

JBANC Chronicle

An Overview of Baltic Events With a Washington Perspective



JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE INC.

UNITY IN THE AGE OF TERRORISM

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It is essential for us to recognize that the world has changed. The unwarranted terrorism of September Eleventh, that took thousands of innocent lives, has unified Americans as it has unified the civilized world.

Americans of Baltic descent stand with and fully support President Bush in his pursuit to bring to justice those involved in the heinous aggression against America. Our country's response has been just and correct in the effort to stamp out the scourge of terrorism.

The Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) believes that *unity* must be the keyword now and far into the future if terrorism and attendant aggression from any source is to be stopped. The most effective way to set us on the path to unity and world peace is the continued creation of a Europe whole and free through NATO enlargement.

Our constituent organizations, the

American Latvian Association, the Estonian American National Council, and the Lithuanian American Council, believe that it is now even more prudent as well as necessary to extend NATO membership to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In a world crying out for unity in the fight against terrorism it is dangerous to leave the three Baltic countries alone in a gray zone of extreme vulnerability.

We welcome the recent positive statements by Russian President Putin in seeking better relations with the United States and with European institutions, including NATO. In the context of a world threatened by indiscriminate terrorism, we expect these Russian statements to be sincere. They must not, in any form, interfere with the legitimate aspirations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania for sovereign security. We reject any so-called "red lines," spheres of influence and prospective "Yaltas."



Vello Ederma

JBANC strongly believes in the continued presence of the United States in Europe and in an enhanced military structure of NATO. It is the only way to build a Euro-Atlantic Community that produces safety and independence for all its members.

In a world turned upside down by the horrors of September Eleventh, JBANC expects NATO to include Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as members when it decides to enlarge during its Prague Summit in November 2002.

Vello Ederma,
JBANC/EANC



Algis Rimas



“U.S. policy makers would not accept any trade-off between a hypothetical acceptance by Russia of missile defense in return for curbs on NATO enlargement”.

B. Jackson

JBANC Webcast on NATO Enlargement

JBANC has started a program of live interactive webcasts on topics of interest to our members. The first such webcast was transmitted on June 21. It featured Bruce Jackson, President of the U.S. Committee on NATO. Some 250 persons logged on for the event. The Lithuanian American Community, Inc. supported the webcast with a generous donation. The on-line discussion took place shortly after President Bush's European trip and his ground breaking Warsaw speech. By the time of the webcast, it was already apparent that a decision had been made among NATO members to remove from the

enlargement debate the "zero option" and invite at least some new members in 2002.

Questions remain as to who will be invited. For Baltic Americans, the concern is that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania be included among the new invitees.

Mr. Jackson explained why Washington decision-makers appear more agreeable to additional invitations in 2002 than they were in 1996-7. He cited three main reasons:

- The last round of enlargement was a success and it had not resulted in any damage in relations with Russia.
- The Senate had

debated and settled the principles of NATO enlargement in the late 90's. The subsequent favorable public response vindicated Congress in its earlier decision to expand NATO.

- Czech President Havel, speaking in Bratislava and President Bush, by his Warsaw speech, had ended the moral debate on enlargement. They won it.

As a result, Mr. Jackson said there is no longer a question of "whether". It is only a question of "how many?" and "how soon?". Although he

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Algis Rimas, Karl Altau and Rojs Dauburs during June webcast with Bruce Jackson

United with the United!

“United with the united” was the prevailing sentiment for participants at the Sofia Summit 2001. The spirit of unity and solidarity was dominant wherever one looked. Just as Americans were united by the tragic September events, Europe’s new democracies - Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia - proved to be united with the Americans, and in fact, for Democracy and Civilization.

The Summit in the Bulgarian capital consisted of three panels: “Facing the New Threats: Solidarity and Security”; “Europe 2002, Sharing Responsibilities”; and “Global Threats, Local Conflicts and Collective Security.” Timothy Garton Ash, of Oxford University and the Hoover Institution, moderated all three panels. Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov, the host of the Sofia

Summit, and NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson delivered opening statements. The outgoing President of Estonia, Lennart Meri,

delivered closing remarks. Already in his opening statement President Stoyanov set a tone of solidarity for the Summit saying “Each of our countries has its unique role and place in the future Atlantic Alliance from the Baltics to the Black Sea.” Lord Robertson reassured that “the events of last month have also reinforced the logic of NATO enlargement. As we look for-



Estonian President Lennart Meri, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga confer in Sofia

ward to next November's Summit, the political and military importance of NATO's Open Door is as strong as it has ever been.”

Letters of support came from President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair. President Bush stated in his letter that the United States would be prepared to make concrete, historic decisions with its Allies at the Prague Summit and to do as much as possible to complete the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. Blair’s letter stressed that at Prague the Alliance would have the opportunity to take the Alliance to the next stage and that they were enthusiastic supporters of enlargement.

A champion of NATO enlargement, former Senator William Roth delivered a letter from Senators Tom Daschle and Trent Lott. The letter stated “We firmly believe that the NATO Alliance will be strengthened by the integration of those European democracies determined and pre-

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“it seemed that the relationship between NATO and the aspirants has evolved in the past few weeks from just handshakes to hugs”



Participants at Sofia Summit

Photo by Rojs Dauburs

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON THE NEXT ROUND OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

Oxford Analytica - Daily Brief, 16 Aug 01

SIGNIFICANCE: The administration supports enlargement on the grounds that it will expand the 'Western zone of peace and prosperity'. While this is a credible and coherent rationale, it sets NATO on a path that will lead to its continued evolution away from its roots as a military alliance, a development that has not been extensively considered in Washington.

ANALYSIS: After meeting US President George Bush and other alliance leaders in Brussels in June, NATO Secretary General George Robertson stated clearly that the "zero-option" of not offering any applicant countries an invitation to join the alliance was "off the table" for the Prague Summit, scheduled for November 2002 (see OADB, May 8, 2001, I). As was the case in the earlier round of enlargement, Washington will drive decision-making on who will be invited. While a number of NATO countries are concerned about the potential membership of the three Baltic states (Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia), strong US support could overcome any opposition.

EXPANSION PLANS.

At least three expansion options have been considered in Washington:

1. Big Bang. In addition to the three Baltic states, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and Macedonia have formally applied for NATO membership (Croatia has now informally joined the list). Proponents of a 'big bang' expansion advocate inviting all (or at least all but Albania, Croatia and Macedonia) at the Prague Summit in order to be finished with the process. They also want to ensure that Romania and Bulgaria do not fear being left out (see OADB, May 29, 2001, II) after having made so many political, economic and military decisions precisely to stay in the queue of applicant nations (most visibly, supporting military action in relation to Kosovo despite overwhelming popular domestic opposition).

Critics complain that all credibility established by NATO's Membership Action Plan criteria would be lost if this strategy is implemented, as would any ambiguity regarding the alliance's openness to future membership of Ukraine and/or Russia. Since Ukraine would not be part of the big bang,

charges that it has been irretrievably consigned to an eastern orientation would be harder to refute.

2. Regatta. Advocates of a 'regatta', a variant of the big bang approach, believe all the aspirants should be invited to join NATO in November 2002, but that the alliance should only formally admit countries once they have met the criteria for membership. While this provides more flexibility than a strict big bang, the US Senate is unlikely to ratify any document promising membership to countries before they have met the necessary criteria.

3. Slovenia-Slovakia strategy. Those determined only to invite applicant countries ready to join NATO, many of whom are also concerned about Russia's reactions to the alliance's extension to territory of the former Soviet Union, argue that only Slovenia and Slovakia should be invited to join the alliance. Slovenia and Slovakia have excellent geostrategic locations, both offering land bridges to Hungary. The main downside of following this approach for the administration would be that Russia could be at least perceived to have succeeded

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“As was the case in the earlier round of enlargement, Washington will drive decision-making on who will be invited.”

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are pleased that you will visit NATO headquarters in Brussels next week. We urge that while there you reaffirm the commitment of the United States for an undivided, democratic, and stable Europe by announcing your support for the further enlargement of NATO.

We believe that U.S. leadership is needed now to make certain that new members are indeed admitted into NATO at the 2002 NATO Summit.

While all NATO aspirants should, of course, be considered, we believe that the Baltic countries meeting NATO's requirements for membership should be invited to join in the 2002 round. Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia all will have met these requirements by 2002.

While other former communist states languish, achieving neither true democracy nor free-market economies, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are models of how to transform successfully and peacefully into free market democracies. They have embraced civilian control of their militaries, they have participated in international peacekeeping, and they have demonstrated their ability to operate with the military forces of NATO countries under NATO standards. All three are projected to reach the benchmark level of defense spending by 2002.

It would be appropriate for the United States to reiterate its position that NATO should have an open door policy, and that geography should be no barrier to membership. But those often repeated statements are not enough. We must not leave the Baltic counties in some sort of "gray zone."

If Russia should, at some time in the future, be led by an expansionist autocrat, NATO membership for the Baltic countries would make it crystal clear that the West will never again accept their buffer-state subjugation. Any ambiguity in U.S. policy would only embolden reactionaries that might be tempted to return to the imperial policies of the Soviet past.

The notion that three tiny Baltic countries could threaten the enormous and powerful Russian Federation is absurd. If Russia has no designs on the Baltic states, Russia certainly has nothing to fear from their membership in NATO.

After the painful centuries of war in Europe, NATO has brought stability and peace. Now it is also bringing integration and unity. There should be no line between Western and Eastern Europe. Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic have joined NATO successfully and helped to cement their democracies and their role in an undivided Europe.

So, Mr. President, when you go to Brussels in June, we hope that you will lead Europe once again in moving to enlarge NATO to include Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, and other nations that are ready and prepared to assume the responsibilities of membership.

Yours truly,

Senator Richard J. Durbin

Senator Jesse Helms

Senator George V. Voinovich

Senator Gordon Smith

Senator Barbara A. Mikulski

Senator George Allen



Statement from Sen. Jesse Helms On Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001



Senate Floor Statement from Sen. Jessie Helms (R-NC) on the bill S 1572, October 24, 2001

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, on behalf of myself, Senator LIEBERMAN, Senator LUGAR, Senator DURBIN, and fourteen other of our colleagues I send to the desk a bill entitled the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001. An identical bill is being introduced simultaneously in the House of Representatives by Congressmen DOUG BEREUTER, TOM LANTOS, and others.

The Freedom Consolidation Act reaffirms what I believe to be a strong and bipartisan Congressional commitment to NATO enlargement. Focusing on the NATO Alliance's Prague summit in November of 2002, the bill endorses the vision of a Europe whole, undivided, free and secure. Indeed, this bipartisan vision has guided U.S. policy toward Europe for the last fifty years.

It's a vision that President Clinton helped to make a reality through the integration of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary into NATO.

It is also a vision so powerfully reaffirmed by President George W. Bush in Warsaw this past June.

Some hoped that the tragic events of September 11 would weaken the NATO Alliance. In fact, quite the opposite has happened. It has reinvigorated awareness on both sides of the Atlantic that NATO, an organization of collective defense, remains vital to the interests and values of the community of democracies.

Moreover, the atrocities of September 11 have reaffirmed the need for the Alliance to move decisively forward on its agenda of enlargement, military modernization, and enhancements of its capacities against weapons of mass destruction.

Today, we can build on NATO's fifty years of joint military planning, training, and operations as the foundation for U.S. and European cooperation in the war against terrorism. Consolidating the zone of peace, democracy and security in Europe should be the cornerstone of our integrated global strategy against the threats of the 21st century.

NATO enlargement must, thus, remain a leading priority of American foreign policy.

Recently, the heads of state of European democracies seeking NATO membership gathered in Sofia, Bulgaria, to explore how they can more effectively contribute to Euro-Atlantic security. Even more important is the fact that these democracies are conducting themselves today as de facto members of the NATO Alliance. Their troops stand shoulder to shoulder with U.S. forces keeping the peace in the Balkans. They were among the first to offer their services, including not only the use of their bases, but even the deployment of their own troops in this war against terrorism.

The most recent round of NATO enlargement, which was ratified by the Senate with an overwhelming 80 votes, has proven to be a success. Polish, Czech, and Hungarian membership have strengthened the Alliance. Their integration into NATO has enhanced European security and stability. And contrary to NATO nay-sayers their integration into NATO has helped to normalize not only their bilateral relationships with Russia, but also relations between Russia and the West.

I am confident that the Alliance's summit in Prague next year will initiate the next round of enlargement, which will strengthen the Alliance. It will help reverse the historic wrongs of Yalta, and it will bring us that much closer to fulfilling the vision of a Europe, whole, free and secure.

I urge my colleagues to consider supporting the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001, and I urge them to do so.

Sen. Richard J. Durbin's Comments During Reception for President Adamkus of Lithuania 9/10/2001



Senator Durbin (D-IL) delivering comments during reception in honor of President Adamkus. Also pictured are ambassador Usackas with wife Loreta and President Adamkus of Lithuania with wife Alma.

If President Adamkus' inspiring life story was to be written as a novel, publishers would reject the manuscript as too improbable, unbelievable, too much an international version of the Horatio Alger stories.

As a 16-year-old, he stayed behind when his family fled Lithuania and he fought both the Nazis and the Soviets in the Lithuanian resistance. He arrived in the United States in 1949 with \$5 in his pocket and wound up serving six American Presidents of both parties as Administrator of the Great Lakes Region of the Environmental Protection Agency.

During his 40 years in the United States, he always fought for Baltic freedom. Now he has had the honor to live the dream of serving as President for the country he fought to free. Now President Adamkus is here to press his case for NATO membership for Lithuania in meetings with President Bush, Vice President Cheney, and members of the House and Senate. Support for Baltic

membership in NATO in the Senate is bipartisan and I am working to see that that support is broad and deep as well. It is my highest foreign policy priority, as well as my fondest wish. I will not rest until I see that winning vote in the Senate ratifying Baltic membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. But first, our NATO allies must agree. President Bush's June 15 speech at Warsaw University led the way and called for all of Europe's new democracies to have the same chance for security and freedom that Europe's old democracies have. Those words reflect and encourage the aspirations of the people of Lithuania and the dearest desire of its President.

In 1918, when Lithuania declared its independence after World War I, it was not new; it simply took its place among modern nation states after an ancient history of a distinct culture and people. On March 11, 1990, Lithuania re-asserted the independence stolen from it by the Nazis and the Soviets. The United States always refused to recognize the Soviet domination of the Baltic states. We must carry on that principle by being sure that Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are admitted into NATO as an unequivocal statement that we will never again tolerate domination of the Baltic states. But more positively, NATO membership will be an affirmation that Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are European states that have earned and re-asserted their rightful place in Europe after a remarkable decade of throwing off the hated cloak of Communism and transforming themselves into free, stable, democratic market economies. As the son of a proud Lithuanian mother, I am honored to serve in the United States Senate. I take great pride in welcoming President Adamkus and joining him in working to see through this historic imperative of a Europe whole and free.

Thank you.



Lithuanian Americans presenting petitions on June 14, 1956 to Vice President Richard Nixon, asking the U.S. to support the restoration of Lithuanian independence. Valdas Adamkus stands next to Nixon. (From "Lithuanian American Council", L. Simutis, 1971)

A Declaration of Solidarity

BY THE HEADS OF STATE PARTICIPATING IN THE SOFIA SUMMIT MEETING 2001

We, the Heads of State of 10 European democracies, have gathered today in Sofia to rededicate ourselves to the creation of a Europe whole and free in Alliance with the United States of America and Canada. Our aspiration to become members of NATO and the European Union reflects our commitment to the common values of the Euro-Atlantic community embodied by NATO.

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, in New York and Washington represent a threat to the whole world. We extend to the President of the United States and to the American people the deepest sympathy of our governments and of our nations. For fifty years, Europeans have viewed the Atlantic Alliance as the expression of an American commitment to European security. It is time now for us to demonstrate that we also view the Alliance as a European commitment to America's security.

We consider these attacks to be an attack on all of us. As future members of the Atlantic Alliance we reaffirm our commitment to conduct our foreign and security policies in accordance with the implications of the Washington Treaty including commitments stemming from Article 5. Our governments will fully support the war against terrorism. Our policies and actions will be guided by the principles and solidarity shared by the United States and the Allies.

The lesson we draw from the terrorist attacks in the United States is that the security of America and Europe is more intertwined than ever before and that the Atlantic Alliance and its enlargement are more important than

ever. We believe that the events of recent weeks must lead to even closer cooperation between the United States and Europe. The Euro-Atlantic community must be the bedrock of a broader world-wide coalition to fight terrorism. The key pillars of that community, the European Union and NATO, each have a critical role to play in the fight against terrorism and we pledge the closest possible cooperation with both of them.

When NATO was founded more than 50 years ago, the Allies set as their ultimate political purpose the creation of a just and lasting peace in Europe. The Alliance emerged from the Cold War as one of the most effective tools for bringing security and stability to the continent. NATO enlargement is a strategic imperative for overall Euro-Atlantic security. However this is not just because of strategic benefits and enhanced military capabilities. The process has first and foremost profound moral, political and economic implications. It will continue to be instrumental in overcoming the legacies and injustices of the past, strengthening the new democracies and strongly encouraging their societies. The European Union also faces the challenges of enlargement, along with the implementation of far-reaching institutional reforms. We regard the processes of enlargement of NATO and the European Union as mutually reinforcing, leading to strengthened security, stability and prosperity in the Euro-Atlantic area as a whole.

Our countries are determined to seize the historic opportunity we have to complete the building of a Europe whole and free that locks in democracy, prosperity and security in our

part of Europe. We are confident that this determination is shared by the NATO Allies and the members of the European Union. The new democracies of Europe can help counter terrorist and criminal threats to the community of the West and to build a more secure Euro-Atlantic region. The fundamental challenge is not drawing new borders, but in building civic societies founded on solid democratic foundations and integrated in Euro-Atlantic institutions. We are resolved that our contributions to the defense of the values we share with our Euro-American family will be significant and enduring.

We share in the vision outlined by President George W. Bush in June at Warsaw University and look forward to the historic decisions to be taken at the Prague Summit in 2002. We remain firmly convinced that countries from Europe's North, Center and South should be included in the next phase of the enlargement process. Finally, we pledge to do our part in the preparation for this rendezvous with history by ensuring that all of Europe's democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, are willing and able to share the responsibilities of the Washington Treaty.

5th October, Sofia, Bulgaria



President George W. Bush's Statement to Sofia Summit Participants



The White House
Washington, D.C.
October 4, 2001

I salute participants in the Sofia Summit, "Contributions of Europe's New Democracies to Euro-Atlantic Security." You have come together to discuss how Europe's new democracies can further the cause of freedom, security, and stability in Europe. The United States shares your goals, and continues to support your efforts.

The United States also shares the commitment of the participants in this summit to protecting our common values against those who seek to sow fear through acts of terror such as those we saw on September 11. Let us not forget that thousands of citizens of more than eighty countries lost their lives in this attack, an attack that was truly an attack on all of us. The United States deeply appreciates the overwhelming outpouring of support from the governments and people of the Vilnius Group in the wake of those tragic events. Your forceful condemnations of these brutal attacks and steadfast determination to stand side by side with the United States and the NATO alliance during this hour of trial sends a powerful message against the tyranny of terror.

Those who carried out this attack want to impose a rigid and intolerant vision on the world, a vision that is threatened by democracy, pluralism, and the cooperation of free people. You, as much as anyone in the world, have had first-hand experience with dictatorships imposed by people who believe they have the "one truth" for all. For that reason you know, as much as anyone in the world, why we all must work together to defeat those who attacked on September 11. We will work together, we will make one another stronger, and we will win.

And for own commitment here in Sofia -- to act as allies and by doing so, to become allies in fact- the United States extends its gratitude. Not only gratitude, but resolve to continue our work together. Let me then reaffirm the pledge I made when I visited Warsaw in June: the United States supports NATO membership for all of Europe's new democracies, from the Baltic to the Black Sea, who share our values and are ready to contribute to security and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area. The future of every European nation must be determined by the progress of internal reform, not the interests of outside powers.

Next year, NATO's leaders will meet in Prague. The United States will be prepared to make concrete, historic decisions with our Allies at that Summit to do as much as we can to complete the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

The brutal terrorism of the past month shows that there are those who would stop at nothing to return us to a world of limited freedoms and opportunities. The United States stands against them and for democratic freedom-loving nations like your own that seek to build a more peaceful world. The United States salutes your efforts and reaffirms our commitment to work with our NATO allies, candidate countries, and other European nations to confront and meet the new threats to our security, continue the march of freedom, and build a more secure future for all our peoples.

George W. Bush

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. W. Bush".

Leading Baltic American Organizations in Support of the *Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001*

Letters supporting the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001 were sent to Members of Congress, including Henry Hyde, Chairman of the House International Relations Committee (the House version is H.R.3167)

October 26, 2001

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Chairman, Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We the undersigned, representing Americans of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian descent, strongly endorse S. 1572, the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001. We respectfully urge the widest possible support in Congress for this critical legislation.

This measure endorses the vision of further enlargement of the NATO alliance. In Warsaw this June, President Bush resolutely affirmed the Administration's support for NATO enlargement. The previous Administration strove successfully to include Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary in the most recent round of enlargement. The Freedom Consolidation Act deserves bipartisan support, as both political parties share the concept of a Europe whole and free.

Our hope is to see Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as allies in NATO, together with all other qualified countries. In November 2002, NATO countries will meet to invite new members to the Alliance. The European democracies applying for NATO membership are complying with the standards of membership. Last year these aspirant countries, including Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, declared that they would work together to become members of NATO. This unity and common vision can be measured as a success for the NATO alliance, which puts a premium on regional cooperation.

The Baltic countries have been assisting NATO for a number of years - participating in peacekeeping missions in the Balkans and now supporting the United States and the coalition in the current fight against terrorism. This is even more crucial now, as the NATO alliance has pledged to offer direct assistance to the United States in the joint campaign against terrorism.

The Act also authorizes the President's requested level of security assistance for the nations of the region, in the form of continued Foreign Military Financing (FMF) funding. This funding is an indispensable component in the enlargement process and we thus strongly advocate the following levels of funding to the Baltic countries: \$21 million for FMF, \$3 million for International Military Education Training and \$5 million for SEED assistance.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Signed

Saulius Kuprys, *President, Lithuanian American Council, Inc.*

Avo Piirisild, *President, Baltic American Freedom League*

Stanley Algimantas Gecys, *President, Lithuanian American Community, Inc*

Mati Koiva, *President, Estonian American National Council, Inc.*

Algis Rimas, *Chairman, Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc.*

Janis Kukainis, *President, American Latvian Association, Inc.*

New Presidential Ambassador Appointments to Estonia and Latvia

Confirmation hearings for Ambassador-designates **Joseph M. DeThomas** to Estonia and **Brian E. Carlson** to Latvia were held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on October 17.

DeThomas is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and has served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Nonproliferation. He has previously served as Director of the Office of European Union and Regional Affairs, Director of Regional Nonproliferation Affairs in the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs and twice served as Sci-

ence Officer in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Scientific Affairs. He has held several posts abroad as well including Deputy Chief of Mission in Vienna and Addis Ababa and received a Department Superior Award in 1998. Originally from Pennsylvania, he received both an undergraduate and Master's degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Carlson has over thirty years of diplomatic experience representing the United States in Eastern and Western Europe and Latin America. In his most recent position, he man-

aged overseas operations for the Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. During that assignment he also had a major role in producing the November, 2000 White House Conference on Culture and Diplomacy. From 1998 until joining the Under Secretary's office in June 2000, he was Director of Public Diplomacy for the Bureau of European Affairs (EUR) at the Department. Born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia, Brian Carlson graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1969.

A vote on their nominations is pending in committee at the time of publication.



President Intends To Appoint Reilly New VOA Director

VOA News 1 Oct 2001 21:51 UTC

The White House says President Bush intends to appoint long-time on-air host Robert Reilly to be thenew director of the Voice of America. Mr. Reilly has hosted the foreign policy talk show, On the Line for VOA and WORLDNET TV since 1990. Before that he was a senior advisor at the U.S. Embassy in Switzerland and served in the Reagan White House.

To better cover unfolding events in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, VOA has increased news broadcasts to Central Asia and the Middle East in

five languages: Arabic, Farsi, Urdu, Pashto and Dari.

A VOA survey of Afghan men shows that 80 percent listen to VOA broadcasts weekly in Pashto and Dari, and that they value the service.

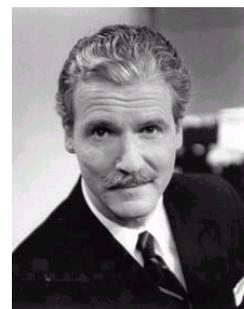
The 21 countries in the Middle East and North Africa, which listen to VOA in Arabic, now receive an additional two hours of programming a day, for a total of nine hours. The Farsi service, broadcasting to Iran, has been expanded by one hour a day, for a total of four and one-half hours.

One-half hour of additional programming in Urdu goes to Pakistan and India, while an additional half-hour in Pashto and Dari goes to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Some information for this report provided by AP and AFP.

Under its previous director, VOA made significant cuts in broadcasting personnel, frequencies and services to the Central and East European area, also affecting broadcasts to the Baltic countries.

JBANC



Robert Reilly

Baltic –American Leaders Meet with the Administration Officials



“The security and stability of the Baltic region is vital to the peace of Europe and the transatlantic community”

Washington, DC (JBANC)

On Monday, September 10, Baltic-Americans met with officials from the Administration to encourage the White House to support NATO membership for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. To accentuate this effort, approximately 25,000 petition signatures were submitted to President George W. Bush. Petitions presented to the White House came from all 50 states.

In a statement prepared for the meeting, Leaders of Organizations Representing Americans of Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Heritage affirmed President

Bush’s historic remarks in Poland this past June, in which he committed the U. S. to NATO enlargement at the Prague Summit in 2002. Pointing out the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the reestablishment of independence of the Baltic countries, the statement by Baltic-American leaders signaled increasing confidence in the Baltic region and gratitude for the continued support of the United States in assisting the countries in the democratization process. Still, security issues remain unresolved. The seven signers of the statement added, “The security and stability of the Baltic region is vital to the peace of

Europe and the transatlantic community” and added that this is best provided by admission to NATO.

Members of the Administration participating at the meeting were Daniel Fried, Senior Director for European and Eurasian Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC), Cameron Munter, Director for Central Europe (NSC), Elizabeth Jones, Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs, Department of State, and John Tefft, U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania. (See photo, page 26)

Later that same evening, a reception for the President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus was held on Capitol Hill. At the event, Senator Richard Durbin, co-chair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus, reaffirmed his support for Baltic membership in NATO. President Adamkus, in his remarks to nearly 200 guests, gave praise to Ambassador Jón Balvin Hanibalsson of Iceland, who, as Foreign Minister in 1990, led Iceland in becoming the first country to recognize Lithuania’s restoration of independence.

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Simonas Girdzijauskas (JBANC) Rojs Dauburs (ExpandNATO.org) and Saulius Kuprys (President JBANC/LAC) delivering petitions to the National Security Council



PRESS RELEASE
from the office of
CONGRESSMAN JOHN SHIMKUS



website: www.house.gov/shimkus

e-mail: steven.tomaszewski@mail.house.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 10, 2001

Contact: Steven Tomaszewski
618/344-3065

SHIMKUS NAMED TO NATO TERRORISM POST

Washington, DC.....As the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies embark on their war on terrorism, a meeting of NATO legislators selected Congressman John Shimkus (R, Illinois-20) to lead an international review of the terrorist threat.

The decision to tap Shimkus for this important task was made in Ottawa, Canada, at the annual fall meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, to which Shimkus is a U. S. delegate. The Assembly is the legislative arm of NATO and is composed of elected legislators from each of the 19 member-states. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly meets regularly to discuss common security concerns.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly has directed Shimkus and French National Assembly member Pierre Lellouche to investigate and report on the military implications of the war on terrorism. They will explore strategies to defend member countries against terrorist attack and outline ways in which NATO members and NATO itself might bolster counter-terrorist capabilities. They will also explore ways in which some of these efforts can be conducted in cooperation with NATO partners.

“It is with great pride and honor that I accepted this appointment,” Shimkus said. “I am fully aware of the importance of gaining an advantage over terrorists and know that this ‘war’ is going to take many years to win. I am proud of the NATO decision to invoke Article 5 and received many words of support for the U. S. at the meetings in Ottawa.”

Shimkus is a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and has served in combat units assigned to NATO. He remains a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves. Lellouche is the former national security advisor to the President of France. Working together, they will report their findings to the Defense and Security committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly at the group’s spring meeting.

###

The Future of the U.S. - Baltic Foundation: *A New Vision*

In this special article USBF's Co-Founder, Linas Kojelis shares his thoughts from Vilnius on the unique role of USBF in the future of Baltic-American relations.

Mission: The U.S.- Baltic Foundation seeks to develop and strengthen U.S. private sector ties with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, by drawing upon the generosity of American institutions and individuals, to address Baltic cultural, educational and political development needs through programs that emphasize the trans-Atlantic movement of people, ideas and resources.

Background: August 2001 marks the 10th anniversary of the failed Moscow coup that ignited the international recognition of the independent governments of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Reflecting on the Baltics' impressive progress since 1991, we see many examples of each country's rapid advancement towards becoming a mature democracy on the path of free market economic development. A short list of these accomplishments includes:

- Establishing democratic political parties
- A long record of free and fair elections
- Respect for minority rights
- Free and independent media
- Establishing stable currencies and banks
- Adhering to the rule of law
- A burgeoning civil society organization sector
- Promoting cultural exchange with the West
- Balancing social and economic priorities
- Establishing diplomatic corps, militaries, customs and border posts
- Membership in international organizations

To a great extent, the hopes and aspirations of the Baltic people, and their supporters in the West, have been met and often exceeded during 10 years of independence. Many people now expect the Baltics will soon become members of the European Union and NATO, a development that would formally and permanently cement the Baltics into the family of democratic Western nations.

But the solemn mutual commitments which are the backbone of accession to NATO by the Baltic States will bring new challenges to Baltic-American relations, and will require constant care and nurturing. Here, the old question arises, "will an American in St. Louis want to go to war to save Tartu, Jelgava or Klaipeda?"

Americans need to understand that the Baltics share the same values and strategic interests. Especially for small countries, this type of consciousness-raising and education can be done through a vigorous program of people-to-people and institution-to-institution initiatives.

To support this work, a plethora of American financial and in-kind resources await partnership with Baltic citizens and institutions. Now, more than ever, a dedicated, vigorous American-based institution is needed to catalyze these resources. **USBF will continue to be that institution.**

After a decade of Baltic independence, it is a fitting time to reassess development and assistance needs in the Baltics and how American non-

governmental organizations – more precisely, USBF – can best help.



Linas Kojelis

Current needs and program priorities: Although the Baltics have made impressive progress in the past decade, some areas still require hard work, including:

- Combating corruption and promoting the rule of law
- Fostering social integration and harmonization
- Reforming local governments
- Developing international business and investment
- Improving citizen participation in democratic institutions
- Strengthening non-governmental, cultural and academic institutions
- Integrating institutions into Western civil society
- Protecting the environment
- Providing services for children and the elderly
- Promoting good neighborly relations in the region

Education and professional development: Few programs provide greater long-term benefits than educational and professional devel-

(Continued on page 21)

Baltic—American Leaders Meet With Administration

(Continued from page 12)
 Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins, in the U.S. for planned U.S.-Baltic Partnership consultations, was also recognized.

Other speakers at the event included Saulius Kuprys, President of the Lithuanian American Council and current JBANC President, Mati Kõiva of the Estonian American National Council, and Janis Kukainis, President of the American Latvian Association. In addition, Polish Ambassador Przemyslaw Grudzinski commented along with Frank Koszorus of the Hungarian American Coalition, who spoke on behalf of the Central and East European Coalition. S. Algimantas Gecys, President of the Lithuanian American Community's National Executive

Committee, introduced Adamkus.

JBANC, the Lithuanian American Council and the Lithuanian American Community sponsored the reception.

President Adamkus, who was to participate in a webcast with JBANC on September 12, left Washington, DC that morning for security reasons in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks. Adamkus, accompanied by Latvian Foreign Minister Berzins, departed on a U.S. military transport, on what was reportedly the first flight out of the country following the attacks.



President Valdas Adamkus of Lithuania at Capitol Hill reception 9/10/2001

On September 9, JBANC's Board of Directors held its annual meeting in Rockville, Maryland. Besides discussing

grassroots strategy leading up to the 2002 NATO Summit, the JBANC Board pledged to fully support the Freedom Consolidation Act of 2001, a bill which will "endorse the vision of further enlargement of the NATO Alliance." The bill was introduced October 24, 2001 in both the House (H.R. 3167) and Senate (S. 1572).



From left: Cameron Munter (National Security Council), Robert Martin (Knights of Lithuania), Saulius Kuprys (Lithuanian American Council), Algis Rimas (JBANC), Stanley A. Gecys and Regina Narusis (Lithuanian American Community)



"To accentuate the NATO enlargement effort, approximately 25,000 petition signatures were submitted to President George W. Bush".



Rojs Dauburs

United with the United!

(Continued from page 3)

pared to bear the responsibilities of membership.”

Estonian President Meri delivered the message that “Democracy is not an island, which can remain wealthy and a part in an ocean of poverty. Democracy has a mission. It must expand, its rays must alight hope in peoples, give them a belief in the world of man. Creativity and religion, be it Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism or the shamanism of small peoples is the oxygen which feeds democ-

racy and defeats totalitarianism, be it left-swing or right-wing.”

President Stoyanov presented President Meri with a golden cup as a farewell gift.

In their joint declaration signed at the conclusion of the Summit the V-10 countries “pledged to conduct their foreign and security policies in accordance with the Washington Treaty” and act as if they were *de facto* NATO allies. Echoing the first time activated Article 5

of the Washington Treaty, Presidents of V-10 countries also declared that they “consider these attacks to be an attack on all of us.”

As an observer at the Summit, it seemed that the relationship between NATO and the aspirants has evolved in the past few weeks from just handshakes to hugs. All were united in finding ways of helping each other right then and there. Hopefully this relationship will be taken to the next level at the Prague summit.

*Rojs Dauburs, editor
expandNATO.org*

JBANC Webcast on NATO Enlargement

(Continued from page 2)

warned that it would be premature to spur on Congress in starting a “beauty contest” among the candidates for NATO membership, he indicated that on political and moral grounds such invitations must include Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The second program was to be an interview with Lithuania’s President, Valdas Adamkus. The date of the program was September 12. Needless to say, the tragic events from the previous day

preempted the program. President Adamkus, who had been on an official working visit to Washington, cut short his stay and returned to Lithuania without appearing on the webcast. The third webcast in our series is scheduled for November 1 at noon. The featured guest will be Ron Asmus, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs in the State Department. Mr. Asmus has been instrumental in drafting American policy toward the Baltic countries during the Clinton

Administration. The Charter of Partnership between the United States and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania is to a large extent attributed to the work of Mr. Asmus.

We hope you have enjoyed the webcast and will join in the ones to come. We intend to continue to bring to you in the coming months a full and frank discussion of topics such as the entry of the Baltic countries into NATO and other issues relevant to U.S. relations with the Baltic nations.

Al Rimas



“it would be premature to spur on Congress in starting a “beauty contest” among the candidates for NATO membership”

Bruce Jackson

Report from Our Member- Organizations

Estonian American National Council



Election of New Assembly of EANC

With the three-year term of the current 35 members of the Estonian American National Council, Inc. (EANC) coming to an end, the process of electing new membership of the Council, the XVIII representative assembly, has started. Estonian-Americans over 21 years of age who are permanent residents of United States may be nominated. The nomination process ended recently. The chairman of the Elections Committee is Ants Poldmae of Perry Hall, Maryland.

As soon as the Elections Committee has checked the qualifications of the candidates, the Committee will proceed with the mailing of ballots to all known Estonian Americans and those who have become part of the Estonian American community through marriage and are over 18 years of age. Currently, EANC has the addresses of over 7,500 families which have potential voters. It is expected that the XVIII Assembly members will take office early in 2002, the 50th anniversary year of EANC, founded in 1952.

Congress of Estonian American Organizations Meets

The Congress of Estonian American Organizations,

an advisory arm of EANC, met at the Lakewood, New Jersey Estonian House on October 13. Some 60 representatives of Estonian American organizations and churches, mostly from the East Coast, attended. The morning session was primarily devoted to the roles of Baltic Americans in assuring the security and independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania through membership in NATO. The main speakers regarding NATO were Vello Ederma, a vice-president of EANC and board member of JBANC, Prit Parming, a member of EANC and Karl Altai, Managing Director of JBANC.

The afternoon session was devoted to a panel discussion of current activities and outlook for the future of various Estonian American organizations including EANC. Topics of discussion included Estonian language supplementary schools, boy scout and girl scout activities, folk dancing, summer camps, choirs, churches, athletic events and academic organizations. The moderator for the panel discussion was EANC president Mati Koiva. The principal organizer of this Congress session was EANC board member Viiv Vanderer. The next session of the Congress will take place in Lincolnshire, Illinois on November 24 in conjunction with the Mid-West Estonian Youth Or-

ganization Days. The main organizer of that session is Astrid Jaanson, Mid-Western Regional Director of EANC.

History of Estonians in America

Several years ago, EANC organized an Estonians of America Historical Commission. The mission of the Commission is to conduct research and document the contributions of Estonians to America. The chairman of the Commission is former EANC president and current member Juhan Simonson of Lakewood, New Jersey. The manuscript for the first volume, entitled *The Estonians of America Since the Second World War: Their Background and History* is almost complete. The editor of this edition is the award-winning historian and educator Enn O. Koiva of Columbia, Connecticut.

Most of the materials for the second book, covering the Estonian immigrants to America before World War II, were gathered by the late Dr. Tonu Parming of College Park, Maryland, and Toronto, Ontario.

*Mati Koiva
President EANC*



"It is expected that the XVIII Assembly members will take office early in 2002, the 50th anniversary year of EANC, founded in 1952"

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Report from Our Member- Organizations



American Latvian Association

ALA is the American Latvian community's national representative organization, founded in 1951. Our goals include supporting the activities and growth of the community and organizing assistance to the renewed Latvian state.

ALA represents more than 100,000 Americans of Latvian descent and unites 163 Latvian organizations in the U.S., including general membership associations, churches and cultural organizations. With more than 6000 individual members from every state in the country, ALA is the largest Latvian organization outside Latvia.

In its everyday activities ALA:

- ❑ facilitates the cooperation within the Latvian community
- ❑ promotes support for the aspirations of Latvia
- ❑ promotes study of the Latvian language and history as well as advancement of Latvian culture
- ❑ ensures the availability of schools, books and other material for teaching the Latvian language, history and culture.

ALA goals are set by the delegates to the Annual Congress who represent ALA's member organizations. The everyday programs are the responsibility of a voluntary Board of Directors. ALA employs three full

time and one part time employee in its Rockville, Maryland offices.

In April 2001, during its Annual Congress, ALA celebrated its 50th anniversary. The President of Latvia, Vaira Vike-Freiberga, and leaders of major Latvian organizations from around the world attended the event.

ALA during the summer months:

- ❑ organized information seminars in six west coast cities to educate the U.S. Baltic community on the importance of NATO enlargement and mobilize their support behind the issue. The seminars were held in Denver, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle, Los Angeles and San Francisco.
- ❑ prepared exhibits and participated in the World Federation of Free Latvians' organized exhibition in Riga on the history of the Latvian exile.
- ❑ organized several sports teams and took active part in the Three Star games in Latvia.
- ❑ organized two "Sveika, Latvija!" and two "Sveika, dzimtene!" trips as part of a travel program that allows the ALA members to participate in organized tours to Latvia.
- ❑ published a book on the

history of ALA from 1986 to 2000.

- ❑ continued coordination of the fundraising campaign for the restoration of the Freedom monument in Riga. Several board members participated in the opening ceremony of the newly-renovated symbol of Latvia's freedom.

ALA strongly believes that Latvia and its Baltic neighbors will receive invitations to join the NATO alliance at the 2002 NATO Summit in Prague. For the last several years the ALA has spent most of its resources and efforts to help Latvia to achieve its main political objective of joining the NATO. After we help Latvia to achieve this goal, the organization will concentrate its efforts on uniting the U.S. Latvian community and preserving its cultural heritage. We hope that coordinated oversight of the educational system in U.S. Latvian schools and organizing and supporting various cultural programs will provide our activities with a new focus well beyond 2002.

Raits Eglitis
Executive Director, ALA



"ALA strongly believes that Latvia and its Baltic neighbors will receive the invitations to join NATO alliance in 2002 NATO Summit, Prague."

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Report from Our Member- Organizations

Lithuanian American Council

The Lithuanian American Council is beginning its 61st year of service to the Lithuanian community. Founded in 1940, the Council is based on a federated model. Initially encompassing four organizations, it has grown and currently represents 14 national organizations. Its national office is based in Chicago.

The Council was instrumental in obtaining a commitment from the United States, which was to become the long standing and consistent U.S. policy of non-recognition of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States. This was initially elicited from the State Department and further highlighted in a historic meeting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, where the President asserted to the Council delegation that the occupation of the Baltic States is only a temporary set-back—soon to be corrected. The Council went on to promote a variety of legislative initiatives which benefited the cause of Baltic freedom. Among these was the active promotion of Baltic sections of the Voice of America. Effective lobbying resulted in the enactment of the Displaced Persons Act. The Council, through public and private channels sought and obtained substantial charitable relief for Baltic refugees in Post-War Europe. It later initiated the formation of a Congressional Committee, the Kersten Committee, which investigated Soviet crimes in the Baltic States. The Freedom

Administration was introduced by Senator Paul Douglas at the Council's behest.

This year the Council was a catalyst in initiating through JBANC a petition urging President Bush to persevere in enacting stated U.S. policy of NATO enlargement and that the Baltic States be included in such process. In such regard it also sent 12,000 letters promoting NATO enlargement and organized a letter writing campaign to this end.

The Council was one of the organizers of the Midwest Baltic Coalition which has now become a fixture in Illinois and, hopefully in the future, in the entire Midwest area. It has also made significant strides in reaching out to the Polish and Czech communities.

Recently the Council organized three receptions at the prestigious Chicago Athletic Association. These events honored Lithuania's former prime minister Andrius Kubilius, Lithuania's ambassador to the United States Vygaudas Usackas, and most recently, in September, Major General John Kronkaitis, Commander of the armed forces of the Republic of Lithuania.

In September the Council, together with JBANC and the Lithuanian American Community, sponsored a reception at the Senate office building for the President of the

Republic of Lithuania, Valdas Adamkus. This function was attended by a large number of guests, including members of the Senate: Senator Durbin, Senator Sarbanes and influential senatorial and congressional staff members.

Among the more active members of the Council are the Knights of Lithuania, the Lithuanian Republican Federation, the Lithuanian Catholic Women's Alliance, Lithuanian National Society, and the Lithuanian Catholic Federation. These have been particularly effective in promoting the petition and letter writing drives. The work of the Lithuanian American Council is aided in great part by these member organizations who publish a variety of newspapers and magazines, among these is a daily paper, two weekly papers, a bi-monthly and other magazines and house organs.

As one of the three founding organizations which created JBANC with its sister Latvian and Estonian counterparts, it has utilized JBANC as its principal voice in Washington over the last forty years. The Council currently funds a proportionate share of JBANC activities.

LAC is seeking to re-tool, to expand its national network and to recruit younger people to continue its work.

*Saulius Kuprys
President, LAC*



“The Council was instrumental in obtaining a commitment from the United States, <...> of non-recognition of the Soviet occupation of the Baltic States”

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Karl Altau

JBANC Conducts Outreach Program to Western States

Six meetings were held this summer in five Western states to discuss NATO enlargement strategy. Meetings were held in the Denver (July 8), Phoenix (July 9), Los Angeles (July 11), San Francisco (July 13), Portland (July 15) and Seattle (July 16). Approximately 200 local participants took part in the meetings.

along with additional focus on smaller and less populous states. In four states (Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan and Illinois) Baltic NATO resolutions have been introduced.



Nearly 50 people took part in the meeting in Seattle



Presenters were Janis Kukainis, President of the American Latvian Association (ALA), Karl Altau, JBANC Managing Director, and Janis Eichmanis, Counselor from the Embassy of Latvia in Washington, DC, who gave an overview of NATO enlargement from the Baltic perspective.

Discussing the importance of the decision to enlarge NATO, Janis Kukainis spoke of the need for stronger grassroots in the coming year. In 2000, constituent meetings were held in 18 cities in the Midwest and East Coast, one of the purposes being to help reinforce local action groups. It was agreed that Texas and Florida should be included in future information sessions,

In his presentation, Karl Altau discussed aspects of coalition-building and contacts with Congress and the Administration, specifically in the wake of President Bush's European trip, in which the President pledged to support enlargement in 2002. The recent Congressional visit to the Baltic countries by Senators Richard Durbin, Gordon Smith, George Voinovich, Barbara Mikulski and Congressman John Shimkus was mentioned, along with JBANC plans to hold a regular series of webcasts with experts on NATO enlargement. The petition campaign for NATO enlargement was emphasized and many additional

signatures were gathered. In Phoenix, it was pointed out that the 6000-strong Lithuanian community in Arizona conducted a springtime letter-writing campaign to President Bush and Congress. In addition, good contacts are being developed with local Polish-American organizations. Participants agreed to continuing targeting three influential Members of Congress, Senator John McCain, who visited all three Baltic capitals in August, Arizona Congressman Jim Kolbe, chairman of the Foreign Operations subcommittee, and Bob Stump, House Armed Services committee chairman.

In Portland, local Lithuanians reflected upon their productive encounter with Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) just before his May visit to the three Baltic capitals. ALA board member Uldis Seja is another Oregonian who has spearheaded support for Sen. Smith, co-chair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus. Sen. Smith's 2002 re-election hopes were recently bolstered by news that current Oregon governor John Kitzhaber would not run for the seat. The

(Continued on page 24)

“Discussing the importance of the decision to enlarge NATO, ALA President Janis Kukainis spoke of the need for stronger grassroots in the coming year”



Members of the Portland Estonian- American community

The Future of U.S.—Baltic Foundation: A New Vision

(Continued from page 14)

opment opportunities in the U.S. American educational institutions have long offered young, bright citizens of foreign countries – who often rise to positions of prominence in their home country – great opportunities to develop and grow. Similar gains can be made through professional and career development internships in the U.S. Some specific program ideas include: Leadership schools in the Baltics to train local government officials, journalists and non-governmental organization leaders, Identifying full and partial scholarship opportunities in the U.S. for Baltic students, Obtaining financing to underwrite partial scholarships, High-school student exchange programs

Cultural Programs: Well-designed cultural exchange programs, especially bringing Baltic programs to the U.S., are a very effective way to maximize exposure of Americans, including leaders, to the Baltic States. USBF's highly successful tour of Baltic art in the U.S. under the leadership of Hamid Ladjavardi is

a perfect example. The U.S. and Baltic governments have limited resources to sponsor such program, especially bringing Baltic art and artists to the U.S. Another idea is to send art created by Baltic Americans during occupation to tour the Baltics.

U.S. Program: USBF can continue to recruit Baltic and non-ethnic Americans to support USBF – including former Peace Corps volunteers and U.S. embassy staff, businesspeople, academics. This diverse network can raise the profile of the Baltics in the U.S. It can also provide valuable financial and in-kind technical contributions.

USBF's new Ambassadors Council: Four former U.S. Ambassadors to the Baltics have agreed to join the new USBF Ambassadors Council. USBF is inviting all former Ambassadors to the Baltics to lend their name to and attend quarterly Council luncheons that would feature prominent speakers from the Baltics. USBF supporters will be invited to the luncheons where they will meet and exchange

ideas with prominent government and policy leaders from the Baltics. USBF also plans to invite former U.S. Ambassadors to the Nordic countries – who historically have been political appointments with excellent professional and fundraising networks in the U.S. – who served since the time leading up to Baltic independence to join the Ambassadors Council. The Ambassadors Council may also sponsor a two-day policy conference on U.S.- Baltic relations in Washington (like USBF conducted in 1995), to encourage greater integration, cooperation and investment, as well as provide an opportunity for USBF supporters to meet Ambassadors Council members, Administration and Congressional officials, businesspeople and Baltic government and business representatives. Finally, the Council may organize "political tours" to the Baltics to give USBF supporters and others the chance to meet the new generation of Baltic leaders.



"Americans need to understand that the Baltics share the same values and strategic interests."

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THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON THE NEXT ROUND OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

(Continued from page 4)
in intimidating NATO.

The most likely Bush proposal is to invite Slovenia, Slovakia and the three Baltic countries. It would be far better politically for the White House to risk alienating Russia over admitting the Baltic states than to be seen to allow Russia a veto over NATO membership. This is despite concerns about whether Latvia and Estonia (which are further from meeting the accession criteria than Lithuania and have potentially problematic Russian minorities) are ready to join. The other main concern over admitting these five countries is that the two rounds of enlargement would have been overwhelmingly oriented to the north.

Alliance rationale. There is little debate in Washington about what the addition of more member countries means for NATO as a military alliance; neither Slovenia nor the Baltic states are being considered for their potential military contributions. If there was any real concern that a potential member's security was threatened and had to be defended, the US Senate would be unlikely

in the ratification process to acquiesce in providing an Article V security guarantee. Instead, it is striking that the Bush administration is using the same arguments for enlargement as did its predecessor: to extend the 'Western zone of peace and prosperity' eastward to include those countries that have a less firmly established system of market democracy. The Baltic states may want to join as a hedge against a resurgent Russia, but there is much less concern in Washington today about this than during the first round of enlargement.

Enlargement politics. No current aspirant for membership can claim a constituency in the United States as significant as Poland enjoyed in the first round of enlargement. However, the Baltic states, which have a joint 'Baltic-American' lobby in Washington, have many allies in high places on Capitol Hill and in leading US newspapers. Any sign that they will not be included will bring immediate criticism, which explains the substance of Bush's speech in Warsaw in June, which aimed to dispel any doubts about inviting them (see OADB, June 18, 2001, III).

US citizens of central and eastern European descent comprise a significant percentage of the electorate in key Midwestern and Northeastern states such as Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. These groups tended to vote solidly Republican in the 1980s, but many turned against then-President George Bush senior in 1992, in part over frustration with his slow approach to recognizing breakaway Soviet republics the previous year. Although Bush senior won nine of the ten congressional districts with the highest concentration of Polish-Americans in his 1988 presidential victory, he won only three of these in 1992. The new administration is mindful of the need to win the support of these voters in the next election. Given these political realities, Senate Democrats are also unlikely to mount any serious challenge to an administration proposal to invite all three Baltic countries into the alliance when the White House submits a formal resolution of ratification to the Senate. Some Democrats will worry about Russia's reaction, as they did in the earlier round of expansion, but this group is

(Continued on page 26)



“The most likely Bush proposal is to invite Slovenia, Slovakia and the three Baltic countries.”

Resolution on NATO Enlargement by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly



Resolution On NATO Enlargement Presented by THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Ottawa, October 9, 2001

1. Stressing the positive impact of the last Enlargement round for NATO security and the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area as a whole;
2. Reaffirming that the Alliance is open to any democratic European country that is willing and able to further the principles of the Washington Treaty and to contribute to peace and stability in the Euro-Atlantic area;
3. Praising the nine applicant countries for their progress achieved in the political, economic, legal, defence and security fields;
4. Encouraging applicant countries to continue necessary reform processes and participate in existing programmes which help prepare to meet the criteria for membership;
5. Stressing the central role of NATO partnership programmes, particularly the Partnership for Peace (PfP) and the Membership Action Plan (MAP), to enhance co-operation and understanding;
6. Welcoming the support provided by the Alliance and Member states for NATO applicants as well as PfP participant countries;
7. Applauding the Alliance for keeping further enlargement as a top priority as reconfirmed at the 13 June 2001 North Atlantic Council meeting with the Heads of State and Government;
8. CALLS on the applicant countries to focus on making necessary changes in their legislation to enable efficient co-operation with NATO;
9. URGES member governments and parliaments of the North Atlantic Alliance:
 - a. to extend invitations at the 2002 Prague Summit for accession talks to all applicant countries that managed to achieve a level of preparedness in' all 5 chapters of the MAP enabling them to assume the obligations and responsibilities of membership and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area;

(Continued on page 24)



Baltic Friendship Ball 2001

To commemorate the ten-year anniversary of the restoration of Baltic independence and to celebrate the long friendship between the three Baltic communities of the Boston area, **the Baltic Friendship Ball will be held on October 27, 2001** at the Marriott Boston Quincy Hotel in Quincy, Massachusetts. Organized by the Boston area Baltic communities, it is the third such event.

For more information:
www.balticball.org

Road-show Report 2001

(Continued from page 20)
Portland Estonian community seemed to be out in full force and hosted an informal discussion following the event.

In Seattle, Dr. Guntis Smidchens of the Baltic Studies department at the University of Washington revealed plans for a NATO conference to be held at end of November. Organizers in Seattle were Janis Kramens and Andris Rogainis of ALA. Other local organizers included Peteris DiCarlo (Denver), Ivars Miculis (Los

Angeles) and Aldis Simsons (San Francisco).

On October 13, the Estonian American National Council, Inc. (EANC) organized a day-long seminar in Lakewood, New Jersey which also included discussion of NATO enlargement. In all locations, updated Handbooks in Support of NATO Enlargement were distributed to participants. The Handbook is also available on JBANC's website <http://jbanc.org>.

Resolution on NATO Enlargement by NATO Parliamentary Assembly

(Continued from page 23)

b. to develop a comprehensive strategy for the ongoing enlargement process which entails an enhanced MAP that specifies the requirements based on criteria for applicant countries upon which NATO governments and parliaments will consider extending an invitation for membership;

c. to reinvigorate the NATO-Russia Founding Act to develop a close partnership with Russia with an emphasis on common approaches to peace keeping, non-proliferation, disarmament and countering international terrorism as well as close co-operation on the reorganisation and reform of its armed forces;

d. to encourage the European Union to admit applicant States that meet EU qualifications, as part of the process of building stability in Europe;

e. to begin accession negotiations immediately after the 2002 Prague Summit with those countries that fulfil the criteria set by the MAP;

f. to further strengthen existing co-operation and outreach programmes, especially the Pfp, and to continue building partnerships with all interested countries in the Euro-Atlantic area.



[The NATO PA]
"CALLS on the applicant countries to focus on making necessary changes in their legislation to enable efficient co-operation with NATO"

JBANC Live Studio

NATO Enlargement Webcast Scheduled for November 1, 2001



To continue to educate on NATO enlargement, in its next webcast JBANC will host **Ron Asmus**, a Senior Fellow for Europe from Council of Foreign Relations.

The discussion will contemplate the changed political environment around NATO enlargement and the effects of the tragic events of September 11th and the bid by the Baltic countries to be invited to join NATO alliance during the Prague NATO Summit in November 2002.

The discussion will start at 12 pm ET and will be moderated by Algirdas Rimas, JBANC Chairman. All are welcome to join in and share their thoughts and/or concerns in about NATO enlargement. .

Questions to Mr. Asmus should be sent to: jbanc@jbanc.org.

More information is available on JBANC's website:

<http://jbanc.org>

~~~~~ JBANC staff

For more information  
on NATO visit:

[expandNATO.org](http://expandNATO.org)

Editor: Rojs Dauburs

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Simonas Girdzijauskas

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## THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE ON THE NEXT ROUND OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

*(Continued from page 22)*

relatively small in number. Vocal concerns are also likely to be expressed by some right-wingers that this round of enlargement is not militarily significant. However, this sentiment will probably be overwhelmed by the satisfaction of many conservatives if the Baltic countries are brought into the alliance.

**NATO and Russia.** The Clinton administration was always careful not to lay out criteria for membership that would exclude Russia, stating that the door was open to the country's eventual accession. Bush and his advisers are now saying the same thing. Nevertheless, neither Russia nor the United

States seems particularly serious about the proposition:

-- The Permanent Joint Council established in the 1997 NATO- Russia Founding Act has done little to foster a Russian voice in NATO affairs.

-- China's reaction to any extension of NATO's Article V security guarantee to Russia would almost certainly be exceptionally hostile.

-- Russia already faces huge military reform challenges, even before consideration of the type of military changes that would be necessary to achieve interoperability with an institution dominated by the United States.

**CONCLUSION:** Although Russia will complain bitterly about NATO

expansion to the Baltic states, the administration is likely to push for Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia to be invited into the alliance. The political consequences of appearing to capitulate to Russia are too great to avoid this, whatever the military disadvantages of planning for the defence of these vulnerable states. Adding to this political calculus is the recognition that the new members would be as pro-Washington as those which joined in 1999.

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### 25000 Signatures in support of NATO enlargement were presented to the White House on September 10, 2001



*From left at the table: US Ambassador to Lithuania John Teft, Elizabeth Jones, State Department, Dan Fried and Cameron Munter, National Security Council*