

# PRIME MINISTER KAZIMIERA PRUNSKIENE

## Biographical Information

On March 17, 1990, Kazimiera Prunskiene (kuh-ZIH-mey-ruh prunes-KAY-nay) became Prime Minister of Lithuania's first democratically elected government in more than 50 years.

Prime Minister Prunskiene, an economist, served as both instructor and senior associate in Vilnius University's Industrial Economics Department before becoming Deputy Director of the Lithuanian SSR Agricultural Economics Research Institute. In 1988, she was appointed Rector of the Institute for Improving the Qualifications of Economic Specialists and Managers.

In June 1988, Mrs. Prunskiene was one of the founding members of the Lithuanian Reform Movement Sajudis, which became the country's leading pro-independence organization. In October she was elected to Sajudis' National Assembly as well as to its ruling Executive Council.

Mrs. Prunskiene became the first Sajudis leader to enter the Soviet-controlled Lithuanian government when she was appointed Deputy Chairman for Economics in the Lithuanian SSR Council of Ministers in July 1989. During the same year, she was elected to the USSR Congress of People's Deputies and the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Through her work in Sajudis and the government, Mrs. Prunskiene emerged as the most visible and vocal advocate of economic independence for Lithuania.

Following the Lithuanian Communist Party's split from the Moscow-based Communist Party of the Soviet Union in December 1989, Mrs. Prunskiene became a member of the independent party's leadership. After her election to the Lithuanian parliament (Supreme Council) in February, she resigned from the Communist Party.