President Bush Signs Freedom Consolidation Act


The legislation lends support to the principle of NATO enlargement, while further authorizing continued Foreign Military Finance funding to the Baltic countries. FY03 levels requested by President Bush are a little over $21 million for the three countries combined.

In a letter to President Bush thanking him for signing the Act, JBANC Chairman Vello Ederma wrote, “Your steadfast support for the principles of trans-Atlantic cooperation are now more significant in the wake of September 11.”

While advocating for the enlargement of NATO to

“Riga – The Bridge to Prague”
Summit of the NATO Aspirant Countries

In Riga on July 5, delegations from NATO aspirant and member countries met for the last discussion of enlargement prospects before the Prague Summit in November. Four, five or even seven aspirant countries are expected to receive invitations to join the alliance when NATO members meet in Prague.

“Riga 2002 – The Bridge to Prague” was the last summit in the series of NATO aspirant country meetings. The founding aspirant Summit was held in Vilnius in May 2000.

Before the official opening ceremony, Prime Minister Andris Berzins of Latvia invited Majority Leader Trent Lott, head of the U.S. Senate delegation, to address the participants. The Senate delegation also included Jim Bunning (R-KY), Robert Bennett (R-UT), Craig Thomas (R-WY) and Ben Nelson (D-NE). The Main
IFPA Sees Baltics In NATO of Benefit To U.S. and Alliance

The Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis states in its June 2002 White Paper (“The Strategic and Operational Implications of NATO Enlargement in the Baltic Region”, http://www.ifpa.org) that Baltic membership may increase NATO’s utility to U.S. interests.

The IFPA is a prestigious non-governmental thinktank, headquartered in Boston and Washington, that is often used by the U.S. Government, NATO and other groups.

The study stresses that enlargement to the Baltic countries will first, overcome the Cold War division of Europe and second, solidify a new cooperative security relationship with Russia.

The Paper says Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania could constitute the core of “new Atlanticists” that have a compelling interest in keeping the U.S. involved in European security. It suggests they would ensure that collective defense remains the reason for NATO’s existence and resist “watering down” of the alliance into an OSCE-type political organization.

The IFPA notes that the Baltic region is calm in terms of security, thus strategic costs of NATO membership would be limited and operational consequences of their membership minimal.

The Paper says Russia is not a short-term problem, but may remain a long-term source of concern. However, it stresses the Baltics will be able to deal with that within the context of NATO’s Article Five guarantees. It suggests that NATO membership will strengthen the Baltic countries and Russia in sorting out their post-Soviet relationships. The paper lists as areas of possible Russian exploitation the large ethnic Russian communities, Kaliningrad and manipulation of energy supplies. However, it says “the support of the Alliance and the backing of its security guarantee can embolden the Balts to handle Russia’s baiting and coercion more effectively.”

The IFPA says Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania can be significant in the role of thwarting terrorism, preventing the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and drug-running. It says membership will help intelligence sharing, thus enhancing the security of Alliance forces.

The Paper does dwell on “the worst-case scenario,” where Russia would revert to an openly antagonistic, anti-Western stance and thus pose a challenge to the Baltics. However, the now-unlikely scenario would bring into play NATO and U.S. forces. It says it would initially include core warfighting capabilities such as strategic lift, rapid reaction forces, massed air-to-ground strikes and special operations forces. It says the U.S. is likely to be the prime supplier of air support and SOF units. The Paper also discusses the possible use of chemical, biological and tactical nuclear weapons. It says those contingencies remain extremely remote, but must be discussed for the sake of realism and honesty. It concludes, however, that the strategic benefits for the Baltic countries outweigh the majority of concerns for worst-case scenarios.

The White Paper stresses that collectively, the three countries comprise a cohesive strategic space that is important for integrated air and missile defense operations. Thus it does not suggest picking just one, but all three, for membership.

In conclusion, the paper notes that the United States “has exerted a fair amount of political capital” to make Baltic membership in NATO a reality. It says there have been allegations of U.S. favoritism toward the Baltics by Alliance members and aspirants on Europe’s southern tier. It is now, the paper says, for the Balts to return the favor and prove that indeed they are good members of the Euro-Atlantic family, ready and willing to contribute their resources and personnel to the defense of common interests. The Paper lists three ways:

- they must continue to show
Guest Commentary by Brian Carlson, U.S. Ambassador to Latvia

Letter from Riga

The scene was Riga Castle on July 4. Standing shoulder to shoulder with the Presidents of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in the bright television lights, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott told the gathered journalists: “There is a special feeling in America about these three countries. They stand a very excellent chance to be invited (to NATO), and I expect that will be the result. If I could cast my vote, I’d say yes.”

This was just one of many extraordinary moments in the Riga Summit.

The energy and enthusiasm over the past week has been palpable. During their three-day visit to Latvia, Senator Lott, accompanied by Senators Robert Bennett (UT), Craig Thomas (WY), Jim Bunning (KY) and Ben Nelson (NE), relaxed with President Vaira Vike-Freiberga on a sun-drenched lawn at Jurmala. They chatted politics with Prime Minister Berzinš as they strolled Old Riga’s cobbledstoned streets. A memorial service at the Riga Synagogue touched everyone deeply.

At the Summit in Latvia University, Senator Lott’s keynote address was a bell-ringer. “The last century teaches us that when America and Europe are united, peace follows,” he said. “We can never again tolerate the division of this great continent. No more Munichs. No more Yaltas,” Lott intoned.

I thought it remarkable that all the participants, including President Bush and U.K. Prime Minister Blair, called for a robust enlargement. There is no doubt NATO invitations will be issued in Prague.

But, it is equally true that November is not the end. The fact is, all the NATO applicants still need progress in several areas. Here in Latvia, as I said in my last letter, we focus on three subjects: integration, historical reconciliation, and the rule of law.

It is perhaps the last that is most troubling.

The President and the senior leaders of Latvia are committed to fighting the plague of corruption.

Important steps are being taken, such as the founding of an Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate and prosecute crimes. The government is searching like Diogenes for an outstanding director for this new institution. Once it is started we will support the Bureau with training and equipment.

But, we need to see more results. Allegations about conflicts of interest, influence peddling, and graft ap-

(Continued on page 17)
Washington, DC (JBANC) – Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI), who represents the ethnically diverse 15th District in Michigan, announced yesterday that she will join the House Baltic Caucus.

Congresswoman Kilpatrick becomes the fourteenth member of the Michigan House delegation to join the Caucus. Her colleagues Dale Kildee (D-MI 9th) and Lynn Rivers (D-MI 13th) have also recently become members of the 71-member strong Caucus, one of the larger interest groups in the House of Representatives. The Baltic Caucus is co-chaired by Congressmen John Shimkus (R-IL 20) and Dennis Kucinich (D-OH 10).

Congresswoman Kilpatrick is a member of the House Foreign Operations subcommittee, which appropriates funds to the Baltic countries, including moneys under Foreign Military Financing, International Military Education and Training, and Support for East European Democracy programs. That committee is currently chaired by another Baltic Caucus member, Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ 5). Within the Appropriations Committee, Rep. Kilpatrick also serves on the Transportation subcommittee. She was first elected to Congress in 1996 and is currently serving her third term in office.

The Michigan House delegation has by far the largest share and percentage of members in the House Baltic Caucus, with 14 of 16 representatives joined. Baltic American community activists in Michigan are to be credited with persistently informing their elected officials of their interests and persuasively encouraging them to become Caucus members. In other states, California follows with eleven members, New York and Pennsylvania both have eight and Illinois follows with seven.

In the Senate, Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow is a member of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, with her colleague Sen. Carl Levin also a long-time supporter of the Baltic countries.

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www.jbanc.org
Re-establishment of Senate NATO Observer Group

Congressional Record - Senate, Vol. 148, No. 80, 17 Jun 02

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, today the Senate Republican Leader and I are pleased to reestablish the bipartisan Senate NATO Observer Group, or SNOG. We originally established the SNOG in April 1997 to advise the full Senate on the historic first round of enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. It served as an important line of communication between the Senate and NATO and the Senate and candidate countries in the months prior to the July 1997 NATO summit in Madrid at which Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary were admitted to the alliance. The SNOG and the information it generated was central to the Senate's ratification of the protocols of accession in April 1998.

The Senate debate in 1998 foreshadowed further enlargement of NATO, and in June 2001, the North Atlantic Council determined that NATO would admit at least one candidate country at the November 2002 summit in Prague. In reestablishing the SNOG, we are asking this bipartisan group of our colleagues to closely monitor the enlargement process and to keep the rest of the Senate fully informed as we move to another historic decision at Prague. The SNOG will work with the Administration, our NATO allies, and the NATO candidate countries, of which there are nine. The fact that nine countries have been designated as candidates only highlights the importance of the SNOG in assessing each country's progress in meeting the qualifications for accession and reporting to the Senate on that progress.

The Senate takes its constitutional role of advise and consent on treaties very seriously. The protocols of accession signed by new NATO members are considered amendments to the North Atlantic Treaty and will require the advice and consent of the Senate. The inclusion of new member countries into NATO involves a commitment, under Article V of the Treaty, to defend those countries in case of attack—a solemn commitment and one we will not undertake lightly. It is in the security interests of the United States to see NATO expanded, to create a Europe that is whole and free. But it is also the solemn responsibility of the U.S. Senate to look carefully at any new commitments to which American troops might be subject.

The SNOG will be chaired by the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator JOSEPH BIDEN of Delaware, and co-chaired by Senator Helms. The Senate Majority Leader and Republican Leader will be members, ex officio. The other Democratic Senators on the SNOG will be Senators ROBERT BYRD of West Virginia, JEAN CARNAHAN of Missouri, MAX CLELAND of Georgia, BYRON DORGAN of North Dakota, RICHARD DURBIN of Illinois, TOM HARKIN of Iowa, DANIEL INOUYE of Hawaii, TIM JOHNSON of South Dakota, MARY LANDRIEU of Louisiana, PATRICK LEAHY of Vermont, CARL LEVIN of Michigan, JOSEPH LIEBERMAN of Connecticut, BARBARA MIKULSKI of Maryland, PAUL SARBANES of Maryland, ROBERT TORRICELLI of New Jersey, and PAUL WELLSTONE of Minnesota.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator Daschle in reestablishing the Senate NATO Observer Group. When we first established the SNOG in April 1997, I emphasized that the Senate be in on the ground floor of the NATO enlargement process. Because it was bipartisan, the SNOG cut across party lines as well as committee jurisdictions, and ensured that the Senate would be heard both during the NATO enlarge-

(Continued on page 19)
The Cold War is over and Russia is no longer an enemy”. So goes the current conventional wisdom in Washington as well as in Europe’s capitals. According to this view, the challenge to NATO is to adapt to the new security challenges facing its members, such as global terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and rogue states. The old challenge of holding the line in Europe against military aggression from the east no longer seems to be pertinent. Yet, the ten aspirant countries clamoring to join NATO are doing so for the traditional reasons the Alliance was formed – preservation of their hard won independence and democratic values against possible future threats of aggression on the European continent. Historical memory in Europe is long and people in places such as Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius can not forget that the threat to them has usually come from the east. The evolving role of Russia and NATO’s policy toward that country is central in reconciling NATO’s old mission with the new. Hopefully, Russia, like most of Eastern Europe, is embarked on a steady course of liberalization and democratic development. While its executive leadership appears to be driven by a desire to restore Russia’s power and prestige, it is realistic and frequently cooperative with western interests. In the aftermath of September 11, Russia reportedly has worked closely with the United States in the fight against terrorism. Yet there is much evidence that the Russian bear has far to go until it is fully tamed. Among other transgressions, it continues to trade in weapons and dangerous technology with proliferators such as Iran, it commits alleged human rights violations in Chechnya, it suppresses press freedoms, and it bullies its smaller neighbors in the Caucasus and Central Asia. In the case of the Baltic countries, Russia has made a practice of accusing Estonia and Latvia of discriminating against their Russian minorities despite successful efforts by the Balts to bring such minorities into the mainstream. Impartial observers from the OSCE have long given Latvia and Estonia a clean bill of health on their minorities policies. Access to the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad has also been made a contentious issue. Pressure had been applied against Lithuania to maintain a visa free regime despite requirements by the European Union that access to Kaliningrad be controlled when Lithuania is admitted to the European Union. Earlier, Russia had announced the presence of nuclear weapons in Kaliningrad in an effort to intimidate the countries in that region. Russia has been dragging its feet in delineating its borders with the Baltic countries. Where that had been done, as with Lithuania, Russian Duma members are holding off ap-

(Continued on page 20)
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and other qualified aspirant countries, the JBANC letter recognized that these countries share the fundamental vision of the sacrifices and efforts needed by those allied with “our democratic ideals” in battling the “tyranny of terror”. The JBANC letter further states that “NATO itself is evolving to become a vehicle to unite all of Europe, not only from the Baltic to the Black Sea, but from the Atlantic to Almaty and wherever else the standards of shared, common values can take root.”

New NATO resolution introduced

In a more recent development, House International Relations Committee European subcommittee chairman Elton Gallegly (R-CA 23) on June 27 introduced H. Res.468, a resolution affirming the importance and relevance of NATO, and support for the NATO enlargement process. Original co-sponsors of the bill are Republican congressmen Doug Bereuter of Nebraska and Christopher Cox from California, along with Democrat Tom Lantos of California, the Ranking Member of the International Relations Committee.

The language of H.Res.468 seeks to ensure that the “enlargement of NATO proceeds in a manner consistent with United States interests”. It is certain that many eyes in Congress will be carefully watching and monitoring the progress of the aspirant countries currently seeking membership. The House European subcommittee has already held three hearings on NATO and enlargement, most recently in mid-June.

Movement on H.Res.468 is not expected to occur until after the August recess.

Not to be forgotten, a resolution supporting NATO membership for the three Baltic countries, HCR116, was introduced last year by Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL 20), co-chair of the House Baltic Caucus. HCR116 currently has the endorsement of 54 co-sponsors, and awaits further committee action.

Reported by Karl Altau

President of Poland on Official State Visit to U.S.

Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski arrived in Washington, D.C. on July 15 for a three-day State visit, only the second such during the Bush presidency. President Kwasniewski was greeted in an official Arrival Ceremony at the White House on July 17. While meeting at the White House, the two presidents discussed, among other issues, the global anti-terrorism coalition and NATO enlargement, among other related matters.

In his welcoming comments on the South Lawn of the White House, President Bush reemphasized U.S. support of NATO membership for

(Continued on page 14)
Recent Changes for JBANC Board of Directors

In the past few months, the JBANC Board of Directors has said goodbye to two dedicated members and has welcomed two special individuals to the team. Former ALA President and JBANC Board Member Janis Kukainis and ALA Representative Janis Gramatins have moved on. New ALA President Dace Copeland and ALA Representative Sandra Aistars join the Board of Directors.

Janis Kukainis is past president of ALA and has worked with JBANC since 1997. He has served as President of the Baltic Committee of Michigan; President of the Latvian Association of Detroit; President and Chairman of the Latvian Cultural and Educational Center “Garezers” in Three Rivers, MI; and a board member of the Michigan Nationalities Council. Kukainis earned a B.S. in aeronautical engineering from the University of Cincinnati in 1966, an M.S. in engineering from the University of Tennessee in 1971, and an EMBA from Michigan State University in 1989. Kukainis has authored or co-authored 20 published papers about combat aircraft and ordnance aerodynamics, and holds two patents related to automobile body structure. He was recently elected President of the World Federation of Free Latvians (WFFL).

Janis Gramatins has worked with JBANC for three years before his appointment as Treasurer for the WFFL. Gramatins earned his B.S. from Michigan State University and his M.A. in Political Economy from the University of Toronto. He has served as Secretary of the Latvian Foundation (1989-92) and Treasurer of the American Latvian Association (1993-97). Gramatins has also worked as a guest lecturer and advisor to the Riga Technical University and the Latvian Road Administration since 1991. At the ALA Congress in April, Gramatins was elected Treasurer for the 2002-2003 term. He is a realty specialist at the Federal Highway Administration.

Sandra Aistars joins JBANC again after a ten-year hiatus. She is an attorney in Weil, Gotshal & Manges’ Washington, D.C. office with the firm’s Public Policy and Litigation practices. Aistars has counseled and represented clients before Congress and Executive Branch agencies on technology and intellectual property matters. She has also represented clients in a variety of complex civil litigation matters. When Aistars served as the Director of Public Relations and Government Affairs of JBANC, she successfully steered the Committee’s efforts to assist the governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in their bid to regain independence from the former Soviet Union and to restore full diplomatic and economic relations with the United States.

Dace Copeland was elected President of ALA at the Cincinnati Congress in April. Copeland earned a B.S. in Elementary Education – Music from Western Michigan University in 1976 and an M.A. in Elementary Education – Teaching in 1996. She currently works at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at Western Michigan University, where she has been the Assistant to the Dean for the past eighteen years. Copeland has spent 27 years as a teacher at the Kalamazoo Latvian School, ten of those years as principal of the school. In 1999 she was elected Director of the Office of Education and Scholarship for the American Latvian Association. In 2002 she was elected President and Board Chair of ALA.

JBANC bids a fond farewell to Janis Kukainis and Janis Gramatins and is very pleased to welcome Sandra Aistars and Dace Copeland.
Sweden, Finland, Austria, Ukraine, Georgia, Ireland. These states, at the moment, constitute the third post-Soviet-era tranche of countries that may be getting in line to join NATO. One can add to that list any of the current "Vilnius 10" candidates who may not make the cut at the Prague summit in November. An enlargement of this kind almost dwarfs what is now on the table in the second tranche. Where will it all end?

The first two countries are seemingly a bit nervous about becoming isolated in their northern climes, what with everyone else in the neighborhood, particularly the Baltic countries, getting on the NATO bandwagon. Recent opinion polls in Sweden and Finland are beginning to reflect a growing diminution of anti-NATO sentiment and pro-NATO voices are being heard more and more. Among the most cautious of countries, the two will surely gauge their movement toward NATO by their built-in Russian-reaction barometer.

Austria also has been making noises about possibly applying for membership in the Alliance. Its motivation is similar, with such neighbors as the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia, all either recent additions to NATO or second round hopefuls. That might leave Switzerland alone on the continent to carry on the banner of neutrality.

For obvious reasons of size and geography, Ukraine might be the most desired new member. It will monitor the proceedings in Prague closely to gauge Russia's reaction if the Baltics are extended invitations. Just as Germany was most anxious and supportive of buffer-state Poland joining NATO, so Poland and the other countries to the east of Germany would welcome having Ukraine as their buffer. Ukraine might even be considered the crown jewel in the developing constellation of NATO-bound states.

Georgia's candidacy presents a different set of considerations. It is truly "out of area," geographically outside of Europe. If Russia, for the time being, is reluctant to contest NATO and other Western encroachment on its former holdings in East/Central Europe, it may more readily seek to retain influence in the Caucasus, and Central Asia. Ireland, reportedly the most recent to express interest in NATO is, on the other hand, quite a natural candidate for membership in the club.

And why not? The more the merrier. NATO is obviously an ongoing success story and there is no reason to curtail what appears to be a natural evolution. So many heretofore suppressed countries are now, because of the influence of NATO, well down the path toward democratic forms of government and free market economies, that more rounds of NATO enlargement make all the sense in the world.

- John Bolsteins-
The U.S.- Baltic Foundation sponsored a political tour of Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia for USBF Board members and major donors in July. The tour included meetings with top political leaders and the U.S. Ambassador in each country. It culminated in the delegation’s full participation in the Riga Summit, along with the five U.S. Senators in attendance.

Highlights of the eight-day trip included:

* Briefing with Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus at the Presidential Palace in Vilnius
* Lunch hosted by Lithuanian freedom fighter and Jewish community leader Emanuelis Zingeris
* Private meetings with former President Vytatutas Landsbergis and Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Gediminas Kirkilas
* Private tour of Estonia’s Parliament by former Prime Minister (and USBF alumnus) Mart Laar
* Fourth of July Reception sponsored by the U.S. Embassy with Estonian President Arnold Rüütel and former President Lennart Meri in attendance
* Dinner at the seaside home of Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga with U.S. Senators Trent Lott (R-MS), Robert Bennett (R-UT), Jim Bunning (R-KY), Ben Nelson (D-NE), Craig Thomas (R-WY), and members of the U.S. Committee on NATO, including Bruce Jackson and Randy Scheunemann.

The USBF tour visited institutions that the Foundation helped establish, including the School of Public Administration and the Municipal Training Center at Kaunas Technological University. The USBF delegation also met with non-governmental organizations helped by the Foundation’s programs, including the Kaunas Small Business Association and the Elderly Women’s Association. This year, USBF has made grants to renovate the community center located at the Kaunas Small Business Association and to help reconstruct an Estonian Scout camp.

The group, led by USBF Chairman William Altman and Vice Chairman Hamid Ladjevardi, included Martha Burk, President of the National Council of Women’s Organizations, one of the largest such groups in the U.S. With sponsorship from the State Department, USBF arranged for Mrs. Burk to conduct roundtable discussions on effective advocacy with women’s groups in Lithuania and Estonia. She also held several private consultations with lawmakers and NGO leaders in Latvia.

One participant, Jonathan Lack – a successful businessman from Texas whose mother fled Birzai, Lithuania during World War II – went on the USBF tour to explore his family’s heritage and the (Continued on page 13)
How many people do you know in Washington who have truly inspired you? How many can you single out for selfless service to their country, for modesty and lack of pretension? Chances are that you won’t need both hands. Those of us who have had the pleasure and honor of knowing Jan Nowak have to consider ourselves fortunate indeed.

“Jan is a Polish patriot, a freedom fighter and an American hero. He has served both Poland and the United States, and has greatly advanced the cause of liberty and human dignity,” says Paula Dobriansky, Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs.

By the end of this month, however, this guide of U.S. Cold War policy, founder of Radio Free Europe’s Polish service, national security council adviser under four U.S. presidents, mentor to generations of policy-makers and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, will return home to the country where he was born 89 years ago. Mr. Nowak extended his 30-year sojourn in Washington to attend the state dinner for the president of Poland, Alexander Kwasniewski, on July 16, a crowning moment for his life’s work.

“I feel that my mission is finished,” Mr. Nowak says. “I came to Washington to use my contacts for my country. But Poland is now a normal country, free and secure, a member of NATO.” It is a goal Mr. Nowak worked over half-a-century to achieve.

“Throughout a lifetime of courage and sacrifice, Jan has demonstrated to the world that freedom requires and deserves unwavering dedication,” wrote President Bush in a letter of appreciation to Mr. Nowak on June 20. “He and his achievements are a significant part of the history of Europe, the story of transatlantic relations, and the story of liberty.”

And an amazing story it is. A Ph.D. student in economics at Poznan University, he was drafted in 1939 as the German army threatened Poland. He was captured by the Nazis, escaped from prison camp and made five daring trips as a courier between the Polish resistance and the Polish government in exile in London.

He returned to take part in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, during which the German army destroyed the city and massacred the population. (The Soviet army waited outside the city, by the way, to allow the Nazis to finish their dirty work.) Mr. Nowak was the first eyewitness of the uprising to reach the West.

During the uprising, he ran a radio station, “Lightning,” and radio was to become his next mission. In 1951, he was recruited by the United States to create and direct the Polish service of Radio Free Europe, which he ran for the next 25 years. When Mr. Nowak returns to Poland in late July, he does so as very much a public figure.

Retiring from Radio Free Europe in 1976, he came to Washington and became a National Security Council consultant on Central and Eastern Europe to presidents from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush. “I wanted to defend Radio Free Europe,” he says, which was then under assault from Sen. William Fulbright and other liberals who wanted to kill this ideological weapon of the Cold War. He also championed support for Lech Walesa and Solidarity, neither of which would have survived without U.S. support. Mr. Nowak’s book about World War II, “Courier from Warsaw,” was distributed in thousands of copies by the Solidarity underground, and used as a model for underground opposition against communism.

Mr. Nowak’s most recent self-assigned mission in Washington was accomplished when Poland was accepted as a member of the NATO alliance at the Washington summit in 1999. That was also the year Mr. Nowak’s wife passed away. However, rather than return home to his Polish roots, which were increasingly calling, he chose to stay in Washington to advocate the admission of the three Baltic countries to NATO. (Decisions are to be made in Prague in October and are widely expected to favor Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.)

Mr. Nowak’s work for Poland, however, will continue back in Warsaw. “Poland is facing a very difficult referendum on accession to the European Union,” he says. “I hope to play a role in that campaign. The Polish economy has made giant strides, but it is not out of the woods. With 20 percent unemployment, the potential for social unrest is there.”

He will remain a U.S. citizen. As he wrote in an op-ed in The Washington Post last week about America’s role in repeatedly saving Europe throughout the 20th century, “Those of us who remember and remain grateful should no longer remain silent. For people like me — and there are millions — this Fourth of July is a good opportunity to say, ‘Thank you, America.’ “

It could well be argued that it is the United States that should say, “Thank you, Jan Nowak.”
CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COALITION

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PRESS RELEASE:
CEEC CONFERENCE ON U.S.-RUSSIA RELATIONS

(Washington D.C.) - A conference focusing on the U.S.-Russia relationship and its implications for Central and East Europe attracted Capitol Hill attention on May 15. Coinciding with President George W. Bush’s summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the conference was hosted by the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) and focused on two issues – Security and a New Europe, and U.S., Russia, European Union – Economic Interests.

In the first panel, Paul Goble (Voice of America), Steve Flanagan (National Defense University), and Frank Cevasco (Hicks and Associates) discussed the new role of NATO in the 21st century and the need for NATO enlargement. Senator Chuck Hagel (R-NE) and Congressman Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) then delivered remarks. They addressed the many important contributions that U.S. foreign policy has made to Central and East Europe. Following in the second panel were George Ingram (Campaign to Preserve U.S. Global Leadership), Radek Sikorski (American Enterprise Institute) and Michael Castellano (office of Congressman Sander Levin, D-MI). They discussed U.S. foreign assistance programs to Central and East Europe, the elimination of the Jackson–Vanik amendment and the granting of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) to those countries yet to attain that status.

Speakers for both panels entertained questions from an audience of over 100 people. Among those attending were Congressional and committee staff members, Administration representatives, the media, and members of the American ethnic communities.

A reception followed, honoring several Members of Congress for their committed leadership and dedication to Central and East European issues. The honorees were: Senator Nebraska Senator Chuck Hagel.

(Continued on page 14)
USBF Directors and Donors Promote American Exchange with Baltics

(Continued from page 10) history and culture of Jews in Lithuania. Mr. Lack’s great-uncle attended the Vilnius Academy of Art at the turn of last century, and became a well-known international artist. Mr. Lack’s family foundation is planning to establish a scholarship in his memory at the Academy.

Ron Asmus, with the Council on Foreign Relations, and Stephen Payne, Honorary Consul for Latvia in Texas -- both new USBF Board Members -- also participated in the Riga Summit. Valdis Pavlovsksis, President of the Baltic American Freedom League, and Tom Thompson, with the PBN Company and a USBF Ambassadors Council Member, also participated in meetings and events with USBF in Riga. JBANC’s Simonas Girdziuskas joined the USBF delegation for meetings in Vilnius with U.S. Ambassador John Tefft, President Adamkus and others. The USBF delegation also included new Board member Dom Repici, USBF donors Juris and Jennifer Uksitins, USBF Program Director Karina Kolbrun Donnelly and USBF Managing Director Jeff Nelson.

During the tour, USBF announced that the next tour is already being planned for Spring 2003, and that USBF will hold their awards dinner at a Nordic Embassy in Washington, DC this December. For more information on the next tour or an invitation to the USBF awards dinner, send an email to: jeff@usbaltic.org.

JBANC Summer Intern in Washington, DC

The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) has often provided opportunities for Baltic American students to spend the summer as interns in Washington, DC. This summer, Kaija Dankers, a Latvian American from Southern California, will be assisting JBANC in maintaining contacts with the U.S. Congress and the Bush Administration. Kaija graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in June with a B.A. degree in Global and International Studies, with an emphasis in Socio-economics and Politics. She has been active in the American Latvian Youth Association for the past four years and is currently the editor of the ALYA monthly newsletter, “ALJAs Zinas.”

www.jbanc.org
President of Poland visits U.S. During Official State Visit

(Continued from page 7) all those European democracies “ready to share in NATO’s responsibilities”.

President Kwasniewski recently participated at the Riga Summit of the NATO aspirant countries on July 5th and 6th. In his address in the Latvian capital, Kwasniewski reaffirmed Poland’s support for the “open-door policy” and that the Baltic countries should be invited to join the alliance in Prague as active participants in strengthening global security.

Kwasniewski returned to Poland following a visit to Troy, Michigan. JBANC’s Kaija Dankers attended the White House Arrival Ceremony and accompanied President Kwasniewski aboard Air Force One on his flight to Michigan.

President Bush and Polish President Kwasniewski, along with their wives, at the White House on July 17.

White House Photo by Susan Sterner

CEEC Conference on Capitol Hill

(Continued from page 12) Jesse Helms (accepted by Patricia McNerney, Minority Chief of Staff, Senate Foreign Relations Committee), Senator George Voinovich (R-OH) and Representative Constance Morella (R-MD). Other CEEC honorees were Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) and Representative William Lipinski (D-IL). The Coalition also honored its special advisor Jan Nowak Jezioranski with a Special Award of Appreciation for his long-standing support and dedication to issues related to Central and East Europe.

For more information on this event please contact Nicole Shahenian at: (202) 393-3434.

Congressman Joe Knollenberg
THE DECLARATION OF RIGA
July 6, 2002, Riga, Latvia
V-10 Summit Meeting “Riga 2002: the Bridge to Prague”

We have convened in Riga to reaffirm our common vision and to take stock of the progress our nations have made in achieving the objectives our countries established when our Foreign Ministers first met in Vilnius two years ago. We recognize that we are in the midst of an historic endeavor, not only to defend our democracies from the threat to our freedoms posed by terrorism, but also to build a Europe that is truly whole and free.

The countries who banded together on the Baltic shores in August of 1989, in Visegrad in 1991 and in Vilnius in 2000 have played an important role in making what seemed a dream of our forefathers into a reality for our children. Our countries came together because we had drawn the lesson from our own past that we can better achieve our common aspirations if we cooperate with one another. We wanted the Vilnius Group to become an engine of regional cooperation and integration that would help overcome our continent’s past divide and set a cornerstone for a Europe whole and free.

Since 1989, we have learned that we will be called upon to teach far more often than we will be forced to fight. But we must be prepared to do both with a seriousness of purpose. We have learned that a common insecurity may have brought us together, but it will be a common vision of man that finally unites a democratic Europe. Thus, we set for ourselves the goal of acting in solidarity and as de facto allies – towards each other and towards those Western institutions that we aspire to join.

We have learned that the damage done in the 20th century to all the nations from the Baltic to the Black Sea by nationalism, fascism and communism was far more profound than we could have imagined. From the outset our goal has been to bring our countries back into the community of nations from which we were bitterly separated for nearly half a century. The reintegration of our democracies into the Euro-Atlantic community has required huge economic sacrifices, painstaking reform, and significant political risks. Nevertheless, the path we have chosen is clear. History requires but two things of Europe’s new democracies: the acceleration of reform at home and a steadiness of resolve abroad.

Five months from now the leaders of the Euro-Atlantic will gather in Prague and Copenhagen to make decisions that will shape our continent’s future for decades to come. We are determined to ensure that each of our countries will be as prepared as possible to achieve its goals of integration into the European Union and membership in the NATO alliance. We believe that as many of our countries as have completed their preparations should be invited to join NATO in November and the European Union in December. But we have also committed at this Summit to continue to support and assist one another beyond Prague and Copenhagen by further strengthening our democratic institutions and by pursuing a policy of continuous reform in our militaries and civil societies. We believe that Prague and Copenhagen will mark a new beginning for the process of reform and a further deepening of our commitment to the democratic transformation of our countries.

We continue to share the view we expressed at the Bucharest Summit that stability and security in Europe can best be served by a balanced approach between regional cooperation in Northern Europe and the emerging Southern Dimension of Euro-Atlantic security. In our preparations for NATO membership, we have emphasized the role of regional partnerships and the essential character of close cooperation between Europe’s North and Europe’s South. We have discussed the ways in which we contribute to NATO operations and agreed on the urgent need to develop new capabilities in the Alliance, as set forth in the Reykjavik Communique of NATO’s Foreign Ministers. In support of this initiative, we have begun to identify specific capabilities that will contribute to the specialization of NATO forces and will increase the interoperability of our forces in Alliance operations.

Following the terrorist attacks on the United States last fall, our heads of state gathered in Sofia to respond to NATO’s invocation of Article 5 and the call to defend our democracies from the common threat to our freedoms posed by terrorism. In Sofia, the nations represented here pledged to act as allies and in the spirit of Article 5 by volunteering our own contributions to the war on terrorism. Today, we stand united in our support for action against international terrorism, whether led by a coalition, by NATO or by the European Union. We have adjusted our legislation and institutions to prevent the infiltration of terrorists and those who collaborate with them and to allow our military forces to join the fight against terrorism. We are committed to participate in international military and support operations against terrorism as we have in peacekeeping operations in Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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WASHINGTON, DC – Dr. Kent R. Hill, Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Europe & Eurasia, hosted member organizations of the Central and Eastern Europe Coalition (CEEC). The Assistant Administrator discussed a number of issues of mutual concern with the group made up of member-based organizations representing Americans of Armenian, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Czech, Estonian, Georgian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, and Ukrainian descent.

“This Bush Administration and USAID are committed to continued dialogue with the Diaspora groups of Americans most concerned with USAID’s mission in the former communist world. It is organizations like the CEEC that help keep Americans focused on the goals of USAID and the continued success of the countries of Europe and Eurasia. I look forward to a continued discourse between the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia and the CEEC on promoting democracy, market economies and the values necessary to sustain both.” Dr. Hill noted.

The Coalition was established to coordinate the efforts of ethnic organizations whose members continue to maintain strong cultural, economic, political, and religious ties to the countries of Central and East Europe. The Coalition serves as a liaison with these national Central and Eastern European ethnic organizations.

These organizations cooperate in calling attention to issues of mutual concern, especially as regards to United States policy toward Central and Eastern Europe. The Coalition has cooperated on a wide range of issues including calling attention to Russia's policies toward its neighbors, NATO expansion and the Partnership for Peace program, and U.S. assistance programs for the region.

The CEEC has on a regular basis ongoing policy discussion with Administration officials. As part of its program to insure greater openness, efficiency, and effectiveness in U.S. assistance programs for Central and East Europe, the Coalition has long been involved in helping stage the debate about these programs.

The CEEC was represented today by the leadership of the American Latvian Association in the U.S.; Armenian Assembly of America; Association Bulgarian Institute for Research and Analysis; Congress of Romanian Americans, Inc.; Czechoslovak National Council of America; the Slovak League of America; Estonian American National Council, Inc.; The Georgian Association in the USA, Inc.; Hungarian American Coalition; Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.; Lithuanian American Council, Inc.; Polish American Congress, Inc.; and the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.
Letter from Riga

(Continued from page 3)

pear daily in the news, but we rarely see successful prosecutions. Unfortunately too many people – at all levels of society – do not understand what Americans mean by government employee ethics, transparency in conducting the public business, and serving the people’s interest. The United States is committed to helping Latvia deal with its Soviet-era legacy, but we need real commitment from the political leadership as we approach the October elections.

That said, we here at the embassy on Raina Boulevard are still feeling enormously positive about Latvia and its aspirations. Seeing this country through the eyes of our visitors from Washington during the past week, I believe I speak for all my colleagues when I say this truly is an historic time to be in Latvia.

Brian E. Carlson
American Ambassador
Riga

Senator Trent Lott (R-MS) meets with Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga. Pictured at center is Ambassador Brian Carlson.

THE DECLARATION OF RIGA
July 6, 2002, Riga, Latvia

(Continued from page 15)

We applaud the new relationship between NATO and Russia that was achieved in Rome this May. We believe that this was a watershed in European history and we stand ready to contribute to success of the NATO-Russia Council and to other initiatives aimed at increasing cooperation and trade between Russia and Europe.

We are proud that our reforms and commitment to democracy may serve as a guide for other nations in Europe and beyond who are seeking a closer partnership with Euro-Atlantic institutions. We are particularly delighted to welcome Ukraine as a guest at this Summit. We have been impressed by Ukraine’s decision to build closer ties with European structures and we look forward to our close co-operation in the future to advance this commendable goal.

Our meetings in the last two days have strengthened our conviction that the decisions the leaders of European democracies, including those represented here, will make in 2002 will shape the face of Europe for generations to come. We approach this time of decision with a common faith in the power of democracy to free the imagination of our peoples and, with this freedom restored, to change the course of history. The example of the Vilnius Group has already captured the imagination of the Euro-Atlantic community. We have every hope that our countries will complete the reforms that we have undertaken and fulfill the promises we have made to our children.
Hall of the University of Latvia resounded with applause after Sen. Lott noted that “there is room for all” in the new security alliance of the 21st century. Summit participants and guests were also greeted by President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Czech President Vaclav Havel in recorded addresses, in which the leader’s repeated their commitment for a planned robust enlargement in November.

Former JBANC board member Janis Kukainis joined other leaders of influential NGOs in a panel discussion on the role that citizen organizations play in the development of the trans-Atlantic alliance and regional security. The panel was moderated by Ron Asmus of the Council of Foreign Relations, one of the architects of the U.S.-Baltic Charter of Partnership during the Clinton administration. Kukainis, as the President of the World Federation of Free Latvians, reviewed the role that ethnic Baltic organizations have played in promoting the Baltic cause before the U.S. government. He noted that many of the activities in regard to NATO enlargement were based on the Polish model and Polish-American organizational activities in promoting Polish membership in NATO during the 1990's. Kukainis applauded the joint efforts of the Baltic communities and the work of JBANC, the Polish American Congress and the Central and East European Coalition. As one of the major advances in technology he noted the creation of the informational website on NATO enlargement http://expandnato.org. The project was funded by the World Federation of Free Latvians and the American Latvian Association.

Delegations from the aspirant countries had a lot to be optimistic about. Their countries’ progress in preparation for NATO membership and their fulfillment of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) were positively noted by NATO allies. However, the celebratory champagne remains unopened as the delegations return to their countries to gear up for the final stretch of preparations for Prague.

"Riga 2002 – The Bridge to Prague"
Summit of the NATO Aspirant Countries

(Continued from page 1)
IFPA Sees Baltics In NATO of Benefit To U.S. and Alliance

(Continued from page 2)
the same enthusiasm and unity of effort once they are members of NATO, improving their militaries and defense planning, spending and operating in peace-keeping scenarios;
• they must enhance their efforts to reach out to Russia with a confidence borne of the NATO security guarantee;
• and they must understand that, as NATO members, they have a meaningful voice in the debates and discussions of key NATO business. The Baltics can be an important voice for the development of an ever more effective NATO, one that keeps collective defense as its core mission and the U.S. engaged in Europe.

Chairman’s Concluding Note:
The IFPA White Paper on the Baltics strongly endorses NATO membership during this coming round of enlargement for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. It shows the strong support of the United States. But it also stresses the responsibilities of the three countries in turn. They must live up to NATO expectations and not slacken off; they must be able to deal with their eastern neighbor without fear, protected by the security of the NATO umbrella. Finally, they have a voice in creating the kind of a future NATO that retains a strong collective defense. A NATO that will foster a free and united Euro-Atlantic community of nations that can engage a peaceful Russia and at the same time, feel secure in creating a free, peaceful and democratic life for their peoples.

Vello Ederma
Chairman, JBANC

Re-establishment of Senate NATO Observer Group

(Continued from page 5)
ment process and after the decisions were taken in Madrid. Today, by reestablishing the SNOG, we are ensuring that the Senate will be fully informed prior to the next round of enlargement this November in Prague and in its consideration of ratification.

On June 15, 2001, President Bush gave an historic speech in Warsaw, Poland at which he said that "all of Europe's new democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea and all that lie between, should have the same chance for security and freedom, and the same chance to join the institutions of Europe, as Europe's old democracies." His audience, the Poles, understood what he was talking about. Less than two decades ago, they suffered under the oppressive weight of the Soviet Union. Today, they enjoy freedom, protected by their membership in NATO. As the Senate considers the expansion of NATO to include other Eastern European countries, we should remember the words of the President. We must also act deliberately, examining the qualifications of each candidate country and the commitments that their accession to NATO entails. It is for that purpose that we are reestablishing the SNOG.

The other Republican Senators on the SNOG will be WAYNE ALLARD of Colorado, SAM BROWNBACK of Kansas, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL of Colorado, THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, MIKE DEWINE of Ohio, MIKE ENZI of Wyoming, CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska, MITCH McCONNELL of Kentucky, DON NICKLES of Oklahoma, PAT ROBERTS of Kansas, RICK SANTORUM of Pennsylvania, JEFF SESSIONS of Alabama, GORDON SMITH of Oregon, TED STEVENS of Alaska, GEORGE VOINO- VICH of Ohio, and JOHN WARNER of Virginia.
proving the border treaty in an effort to obtain leverage on other issues. Russian pressure on Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan apparently led those countries to ban the stationing on their territories of Baltic troops in support of the Afghanistan mission. The troop issue is still being negotiated. Despite the above irritants, Baltic relations with Russia continue on an even keel. Regarding the all important issue of the Baltic candidacy into NATO, President Putin, Foreign Minister Ivanov and other top Russia officials repeatedly affirmed that the Baltic countries have a right to choose their alliances and that Russia would not interfere with their choices. If the past is any guide, relations with Russia should improve once the Baltics join NATO. Since Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic joined NATO, their relationship with Russia has never been so productive. In May 2002 NATO and Russia set a new milestone by agreeing to set up a functioning NATO – Russia Council where joint decisions could be taken on a set of issues defined beforehand. They include broad ones such as the war on terrorism and nonproliferation, and technical ones such as coordinating air and sea rescue activities. NATO enlargement was specifically ruled out as a topic to be addressed by this bilateral Council. Although no NATO prerogatives appear to have been lost as a result of this new Council, there are concerns that over time, Russia will use the Council to hamstring NATO.

The way to avoid this is to remain committed to the principles and values that NATO is pledged to defend. NATO should insist that all its members, as well as countries that participate in special cooperative arrangements, such as Russia, practice democracy at home and non-aggression abroad. NATO and its members must insist on the rule of law and democratic principles as a basis of international relations. Only in this way will the Russian bear be fully tamed and the new members of NATO, as well as the old, find security and common purpose in the new emerging NATO.

Algis Rimas

**The Voice of America at the Crossroads**

For half a century, Baltic Americans always firmly supported the broadcasts of the Voice of America in the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian languages. VOA and RFE were instrumental in the breakup of the Evil Empire. VOA was the conveyor of American values, policies and news. Radio Free Europe was the surrogate station, providing information about the listeners’ own countries, information that the communists tried to conceal from their subjugated peoples.

Once the Iron Curtain collapsed, both stations made the mistake of downsizing. Cuts were called because those in charge thought the stations were no longer necessary. Lack of funding and new priorities began to emphasize other areas, such as now the Middle East, especially Arabic broadcasting. Much of direct broadcasting to Europe was shut down. Many thought that the “new technologies” of TV and the internet would replace radio. You need eye contact and greater expense for the “new technologies.” Radio, however, can be omnipresent, anywhere.

Collapse of the major enemy exposed a lack of understanding for international broadcasting. So the cuts were made rather haphazardly in the Nineties. There was no thought to the need to keep America’s presence on the airwaves of the world, to make sure that American influence continues to be predominant. To make sure that American life, news, policies and thought were understood clearly, in direct communication with the millions of listeners. The information explosion decimated the ability of governments to control people.

(Continued on page 24)
Defense Experts Embrace Increase in International Affairs Budget as Key to Winning War on Terrorism

Carlucci, Cohen, and Scowcroft Endorse Diplomatic, Economic Tools as Vital to National Security and Global Stability

(Washington, DC - July 11, 2001) - Three of America’s most prominent defense leaders are adding their voices to the growing chorus of those who are committed to seeing an increase in the International Affairs Budget as a key to winning the war on terrorism.

Former Defense Secretaries Frank Carlucci and Bill Cohen joined former National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft in a panel discussion entitled “Winning the war on terrorism and building global stability: The critical role of the U.S. International Affairs Budget.” The event was co-hosted by the U.S. Global Leadership Campaign and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and featured a dialogue on America’s diplomatic, economic, humanitarian, and security programs as essential tools in the battle against global terrorism.

“Our diplomatic, economic, and humanitarian tools are vital complements to America’s defense and intelligence capabilities in the war on terrorism,” said Carlucci, Secretary of Defense during the Reagan Administration and currently Chairman of the Carlyle Group. “We should be spending at least as much, in today’s dollars, as we spent in the Reagan years during the Cold War.”

“My colleagues and I draw on our past experiences in office to understand that our comprehensive response to protect America after September 11 must not only include increased resources for Defense and Homeland Security but must also include increases in the International Affairs Budget,” said Cohen, who served as Secretary of Defense during the Clinton Administration and now heads the Cohen Group. “Short-changing needed increases in our International Affairs Budget is a risk we cannot afford.”

“Aafter September 11, there is a new understanding of the importance of the U.S. International Affairs Budget to our national security,” said Campaign President George Ingram. “The testimony of three of the most respected security leaders in our country attests to the need for a serious breakthrough in funding all of the tools necessary to win the war against global terror.”

Reflecting the depth and breadth of domestic support for the International Affairs Budget, a large audience drawn from the business and humanitarian communities listened to a panel discussion moderated by Marvin Kalb, veteran journalist and Director of the Joan Shorenstein Center on Press, held in the Hall of Flags at the U.S Chamber of Commerce. Participants applauded President Bush’s call for increased international assistance as a first step in restoring the International Affairs Budget to its higher historical levels and pledged to support future increases.

“We all know an increase in the International Affairs Budget is the final piece in the security puzzle,” said Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor under President George H.W. Bush and current Chairman of the Scowcroft Group. “President Bush has said it. More and more each day in Congress are saying it. The American public understands it. Now we just have to get it done.”

The U.S. Global Leadership Campaign is a seven-year-old organization comprised of more than 300 businesses and organizations -- representing millions of Americans -- ranging from aerospace, telecommunications, chemical and financial industries to ethnic organizations and development, humanitarian, and environmental groups. Together, these diverse groups advocate for a robust U.S. International Affairs Budget.

JBANC is a member of the Campaign to Preserve U.S. Global Leadership, along with the American Latvian Association, the Estonian American National Council and the Lithuanian American Council.
The Younger Generation at Work

In November 2001 the American Latvian Youth Association (ALYA) met in Seattle, Washington for its 49th congress. After two days of lectures and activities, members elected a new board and outlined the goals and agenda for the next year. ALYA’s main goals for 2002 are:

- to unify and expand the younger community of Latvians in America
- to sponsor students studying abroad in Latvia
- to plan youth days in various cities across the nation
- to promote events of other Latvian and Baltic organizations
- to campaign for Baltic membership in NATO

Over the past six months ALYA members have been working hard to ensure that every one of these goals is being realized. ALYA has recruited over forty new members, awarded scholarships to two members to study in Latvia this summer, organized cultural youth days in California and Michigan, taken part in the ALA congress, and publicized the upcoming Latvian Song Festival in Chicago, Illinois July 18th – 21st. Most importantly, the board has advocated a letter-writing campaign to gain congressional and senate support for Baltic admission into NATO.

Under the leadership of president Roberts Kukainis, NATO enlargement has been placed at the top of this year’s agenda. Every issue of the ALYA newsletter urges members to follow news about the Baltics and about NATO. The newsletter also urges members to keep in touch with senators and congressmen, especially as the date of the Prague Summit approaches. A key element behind the crusade is e-mail updates from ALYA Membership Chair Janis Skujins regarding important dates and news. Both the newsletter and the e-mail updates recommend informative websites and subscriptions about news on the Capitol and Baltic progress.

ALYA would like to thank JBANC for its infinite dedication and hard work in Washington. The board hopes that by working together with JBANC and other organizations, we will see Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia receive NATO invitations at the Prague summit in November.

Kaija Dankers

ALYA 2002 Board members. JBANC summer 2002 intern Kaija Dankers is at top right. ALYA President Roberts Kukainis is seated at center
On August 8th at 12:00 pm EST, JBANC will feature Stephen Flanagan in a live audio webcast. Please join us for this special event.

Stephen J. Flanagan has been the Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies at the National Defense University since January of 2000. He has served as special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Central and Eastern Europe at the National Security Council Staff from 1997 to 1999 and is currently serving as NDU’s Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies and as Vice President for Research. Flanagan has held several other senior governmental positions such as National Intelligence Officer for Europe, National Intelligence Council from 1995 to 1997. He has also held academic and research positions at the National Defense University (1987-1989), Harvard University (1983-87), and other institutions. He has published widely on international security, intelligence, and European issues, and he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Dr. Flanagan has served on the editorial boards of the journals *International Security* and *The Fletcher Forum*. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Columbia University in 1973 and his Ph. D. in International Relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in
The Central and East European Coalition (CEEC) visited with Illinois Congressman William Lipinski (D-IL 3rd) on June 26 to present him with a plaque recognizing him for his many years of cooperation and support for issues close to the hearts of Americans of Central and Eastern European heritage.

Congressman Lipinski is founder and co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Central Europe, and is also a long-time member of the House Baltic Caucus.

Other Members of Congress recently honored by the CEEC at its May 15 conference on Capitol Hill were Senators Jesse Helms (R-NC), George Voinovich (R-OH), Carl Levin (D-MI) and Congresswoman Connie Morella (R-MD 8th).

JBANC, along with the Estonian American National Council, American Latvian Association and Lithuanian American Council, have been members of the CEEC since its establishment in 1993.

The Voice of America at the Crossroads

(Continued from page 20)
The Nineties’ lack of understanding to “tell America’s story” brought major cutbacks. The Baltic services suffered two waves of severe cuts in programming and people, along with other European languages. While increases in other areas such as the Middle East, were necessary, it was a serious mistake to conclude that the European area could now be neglected.

We are now reaping the whirlwind. The terror of 9/11 brought a new era, an era that clearly showed that broadcasts to Europe were still of great importance. America’s sudden disconnect with Europe on many issues indicated the continuing need for American presence on the airwaves. Europe, East and West, is unable to grasp a new America and the deeper meaning of America’s need to counter terrorism. Formerly communist areas may have broken their chains, but it will take many years to clear the cobwebs the Soviet system created in the minds of people.

It is akin to the dangers of military disarmament immediately after a conflict. It has to do these days with a lot more important things than guns and bombs, it has to do with hearts and minds.

America’s headlines often scream of “Why do they hate us? What can we do?” Restoring funds for a variety of broadcast methods to Europe by the Voice of America will go a long way to answer those questions. We have real allies in Europe, both old and new. They must not be neglected. They must stand with us if we want to be understood and have the influence necessary to counter the new warfare of the 21st century. VOA, with its ability to convey news and explain America, is the basic and continuing instrument to tell America’s story.

The VOA management and your senators and congressmen must understand that the European services of VOA must not be cut. Rather, their funding must be restored.

-- Vello Ederma, former Deputy Chief, VOA European Division

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