

Introduction. Press Conference in English

Thank you very much for coming to the Conservative Party Headquarter this morning. We have had an hour's very interesting discussion with the Lithuanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. We are very pleased to have them here. The three parties - which form the Norwegian Government - launched their campaign "Give democracy a chance in the East" two months ago. Since then we have received outstanding and new politicians from practically all over Eastern Europe. We are proud that it was possible also to have these two very prominent visitors from Lithuania. And we are happy that we were able to give them this opportunity to present their view to the Western public from the territory of a Western country.

The Lithuanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister have today given us their evaluation of the present situation in their country and in their conflict with the Soviet leadership. We have - on our side - reaffirmed our views and our support for Lithuanian independence. We have discussed with our guest the important question of how the West could now best contribute to a peaceful and just solution of the conflict.

You will in an hour or so be able to ask the Lithuanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister about their views and evaluations. I should, therefore, only like to stress the position of the three parties present at this table.

We do support the Lithuanian desire to obtain independence. It is our firm position that a solution to the conflict can only be solved through dialogue and negotiations between the two parties. We encourage the Soviet leaders as strongly as we possibly can to start such negotiations as soon as possible - without any kind of pressure or preconditions. We reject the use of sanctions of any kind and ask the Soviets to abstain from measures to block or reduce the flow of vital products into Lithuania. Such measures can never solve the

conflict, but only serve to complicate it further. They could also endanger the very positive climate we have achieved in East/West affairs over the last years.

And now we are ready to take your questions.