

JBANC Chronicle

An Overview of Baltic Events With a Washington Perspective
JOINT BALTIC AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, INC.



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Oil and Blood in Washington



Ramunas Kondratas (JBANC) introduces the second energy panel (l-r): Raul Mälik (Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Andris Kesteris (Head of Cabinet, EU Energy Commission) and Vytautas Nauduzas (Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Economy). (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

The seventh biennial JBANC conference took place on February 9-10, 2007 in Washington, DC, and featured two major speakers, Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus and U.S. Senator Richard

Lugar. The conference, entitled "Oil and Blood: Baltic Energy and the Legacy of Communism," featured panels and speeches on topics such as energy security, documenting crimes of communism, and democracy building in Russia.

JBANC has organized conferences every two years, with the first five conferences centering on NATO enlargement. Following the successful lobbying effort by the Baltic-American communities across the United

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Victims of Communism Memorial Dedication on June 12, 2007

On June 12, after over a dozen years of hard work, including fundraising efforts, zoning appeals, and raising public awareness, a fitting memorial to the 100 million victims of communism will be unveiled in Washington, DC.

Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, will give the keynote address, and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) will also deliver remarks. President George W. Bush has been invited to speak. A crowd of 1,000 includ-

ing Congressional leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, ethnic leaders, foreign dignitaries, and Memorial supporters, is expected to attend this historic event.

The dedication will take place at the Memorial site at the intersection of Massachusetts Ave., N.W., New Jersey Ave., N.W., and G St., N.W., two blocks from Union Station and within view of the U.S. Capitol. A reception will follow the ceremony.

From 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Heritage Foundation, there

will be a roundtable discussion entitled "The Victims and Crimes of Communism," which will feature ten experts on that subject.

The day's activities will conclude with a gala dinner at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, at which a Truman-Reagan Medal of Freedom will be presented to William F. Buckley, Jr., and the late Senator Henry M. (Scoop) Jackson. Senator Joe Lieberman will present the Medal of Freedom to Senator Jackson's daughter, Anna Marie Laurence. The Honorable

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Chairman's Corner by **Ramunas Kondratas**



*Ramunas Kondratas,
JBANC Chairman*



We are still basking in the warm afterglow of a very successful conference. Many people worked very hard to achieve that goal and I again want to thank them and all of our participants. One of the main reasons for its success was the timeliness and importance of the two major themes – energy security and the legacy of communism, “oil and blood.”

Energy security has emerged as the number one concern for the Baltic States. Tied to it are political stability and independence as well as continued economic growth and social welfare. Both President Adamkus in his opening keynote speech and Senator Richard Lugar in his luncheon talk addressed this issue eloquently and substantively. So did our two panels of experts.

It is our sacred duty to document the legacy of communism and honor and remember its victims. Many who suffered and survived are now leaving us. We need to capture and preserve their memories. That was the topic of our conference's afternoon sessions. Especially poignant and moving was the documentary film by award-winning Russian filmmaker Andrei Nekrasov about the recent murder in London of his friend and former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko.

We continue to work actively on both of these topics. On April 20, JBANC, the Monterey Institute of International Studies, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) co-sponsored another conference on energy security – this time for experts and policymakers -- entitled “Baltic Energy Security: Progress, Problems and Future Actions.” Details can be found in this issue of the Chronicle.

On June 12, we will participate in the official dedication of the Victims of Communism memorial in Washington, DC – the first such memorial in the world to more than 100 million victims of communism. Again, details about this dedication and associated events are in this issue of the Chronicle. Our managing director, Karl Altai, is one of the key organizers. We hope to have a very good Baltic turnout.



JBANC Board of Directors and staff with President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus. Front row (l-r): Martins Duhms (Pres. of the Board), Saulius Kuprys (Sec. of the Board), President V. Adamkus, Ramunas Kondratas (Board member) and Peteris Blumbers (Chairman of the Board). Second row (l-r): Inga Lukaviciute (Program Assistant), Marju Rink-Abel (Board Treasurer), Erik Puskas (Board member), Lya Karm (Board member), Henry Gaidis (Board member), Dalia Grobovaite (Program Consultant) and Karl Altai (Managing Director). (Photo by Anders Brownworth)

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Baltic Energy Security: Progress, Problems and Future Actions

On April 20, 2007 JBANC, together with the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), sponsored the conference “Baltic Energy Security: Progress, Problems and Future Actions.” The all-day meeting was attended by about 40 participants and invited guests and was held at the Monterey Institute.

The idea for the conference came from Joseph Bader, an expert to NATO since 1998 on matters related to energy and energy security. Mr. Bader has hosted two NATO Advanced Research Workshops on these topics in Vilnius, Lithuania, and was also the moderator for the first energy panel at the JBANC conference in February. He wanted to use the synergy created by the very successful JBANC conference and the publication, also in February, of a very important report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Baltic energy supplies and energy security, to keep the momentum going and to move the Baltic energy security agenda forward.

The IAEA report, titled *Analyses of Energy Supply Options and Security of Energy Supply in the Baltic States*, was a collaborative study managed and carried out by a senior expert-level working group made up of members from ministries,

utilities, and academic and research institutions of the three Baltic countries. The IAEA provided training, planning tools, and assisted in linking the national models into an integrated regional Baltic model. The report was prepared under a Technical Co-operation agreement with the Baltic countries and grew out of the second NATO Advanced Research Workshop. [to read the report see: http://www.iaea.org/OurWork/ST/NE/Pess/assets/TE_1541_balticstudyFeb07.pdf]

One of the major goals of our conference was to present the key findings of this report and an analysis of their significance to energy and public policy specialists in the U.S. government, the business community, and think tanks. We also left enough time at the end to discuss conclusions, and most importantly, next steps.

The first speaker was Ferenc Toth from the IAEA’s Department of Nuclear Energy. He

was the officer responsible for the production of the report and presented its main conclusions – notably that the three Baltic countries should pursue energy supplies on an integrated economic and technical basis, and that they need a joint three-country emergency plan and a mechanism to jointly analyze the energy supply. But, most importantly, they need to implement a common Baltic Energy Policy.

Next on the program was a panel of three speakers, who presented the current national policies in their respective countries to resolve energy supply and energy security issues. Arturas Dainius from the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy presented the situation in Lithuania, especially the importance of the oil terminal in Butinge for oil supply and the need to expand electrical connections, particularly with Poland. Ando Möldre from the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications



Dr. Jurgis Vilemas of the Lithuanian Energy Institute and Lietuvos Energija addresses energy conference participants. (Photo by Karl Altau)

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The Baltic countries need to implement a common Baltic Energy Policy.

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spoke about Estonia's new energy efficiency plan for the next two years, the need for self-sufficiency and diversification as well as the need to reduce natural gas consumption and increase the use of renewable energy supplies. Ansis Teteris from the Latvian Ministry of Economy noted that the Ventspils terminal has been shut down since 2003, that Latvia was a net importer of electricity, and that it needed to expand its existing underground storage for gas. But, in terms of renewables, Latvia was the second greenest in Europe.

After the coffee break, Jurgis Vilemas, a member of the Board of the Lithuanian Energy Institute and Lietuvos Energija as well as a member of the Working Group and Steering Committee that prepared the IAEA report, gave a detailed summary of the status of various technical issues and choices raised by power generation (including the proposed Ignalina 3 and 4 Nuclear Power Plants) and by the

infrastructure projects approved by the governments of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to support their energy supply and energy security. He noted the need to upgrade and modernize remaining thermal power plants and combined heat and power plants to comply with EU environmental regulations and for improved efficiency (most losses in the heating network are in residential buildings). He stressed the importance and benefits of new interconnectors, especially the integration of the Baltic and Russian-Belarus power systems into the Nordic and Polish electricity markets, which would increase security and diversification of supply for the Baltic countries.

During the working lunch there was such a lively discussion of the many issues raised in the morning sessions that it was hard to get back to the scheduled program, but we did. The first afternoon speaker was Vladimir Socor of the Jamestown Foundation, who placed the issues of energy

supply, energy transport, and energy security in the Baltic region in the broader context of the energy policies of Russia and Belarus. With great insight and detail he analyzed the Nordstream gas pipeline project [connecting Russia and Germany under the Baltic Sea]; Russia's plan to double the shipping capacity for oil at the port of Primorsk (formerly the Finnish Koivisto) to 150 million tons and the possible impacts of these "colossal" amounts of liquid fuels being transported through the Baltic Sea and the narrow Gulf of Finland (will be twice the amount being shipped now through the Bosphorus Straits); and, how European energy dependence on Russia will weaken the Euro-Atlantic alliance.

The key steps that the U.S. is taking, and could usefully take, in support of Baltic energy security were discussed by Mark Pekala, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. He remarked that the general U.S. policy in regards to energy issues was to help countries and companies diversify supply, diversify ownership, and diversify the means of transmission. The long-term goal is a global market. He acknowledged the need to "nudge" Russia toward transparency. The U.S. provides energy-saving and efficiency advice as well as new technology advice. As an example, he cited the EU-U.S. biofuels work plan. Energy and climate issues, he said, are coming together and energy security is an element of national security. But solutions



Conference participants meet with staff of U.S. Helsinki Commission (l-r) : Joe Bader, Jurgis Vilemas, Arturas Dainius, Ansis Teteris, Karl Altai, Inese Liepina, Nils Freivalds, Ramunas Kondratas, John Finerty (CSCE), Ferenc Toth, Shelly Han (CSCE).

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to these issues, according to him, have to be commercially viable.

The role of the European Union (EU) in ensuring Baltic energy security was discussed by Robert Ebel and Keith Smith of the CSIS. They spoke of corruption and lack of transparency as problems in transit countries and Russia; how article 82 of the Rome Treaty about monopolies was applied to Microsoft and Honeywell but not to Gazprom and Transneft; and, the need for the Baltic countries to build a coalition in the EU to counteract Russia.

The last session was entitled "Conclusions and Next Steps: What needs to be done, and by whom?" The moderators were Joseph Bader and Robert Nurick (Monterey Institute). The panel members were: Jüri Luik, Estonia's Ambassador to the United States; Peteris Ustubs from

the Office of the Prime Minister of Latvia; Lithuanian representative Jurgis Vilemas; and, Zbigniew Kubacki, Head of the Trade and Investment Section at the Embassy of Poland.

Some suggested next steps for organizations in the U.S., like JBANC, are to continue informing the U.S. Congress and Administration about Baltic energy security needs; to make them more aware of the security threat that total reliance on a single energy supplier, who is also their strategic adversary, is to the Baltic States, to NATO, and the Euro-Atlantic Alliance; support Sen. Richard Lugar's ideas about NATO as a mechanism for consultation on energy security; to explore the role that the U.S. Export-Import Bank can play in the Baltic energy arena; and, to look for ways that "energy as a weapon" could be forbidden by law.

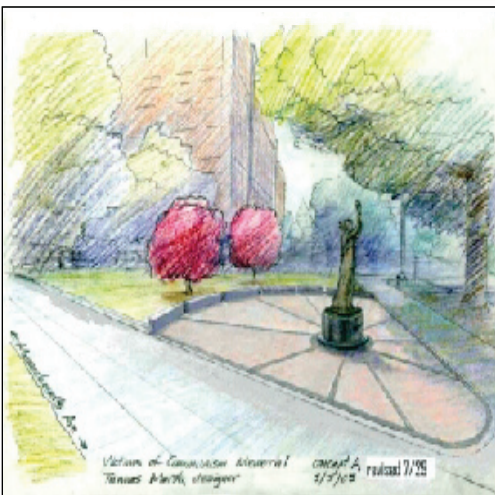
By Ramunas Kondratas

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*"...look for ways
that 'energy as
a weapon'
could be
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From page 1



A rendering of the future memorial site.

Jack Kemp will make the presentation to Mr. Buckley.

Many members of the Baltic-American community will be on hand from across the nation. Also, a number of prominent guests from Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania will also be in Washington, DC for the events. The list includes Member of the European Parliament Tunne Kelam, along with his wife and former JBANC Board member Mari-Ann Kelam from Estonia; former political prisoners Benita Eglite and

Ilmars Knagis from Latvia; and former political prisoners Father Alfonsas Svarinskas and Sister Nijole Sadunaite from Lithuania.

June 12 will be an historic day for the victims of communism and for those who love liberty. For that was also the day that President Ronald Reagan 20 years ago delivered his famous Berlin Wall speech.

We hope to see you there!

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Oil and Blood in Washington

States, teamed with other national organizations from the Central and East European Coalition, the goal of NATO enlargement ratification was achieved in 2004.

JBANC's sixth conference in 2005 looked at the future after NATO membership – what's next?

It didn't take long for the answer to appear. The response came from Moscow.

While supply of energy from Russia to the Baltics has not always been dependable over the past fifteen years due to occasional political pressures, it was the temporary January 2006 shutdown of gas supplies to Ukraine that finally raised alarm signals throughout Europe, as much of the energy supply to EU countries transits via that route. Oil and gas have brought Russia massive profits, which President Vladimir Putin has used to enrich his retinue and to bring back to life Soviet-like repressions throughout the Russian Fed-

eration. The energy experts at the conference confirmed that Moscow no longer needs boots to cross national borders, as today it benefits from controlling gas and oil valves and supplies.

State Department Perspective

The Friday conference day began with the traditional overview of U.S.-Baltic relations with White House and State Department officials. It was affirmed that relations are very good. The Baltic countries were thanked for their troops' participation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Baltic concerns regarding Russian

energy policy are also very well understood. Vice President Cheney had warned Moscow about this last May during a conference in Vilnius. The one problem area in U.S.-Baltic relations currently is the question of visa freedom, but developments towards solving this issue are nevertheless already evident. President Bush made a special point during his November 2006 visit to Tallinn that his administration would work with Congress to change the visa situation. One reason that a visa waiver solution has lingered is because some visitors overstay their permits to the United States. This factor is ultimately related to the rate of refusal in granting visas at U.S. embassies abroad. Refusal rates are presently decreasing for Baltic citizens traveling to the U.S. and goodwill is growing, as evidenced by current legislation offered in both the Senate and House, which seek to solve this issue.

The second part of Friday's conference program was dedicated to films documenting the legacy of communism.

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State Department briefers David Lippeatt and Victoria Middleton. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)



State Department and White House briefers with JBANC Board (l-r): David Lippeatt, Martins Duhms, Victoria Middleton, Adam Sterling, Carol Werner, Peteris Blumbergs, and Ramunas Kondratas. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)
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Imbi Paju's "Memories Denied" was shown in its entirety and the Estonian director herself was present to answer questions about her work. Segments from other films were also screened. They included the Estonian-themed U.S. documentary film "The Singing Revolution," produced by Jim and Maureen Tusty, along with Dzintars Gekas' "Once There Was Siberia" from Latvia, and the Lithuanian "June Ice" (Birželio Ledas). The filmmakers and their representatives presented these works.



Director and producer James Tusty describes the next steps for his documentary film "The Singing Revolution." (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

Friday's sessions were held at the modern and well appointed auditorium of the Woodrow Wilson Center on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington. The Wilson Center is a nonpartisan institution engaged in the study of world affairs and frequently features programs on East European issues. The center collaborated with JBANC on planning the documentary showcase and selecting the featured films. Wilson Center program associate Nida Gelazis served as the moderator of the event.

Energy Security

Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus opened the main



Jon Baltmanis describes the work of the Siberia's Children Fund as moderator and program associate Nida Gelazis of the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars listens. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

conference day on February 10 as the keynote speaker. In his speech (see pages 10-11) he emphasized the dangers to the energy sector emanating from the East. On February 12 he met with President Bush to also discuss this and the visa waiver issue. It was rumored that the Lithuanian president is considering forming a new "Vilnius-10" after the NATO enlargement-era V-10 model. This time the objective is to form a



President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus gives his keynote speech. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

union of those countries that are threatened because of Moscow's energy policies.

Energy security politics were discussed during two panels. The participants included Jamestown Foundation journalist Vladimir Socor, NATO consultant Joseph Bader, former U.S. ambassador to Lithuania Keith Smith, and Hudson Institute energy expert Zeyno Baran, who has recently published a report on Lithuania's energy issues. Vytautas Naudužas, the Lithuanian Vice-Minister of Economy spoke on the second panel, along with Latvian national Andris Kesteris from the European Energy Commissioner's office, and Raul Mälik from the Estonian Foreign Ministry.

The luncheon speaker was Baltic friend and influential Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, who spoke about his experiences with Russia and who recommended diligence in exploring potential energy alternatives.



"Energy security and national security go hand-in-hand."

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The JBANC Board honored the senator with its Baltic Democracy Award. Senator Lugar was introduced by the Estonian ambassador Jüri Luik.

Russia and the Past

The final two panels dealt with the outlook for democracy's development in Russia and the legacy of communism, picking up where Friday's program of documentary films left off.

The first panel featured American author David Satter, Russian filmmaker Andrei Nekrasov and Hood College professor Len Latkovskis. Satter, a well-traveled journalist in both the Soviet Union and Russia, is now a specialist at the Hudson Institute. His books *Age of Delirium: The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union* and *Darkness at Dawn: the Rise of the Russian Criminal State* have been well-received. The first has been translated into Estonian and Latvian and



The first energy panel (l-r): Joseph Bader (NATO energy expert), Vladimir Socor (Jamestown Foundation), and Zeyno Baran (Hudson Institute). (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

Satter is hoping for a Lithuanian translation as well. Together with Russian film director Andrei Nekrasov, the two are completing the film version of "Age of Delirium" with filming scheduled in Lithuania in April. Conference participants were treated to the showing of Nekrasov's just-completed documentary "My Friend Sasha" about Alexander Litvinenko, likely poisoned in London by Russian agents in November. It was the first screening of the film in the U.S. and Nekrasov, honored at the Cannes Film Festival for his previous cinematic work, complimented



Moderator of panel on Legacy of Communism Remembrance Projects Rima Kuprys. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

this by adding his own views on the Kremlin's still very dangerous KGB ties.

The fourth and final panel was an overview of various remembrance projects related to the legacy of communism. Included were summaries of the Baltic Oral History Project, which is being spearheaded by Ina Navazelskis of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and of the recent "Mission Siberia" (Misija Sibiras) undertaken by young Lithuanians to locations in Russia's Komi Republic to trace the ordeals of Lithuanian deportees. The "Mission Siberia" presentation was given by Justin Riskus from Chicago. The



Estonian Ambassador Jüri Luik and Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

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panel was moderated by another young Lithuanian-American graduate school student from Chicago, Rima Kuprys.

Lee Edwards, chairman of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, also spoke during that panel and gave the good news that the memorial to the victims of communism will be dedicated in Washington, DC on June 12. He emphasized the great support for the project by the Baltic-American communities. Jon Baltmanis of Wisconsin rounded out the final panel, and described his work with Latvian filmmakers and documentarians.

By the capacity crowd exceeding 250, it was evident that JBANC has a vibrant and continuing mission. Although the Baltic-American communities are relatively small, their cooperative work is relevant and recognized by Congress, the White House, and elsewhere in Washington, DC.

Summarized by Karl Altai, JBANC Managing Director, with Vello Ederma and Peteris Blumbergs, former JBANC chairmen.



Ina Navazelskis (U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum) and Jon Baltmanis (Siberia's Children Fund) discuss remembrance projects. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)



Panel on the Hopes for Democracy in the Baltic Neighborhood (l-r): Andrei Nekrasov (award-winning Russian filmmaker), David Satter (Hudson Institute), and Len Latkovski (Hood College). (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)



Ramunas Kondratas (JBANC) with Justin Riskus (Mission Siberia). (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)



Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Ambassador Keith Smith, addresses energy issues. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)



Senator Richard Lugar receives Baltic Democracy Award (l-r): Saulius Kuprys, Marju Rink-Abel, Peteris Blumbergs, Sen. Lugar, and Martins Duhms. (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)





Keynote Speech by President Valdas Adamkus

at the JBANC 7th Baltic Conference - Oil and Blood: Baltic Energy and the Legacy of Communism

10.02.2007

Honorable Senators, Your Excellencies Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends of Lithuania and All Friends of the Baltic Nations,

I am delighted to be here today among our true friends, supporters of Lithuania and the other Baltic States, who walked together with us down the long road to independence and national rebirth, to Lithuania's return to the family of European nations and its establishment as an active promoter of democracy further into the East of Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vigor and dynamism define the best the people of Lithuania and its economy today. Lithuania is not yet as prosperous as we would like it to be. Lithuania is not rich in natural resources but its people are ambitious, industrious and success seeking. We have already achieved excellent results: Lithuania's annual rate of economic growth runs at 7 percent. Successful privatization in the financial, communications, energy and other sectors significantly improved service quality, increased industrial productivity and expanded commercial markets. Legal, public administration, tax administration and other reforms simplified the establishment of new businesses. Several years ago, Lithuania received a very favorable report from the World Bank, which ranked it as the sixth country in the world in terms of improving business conditions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having traversed the long and difficult road of restoring our statehood and having resolved the complex dilemmas of economic transformation, we have not as yet settled regional energy problems. The Baltic States have managed to break away from the post-Soviet space but their liberation from energy dependency is slow and painstaking. The forced integration of the Baltic States into the Soviet system has resulted in today's dependency of our energy sector on monopolistic Russian oil and gas, while Lithuania's electricity sector in major part depends on the power produced by its only nuclear power station built in the Soviet times and scheduled for closure in 2009.

Today we have to admit that Lithuania, and perhaps the entire Baltic region, is an "energy island" with no effective alternative gas supplies, an undeveloped electricity linkage with the West, and extremely vulnerable because of its technically and politically unreliable energy infrastructure.

This is a reality that relates to the whole of Eastern and Central Europe, suffering from unresolved energy security issues and inadequate supply of resources. The absence of supply alternatives allows major energy suppliers in our East to transform even minor technical problems into tools of political pressure. All this is well known to the people of Ukraine and Georgia; similar pressure has been exerted even on Belarus and even on some European countries.

Today Lithuania and the other Baltic nations are taking action to reduce energy dependency. A direct power grid has connected Tallinn and Helsinki. Supported by the European Union and in collaboration with our strategic partners in Poland, we have set a goal to link Lithuanian and Polish power systems by 2012; we have also initiated plans to build a new and modern nuclear power station in Lithuania. I hope that this four-lateral project, involving Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland, will serve as an excellent example on how to design real-term alternative energy projects and seek competitive and ecologically clean energy production. The construction of a new nuclear power station poses a serious challenge to us all: energy specialists, politicians, and society. It also serves as proof that the Baltic States and neighboring Poland are dealing with energy dependency, energy islands and energy supply alternatives on a pragmatic basis. I do also hope that we will have enough of determination, resolve, and resources to address similar problems in the gas sector.

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The Lithuanian parliament has recently approved the National Energy Strategy designed to bridge Lithuania's and Poland's gas supply systems by applying new LNG technologies in the near future. We also plan to build a new gas terminal on the Baltic coast.

Distinguished Energy Policy Experts,

The efforts made by Lithuania and the Baltic States are aimed at creating the lacking technical infrastructure and building a free energy market; they reflect our desire to break away from the "one pipeline" and "one network" system. These are real projects on the verge of practical implementation and actual strategic goals to be translated into action.

But will these efforts enable Lithuania, the other Baltic States, and the entire Europe to cut their dependency on politicized and monopolized energy supplies from the East? Will the infrastructure and restored natural linkages liberate the Central and Eastern European energy sector? I would say that these efforts, although necessary, are insufficient.

Only the establishment of an effective alternative choice of suppliers will allow the region's largest consumer – the European Union – to enhance its negotiating powers and reach an agreement on prices and non-stop supply guarantees.

The United States and the European Union are making joint and consistent efforts to help strong and independent energy suppliers emerge on the international scene. Therefore, the integration of the South Caucasus and Central Asian countries into the global energy market is in the interests of us all. In this way, consumers in the West would be able to find a viable alternative to Russia, while energy suppliers would embark on the road of regional economic integration and use tools of their own choice to create national energy strategies, infrastructures and, unquestionably, economies.

Nabucco, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum, such are the names of oil and gas pipeline projects in the South Caucasus and Central Asian countries tentatively searching for alternative ways to sell their resources. It proves that western investment and regional political efforts linked together would de facto create alternative monopolies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The disruptions in energy supply of the past several years have provoked heated discussions among European leaders about real, possible and critical problems relating to energy monopolies. Last year in Vilnius, I had the pleasure and privilege of discussing our regional issues with US Vice President Dick Cheney. Mr. Cheney delivered a speech at the Vilnius Conference which gave yet another strong impetus to focus on energy security in Eastern Europe. Simultaneously, the European leaders and Finland, which held the EU presidency at that time, were engaged in an active discussion about a one-voice European energy policy. As a result, EU member states have embarked, slowly but decisively, in the direction of a common European energy policy, while the establishment of transparent, rational and regional rules has become the cornerstone of the energy dialogue between Europe and Russia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is only through joint efforts and open discussions, much like the one we are having today, that we will reach an agreement on the possibilities, ways and principles of energy cooperation and find the route for expanding democracy in the East of Europe.

I sincerely thank you all for your constant input and intellectual contribution to transatlantic discussions on energy. Such discussions are further support to Lithuania and the other Baltic nations on the path of liberation from the authoritarian and monopolistic rules that had dominated our region.

I know that many of you are frequent participants of discussions on energy in the Baltic States and Europe. I therefore invite us to continue working together in promoting, supporting and enhancing the values of freedom, democracy, transparency, and competition, which are common to all of us.

H.E. Mr. Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania





Imbi Paju Documentary “Memories Denied” Introduced to American Audiences

Estonian journalist and film director Imbi Paju was in the United States in early February showing her documentary film about the brutality of the Soviet occupation of Estonia to audiences in seven locations in Washington DC and Maryland.

“Memories Denied” (“Torjutut muistot” in Finnish) documents the story of Imbi Paju’s mother and aunt as they relive their ordeal, nearly sixty years later. The documentary, which has just been published in book form by the same name in Finland, chronicles their wartime experience through Soviet and Nazi occupations, and the day the sisters were jailed by the Soviet regime as “bandits” in 1948, leading to six years of imprisonment in the Gulag. The 2005 Finnish-Estonian



Imbi Paju (center) with Garrett College students Krista Joosep and Maksim Platov on February 16, 2007. (Photo by Karl Altau)

co-production, which has garnered international praise, was the feature film to kick off the recent seventh Joint Baltic American National Committee (JBANC) conference in Washington, DC (see pages (6-9).

Besides the conference kick-off screening at the Woodrow Wilson International Center

for Scholars, “Memories Denied” was shown in five locations in the State of Maryland that have developed close ties with Estonia - the University of Baltimore, St. John’s College in Annapolis (the third oldest college in the United States), Salisbury University, Frostburg State University, and Garrett College. Imbi Paju’s United States tour ended with a screening at the Goethe Institute in Washington DC on Saturday, February 17. That event was co-sponsored by the Embassy of Estonia.



Director Imbi Paju (front center) with filmgoers at Salisbury University in Maryland on February 14, 2007.

Thoughts about Gunars Meierovics



Gunars Meierovics, 1920-2007

Gunars Meierovics deserves a place of honor alongside his father in the history of Latvia's nationhood. I would even go so far as to characterize Gunars as Latvia's de facto foreign minister in exile between 1950 and 1991. During that time he was the guiding light and chief strategist for all refugee Latvian organizations engaged in keeping the flame of Latvian independence alive. He was one of the founders of ALA and PBLA in the 1950's and while many served these organizations with dedication and honor in the ensuing years, Gunars Meierovics dedicated his life to them. One of his greatest achievements was uniting US Latvian, Lithuanians and Estonians in forming the Joint Baltic American National Committee - JBANC. JBANC is and remains the most influential, respected and accomplished Baltic lobbying group in Washington D.C. Gunars understood that 1 million Baltic-Americans were much more effective in lobbying Latvia's interests than 100,000 Latvian-Americans. Gunars always

fought for Baltic unity, and also enlisted the cooperation and support of other Captive Nation organizations throughout the United States. He was well known and highly respected in all the halls of power in Washington, from the White House and State Department to the US Congress. He was a valued friend and colleague to the diplomats in exile that ran all three Baltic diplomatic missions in the US during the Cold War years. And he was a source of information and inspiration to the young Baltic-Americans who joined the crusade for Baltic independence. Gunars Meierovics is a true hero - a patriot, a diplomat and a Latvian who lived his life for his country. I am very proud to have known him and worked with him. Vieglas smilts Gunar! Ojars Kalnins

*12 Feb 2007 (Europe)
Ojars Kalnins*

The Baltic Chain meant that we literally all held hands at one point, but most of the rest of the time, it has been a journey side by side - we Estonians alongside you Letts, and of course our Lithuanian friends. Side by side, first down the refugee road and then later only to return, after having been blown every which way by the four winds. It has been a traumatic journey, one we would not have embarked on of our own volition, but it has been tempered and softened by the privilege of getting to spend time in the presence of men and women of stature in the Baltic diaspora. Three battered underdog countries proved capable of producing aristocrats despite the odds. Thanks for having been a dignified and apt spokesman and a good example. Condolences to Ingrida and kin. Tolkien wrote: I sit beside the fire and think of all that I have seen, of meadow-flowers and butterflies in summers that have been; Of yellow leaves and gossamer in autumns that there were, with morning mist and silver sun and wind upon my hair. I sit beside the fire and think of how the world will be when winter comes without a spring that I shall ever see. For still there are so many things that I have never seen: in every wood in every spring there is a different green. I sit beside the fire and think of people long ago, and people who will see a world that I shall never know. But all the while I sit and think of times there were before, I listen for returning feet and voices at the door.

*27 Feb 2007 (Estonia)
Jüri Estam*

<http://jbanc.org>

*[Published in Latvians Online:
<http://latviansonline.com>]*

(Photo: <http://www.eiropaskustiba.lv/lv/galerija/73>)

Belarusian Opposition Delegation Visits D.C.



The week of February 27 to March 4 presented the Washington community with an opportunity to meet with a delegation of Belarus' democratic opposition forces. The delegation included the leader of the Belarusian Popular Front Party Vintsuk Vyachorka, the chairman of the United Democratic Party Anatol Lyabedzka, First Secretary of the Belarusian Party of Communists Syarhei Kalyakin, Iryna Kazulina, wife of political prisoner and former presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin, and the chairman of the working group of the Non-Governmental Organizations Assembly Syarhei Matskevich. During their visit, the politicians met a number of U.S. Representatives and held meetings with the Chairman of the U.S. Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe Alcee Hastings and with Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. The delegation also held a public meeting for government and private professionals at the International Republican Institute.

Of all the observations that one could make about the recent trip, the first and most obvious would be the glaring absence from the delegation of Alyaksandr Milinkevich, the opposition's present chairman. With the delegation touting the forthcoming planned nationwide opposition congress for March 17-18 in Minsk, Milinkevich's absence in Washington only



Belarusian opposition voices Iryna Kazulina and Syarhei Kalyakin at the International Republican Institute (photo by Inga Lukaviciute).

gave aid to increasing reports of the opposition's renewed "internal squabbling" over leadership—the very reason Milinkevich has stated that he will not attend the congress. When asked about Milinkevich's absence from the delegation during their public meeting at IRI, it was answered that as democratic forces, no person would be "forced" to come on a trip and that Milinkevich opted to stay in Belarus for regional meetings. Subsequent questions were colored with several political jibes against Milinkevich by Lyabedzka and Kalyakin, leading me to guess that Milinkevich may have stayed away, if for no other reason, than to avoid a public slander gala.

Upon the delegation's safe return to Belarus on March 5, Kalyakin lead the delegation's press conference and stated triumphantly that the Washington visit had been a great success. He further stated that the U.S. government had assured the delegation that

that America was "negotiating with Russia on settling the Belarusian issue." The statement was not only bold but also false. Adding the statement to a whole list of others made during the delegation's visit makes for another observation: the Belarusian opposition has learned some hard lessons from the West on democracy and politics—just not the right ones. If the opposition came to Washington to demonstrate their growing command (or assumed command) of the political process of personal "one-upmanship" and empty political rhetoric as seen by some in today's democratic societies, then most of its members did an excellent job in proving their point. Unfortunately, the delegation proved that while Belarus' opposition has learned the art of politics, it has yet to learn the more important and commendable quality of leadership. In any future trip, perhaps they will be able to demonstrate both.

By Henry Johnson
Founder and Co-Coordinator of Pogyad (a civic initiative supporting democracy in Belarus)

Belarus Update

The opposition congress met in Minsk on May 27 with about 800 delegates present. They decided to change their leadership and tactics. The opposition coalition will no longer be led by one man, Alyaksandr Milinkevich, but by a board consisting of party leaders: Syarhei Kalyakin (Belarusian Party of Communists), Anatoly Levkovich (Belarusian Social Democratic Party), Anatoly Lebedko (United Civil Party), and Vintsuk Vyachorka (Belarusian Popular Front Party).



JBANC chairman Ramunas Kondratas with Vintsuk Vyachorka (Belarusian Popular Front Party). (Photo by Inga Lukaviciute)

There was a debate that divided the congress in two – those who were advocating a “constructive dialogue” with President Lukashenko and those who wanted mass protests in the streets to topple his regime. Milinkevich made his position clear by saying that the main tool of the opposition should be the street and not the table at

which the government sits, but he was in the minority. He then announced the formation of a new movement - “For Freedom” - and invited those that agree with him to join. But he also said that he will continue to cooperate with the opposition coalition.

By Ramunas Kondratas



Recent JBANC activities in support of Estonia

At the end of April 2007, after the relocation of the Bronze Soldier Soviet memorial, Estonia came under a sustained attack from the Russian Federation, which has been condemned for its actions. JBANC has remained active in supporting Estonia against these attacks and deflecting the rhetoric coming from Moscow. Some of these actions include:

- Support for S. Res. 187, which passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on May 3, 2007. JBANC visited the office of the principle sponsor, Sen. George Voinovich, to thank him for his efforts.
- Support for H. Res. 397, introduced by Rep. John Shimkus, and co-sponsored by 34 Members. The House of Representatives passed the resolution on June 5 by a vote of 412-0. JBANC met with a number of House offices encouraging support for the resolution, including with Foreign Affairs committee staff members.
- JBANC issued a Position Paper on May 23, which was also distributed to key Members of the House of Representatives and is posted on JBANC's website at: <http://jbanc.org/paper23.html>
- JBANC is working with additional congressional offices to draw more attention to the cyber attacks, which continued through May. These attacks have presented a considerable risk to national security in Estonia and are a serious future threat to other countries as well.

The next issue of the JBANC Chronicle will devote much more attention and detail to these activities.

<http://jbanc.org>



JBANC Board Update

As is customary every year, there is a rotation in leadership of the JBANC Board of Directors. This year, the switch took place ceremoniously at the conclusion of the JBANC conference at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel. With a warm handshake, Martins Duhms, president of the American Latvian Association welcomed Lithuanian American Council president Saulius Kuprys as the new JBANC president for the upcoming term.

The new JBANC chairman is Dr. Ramunas Kondratas of LAC, now serving his second tour of duty in that position. Both Kondratas and Peteris Blumbergs of ALA, the previous year's chairman, joined the board in early 2003.

Under guidance of the LAC, JBANC has embarked on a course to become even more active in energy security-related issues involving the Baltics. Other plans for the year call for the rollout of a newly reformed Baltic Institute, a 501c3 tasked with engaging in additional Baltic-related programming.

Meetings of JBANC's full Board of Directors are held twice a year. The board is composed of the Presidents of JBANC's three constituent organizations, and six Washington, DC area representatives serving as the Local Board. Local Board meetings are held monthly.

JBANC Staff Changes



In March of this year, our program assistant, **Inga Lukaviciute**, relocated to Vilnius, Lithuania, where she has been writing some articles; researching topics of interest, such as democracy in Belarus and events in Estonia; started studying Spanish and getting ready to take a EU exam; and, in general, enjoying life back in Lithuania. Inga is still engaged with JBANC. She has designed this issue of the Chronicle and contributed most of its photographs. We wish her well in all of her endeavors!

JBANC's summer intern this year will be **Robert Byla**, who has just completed his junior year at the New College of Florida, an independent public honors college for the state of Florida in Sarasota, Florida. Robert is majoring in political science and economics and is interested in such topics as security issues of the Baltic States, expanding EU and NATO, and regional relations around the Baltic Sea. One of his previous internships was with the Lithuanian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee. Robert will have a very busy summer with JBANC.



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