

Jan. 13 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

will be taken to the hospital for further examination and possible x-rays of her legs. Dr. Mohr expects Mrs. Bush to return to Camp David soon after the examination. The accident occurred shortly after 10 o'clock this morning following church serv-

ices. The Bushes attended church services at Camp David with family and staff.

*Note: Mrs. Bush's x-rays disclosed a nondisplaced fracture of the left leg.*

## Remarks on Soviet Military Intervention in Lithuania and a Question-and-Answer Session With Reporters

January 13, 1991

*The President.* Well, I've been following the situation in Lithuania and the other Baltic States closely. The turn of events there is deeply disturbing. There is no justification for the use of force against peaceful and democratically-elected governments. And the brave people and the leaders of the Baltic States have, indeed, acted with dignity and restraint. The thoughts and prayers of the people of the United States are with them, and particularly with the Lithuanian people who have experienced a great tragedy.

For several years now, the Soviet Union has been on a course of democratic and peaceful change. And we've supported that effort and stated repeatedly how much we admire the Soviet leaders who chose that path. Indeed, change in the Soviet Union has helped to create a basis for unprecedented cooperation and partnership between the United States and the Soviet Union.

The events that we're witnessing now are completely inconsistent with that course. The progress of reform in the U.S.S.R. has been an essential element in the improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations. Events like those now taking place in the Baltic States threaten to set back or perhaps even reverse the process of reform which is so important in the world and the development of the new international order.

We condemn these acts, which could not help but affect our relationship. At this hour, the United States and the West will redouble our efforts to strengthen and encourage peaceful change in the Soviet Union. Legitimacy is not built by force; it's

earned by the consensus of the people, by openness, and by the protection of basic human and political rights. So, I ask the Soviet leaders to refrain from further acts that might lead to more violence and loss of life. I urge the Soviet Government to return to a peaceful course of negotiations and dialog with the legitimate governments of the Baltic States.

And I did have an opportunity when I talked to President Gorbachev not so many hours ago to encourage the peaceful change there and not the use of force.

### *Soviet Military Intervention in Lithuania*

*Q.* Mr. President, was Gorbachev directly behind this military crackdown? Is there any reason to believe the military acted without complete Presidential decree on this?

*The President.* I cannot answer that question. I just don't know the facts of—

*Q.* Is there any official explanation for what happened in Lithuania?

*The President.* Not an official explanation, but we have a good deal of information on it.

*Q.* And what about the fallout here? Is the summit off at this point?

*The President.* Well, I've just expressed this statement here, and I just expressed my sentiments in this statement I made, so I can't go beyond that.

*Q.* Any consideration of export credit guarantees or any other—

*The President.* I'm just not going to go further than what I've said here. I've just laid it out, and people can interpret it any way they want.