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Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	President Guntis Ulmanis of Latvia to President Clinton (3 pages)	06/25/1995	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
NSC Records Management
[Latvia]
OA/Box Number: 592

FOLDER TITLE:

9505150

2011-1037-F

ke2240

RESTRICTION CODES

~~Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]~~

- ~~P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]~~
- ~~P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]~~
- ~~P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]~~
- ~~P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]~~
- ~~P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]~~
- ~~P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]~~

~~C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.~~

~~PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).~~

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~~Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]~~

- ~~b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]~~
- ~~b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]~~

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NSC/RMO PROFILE

RECORD ID: 9505150
RECEIVED: 05 JUL 95 19

TO: PRESIDENT

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526

FROM: ULMANIS, GUNTIS

White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By ~~KOC~~ NARA, Date 12/17/2013
2011-1037-F

DOC DATE: 25 JUN 95
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: LATVIA
NATO
FOREIGN ASSISTANCE

HS
UN

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: LTR TO PRES FM PRES ULMANIS OF LATVIA RE LATVIA RELATIONSHIP W/ NATO
& FURTHER INTEGRATION INTO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

ACTION: NFAR PER FRIED

DUE DATE: 08 JUL 95 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: FRIED

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COMMENTS: _____

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DOC 1 OF 1

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ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 9505150

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 FRIED
001

Z 95070519 PREPARE MEMO FOR LAKE
X 95070715 NFAR PER FRIED

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CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION

FRIED

FOR CONCURRENCE

CLARKE
DREW
SHEEHAN
SIMON
WITKOWSKY

FOR INFO

BASS
DANVERS
GRAY
LORIN
SCHIFTER
SCHWARTZ
SEATON
SENS
SESTAK
SODERBERG
VERSHBOW

COMMENTS: _____

x/6 action req'd

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DOC 1 OF 1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EMBASSY OF LATVIA
4325 SEVENTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20011

*Pl put into
the system*

June 29, 1995

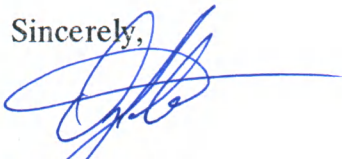
Mr. Dan Fried
National Security Council
The White House

Dear Mr. Fried:

In response to President Clinton's letter of May 16, the Embassy is transmitting the enclosed reply from Guntis Ulmanis, President of the Republic of Latvia.

A signed original will follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ojars Kalnins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ojars Kalnins
Ambassador

Latvijas Republika



Valsts Prezidents

June 25, 1995

His Excellency
William J. Clinton,
President of the United States of America

Dear Mr. President,

I would like to thank you for your letter of May 16, 1995 in which you presented an overview of your discussions with President Yeltsin in Moscow.

As you have noted in the past, Latvia's future security is inextricably linked to the security and stability of Europe as a whole. Your continuing active and constructive role of engagement in the development of a new security architecture for our region is highly valued by my country, since we believe that the United States must play a key role in promoting the well-being of the transatlantic community of nations.

Latvia takes its responsibilities in this transatlantic community seriously, and seeks integration not only to promote Latvia's interests, but also as a way in which to contribute our own resources and ideas to the common good. That's why I welcome your offer to work together, and would like to use this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with you about Latvia's most critical security issues.

Latvia has clearly defined its foreign policy priority, and that is: full integration into European and transatlantic security structures. Latvia's return to the community of European nations promotes the development of democracy and a free market economy in our country. It also enables us to take important steps toward guaranteeing our state's security.

We are moving in the right direction, as the recent signing of the European agreement demonstrates, since now Latvia has joined other associate members of the European Union. This is a very important achievement for my country, since it not only helps us reclaim our historic place among Western nations, but also makes Europe more unified.

I am especially pleased to note that in your vision of the future architecture of Europe, you stress that it must be developed in such a way to avoid blocs, gray areas and undesirable spheres of influence. I couldn't agree more.

I also agree with those who believe that NATO is a positive force for the promotion of democratic values and reforms within member states, and not merely a defensive alliance. It is true that NATO expansion is a complex process which will take a given time to complete. However, I must point out that the process itself will have a direct impact on developments in my country. For example, suggestions that some countries could be denied NATO membership, or indications that the waiting period may be prolonged, could delay or even halt the pace of our reforms. That in turn, would have a negative impact on the security of the entire Nordic region.

As Latvia integrates more deeply into Europe, it is essential that we establish normal, stable and orderly relations with our Eastern neighbors. That is also Latvia's foreign policy goal in relation to Russia. It is a difficult process for us, since it takes place at a time when a dynamic new European security model is being sought. The contradictory nature of ongoing events in Russia, as well as Russia's present foreign policy positions, elicit serious concern in Latvia. I would like to share with you what I believe are the most serious concerns.

That fact that Russia, after a long delay, has taken the next step toward cooperation with NATO and officially joined the PfP program, is, in my view, a positive development. However, Russia has not altered its negative views toward NATO expansion to the East and bases its arguments on speculation about how this expansion could trigger negative developments in Russia's domestic politics. Were this situation to continue, Latvia's foreign policy priority integration into European and transatlantic organizations - would be hampered. This would have a broader impact as well. Should the Baltic states remain in a gray security zone, alongside the high unpredictability of developments within Russia, a situation could arise wherein security would be destabilized in our region, and subsequently, Europe as a whole.

Latvia is not interested in seeing the CIS develop into a structure similar to that of the former USSR, especially one in which Russia takes the dominant military, political and economic role. However, certain elements in the development of the CIS indicate this tendency. For example, one can't help but be alarmed by the new concept of border defense, for it empowers Russia to assume some of the sovereign functions of CIS countries.

My country also finds unacceptable Russia's proposal that we join a common CIS air defense system, as well as other treaty relations which would tie us to the CIS countries. This proposal is clear evidence of Russia's desire to indirectly restore its dominance over the Baltic region as well. That is why Latvia's move toward the European Union and NATO is all the more important.

The withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia was an important event in Latvia's bilateral relations with Russia. This opened the possibility to begin a new phase in the development of our mutual relations. However, these relations have their dark side. Russia has not completely fulfilled its treaty obligations concerning those military personnel who retired after January 28, 1992 and continue to reside in Latvia. I was also shocked by Russian Federation Foreign Minister A. Kozirev's statements, asserting that Russia is prepared to use military force to protect its nationals in other countries. In addition, as the Russian parliamentary elections approach, one unfortunately hears support for aggressive and essentially imperialistic positions in some influential Russian political parties. As a result, I sense a nervousness and

tension in the tonality of Russian foreign policy. The unpredictability of Russian politics on the whole generates fear and concern in Latvia.

In closing, I would like to share with you some thoughts about developments within Latvia itself.

It has been a year since we last met in Riga, and I am pleased to report that the present political situation in Latvia remains stable. The successful development of a modern and democratic country continues. Recalling your remarks at the Freedom Monument on July 6, 1994, it is with great satisfaction that I can report that every effort has been made by our country's social and state institutions to secure the protection of basic human rights. More importantly, ethnic groups have successfully integrated into Latvia's social and civic life, while simultaneously preserving and developing their cultural traditions. In addition, these groups have been provided with an opportunity to acquire their education in their native languages. National schools, cultural associations and various religious organizations are actively working in Latvia. The restoration of property to religious groups and private individuals is being undertaken in a just and fair manner, regardless of nationality or religious affiliation. For example, the World Jewish Restitution Organization has judged Latvia as one of the most forthcoming countries in Central and Eastern Europe regarding the restoration of property. For that reason, I look hopefully to the future, for I see also the major contribution a prosperous Jewish community can make toward Latvia's renewal.

Economic reforms are also continuing in our country, shaping a sound market economy. We do, however, encounter difficulties in this process. A crisis in the commercial banking sector has touched Latvia's financial system. I fully understand, that as people become actively engaged in economic and financial undertakings, crises such as this do pass through societies, and are conceivable. I am nevertheless convinced, that with an adequate, timely, precise and coordinated approach by the government's institutions, we can solve this crisis in a relatively short time. I will personally devote all my efforts to overcoming this crisis. I know that the United States is already providing its assistance in this situation, and for that, I am personally grateful to you and hope that the necessary cooperation will continue. It is one more example of the deep trust and mutual understanding that exists between our countries.

Mr. President, I am convinced that relations between the United States and Latvia will continue to grow and develop in an especially favorable manner. Your personal interest and investment in the well being of our country means a great deal to me. I also highly value this opportunity to exchange views and look forward to your continued interest in the further development of our dialogue.

Respectfully yours,

/ s /

Guntis Ulmanis,
State President
of the Republic of Latvia