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AS WRITTEN

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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STATEMENT OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

September 7, 1994

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am deeply excited and feel great responsibility and honor, having
received the right to submit this report on behalf of the Lithuanian
delegation. The more so, that the Lithuaniall delegation participates in
this Conference of World States as an independent state for the first

time.

First of all we would like to express our gratitude for the possibility to participate in it, and to thank the Secretariat of the Conference for a brilliant preparation of a final paper.

We fully support and agree with the main issues of the future activity Programme.

We would like to stress that for our young state it is extremely important, that all states of the world try to find common solutions for the population development problems.

It is understandable, that the state policy on population should change and develop, the greatest care should be devoted to a person - individual, family and children.

The basic aim of the state should become quality of life, stable social and economic situation complying with optimum standards.

We will have to eliminate difficulties, created by 50 years of occupation, and prepare preconditions for the transition to the market economy. In our opinion, the main problems concerning population development in transition period are as follows:

Due to economic recession, shortage of accommodation, unemployment during the first years of independence, consumption of main food products has decreased. The above mentioned reasons have worsened the demographic situation markedly (see table 1).

The number of population in Lithuania has fallen during the current period and the tendency of further decrease is becoming vivid. Birth rate has dropped by 20 % in a three year period, death rate has increased by 17 %.

Average life expectancy for males has fallen by 4.5 years, for females - by 2 years and has become one of the shorties in Europe. Marriages are being ,Postponed for the later period. Number of marriages has decreased by a third. Social family conditions, especially of young families, have stipulated such an abnormal phenomenon as one abortion per one live birth.

There is not a single state institution providing consultation services on family planning. State aid to women, mothers and newly born children has greatly diminished. In consequence, the growth of morbidity has been observed.

We are sure, that in the nearest future manufacturing and economics as a consequence of it, will become stable. The prerequisite for this is a rather high level of education of population and developing private sector. About two thirds of employed persons already work within the private sector.

All this will enable to improve social conditions, to stem growing mortality rates, to encourage child bearing.

Very serious measures have been foreseen in the plans of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania:

The Programme of urgent actions for improving the protection of children's rights, the Programme for mother and child health care have

already been prepared. Courses on family ethics, hygiene, psychology and moral values have been prepared for schools.

A national family planning programme is under consideration, it is planned to organize family planning aid institutions, to prepare and implement other special programmes.

The development of Lithuanian society is greatly influenced by newly created public organizations and increasing feminist movement.

We agree and support the opinion of other countries, that abortions should belong to the sphere of health care activities. Modern medicine, science and education have to stop killing of a newly conceived life. Abortion should not be a family planning measure.

That is why we highly appreciate international aid in family planning and other population development programmes,

We are very grateful to international organizations, Population Fund, and other countries for current and future assistance and support.

Mister Chairman, thank you very much

Vital statistics

	Total			Rate per 1000 population		
	1990	1992	1993	1990	1992	1993
Live births	56868	53617	46727	15.2	14.3	12.5

Still births	305	434	370			
Deaths of	39760	41455	46107	10.6	11.0	12.3
of which						
infant deaths						
(under 1 year)	581	887	746	10.3*	16.5*	15.6*
Natural						
increase	17108	12162	620	4.6	3.3	0.2
Marriages	36310	30112	23709	9.7	8.0	6.3
Divorces	12747	13981	13884	3.4	3.7	3.7

* infant deaths per 1000 live births.

Average expectancy of life

	1958-	1969	1980-	1990	1992	1993
	1959	1970	1981			

Total	69.4	71.0	70.5	71.5	70.5	69.07
Males	64.9	66.9	65.5	66.6	64.9	63.27
Females	71.4	74.8	75.4	76.2	76.0	75.04

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