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## Interview: Juozas Tumelis

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# Food aid must be 'rigorously controlled'

*Juozas Tumelis is a Lithuanian historian and the head of the department for old and rare prints at the Lithuanian National Library Martynas-Mazvydas in Vilnius. As are many of the leading intellectuals in Lithuania, he is now actively fighting for his country's independence from Moscow. Professor Tumelis is currently the chairman of the Council of the Lithuanian Independence Movement, Sajudis. This interview with EIR took place on Dec. 2, 1990 in Vilnius, Lithuania.*

**EIR:** Professor Tumelis, yesterday, at the joint session of the parliaments of the three Baltic states here in Vilnius, several strongly worded and very important political resolutions were discussed and then passed by the deputies with an overwhelming majority, resolutions which are directed toward Moscow, but also toward the Western countries. Can you tell us, what is the significance of these resolutions in your view?

**Tumelis:** The road to these resolutions was long, and the resolutions simply sum up, and fix those things which had already been approved. This is nothing especially new, it's not surprisingly new, but nonetheless, it is a significant step.

Similar declarations have already been made by the Estonians, the Latvians, and the Lithuanians separately, but only rarely have such declarations been made together. And herein lies their significance; this way they affect the situation in Russia. Russia notices in these resolutions two things: those which are very convenient for Russia, and those which it is *made* to notice, forced to notice. It is not very convenient for Russia to notice these declarations, especially not in respect to the Western countries.

As far as the West is concerned, it is also not very convenient for the West to notice everything that is happening here in the Baltic countries. We know very well that the attitude of the West has changed since March 11. Initially, the West had expressed great joy; especially for the mass media, what happened seemed to be something very beautiful, something unexpected, something exotic. But when the Western countries realized that this is no play, but a serious thing, they started thinking twice.

**EIR:** What is the present state of Lithuania's fight for its independence?

**Tumelis:** Let's start with the dangers, of which there are many. First, the situation in the Soviet Union; then, the situation in the West—maybe not so much the situation, but the attitude and the behavior of the West. And last, but not least, the domestic situation in Lithuania; we could speak volumes about it.

These three dangers interact with each other. What will come out at the end? Well, I am a cautious optimist. I think it will end okay. The most important thing is to have patience, common sense, and keep a cool head; and that one thing should start prevailing in our minds, in our consciousness: The actual character of our actions should not be very important for us, but the *results*.

**EIR:** How do you judge the situation in the Soviet Union right now, especially in regard to the food crisis?

**Tumelis:** The easiest place to make a mistake is when we speak about the irrationality of the Byzantine. This is my answer.

Not long ago, I told the fish parable: You can feed a hungry man once with fish, another day with fish, and the third day with fish, but still it is much better to *teach* this man how to *catch* the fish. This parable I heard from my grandmother. You can feed a child, you can feed an old man, you can feed a sick man. But there is no need to feed a healthy, strong man capable of working. This holds true even more so when whole societies are concerned, and not just individuals.

Don't get me wrong: I am not saying that this, the sending of food, should not be done when winter comes. It is not the fault of the people here, or our society as such, that they find themselves in such a situation; they are not guilty. But I think that this help from Germany should be rigorously controlled, *very rigorously*. The control should be carried out by the Germans; the Germans should come here. Germany should send various organizations to the Soviet Union, and the food should be given to those social layers which are really in need of it. By no means should it be distributed by the *nomenklatura*.

**EIR:** By talking about organizations, do you mean the Red Cross, for example?

**Tumelis:** Yes, the Red Cross and other organizations which are in charge of collecting these things and sending it here. I also think that the good name of Germany can be restored this way. For 40 years or more, the good name of Germany was destroyed among those lower social layers in the Soviet Union; a big wave of propaganda was directed against Germany, so that now the name of the Germans is synonymous with that of the fascists.

**EIR:** There are reports that this food crisis was artificially

created by the Soviet *nomenklatura* to use it against the democratic forces.

Do you think these allegations are true?

**Tumelis:** Of course, if the food gets in the hands of the *nomenklatura*, it will be used against the democratic forces. Therefore, I think, the food distribution should be put into the hands of the democratic forces, at least they should be involved in it. The important thing is to distinguish the sheep from the wolves in sheep's skins.

One more thing: Abstain from giving money, or currency, because very easily it turns into rockets; so only food-stuffs, only material things should be sent, not money.

**EIR:** It is obvious that the economic problems are so enormous that they cannot be solved with the delivery of food and sending some materials. The American economic scientist Lyndon LaRouche has developed the concept of the "Paris-Berlin-Vienna Productive Triangle," the area of which, because of its high density in terms of infrastructure, production facilities, and qualified labor force could, if properly modernized and upgraded, function as the "locomotive" for the development of the whole European and, eventually also, the entire world economy. What do you think about such a concept?

**Tumelis:** I think we should expand this productive triangle to a hexagon, or even octagon, in the next five to eight years, with one angle pointing to the Baltic states, another to Ukraine.

You see, when we talk about the economic development of the Baltic states, we should actually not only think about the development of the area of the Republics of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, but about the whole area stretching from the Baltics, through the Ukraine down to the Moldavian republic; and such an approach has a lot of support everywhere. Naturally, we are not only talking about an economic program, but as well about a political one, and, of course, a cultural one, too.

Concerning the development of Europe, I think that possibly, for some time at least, Europe will consist of three, or actually four parts. In the first place you have Western Europe, the classical Western Europe, of which, I think, after not a long time, also Central Europe will become part, with countries like Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and others; also Romania and Bulgaria, though I think, with Romania and Bulgaria it will take longer, they probably will remain, for some time, the "fourth part" of Europe. Then there is Russia, the "big" Russia, stretching as far as the Urals. But Russia is more than just the area up to the Urals, it is also the part behind the Urals.

I am somewhat suspicious about the concept of the "European House" that stretches as far as the Urals. There is the very real danger that Gorbachov wants to become the administrator of a "European House," which was demonstrated by his behavior and that of Shevardnadze during the Paris CSCE

talks. What allowed them to do this? The answer to this is obvious. Apparently the Western countries do not see the big danger, they think they don't need us. Most probably the West adheres to the Olympian principle *après nous le déluge*. And this is very dangerous.

The Russians *will* come to Western Europe if the Westerners are so light-minded about it; they will come. They will go from the Pacific as far as Paris and further, and they will come naked, hungry, and angry.

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## Interview: Vytautas Radzvilas

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# 'Productive Triangle is the only solution'

*Vytautas Radzvilas is a philosopher and chairman of the Department of Philosophy of the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts, and also a politician, fighting actively for the independence of Lithuania. He is the vice chairman of the Lithuanian Sajudis Council, the executive body of the Lithuanian independence movement, Sajudis, and also the leader of the Lithuanian Liberal Union, a recently created political center party in Lithuania. EIR interviewed him on Nov. 30, 1990 in Vilnius.*

**EIR:** Mr. Radzvilas, what are the most urgent problems Lithuania is now confronted with, and do you think your government, your parliament, can solve them? And if so, how?

**Radzvilas:** I think that Lithuania is capable of solving all the domestic problems and of building a normal civil society, which was destroyed 50 years ago. But many of our problems cannot be solved until our key problem is resolved, I mean our negotiations with Moscow.

In principle, the political situation in Lithuania is rather stable; a multi-party system is now starting to work, and it is likely that soon our young parliamentary democracy will be functioning on a normal level. But, of course, our perspectives are not clear, because Moscow is ready to exercise great pressure upon our government in order to force us to sign the new Union Treaty; a treaty, which is totally unacceptable for Lithuania, for its parliament and government, and first of all for the Lithuanian people. I think that in the near future a new economic blockade is possible, but I think that this time it will be done in a little bit different manner; i.e., that the