your festival. America
is a livelier and lovelier place, because of our many
folk traditions.

I know your pride in ~~your~~ your Lithuanian inheritance
is matched by your concern about your first homeland.
The President wants you to know he shares your interest.
He has always supported "the aspirations for freedom and
National independence of the people of Eastern ~~Europe~~
Europe by every proper and peaceful means." And that support
will continue.

We both admire the strength you bring America, because
of your ~~deep appreciation~~ understanding of the meaning of
freedom.

Lithuanian-Americans bring strength to our National
commitment to freedom---and joyous traditions to our
culture. I proudly ~~you~~ join this salute to ~~both~~ all your special
contributions.

Mrs. Ford's ~~Remarks~~ Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance

Festival, September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me ~~and~~ of today. Thank you so much for the ~~gift~~ gift and for inviting me to your festival.

I know that your pride in Lithuanian ~~folk~~ traditions is matched by ~~and~~ your concern about your first homeland. The President asked me to tell you of his support "of the ~~and~~ aspirations ~~and~~ for freedom and National independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means." I bring you this word from him and ~~with~~ ~~our~~ our ~~admiration~~ admiration of the strength you bring American ~~life~~ life through a ~~unique~~ unique cultural legacy ~~and~~ and love of freedom.

Freedom makes possible diversity and ~~individualism~~ individualism, and ~~of~~ of this festival celebrates ~~and~~ freedom by honoring the Lithuanian ~~contributions~~ contributions to diveristy.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me of today. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to share your salute to the Bicentennial.

What an exciting birthday party America is having! The many events make me think of a kaleidoscope. When you hold a kaleidoscope up to the light and turn it, the picture changes. Every Bicentennial activity has shown me another view of America. I know today will bring still another picture.

Our different traditions and individualism are possible, because of our freedom. Freedom is what all of our Bicentennial celebrations are about---and I'm very proud to join you today for this festival to freedom.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
~~September 5, 1976~~ September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me of today. Thank you so much for this gift and for ~~inviting~~ inviting me to your folk dance festival.

The President and I believe very strongly in the importance of our diverse cultural ~~traditions~~ traditions. He asked me especially to tell you that "his lifelong policy has been to support the aspirations for freedom and National ~~independence~~ independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means."

Our friends from many different ~~ethnic~~ ethnic backgrounds have given us a special appreciation for what America means to them'///and what freedom means.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me of today. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to your festival.

The traditions of Lithuanian-Americans contribute to the strength of our culture. Your ~~appreciation~~ love of freedom ~~helps build~~ strengthens our National commitment. The ~~President~~ President has asked me to share his lifelong support "of the aspirations for freedom and National independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means."

We both admire your ~~work~~ contributions to our American ~~and~~ legacy and your struggle on behalf of all human freedom.

Freedom is what all of our ~~Bicentennial~~ Bicentennial celebrations are about---and I'm very proud to ~~share~~ join your salute to the special place of ~~Lithuanian-Americans~~ Lithuanian traditions ~~in~~ in our American life.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me ~~xx~~ ~~xx~~ of today. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to your ~~xx~~ festival.

Lithuanian-Americans bring ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ special folk traditions---and a love of freedom. Your appreciation of freedom strengthens all of us. The President has asked me to bring ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a message of his lifelong support "of the aspirations for freedom and National independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful ~~xx~~ means." He knows of your deep concern for your first homeland, and he wanted you to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ he understands your anxieties.

I know of your commitment to freedom---and of his ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ I know he would also want me to tell you of our ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ admiration for your ~~xxxxxxxx~~ contributions to America. I am very proud to join your ~~xx~~ salute to freedom and to the special place of Lithuanian traditions in our National life.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful piece of amber will always remind me of today. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to your festival.

I know that your pride in Lithuanian folk ~~traditions~~ traditions is matched by ~~your~~ your concern about ~~the~~ your first homeland. The President asked me to bring you a message of support "of the aspirations for freedom and National independence of the people of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means." He sends his assurances that the ~~of the Soviet~~ of the Soviet ~~incorporation~~ incorporation of U.S. policy of nonrecognition of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania ~~has~~ is not affected by the results of the European Security Conference." I hope you know of his understanding of your special concerns.

I am happy that I could ~~join~~ share his views with you---and join your salute to Lithuanian traditions and ideals.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful amber will always remind me of
your folk dance festival---and of all of you. Thank you
so much for this gift and for inviting me to share your
salute to the Bicentennial.

Our wonderful ^{year long} ~~birthday~~ birthday party makes me think
of a kaleidoscope. When you hold a kaleidoscope up to the
light and turn it, the patterns change. ~~Every~~ Every ^{event}
event has shown me a new pattern---a fresh way of looking
at what America is. ~~Your~~ Your Lithuanian tradition is part of
our special American ~~diversity~~ diversity.

But just as a ~~kaleidoscope~~ kaleidoscope needs light to ~~show~~
~~reveal~~ reveal the picture, our differences are made
possible only by our freedom.

I am proud to join your salute to our freedom and to
the strength of ~~our~~ our many proud and beautiful traditions.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Lithuanian-American Folk Dance Festival

This beautiful amber will always remind me of your folk dance festival---and of all of you. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to share your salute to the Bicentennial.

Our year-long celebration makes me think of ~~the~~ a kaleoscope. When you hold a kaleoscope up ~~to~~ to the light and turn ~~the~~ it, the ~~differe~~ patterns change. Each event I've shared this year~~xx~~---like the turn of the kaleoscope---has made a new pattern ~~and~~---a fresh way of looking at what ~~Amex~~ America means. By sharing your fascinating cultural traditions---you create a special pattern.

But most of all, our Bicentennial events have been held up to the~~x~~ light of ~~x~~ freedom. ~~Thax~~ without that have light, we could not ~~see~~ our ~~div~~ different ~~xxxxxxx~~ traditions. The diversity that makes America strong depends upon our ~~ap~~ basic freedom.

Your celebration today---like all our celebrations this year---honors first the freedom America gives us to be ~~differe~~ proud of our ~~differe~~ differences---in heritage and thought. I join you in celebrating ~~amex~~ ~~wha~~ the Lithuanian ~~xxxxxxx~~ contribution to America---and our freedom.

This beautiful amber will always remind me of your folk dance festival---and of all of you. Thank you so much for this gift and for inviting me to share your salute to the Bicentennial.

Our Bicentennial celebration makes me think of a kaleidoscope. Each event---like the turn of the kaleidoscope---makes a new pattern---a fresh way of looking at what America means. By sharing your fascinating cultural traditions---you create a special pattern.

But most of all, we have held our American kaleidoscope up to the light of freedom---we know that without that light our diversity could not be seen or our traditions survive. So that above all in all our celebrations this year---we honor first the freedom America gives us---to choose our own pattern of life.

I look forward to seeing you celebrate in dance---what we all celebrate not just during the Bicentennial but every year---our freedom.



This beautiful amber will always remind me of your folk dance festival---and of all of you. Thank you very much for this gift and for your ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ invitation. celebration

What an amazing and exciting ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ our Bicentennial is! We've shared experiences of our past, enjoyed cultural traditions of our ~~XXXXXX~~ forefathers--- and---best of all---rejoiced in our freedoms. Lithuanian Americans ~~XXXX~~ are especially mindful of the meaning of freedom---and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ you bring that awareness to your ~~XXXXXX~~ celebration of two hundred years of freedom.

The diversity of our people makes this nation stronger--- and our individuality more meaningful.

Mrs. Ford's Remarks, Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival,
September 5, 1976

This beautiful ~~stone~~ amber will be a reminder of this day of celebration---and of you all. Thank you very much.

The Bicentennial year has been an dazzling array of events and projects---all to ~~us~~ one ~~important~~ important end to ~~rejoice~~ rejoice in our freedoms. I know that Lithuanian Americans are especially concerned about the freedoms of your first homeland. And the President ~~is~~ asks me to tell you of his life-long support for the aspirations of freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe of every proper and peaceful means.

Our family shares the joy of the Lithuanian American family in this very special anniversary. All of us have traveled America and seen how the diverse peoples have enriched our culture and strengthen our common humanity.

I'm very eager to see your dancing---and to know that this proud heritage~~n~~ has been preserved.

KAYE

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 26, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: PETER SORUM
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Action Memo

Mrs. Ford has accepted the following out-of-town invitations:

EVENT: Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival

GROUP: Lithuanian-American Community of the U.S.A., Inc.

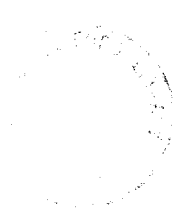
DATE: Sunday, September 5, 1976

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: International Amphitheatre
4300 South Halstead Street
Chicago, Illinois

CONTACT: Mr. Val Adamkus
O: 312-353-2000
H: 312-737-0638

COMMENTS: The Lithuanian-American Community is sponsoring the Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in salute to the Bicentennial. One hundred and two groups of over 2000 Lithuanian folk dancers will perform. The attendance is expected to be about 10,000. The Festival is registered with ARBA as the Lithuanian community's principal festivity. Although Mr. Bruno Juodelis is the chairman (312-968-3869), Mr. Adamkus is the contact. Congressman Edward Derwinsky (R-Ill) has also been interested in this event and called to endorse it.



Mrs. Ford will remain in Vail until Saturday afternoon, when she will travel to the Chicago area and overnight. Sunday morning, September 5th, she will attend church at the Shiloh Baptist Church in Waukegan, Illinois. Congressman Robert McClory will also attend, as will the Mayor of Waukegan, Robert Sabonjian.

Her attendance at the Shiloh Baptist Church stems from a conversation the President had directly with Congressman McClory in the early part of this year. At that time the President told Congressman McClory he would strongly recommend that Mrs. Ford accept this invitation if at all possible. Thus, because it is unlikely she will be in Illinois again on a Sunday, this seemed maybe the best opportunity to accept the invitation. Attending the Shiloh Baptist Church is a woman named Mary Lacey who does gospel singing. It is my understanding she will sing during the service. The contact is the minister of the church: Rev. Jonathan Lightfoot (O: 312-662-6325 or 312-668-9361; H: 312-244-6451). I think driving times would be one of my chief concerns about this. The file is attached.

Thank you.

c: BF Staff
Red Cavaney
Myron Kuropas
William Nicholson
Jerry Jones
Terry O'Donnell
Max Friedersdorf
Steve McConahey
Rex Scouten
Staircase

RE: CHURCH
SUN. 9/5/76

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

225-5221

PER CONG. McCLORY:

REV. JONATHAN LIGHTFOOT
SILLOT BAPTIST CHURCH
WAUKEGAN, ILLINOIS

(312) 662-6325
OR ONT-9361

H: (312) 244-6451

GOSPEL SINGER: MARY LACEY

MAYOR OF WAUKEGAN
ROBERT SLEONJIAN
ALSO PRESENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

*The
Ambassadors*

(312) 353-2000

H: (312) 737-0638

*General (page)
in Ambassador's*

THE FIFTH LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL
 COMMEMORATING AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL
 Chicago, International Amphitheatre, Sept. 5, 1976

LITHUANIAN FOLK DANCE FESTIVALS, INC.

A NON-PROFIT ILLINOIS CORPORATION
 912 Plainfield Rd., Downers Grove, Ill. 60515



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Bronislaw Cielieba
 912 Plainfield Rd.
 Downers Grove, Ill. 60515
 (312) 965-3869

Sofija Buzas
 Vice President
 7240 So. Harlem St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-1562

Program Director
 6549 Vernon Ave.
 Dearborn Heights, Mich. 48127
 (313) 281-7711

Artistic Director
 6455 So. Kedzie Ave.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-5358

Administrative Director
 4400 E. 91st St.
 Hickory Hills, Ill. 60561
 (312) 965-1568

General Manager
 5214 So. Harlem St.
 Westbra, Ill. 60591
 (312) 965-1568

Public Relations
 7111 S. Halsted St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-1568

Admission
 6549 Vernon Ave.
 Dearborn Heights, Mich. 48127
 (313) 281-7711

Registration
 Group Registration
 7355 So. Harlem St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-3529

Tickets
 4455 So. Kedzie Ave.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-7418

Food Raising
 dr. Bronis Cielieba
 355 E. State St.
 S. E. Chicago, Ill. 60637
 (312) 741-3047

Communication & Member
 dr. Bronis Cielieba
 2 E. 111th St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-3529

February 27, 1976

Honorable Gerald R. Ford
 The President of the United States
 The White House
 Washington, D.C. 20501

SUNDAY, SEPT. 5, 1976

2:00 PM - 4:30

International Amphitheatre
 4300 So. Halsted

1100
 Receipt in
 adj. Bldg.

- Process. of flags
- Natl. Anthem
- Parade of dancers
- Address by Mr. Ford (very brief)
- Main Dance or Cot. Ballet
- Program: dances

Dear Mr. President:

The American-Lithuanian Community in the U.S.A. is sponsoring the Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival on September 5, 1976, at the International Amphitheatre in Chicago. One hundred and two groups of over 2000 Lithuanian folk dancers from the U.S.A., Canada, Brazil, Venezuela, Germany and Great Britain will perform before an expected audience of 10,000. + 2,000 = 12,000 DANCERS

This Festival will be the major salute to the Bicentennial of the U.S.A. by all American-Lithuanians as an affirmation of their loyalty and love to this great country as well as a demonstration of their cultural heritage. This Festival is registered by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, Washington D.C. as our principal Bicentennial festivity in the U.S.A.

It would be a great honor to this Festival and to all Lithuanians in the entire world to have you as Honorary Patron of the Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival, commemorating America's Bicentennial.

Your kind consideration will be deeply appreciated by all Lithuanians.

Very respectfully yours,

Bruno P. Juodelis

Bruno P. Juodelis, Chairman

(312) 965-3869

Communication & Member
 dr. Bronis Cielieba
 2 E. 111th St.
 Chicago, Ill. 60629
 (312) 965-3529

Banquet:	Hospitality:	Publications:	Reception:	Floor Supervision:	First Aid:	Information:
Marija Remys 3020 So. Harlem Ave Riverdale, Ill. 60546 (312) 417-0598	Stase Bacevicius 6455 So. Kedzie Ave Chicago, Ill. 60629 (312) 434-7655	Donute Bindokas 6634 So. Richmond Ave Chicago, Ill. 60629 (312) 925-3850	Vytautas Kamanas 1110 The 69 St Darien, Ill. 60559 (312) 968-7593	Jonas Patonis 6219 So. Whipple St. Chicago, Ill. 60629 (312) 737-2261	dr. Romas Povilaitis 1140 the 118 St. Lemont, Ill. 60439 (312) 257-7352	Anthony Raud 8045 W. 53rd Chicago, Ill. 60637 (312) 694-74



LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY of the U. S. A., Inc.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1004 ROBINSON BUILDING - 42 SOUTH 15TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19102

215 - 568-1587

Please reply to:

April 23, 1976

V. F. VOLERTAS
President

J. J. GAILA
Vice President

S. A. GECYS
Vice President

V. GRUZDYS
Vice President

A. W. NOVASITIS, Esq.
Vice President

A. VASKELIS
Vice President

S. M. JURSKIS, (Miss)
Secretary

P. MITALAS
Treasurer

A. M. ZERR, (Mrs.)
Activities Director

V. V. MACIUNAS
Administrator

A. KAIRYS
Chairman -
Cultural Fund

J. KAVALIUNAS
Chairman -
Board of Education

Dr. Myron Kuropas
Special Asst. to the President
for Ethnic Groups
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Fifth Lithuanian Folk
Dance Festival
Chicago Amphitheater
September 5, 1976

Dear Myron:

I am supplying the information you requested as a result of our telephone discussion in connection with the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival commemorating America's Bicentennial to be held September 5, 1976 at the Chicago International Amphitheater.

You indicated you will do your utmost to fulfill our organization's request to have Mrs. Betty Ford, wife of our President and/or their daughter, Susan to participate at the dance festival. As in the past, the amphitheater will be sold out with standing room only. Four years ago, there was national press coverage. The appearance of Mrs. Ford or her daughter will materially aid our common cause.

The Chairman of the Reception immediately prior to the Festival is Vytautas Kamantas, 1110 69th Street, Darien, Illinois 60559, Telephone No. 312-968-7598 who is the local contact for your office. You can obtain details from him in connection with the affair and Reception.

As indicated to you, this organization is sponsoring the Dance Festival through a separate non-profit community

Dr. Myron Kuropas

April 23, 1976

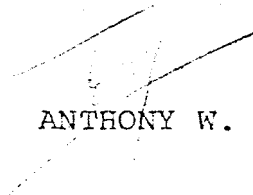
- 2 -

organization known as the Lithuanian Folk Dance Festivals, Inc. whose principal address is 912 Plainfield Road, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

The organization was created to maintain the continuity and permanency of the Festivals. However, we are the responsible organization.

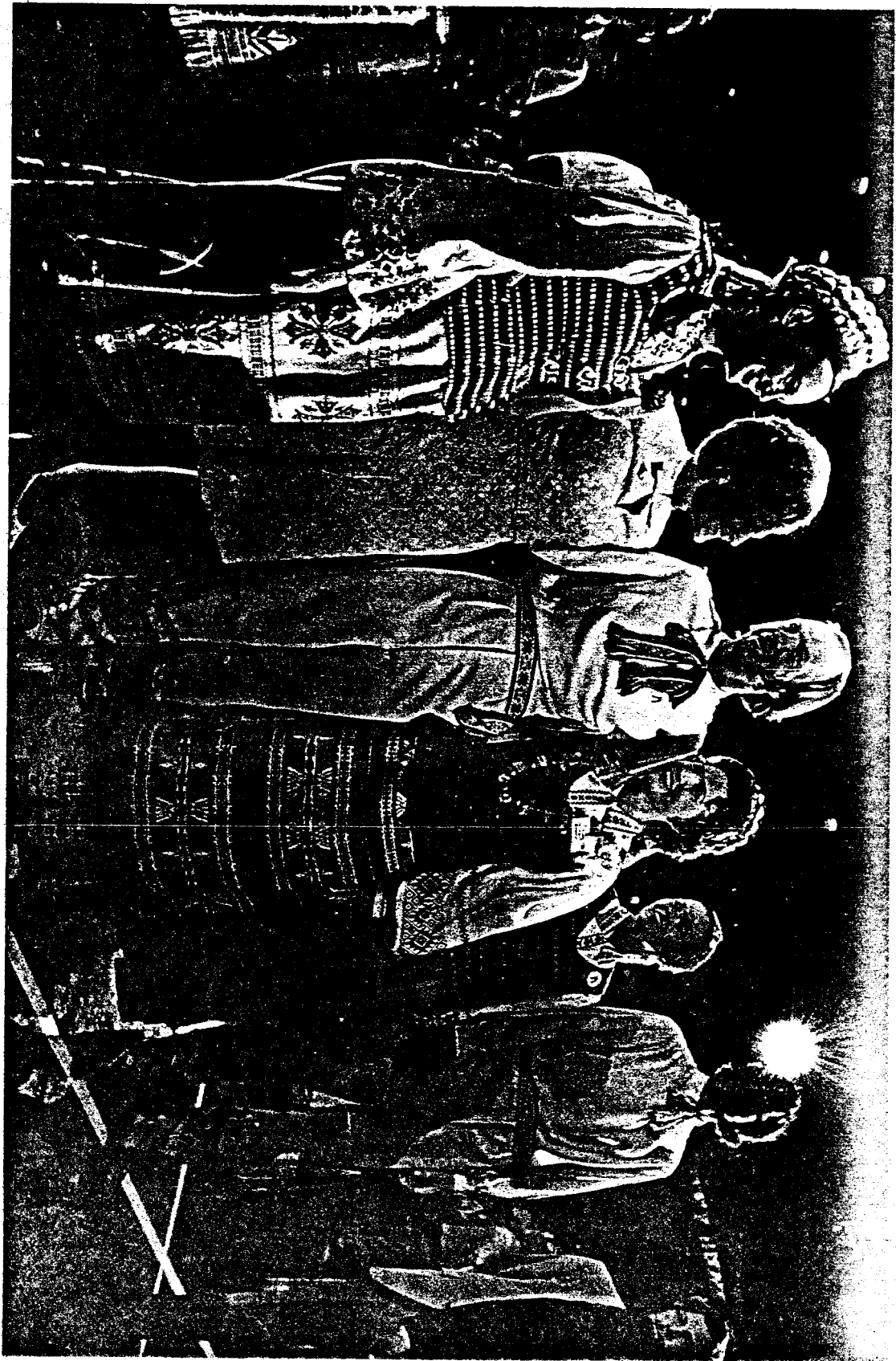
Your assistance in this regard would be sincerely appreciated. Please forward copies of correspondence in this connection to me for my file.

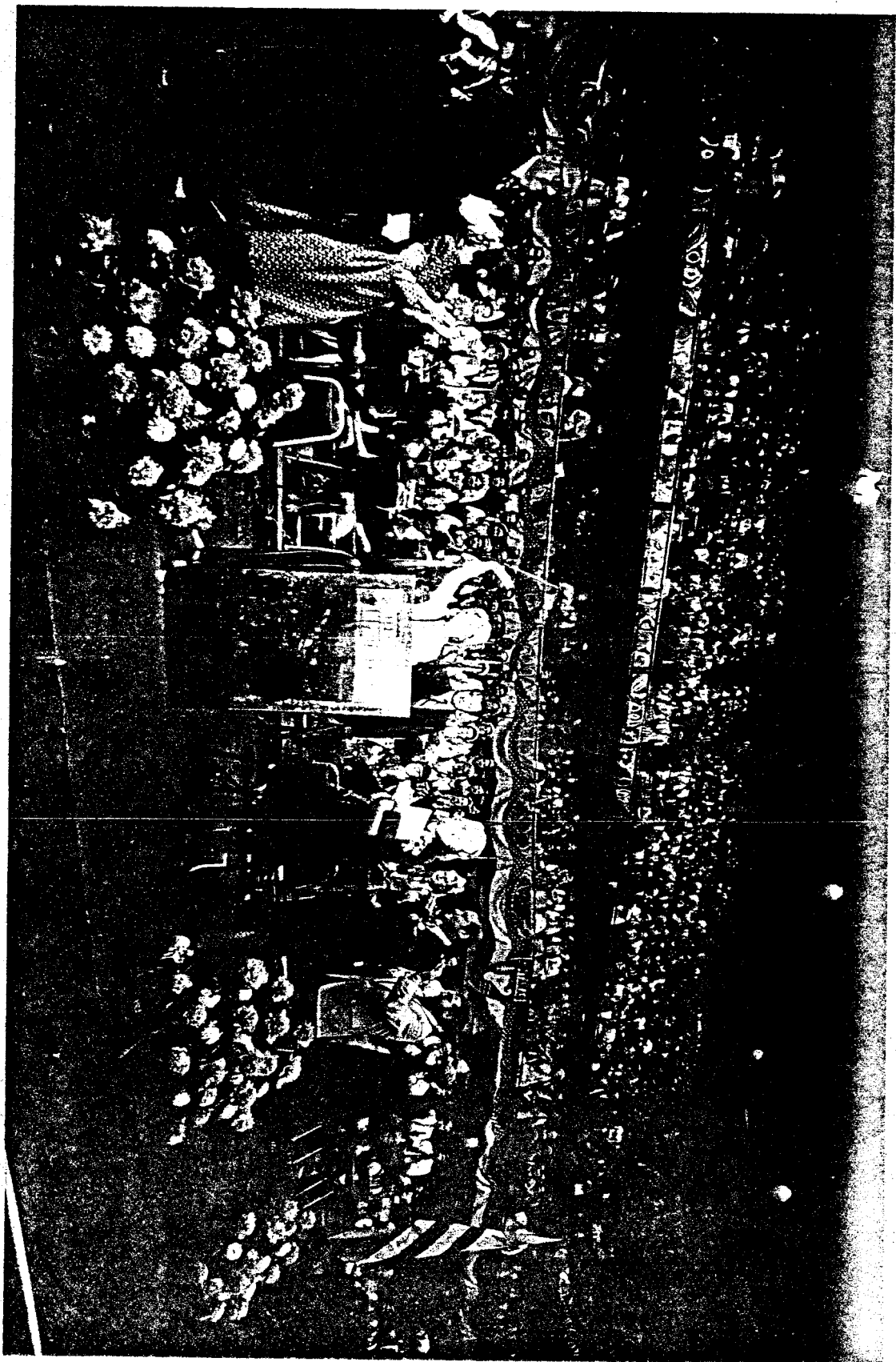
Sincerely yours,

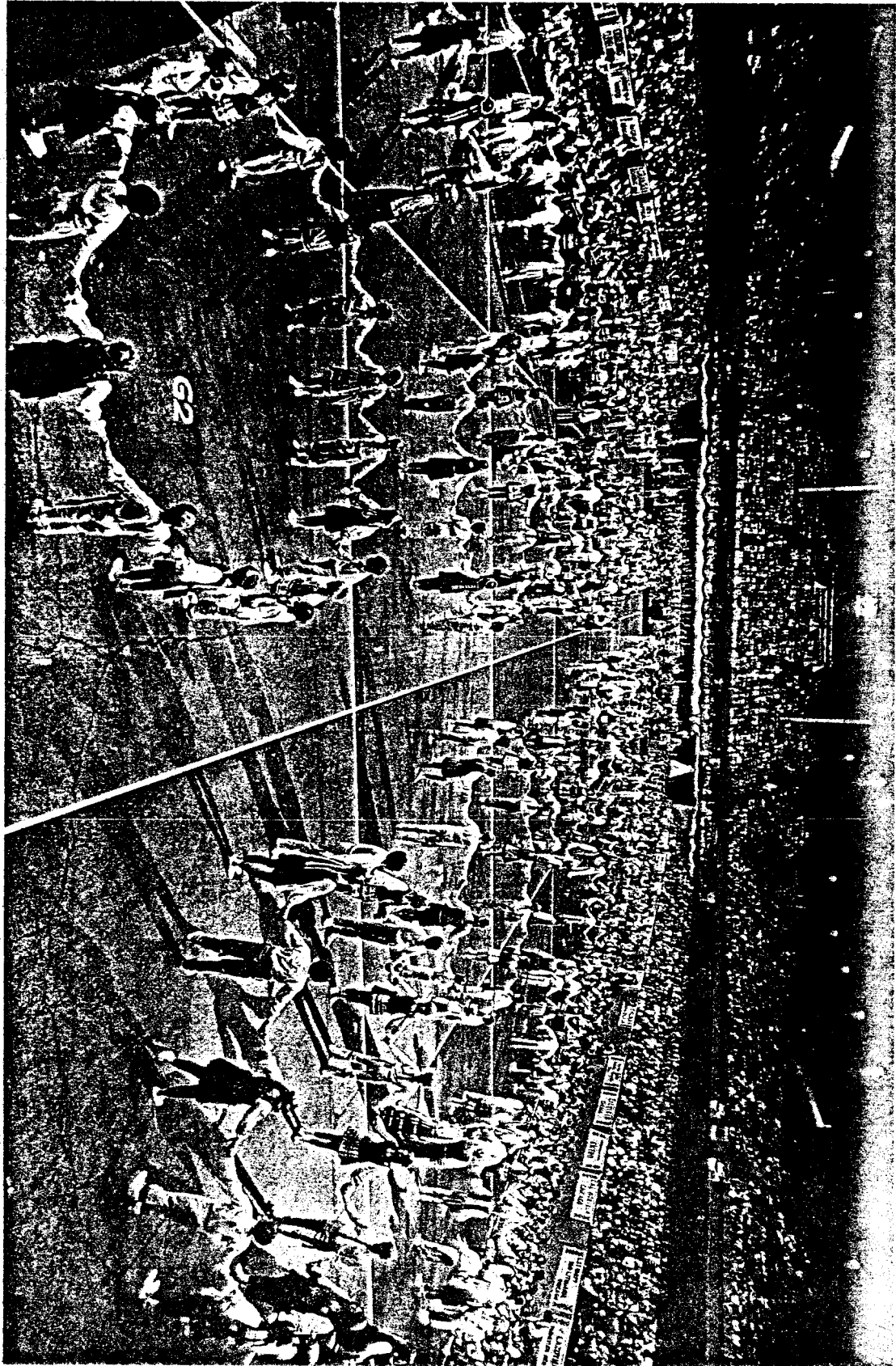

ANTHONY W. NOVASITIS, JR.

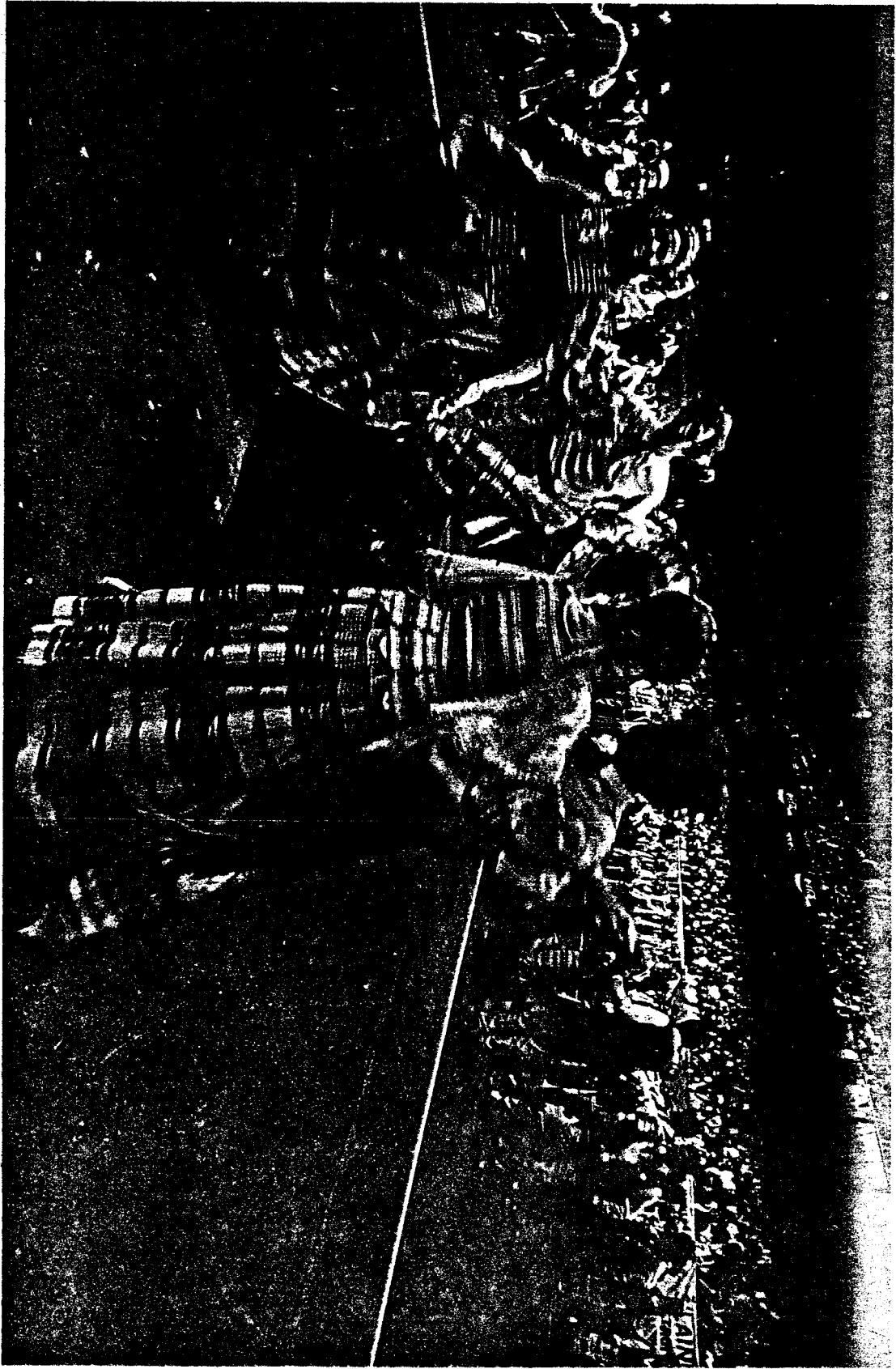
AWNjr/lg

cc: Mr. Vytautas Kamantas
Mr. Joseph Gaila









SECRET

For immediate release
Tuesday, Aug. 31 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

Mrs. Ford will open the Fifth Lithuanian Folk Dance Festival in Chicago Sept. 5. The Festival will be held at the International Amphitheatre Sunday at 2 p m.

About 12,000 people are expected for the dance festival, which features 2,000 Lithuanian folk dancers from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Venezuela, Germany and Great Britain. The Festival has been held every four years in the United States.

This year the event is a special tribute to the American Bicentennial by American Lithuanians. The Festival is registered by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration.

#

press contact: Frank Corrado (312) 353 2072



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 5, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Charlottesville, Virginia)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
NATURALIZATION CEREMONY
AT MONTICELLO

11:25 A.M. EDT

Governor Godwin, Mr. Justice Powell, Senator Byrd, Ambassador Nolting, Reverend Clergy, distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a very great honor and a high privilege, Governor Godwin, to come to the Commonwealth of Virginia and to this beautiful and significant home and to participate in this wonderful ceremony. It is a great honor and privilege for me to be here today.

I am very proud to welcome all of you as fellow citizens of the United States of America. I invite you to join fully in the American adventure and to share our common goal and our common glory.

Our common goal is freedom -- the liberty of each individual to enjoy the equal rights and to pursue the happiness which in this life God gives and self-government secures.

Our common glory is the great heritage from the past which enriches the present and insures our future.

In 1884, France, as a birthday gift, presented the United States with a statue -- the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. This year scores of friendly nations have sent us Bicentennial gifts which we deeply appreciate and will long cherish.

But you have given us a birthday present beyond price -- yourselves, your faith, your loyalty, and your love. We thank you with full and friendly hearts.

After two centuries, there is still something wonderful about being an American. If we cannot quite express it, we know what it is. You know what it is or you would not be here today. Why not just call it patriotism?

MORE

Thomas Jefferson was a Virginia planter, a politician, a philosopher, a practical problem-solver, a Palladian architect, a poet in prose. With such genius he became a Burgess, a delegate, a Governor, an Ambassador, a Secretary of State, a Vice President, and President of the United States. But, he was first a patriot.

The American patriots of 1776 who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to declare and defend our independence did more than dissolve their ties with another country to protest against the abuses of their liberties.

Jefferson and his colleagues very deliberately and very daringly set out to construct a new kind of nation. "Men may be trusted," he said, "to govern themselves without a master." This was the most revolutionary idea in the world at that time. It remains the most revolutionary idea in the world today.

Washington, Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and all patriots who laid the foundation for freedom in our Declaration and our Constitution carefully studied both contemporary and classic models of Government to adapt them to the American climate and our circumstances.

Just as Jefferson did in designing Monticello, they wanted to build in this beautiful land a home for equal freedom and opportunity, a haven of safety and happiness, not for themselves alone, but for all who would come to us through centuries.

How well they built is told by millions upon millions who came and are still coming. Our first national census in 1790 produced a recorded population just under four million. Three-fourths of them traced their ancestry to the British Isles, though most had considered themselves Americans for several generations.

There was already talk about further immigration, proposing it should be selective and restrictive, but this was swept aside by the greatest mass movement of people in all human history.

Immigrants came from almost everywhere, singly and in waves. Throughout our first century they brought the restless drive for better lives and rugged strength that cleared the wilderness, plowed the prairie, tamed the western plains, pushing on into the Pacific and to Alaska.

MORE

Like the Mayflower Pilgrims and the early Spanish settlers, these new Americans brought with them precious relics of the worlds they left behind -- a song, a story, a dance, a tool, a seed, a recipe, the name of a place, the rules of a game, a trick of the trade.

Such transfusions of traditions and cultures, as well as of blood, have made Americans unique among nations and Americans a new kind of people. There is little the world has that is not native to the United States today. Unfettered by ancient hates, the people of the young United States really believed that all men are created equal.

We admit they had stubborn blind spots in their lofty vision -- for blacks, whose forebearer had been Americans almost as long as theirs -- and for women, whose political rights we took even longer to recognize.

This is not the day, however, to deplore our shortcomings or to regret that not all new citizens have been welcomed as you are here today. The essential fact is that the United States -- as a national policy and in the hearts of most Americans -- has been willing to absorb anyone from anywhere.

We were confident that simply by sharing our American adventure these newcomers would become loyal, law-abiding, productive citizens, and they did. Older nations in the 18th and 19th centuries granted their nationality to foreign born only as a special privilege, if at all. We offered citizenship to all, and we have been richly rewarded.

The United States was able to do this because we are uniquely a community of values as distinct from a religious community, a racial community, a geographic community or an ethnic community. This nation was founded 200 years ago, not on ancient legends or conquests or physical likeness or language, but on a certain political value which Jefferson's pen so eloquently expressed.

To be an American is to subscribe to those opinions which the Declaration of Independence proclaims and the Constitution protects: The political values of self-government, liberty and justice, equal rights and equal opportunity.

These beliefs are the secrets of America's unity from diversity -- in my judgment the most magnificent achievement of our 200 years as a nation. "Black is beautiful" was a motto of genius which uplifted us far above its intention. Once Americans had thought about it and perceived its truth, we began to realize that so are brown, white, red and yellow beautiful. When I was young, a Sunday school teacher told us that the beauty of Joseph's coat was in its many colors. I believe Americans are beautiful -- individually, in communities, and freely joined together, by dedication to the United States of America.

I see a growing danger in this country to conformity of thought and taste and behavior. We need more encouragement and protection for individuality. The wealth we have of culture, ethnic and religious and racial traditions, are valuable counterbalances to the overpowering sameness and subordination of totalitarian societies.

The sense of belonging to any group that stands for something decent and noble so long as it does not confine free spirits or cultivate hostility to others, is part of the pride every American should have in the heritage of the past.

That heritage is rooted now, not in England alone -- as indebted as we are for the Magna Carta and the Common Law -- not in Europe alone, or in Africa alone, or Asia or on the islands of the sea. The American adventure draws from the best of all of mankind's long sojourn here on Earth and now reaches out into the solar system.

You came as strangers among us and you leave here as citizens, equal in fundamental rights, equal before the law with an equal share in the promise of the future.

Jefferson did not define what the pursuit of happiness means for you or for me. Our Constitution does not guarantee that any of us will find it. But we are free to try.

Foreigners like Lafayette, Von Steuben and Pulaski came to fight in our Revolution because they believed in its principles that they felt were universal. Immigrants like Andrew Carnegie came as a poor boy and created a great steel industry, then gave his fortune back to America for libraries, universities and museums. Maria Francesca Cabrini came as a missionary Sister to serve the sick and the poor. Samuel Gompers worked in a sweatshop, spent his lunchtime helping other immigrant workers learn to read so they could become citizens. We have gained far, far more than we have given to the millions who made America their second homeland.

Remember that none of us are more than caretakers of this great country. Remember that the more freedom you give to others, the more you will have for yourself. Remember that without law there can be no liberty.

And remember, as well, the rich treasures you brought from whence you came, and let us share your pride in them.

This is the way that we keep our independence as exciting as the day it was declared and keep the United States of America even more beautiful than Joseph's coat.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 11:37 A.M. EDT)

APRIL 2, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY
(Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GREATER MILWAUKEE ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS

MADER'S RESTAURANT

12:55 P.M. CST

THE PRESIDENT: First, let me express my appreciation for your being here, and after I make a few prepared remarks I will look forward to the opportunity to responding to any questions, whether it is on the subject matter that I am speaking on or any other subject, whether it is domestic or international matters.

I am reminded, as I see some of the faces here, of the meeting that we had, with some of you at least, in the Cabinet Room at the White House on July 25, as I recollect. At that time some 30 leaders of the Eastern European community met with me to discuss problems relating to Western Europe and related matters. I understand, however, that that was the very first time that a President of the United States met with leaders representing the interests of so many Americans concerned about Eastern Europe.

I think on our Bicentennial Anniversary it is particularly appropriate that we in Government recognize the great contributions of our citizens from Eastern Europe. Before the departure for the European Security Conference in Helsinki last July I stated my policy very categorically in reference to Eastern Europe, and at this time let me reiterate that statement. I worked on it myself, I am very proud of it and I think oftentimes it is not read in proper context.

It goes like this: It is the policy of the United States and it has been my policy ever since I entered public life to support the aspirations for freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe with whom we have such close ties of culture as well as blood by every proper and by every peaceful means.

MORE

(OVER)

I stated my hope and expectation that my visits to Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia would again demonstrate the friendship and the interest in the welfare and progress of the fine people of Eastern Europe. This remains my policy, regardless of what any Washington experts or anti-Washington experts may say or write.

On July 29, 1975, in the market square of Krakow, Poland, I told a good many thousands who were assembled there that I was standing only a very few feet from the flag marking where General Kosciusko stood and took his famous oath to fight, to regain the independence of Poland and the freedom of all Poles. I said I was very proud to be in a place so rich in Polish history and so closely associated with the Polish hero in our own struggle for independence in the United States.

During my visit to Belgrade I said that Americans particularly admired Yugoslavia's independent spirit. I said whenever independence is threatened, people everywhere look to the example of Yugoslavian people throughout their history. They take strength and they take inspiration from that example.

America's interest in Yugoslavia's continued independence, integrity and well-being, expressed often in the past, remains undiminished.

In the Joint Communique which President Ceausescu and I signed in Rumania we emphasized our support for a just and equitable international order which respects the right of each country regardless of size or political or economic or social system to choose its own destiny free from the use or threat of force.

When I returned from Europe, I told the American people that I was able to deliver in person a message of enormous significance to all Europeans. My message was very clear: America still cares. And the torch and the Statue of Liberty still burns very brightly. We stand for freedom and independence in 1976 just as we stood for freedom and independence in 1776.

I have recalled these events because they underline the fact that my policy, America's policy, toward Eastern Europe is fully, clearly and formally documented. It is a creative and cooperative policy toward the nations of Eastern Europe. It is the policy that embraces our most important ideals as a nation. It is a policy that I have repeated in messages to Americans of Estonian, Lithuanian and Ukranian ancestry, and I add the Latvian people whom I know so well in my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, know of my deep concern and devotion and friendship with them.

MORE

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

August 31, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kay Pullen
Room 213, East Wing
White House

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis *JW*

SUBJECT: *JW* Mrs. Ford's Visit to Lithuanian-
American Folk Festival

In response to your telephone call of August 31 to Mr. Clift, I am forwarding the following background papers for your information in connection with Mrs. Ford's visit to the Lithuanian-American Folk Festival in Chicago on September 4, 1976:

- President Ford's message to Americans of Lithuanian Ancestry, February 26, 1976;
- President Ford's remarks to Greater Milwaukee ethnic organizations, April 2, 1976; and
- President Ford's July 5 remarks at the Naturalization Ceremony, Monticello.

Taking the occasion of our Bicentennial year to mark the contributions of Americans of bi-national heritage to the growth and development of the United States would seem an appropriate theme for such an occasion.

ADMINISTRATIVELY
CONFIDENTIAL

What it amounts to -- there is no secret Washington policy, no double standard by this Government.

The record is positive, consistent, responsive to your concerns, and I say it is indisputable. The United States strongly supports the aspirations for freedom, for national independence of peoples everywhere, including the peoples of Eastern Europe. I have followed this policy in my visits to Eastern Europe and in my meetings with Eastern European leaders here as well as overseas. Our policy is in no sense -- and I emphasize this -- in no sense accept Soviet dominion of Eastern Europe or any kind of organic origin.

Nor is it in any way designed to permit the consolidation for such dominion. On the contrary, the United States seeks to be responsive to and to encourage as responsibly as possible the desires of Eastern Europeans for greater autonomy, independence and more normal relations with the rest of the world.

This is the policy that I will continue to pursue with patience, with firmness and with persistence -- a policy from which the United States will not waiver.

Thank you very, very much.

END

(AT 1:10 P.M. CST)

February 26, 1976

TO AMERICANS OF LITHUANIAN ANCESTRY

As we celebrate the birth of freedom in America, more and more of our people are mindful of their bi-national heritage. Your Lithuanian-American activities call attention to the remarkable efforts of millions of talented and hard-working individuals from all over the world who built America into the great nation we know today.

I am keenly aware of your great anxiety concerning your homeland, families and friends who have been and are still profoundly affected by East - West political developments in Europe. Last summer, just before departing for Helsinki, and before that in February of 1975, I met with your leaders to discuss these concerns and to emphasize that the accord I would sign in Helsinki was neither a treaty nor a legally binding document.

The Helsinki agreements, I pointed out, were political and moral commitments aimed at lessening tensions and opening further the lines of communication between the peoples of East and West. I assure you again that there is no cause for the very understandable concern you raised about the effect of the Helsinki Declarations on the Baltic nations. The United States has never recognized the Soviet incorporation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and is not doing so now. Our official policy of nonrecognition is not affected by the results of the European Security Conference.

It is the policy of the United States--and it has been my policy ever since I entered public life--to support the aspirations for freedom and national independence of the peoples of Eastern Europe by every proper and peaceful means.

I commend you for your continued contributions to our national legacy and to our durable system of representative government. Today, I salute you for your struggle on behalf of all human freedom.

TO BE READ BY DR. MYRON KUROPAS IN CHICAGO AT LITHUANIAN AMERICAN REPUBLICAN LEAGUE BANQUET ON FEB. 28

GRF:NSC/Kuropas/Hasek:jmc
Approved by Dennis Clift, NSC

1 Myron Kuropas
201 2/27 2:00 p.m.
OK

cc: R. Hartmann/R. Nessen/J. Connor/D. Downton/D. Clift, NSC/E. Hasek/CF