The Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act (H.R. 3167), a bill which endorses the vision of further enlargement of the NATO alliance, passed November 7 in the House of Representatives by a vote of 372-46 (14 members did not vote). This was a level of more than 85% support – a resounding success. After passage in the House, the parallel Senate bill (S. 1572), introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms on October 24, was taken up by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on December 12 and passed through that committee unanimously by voice vote. It is now awaiting floor action. As of December 18, 20 Senators had signed on to co-sponsor S. 1572.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has given the measure his strong endorsement and has over the years been vocal in his support for NATO.

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Freedom Consolidation Act Update

Baltic Charter Partnership Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Senior U.S. statesmen at a Baltic Charter meeting in Washington admitted that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have achieved great progress on their course.

(Continued on page 8)
Enlargement. His views regarding the next round of NATO enlargement are encapsulated below in comments he made on the Senate floor on June 21, a week after President Bush’s historic speech in Warsaw:

- …in several venues I have declared that no country outside of NATO has any veto right over which country or countries the Alliance will invite to membership. Most particularly this statement applies to the three Baltic states - Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia - and Russia's evident opposition to their joining NATO.

- ...it would be totally unacceptable to grant Russia any such veto. Let us not forget the history of the last sixty-one years.

- Russia, with which I sincerely hope we can develop a harmonious and productive relationship, must understand that NATO enlargement in general, and a Baltic dimension to enlargement in particular, pose absolutely no threat whatsoever to Russia. With several of its high-ranking military officers permanently attached to NATO and SHAPE, Russia must know that the old Soviet propaganda was a deliberate lie. NATO is, and always was, a purely defensive alliance.

- I believe that President Bush and Secretary of State Powell are correct in saying that it is premature at this time to "name names" of countries to be invited to NATO membership at the Prague Summit. The Alliance has laid out a detailed procedure for qualifying for membership. Most importantly, in the spring of 2002 NATO must make a third evaluation of each country's membership action plan or "MAP."

- ...it is no secret that some countries are making significant progress militarily, politically, economically, and socially.... Lithuania has apparently done remarkably well in fulfilling its MAP, and its neighbors, Latvia and Estonia, are also coming on strong. The legal status and treatment of the Russian minority in all three countries now is in full compliance with international standards. As long as lingering remnants of bigotry in the Baltic states continue to be erased by democratic education and practice, the political requirements for NATO membership should be met.

- In 1998, I had the privilege of being floor manager for the successful Senate ratification of the legislation admitting Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. I look forward to playing the same role in 2003 for the admission of one or more of the current candidate countries.

In order to inform more on the NATO enlargement process, and the Freedom Consolidation Act, JBANC was involved in two constituent meetings on December 2 – in Philadelphia and Wilmington. Vytas Bagdonavicius, of the Philadelphia Lithuanian American Community organized the December 2 meeting at the St. Andrew’s Lithuanian parish church. Approximately 100 persons took part in the meeting. Participating were Karl Altau of JBANC and Mr. Renatas Norkus of the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

Later that same day, a meeting was held with local Baltic-Americans in Wilmington, Delaware. Plans are being made to visit with constituents in New York, Texas and Florida during the winter months.

JBANC is beginning to prepare a round-table seminar in Washington, DC in March 2002, on the topic of Baltic NATO aspirations. More details are forthcoming.

- Karl Altau -
Dr. Richard J. Krickus

The recent December decision at the NATO ministerial in Brussels to create a NATO-Russia Council has brought us a step closer toward addressing the big question: “Has the time come to include Russia in NATO?” To answer it, three other pivotal questions need to be addressed: “Does Putin really want to join the West, and what are advantages and disadvantages of Russia in NATO?”

After his election last year, President Vladimir Putin realized that Russia could expand its international influence by adopting one of two options.

The first was to reassert Russian power globally by working through the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)—an entity controlled by Moscow. The problem with this option was that all of the CIS member states were economic basket cases—even though some like Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan had vast energy wealth—and were run by dictators operating in an environment of pandemic crime, corruption, and social upheaval. As a consequence, all of them were vulnerable to domestic subversion and foreign intervention. Close association with them meant that Russia would be obliged to spend scarce resources in their defense.

The second option was to join the West, which dominated the global economy, possessed enormous technological capability, and enjoyed unrivalled political stability. NATO also possessed massive military assets that no nation, or alliance of states, could match for decades if ever.

Today, recognizing that Russia’s primary security problem is economic stagnation, Putin desperately desires close relations with the world’s most prosperous nations. What’s more, despite protestations to the contrary, level-headed Russian analysts realize that NATO enlargement eastward will help safeguard their country’s western frontiers, enabling Russia to deploy its scant assets to stabilize borders to its south and east. Indeed, the successes of the American-led campaign against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan have helped stabilize Russia’s southern borders. It also has helped marginalize the influence of reactionaries in the military, who oppose close cooperation with NATO.

By “joining the West,” Russia will derive huge economic, political and strategic advantages, but the West may secure important advantages as well. For example:

- With Russia in NATO, all of Europe will enjoy a common post-Cold War security system.
- With Russia in NATO, the international community can better prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. As a member, Russia may revise its relations with rogue states like Iraq.
- With Russia in NATO, the West can better cope with the scourge of global terrorism.
- With Russia in NATO, the drive for democratic reform and the forging of a free market economy within much of the former Soviet Union will be greatly enhanced. A more secure and democratic Europe will enable the West to better project its power in other strategic areas of the world.

While the above are potential outcomes, skeptical Western analysts caution us not to be overwhelmed by expectations that cannot be realized for many years—if ever. They note:

- Russia cannot meet the requirements of membership in NATO because Russia’s democratic credentials are suspect as witnessed by Putin’s war on the

(Continued on page 10)
WHEREAS: 2001 marks the tenth anniversary of the resolution of the independence for the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania after fifty years of occupation and their forcible and illegal incorporation into the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS: During those fifty years, the Baltic people never gave up their hope for freedom and their long-held dream of restoration of their independence; and

WHEREAS: In the United States and here in the Commonwealth, thousands of Americans of Baltic heritage remained resolute and kept the flames of freedom alive, working actively to promote American ideals of democracy in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania once independence was restored; and

WHEREAS: In the years following the restoration of independence, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania demonstrated their commitment to democracy, civil liberties and the rule of law, and have dedicatedly participated in a wide range of international structures, pursuing increasing integration with western political, economic and security organizations; and

WHEREAS: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania contribute to the common defense in Europe be participating in Partnership for Peace and NATO peace keeping operations, such as those in Bosnia and Kosovo, and by their actions are demonstrating their readiness to become fully participating members of NATO; and

WHEREAS: The extension of full NATO membership to the Baltic countries would contribute to stability, freedom and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a whole and are in the security interests of the United States; and

WHEREAS: Massachusetts citizens are committed to the principles of self-determination and personal freedom and join with more than one million Baltic-Americans in celebrating the return of freedom to the Baltic states;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JANE SWIFT, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do hereby proclaim October 27th 2001, to be

BALTIC FREEDOM DAY IN MASSACHUSETTS

and urge all the citizens of the Commonwealth to take cognizance of this event and participating fittingly in its observance.

Given at the Executive Chamber in Boston, this twenty-sixth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand and one, and of this Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

By Her Excellency the Governor

GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

www.jbanc.org
NATO Enlargement Prospects Raised at White House Meeting

White House officials on November 28, discussed progress in the NATO enlargement process with representatives of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC), including the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC). Invitations to the Alliance are expected to be issued at the Prague Summit in November 2002 to qualified aspirant countries, which may also include Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

Other questions posed by the CEEC included NATO’s relationship with Russia, results of the Bush-Putin November Summit meeting, and recent comments by NATO Secretary General Robertson. Positive signs of a new cooperative relationship with the Russian Federation are adding a new dimension to an evolving NATO, facing new threats since September 11. Also discussed was the status of the Freedom Consolidation Act, currently pending in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which is chaired by Delaware Democrat Sen. Joseph Biden.

JBANC chairman Algis Rimas and Managing Director Karl Alttau participated in the meeting. Daniel Fried, Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs, and Walter Andrusyszyn, both of the National Security Council, were present on behalf of the White House.

Foreign assistance was another topic covered at the meeting. At a Capitol Hill briefing earlier that day, the status of the foreign affairs budget (the 150 Account) was highlighted. A final push was encouraged for Congressional support and increased funding for the Foreign Operations budget. The bill, still in conference committee, includes allocations for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in

(Continued on page 11)
WASHINGTON, DC, November 15: The new U.S. Ambassadors to Estonia and Latvia, Joseph DeThomas and Brian Carlson, respectively, were welcomed by Ambassadors from Nordic and Baltic countries and former U.S. Ambassadors to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania at a luncheon on Capitol Hill hosted by the U.S.-Baltic Foundation. The new Ambassadors pledged to build upon the impressive progress both countries have made in the past decade of democratic and free market reforms. The Senate confirmed DeThomas and Carlson’s nominations on October 30, and both were expected to be sworn-in by Secretary of State Colin Powell and at the U.S. Embassies in Tallinn and Riga by the end of November.

Jan Eliasson, Sweden’s Ambassador in Washington, warmly welcomed the guests of honor and offered each of them the encouragement and support of Sweden in their new positions. The program included remarks from Sven Jürgenson, Estonian Ambassador to U.S., Aivis Ronis, Latvian Ambassador to U.S., and two former U.S. Ambassadors to Latvia, Ints Silins (1992-95) and James Holmes (1998-2001). Keith Smith, former U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania, representatives from the embassies of the Czech Republic and Iceland, and senior Congressional staff, including Sue Hardesty with Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL), Greg Gross with Senator Peter Fitzgerald (R-IL), Frederic Baron with Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and John Finerty with the Helsinki Commission.

Joe DeThomas was introduced by Paul Goble of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. As the new Ambassador in Tallinn, DeThomas pledged to work with Estonia to build and promote strong democratic institutions and
At the second "Seattle Conference on NATO Enlargement in the Baltic States" a number of distinguished speakers debated an issue to be decided by NATO at its meeting in Prague in November 2002: whether to invite additional East European states to join the alliance. The most controversial question was whether to invite one or more applications from the three Baltic countries.

The keynote speaker, Vygaudas Usackas, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States, gave Lithuania’s perspective on NATO enlargement and the benefits it would bring to regional stability and cooperation. He was followed by Aivis Ronis, the Latvian Ambassador, and Eerik Marmei, the Deputy Head of Mission from the Estonian Embassy with their unique perspectives.

All three speakers sounded hopeful and optimistic about the U.S.-Russia relationship and the Baltic-Russia relationship, concluding it is not only in the Baltic’s interest but also in Russia’s interest for the Baltic states to be part of NATO.

However, the four speakers that followed questioned the wisdom of making security guarantees to the three Baltic nations. They were Ted Galen Carpenter, Vice President for International Affairs at the Cato Institute; Jack Mendelsohn, Vice President, Lawyers Alliance for World Security; and Ivan Safranchuk, Director, Moscow Office, Center for Defense Information. As they finished their presentations many Balts in the audience were feeling a little depressed about the negative tone of all four presentations. Then there was a break for dinner and Robert Hunter stepped up to the podium.

Mr. Hunter is the former Permanent U.S. Representative to the North Atlantic Council and now Senior Advisor at the Rand Corporation and Chairman of the board, Council for a Community of Democracies. In a matter of minutes, in his own unique flamboyant style, he demolished all of the arguments of the

(Continued on page 11)
U.S. Authorities Laud Baltics' Progress on NATO Course

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said on Monday that because of their close cooperation and serious attitude to the preparations, the Baltic states could be set as models for other candidates, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry informed.

Stephen Hadley, the U.S. president’s Deputy National Security Adviser, said that the issue of NATO enlargement was seriously on the agenda and accession of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania depended above all on the political, democratic, economic and military development of those countries in the time remaining until the Prague summit.

Armitage spoke out for the vigorous continuation of reforms both in the economic and military spheres in order to ensure invitation of the Baltic countries to NATO at the Prague summit next year.

The U.S. deputy secretary of state also underlined that Russia would have no right of veto in issues of enlargement of the alliance in the NATO partnership council.

Dwelling on the issue of the fight against terrorism, Armitage underlined the Baltic countries’ quick and decisive reaction to the terror attacks and the taking of active countermeasures.

Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves underlined at the Baltic Charter meetings in Washington that the meeting of the partnership council of the charter was important both as an opportunity of discussing issues of mutual interest as well as the countries' expression of solidarity in the tense situation in the world because of the September 11 tragic events.

U.S. Political Affairs Under Secretary Marc Grossman, Estonian Foreign Minister Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins and Lithuanian Foreign Minister Antanas Valionis were present at this year's meeting of the Baltic Partnership Charter signed between the United States, Estonia, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus (center) with wife Alma and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) at September 10 Capitol Hill reception, Baltic Charter Partnership consultations, which were originally planned for that week in Washington, D.C., were postponed due to the terrorist attacks. The meetings between the U.S. and the three Baltic countries were held on Dec. 10.

Photo: Vida Kupryte
Third Annual Truman-Reagan Freedom Awards Dinner

On December 11, 2001, the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation held its third annual Truman-Reagan Freedom Awards Dinner at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year’s two recipients were U.S. Senator Jesse Helms from North Carolina and Vladimir Bukovsky, the internationally known Soviet dissident and human rights activist. The awards ceremony was hosted by Dr. Lee Edwards, President of the VCMF. Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, whose distinguished service includes having been the National Security Advisor under President Jimmy Carter, presented the keynote address.

Among those in attendance were representatives of the Estonian American National Council, American Latvian Association, Lithuanian American Council, and the Joint Baltic American National Committee.

The VCMF is a charitable organization authorized by Public Law 103-199 to design, build, and operate an international Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., to honor the 100 million victims of Communism. Dr. Edwards announced to the audience that VCMF fund raising endeavors continue to progress on schedule and it was anticipated that groundbreaking for a Washington, D.C. museum would occur in November 2007. It was noted that the anticipated date was very fitting as it also marked the ninetieth anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution.

Senator Helms was chosen to be honored for his over thirty years of leadership in the continuous fight against communism.

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press, imprisonment of Russian scholars on trumped-up charges, and Moscow’s brutal military operations in Chechnya.

- Russia is simply too large to become a member, and it is no secret that in Russian military and foreign policy circles, there are many people who would use membership in NATO to make mischief for the alliance.
- Under these circumstances, Russia should never be allowed to have a veto over alliance policies.
- Under article 5, the West would be obliged to support Russia even if its aggressive actions precipitated the conflict.
- Putin may be serious about joining the West and even though he has asserted to the contrary, he might covet NATO membership as well. But the Bush Administration should recall the criticism that it’s candidates directed at the Clinton Administration during the 2000 presidential race, that is, it is a mistake to adopt policies that rest upon flimsy personal ties.

NATO’s General Secretary Lord Robertson has said that the NATO-Russia Council will operate as a decision-making and not a consultative body but Russia will not have the option to veto decisions that the 19 NATO member states make.

As yet, no one really knows what it meant by “NATO At 20,” and even if further details are provided at the May ministerial in Iceland, the prospect of integrating Russia into a new security system will remain problematic—for some time. There are a number of reasons why this is the case.

First, NATO still has not developed a clear idea of what it’s missions should be in a post-Cold War environment where there is no Soviet threat extant to justify its existing force structure. This conundrum is completed by the vast disparity in military assets that separate the Americans and the Europeans, and the failure of both to coordinate EU with NATO enlargement.

Simultaneously, Russia’s drive to secure closer ties with the West is severely hampered by influential members of its political and military elite whose expectations about Russia’s role in the world far exceed its capabilities. Russia will never wield the power that the Soviet Union once did and those Russian elites who fail to understand this are doomed to adopt self-destructive policies.

One thing is clear, the tragic September 11 events, and those that followed in its aftermath, provide NATO and Russia with the opportunity to develop a new security relationship vital to both sides. That relationship will not materialize, however, if both continue to cling to outmoded Cold War ideas. In the case of Russia, that it can wield power equal to that which the Soviet Union once enjoyed. In the case of NATO, that additional military hardware is NATO’s most vital security asset, and not viable democracies in the former communist lands of Europe. To achieve this last objective, both NATO and the EU must accelerate the pace of eastward enlargement.

Dick Krickus is a distinguished professor emeritus at Mary Washington College and has held the H. L. Oppenheimer Chair for Warfighting Strategy at the U. S. Marine Corps University. He writes a column on world affairs for Lithuania’s leading national daily, Lietuvos Rytas, and his latest book, The Kaliningrad Question, will be published this month by Rowman and Littlefield.

www.jbanc.org
NATO Enlargement Prospects Raised at White House Meeting Washington, DC

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Foreign Military Financing (FMF), International Military Education Training (IMET) and SEED (Support for Eastern European Democracy) funding.

Featured guest of honor Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE) discussed the importance of a strong foreign affairs budget. Answering a question posed by JBANC chairman Algis Rimas regarding NATO enlargement, Sen. Hagel said that he is in favor of further enlargement, but it should be kept in mind that NATO is adjusting to a “fluid and dynamic world”. Regarding conceivable Baltic membership in NATO, Russia should realize that there is no threat from the West and it should refrain from using the issue as a bargaining chip.

Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-NE)

Baltics’ progress on NATO course

(Continued from page 8)

Latvia and Lithuania in 1998.

The issues discussed at the meeting covered the fight against terrorism and NATO enlargement, as well as bilateral relations, regional and global issues. The Baltic foreign ministers also met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and the president’s Deputy National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley.

Baltic News Service

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Report on the NATO Seattle Conference

(Continued from page 7)

previous four speakers and raised the spirits of all of the Balts in the audience. He enthusiastically enumerated all the reasons that the Baltic nations should be admitted and boldly predicted that all three would be admitted.

The following day was anti-climactic with speakers addressing relatively minor issues related to NATO enlargement. But Balts were cheered by a comment by Bengt Sundelius, Professor of Political Science, Swedish National Defense College and Uppsala University, who recalled that in the late 1980's Sweden and Finland were counseling the Baltic nations to go slow and not to press for independence. “Aren't we glad they didn't listen to us then? And I hope that they don't listen to those who counsel patience now.”

During the post-conference discussion the possibility of another NATO Conference was raised. This third conference at the University of Washington would examine the post-enlargement NATO.

“Russia would have no right of veto in issues of enlargement of the alliance in the NATO-Russia partnership council.”

- Rimas Miksys -

www.jban.org
Cuba and for the maintenance of a free Taiwan.

Mr. Bukovsky is a well-known early Soviet dissident and human rights activist who was one of the leaders in the struggle against the former Soviet Union. He was arrested on numerous occasions by the KGB for possessing and distributing anti-Soviet literature and organizing Human Rights demonstrations. For these Orwellian crimes he was sentenced to compulsory treatment in a Soviet hospital, corrective labor, prison, and internal exile over a fourteen year span. Today, the well-known author resides in exile at Cambridge, England, and is not even allowed to return to visit the land of his birth.

Dr. Brzezinski provided an excellent address to the assembled noting that the commemoration coincided with the 10th Anniversary of the fall of the Soviet Union. He noted that the struggle against the Soviet Union was a bi-partisan fight lead by Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Nixon, Carter, Johnson, and Reagan. Each played their part, which eventually lead to the liberation of Eastern Europe. Today, there is a fledgling democracy in Russia, which needs to be nurtured to insure its growth. The roots of Communism are still strong throughout the country and many who avowed its principles still hold power. Still there is room for hope with Russia and former Soviet states supporting the current U.S. struggle in Afghanistan.

He closed his remarks by noting that the ethnic Russian population in Euro-Asia is drastically being curtailed at the same time the nation’s oriental and Moslem population is on the increase. In the long run, Dr. Brzezinski felt that Russia would have to join the western democracies to survive as a nation.

Donations to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation can be mailed to 1513 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036. Further information is available through their website at www.victims-of-communism.org.

-Henry L. Gaidis-JBANC

At the Third Annual Truman-Reagan Freedom Awards Dinner (L to R): Janis Gramatins, Henry L. Gaidis, John Bolsteins, Peter Blumberg, Simonas Girdzijauskas.
Supporters of Baltic freedom lost a close friend with the untimely passing on October 26 of Gerald Solomon, the Congressman from upstate New York, who served in the House of Representatives for 20 years (1979-1999). During that time, he distinguished himself as a realist in foreign affairs and one who well understood the threat posed by the then Soviet Union. Solomon was a strong proponent of the right to self-determination for the Baltic countries, giving many House floor speeches on the subject and sponsoring or co-sponsoring resolutions calling for Baltic freedom. After the Baltics regained their independence, he ably served as a prominent member of the House Baltic Caucus, becoming an honorary member of the Baltic support group after he retired from Congress. A frequent guest at Baltic receptions and events on the Hill, Solomon received the highest Latvian State Honor from Latvia’s President Vaira Vike Freiberga in an April 26 ceremony on Capitol Hill. In addition, Solomon received the highest honor of the Republic of Estonia, The Cross of Terra Mariana from President Lennart Meri of Estonia in 2000.


Baltic Americans will remember Congressman Solomon as a staunch supporter of freedom and democracy in the Baltic countries, and as one of the leading advocates of NATO enlargement into Central and Eastern Europe. It is very appropriate that his name and spirit will live on in the title of the Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001 (HR 3167 in the House and S. 1572 in the Senate).

BALTIC SUPPORT GROUPS IN U.S. CONGRESS

(Continued on page 16)
We must look ahead, far beyond next November, and focus on our common long-term interests. For example, we must work together to build the house of democracy around the world. DeThomas is a career foreign service officer with the Department of State and this is his first Ambassadorial posting. He previously served in the U.S. Embassies in Austria (1997-98), Ethiopia (1990-93), Mexico (1985-87, Germany (1979-81), and Iran (1978-79), as well as in senior positions in Washington.

He is from Pennsylvania, where he graduated from Pennsylvania State University, and is married to Leslie Kay Davidson.

Brian Carlson was introduced by Karl Steinmanis, the new Honorary Latvian Consul in Ohio and an attorney with Procter & Gamble. Ambassador Carlson stated, "the excellent work of my predecessors will allow me to strengthen and deepen the vitally important relationship between the United States and Latvia. There are important tasks ahead and I want people on both sides of the Atlantic to know that the U.S. Embassy in Riga looks forward to working on those challenges together."

Ambassador Carlson is also a career foreign service officer, who has served in the office of the Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and as the Director of European Affairs at the U.S. Information Agency. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1970, he has served foreign tours of duty in Caracas, Belgrade, Sofia, Oslo, and London, as well as Madrid. He is from Virginia, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, and will be joined in Riga by his wife Marcia.

The event was made possible by the support and assistance of the Joint Baltic American National Committee. The event sponsors included: the Advocacy Group, Baltic Fund 1 and NRG Energy (represented by Dom Repici and Elaine Ziemba). Others who lent their support, included: the American Chamber of Commerce Estonia, American Chamber of Commerce in Latvia (represented by PBN Company), American Latvian Association, Baltic American Freedom.

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Happy Holidays!

In response to requests from the our Live Studio audience, JBANC will start implementing direct streaming audio webcasts beginning in January 2002. This will allow participants to hear our guests “live” as they answer questions via our website.

Transcripts will continue to be available following the webcasts.

We appreciate the support we have received from our webcast participants and hope to continue to develop this positive relationship in the new year.

Thank you,

The JBANC Staff
U.S. Ambassadors Vow to “Build the House of Democracy”

(Continued from page 13)

U.S. Ambassadors Vow to “Build the House of Democracy”

“There are important tasks ahead and <...> the U.S. Embassy in Riga looks forward to working on those challenges together.”

Congressman Gerald B. H. Solomon (1930-2001)
(photo Blaine Carvalho)

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League, Estonian American National Council, Friends of the Baltics (Peace Corps), and the U.S. Committee on NATO. The Honorary Committee Co-Chairs included Larry Taylor, former U.S. Ambassador to Estonia, Stephen Payne, Honorary Consul for Latvia in Texas and a USBF Board member, and Eric Harkna with BBDO Worldwide and a USBF Board member. Members of the Honorary Committee included several representatives of Baltic organizations, including: Agu Laius with Jaan Tõnisson Institute (Tallinn), Anne Taklaja with Union of Baltic Municipalities (Tallinn), Tarmu Tammerk with Estonian Newspaper Association (Tallinn), Michael Tarm with CITY PAPER - The Baltic States (Tallinn), Jolanta Taruskiene with Lithuanian & U. S. Initiatives (Vilnius), and Inese Voika with Transparency International Latvia/Delna (Riga).

The U.S.-Baltic Foundation is a not-for-profit foundation established in 1990, to support democratic and free market reforms in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. USBF conducts professional education and training programs in public administration, independent media, and NGO development. In addition, the foundation has founded several permanent local institutions, such as municipal training centers, throughout the Baltics in order to prepare the next generation of democratic Baltic leaders. Jeff Nelson is Managing Director, and Karina Donnelly is Director of Program Development at USBF, which is located in Washington, DC.

Jeff Nelson
Executive Director, USBF