

JBANC Chronicle

An Overview of Baltic Events with a
Washington Perspective

JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE INC.



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BRATISLAVA STATEMENT ADOPTED BY THE PRIME MINISTERS OF

ALBANIA, BULGARIA, CROATIA, ESTONIA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA,
MACEDONIA, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA AND SLOVENIA

We, the Prime Ministers of Europe's new democracies, have come to Bratislava with a common purpose. We have exchanged views on the progress of democracy in our countries and discussed the larger developments in Europe and the Euro-Atlantic since the end of the Cold War. More importantly, we have had an opportunity to define a vision of our common future, to reaffirm our shared commitment and mutual responsibility for attaining this future, and to rediscover the broad solidarity that exists between our nations.

A decade ago, the OSCE participant states came together following the fall of the Berlin Wall to proclaim a new vision in the Paris Charter for a new Europe whole and free in which security would be indivisible. They rejected past notions of security being based on the rule of the strong in favor of the rule of law. They rejected no-



Prime Ministers of the participating countries during the Bratislava Conference.

tions of security based on spheres of influence and instead embraced the belief that integration could bring greater security for all. They underscored the rights of all states in the Euro-Atlantic community, large or small, free to choose security arrangements, including alliances, and to enjoy the same degree of security.

We believe that the momentous political changes since 1989 have provided us with an historic opportunity to rejoin the European community and to build an undivided Europe, a Europe that will be whole and free, stable and peaceful, and democratic and prosperous. These

ideas have exerted a powerful influence on our continent and in our countries. For the first time in history we have it within our grasp to create a Europe that is free, indivisible and secure. As Prime Ministers of countries that have often been denied such rights in the past, we know firsthand the consequences for us and for Europe as a whole of having been involuntarily assigned to the spheres of influence of others.

Over the last decade, considerable progress has been made in achieving this vision of a new Euro-Atlantic community. But the vision is not yet complete. We are keenly aware that Europe's new democracies share with their partners from the EU and NATO not only the vision of Europe whole and free, but also the responsibility for attaining it. A new Europe will remain unfinished without our active contribution.

We recognize that neither

(Continued on page 4)





Vīķe-Freiberga Thanks American—Latvians

During her recent visit to Washington, D.C., Latvian President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga was assured by U.S. President George W. Bush that his administration would continue Euro-Atlantic integration and support the Baltic states' NATO membership. The warm welcome was in part the result of efforts by the American Latvian community to pave Latvia's entrance into the alliance, the president noted in her meetings with U.S. officials and members of local Latvian organizations.



"Everyone is needed to take part in our work <...> We have to ask everyone to join."

~~~~Vīķe-Freiberga

In her April 27 speech on the first day of the American Latvian Association's (ALA) 50th anniversary congress in Arlington, Va., Vīķe-Freiberga thanked ALA and the World Federation of Free Latvians (PBLA) for carrying out the NATO support project, which she said has been of great help in the NATO debate. "The project wouldn't be so successful without the help of all of you," the president said.

Latvia's chances to receive an invitation to join NATO during the alliance's Prague summit in 2002 are quite real, the president said. Still, "we have to do a lot both in Latvia and America by 2002," she added.

Vīķe-Freiberga urged Latvian-Americans to make use of a unique possibility to use their votes as American citizens for Latvia's benefit. By taking part in American democratic processes, the Latvian community is in a privi-

leged position to advance Latvian causes (such as NATO enlargement), the president said. "We need your help more than ever," she noted.

Touching upon the émigré efforts during the Soviet occupation, Vīķe-Freiberga said that without the 40 years of work by Latvian communities worldwide chances of Latvia regaining its independence would have been much smaller.

"For many years, you've been working without asking for any rewards. You've sacrificed a lot to keep the Latvian spirit alive. I thank you for that with all my heart," the president said.

Vīķe-Freiberga also said she was grateful for Latvian-American support during the last 10 years, which resulted in numerous 3x3 culture camps and projects like the Freedom Monument Renovation Foundation. "Your investment into Latvia can't be overestimated," she noted.

The president invited those who haven't yet found where to channel their support to help Latvian scientists and academicians. Such support could include scholarships for Latvia's Historical Commission that deals with the country's painful past or the Lettonica program at the University of Latvia that plans to create a Latvian synonym

dictionary on the Internet.

Vīķe-Freiberga urged the Latvian community to activate its passive flanks. "Everyone is needed to take part in our work," she said. "We have to ask everyone to join."

The president ended on a high note of praise and hope. "You've been devoted to Latvia... And you've helped her to experience rebirth," she



*Vīķe-Freiberga decorated Senator Jessie Helms (R-NC) with the Order of the Three Stars on April 26th, 2001*

said. "Let's go together to a new future. Let's build a new Latvia that would serve as an example to others."

Vīķe-Freiberga extended special thanks to PBLA Chairman Andrejs Valdis Ozoliņš, ALA President Jānis Kukainis, ALA Treasurer Uldis Sēja and Latvian Freedom Fund Chairman Valdis Kārkliņš. The president also thanked the Latvian ambassador to the United States, Aivis Ronis, and the embassy staff for making her visit to America an exceptional success.

~~~~~By IEVA RAUBIŠKO

House and Senate Resolutions Support Baltics

Washington, DC

(JBANC) - Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL) introduced House Concurrent Resolution 116 on April 26, recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The three Baltic countries, states the language, should be invited to join NATO in 2002.

HCR116 commends the Baltic countries' "progress toward political and economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for prospective [NATO] members." Baltic cooperation in the NATO-led multinational military force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo is pointed out, along with the fact that all three countries are steadily increasing their defense budget allocations and are adapting to NATO standards. Furthermore, Baltic NATO membership would ensure "stability, freedom, and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a whole".

As of June 8, there are 39 co-sponsors for HCR116: Representatives Borski, Cox, English, Hilleary, Knollenberg, Kucinich, Lipinski, McNulty, Schaffer, Wolf, Frost, Barcia, Bereuter, Bilirakis,

Blunt, Bonior, Camp, Clement, Costello, Crance, Crowley, Ehlers, Flake, Gilman, Goss, Hefley, Hoeffel, Issa, Kelly, King, Lampson, Lantos, McGovern, Pitts, Rogers, Rush, Shays, Nick Smith, and Spence. More co-sponsors are needed to secure successful passage of this resolution.

If your Congressman has not yet signed onto HCR 116, please ask them to do so. Calls of support are also needed to the House International Relations Committee at: 202-225-5021.

Also on April 26, Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution 34, which congratulates the Baltic nations on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of their full independence. SCR34 "calls on the President of the United States to build upon the close and mutually beneficial relations with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania that have existed since the restoration of their full independence."

This measure has been co-sponsored by Senators Dodd (D-CT), Voinovich (R-OH) and Biden (D-DE).

A companion version in the House, HCR 131, was

introduced on May 10 by Rep. Chris Smith and has been co-sponsored by Congressmen Hoyer, Pitts, Cardin, Wamp, and Hastings.

Please ask your Senator to support S. Con. Res. 34 and Representative to support HCR131. Messages of support to Congressmen Shimkus and Smith, Senator Campbell and to the co-sponsors are also needed.

Commenting for the record, Senator Campbell stated that "In the ten years following the restoration of their full independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have demonstrated their commitment to democracy, human rights, and rule of law at home. At the same time, they have actively participated in a wide range of international structures, while pursuing further integration into European political, economic and security organizations."

The Colorado Senator added that "it is fitting that we introduce this resolution today, coinciding with (Latvian) President Vike-Freiberga's working visit to Washington." This occurred the same day as JBANC's 40th anniversary celebration.



"The three Baltic countries should be invited to join NATO in 2002"

~~~~~HCR 116

**For more information  
please refer to pages  
10 & 11**

## Bratislava Statement

*(Continued from page 1)*

the process of political transition in Central and Eastern European countries, nor the process of political integration in Europe have been progressing without challenges and risks. The nations of the European Union and the nations represented here both face the problems of corruption and crime, the necessary expense of military reform, and the dislocations of free market economies. Nevertheless, a failure to address these challenges poses a special threat to the civil societies of Europe's newer democracies, and we are firmly resolved to succeed in our efforts of reform and in the fight against corruption and organized crime.

We declare that all of Europe is our proper concern, with no part automatically excluded because of geography, history, or current instabilities. In this regard, we are delighted to welcome the Republic of Croatia to our discussions, and appraise the important steps it has taken towards integration into the European Union and in preparing to join NATO's Membership Action Plan.

We consider European security to be indivisible and for all of Europe's democracies to be an essential part of a Europe whole and free. Therefore, we must contribute to the stabilization and reconstruction of the Western Balkans. Nations in this region have had to face the problems of transition we all face. But they have been confronted with additional risks and chal-

lenges arising from armed conflicts beyond their borders and historic instability. For this reason, we note the recent positive developments in the region. The toppling of dictatorship in Serbia has created a new opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation throughout Southeastern Europe and to integrate the Western Balkans into the European and Euro-Atlantic mainstream. In this context we commend the stabilizing role of Bulgaria and Romania, NATO and EU applicant countries in the region. We also note the firmness and temperate resolve with which Macedonia and Albania have worked together with NATO and the EU to improve stability in the region. We condemn the violent and destabilizing actions of extremists in the region.

We regard the EU and NATO as twin institutional pillars of the Euro-Atlantic. They have played a key role in the transition of new democracies and the integration of Europe. We believe that NATO remains the core of transatlantic security and European stability and that the security dimension of the EU will serve to reinforce NATO's capability. These complementary and mutually reinforcing institutions represent the foundation of the Euro-Atlantic community and constitute the security framework on which our nations rely. The addition of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to NATO in 1999 has already contributed to the security, stability and cohesion of the new Europe, just as the EU's

steps toward further enlargement have encouraged new democracies to embark on important political and economic reforms. In this regard, we note the positive contributions of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia to stability in the Northern Europe and recognize the important task of building cooperative economic and security relations with Russia.

We believe that these processes must continue. As they do, the integration of each new democracy into the Alliance and the European Union will enlarge and strengthen the new Europe. The integration of each new democracy into the Alliance and the Union will be a major success towards the realization of the historic chance that the Fall of the Berlin Wall has given to us all. We were particularly honored to have been joined in our discussions by President Havel whose words and example continue to inspire us in our work. In this regard, we believe that the NATO Summit in Prague, which has been called „a rendezvous with history,, offers us the opportunity to take a major step towards the completion of the historic project begun by the leaders of Solidarity and Charter 77.

Finally, as a continuation of the political process that began in Vilnius in May 2000 and was reaffirmed by Prime Ministers in Bratislava today, we welcome that our countries will hold a summit in Sofia, Bulgaria on October 5, 2001.



***“A new Europe  
will remain  
unfinished  
without our  
active  
contribution.”***



## 9 Ambassadors' Letter to the Senators

April 12, 2001

Dear Senators:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your support for NATO enlargement in 2002 as expressed in your letter to the President George W. Bush on April 5, 2001.

We completely share your vision of Europe whole and free in strong alliance with North America. We believe in strong U.S. leadership maintaining NATO, cohesive and growing. Our democracies have been working towards this goal since reestablishment of our independence and sovereignty. We all are committed to fundamental shared values and are working to become better contributors to transatlantic security. We felt our security enhanced when Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland have acceded to NATO two years ago.

Last year in Vilnius our countries agreed to work together to help building a better and safer Europe. We are firmly convinced that integration of our democracies into NATO and EU will facilitate the creation of a free Europe. Therefore it is in our, as well as U.S. interests that the process of NATO enlargement continues next year and NATO invites qualified European democracies to begin accession at the next summit in Prague.

We understand how important it is that the Senate keeps this issue high on its agenda as a bipartisan priority. We thank you for firm action and leadership. We assure you that our countries are committed to remain your true allies in this important task of building stronger and better transatlantic Alliance.

Sincerely,

H. E. Petrit Bushati, Ambassador of Albania  
H. E. Philip Dimitrov, Ambassador of Bulgaria  
H. E. Sven Jurgenson, Ambassador of Estonia  
H. E. Aivis Ronis, Ambassador of Latvia  
H. E. Vygaudas Ušackas, Ambassador of Lithuania  
H. E. Martin Butora, Ambassador of Slovakia  
H. E. Dóvran Kracun, Ambassador of Slovenia  
Mr. Goce Georgievski, Charge d'Affaires of Macedonia  
Mr. Bogdan Mazuru, Charge d'Affaires of Romania



## Senator Jesse Helms Receives JBANC's Baltic Democracy Award



**"I shall work with the Bush Administration to ensure that the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) are invited to join <...> NATO alliance"**

**Jesse Helms**

At its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception held on Capitol Hill on April 26, the Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) honored Senator Jesse Helms (Rep.-NC) for his leadership in urging continued enlargement of NATO in 2002 and the inclusion of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the enlargement process. In recognition of recent efforts to include these Baltic countries in western institutions and his

past work to assure that the United States did not recognize the illegal incorporation of these countries into the Soviet Union, he was presented the Baltic Democracy Award by Mati Koiva, president of the Estonian American National Council, Inc. and JBANC secretary.

Senator Helms,  
now Ranking Member



Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) was presented with JBANC Baltic Democracy Award by Mati Koiva, JBANC Secretary, during April 26th reception.

of the Committee on Foreign Relations, began his first six-year term in the Senate in January 1973. He is now serving his fifth term.

~~~~~Mati Koiva

Chairman's Corner by Algirdas Rimas

The issue of NATO enlargement gained public visibility in May and it is slated to become even more prominent in the next few months. What makes it especially difficult for the current NATO members is the question of admitting the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the face of Russia's resistance. All three Baltic countries suffered under Soviet occupation; and all three are determined that their sovereignty and security should never again be so

compromised. Integration into the Trans-Atlantic community through NATO and European Union membership is what they wish. It is a wish strongly shared by the million Americans of Baltic heritage and probably millions more. There are nine and possibly ten (with Croatia joining the team) aspirants from Central and East Europe seeking NATO membership at the next NATO Summit in 2002. Named as the Vilnius nine, after a declaration of common purpose signed

jointly in Lithuania's capital, they all were once victims of Soviet communism. They are now independent, free-market democracies, well on the road to restoring their prosperity and regaining their rightful place as equals among the nations of Europe. Leaders of the Vilnius nine met this May in Bratislava where they affirmed their intentions to join NATO. President Havel of the Czech Republic gave them an especially eloquent endorsement. He warned

(Continued on page 8)

Senator Jesse Helms to JBANC Chairman

JESSE HELMS, NORTH CAROLINA, CHAIRMAN

RICHARD G LUGAR, INDIANA

CHUCK HAGEL, NEBRASKA

GORDON H SMITH, OREGON

CRAIG THOMAS, WYOMING

BILL FRIST, TENNESSEE

LINCOLN D CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND

GEORGE ALLEN, VIRGINIA

SAM BROWNBACK, KANSAS

JOSEPH R BIDEN, JR., DELAWARE

PAUL S SARBANES, MARYLAND

CHRISTOPHER J DODD, CONNECTICUT

JOHN F KERRY, Massachusetts

RUSSELL D FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN

PAUL D WELLSTONE, MINNESOTA

BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA

ROBERT G TORRICELLI, NEW JERSEY

BILL NELSON, FLORIDA

STEPHEN BIEGUN, STAFF DIRECTOR
EDWIN K HALL, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Washington, DC 20510-6225

May 14, 2001

Mr. Algirdas Rimas
Chairman
Joint Baltic American National
Committee, Inc.
400 Hurley Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Rimas:

Thank you for your kind letter regarding the enlargement of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Late in 1998, the Senate voted to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into the alliance. This was one of my proudest moments as Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, because it helped them to secure their place in the community of Western democracies. However, our goal of enlarging this community has not been completed yet.

During NATO's Washington summit meeting in 1999, the Alliance deferred considering its enlargement, however, it did reaffirm its "Open Door Policy" and offered to applicant countries the Membership Action Plan (MAP) to assist in their efforts to prepare for membership.

NATO's mission today must be the same clear-cut and limited mission it undertook at its inception: to protect the territorial integrity of its members, defend them from external aggression, and prevent the hegemony of any one state in Europe. **I shall work with the Bush Administration to ensure that the Baltic States (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) are invited** to join their neighbors Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic as members of the NATO alliance. This is vital not only for their security, but for ours as well. The entrance of new members will undoubtedly further strengthen this crucial alliance as well as renew NATO's commitment to its ongoing mission.

I have enclosed a copy of the speech that I gave at the American Enterprise Institute. It highlighted my priorities for the 107th Congress in the Foreign Relations Committee, from including revolutionizing the way America delivers foreign assistance and consolidating the last century's democratic advances and continuing the march for freedom in the next. In the speech you will find my views regarding the expansion of NATO with particular concern to the Baltic countries.

Thank you again for taking the time to write about this important issue.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS
JH:sb
Enclosure



A message From the Chairman of JBANC

(Continued from page 6)

against excluding the Baltic nations from the alliance as that would bring back memories of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. It was one of the most cynical deals in history, and resulted in the Baltics and Poland being divided between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union. He discounted Russian objections the Baltics entering NATO, by saying, "it is almost absurd that such a large and powerful country [as Russia] should be alarmed by the prospect of three small democratic republics at its borders joining a regional grouping which it does not control". Havel told the Bratislava conference that it was his "profound conviction that Russia does not deserve that we behave towards it as we would toward a leper, an invalid or a child who requires special treatment and whose whims, no matter how dangerous, must be understood and tolerated." Further events bearing on NATO enlargement are imminent. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly was held its Spring session during the last week of May in Vilnius. A large Congressional delegation headed by Congressman Doug Bereuter of Nebraska and Senator Gordon Smith of Oregon will participate. In



"We hear the voices from the grass roots calling for NATO enlargement to include the Baltics, and those voices are gaining in strength."
~~~~~A. Rimantas

June, President Bush will travel to Europe where he will meet fellow government leaders at meetings of NATO and of the European Union. No doubt, the agenda will prominently feature NATO enlargement. President Bush is widely expected to proclaim that the United States will continue to exercise its preeminent role in NATO and support the enlargement of the Alliance.

On the Washington scene, JBANC has been working to both advocate our views and to inform our constituency of developments in Washington. We work in coalition with like-minded organizations, especially with our fellow member organizations of the Central and East European Coalition (CEEC). The 19 member organizations of the Washington based CEEC represent over 22 million Americans. JBANC has been especially active in the CEEC's NATO working group that actively seeks NATO enlargement. JBANC has been also busy on its own. We celebrated our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in April, in the company of Latvia's President Vaira Vaike-Freiberga, Senators

Helms and Durbin, and other luminaries. We plan to webcast a program of commentary and discussion in the wake of the President's June visit to Europe. Along with the entire Baltic American community, and many other friends and supporters, we initiated a nation-wide signature drive on a petition to support Baltic entry into NATO. In the few weeks since the start of the drive, thousands of people have already signed the petition. There is also a steady flow of correspondence from all parts of the country urging the President and Members of Congress to support NATO enlargement to include the Baltic nations. We hear the voices from the grass roots calling for NATO enlargement to include the Baltics, and those voices are gaining in strength. JBANC hopes and trusts that the Bush Administration will soon make its decisions on the future of NATO. We hope and trust that the decision will be to lead its Allies in enlarging NATO in 2002 and to invite Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to become NATO members.

~~~~~Algirdas Rimantas


President George W. Bush's Statement to Bratislava Conference Participants



THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

May 7, 2001

I welcome the resolve and vision shown by nations participating in the conference, "Europe's New Democracies: Leadership and Responsibility" in Bratislava, Slovakia. Your nations and the United States share common values and a common goal: a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Decades of experience show that America's and Europe's security are inseparable and that NATO constitutes the foundation of our common transatlantic security. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, the opening of NATO has strengthened the forces of democracy and free markets throughout the continent. These processes must continue. NATO must be open to all of Europe's democracies ready and able to meet NATO's obligations and contribute to Europe's security. No part of Europe will be excluded because of history or geography.

Countries aspiring to join NATO must show their commitment to meet NATO standards. They participate in NATO's Membership Action Plan (MAP) program. Albania, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia have made significant strides.

I commend your efforts and urge continued progress toward military, political, and economic reforms necessary for NATO membership. I am particularly encouraged to see these nations working together to resolve border disputes, begin new regional trading relationships, encourage new cross-border contact, fight corruption and organized crime, and adopt programs to ensure the rights of national minorities. I am pleased that Croatia has also declared its intention to integrate further into the transatlantic community, underscoring its commitment to the guiding principles of democracy, free markets, and peace.

With the approach of NATO's Prague Summit in Fall of 2002, the United States remains committed to working with our NATO allies, NATO aspirants, and all Europe's nations to further our common objectives and common values.

G. W. Bush

A handwritten signature of George W. Bush in dark ink.

Urge Your Congressmen to Cosponsor Rep. SHIMKUS' Resolution



HCON 116 IH

107th CONGRESS
1st Session
H. CON. RES. 116

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 26, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. COX, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WOLF, Mr. BORSKI, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. MCNULTY, and Mr. ENGLISH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recommending the integration of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Whereas the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are undergoing a historic process of democratic and free market transformation after emerging from decades of brutal Soviet occupation;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has conducted peaceful transfers of political power--in Lithuania since 1990 and in Latvia and Estonia since 1991;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has been exemplary and consistent in its respect for human rights and civil liberties;

Whereas the governments of these Baltic countries have made consistent progress toward establishing civilian control of their militaries through active participation in the Partnership for Peace program and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) peace support operations;

Whereas Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are participating in the NATO-led multinational military force in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo;

Whereas Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia are consistently increasing their defense budget allocations and have adopted laws providing that such allocations for defense will be at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) by 2002 for Lithuania and Estonia and by 2003 for Latvia;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has clearly demonstrated its ability to operate with the military forces of NATO nations and under NATO standards;

Whereas former Secretary of Defense Perry stipulated five generalized standards for entrance into NATO: support for democracy, including toleration of ethnic diversity and respect for human rights; building a free market economy; civilian control of the military; promotion of good neighborly relations; and development of military interoperability with NATO;

Whereas each of these Baltic countries has satisfied these standards for entrance into NATO; and

Whereas NATO will consider at its 2002 summit meeting in Prague the further enlargement of its alliance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that--

- (1) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are to be commended for their progress toward political and economic liberty and meeting the guidelines for prospective members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) set out in chapter 5 of the September 1995 Study on NATO Enlargement;
- (2) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia would make an outstanding contribution toward furthering the goals of NATO should they become members;
- (3) extension of full NATO membership to these Baltic countries would contribute to stability, freedom, and peace in the Baltic region and Europe as a whole; and
- (4) with complete satisfaction of NATO guidelines and criteria for membership, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia should be invited in 2002 to become full members of NATO.

END

Urge Your Senator to Cosponsor Sen. CAMPBELL's Resolution



SCON 34 IS

107th CONGRESS
1st Session
S. CON. RES. 34

Congratulating the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of their full independence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

April 26, 2001

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of their full independence.

Whereas the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were forcibly and illegally incorporated into the Soviet Union from 1940 until 1991;

Whereas, from 1940 to 1991, thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians were executed, imprisoned, or exiled by Soviet authorities through a regime of brutal repression, Sovietization, and Russification in their respective nations;

Whereas, despite the efforts of the Soviet Union to eradicate the memory of independence, the Baltic people never lost their hope for freedom and their long-held dream of full independence;

Whereas, during the period of 'glasnost' and 'perestroika' in the Soviet Union, the Baltic people led the struggle for democratic reform and national independence; and

Whereas, in the years following the restoration of full independence, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have demonstrated their commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and have actively participated in a wide range of international structures, pursuing further integration with European political, economic, and security organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress--

(1) congratulates Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence; and

(2) calls on the President to continue to build the close and mutually beneficial relations the United States has enjoyed with Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania since the restoration of the full independence of those nations.

END

In the House, a duplicate version of this legislation, HCR131, was introduced on May 10 by Congressman Christopher Smith ((R-4th NJ). Co-sponsors are: Steny Hoyer ((D-5th MD), Joseph Pitts (R-16th PA), Benjamin Cardin (D-3rd MD), Zach Wamp (R-3rd TN) and Alcee Hastings (D-23rd FL). All are members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, the Helsinki Commission). SCR34 has an additional co-sponsor, Sen. Joe Biden, who endorsed the legislation in one of his first official acts as new Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relation Committee.

JBANC Celebrates 40th Anniversary in Hill Ceremony

Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Helms Receives Baltic Democracy Award

Washington, DC
(JBANC) - The Joint
Baltic American National
Committee, Inc.
(JBANC)
celebrated its 40th
anniversary with an April
26 reception on Capitol
Hill, featuring the
President of Latvia, Vaira
Vike-Freiberga, who was
on a week-long working
visit to
Washington, D.C.

Durbin and
Gordon Smith
of the Senate
Baltic
Freedom
Caucus, along
with
Congressmen
John Shimkus
and Dennis
Kucinich of
the House
Baltic Caucus
was held in
the Hart Senate Office
Building and occurred in
conjunction with the 50th
anniversary Congress of
the American Latvian
Association, Inc.
(ALA).

JBANC was founded
April 27, 1961 by the
leading Baltic American
organizations (**see pg. 17**)
Together they represent
over one million
Americans of



Current JBANC President Saulius Kuprys (left) with some of the evenings guests: Former congressman Gerald Solomon, Lithuanian ambassador Vygaudas Usackas, Jan Nowak, Sen. Richard Durbin, Latvian Ambassador Aivis Ronis and Vaira Vike-Freiberga.

In its early years, JBANC sought to support the steadfast policy of the United States not to recognize the forceful annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into the Soviet Union. Americans of Baltic heritage remain proud that the United States kept this principled policy when the Soviet empire looked strong and lasting.

The hopes and efforts of Baltic-Americans were vindicated in the early 1990's when the Baltic countries once again emerged free and independent. Their people and Americans of Baltic heritage were instrumental in contributing to the fall of the Soviet empire.

(Continued on page 13)



Today JBANC
continues to
represent the wishes
of its constituents
by working to keep
the Baltic countries
secure and
sovereign.

At the event, Senator
Jesse Helms, Ranking
Member of the Senate
Foreign Relations
Committee, was
presented with the Baltic
Democracy Award by
JBANC in recognition
of his contributions in the
U.S. Congress to Estonia,
Latvia and Lithuania.

The reception, sponsored
by Senators Richard



Former long-serving JBANC Board members Dr. John Genys, Gunars Meirovics (one of JBANC's founders), and Mairo Kari with son Erik Kari.

Estonian, Latvian
and Lithuanian
heritage. Besides
ALA, JBANC's
parent
organizations
are the Estonian
American
National Council,
Inc., and the
Lithuanian
American
Council, Inc.

JBANC Reception on Capitol Hill

(Continued from page 12)

Today JBANC continues to represent the wishes of its constituents by working to keep the Baltic countries secure and sovereign. Paramount is that they maintain and cultivate

their democratic systems, the rule of law, and free market economies and that they become integrated into the Trans-Atlantic community of nations.



Current and former JBANC staff (from left): Aija Straumanis, Alexis Amoroso, Rojs Dauburs, Mel Huang, Karl Altai, Simonas Girdzijauskas, Pranas Ciziunas, Janis Bolsteins, Sandra Aistars and Algis Silas.



Senator Jesse Helms addresses participants at JBANC 40th anniversary reception April 26th in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

JBANC believes this may be achieved best through their membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We urge that the United States lead in the effort to

enlarge NATO at the next Summit meeting in 2001 and that at that time the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania be invited to become members of NATO.



.In view of the strong response, the petition drive has been extended past its originally scheduled June deadline.

Petition Drive for Baltic Admission into NATO Gaining Ground

The Midwest Baltic Coalition recently initiated a petition drive to collect signatures in support of NATO enlargement and the admission of the Baltic nations into NATO. The Chicago based organization was then joined in the project by JBANC, its constituent organizations and other groups such as BAFL, and the Lithuanian American Commit-

tee. The Polish American Congress also indicated support for the petition drive.

Since the drive began in earnest, in mid-May, some 10,000 signatures were collected. In view of the strong response, the drive has been extended past its originally scheduled June deadline. The petition will remain in circulation at

least until the Fall. JBANC then plans to present the collected signatures to President Bush.

If you wish to see a copy of the petition., or sign it via e-mail, please see the JBANC web page: <http://jbanc.org>.

~~~~~Al Rimas





## Americans for NATO Enlargement

### The President of the United States

The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Since it has been established that the enlargement of NATO is in the interest of the United States in securing peace and stability; and since the United States has consistently supported the enlargement of NATO as a national policy and has supported the quest of the aspiring nations that have signed a joint resolution in Vilnius May 2000 to that effect;

Therefore, we now urge you, Mr. President, to activate the above stated policy of these United States and invite such aspiring nations to NATO membership and that the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania be included in such invitation at the NATO summit in 2002.

| Name | Address |
|------|---------|
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|      |         |

**Return to: JBANC,**  
400 Hurley Av., Rockville, MD, 20850

### NATO Petitions Sorted by State on June 11, 2001

|          |          |         |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| MI - 791 | CT - 299 | NH - 92 | MS - 28 | RI - 12 |
| IL - 786 | NJ - 287 | AZ - 83 | MO - 28 | HI - 11 |
| NY - 696 | FL - 256 | CO - 68 | VT - 24 | KY - 7  |
| CA - 674 | MD - 245 | SD - 61 | KS - 24 | LA - 7  |
| OH - 516 | NE - 196 | OR - 55 | ID - 22 | NV - 7  |
| PA - 448 | TN - 153 | DC - 50 | MT - 20 | WV - 6  |
| WA - 422 | IN - 153 | IA - 48 | AE - 16 | NM - 6  |
| WI - 409 | VA - 141 | GA - 39 | SC - 16 | OK - 6  |
| MA - 353 | TX - 128 | NC - 33 | AL - 12 | AK - 3  |
| MN - 330 | DE - 101 | ND - 31 | ME - 12 | UT - 3  |
|          |          |         |         | AR - 2  |

# NATO'S BALTIC ENLARGEMENT GAINING POLITICAL SUPPORT.

Jamestown Foundation, Monitor, Volume VII, Issue 106, 01 June 01

NATO's Parliamentary Assembly held a landmark session in Lithuania's capital, Vilnius. Concurrently, the North Atlantic Council met at the level of foreign affairs ministers of the allied and aspirant countries on May 29-30 in Budapest, Hungary. The two events and their parallelism are fraught with political symbolism. For the first time, these NATO bodies convened on the soil of former

captive nations, Hungary being a new member of the alliance while Lithuania is one of the three Baltic aspirant countries. The concurrence of the two meetings also underscored the obsolete nature of any perceived distinctions between ex-Warsaw Pact countries and ex-"Soviet republics" in terms of their case for joining NATO.

The Baltic case topped the agenda of the Vilnius meeting and gained perceptibly in political support. Three political trends are crystallizing.

First, the United States leads a growing momentum toward NATO's Baltic enlargement, while European allies are supportive in varying degrees or are biding their time. The net effect is that some former doubters are becoming supporters and some former naysayers are becoming fence sitters. Second, in the United States itself, the Congress is moving on a bipartisan basis one step ahead of the Bush administration, which is, however, believed to share that view and clarify it in short order. Third, the timid scenario envisaging the early admission of one Baltic state is losing credibility in favor of the option to admit the three together. That option is recognized by now as realistic politically and as the only realistic one militarily.

The new chairman of NATO's Parliamentary Assembly, Rafael Estrella of Spain, made a statement that reflected both the need and the wide scope for



American leadership on enlargement. Estrella declared that the allies await a statement of "clear and unequivocal commitment to enlargement" by President George W. Bush at the earliest opportunity. Such a statement from the U.S. president would offer "all our governments an opportunity to lend substance to the open-door policy, so that the next members can be identified at the Prague summit, and invitations can be issued that include a Baltic dimension."

The assembly's concluding declaration urges the North Atlantic Council--the alliance's top political decision-making body--to issue, no later than the 2002 Prague summit, invitations to NATO accession negotiations to any European democracy that seeks membership and has met the criteria for membership as established in the alliance's 1995 study on NATO Enlargement.

The declaration rules out any non-member country's veto to enlargement. While the latter stipulation refers to Russia, the confirmation of the 1995 criteria aims to prevent a change of rules in the endgame--that is, any unfair raising of the admission standards for the Baltic states above the standards used for the 1999 admission of Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

In his address to the plenum of the assembly, Lithuania's Prime Minister Rolandas Paksas urged the alliance to "erase the scar defacing Europe, the line forcibly drawn sixty years ago. Are we destined to bear the cross thrust upon us

by the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact? One often gets the impression that, as both we and the West discuss our accession to the alliance, Russia's shadow is looming above our heads. Is that [shadow] not a pretext for reluctance to make a decision?"

The prime minister was taking issue with a view that seems to be rapidly receding in NATO councils. At present, few give serious consideration to Russia's thesis NATO must not cross a Baltic "red line"-- the new name of the old Ribbentrop-Molotov line. Paksas cited a statement made by U.S. President Ronald Reagan years before the enlargement issue had moved onto the political agenda. NATO, Reagan said, was created not only to prevent wars but also "to expand the frontiers of freedom."

NATO's Secretary-General, Lord George Robertson, told the assembly that NATO the alliance is irreversibly committed to accepting any new members who meet its criteria. "And let me be very clear and very blunt: this includes every democratic country in Europe, not just some." With that, the alliance signaled that it is not prepared to put the Baltic states in a disadvantaged category because of their past annexation by Moscow. In the same vein, Robertson asserted that "geography can no longer be destiny" for purposes of admission to NATO of qualified countries.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell similarly told the Budapest ministerial conference that "geography and history must have

*(Continued on page 20)*



## June Congressional Update By Karl Altai

With the news on May 24 that Sen. James Jeffords of Vermont would leave the Republican Party, Democrats were assured of taking control of the Senate for the first time in seven years. With regards to Baltic-American interests, some important changes in committee leadership should be pointed out.

In the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) is now chairman with Sen. McConnell (R-KY) ranking member. Both Vermont Senators Leahy and Jeffords voted against NATO enlargement in 1998. Sen. Leahy, for his part, has supported strong military assistance funding. Senators Richard Durbin of Illinois and Barbara Mikulski of Maryland are Leahy's colleagues on this Subcommittee.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) has become chairmanship of the Foreign Relations Committee, with Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) now as ranking member. For his determined stance on NATO enlargement in 1998, Sen. Biden received JBANC's Baltic Democracy Award. Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR), co-chair of the Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus and member of the SFRC, led the Senate delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Vilnius. Senators Durbin, Voinovich and Mikulski joined Sen. Smith in visiting Tallinn and Riga before the Vilnius meeting.

Another shift in leadership has occurred in the Armed Services Committee, where Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) becomes chairman and Sen. John Warner (R-VA) now as ranking member.

and Lithuania into NATO. Please encourage your Representative to co-sponsor this legislation and to join the House Baltic Caucus.

JBANC, along with its three parent organizations, belongs to the Campaign to Preserve U.S. Global Leadership. The Campaign represents over 300 organizations that support strong international affairs programs in Function 150, the International Affairs Budget. These include programs that affect the Baltic countries. JBANC will continue to pass along important information from the Campaign.

On April 26, members of the Campaign, including JBANC and Lithuanian American Council, Inc. President Saulius Kuprys, and JBANC Managing Director Karl Altai, were briefed by current House Foreign Operations Subcommittee Chairman Jim Kolbe (R-AZ) and Nita Lowey (D-NY). According to a Campaign press release, "Representatives Kolbe and Lowey spoke about the importance of this account to our national security as well as our economic and humanitarian interests. Both voiced support to continue fighting for additional funds in the future. The Members praised the Campaign for our effective advocacy and offered to work together to educate policy makers and the American public about the importance of this issue." Kolbe is a

*(Continued on page 20)*



*Sen. Richard Durbin (D-IL) during his The Order of Three Stars acceptance speech during JBANC 40th anniversary reception on April 26, 2001*

A new member has joined the House Baltic Caucus during the month of May: Congressman Michael J. Rogers (R-MI 8). Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-CA 30) was inadvertently excluded from the list in April's Chronicle.

House Concurrent Resolution 116, introduced by Congressman John Shimkus (R-IL 20) on April 26, has 39 co-sponsors as of June 8. HCR116 recommends the integration of Estonia, Latvia



**"under the Administration's plan, Lithuania is to receive \$7.5 million, Latvia \$7 million and Estonia \$6.5 million in FMF funding. These figures represent a rise from previous years, and should be supported to their fullest extent."**

## ***JBANC –Forty Years of Experience***

### **DECLARATION**

**By**

The Estonian National Committee in the United States, the American Latvian Association in the United States, Inc., and the Lithuanian American Council, Inc., unanimously adopted at the Baltic Conference in Washington, D.C., on April 27, 1961.

WHEREAS, the peoples of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have for centuries lived harmoniously side by side on the shores of the Baltic Sea; and

WHEREAS, these Nations at present share the common tragedy of a forcible occupation by the Soviet Union with the resultant loss of their independence and freedom; and

WHEREAS, the ruthless Soviet despotism has turned these three Baltic countries into mercilessly exploited colonies, and its genocidal policy is threatening their very physical existence and cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, the American citizens of Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian descent and origin have retained their love of the land of their fathers and a deep interest in the fate of their people; and


WHEREAS, Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian Americans have first-hand knowledge of the communist exploits in the three Baltic states and are absolutely opposed to the ideology, system and methods of communism, therefore


BE IT RESOLVED, to voice out renewed protests against the wanton destruction of the freedom and independence of the Baltic states and against their continued occupation, and


BE IT RESOLVED, to declare our decision to unite our efforts for the restoration of the independence of the three Baltic states and their re-establishment as free and democratic republics, in accordance with the universally recognized principle of self determination; finally,

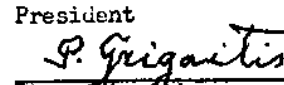
BE IT RESOLVED, that, in pursuit of this goal the three groups participating in this declaration, express their intention, without delay, to form a liaison committee, to be known as the JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN COMMITTEE, to meet periodically to discuss joint interests and problems and to plan for effective action.

Washington, D.C.  
April 27, 1961

  
Julius Kangur  
Chairman  
Estonian National  
Committee in the U.S.A.

  
Peter P. Lejins  
President  
American Latvian Association  
Inc., in the United States

  
Leonard Simutis  
President

  
P. Grigaitis  
Executive Secretary  
Lithuanian American  
Council, Inc.

## JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, INC.



Representing:  
ESTONIAN AMERICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL, INC.  
AMERICAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION, INC.  
LITHUANIAN AMERICAN COUNCIL, INC.

May 31, 2001

**To the Third Joint Meeting of the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council**  
**May 31- June 2, 2001 in Riga Latvia:**

The Joint Baltic American National Committee, Inc. (JBANC) congratulates the Baltic Assembly and the Nordic Council on the occasion of your third joint meeting and the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Baltic Assembly. We are glad to see the spirit of Baltic and Nordic cooperation extended once again across the Baltic Sea.

JBANC appreciates being invited to attend your conference and regrets that it has not been possible for us to do so. We are with you in spirit.

2001 is a very important year for furthering our common goals. We particularly welcome the strong commitment Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have shown towards becoming part of Western security structures, most notably NATO. With this in mind, we note that the security of the United States is indivisible from the security in Europe. A viable Euro-Atlantic community of democratic states and a Europe that is undivided and free should not exclude any European democracy. Therefore, NATO enlargement must continue promptly, with all applicants eligible to join. JBANC firmly believes that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania must be invited to become NATO members during the NATO Summit in Prague in 2002. This will help guarantee a Europe whole and free.

In its last meeting in Vilnius in December, 2000, the Baltic Assembly issued its statement on the "Integration of the Baltic States into NATO", which emphasized that the "early integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into NATO is in the interest of promoting democracy and security in Europe." We agree wholeheartedly with this announcement, and recognize the vital importance of the Baltic countries working closely together to achieve these goals. JBANC, for its part, will continue its efforts to unify all Baltic Americans for this common purpose.

We also note the moral and material support that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania's Nordic neighbors have demonstrated and provided in order to help the Baltics reach these goals.

With the NATO enlargement process a central theme at recent meetings in Bratislava and Vilnius, we are happy to see more focus on this issue. In two weeks, President George W. Bush will make his first visit to Europe as President of the United States. We are looking forward to the positive pronouncements that he and our European partners and allies are expected to make in Göteborg, Brussels, Warsaw and elsewhere.

We wish you all the best in your efforts and look forward to cooperate with you on matters of mutual concern in the future.

Sincerely,

Algirdas Rimas  
Chairman



## NATO Enlargement Webcast Scheduled for June 21st

To continue to educate on NATO enlargement, JBANC will host U.S. Committee on NATO President Bruce Jackson in our first online webcast on Thursday, June 21 from noon until 1:00 p. m. (EDT). This first live online discussion will provide an opportunity to summarize President Bush's European trip and to contemplate the prospects of NATO enlargement.

The discussion will be moderated by Algirdas Rimas, JBANC Chairman. All are welcome to join in and participate on this groundbreaking webcast.

Questions to guest should be sent to:  
[jbanc@jbanc.org](mailto:jbanc@jbanc.org).

More information is available on  
JBANC's website:  
<http://jbanc.org>

~~~~~ JBANC staff

For more information
on NATO visit:

 expandNATO.org

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Lithuanian American Council, Inc.

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NATO'S BALTIC ENLARGEMENT GAINING POLITICAL SUPPORT.

Jamestown Foundation, Monitor, Volume VII, Issue 106, 01 June 01

(Continued from page 15)

no influence on the enlargement." These remarks aimed straight at Moscow's argument that countries bordering on Russia and formerly occupied by it should be denied admission to the alliance. Estonia's Foreign Affairs Minister Toomas Ilves in turn asked rhetorically in Moscow's direction: "What's the statute of limitations? When do we declare the Soviet Union over and done with?"

Both Robertson in Vilnius and the allied foreign affairs ministers in Budapest made clear that admission decisively depends each individual candidate country fulfilling its Membership Action Plan (MAP). MAP is a three-year NATO program, launched in 1999, to assist aspirant countries in their efforts to prepare for accession to the alliance. The ministerial conference in Budapest received a comprehensive report on the results of MAP's

second annual cycle, as part of the ongoing review of the enlargement process. Allied and aspirant countries are now moving toward the third and final annual cycle, the results of which will largely determine the success or failure of membership bids at next year's Prague summit. Meanwhile, in Vilnius, Robertson went on television to advise the Balts to "keep taking the medicine of military reform and of increased defense spending."

Earlier this month, the alliance's enlargement in the Baltic and Central European regions received a strong political impetus at the Bratislava conference of aspirant countries and prominent Western supporters. Czech President Václav Havel's address to that conference helped redefine the political and historical framework of the debate, in favor of a parallel, early enlargement in those two

directions. The Vilnius meeting has clearly marked a further political step toward that goal. Reaching it next year seems by now to depend primarily on the Baltic states' own performance in meeting the admission criteria in a timely fashion under the Membership Action Plans (BNS, Vilnius Radio, ELTA, LETA, NATO releases, May 27-31; see the Monitor, February 6, 22, March 6, April 11, 13, May 14; Fortnight in Review, April 13).



Congressional Update

(Continued from page 16)
member of the House Baltic Caucus.

Work on the Foreign Operations bill is now beginning. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania will continue to count on U.S. support through Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education Training (IMET). President Bush's request for FMF and IMET for the Baltic countries is at \$21 million and \$3 mil-



JBANC Board members count signatures from the NATO petition drive: Vello Ederma, Lya Karm, Algis Rimas, Henry Gaidis, Janis Bolsteins, Janis Gramatins, and Simonas Girdzijauskas.

lion, respectively. IMET figures are one million dollars per country and under the Administration's plan, Lithuania is to receive \$7.5 million, Latvia \$7 million and Estonia \$6.5 million in FMF funding. These figures represent a rise from previous years, and should be supported to their fullest extent.

Karl Altau
June 10, 2001