



# NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fifth Floor, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

(202) 328-3136

■ FAX (202) 939-3166

■ Telex 5106015068 NDILA

PD-ABG-707

1511-11271

## USAID PROJECT REPORT THE BALTICS: LOCAL GOVERNMENT January 1 to June 30, 1993 Contract No: EUR-0017-A-00-1064-00

### PROGRAM GOAL

During the reporting period of January 1 to June 30, 1993, NDI sought to develop its local government assistance program in the Baltics. The purpose of this program is to enhance the political effectiveness of local government administrations in the countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

### PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Over the course of the last six months, NDI pursued its goal through the activities described below.

#### Estonia

From February 3 to 13, Kathryn Stevens, Program Officer for the Baltics, conducted a survey mission to Estonia to assess how NDI could assist the development of effective local government. Stevens conducted meetings with state and local officials, parliamentarians and political party leaders on the subject of local government reform. She also met with representatives of Estonia's Russian-speaking communities to discuss this question.

On the basis of this mission, Stevens developed two recommendations to support local government reform. According to one proposal, NDI would send a team of consultants to Tallinn to assist the Ministry of Justice and appropriate parliamentary committees in the development of draft reform legislation. The second proposal would provide for an international training team to conduct workshops in Tartu and Kohtla-Jarve, a town in the industrial northeast, to improve relations between local citizenry and local administrative and elected officials.

NDI will consider how to incorporate these recommendations into its plans to develop an assistance program prior to Estonia's municipal elections this fall.

#### Latvia

On the basis of Ms. Stevens' visit, NDI decided to concentrate its resources in the areas of political party training and civic education, rather than local government assistance.



## **Lithuania**

Stevens met in February 1993 with local government officials, political party leaders and civic activists to discuss priorities for local government assistance in Lithuania.

On the basis of these meetings, NDI plans to implement a training program for present and prospective local leaders this fall, in anticipation of municipal elections in 1994. The program will seek to raise the awareness of local officials regarding their role and responsibilities as elected representatives, and to improve relations among officials, political parties and ordinary citizens at the local level.

## **EVALUATION**

While NDI was unable to conduct programs in local government over the past six months, the February survey mission confirmed its judgement that such assistance is necessary and appropriate in the Baltic countries. NDI will propose to utilize remaining funds in the local government training budget to develop programs in Estonia and Lithuania, in particular. Such programs will be designed to enhance the quality of municipal elections and to improve the quality of local governance in the post-electoral context.