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Shadowy Lithuania role in Kiev coup

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From Geoff Vasil in Vilnius

Despite early and vociferous denials of Lithuanian involvement in the current turmoil in Ukraine, it has emerged that Lithuania offered logistical support to preparation of the US/EU-backed coup d'état in Kiev. "Anonymous Ukraine" has now published hacked e-mails apparently showing direct involvement of Laurynas Jonavičius, an advisor to Lithuanian president, Dalia Grybauskaitė.

The US and EU-backed coup was initiated following impossible demands made on elected Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich at a meeting in Vilnius for signing an EU-Ukraine association agreement last November.

In particular, Russian media reported that the *putsch* had been planned at a dacha in Trakai near Vilnius, broadcasting footage of Russian reporters being denied access there. Russian president Vladimir Putin has also accused Ukrainian fascists of training at special bases in Lithuania, Poland and the Ukraine.

In e-mails between Jonavičius and Vitali Klitschko, the former world boxing champion, Ukrainian MP and avid coup-supporter, the latter thanked Jonavičius for personal financial assistance via the Lithuanian embassy in Kiev. Another e-mail, in early December, called for increased Lithuanian funding of the Maidan protesters to escalate the situation more rapidly.