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WE WILL YET ACHIEVE THE SO-DESIRED VICTORY

*Mr Ambassador delivered his speech in Ukrainian and partially
in English and Lithuanian in solidarity with the people of Ukraine*

Greetings, dear friends! Dearest representatives of Ukrainian authorities — the Office of the President, Government, Armed Forces — distinguished People's Deputies, my dear colleagues Ambassadors, Defence Attachés, Honorary Consuls, dear Ukrainian brothers and sisters, my dear Lithuanians!

First of all, thank you very much for being here this afternoon at our Embassy, which I always call the Lithuanian island in Kyiv. Thank you, my dears, for coming to the evening of our farewell — farewell to you and our beloved Ukraine. I promise you not to speak too long because I am afraid that a longer speech would bring up too many emotions. At least for Vytė and me.

Dear friends, thank you very much for being with us here today. Thank you for coming here tonight.

Today, I would like to confess: four years ago, when my President and Minister offered me to become our country's Ambassador to Ukraine, my first inner feeling was 'Yes! Woah!'. I didn't care that the pandemic of coronavirus disease was on the rise! I didn't care that there was warfighting in Ukraine (albeit, back then, of course, the war was not the same as the horrible war we live amidst today [a reference to the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine]). I was totally the happiest person in the world (okay, just the happiest Lithuanian diplomat) when I received such a wonderful offer! And now, after four years of intense work in Ukraine, I can honestly tell you all with a hand on my heart that my intuition did not fail me back then. Yes, those were years of tremendous challenges. Yes, those were years of hard work. However, those were also years of daily joy, satisfaction, and pride. I am joyful and satisfied with being able to help and assist my beloved Ukraine directly. I am also proud of the opportunity to represent my country, which has always been with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and will remain until the Victory.

Dear friends! This horrible war has unfortunately not ended. Cursed ruscists continue their dirty endeavour, trying to disrupt and destroy our lives. But they will fail because we know how invincible the Armed Forces of Ukraine are and what an unbreakable willpower average Ukrainians have. They will fail because



we know that Ukraine's friends — such as ourselves, Lithuanians — will keep up their support. After all, Ukraine is our closest and dearest friend. All of this grants us hope that together, we will undoubtedly prevail.

Thus, my dear friends, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your solid cooperation and our shared life experience. I thank the teams of the President and Prime Minister of Ukraine! I thank the wonderful People's Deputies! I thank all the ministers and their teams! I thank all representatives of Ukrainian governmental, public, and business institutions!

I thank my wonderful fellow Ambassadors. Thank you, my dears, for everything we have done together to make our common work a success and bring our sisters and brothers, Ukrainians, to Victory, to the EU and NATO.

I'm very grateful to the Honorary Consuls of Lithuania in Ukraine, who were my wonderful helpers. Thank you, dear friends, for fruitful cooperation and warm friendship.

I would also like to thank our excellent team from the Lithuanian community in Ukraine, with whom we experienced many exciting events and cheerful moments. I wish you, dear friends, to meet success at the anniversary song festival.

Dear colleagues from the incredible team of my Embassy, I bow my greying head to you, as without you, I'd be nobody around here. Vytė and I are sincerely grateful to you for everything.

And, naturally, last but not least, I'm incredibly grateful to the love of my life — my wife Vytė — whose support and love helped me not only endure the hardest moments but accomplish, dare I say, pretty great results.

My dear friends, it's a pity that Vytė and I are leaving without reaching the so-desired Victory. But we will still achieve it, and then we promise to come back and celebrate it together with you.

And before the Victory, and of course after it, we will be waiting for you all in Warsaw! So, we're not saying 'goodbye'; we're saying 'see you soon'!

Glory to Ukraine!