

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Folder Title:

Latvia [2]

Staff Office-Individual:

European Affairs-Norland, Richard

Original OA/ID Number:

2630

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
33	5	10	1	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. email	From Richard Norland, re: [SRB Meeting with Latvian PM] (1 page)	04/12/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
002. email	White House Situation Room to Christopher Bolan, et al., re: Latvian PM Skele Fires Economics Minister (2 pages)	04/06/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
003. email	Andrew Weiss to Richard Norland, re: [Latvian PM Skele] (1 page)	04/05/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
004. email	Richard Norland to Andrew Weiss, re: [Latvian PM Skele] (1 page)	04/05/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
005. email	White House Situation Room to Christopher Bolan, et al., re: [Latvian PM] (1 page)	04/04/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
006. email	Richard Norland to Tracey Jacobson and Antony Blinken, re: Matt, please help me out! (2 pages)	04/04/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
007. email	Antony Blinken to Tracey Jacobson and Richard Norland, re: Matt, please help me out! (1 page)	04/04/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
008. email	Richard Norland to Sharon Storey, re: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB (1 page)	04/03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
009. email	Sharon Storey to Richard Norland, re: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB (1 page)	04/03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
010. email	Richard Norland to Marilyn Scott-Perez, re: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB (1 page)	03/27/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
011. email	Marilyn Scott-Perez to Richard Norland, re: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB (1 page)	03/27/2000	P1/b(1) VZ

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Norland, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Latvia [2]

2011-1037-F

ke2189

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).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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]
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b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
012. email	Sharon Storey to Richard Norland, re: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB (1 page)	03/24/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
013a. fax	Embassy of Latvia to Richard Norland, re: Update on Visiting Latvian Ministers (1 page)	02/11/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
013b. report	U.S. Government Report (3 pages)	08/17/1999	P1/b(1)
014. report	Re: [EU Accession Talks] [Released in Part] (4 pages)	03/31/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
015. email	White House Situation Room to Steven Black, et al., re: [Russia-Latvia relations] (6 pages)	04/01/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
016. email	White House Situation Room to Antony Blinken and Richard Norland, re: [Scenesetter] (6 pages)	03/30/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
017. email	Nancy Maxfield to Tracey Jacobson and Richard Norland, re: Attendees at Latvian FM Meeting (1 page)	03/06/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
018. memo	Dick Norland to Jim Steinberg, re: Meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins (3 pages)	03/03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
019. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	11/03/1999	P1/b(1)
020a. memo	Marc Grossman and Ross Wilson to Under Secretary Pickering, re: Reply to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoep (1 page)	03/03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
020b. letter	Ambassador Thomas Pickering to Max van der Stoep (2 pages)	03/01/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
021a. memo	Marc Grossman to Under Secretary Pickering, re: Reply to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoep on OSCE Missions (1 page)	03/03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
021b. letter	Thomas Pickering to Max van der Stoep (2 pages)	03/01/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
021c. paper	Re: Baltic Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals (1 page)	ea. 03/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
023. memo	Marc Grossman to the Deputy Secretary, re: Your Meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins (5 pages)	02/28/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
024. memo	Marc Grossman to the Deputy Secretary, re: Your Meeting with Lithuanian Parliamentarians (5 pages)	02/29/2000	P1/b(1) VZ
025. paper	Re: Baltic Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals (2 pages)	03/01/2000	P1/b(1) VZ 9/21/2023
026. list	Delegation List for U.S.-Latvia Bilateral Working Group [partial] [10 U.S.C. 424] (1 page)	03/17/2000	P3/b(3)

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Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2000 3:34 PM
To: @APNSA
Cc: @BLINKEN; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Subject: Cancel SRB Meeting with Latvian PM Skele (April 25 - 11:30) ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Embassy Riga and Latvian Embassy here advise that with PM Skele's resignation today and the prospect of several weeks' political turmoil in Latvia (which will probably result in a new Prime Minister other than Skele), we should not expect Skele to be here on April 25 for his meeting with Sandy. Please "postpone" the meeting.

FYI, Skele's resignation after nine months in office stems more from his abrasive leadership style than policy differences, although brewing confrontation came to a head with his decision last week to fire his economics minister over disagreements about privatization strategy. Basic lines of Latvian policy (pro-reform, pro-EU/NATO) are expected to stay the same. Skele will act as caretaker until a new government is formed. -- but his April 25 visit is definitely off.

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (1.93)

6/12/2023 v2

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2000 11:04 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Crawford, Bernard T. (RECORDS); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Kass, Nicholas S. (EUR); Munter, Cameron P. (EUR); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); vonLipsey, Roderick K. (SEE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LATVIA'S PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BLINKEN CRAWFORD DAVIDSON KASS MUNTER NORLAND VONLIPSEY YEE
Identifier: Af4806c1
Originator: AP/East
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 04/12/2000 10:05:59 ET

a0554

^PM-Latvia-Politics, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0500,0513

^Latvia's prime minister resigns

^Eds: LEADS throughout to UPDATE with details, quotes. ADDS byline, photos.

No pickup

^AP Photo FRA104

^By STEVEN C. JOHNSON= ^Associated Press Writer=

RIGA, Latvia (AP) Latvian political parties scrambled to stitch together a new government for the former Soviet republic after the nation's prime minister resigned today.

Prime Minister Andris Skele stepped down after two of the three parties in the ruling coalition withdrew their support. The centrist Latvia's Way defected today, as the right-wing Fatherland and Freedom party did the night before.

Spokesmen said both parties want to make a new government with the same coalition groups, including Skele's centrist People's Party but with a different leader at the helm.

"Skele hasn't learned enough about how to be truly democratic, to be one among equals," said Juris Sinka of Fatherland and Freedom. "Skele's tendency is to rule, not to lead."

The 100-member Saeima parliament is fragmented, making a stable coalition hard to put together. The outgoing government controlled 61 seats: the People's Party has 24, Latvia's Way, 21; and Fatherland, 16.

Parliamentary elections aren't scheduled until 2002. Most observers have played down the chances of an early vote, arguing that a snap election would likely produce a parliament at least as divided as the current one.

This week's shake-up seemed to have as much to do with leadership style as with policy. Skele was viewed as an intelligent, skilled administrator, but political colleagues also complained he was abrasive and heavy-handed.

Skele took office nine months ago. He came under attack last week for sacking Economics Minister Vladimirs Makarovs, of Fatherland and Freedom, over disagreements about privatization strategies.

Skele and Makarovs clashed over the sale prices for large state-owned companies, such as the power utility Latvenergo and the Latvian Shipping Company. Skele favored lower prices, which he said would attract investors.

Even though their government fell, the three parties are still seen as logical partners. They all advocate similar pro-West, pro-reform policies and they are the only combination capable of attaining clear legislative majorities.

Andrejs Pantelejevs, chairman of Latvia's Way, said a new government of the same coalition parties could sign an agreement within two weeks.

Despite the rise and fall of eight past governments, economic and foreign policy has remained consistent since independence from Moscow in 1991. All of the administrations have been strongly pro-reform, and all have pushed for European Union and NATO membership.

By law, President Vaira Vike-Freiberga nominates the new prime

minister. Latvian presidents have usually followed the lead of parties, that announce they have the required seats to form a workable coalition.

Until any new government is approved by parliament, outgoing ministers, including Skele, will stay on in a caretaker role.

APE- 04/12/00 09:55:56

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2000 12:22 PM
To: Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Cables; Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LATVIAN PM SKELE FIRES ECONOMICS MINISTER; GOVERNMENT PLUNGES INTO CRISIS

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4824
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 061533Z APR 00
Distribution: SIT: BOLAN NSC DAVIDSON NORLAND YEE
PRT: JACOBSON
Identifier: M4382513
InfoAddres: RUCNNEI/NORTHERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE COLLECTIVE
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Line4: FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
Originator: AMEMBASSY RIGA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BOLANC
CABLES
DAVIDSOL
NORLANDR
YEEH
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHRA
StationSerialNumber: 1331
TimeOfReceipt: 04/06/2000 11:23:27 ET

UNCLAS RIGA 001331

STATE FOR EUR/ADAS ANDRUSYSZYN, EUR/NB, S/NIS
THE WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC NORLAND AND JACOBSON

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, LG
SUBJECT: LATVIAN PM SKELE FIRES ECONOMICS MINISTER;
GOVERNMENT PLUNGES INTO CRISIS

1. ON APRIL 6, PRIME MINISTER ANDRIS SKELE DISMISSED MINISTER OF ECONOMY VLADIMIRS MAKAROV ("FATHERLAND AND FREEDOM" PARTY), PUTTING THE STABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT IN JEOPARDY. AFTER AN EMERGENCY MEETING, "FATHERLAND AND FREEDOM" ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOT NOMINATE A CANDIDATE TO REPLACE MAKAROV UNTIL THE CONFIDENCE VOTE IN THE SKELE CABINET SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 13. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR HOW "FATHERLAND" WILL VOTE. THE NO CONFIDENCE MOTION WAS PROPOSED BY THE OPPOSITION "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" PARTY. SKELE AND MAKAROV HAVE BEEN ON A COLLISION COURSE FOR MONTHS, BITTERLY DISAGREEING ON SUCH ISSUES AS PRIVATIZATION OF LARGE STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PRIVATIZATION AGENCY. THE BOILING POINT CAME APRIL 5 WHEN MAKAROV -- CONTRARY TO WHAT THE GOVERNMENT AGREED -- REVOKED PRIVATIZATION AGENCY DIRECTOR JANIS NAGLIS'S RIGHTS TO SIGN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

2. THE QUESTION ON EVERYONE'S LIPS NOW IS WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL WEATHER THIS CRISIS. WE SEE THREE

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS HOW THE CURRENT SITUATION MIGHT DEVELOP: A) "FATHERLAND" REMAINS IN THE GOVERNMENT, BUT THE CABINET IS RESHUFFLED (WITH EITHER SKELE OR MAKAROV'S GONE) AND THE CENTER-RIGHT THREE-PARTY COALITION CONTINUES TO RULE THE COUNTRY; B) "FATHERLAND" DEFECTS; THE GOVERNMENT LOSES THE CONFIDENCE VOTE, AND THE "PEOPLE'S PARTY," "LATVIA'S WAY" AND THE SMALL "NEW PARTY" FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT THAT WOULD ENJOY A THREE-VOTE MAJORITY IN THE SAEIMA; AND C) LESS LIKELY, "LATVIA'S WAY" AND "FATHERLAND" AGREE TO DUMP SKELE AND HIS "PEOPLE'S PARTY" AND TEAM UP WITH THE "NEW PARTY" AND THE "SOCIAL DEMOCRATS" TO REVIVE THE POST-1998 ELECTION GOVERNMENT MODEL, ALTHOUGH WITHOUT KRISTOPANS AT THE HELM.

3. IT IS OBVIOUS -- AND EVEN "FATHERLAND" LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THIS -- THAT ALL THREE RULING PARTIES CONSIDER THE CURRENT COALITION THE MOST REASONABLE OPTION IN TERMS OF SHARED POLICY POSITIONS, BUT BOTH "LATVIA'S WAY" AND "FATHERLAND" -- ESPECIALLY THE LATTER -- ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY IMPATIENT WITH SKELE'S AUTOCRATIC GOVERNING STYLE AND WOULD NOT BE HEARTBROKEN IF A WAY COULD BE FOUND TO OUST HIM. THEIR KEY PROBLEM IS THAT NEITHER HAS A VIABLE CANDIDATE WITH WHICH TO REPLACE HIM. CLEARLY, THE RULING COALITION IS NOW FACING ITS BIGGEST MOMENT OF TRUTH SINCE IT TOOK OFFICE IN JULY 1999. ITS FATE LARGELY HINGES ON HOW "FATHERLAND" WILL VOTE ON APRIL 13.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY SEES NO/NO OUTCOME OF THIS GOVERNMENT CRISIS WHICH WOULD PLACE IN JEOPARDY LATVIA'S BASIC FOREIGN POLICY TENANTS: 1) PRO-U.S.; 2) PRO-NATO MEMBERSHIP; 3) PRO EU ACCESSION; AND 4) CONTINUED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NORMAL DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE AND GOOD NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.
HOLMES

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE)
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2000 5:39 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Cc: @BLINKEN; Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Gobush, Matthew N. (VP); @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Subject: RE: Latvian PM Skele - photo op with POTUS? ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

I'm fine with doing. Don't think we need to be too sophisticated in what our message to the russians would be -- the photo is the message and it's probably enough to give him a hug. it will show we care about the little guys, are watching the russians closely, etc.

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2000 5:14 PM
To: Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Cc: @BLINKEN; Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Subject: Latvian PM Skele - photo op with POTUS? ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Amb. Holmes (in Latvia) is proposing that we look into a POTUS/VP photo op for Skele when he meets with Sandy on April 25 (11:30). Leaving aside scheduling issues, we wanted to consult with @RUSSIA on this.

First of all, one possible impediment has been pushed aside: Skele gets a clean bill of health regarding charges launched against him by a political opponent that he was part of a paedophile ring. The report of a commission looking into the charges was declassified and released by Skele yesterday. It exonerates him. The Embassy is confident that there is "not a shred of credible evidence" to sustain the accusations against Skele, which are motivated by political antagonisms -- Amb. Holmes sees "no potential to embarrass" Sandy or VP/POTUS by having Skele come to the White House.

Our aim in receiving Skele here was to show support in the face of Russia's toughening posture on treatment of Russian-speakers, war crimes and Nazi issues, culminating in the draft sanctions legislation introduced in the Duma. Failure of the sanctions bill to pass eases the pressure somewhat, but a photo op with POTUS could be used to (a) signal continued interest in preventing Russian bullying, (b) praise the Russians for holding off on sanctions, and (c) call on both sides to continue to address their problems in a civilized way (including making sure the Latvians address WWII legacy issues properly). One downside might be that praising the Russians for not imposing sanctions could actually backfire. What are your thoughts?

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (1.45)

6/12/2013 v2

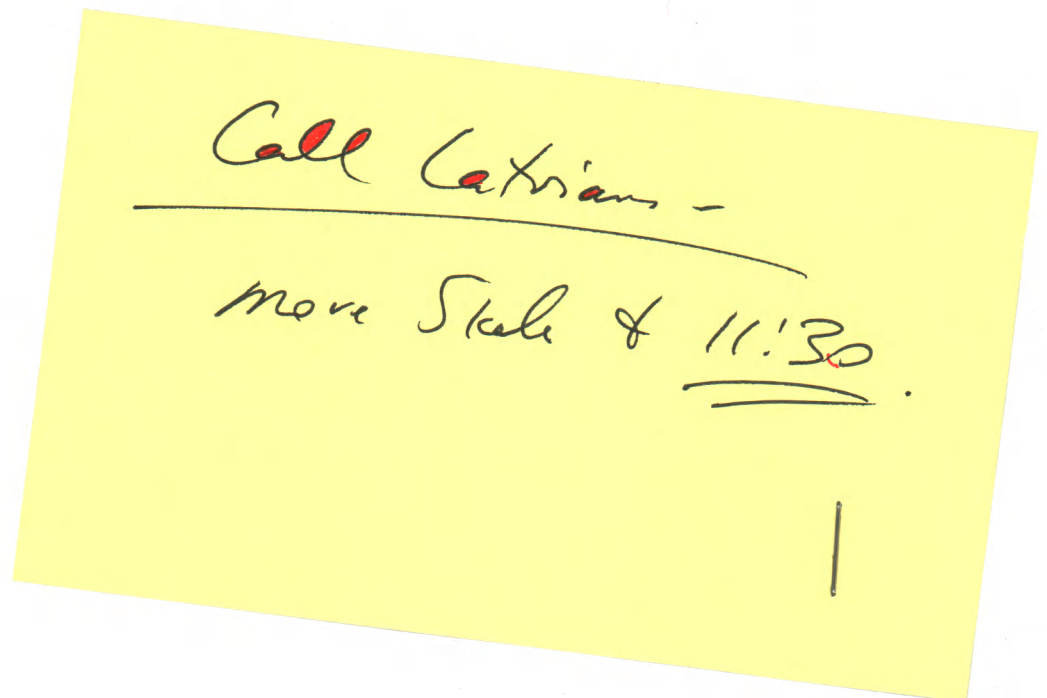
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From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2000 5:14 PM
To: Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Cc: @BLINKEN; Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Gobush, Matthew N. (VP)
Subject: Latvian PM Skele - photo op with POTUS? ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (1.96)

6/12/2013 v2

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 12:33 PM
To: Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LATVIAN PM SAYS CLEARED IN PAEDOPHILE SCANDAL

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BOLAN DAVIDSON NORLAND YEE
PRT: JACOBSON
Identifier: Rea025d1
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 04/04/2000 11:35:03 ET

EUR/NB will check w/ A
Embassy Riga re:
SRB - Skele meeting.
"OK"

a1856

^BC-LATVIA-SCANDAL

^Latvian PM says cleared in paedophile scandal

RIGA, April 4 (Reuters) - Latvian Prime Minister Andris Skele said on Tuesday that an independent investigation has cleared him and other high ranking officials of allegations of involvement in a paedophile ring.

Last October parliament set up a commission to examine the details of a year-long probe conducted by the prosecutor's office into the suspected ring that officials have said could involve as many as 600 people.

Opposition deputy Janis Adamsons, who heads the commission, then stunned parliament in February when he told the chamber that Skele, Justice Minister Valdis Birkavs and State Revenue Service head Andrejs Sonciks could be implicated in the scandal.

All three denied any involvement.

"The Constitution Protection Bureau has checked these allegations and found them groundless," Skele told journalists before heading into a cabinet meeting.

Constitution Protection Bureau Deputy Chief Uldis Dzenitis told Reuters the bureau would not provide any information on the findings, which it handed to Skele as a member of the National Security Council.

"The premier has received a clear and strong conclusion from the Constitution Protection Bureau that no publicly known state official has been implicated in the scandal," the Prime Minister's spokesman Jurgis Liepnieks told Reuters.

"This conclusion refers to both those named earlier, (including Skele) as implicated in a paedophile ring," Liepnieks added.

Adamsons dismissed the conclusion as hasty and promised that an expected commission report will include both the named officials and add new names. No date for the final report has been set.

Analysts have said the allegations appeared to be a case of party politics taken to extremes by Adamson, a long-time political enemy of Skele.

RB-- 04/04/00 10:55:25

Red. accusation - not a shared w/ credible evidence -
- pol. motivated.
- no potential for embarrassment.
4/5/00
Damian Lewis -
per Emb. Riga DCM.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 3:55 PM
To: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR)
Cc: Gobush, Matthew N. (PRESS)
Subject: RE: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

Tracey, thanks.

✓ I think our first step will be to reassure ourselves on Skele -- agree with you that he's probably fine, but want to do an updated reality check.

Then will run the idea by RUE -- as Tony says, there may well be good reasons come late April to help the Latvians out vis-a-vis the Russians (that's how we sold the meeting to Sandy).

If you are talking to Amb. Holmes, you might let him know that his "vetting" of Skele will be especially important -- he should be hearing from Damien Leader soon (I spoke to Damien this morning) -- and if there is anything else he'd like to add to bolster the request, he can cable or fax it to us. Dick.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 3:43 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

Let me know if I can help.
TJ

-----Original Message-----

From: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 2:53 PM
To: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

agree we should put forward request with recommendation that it would be helpful to do at time when Latvians have become Msocow punching bag. But would also like to get RUE views.

-----Original Message-----

From: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 2:38 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Cc: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

Tony, what do you think? I discussed with Bob, and he feels that we should handle this request as we would handle any request from an Ambassador -- ie., put it forward to SRB with a recommendation. It would not be good if the Amb comes with Skele, and says to SRB, "Too bad we couldn't have a photo op," and SRB says "I didn't even know there was a request."

On the pedophilia thing, it strikes me that most see this as a political mudslinging on the part of the opposition. The scandal has itself become something of a laughing stock. Damien will have a better view than I will, but I can't imagine this should stop Skele, a sitting PM, from visiting SRB.

TJ

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 2:28 PM
To: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Gobush, Matthew N. (PRESS)
Cc: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

I don't think we should push for a photo op for Skele -- we've got too many other EUR irons in the fire hoping for POTUS time. Please discuss with Tony Blinken and me before proceeding with this.

In addition, I've asked Damien Leader to check urgently with Embassy Riga on the allegations that Skele is involved in a paedophilia ring, which allegations surfaced again today in the press (in the form of Skele announcing that a commission looking into the matter has given him a clean bill of health). Is Amb .Holmes absolutely convinced there is no problem in having Skele at the White House? I realize these charges originate with a political enemy -- but I also can see Sandy (or VP or POTUS) looking us in the eye and saying "WHAT?!"

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From: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN)
Sent: Tuesday, April 04, 2000 1:48 PM
To: Gobush, Matthew N. (PRESS)
Cc: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: Matt, please help me out! [UNCLASSIFIED]

Matt, Ambassador Holmes in Latvia has asked me to check on the availability of the VP for a photo op for Prime Minister Skele, who will be meeting with SRB at 11:30 April 25. Can you let me know if the VP is even in Washington then?

FYI Dick -- he's also asked about the possibility of a POTUS photo op. I am happy to deal this issue with Bob/Sandy (I'm pretty sure the answer will be NO) but if you want to do it in your channels that's OK too.

Thanks
TJ

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Thanks
TJ

11:30

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 4:28 PM
To: Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Sharon, an email from Marilyn while you were away said this meeting was agreed but gave me 10:30 as the time, rather than 11:30, and that is what I gave the Latvians. If 10:30 is not good, I will change that to 11:30, but I wanted to check with you first. will send you the earlier email FYI. thanks. Dick.

-----Original Message-----

From: Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Sent: Monday, April 03, 2000 3:47 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

SRB has seen and accepts Please offer April 25th at 11:30am. thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2000 6:42 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

TO: SRB
THROUGH: TONY BLINKEN
FROM: DICK NORLAND

The Latvian Embassy has requested a meeting with you for Prime Minister Andris Skele on April 24 or 25. Skele will be visiting the U.S. in connection with events celebrating the 10th anniversary of the restoration of Latvian independence. He would want to thank you for U.S. support, review progress on social integration in Latvia as well as relations with Russia, and reaffirm U.S. policy on NATO enlargement.

Late April could be a very important time at which to send a signal of White House support for the Balts in general and Latvia in particular. The number, level and intensity of Russian verbal attacks aimed at Latvia in recent weeks, combined with a serious move in the Duma to impose economic sanctions, is beginning to set off real alarm bells in Latvia. While the Latvians realize some of this is probably the result of Russian electoral politics, they are not convinced the tide will ebb once the presidential election is over. To the extent the Russian campaign is an effort to divert western criticism on Chechnya, it will likely continue. Your meeting with Skele would provide a useful opportunity to reaffirm our support for Latvia.

_____ OK - schedule meeting
 _____ Decline
 _____ Discuss

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (2.00)

6/12/2023 VZ

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

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_____ Discuss

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (2.01)

6/12/2023 VZ

TUES. 4/25

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2000 12:13 PM
To: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Latvian Embassy confirms they accept 10:30 on Tuesday, April 25. Will provide list of participants (imagine it will be PM + 3 on the Latvian side, with Blinken, Norland and Medish/Weiss on the U.S. side). Will provide paper by email in advance of the meeting (will clear with @RUSSIA). thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2000 11:43 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Berger has read your e-mail and has agreed to do this meeting. Please offer 10:30am on 25 April. Please provide a list of proposed participants and Mr. Berger will need a paper prepared for the meeting. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2000 6:42 PM
To: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: SRB
THROUGH: TONY BLINKEN
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_____ OK - schedule meeting

_____ Decline

_____ Discuss

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

7016-0314-11-1 (2.02)

6/12/2023 R2

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2000 11:43 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); @NSA - Natl Security Advisor
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

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☒ OK - schedule meeting 4/25 - 10:30
☐ Decline
☐ Discuss

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314-M-1 (2.03)

6/12/2023 v2

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Storey, Sharon V. (NSA)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2000 9:59 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Latvian Prime Minister seeks appt. with SRB ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

thanks

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From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2000 6:42 PM
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DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

2016-0314 - 1-1 (2.04)

6/12/2023 R

EMBASSY OF LATVIA**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

TO: Richard NORLAND

FROM: Peteris Vinkelis, Charge d'Affaires

AT: NSC

DATE: 02/11/00

FAX NUMBER: 456-9150

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 1

UPDATE ON VISITING LATVIAN MINISTERS

Dear Dick,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Mr. Indulis Berzins, will meet Deputy Secretary Talbott Monday March 6, 2000 10:15 AM.

Minister will host a lunch on 12:30 pm.

We would greatly appreciate an opportunity to have a meeting at NSC Monday **afternoon**.

Prime Minister Mr. Skele will be in D.C. on Monday, April 24, **AND** Tuesday, April 25. It might somewhat widen the window of opportunity for high-level meetings at the WH.

Yours,

Peteris Vinkelis

• not 4/25 9-10 am
• not lunch ~ 4/24 - 12:30 - 2 pm

Yes —

No —

Talk to Damien Leader.

pushes privatization

no big issues

computer - issue-driven

4325 17TH STR. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20011

TEL: (202) 726 8213 FAX: (202) 726 6785

LATVIA@AMBERGATEWAY.COM

EMBASSY OF LATVIA**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

TO:	Richard NORLAND	FROM:	Peteris Vinkelis, Counselor, DCM
AT:	NSC	DATE:	02/07/00
FAX NUMBER:	456-9150	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	1
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	
RE:	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:		

**Meeting with Latvian
Prime Minister Šķēle**

Dear Mr Norland,

Prime Minister of Latvia, Mr. Andris Skele, will visit the United States on **April 24-28, 2000**.

The Embassy would like to request your assistance in **organizing meetings at the appropriate level in the White House and National Security Council.**

The Prime Minister would address a number of issues, including:

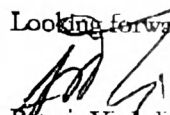
- Promotion of trade and investment between the United States and Latvia,
- Advancing Social Integration in Latvia,
- Engagement of Russia in Regional cooperation,
- NATO's open door policy and Latvia's efforts to prepare for membership.

I should mention that the visit will take place just a week before the **tenth anniversary of the Independence Restoration Declaration** (Latvian Parliament adopted the declaration on May, 4, 1990).

It might be a good opportunity to look back upon ten years of the nation-building in the Baltics, to recall some of the most important events of this period, to highlight some of the US policy successes in the region (most notably, **withdrawal of foreign troops from the Baltics, and NATO enlargement**), to prove that the President's foreign policy in our region has been right.

Prime Minister will also travel to California (Silicon Valley) and Texas to promote US-Latvia trade and investment. Thus the best time for Latvian side to have such meetings would be **Monday, April 24** (or, the second best option, Friday, April 28).

Looking forward to working with you,


Peteris Vinkelis
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Blinken, Antony J.

From: Leader, Damian R.
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2000 8:56 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J.
Cc: Graze, Deborah E; Silski, Andrew L
Subject: Message for Dick Norland

Dick-
FYI - Embassy Riga spoke with me this morning about the planned visits to Washington of Latvian FM Berzins (March 6-10) and PM Skele (c. March 24-26). I said that we will seek an appointment for the former with Strobe and for the latter with the Secretary. I am not sure whether the Letts have already come to you about a Berzins appointment, but Embassy Riga said that they are interested in having Skele see NSA Berger.

Damian

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
013b. report	U.S. Government Report (3 pages)	08/17/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Norland, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Latvia [2]

2011-1037-F
ke2189

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).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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]

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
014. report	Re: [EU Accession Talks] [Released in Part] (4 pages)	03/31/2000	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Norland, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Latvia [2]

2011-1037-F
ke2189

RESTRICTION CODES

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Special Analysis

Latvia and Lithuania Playing Catch Up to Estonia in EU Accession Talks

3.5c

Latvia and Lithuania, which began EU accession talks on 28 March, are determined to make substantial progress this year to increase their chances of joining the EU in the first wave. Baltic officials worry that a second wave may be significantly delayed to avoid overtaxing member states.

□ Riga and Vilnius began negotiations this week on eight of the 31-chapter *acquis communautaire* (laws and regulations)—including competition and statistics but excluding agriculture, energy, and the environment, which are likely to be more difficult for most candidates.

□ Latvian MFA Deputy State Secretary Kesteris and Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Usackas—the chief EU negotiators for their countries—told the press on the opening day of talks this week that they aim to close four or five chapters by summer and to double the number of chapters open by yearend. Usackas expressed hope that the French EU presidency that begins on 1 July will maintain the momentum by opening another eight chapters.

□ EO 13526 1.4c Latvian and Lithuanian officials, like other EU aspirants and European Commission President Prodi, support differentiation that will allow candidates to proceed at their own pace and not be held back by others. If the three Baltic states do not join the EU simultaneously, Latvia and Lithuania want to prolong the Bal-

tic Free Trade Agreement on agricultural goods, which has been in force for the past few years.

3.5c

Both Countries Spurring the Reform Process

Latvia plans to complete all negotiations by 2003 and be ready to accede by 2005, EO 13526 1.4c

EO 13526 1.4c *Riga's capacity to legislate and implement the numerous and complex EU required reforms will be the single largest obstacle to EU accession.*

□ The European Commission's acting chief negotiator for Latvia recently urged Riga to focus on creating the necessary institutions and legislation to meet EU criteria, EO 13526 1.4c, 1.4(d)

□ The results of a public opinion poll conducted in Latvia last month suggest that public support for



Membership for Latvia and Lithuania unlikely before 2005.

Central & East European Update

31 March 2000

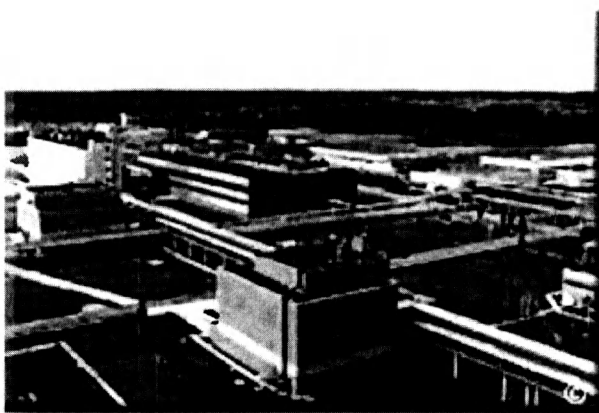
EU membership is waning—44 percent compared with 50 percent last November—because of concern about the impact on the small agricultural sector. At the same time, the percentage of Latvians opposed to EU membership has risen to 38 percent—and in some rural areas to as high as 51 percent—up from 28 percent, according to the press. 3.5c

The long-awaited start of talks may spur Vilnius to implement politically costly reforms in an election year. EO 13526 1.4c Vilnius plans to complete negotiations by the end of 2002 and be ready to join the EU by 2004.

- The cabinet on Wednesday approved a draft law that would allocate between 10 and 20 percent of the budgets from 2001 to 2003 on areas related to EU and NATO entry. EO 13526 1.4c

1.4(c)

- *The priority that Vilnius places on EU accession prompted it to amend its national energy strategy last year on the eve of the EU Helsinki Summit, to make the politically sensitive decision to close unit one of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant (INPP) by 2005, and to set a closure date for Ignalina's second unit by 2004.* Public support for EU membership fell sharply last year at least partly in response to



Lithuania trading nuclear power for EU accession.

Estonia: Baltic Frontrunner in EU Race

3.5c

Estonia, the Baltic frontrunner in EU accession talks—which it began in 1998 and plans to complete by 2002—has closed only eight chapters so far. **Tallinn wants to be ready to accede by 2003, but has to adjust its liberal legislation—among the most liberal in Europe—to conform to the EU's laws and regulations.**



Ilves: Pushing hard for EU accession.

- Foreign Minister Ilves early this year advised the Riigikogu (parliament) that 2000 will be a critical year for Estonia's EU integration and that it will become clear by autumn whether Estonia will retain its place among the fast-track candidates. He warned that "poor homework" or delays in adopting important laws could postpone Estonia's accession to 2007 or later. The Estonian-EU Joint Council meeting in Brussels last month identified key areas, such as customs, where "progress has been slow."
- Ilves's comments coincided with Tallinn's adoption of this year's government plan for EU integration, which also contains guidelines for the 2001-2002 period. The plan addresses in greater detail than previously what is required to improve the country's administrative capacities—an area criticized in last year's EU "report card". EO 13526 1.4c

1.4(c), 3.5c

EO 13526 1.4c Estonian officials openly worry that, as EU membership approaches, member states might be threatened by and move to quash Estonia's pro-open market and low-tariff policies. Estonia's Ambassador to the EU recently acknowledged that "there is a price to be paid for accession." **Most Estonian officials, however, are willing to pay this price to gain security and trade benefits that EU membership will bring.**

3.5c

EU pressure to close the INPP, which provides nearly 80 percent of Lithuania's energy. 3.5c

Usaksas recently told reporters, Ukraine is a promising market for Lithuanian goods.

But Lithuania's Bid Is More Complex

Lithuania's agricultural sector, uncertainty over the socioeconomic impact of INPP's closure, and the upcoming Seimas (parliamentary) election this fall—which will result in a center or center-left coalition—are likely to complicate Vilnius's EU accession bid. Lithuania, the largest Baltic state and the one with the biggest agricultural sector, was hardest hit by the Russian financial crisis and resultant loss of its key agricultural market.

- Prime Minister Kubilius's cabinet early this year authorized the Foreign Ministry to begin talks with the European Commission on increasing import tariffs on some EU food products until Vilnius recovers from the sharp decline in its food exports to Russia. Vilnius also wants to maintain its free trade agreement with Ukraine for five years after joining the EU because, as

- The closure of INPP—which is the primary employer in the town of Visaginas and which employs 5,000 mostly ethnic Russian, Belarusian, and Ukrainian workers—will have a serious socioeconomic impact on the region surrounding the plant. A government task force has begun to consider how to tackle the resulting unemployment and government and EU officials say they plan to attract foreign investment to Visaginas, but local residents are skeptical.

- The surprise second-place finish of the anti-EU Farmers' Party—which has few political allies at the national level—in 19 March municipal elections is unlikely to be repeated in the upcoming Seimas election, *but it underscores the plight of rural areas, which are still reeling from the Russian crisis and whose inhabitants fear the impact of EU membership on their livelihood.* 3.5c

Central & East European Update
31 March 2000

Coming Events

- 4-5 Lithuanian President Adamkus visits Poland.
- 7 Hungarian Prime Minister Orban travels to Estonia.
- 8-9 Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mikhaylova and Polish Foreign Minister Geremek co-host a meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, on "Communicating Reforms and Reforming Communications." Representatives from the 10 former communist countries seeking EU membership have been invited to attend.
- 10 Estonian Prime Minister Laar visits France.
- 10-13 Hungarian President Goncz travels to Japan.
- 12-13 Heads of Government of the Council of Baltic Sea States meet in Denmark.
- 14-17 Polish President Kwasniewski travels to Turkey.
- 28-29 The Presidents of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine gather in the Hungarian town of Szekesfehervar to discuss European integration and regional cooperation.
- 5-6 Hungary hosts WTO meeting on the integration of Southeast Europe into the world economy.
- 23-24 Ukrainian Prime Minister Yushchenko travels to Brussels for a meeting of the EU-Ukrainian Cooperation Council.

This information is Unclassified.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Saturday, April 01, 2000 10:59 AM
To: Black, Steven K. (VP); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Bruns, Judson L. (Jay) (INTECON); Brzezinski, Mark F. (RUE); Cables; Crawford, Bernard T. (EUR/INTERN); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS); Elkind, Jonathan H. (RUE); Hinckley, Steedman (VP); Kass, Nicholas S. (EUR); Lee, Malcolm R. (NEC); Massey, Stephen M. (RUE/INTERN); Medish, Mark C. (RUE); Munter, Cameron P. (EUR); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Tedstrom, John E. (RUE); vonLipsey, Roderick K. (SEE); Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: GOR SANCTIONS AGAINST LATVIA "PROBABLY" OFF
ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0564
Classification: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Date Time: 011529Z APR 00
Distribution: SIT: BLACK BLINKEN BRUNS BRZEZINSKI NSC CRAWFORD DAVIDSON DUNCAN ELKIND HINCKLEY KASS LEE MASSEY MEDISH MUNTER NORLAND TEDSTROM VONLIPSEY WEISS YEE
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Line1: RAACZYUW RUEHMOA8076 0921529-CCCC--RHEHAAX.
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 04 MOSCOW 008076

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/05
TAGS: PREL, RS, LG, NEI
SUBJECT: GOR SANCTIONS AGAINST LATVIA "PROBABLY" OFF

REF: (A) MOSCOW 7819 (B) MOSCOW 7690

(U) CLASSIFIED BY ACTING MINISTER-COUNSELOR FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIRK AUGUSTINE. REASONS: 1.5 (B&D).

1. (S) SUMMARY. WITH A DUMA VOTE ON DRAFT

LEGISLATION FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON LATVIA HAVING BEEN POSTPONED FROM MARCH 29 TO APRIL 5 (REF A), IT APPEARS THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME IS A POSITIVE DUMA VOTE ON A HARSH -- BUT TOOTHLESS -- RESOLUTION CONDEMNING RIGA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING MINORITY THERE. THE SANCTIONS BILL WILL PROBABLY BE REMANDED TO COMMITTEE, READY TO BE RATTLED OMINOUSLY FROM TIME TO TIME TO DRAMATIZE THE INTENSITY OF RUSSIA'S CONCERNS. BEYOND THE SPECIFIC INTEREST IN GOR-LATVIAN AFFAIRS, THERE IS BROADER INTEREST IN THE VOTE BECAUSE IT WILL REPRESENT BOTH AN EARLY OPERATIONAL INDICATION OF THE COURSE PUTIN WILL STEER ON FOREIGN POLICY AND A SIGN OF WHETHER THE DUMA WILL FOLLOW HIS LEAD ON THOSE ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

WAITING TO SEE PUTIN'S POSITION

2. (U) HARDIS BAUMANIS, DCM AT THE LATVIAN EMBASSY, TOLD US THE OUTCOME OF THE SCHEDULED MARCH 29 DUMA VOTE ON THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION WAS IN DOUBT UNTIL LATE ON MARCH 28, WHEN BORIS PASTUKHOV, A FORMER FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WHO IS NOW CHAIRMAN OF THE DUMA COMMITTEE ON CIS AFFAIRS AND RELATIONS WITH RUSSIAN SPEAKERS ABROAD, CAME FORWARD WITH A RESOLUTION (SEE PARA 8 BELOW) THAT WHILE HARSHLY CRITICAL OF LATVIA, CALLED FOR NO ACTION BEYOND RENEWED GOR APPEALS TO THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO LOOK INTO LATVIA'S DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES. IN SOME CONFUSION, COMMUNIST AND NATIONALIST BACKERS OF THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION OBTAINED A WEEK'S DELAY OF ACTION.

3. ~~(S)~~ SOME DUMA MEMBERS MAY HAVE BEEN INFLUENCED BY A MARCH 28 VISIT OF A LEFT-WING LATVIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION, WHICH MET WITH A NUMBER OF KEY DUMA FIGURES, INCLUDING PASTUKHOV, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ROGOZIN, DUMA VICE PRESIDENT LUKIN AND YEVGENIY PRIMAKOV. IGOR YUERGENS, A BUSINESSMAN ACTIVE IN BALTIC ISSUES THROUGH THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY, TOLD US MARCH 31 THAT HE HAD SET UP THE DELEGATION'S MEETINGS IN THE DUMA. BOTH YUERGENS AND BAUMANIS (WHO WAS BRIEFED BY THE DELEGATION BEFORE IT DEPARTED) REPORT THAT ALL THE RUSSIAN POLITICIANS MENTIONED ABOVE ASSURED THE LATVIAN DELEGATION THEY OPPOSED THE SANCTIONS BILL.

4. ~~(S)~~ MORE INTERESTING WAS THAT THE YEDINSTVO DEPUTIES WITH WHOM THE LATVIAN DELEGATION SPOKE SEEMED NOT TO HAVE RECEIVED A CLEAR SIGNAL FROM THE KREMLIN ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE SANCTIONS. BOTH YUERGENS AND BAUMANIS EXPRESSED THE COMMON VIEW THAT PUTIN CAN AND WILL DETERMINE WHICH WAY YEDINSTVO DEPUTIES VOTE. THE QUESTION THUS WAS WHETHER THE YEDINSTVO DEPUTIES' UNCERTAINTY MEANT THAT PUTIN MIGHT BE RECONSIDERING THE KREMLIN'S OPPOSITION UNDER YELTSIN TO ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL EARLIER VERSIONS OF THE SANCTIONS BILL. YUERGENS' THOUGHT THAT WHAT HAD HAPPENED ON MARCH 28 WAS THAT FOR UNDETERMINED REASONS, PASTUKHOV (A MEMBER OF OTECHESTVO, NOT YEDINSTVO) HAD RECEIVED A KREMLIN SIGNAL TO TURN OFF THE SANCTIONS. THAT WOULD PROBABLY, YUERGENS THOUGHT, LEAD TO A POSITIVE APRIL 5 VOTE ON PASTUKHOV'S RESOLUTION, WITH THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION REMANDED TO COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERIODIC RATTLING. BAUMANIS ALSO THOUGHT THAT OUTCOME WAS LIKELY.

5. (S) YUERGENS ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT -- LIKE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL ELITE HERE -- HE STILL HAD NO CLEAR IDEA OF PUTIN'S FOREIGN POLICY VIEWS. THUS WHILE HE PRESUMED AND HOPED THE KREMLIN WOULD MAKE CLEAR TO YEDINSTVO BEFORE THE APRIL 5 VOTE THAT IT SHOULD OPPOSE THE SANCTIONS, YUERGENS SAID A FAILURE BY PUTIN TO DO SO WOULD BE A "TROUBLING" FIRST SIGN OF A HARDER PUTIN LINE THAT COULD BE SIGNIFICANT EVEN BEYOND THE BALTIC CONTEXT.

MFA POSITION CLEAR, DUMA COMMITTEE SPLIT

6. (U) THE MFA, EVIDENTLY ON AUTO-PILOT WITH POSITIONS LEFT OVER FROM YELTSIN'S PRESIDENCY, HAS
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 02 OF 04 MOSCOW 008076

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CLEARLY OPPOSED THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION. REITERATING IN A MESSAGE TO THE DUMA IN EARLY MARCH POSITIONS ALREADY TRANSMITTED IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1999 WHEN THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION WENT THROUGH EARLIER DUMA READINGS, FIRST DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER AVDEYEV PROVIDED A VARIETY OF RATIONALES FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S OPPOSITION, INCLUDING THAT:

- SANCTIONS WOULD LEAD TO A DE FACTO BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH LATVIA;
- THEY WOULD IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS HURT THE RUSSIAN-SPEAKING POPULATION IN LATVIA (NOTING, E.G., THAT 47 PERCENT OF RAILWAY WORKERS WHO WOULD BE AFFECTED BY A CUTTING OFF OF TRANSIT TRADE WERE ETHNIC RUSSIANS);
- "A BASIC AND MOST PROBABLE CONSEQUENCE OF ADOPTING THE DRAFT LEGISLATION WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL MATERIAL DAMAGE TO RUSSIA." THE LIMITATIONS OF RUSSIAN PORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD NOT PERMIT A FULL RE-ROUTING OF CARGOES NOW PASSING THROUGH LATVIA. EVEN A PARTIAL RE-ROUTING WOULD ENTAIL INCREASED COSTS AND HARM RUSSIAN TRANSPORT INTERESTS, WHO MIGHT SEEK COMPENSATION FROM THE GOR BUDGET. SUPPLIES OF IMPORTANT MEDICINES FROM LATVIA WOULD BE INTERRUPTED. LATVIAN RETALIATION SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED. IN SUM, SANCTIONS WOULD HARM RUSSIAN MOR THAN LATVIAN INTERESTS.

- A NUMBER OF PROVSIONS OF THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION WOULD VIOLATETHE RUSSIAN CONSTITUTION AND CIVIL CODE (INVOLING, E.G., ARBITRARY INTERFERENCE WITH PRIATE CONTRACTS); AND

- THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATON WOULD ALSO VIOLATE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERALGOR COMMITMENTS ON TRADE, FINANCE AND BAKING AFFAIRS, TRANSPORT, AND LEGAL COOPERATION, A WELL AS A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WITH LATVIA.

7. (U) IN A MARCH 7 REPORT TO THE DUMA COUNCIL, PASTUKHOV SAID HIS COMMITTEE HAD BEEN "UNANIMOUS ON THE NEED FOR RUSSIA TO TAKE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND OTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF RUSSIANS IN LATVIA AS WELL AS IN OTHER STATES THAT HAD BEEN REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER SOVIET

UNION, WHERE THEY ARE BEING GROSSLY VIOLATED." HOWEVER, THE PARTICULAR SANCTIONS LEGISLATION AT ISSUE PASSED THE COMMITTEE ONLY BY A FIVE-FOUR MARGIN (WITH ONE ABSTENTION). PASTUKHOV WARNED THAT THE ECONOMIC STEPS CONTEMPLATED "WOULD DEFINITELY PRODUCE A REACTION NOT ONLY BY THE BALTIC STATES, BUT ALSO BY SOME WESTERN GOVERNMENTS." SUCH REACTIONS MIGHT BE LINKED TO CLAIMS OF GOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN CHECHNYA. SANCTIONS AGAINST WTO MEMBER LATVIA COULD "CREATE FURTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR RUSSIA'S POSSIBLE ENTRY INTO THAT ORGANIZATION." IN GENERAL, THE EFFECTS OF SANCTIONS NEEDED "CAREFUL STUDY" BY RUSSIAN ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES "FOR THE ALREADY POOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POSITION" OF RUSSIAN-SPEAKERS IN LATVIA.

PASTUKHOV'S RESOLUTION

8. (U) THE RESOLUTION THAT IS TO BE VOTED ON APRIL 5 AND MAY IN EFFECT SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION EXPRESSES IN ITS PRESENT FORM THE "EXTREME CONCERN OF RUSSIAN SOCIETY ABOUT CONTINUING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST RUSSIAN SPEAKERS IN THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC." THEIR MAIN PROBLEMS ARE A "MASSIVE DENIAL OF CITIZENSHIP AND THE STRENGTHENING OF DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES IN THE SPHERE OF LANGUAGE AND EDUCATION." THE RESOLUTION ALSO NOTES THAT IN LATVIA "GENERALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW ARE VIOLATED, A CAMPAIGN OF PERSECUTION HAS BEEN LAUNCHED AGAINST FIGHTERS AGAINST FASCISM, AND EFFORTS ARE BEING UNDERTAKEN TO REEVALUATE THE RESULTS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR." LATVIA'S POLICIES TOWARD RUSSIAN SPEAKERS "SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A REMNANT OF APARTHEID IN A EUROPEAN STATE THAT NONETHELESS DECLARES ITS ADHERENCE TO THE IDEA OF A UNITED EUROPE." RUSSOPHOBIA IS PURSUED IN LATVIA BY FORCES THAT "WANT TO SEE RUSSIA HUMILIATED, WEAK, AND SPLINTERED."

9. (U) RUSSIA'S GOAL, PASTUKHOV'S RESOLUTION FURTHER STATES, REMAINS THAT OF GOOD-NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS, BUT THE FUTURE OF THE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, "INCLUDING IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, WILL DEPEND TO A DECISIVE DEGREE ON REAL OBSERVANCE OF THE BASIC RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF CITIZENS OF THE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 04 MOSCOW 008076

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/05
TAGS: PREL, RS, LG, NEI
SUBJECT: GOR SANCTIONS AGAINST LATVIA "PROBABLY" OFF

~~RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND RUSSIAN SPEAKERS IN THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC.~~ THE STATE DUMA SUPPORTS TAKING ALL NECESSARY MEASURES, EVEN INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS ON LATVIA, WITH THE AIM OF SECURING FULL AND UNCONDITIONAL OBSERVANCE BY IT OF GENERALLY ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." THE DUMA THEREFORE "RECOMMENDS" THAT PUTIN DIRECT THE MFA TO AGAIN APPROACH THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR "DECISIONS TO ADDRESS THE UNINTERRUPTED VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE LATVIAN REPUBLIC."

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

10. (S) YUERGENS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE RE-EMERGENCE OF A THREAT OF SANCTIONS LEGISLATION AT THIS TIME MIGHT SEEM CURIOUS TO WESTERNERS. IN MANY WAYS, HE SAID, BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH LATVIA WERE BETTER THAN THEY WERE A YEAR AGO. BUT FRUSTRATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE SLOWNESS OF NATURALIZATION OF ETHNIC RUSSIANS LIVING IN LATVIA AND WHAT TO RUSSIAN EYES ARE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT STEPS TOWARD ASSIMILATION, NOT INTEGRATION, OF NON-LATVIANS LIVING THERE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE PUBLIC MARCH 16 MARCH OF VETERANS OF THE LATVIAN LEGION OF THE SS AND BY A LATVIAN DECISION, TEN YEARS AFTER INDEPENDENCE, TO INTRODUCE A NEW JUNE HOLIDAY INTENTIONALLY AIMED AT ANTAGONIZING RUSSIA. HE MENTIONED ALONG THE SAME LINES THE RECENT GRANTING TO YELTSIN OF A LATVIAN OFFICIAL ORDER WITHOUT ANY PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS WITH YELTSIN OR THE GOR. "HOW DO THEY EXPECT US TO REACT," YUERGENS ASKED, NOTING THAT WHEN THE FRENCH HAD DECIDED TO GRANT BREZHNEV AN ORDER IT HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EIGHT MONTHS OF DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS. THE KONONOV CASE, WHICH WAS SEEN AS OPENING UP TO POTENTIAL PROSECUTION ALL ACTIONS EVER TAKEN BY RUSSIANS AGAINST THE NAZIS, HAD HAD A PARTICULARLY NEGATIVE EFFECT IN RUSSIA. YUERGENS SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND LATVIA'S BEHAVIOR ONLY AS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL NEED OF A SMALL COUNTRY TO KEEP ASSERTING ITSELF THROUGH AN "UNENDING STREAM OF INSULTS" AGAINST A LARGER NEIGHBOR.

SOME EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP

11. (S) YUERGENS' REMARKS ARE NOTEWORTHY IN PART BECAUSE HE MAY HAVE SOME INFLUENCE ON GOR BALTIC POLICY THROUGH HIS ROLE IN THE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY (WHERE HE WAS CO-AUTHOR OF ITS TWO STUDIES ON RUSSIAN POLICY TOWARD THE BALTICS) AND VIA CLOSE PERSONAL TIES TO, AMONG OTHERS, CHIEF KREMLIN FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR SERGEY PRIKHODKO. YUERGEN'S VIEWS ARE ALSO OF NOTE BECAUSE HE IS ONE OF THOSE MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TRYING TO BUILD NON-OFFICIAL LINKS BETWEEN RUSSIA AND LATVIA -- HE WILL PARTICIPATE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE INITIAL "BALTIC FORUM" MEETING OF RUSSIAN AND LATVIAN PUBLIC FIGURES IN RIGA IN EARLY JUNE.

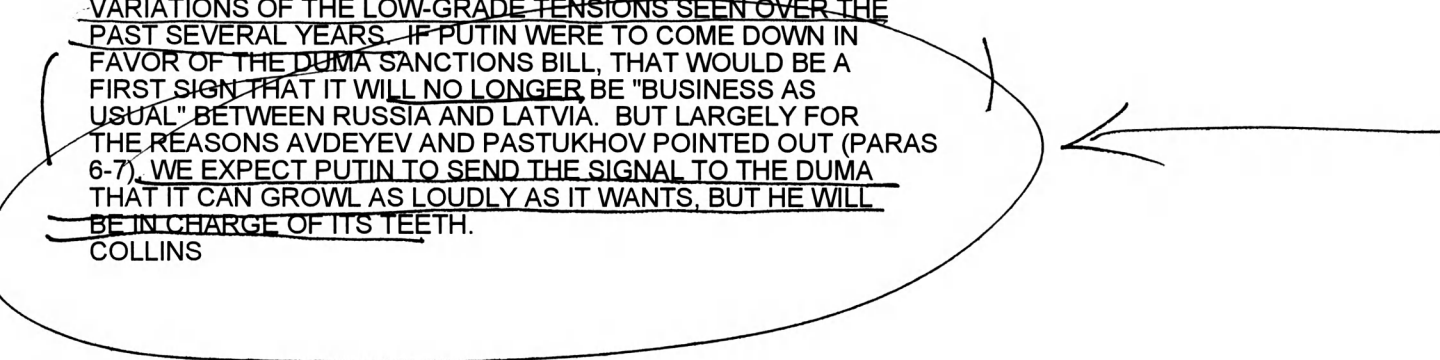
12. (S) BAUMANIS ALSO REFERRED TO THE UPCOMING "BALTIC FORUM" MEETING AS A POTENTIALLY PROMISING DEVELOPMENT, BUT FEARED IT WOULD HAVE NO POSITIVE IMPACT IF ON THE LATVIAN SIDE ONLY LEFT-WING POLITICIANS WHO ALREADY ARE WELL-CONNECTED IN RUSSIA PARTICIPATED IN IT. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD JANIS URBANOVICH, ONE OF THE DELEGATION THAT VISITED MOSCOW TO OPPOSE THE SANCTIONS LEGISLATION AND A LATVIAN ORGANIZER OF THE "BALTIC FORUM," THAT LATVIA'S GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN SUPPORTING THE MEETING UNLESS IT INCLUDED A BROAD SPECTRUM OF LATVIAN POLITICIANS. ALONG THE SAME LINES BUT OUTSIDE THE "BALTIC FORUM" CONTEXT, BAUMANIS SAID THE LATVIAN EMBASSY HAD APPROACHED IRINA KHAKAMADA OF THE UNION OF RIGHTIST FORCES (SPS), TRYING TO INTEREST HER PARTY IN MAKING CONTACT WITH CENTRIST POLITICAL FORCES IN LATVIA; SHE HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE, BUT NO STEPS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN.

COMMENT

13. (S) BOTH BAUMANIS AND YUERGENS POINTED TO EFFORTS TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN RUSSIA AND LATVIA, BUT NEITHER WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT A THOROUGHGOING IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WAS LIKELY IN THE NEAR TERM. WE SHARE THAT VIEW. IN ADDITION TO ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 04 OF 04 MOSCOW 008076

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/05
TAGS: PREL, RS, LG, NEI
SUBJECT: GOR SANCTIONS AGAINST LATVIA "PROBABLY" OFF

DIFFERING TAKES ON THEIR SHARED HISTORY AND ITS MEANING FOR THE PRESENT -- AND THE REAL SENSITIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STATUS AND TREATMENT OF THE RUSSIAN MINORITY IN LATVIA -- THE TWO COUNTRIES BOTH APPEAR TO SEE THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS THROUGH THE PRISM OF NATO ENLARGEMENT. GOR OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT SAY SO, MAY WELL CALCULATE THAT A CLOUDLESS SKY BETWEEN MOSCOW AND RIGA COULD INCREASE THE CHANCE OF AN EARLY LATVIAN ENTRY INTO NATO. WHETHER A CLEAR SIGN FROM RIGA THAT IT HAD DECIDED AGAINST NATO ENTRY WOULD MAKE MOSCOW LESS PRONE TO HYPERVENTILATE OVER THE "UNENDING STREAM OF INSULTS" THAT YUERGENS COMPLAINED ABOUT IS LESS CLEAR. IN ANY EVENT, SINCE LATVIA PRESUMABLY WILL NOT BACK AWAY FROM ITS INTEREST IN NATO, WE BELIEVE THE MOST REALISTIC SCENARIO FOR RELATIONS IN THE NEAR TERM IS VARIATIONS OF THE LOW-GRADE TENSIONS SEEN OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. IF PUTIN WERE TO COME DOWN IN FAVOR OF THE DUMA SANCTIONS BILL, THAT WOULD BE A FIRST SIGN THAT IT WILL NO LONGER BE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" BETWEEN RUSSIA AND LATVIA. BUT LARGELY FOR THE REASONS AVDEYEV AND PASTUKHOV POINTED OUT (PARAS 6-7), WE EXPECT PUTIN TO SEND THE SIGNAL TO THE DUMA THAT IT CAN GROWL AS LOUDLY AS IT WANTS, BUT HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ITS TEETH.
COLLINS



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(Name/Office/Extension)

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Russian oil firms would be the entities most hurt by the economic sanctions on Latvia because Russia exports about 12 percent of its oil through Ventspils, and there is very little spare capacity in Russia's other oil export options. The largest Russia oil firms doing business in Latvia that would be financially hurt are:

Bashneft
Lukoil
Onako
Sideriko
Surgutneftegaz
Tatneft
Yukos

Russian companies also hold the third largest stock of investment in Latvia, after the US and Denmark, with equity holdings of about \$100 million, nearly ten percent of total investment in Latvia.

Major Russian entities with interests in Latvia include:

Russian State Property Ministry Transnefteprodukt acts as broker	Latrostrans	Manages all oil and products transit pipelines in Latvia.
Gazprom (possible majority owner)	Latvijas Gas	Sale and distribution of gas.
Itera	Has several unidentified subsidiaries in Latvia	
Severstal	Reportedly major supplier of the \$65 million in annual Latvian imports of iron and steel products from Russia.	

EMBASSY OF LATVIA

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FAX COVER SHEET

TO: *Richard Norland*
FROM: *John Erdmanis*
DATE: *7 April*
PAGES TO FOLLOW: *1*



H.E. Ambassador Designate of Latvia Aivis Ronis
Invites you to a luncheon
In Honor of H.E. Imants Liegis
Ambassador of Latvia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Wednesday, April 12, 2000 at 12.30 p.m.
MAX'S Restaurant
1725 F. St. N.W., Washington D.C.

Regards
202 726 8213 X32

Embassy of Latvia
4325 17th St. N.W.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Wednesday, April 05, 2000 5:49 AM
To: Black, Steven K. (VP); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Bruns, Judson L. (Jay) (INTECON); Brzezinski, Mark F. (RUE); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Duncan, John D. (INTECON/DOS); Elkind, Jonathan H. (RUE); Hinckley, Steedman (VP); Lee, Malcolm R. (NEC); Massey, Stephen M. (RUE/INTERN); Medish, Mark C. (RUE); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Tedstrom, John E. (RUE); Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT REJECTS SANCTIONS ON LATVIA
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BLACK BOLAN BRUNS BRZEZINSKI DAVIDSON DUNCAN ELKIND HINCKLEY LEE MASSEY MEDISH NORLAND TEDSTROM WEISS YEE
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^BC-RUSSIA-LATVIA

^Russian parliament rejects sanctions on Latvia

MOSCOW, April 5 (Reuters) - Russia's lower house of parliament voted on Wednesday against imposing trade sanctions on the Baltic state of Latvia, which Moscow accuses of discriminating against its large Russian-speaking minority.

The State Duma rejected a bill to launch sanctions, which would have led to a total freeze in trade, and sent it back for amendment in committees. It also rejected a bill on giving humanitarian aid to Russian-speakers in the Baltic state.

Just over a third of Latvia's 2.5 million-strong population is Russian-speaking although not necessarily ethnically Russian.

Parliamentarians said that when the trade bill was presented again, probably in about two months, it was likely to be a much softer measure.

"It would be better to get rid of these laws altogether," said Vladimir Lukin, former head of the Duma international affairs panel and a leading member of the liberal Yabloko party.

He said Russia could not back sanctions against one state when its general policy was to oppose the use of sanctions as a political weapon.

If passed, the sanctions bill would have banned companies striking deals with each other, stopped the export of oil through Latvian ports -- one of the Baltic state's main foreign currency earners -- and prevented Latvian companies from setting up in Russia.

Russia and Latvia have engaged in fierce rhetorical battles over the Baltic state's treatment of its Russian-speakers since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Moscow has complained bitterly about citizenship and language laws which it says are discriminatory. Latvia says its laws are fair and necessary to restore Latvian culture after 50 years of forced membership of the Soviet Union.

From being Latvia's largest trade partner after the collapse of communism, links with Russia have fallen off in favour of Western nations. Russian imports and exports in 1999 accounted for around \$415 million out of Latvia's total trade turnover of approximately \$4.5 billion.

RB-- 04/05/00 04:30:08

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2000 1:33 PM
To: Black, Steven K. (VP); Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Brzezinski, Mark F. (RUE); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Elkind, Jonathan H. (RUE); Hinckley, Steedman (VP); Massey, Stephen M. (RUE/INTERN); Medish, Mark C. (RUE); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Tedstrom, John E. (RUE); Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE)
Subject: MIND YOUR OWN AFFAIRS, LATVIA TELLS RUSSIA
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BLACK Blinken BRZEZINSKI DAVIDSON ELKIND HINCKLEY MASSEY MEDISH Norland TEDSTROM WEISS
Identifier: Re39d5a0
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 03/30/2000 13:34:07 ET

a2727

^BC-LATVIA-RUSSIA

^Mind your own affairs, Latvia tells Russia

VILNIUS, March 30 (Reuters) - Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga told Russia on Thursday to quit meddling in its domestic politics.

Her comments came after several reproaches from Moscow on Riga's treatment of its Russian minority.

"We stand firmly convinced of the rightfulness of our positions...

We are entirely convinced that we do respect human rights in our country," she told a news conference after a meeting of the three Baltic presidents.

Relations between Moscow and Riga have been tense at best since the former Soviet republic regained independence in 1991.

Russia accuses Latvia of discrimination against its Russian-speaking minority which makes up roughly one third of its 2.4 million citizens.

"We feel it is our right, as a free, democratic and sovereign nation, to choose the way we wish to go and other countries should look after their own affairs and not interfere in ours," she said.

Tough citizenship laws have left hundreds of thousands of ethnic Russians - who moved to Latvia during Soviet rule - without passports because they cannot pass strict language requirements.

Under pressure from the European Union, which Latvia hopes to join, Riga enacted new laws aimed at boosting the use of Latvian but the measures have been criticised by the West as too stringent.

"We have nothing to reproach ourselves with and therefore we proceed on our way, which is to continue our path toward integration into the European Union and NATO," the president said.

Earlier this week, Moscow also lashed out at Estonia for supposedly discriminating against the Russian minority there, which comprises about one third of the 1.5 million population.

RB-- 03/30/00 13:30:50

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2000 11:04 AM
To: Blinken, Antony J. (EUR); Cables; Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: SCENESETTER FOR U/S LARSON VISIT TO LATVIA

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4801
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 301520Z MAR 00
Distribution: SIT: Blinken NSC Norland
PRT: Jacobson
Identifier: M4370514
InfoAddres: RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0649
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 1703
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN 1847
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Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: O 301520Z MAR 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
Originator: AMEMBASSY RIGA
Precedence: IMMEDIATE
Profiles: BLINKENA
CABLES
NORLANDR
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StationSerialNumber: 1252
TimeOfReceipt: 03/30/2000 11:05:34 ET

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 RIGA 001252

DEPT FOR U/S LARSON AND EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, ECON, PREL, LG
SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR U/S LARSON VISIT TO LATVIA

REFTELS: A) RIGA 1152 B) 99 RIGA 4181

1. (U) SUMMARY: LATVIA SEEKS TO REGAIN ITS HISTORIC ROLE AS A MAJOR EUROPEAN PORT AND ECONOMIC CENTER. THE LATVIANS WILL MAKE PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS GOAL PROVIDED THREE FACTORS ARE MET: THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE WITH RUSSIA, THE GOVERNMENT IS SUCCESSFUL IN BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND A COMMERCIAL CODE THAT MEETS WESTERN STANDARDS, AND THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE REMAINS SUPPORTIVE OF THIS RAPID CHANGE AND DOES NOT FALL PREY TO THE DIVISIVE FORCES OF CORRUPTION, ETHNIC TENSION OR ECONOMIC DISPARITY. YOUR VISIT AS PART OF THE BALTIC AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP CHARTER PROCESS IS A TANGIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO ASSIST LATVIA TO ACHIEVE ITS GOAL. END SUMMARY

BALTIC-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP

2.(U) OUR MISSION AT EMBASSY RIGA REFLECTS THE COMMITMENT MADE BY THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE SIGNED THE BALTIC AMERICAN CHARTER IN JANUARY 1998 FOR THE U.S. TO STAND BY THE BALTICS AS THEY TRANSFORM THEMSELVES TO BECOME MEMBERS OF EURO-ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS. WE ENGAGE WITH THE LATVIANS ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPARENT, COMPETITIVE MARKET ECONOMY OPEN TO AMERICAN INVESTMENT. IN ADDITION, WE OFFER ASSISTANCE TO LATVIA TO BUILD A

CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE THAT CAN SUSTAIN THE RAPID TRANSITION. ON THE SECURITY SIDE, WE WORK TO HELP THE LATVIANS TO UPGRADE THEIR MILITARY STRUCTURE SO THEY CAN BEGIN TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE AND BECOME THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR NATO.

3. (U) THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP THAT GENERATED YOUR VISIT IS ONE OF TWO (THE OTHER IS DEFENSE) THAT WERE SET UP AS FORUMS FOR THE U.S. AND LATVIA TO REVIEW ISSUES PRIOR TO THE MEETING OF THE BALTIC AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION WHICH DEPUTY SECRETARY TALBOTT WILL LEAD IN JUNE. HE ENCOURAGED THE CREATION OF THE ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP AND ITS PARALLEL PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE SPECIFICALLY TO ADVANCE COOPERATION ON KEY TRADE, INVESTMENT AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES.

4. (U) THE AGENDA FOR THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP IS DIVIDED INTO MULTILATERAL ISSUES, REGIONAL ISSUES, BILATERAL ISSUES, AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE. KEY ISSUES THAT YOU WILL FACE ARE OUTLINED BELOW:

MULTILATERAL ISSUES

5.(U) THE U.S. IS OFFICIALLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORT LATVIA'S BID TO JOIN MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS AS IT RESUMES ITS PLACE AS A EUROPEAN NATION. WE WERE ACTIVE IN THEIR WTO MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS, SUPPORT THEIR MEMBERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EU, AND WORK WITH THEM TO REFORM THEIR MILITARY WITH AN EYE TOWARDS EVENTUAL NATO MEMBERSHIP. THEY WILL ASK WHY OUR SUPPORT DOES NOT EXTEND TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE AUSTRALIA GROUP WHICH THEY FEEL IS ANOTHER WESTERN ORGANIZATION TO WHICH ANY RESPECTABLE EUROPEAN NATION SHOULD BELONG. THEY ALSO NOTE OUR LACK OF INTEREST IN THE OECD WORKING GROUP ON THE BALTICS. YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE THEM TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ALL ORGANIZATIONS COME WITH OBLIGATIONS. THIS INCLUDES THE WTO WHERE LATVIA STILL HAS IMPLEMENTATION WORK TO COMPLETE IN ORDER TO MEET ITS IPR OBLIGATIONS. LATVIA SHOULD START TO DISCERN WHICH OF THESE FORUMS ARE STRATEGICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO LATVIA AND IN WHICH ORGANIZATIONS IT CAN USEFULLY PARTICIPATE.

REGIONAL ISSUES

6. (U) LATVIA IS A STRONG PROPONENT OF BALTIC COOPERATION. THE LATVIANS WOULD LIKE TO SEE BETTER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BALTIC STATES AND RUSSIA. THEY HAVE MADE REPEATED EFFORTS TO RESTART GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH RUSSIA BUT SO FAR RUSSIA HAS REFUSED TO ENGAGE IN A NORMAL DIPLOMATIC DIALOGUE. THE LATIVANS WILL WANT TO DISCUSS LATVIA-RUSSIA ECONOMIC SANCTIONS (SEE REFTELS). YOU SHOULD NOTE THE U.S. SUPPORT FOR NEI AND OUR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATIVE NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS IN THE REGION.

BILATERAL ISSUES

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 04 RIGA 001252

DEPT FOR U/S LARSON AND EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, PREL, LG

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR U/S LARSON VISIT TO LATVIA

7. (U) THE TOP BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATVIA ARE IMPROVING THE CLIMATE FOR INVESTMENT, THE PROGRESS OF PRIVATIZATION, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT.

8. (U) PRIVATIZATION: LATVIA HAS A VERY POSITIVE STORY TO TELL IN TERMS OF IMPLEMENTING ECONOMIC REFORM AND STRENGTHENING ITS MARKET ECONOMY. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NEARLY COMPLETED THE PRIVATIZATION OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY, AND ONLY A HANDFUL OF LARGE STATE ENTERPRISES REMAIN TO BE FULLY RESTRUCTURED (LATVENERGO, LATVIJAS GAZE, VENTSPILS NAFTA, THE LATVIAN SHIPPING COMPANY AND LATTELEKOM, THE TELEPHONE COMPANY.) THE PRIVATE SECTOR NOW ACCOUNTS FOR 65 PERCENT OF GDP AND 69 PERCENT OF EMPLOYMENT IN LATVIA.

9. (U) YOU SHOULD URGE THE LATVIANS TO PROCEED WITH THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE KEY STATE MONOPOLIES. PRIVATIZATION WILL ATTRACT MAJOR AMERICAN INVESTORS AS WELL AS PROPEL THE LATVIAN ECONOMY BEYOND THIS STUMBLING BLOCK TO OVERALL ECONOMIC REFORM. SECRETARY RICHARDSON DURING HIS FEBRUARY VISIT PUSHED THE LATVIANS HARD ON THE NEED TO PRIVATIZE ENERGY ASSETS. THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS DEVELOPED A STRATEGY TO BREAK UP THE ELECTRIC MONOPOLY INTO SEVERAL DIVISIONS ONLY ONE OF WHICH WILL BE PRIVATIZED. EVEN THIS MINIMAL PLAN HAS FACED POLITICAL OPPOSITION.

10. (U) LAW ENFORCEMENT: LEGAL AND REGULATORY STRUCTURES, HOWEVER, MUST BE IN PLACE FOR PRIVATIZATION TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THE LATVIANS ARE INCREASINGLY FOCUSSED ON ISSUES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, AS WELL AS LEGAL AND JUDICIAL STRUCTURES THAT ARE CRITICALLY TIED TO THE ATTRACTION OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT. EVEN WITH LATVIA'S AID GRADUATION OF SUMMER 1999, THE U.S. HAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THAT IT CAN (AND DOES) STILL OFFER INCLUDING INL COURSES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, USTTI TELECOMMUNICATION COURSES AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WE ALSO HAVE SEVERAL PROGRAMS IN BORDER CONTROL - WITH U.S. ASSISTANCE THE EXPORT CONTROL TRACKER SYSTEM IS ALMOST FULLY IN PLACE AND WE HAVE INSTALLED RADIATION DETECTORS AT KEY BORDERS IN SUPPORT OF U.S. NONPROLIFERATION GOALS. THE LATVIANS HAVE BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THESE PROGRAMS AND WE CAN EXPAND THEM IF THEY AGREE.

11. (U) INVESTMENT CLIMATE: THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT HAS SUPPORTED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS. IT CO-FINANCED A FIAS REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO INVESTMENT IN 1999 AND SUBSEQUENTLY IMPLEMENTED MOST OF THE RECOMMENDED REMEDIES. FURTHER INITIATIVES IN THE AREAS OF TAX REFORM AND IMPROVING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. FOR THE PAST YEAR, THE GOVERNMENT HAS HELD A GROWING DIALOGUE WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS OVER A VARIETY OF ISSUES FROM CUSTOMS TO TAXES. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE THE LATVIANS TO WIDEN THAT DIALOGUE TO INCLUDE ANY NEW LEGISLATION AND TO CONSULT EARLIER IN THE PROCESS SO AS TO AVOID THE NEED FOR DAMAGE CONTROL ONCE A DRAFT LAW IS CIRCULATED.

PRIVATE SECTOR DIALOGUE

12. (U) THIRTY AMERICAN AND LATVIAN BUSINESSES WILL MEET THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 5 TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BILATERAL ECONOMIC WORKING

GROUP. THEY WILL DISCUSS A VARIETY OF TOPICS INCLUDING IPR, TAXES AND OTHER REFORMS INCLUDING THE DRAFT LABOR LAW. THIS LAW IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEMS FACED IN THE REFORM OF THE LEGAL SYSTEM. AS WRITTEN THE LAW WOULD ALLOW ANY TWO EMPLOYEES TO START A UNION. THE LAW THEN REQUIRES THE COMPANY TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO A COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE INDEXED WAGES. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN SUPPORTIVE IN ENCOURAGING THE LATVIAN GOVERNMENT TO WORK WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS IN REVISING THE LAW. SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR GROUP WILL PRESENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENTS AT THE END OF THE WORKING GROUPS AGENDA. YOUR VISIT SPARKED THIS FIRST EVER FORMAL MEETING BETWEEN THE AMERICAN CHAMBER AND A GROUP OF LATVIAN BUSINESSES. WE WANT TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER, BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS.

HISTORY

13. (U) THE CITY OF RIGA WAS FOUNDED IN 1201. AT THIS TIME GERMAN CRUSADER KNIGHTS, WITH THE CATHOLIC UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 04 RIGA 001252

DEPT FOR U/S LARSON AND EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, PREL, LG

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR U/S LARSON VISIT TO LATVIA

CHURCH'S ENCOURAGEMENT, CONQUERED THE LOCAL LIV, LATGALE AND ZEMGALE TRIBES. GERMAN BARONS, DESCENDENTS OF THESE KNIGHTS, DOMINATED LATVIA'S ECONOMY UNTIL LAND REFORM DURING LATVIA'S BRIEF INDEPENDENCE PERIOD AFTER WORLD WAR ONE. RIGA AND LATVIA'S OTHER HANSEATIC CITIES WERE PROSPEROUS TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE AGES. AFTER CONQUEST OF NORTHERN LATVIA BY THE SWEDES IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY, RIGA WAS THE LARGEST CITY OF THE SWEDISH KINGDOM. THE SWEDISH-RUSSIAN WAR OF THE EARLY 18TH CENTURY DEVASTATED THE AREA BUT AFTER RUSSIAN REFORMS AND A NATIONAL AWAKENING IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, RIGA BECAME A MAJOR PORT AND THE THIRD LARGEST CITY IN TSARIST RUSSIA. THE INDEPENDENT LATVIA THAT EXISTED BRIEFLY BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS WAS ON AN ECONOMIC PAR WITH DENMARK BUT SUFFERED DEVASTATING HUMAN LOSS DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR TWO. SINCE INDEPENDENCE IN 1991, LATVIA HAS STRUGGLED TO REGAIN ITS PLACE AS THE STRATEGIC ECONOMIC CENTER OF THAT BROADER VISION OF EUROPE THAT INCLUDES RUSSIA.

POLITICAL OVERVIEW

14. (SBU) LATVIA IS JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF ITS SUCCESS IN BUILDING A STABLE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT LED BY PRIME MINISTER ANDRIS SKELE IS COMPOSED OF LATVIA'S THREE LARGE CENTER-RIGHT PARTIES AND HAS BEEN IN POWER SINCE MID-JULY 1999. LIKE THE PREVIOUS RULING COALITIONS, THE SKELE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO PURSUING INTEGRATION INTO EURO-ATLANTIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO DEVELOPING A PROSPEROUS MARKET ECONOMY. SKELE HAS SERVED TWICE PREVIOUSLY AS PRIME MINISTER AND IS KNOWN AS A PRAGMATIC, STRONGLY PRO-BUSINESS LEADER. THE PARLIAMENT ELECTED CANADIAN-LATVIAN VAIRA VIKI-FRIEBERGA PRESIDENT ON JUNE 17, 1999. SHE IS LATVIA'S SECOND PRESIDENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND IS THE FIRST WOMAN PRESIDENT IN

EASTERN EUROPE.

15. (SBU) LATVIA ACHIEVED ONE OF ITS CENTRAL POLICY OBJECTIVES WHEN IT WAS INVITED TO BEGIN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS FOR EU MEMBERSHIP IN DECEMBER 1999. THE GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO JOIN THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS LARGELY DRIVEN DOMESTIC POLICY. ALMOST EVERY ASPECT OF DOMESTIC LEGISLATION IS BEING MODIFIED TO ACCORD WITH EU REQUIREMENTS. THE LATVIANS ARE STRUGGLING TO STRENGTHEN THEIR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, FROM BORDER CONTROL UNITS TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM, AND FROM REGULATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES TO MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC REVENUES. LATVIA HAS ALSO FOCUSED ON THE DIFFICULT ISSUE OF INTEGRATING ITS APPROXIMATELY 700,000 LARGELY RUSSIAN-SPEAKING NON-CITIZENS, WHO MAKE UP ABOUT THIRTY PERCENT OF THE OVERALL POPULATION. IN OCTOBER 1998, THE LATVIAN PEOPLE VOTED IN A NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO EASE THE NATURALIZATION PROCESS FOR NON-CITIZENS, AND IN DECEMBER 1999, THE PARLIAMENT PASSED AN OSCE-COMPLIANT LANGUAGE LAW THAT WILL FOSTER THE USE OF LATVIAN WITHOUT VIOLATING THE RIGHTS OF NON-LATVIAN SPEAKERS.

16. (SBU) CURRENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TO DEAL WITH ANOTHER DIFFICULT ISSUE: THE TRAGIC LEGACY OF THE WORLD WAR II ATROCITIES OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE SOVIET OCCUPATION. IN 1999 THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED AN HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO STUDY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST, AND RECENTLY THE AUTHORITIES INVITED PROSECUTORS FROM THE U.S., CANADA, THE U.K., AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, AND ISRAEL TO HELP ASSESS THE EVIDENCE AGAINST ALLEGED LATVIAN WAR CRIMINAL KONRADS KALEJS, WHO WAS DEPORTED FROM BRITAIN.

17. (SBU) ON THE FOREIGN POLICY FRONT, LATVIA'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA HAVE CONTINUED TO BE DIFFICULT. THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO RESTART THE LATVIAN-RUSSIAN INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION OR TO SIGN A BORDER AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, RUSSIA HAS IMPLEMENTED RESTRICTIVE TRANSPORT, CUSTOMS AND BANKING REGULATIONS THAT TARGET TRADE AND FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WITH LATVIA. SOME ENERGY OFFICIALS ALLEGE THAT PERIODIC RUSSIAN DECISIONS TO REDUCE THE FLOW OF OIL EXPORTS THROUGH THE PIPELINE TO VENTSPILS ARE DRIVEN BY A POLITICAL AGENDA RATHER THAN BY ECONOMIC MOTIVES. AT THE HEART OF RUSSIA'S COMPLAINTS IS ALLEGEDLY THE STATUS OF LATVIA'S RUSSIAN-SPEAKING NON-CITIZENS, ALTHOUGH RUSSIA'S BROADER OBJECTIVE SEEMS TO BE KEEPING LATVIA WITHIN ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

ECONOMIC OVERVIEW

18. (U) LATVIA ENJOYED STRONG ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN 1997, WHEN GDP GROWTH REACHED 8.6 PERCENT. IN THE LAST UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 04 RIGA 001252

DEPT FOR U/S LARSON AND EUR/NB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ECON, PREL, LG

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR U/S LARSON VISIT TO LATVIA

QUARTER OF 1998, HOWEVER, POSITIVE GROWTH TRENDS IN LATVIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION WERE DERAILED BY THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS. OVERALL GDP GROWTH IN 1999 WAS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT. THERE ARE POSITIVE SIGNS OF STABILIZATION, HOWEVER, AND MOST OBSERVERS ARE PREDICTING BETWEEN 2 AND 3 PERCENT GDP GROWTH IN 2000.

UNEMPLOYMENT CURRENTLY HAS STABILIZED AT AROUND 9.1 PERCENT, YEAR-ON-YEAR INFLATION AT THE END OF DECEMBER 1999 WAS A LOW 3.2 PERCENT, AND THE NATIONAL CURRENCY HAS REMAINED STABLE. DURING 1999 LATVIAN EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BOTH PLUMMETED, BUT LATVIANS ARE PLEASED WITH THE DRAMATIC REORIENTATION OF THEIR COUNTRY'S TRADE TOWARDS EUROPE. IN THE FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1999, 63 PERCENT OF LATVIA'S EXPORTS WENT TO THE EU, AND 6.9 PERCENT WENT TO RUSSIA. THE EU'S SHARE OF LATVIA'S IMPORTS WAS 56 PERCENT DURING THE SAME NINE-MONTH PERIOD.

19. (U) LATVIA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT. AS OF THE END OF JUNE 1999, TOTAL FDI EXCEEDED \$1.7 BILLION, OR APPROXIMATELY \$710 PER CAPITA. U.S. INVESTMENT INTO LATVIA IS ESTIMATED BY THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO BE ABOUT \$400 MILLION, ALTHOUGH THE GOL CREDITS U.S. INVESTMENT AT APPROXIMATELY \$200 MILLION. THE U.S. IS THE SECOND LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR IN LATVIA -- AFTER DENMARK. LATVIA BECAME A MEMBER OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION IN FEBRUARY 1999. THE U.S. AND LATVIA RATIFIED THE TREATY ON AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION IN DECEMBER 1999. HOLMES

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Maxfield, Nancy H. (EUR)
Sent: Monday, March 06, 2000 11:34 AM
To: @APNSA
Cc: Jacobson, Tracey A. (ADMIN); Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: Attendees at the Latvian FM Meeting [UNCLASSIFIED]

Attendees will be
Indulis Berzins, Minister of Foreign Affairs
Peteris Vinkelis, Charge d'Affaires and Counselor
Artiga Daudze, Director of 2nd Political Department, MFA

Tony Blinken
Dick Norland

3/6/00.
Berzins
- POTUS visit to Latvia? - clear msg. - strong push.
- Regional cooperation.

JBS - need to show Russia that we're not antagonistic.

Berzins - give Russia a clear message. "Cautious optimism."
after election, will know better what Russia's real policy is.
- creating extremely pol. environ. during election campaign. Hard to control.

JBS - yes. negative motivation can erupt.

IB - Ukraine improving - thinking about details of reforms.

JBS - We have told Ukrainian of loss of regional partnership.

(EU)
IB - good progress. Russian-speakers support EU
EU not instead of NATO.

JBS - agree - not mutually exclusive. need pol./econ. reforms -
regions can coop. w/ ea. other.

IB - Putin advisers are cynical.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 7:39 PM
To: Steinberg, James
Cc: @BLINKEN; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Subject: JBS Meeting with Latvian FM Berzins, Monday 3/6, 3 pm ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

Attached is briefing memo for Jim's meeting. Participants list and Berzins bio to be provided separately.



Berzins.doc

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By LOE NARA, Date 09/27/2013
2011-1037-F

TO: Jim Steinberg
THRU: Tony Blinken
From Dick Norland

Subject: Meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins

Latvian-Russian relations have soured lately, and FM Berzins will use his Monday meetings with Strobe and you to seek U.S. support. Russia has launched strong verbal attacks accusing Latvia of being pro-Nazi because it convicted ethnic-Russian Latvian citizen Vasily Kononov of war crimes. Putin wrote to President Vike-Freiberga, and FM Ivanov has written scathing letters to Secretary Albright as well as EU and COE foreign ministers. Berzins wrote Albright March 2 expressing his concerns over the seniority and tone of the Russian attacks, and asking for OSCE countries to engage Russia in a "constructive dialogue" on Latvia. FM Cook, on Berzins' behalf, raised Latvia with Ivanov last week.

Still, the Latvians know they must improve their record on **Nazi war crime prosecutions**. Latvia hosted a February 16-17 multilateral conference on Nazi war crimes to facilitate prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals, and DOJ has pledged to send resident advisors to expedite the preparation of judicial cases for convictions. Latvia recently decided to repeal observance of March 16 as "Latvian Soldiers Memorial Day" and is developing education projects with help from experienced Europeans to re-examine their negative roles during the Nazi occupation and Holocaust.

You should tell Berzins that the U.S. supports the vigorous prosecution of all suspected of war crimes and genocide, regardless of background, but that Latvia needs to be equally zealous in pursuit of accused Nazis. We need to remind the Balts that the success of their efforts in this regard will affect their relations with the U.S. and rest of the world.

You can also commend Berzins for the real steps his government has taken to pass and implement OSCE-compliant laws on **social integration**, but point out that the recent Russian attacks indicate the importance of maintaining an OSCE presence in Tallinn and Riga to protect the Balts from false assertions. Latvia has passed a basically OSCE-compliant language and naturalization law, and we currently are funding a \$250,000 Latvian language-training program for Russian speakers. Berzins would appreciate your thoughts on "**whither Russia**" following the Presidential elections, whether Putin wins or not.

Ultimately, Latvia remains focused on **NATO membership**. Thanks to an energetic Defense Minister, MOD staff, and Chief of Defense, Latvia has become an eager participant in NATO's Membership Action Plan (MAP) process and has received some constructive feedback from NATO on its preparations for membership. Latvia is committed to increasing its GDP percentage dedicated to defense. You should urge Berzins to remain focused on meeting Latvia's 2% goal by 2002.

Points to Make

War Crimes, Holocaust Issues

- We will be reminding Russians that Kononov was found guilty of killing civilians, not of anti-fascist acts, and that all countries must vigorously prosecute all kinds of war crimes.
- Welcome Latvia's hosting recent international meeting to facilitate prosecution of Nazi criminals, especially Konrads Kalejs. Latvia needs to demonstrate that it is as zealous in pursuit of Nazi-era criminals, like Kalejs, as those who worked with the Soviets. Bottom line: Latvia must prosecute Nazi war criminals now - affects Latvia's relations with U.S.
- We look forward to continued, productive work between your prosecutor's office and the DOJ to expedite the Kalejs case.
- Rep. Lantos enjoyed recent visit. Must follow through on public comments, many laudable proposed conferences, Riga University's Judaic Studies Center. Historical issues might be most difficult and important to deal with in Latvia's preparations for membership in NATO.
- GOL full funding of its Holocaust Commission, engaging experts on commission, and treating issue seriously with focus on specific goals is crucial to Commission's success.
- The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum works with Latvian archives, can work with Commission.
- If GOL works out program details with Vad Yashem, USG will try to help fund public school Holocaust education. Glad GOL has liaison project with the Task Force for this purpose.

Social Integration/Relations with Russia

- USG plans informal meeting in Tallinn March 30 with Latvia, Nordics. Goals are to target more effectively U.S. and Nordic social integration assistance and to get Nordic and Baltic agreement on how to change the OSCE missions. Situation in Latvia, Estonia changed much since inception of missions.
- Sensitive to concerns that missions are impediment to EU accession talks. However, some sort of OSCE mission for near-term is buffer to Russian criticisms and ensures continued smooth implementation of legislation.

NATO enlargement and MAP

- Admire Latvia's spending resources on defense, and abiding by determination to reach 2% of GDP by 2002. May be difficult; every incremental increase counts.
- Impressed by Latvia's resurgent political commitment, defense planning and capabilities. Latvia on right track for 2002.
- Continue to use your well-written and comprehensive Membership Action Plan (MAP) to prepare for NATO membership.
- Will continue to endorse publicly a vigorous, merit-based "Round 2" for NATO enlargement in 2002, open to all aspirants regardless of potential Russian opposition.
- Can't speak for next Administration, but certain it will remain committed to Open Door policy outlined in the Washington Summit Declaration.

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
019. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	11/03/1999	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Norland, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Latvia [2]

2011-1037-F
ke2189

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).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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]

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

Latvian FM Berzins - JBS

Mon. 3/6
3 p.m.

From: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2000 11:19 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

• Damien Leader will
send me his
briefing memo.

Thanks -- I have it on the schedule.

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2000 11:18 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA); Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

Latvians confirm 3:00 pm on Mon. March 6. We will provide list of participants and paper in due course. thanks for your help.

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2000 6:13 PM
To: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA); Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

let's pencil that in -- I'm pretty sure they can, but will confirm on Monday. thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2000 6:08 PM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

Could they do 3:00-3:30PM that day? Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2000 6:06 PM
To: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA); Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

Marilyn, the Latvian is seeing Strobe at 10:15 -- is there any way this meeting with Jim could slide to 11:30, or anytime in the afternoon? thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Scott-Perez, Marilyn L. (NSA)
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2000 10:26 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: RE: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

Jim has agreed to do this. Please offer 11:00am on Mar 6 and as always we will need a list of proposed participants and a paper prepared. Thanks!

-----Original Message-----

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2000 3:06 PM
To: Steinberg, James
Cc: @EUROPE - European Affairs; @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @MULTILAT - Multilateral and Humanitarian Affairs; @LEGAL - Legal Advisor
Subject: Latvian Appt. Request [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO: JBS
THROUGH: Tony Blinken
FROM: Dick Norland

Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins will be visiting Washington March 6-8 and has requested a meeting at "an appropriate level" at NSC to discuss regional security including NATO

membership, integration of Russian speakers into Latvian society, and "joint efforts in dealing with legacies of WW2 and occupations." We recommend that you meet with Berzins if your schedule permits -- March 6 if possible.

Berzins' visit precedes that of Prime Minister Andris Skele, who will be in the U.S. April 24-28 and who also wants to be received at the NSC -- we will be forwarding an appointment request to Sandy.

This spring will mark the 10th year since the restoration of Latvia's independence (and, of course, Lithuania's and Estonia's as well), and selected high-profile meetings such as these will help to maintain Baltic confidence in U.S. support for their political and economic progress and integration into European and trans-Atlantic institutions.

_____ OK - schedule appointment

_____ Decline

_____ Discuss

EMBASSY OF LATVIA

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	Richard NORLAND	FROM:	Peteris Vinkelis, Counselor, DCM
AT:	NSC	DATE:	02/07/00
FAX NUMBER:	456-9150	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER:	1
PHONE NUMBER:		SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:	
RE:	Meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister		
	YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:		

Dear Mr Norland,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Mr. Indulis Berzins, is planning a visit Washington, DC on March 6-8, 2000. It will be Minister's first visit to the capital of the United States in his capacity of Foreign Minister.

On the behalf of the Minister the Embassy would like to request your assistance in organizing a meeting at an appropriate level at the National Security Council.

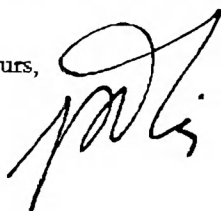
The topics that Minister would like to discuss would include, but be not limited to:

- Northern European Initiative
- Advancing Social Integration in Latvia: Joint Efforts of the Friends of Balts
- Engagement of Russia: Opportunities and Challenges
- Implementation of Latvia's NATO Membership Action Plan
- Joint efforts in dealing with legacies of WW2 and occupations

Minster will be in DC from Monday, March 6 till Wednesday, March 8. To make the planning easier, we would prefer to set up meetings with the Administration officials on Monday, March 6, leaving Tuesday and Wednesday for the Capitol Hill and academic community. However, we are flexible to any suggestions you may have regarding the schedule.

The Minister also would like to host a lunch for our partners within the Administration, and we would greatly appreciate your advice on the scheduling.

Yours,



4325 17TH STR. NW, WASHINGTON, DC 20011
TEL: (202) 726 8213 FAX: (202) 726 6785
LATVIA@AMBERGATEWAY.COM

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2000 11:29 AM
To: Babbitt, James F. (VP); Cables; Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Feldman, Daniel F. (MULTI); Guarnieri, Valerie N. (MULTI); Mclean, Matthew K. (MULTI); Naplan, Steven J. (MULTI); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Patten, Wendy L. (MULTI); Schwartz, Eric P. (MULTI); Vaccaro, Jonathan M. (Matt) (MULTI); Wilcox, Richard M. (MULTI)
Subject: LATVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON JOURNALISTIC FREEDOM

ActionAddres: RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4619
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
DateTime: 251406Z FEB 00
Distribution: SIT: BABBITT NSC Davidson FELDMAN GUARNIERI MCLEAN NAPLAN Norland PATTEN SCHWARTZ VACCARO WILCOX
Identifier: M4312191
InfoAddres: RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0604
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN PRIORITY 1793
RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS PRIORITY 1652
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0634
RUEHLN/AMCONSUL ST PETERSBURG PRIORITY 0132
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 1628
RUEHVN/USMISSION USOSCE VIENNA PRIORITY 0348
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHDC PRIORITY
Line1: PAAUZYUW RUEHRAA0735 0561406-UUUU--RHEHAAX.
Line2: ZNR UUUUU ZZH
Line3: P 251406Z FEB 00
Line4: FM AMEMBASSY RIGA
Originator: AMEMBASSY RIGA
Precedence: PRIORITY
Profiles: BABBITTJ
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SCHWARTE
VACCAROJ
WILCOXR
StationRoutingIndicator: RUEHRA
StationSerialNumber: 0735
TimeOfReceipt: 02/25/2000 11:28:41 ET

UNCLAS RIGA 000735

STATE FOR EUR/ADAS ANDRUSYSZYN, EUR/NB, S/NIS
THE WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC NORLAND

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PHUM, LG, RS
SUBJECT: LATVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON
JOURNALISTIC FREEDOM

1. LATVIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER INDULIS BERZINS MADE A
STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 24 IN SUPPORT OF JOURNALISTIC
FREEDOM WORTHY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION. FOLLOWING
IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT AS RELEASED BY THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY'S PRESS OFFICE.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IS
INTIMATELY CONNECTED WITH THE FOUNDATION OF DEMOCRACY.
THE PRESS VOICES PUBLIC CONCERNS AND CONVEYS IDEAS OF THE
STATE ADMINISTRATION TO THE PEOPLE.

3. WHILE CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON PRESS FREEDOM IN CONDITIONS OF WAR MAY BE NECESSARY IF ONLY FOR THE SAKE OF PROTECTING HUMAN LIFE, THE PRINCIPLE THAT THE JOURNALISTS AND CORRESPONDENTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED ACCESS IN ORDER TO MONITOR SITUATIONS WHERE NON-COMBATANTS COULD BE SUFFERING IS AN ESTABLISHED TRADITION IN SOCIETIES STRIVING TO BE OPEN AND DEMOCRATIC.

4. GIVEN THE DETERIORATION OF PRESS FREEDOM EXPERIENCED IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA AND IN CHECHNYA, AND CONTINUED WORRIES OVER THE MISSING JOURNALIST, ANDREI BABITSKY, WE FEEL IT IMPORTANT TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF ENCOURAGING AND FACILITATING THE OPERATIONS OF THE PRESS AND TO AVOID OBSTRUCTING THOSE OPERATIONS.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF LATVIA IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF JOURNALISTS OPERATING IN WAR ZONES. THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF THE POSITION OF GOVERNMENTS; IT IS A MATTER OF PUBLIC ATTITUDES. GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT WANT JOURNALISTS TO BE PRESENT IN CERTAIN PLACES. BUT ESPECIALLY IN WAR SITUATIONS, IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT INDEPENDENT JOURNALISTS, MEDICS, HUMAN RIGHTS WORKERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER OUTSIDE MONITORS BE TREATED FAIRLY AND IN AN EVEN-HANDED MANNER BY THE AUTHORITIES. WHEN THIS IS NOT THE CASE, THE PUBLIC CAN GET THE WRONG MESSAGE.

6. SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF JOURNALISTS MUST COME FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT. LATVIA BELIEVES THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN RECENT CONFLICTS, COULD HAVE DONE MORE. MERE WORDS WILL NOT REVERSE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ANDREI BABITSKY. MERE STATEMENTS CANNOT CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. BUT STATEMENTS CAN RAISE CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONTRIBUTE TO A DIALOGUE. INDEPENDENT REPORTING HAS BEEN ALMOST TOTALLY SILENCED DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFLICT. REPORTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AND SO-CALLED "FILTRATION CENTERS" ARE DEEPLY DISTURBING.

7. THE STORY OF ANDREI BABITSKY IS A PLAIN MESSAGE. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM COULD HAPPEN TO ANY PERSON WHO INVESTIGATES WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING IN CHECHNYA. END TEXT OF STATEMENT.
HOLMES

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2000 1:19 PM
To: Black, Steven K. (VP); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Brzezinski, Mark F. (RUE); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Elkind, Jonathan H. (RUE); Hinckley, Steedman (VP); Massey, Stephen M. (RUE/INTERN); Medish, Mark C. (RUE); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Tedstrom, John E. (RUE); Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LATVIA HITS BACK AT RUSSIA OVER WARCRIMES TRIALS
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BLACK BOLAN BRZEZINSKI DAVIDSON ELKIND HINCKLEY MASSEY MEDISH NORLAND TEDSTROM WEISS YEE
PRT: JACOBSON
Identifier: Rbeaf730
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 03/02/2000 13:19:29 ET

a2808

^BC-CRIME-LATVIA-RUSSIA

^Latvia hits back at Russia over warcrimes trials

RIGA, March 2 (Reuters) - Latvia said on Thursday it was appealing to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) over mounting Russian criticism of its trials of former Soviet officials for war crimes.

Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, speaking at a news conference, also defended the Baltic state's right to try suspects of Soviet-era crimes related to Moscow's repressions.

The appeal, announced in a Latvian foreign ministry statement, came two days after Russia said it had raised concerns with the OSCE over the war crimes trials, which Moscow has said amounted to a rehabilitation of Nazism by Latvia.

Russia then issued a fierce statement on Wednesday saying the trial of former Soviet secret police officer Yevgeny Savenko for genocide and crimes against humanity was in fact part of a political campaign by Latvia "aimed at rehabilitating Nazism and its accomplices."

The Baltic state responded on Thursday with a letter to OSCE foreign ministers over what it called Russia's increase in rhetoric towards Latvia.

"The campaign of spreading deceiving information about events in Latvia started by Russia is in strong contrast with all the positive steps that have been taken (by Latvia)," Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins said in the letter.

The Latvian president told Reuters that since gaining independence (from the Soviet Union in 1991) the Baltic state's criminal code had new provisions for genocide and crimes against humanity.

"These have no statute of limitations so that the age of these subjects does not enter into play and these are not placed under any ideological flag," she said.

Russia's objections raised during a February 24 meeting of the OSCE's permanent council centred on another trial, that of a 77-year-old partisan jailed for killing civilians during the war.

Vasili Kononov was sentenced to six years for killing nine civilians in 1944. At the time, Soviet guerrillas were fighting Nazi German occupation. Many Latvians hated Stalin, who seized their country in 1940, more than Hitler, who invaded in 1941.

Russian Acting President Vladimir Putin has said the jailing violated international law and decisions of the Nuremberg Tribunal that punished Nazi war criminals after World War Two.

Latvia has convicted two ex-KGB officials of genocide and Kononov of war crimes.

However, it has faced criticism for failing to prosecute soldiers who fought on the Nazi side during the war, although it recently agreed to step up its efforts.

RB-- 03/02/00 13:14:11

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: WHSR
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 9:06 AM
To: Black, Steven K. (VP); Bolan, Christopher J. (VP); Brzezinski, Mark F. (RUE); Davidson, Leslie K. (VP); Elkind, Jonathan H. (RUE); Hinckley, Steedman (VP); Massey, Stephen M. (RUE/INTERN); Medish, Mark C. (RUE); Norland, Richard B. (EUR); Tedstrom, John E. (RUE); Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE); Yee, Hoyt B. (EUR)
Subject: LATVIA PROTESTS TO RUSSIA AFTER EMBASSY DAUBED
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Distribution: SIT: BLACK BOLAN BRZEZINSKI DAVIDSON ELKIND HINCKLEY MASSEY MEDISH NORLAND TEDSTROM WEISS YEE
PRT: JACOBSON
Identifier: Rbfc4e40
Originator: Reuters
Precedence: RUSH
TimeOfReceipt: 03/03/2000 09:06:51 ET

a1318

^BC-RUSSIA-LATVIA 1STLD (PICTURE)

^Latvia protests to Russia after embassy daubed
(adds Latvian foreign minister comment, paras 6-7)

MOSCOW, March 3 (Reuters) - Latvia's ambassador to Russia protested to the Russian foreign ministry on Friday after vandals smeared the Baltic state's embassy with paint.

Relations have been strained by Moscow's allegations that Latvia mistreats its large Russian minority. Tensions rose recently after Latvia jailed a World War Two Russian partisan. Latvia rejects Russia's allegations.

"We expressed our incomprehension and protest at what happened and asked that the damage be repaired," Latvian embassy First Secretary Vilmaris Heninsh told Reuters.

The vandals, said by Russian news agencies to be left-wing Russian nationalists, smeared the walls with black paint and broke a window on the second floor of the building.

The embassy has been vandalised before and radical left-wingers often hold small protests in the street outside.

In Riga, Latvian Foreign Minister Indulis Berzins said the incident should not be blown out of proportion.

"It is a very unpleasant incident and the Russian side has expressed its regret over it...Such things can happen anywhere, nobody is guaranteed against it," Berzins said.

However, Berzins said he expected no rapid improvement in Latvia's strained relations with Russia.

Russia this week accused Latvia of helping restore fascism with its prosecution of 77-year-old Vasili Kononov, convicted of killing nine civilians in 1944.

Latvia, under Soviet rule for 50 years before regaining independence in 1991, angrily rebutted Moscow's charge on Thursday and said it had complained to the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

RB-- 03/03/00 08:57:56

Blinken, Antony J.

From: Silski, Andrew L
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 4:13 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.
Subject: FOR Dick Norland (Pickering memo)

Of course, Ross Wilson had some second thoughts. This [hopefully] now is the final version.



AM - P - Max vdS re
OSCE missi...

-----Original Message-----

From: Blinken, Antony J.
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 4:03 PM
To: Silski, Andrew L
Cc: Leader, Damian R.
Subject: RE: FOR Dick Norland (3 memos)

I owe you gentlemen a beer. thanks.

-----Original Message-----

From: Silski, Andrew L
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 2:38 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.
Cc: Leader, Damian R.
Subject: FOR Dick Norland (3 memos)

Attached FYI are the briefing memos to Strobe for his meetings with Latvian FM Berzins and Lithuanian Speaker Landsbergis; I also attached our draft reply for Pickering to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoel re Russian reaction to Baltic and Ukrainian issues.

<< File: AM - P - Max vdS re OSCE missions.doc >> << File: BM - D - Landsbergis.doc >> << File: BM - D - FM Berzins.doc >>

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TO: P - Under Secretary Pickering

FROM: EUR - Marc Grossman
S/NIS - Ross Wilson, Acting

SUBJECT: Reply to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoel's on Russia's
Relations with the Baltics and Ukraine

On February 25 OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Max van der Stoel sent you a letter expressing his concern over the Russian government's increasingly strident rhetoric against what it claims to be "the encouragement of Nazism" in Estonia and Latvia. Van der Stoel reiterated that given these and other circumstances, it remains in Estonia's and Latvia's and the OSCE's interests to maintain the resident OSCE missions. Van der Stoel also expressed concern about the implications of Russia's tougher line toward Ukraine on the rights of "Russian speakers" in that country, which he speculated could be part of a new policy of assertiveness on Russia's part in defending the interests of Russians in the other former Soviet republics.

We suggest that you sign the attached letter that supports van der Stoel's position on the need to maintain an OSCE presence and further outlines what the United States and other "friends of the Balts" intend to do on this issue.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached letter at Tab 1.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:

- Tab 1 - Proposed response
- Tab 2 - Incoming correspondence and FM Ivanov letter

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. van der Stoel,

Thank you for your February 25 letter expressing your concern over the Russian government's increasingly strident rhetoric against what it claims to be "the encouragement of Nazism" in the Baltics. We share those concerns and agree it remains in the interest of Estonia, Latvia, and the OSCE to maintain a continued OSCE presence in Tallinn and Riga.

Near the end of March the United States plans to hold an informal meeting in Tallinn with other "friends of the Balts" as a first step toward two separate goals. First, we want to target more effectively U.S. and Nordic assistance to facilitate and encourage social integration in the Baltics. Secondly, we want to get Nordic and Baltic agreement on how to change the mandates of the OSCE missions, since the situation on the ground has changed since their inception. While we are sensitive to Estonian and Latvian concerns that the missions are an impediment to their accession talks with the European Union, we share your belief that we should keep some sort of OSCE presence for the near-term as a buffer to the Russian criticisms that you encountered and also as insurance that the Governments do not backtrack. As we proceed, we will keep you informed and involved in this process.

Your letter also raised Russian criticism of Ukrainian actions aimed at Russian-speakers. We agree the situation bears watching and may argue for maintaining an OSCE presence there. I would be interested in your views on this. We plan to discuss Russian-Ukrainian relations with Prime Minister Yushchenko during his visit to Washington March 14-16. Our consistent message to the Ukrainians is that progress on democratic and economic reforms will speed Ukraine's western integration and solidify its independence.

During this period of political transition in Russia, it is important to remind the Russian leadership that positive engagement with the Baltics and Ukraine is the best way to resolve outstanding problems. We have an on-going dialogue with the Russian government on this issue. We continue to appreciate your successful efforts.

Sincerely,

Ambassador Thomas R. Pickering

His Excellency

Max van der Stoel,

High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,
The Hague, The Netherlands.

U:\SHARED FOLDERS\Baltics-General\AM - P - Max vdS re OSCE missions
Drafter: EUR/NB:ALSilski, 7-8378, 03/01/2000
Cleared: EUR:DEGraze
EUR/RPM:RKScott
DRL/BA:TJResler
EUR/RUS:KSheehan, MYovanovitch
EUR/WST:ESchultz, MWarlick
S/NIS:JBeyrle, RWilson
P:SNWhite, GPDoty
EUR:WEAndrusyszyn

Blinken, Antony J.

From: Silski, Andrew L
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 2:38 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.
Cc: Leader, Damian R.
Subject: FOR Dick Norland (3 memos)

Attached FYI are the briefing memos to Strobe for his meetings with Latvian FM Berzins and Lithuanian Speaker Landsbergis; I also attached our draft reply for Pickering to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoel re Russian reaction to Baltic and Ukrainian issues.



AM - P - Max vdS re
OSCE missi...



BM - D -
Landsbergis.doc



BM - D - FM
Berzins.doc

ACTION MEMORANDUM

S/S

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TO: P - Under Secretary Pickering

FROM: EUR - Marc Grossman

SUBJECT: Reply to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoel on OSCE Missions
in Estonia and Latvia

On February 25 OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities Max van der Stoel sent you a letter expressing his concern over the Russian government's increasing rhetoric against what it claims to be "the encouragement of Nazism" in Estonia and Latvia. Van der Stoel reiterated that given these and other circumstances, it remains in Estonia and Latvia's (and the OSCE's) interests to maintain the resident missions. Van der Stoel also expressed concern about the implications of Russia's tougher line toward Ukraine on the rights of "Russian speakers" in that country, which he speculated could be part of a new policy of assertiveness on Russia's part in defending the interests of Russians in the other former Soviet republics.

We suggest that you sign the attached letter that supports his position on the need to maintain OSCE missions and further outlines what the United States and other "friends of the Balts" intend to do on this issue. You also may share a copy of the non-paper that the Secretary will hand Russian FM Ivanov March 3 in response to his February 22 letter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached letter at Tab 1.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:

- Tab 1 - Proposed response
- Tab 2 - Incoming correspondence and FM Ivanov letter

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. van der Stoel,

Thank you for your February 25 letter expressing your concern over the Russian government's increasing rhetoric against what it claims to be "the encouragement of Nazism" in the Baltics and its reference to anti-Russian measures in Ukraine. We share those concerns, and for those and other reasons agree that it remains in Estonia, Latvia, and the OSCE's interests to maintain a continued OSCE presence in Tallinn and Riga. We also believe the increasing Russian rhetoric regarding the rights of Russian speakers in Ukraine bears close watching and may present another argument for maintaining an OSCE presence in that country.

Near the end of March the United States plans to hold an informal meeting in Tallinn with other "friends of the Balts" as a first step toward two separate goals. First, we want to target more effectively U.S. and Nordic assistance to facilitate and encourage social integration in the Baltics. Secondly, we want to get Nordic and Baltic agreement on how to change the OSCE missions, since the situation on the ground has changed since the inception of the missions' mandate. While we are sensitive to Estonian and Latvian concerns that the missions are an impediment to their accession talks with the European Union, we share your belief that we should keep some sort of OSCE presence for the near-term as a buffer to the Russian criticisms that you encountered and also as insurance that the Governments do not backtrack. As we proceed, we will keep you informed and involved in this process.

On Ukraine, we plan to discuss Russian-Ukrainian relations with Prime Minister Yushchenko during his visit to Washington March 14-16. Our consistent message to the Ukrainians has been that progress on democratic and economic reforms will speed Ukraine's western integration and solidify its independence.

For your information, I also am forwarding you a copy of a non-paper that Secretary Albright will hand Russian Foreign Minister Ivanov during their March 3 meeting in Moscow, in response to Ivanov's February 22 letter on related subjects. During this period of political transition in Russia, it is important to remind the Russian leadership that positive engagement with the Baltics is the best way to resolve outstanding problems. We continue to appreciate your successful efforts.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Pickering

His Excellency

Max van der Stoel,

High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

The Hague, The Netherlands.

U:\SHARED FOLDERS\Baltics-General\AM - P - Max vdS re OSCE missions
Drafter: EUR/NB:ALSilski, 7-8378, 03/01/2000
Cleared: EUR/NB:DEGraz
EUR/RPM:RKScott
DRL/BA:WBSilverman, TJResler
EUR/RUS:KSheehan, MYovanovitch
EUR/WST:ESchultz, MWarlick
S/NIS:JBeyrle, RWilson
P:SNWhite, GPDoty (info)
EUR:WEAndrusyszyn

Baltic Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals

The U. S. and Russia agree that all countries must vigorously prosecute Nazi war criminals among their citizens regardless of ideology. We have firmly and consistently demanded the prosecution of all kinds of war criminals. The U. S. has repeatedly reminded Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia that the success of their efforts in prosecuting Nazi war criminals will affect their relations with us and the rest of the world.

The Baltic countries are making progress in prosecuting Nazi war criminals. Lithuania has indicted two Nazi war criminals and has gone to extraordinary lengths to overcome judicial hurdles to ongoing prosecutions by enacting legislation that will allow *in absentia* trials.

You raised the case of Vassily Kononov, a Latvian citizen who was recently tried and convicted, according to international norms, of war crimes. We understand that he was found guilty of killing civilians and sentenced to six years imprisonment. The sentence has not been carried out because Mr. Kononov has filed an appeal. The Latvian Government has stated that Mr. Kononov was brought to trial because of war crimes, not anti-fascist activities. We understand that you have raised this case with the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and requested that the resident OSCE Mission in Riga monitor the case. While the current resident OSCE missions in Latvia and Estonia will continue to monitor the Latvian and Estonian Government's implementation of OSCE-consistent legislation and their treatment of resident non-citizens, the United States consequently does not support an expansion of the current mandate.

You also raised the case of Konrads Kalejs. Latvia hosted a February 16-17 multilateral prosecutorial conference on Nazi war crimes to facilitate the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals such as Kalejs and others. We are supporting these efforts. The U. S. Department of Justice has pledged sending resident advisors to expedite the preparation of judicial cases for convictions.

Beyond these individual cases, we believe that positive engagement with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia is the way to resolve outstanding problems in this area. Latvia's decision on February 17 to repeal observance of March 16 as "Latvian Soldiers Memorial Day" was a positive step. As a result of the recent Stockholm Holocaust conference which we supported, Latvia and Lithuania are developing education projects with help from experienced Europeans to re-examine their respective negative roles during the Nazi occupation and Holocaust. This work also is proceeding within the forum of international experts on the respective Presidential Historical Commissions. The U. S. supports the work of these Commissions.

Finally, we note that U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, visited all three countries in January to promote Holocaust education and to demand more attention to the prosecution of Nazi war crimes. U.S. Administration officials make the same points regularly to their Baltic counterparts and insist that the Governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia cannot "play favorites" with regards to the execution of international justice against war criminals without risking their status as respected members of the transatlantic community.

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2000 5:41 PM
To: @BLINKEN; Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE)
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine
Subject: JBS meeting with Latvian FM ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~
Importance: High

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By YOE NARA, Date 09/18/2003
2611-1037-F

Attached for your clearance (tonight if possible) is a briefer for Jim's Monday meeting with Latvian FM Berzins. I've fiddled a bit with State's briefer for Strobe, who also meets with Berzins on Monday. sorry for lateness of this request. I'll be in tomorrow in case you can't do it tonight. thanks.



Berzins.doc

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

S/S

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: EUR - Marc Grossman

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Latvian Foreign Minister
Indulis Berzins (IN-doo-lis BEAR-zinsh)
Monday, March 6; 10:15am
Your office

I. OBJECTIVES

1. Discuss Russian criticism of Latvia, and commend its progress in advancing the social integration of Russian speakers.
2. Reiterate Latvia's need to follow through on Nazi war crime prosecutions and Holocaust education.
3. Praise Latvia's progress towards meeting its Membership Action Plan (MAP) goals, but provide a reality check on what can be accomplished this year on NATO enlargement.

II. APPROACH

FM Berzins will seek your support in dealing with Russia's attacks on Latvia for the conviction of ethnic-Russian Latvian citizen Vasily Kononov for war crimes. Acting President Putin has written to President Vike-Freiberga, and FM Ivanov has written an appeal on behalf of Kononov to EU and COE foreign ministers. These actions give further credence to OSCE HCNM Max van der Stoep's concern, in a February 25 letter to U/S Pickering, over Russia's increasingly strong rhetoric against what it claims to be the "encouragement of Nazism" in the Baltics. Berzins wrote the Secretary March 2 (tab 2) expressing his concerns over the seniority and tone of Russian attacks, and asking for OSCE countries to engage Russia in a "constructive dialogue" on Latvia. UK FM Cook, on Berzins behalf, raised Latvia with FM Ivanov last week. The UK has told us that Ivanov blasted the Latvians as being pro-Nazi.

You should tell Berzins that the U.S. supports the vigorous prosecution of all suspected of war crimes and genocide, regardless of background, but that Latvia needs to be equally zealous in pursuit of accused Nazis. We need to continue to remind the Balts that the success of their efforts in this regard will affect their relations with the U.S. and rest of the world.

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

You can also commend Berzins for the real steps his government has taken to pass and implement OSCE-compliant laws, but that the recent Russian attacks indicate the importance of maintaining an OSCE presence in Tallinn and Riga to protect them from false assertions. Latvia has otherwise taken positive steps on social and historical issues. It has passed a basically OSCE-compliant language and naturalization law, and we currently are funding a \$250,000 Latvian language-training program for Russian speakers.

Latvia hosted a February 16-17 multilateral prosecutorial conference on Nazi war crimes to facilitate prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals, and USDOJ has pledged to send resident advisors to expedite the preparation of judicial cases for convictions. Latvia recently decided to repeal observance of March 16 as "Latvian Soldiers Memorial Day" and is developing education projects with help from experienced Europeans to re-examine their respective negative roles during the Nazi occupation and Holocaust. We also are working with the Latvians, Estonians, and "friends of the Balts" on a strategy to adapt the resident OSCE presence to the improved situation on the ground.

Thanks to an energetic, well-focused Defense Minister, MOD staff, and Chief of Defense, Latvia has become an eager participant in NATO's Membership Action Plan (MAP) process and finally seems to have come up with a constructive review of its preparations for membership and commitment to increasing GDP percentage dedicated to defense. You should ensure that Berzins himself remains focused on meeting Latvia's 2% goal by 2002.

III. PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Deputy Secretary
D staff
EUR DAS Walter Andrusyszyn
EUR/NB Leader (notetaker)

LATVIA

FM Indulis Berzins
MFA Counselor Mark Dayton
MFA #2 PolDir Argita Daudze
MFA America Div.-Klavs Sniedze
Charge Peteris Vinkelis

IV. MEDIA: Official photographers only at top of meeting.

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Talking Points
Tab 2 - Berzins-Secretary Letter
Tab 3 - Biographic sketch

Talking Points

War Crimes, Holocaust Issues

- IF ASKED: Provided non-paper to Russia noting that Kononov found guilty of killing civilians, not of anti-fascist acts, and that all countries must vigorously prosecute all kinds of war crimes.
- We look forward to continued, productive work between your prosecutor's office and the DOJ to expedite the Kalejs case.
- Welcome Latvia's hosting recent international meeting to facilitate prosecution of Nazi criminals, especially Konrads Kalejs. Latvia needs to demonstrate that it is as zealous in pursuit of Nazi-era criminals, like Konrads Kalejs, as those who worked with the Soviets. Bottom line: Latvia must prosecute Nazi war criminals now. Affects Latvia's relations with U.S. and others.
- Rep. Lantos enjoyed recent visit. Must follow through on public comments, many laudable proposed conferences, Riga University's Judaic Studies Center. Historical issues might be most difficult and important to deal with in Latvia's preparations for membership in NATO.
- GOL full funding of Holocaust Commission, engaging experts on commission, and treating issue seriously with focus on specific goals is crucial to Commission's success.
- The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum works with Latvian archives, can work with Commission.
- If GOL works out program details with Vad Yashem, USG will try to help fund public school Holocaust education. Glad GOL has liaison project with the Task Force for this purpose.

Social Integration

- USG plans informal meeting in Tallinn March 30 with Latvia, Nordics. Goals are to target more effectively U.S. and Nordic social integration assistance and to get Nordic and Baltic agreement on how to change the OSCE missions. Situation in Latvia, Estonia changed much since inception of missions.
- Sensitive to concerns that missions are impediment to EU accession talks. However, some sort of OSCE mission for near-term is buffer to Russian criticisms and ensures continued smooth implementation of legislation.

NATO enlargement and MAP

- Admire Latvia's spending resources on defense, and abiding by determination to reach 2% of GDP by 2002. May be difficult; every incremental increase counts.
- Impressed by Latvia's resurgent political commitment, defense planning and capabilities. Latvia on right track for 2002. Can't backtrack on commitments when you've come this far.
- Continue to use your well-written and comprehensive Membership Action Plan (MAP) to prepare for NATO membership.
- Will continue to endorse publicly a vigorous, merit-based "Round 2" for NATO enlargement in 2002, open to all aspirants regardless of potential Russian opposition.
- Unlikely any new Administration will reverse Open Door policy, but Latvia must be realistic about further expectations before U.S. elections.

U:\SHARED FOLDERS\Baltics\Latvia\BM - D - FM Berzins
Drafter: EUR/NB:ALSilski, 7-8378, 02/28/2000
Cleared: EUR:DEGraze, DRLeader
EUR/RUS:KSheehan
EUR/RPM:JLNovak, RKScott
P:SNWhite
PM/PRS:JReside
EUR:WEAndrusyszyn

BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
S/S

DECLASSIFIED
PER E.O. 13526
2016-0314-M-1 (2.17)
6/14/2023 v2

~~SECRET~~

(~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ when separated from attachment)

DECL: 07/01/2002

TO: The Deputy Secretary

FROM: EUR - Marc Grossman

SUBJECT: Your Meeting with Lithuanian Parliamentarians
Vytautas Landsbergis (LAHNS-bear-ghiss), Rimantas Dagys
(dah-GEESE), and Emanuelis Zingeris (ZING-air-iss)
Tuesday, March 7; 2:00pm
Your office

I. OBJECTIVES

1. Praise Lithuania's progress to date on "Membership Action Plan" (MAP) priorities, promoting U.S. investment, allowing in absentia trials for Nazi war criminals, agreeing to close Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, and effecting "good neighbor" policies towards Russia and Belarus.

2. Give Lithuania a "reality check" on the Alliance's enlargement timetable and on what this Administration can accomplish in 2000.

3. Encourage continued efforts to attract U.S. investment.

II. APPROACH

Speaker Landsbergis and his colleagues are in Washington for a dinner at the Capitol, hosted by Speaker Hastert, to commemorate the anniversary of U.S. non-recognition of Lithuania's incorporation into the U.S.S.R.

With GOL fiscal mismanagement compounding the impact of the Russian economic crisis on Lithuania's economy, Landsbergis' Conservative Party is in trouble and the center-left is gaining strength. Many of his MPs are "jumping ship" for a new conservative-centrist party led by former PM Paksas, who resigned in protest over the Williams deal. Although the economy appears to have bottomed out, Landsbergis' authoritarian and controversial leadership has made him the "Newt Gingrich" of Lithuania, and his party likely will be gutted by defections and

~~SECRET~~

Classified by EUR DAS Andruszyn; Reasons 1.5 (B), (D)

routed during the March 19 municipal elections and parliamentary elections in fall. To consolidate his party's position and the otherwise impressive gains made during his tenure as speaker, Landsbergis wants the United States and the Alliance to further demonstrate responsiveness to Lithuania's security needs (i.e., that Lithuania is on a "fast track" for NATO membership in 2002).

This meeting provides an opportunity to thank Landsbergis for his support for the Williams investment, for which he is paying a political price. You will also want to acknowledge Landsbergis' willingness to change laws to facilitate trials of accused Nazi war criminals, and Lithuania's openness to cooperation with its neighbors, including through projects with Kaliningrad and Belarus.

On NATO enlargement, you should reiterate that we will continue to lay down clear public and private markers endorsing a vigorous, merit-based next round for NATO enlargement, which would be open to the Baltic states regardless of potential Russian opposition. Although it is unlikely the next administration will reverse the Open Door policy, Landsbergis needs to be realistic about his expectations. Lithuania also should be encouraged to stay on track for 2002 with further progress on such MAP goals as resolving Holocaust issues and reaching 2% of GDP spending on defense.

III. PARTICIPANTS

U.S.

The Deputy Secretary
D staff
EUR DAS Walter Andrusyszyn
EUR/NB notetaker

LITHUANIA

Speaker Vytautas Landsbergis
Deputy Speaker Rimantas Dagys
MP Emanuelis Zingeris
Amb. Stasys Sakalauskas

IV. MEDIA

Official photographers only at the top of the meeting.

Attachments:

Tab 1 - Talking Points
Tab 2 - Biographic sketches

TALKING POINTS

U.S. Investments

- Congratulations on GOL's agreement with Williams as strategic investor in the Lithuanian energy sector, and with Pennox on investment in Klaipeda steel industry.
- Know how controversial Williams deal became in Lithuania. Fully appreciate GOL's political willpower. Will continue to support Williams in dealing with Lukoil, Russia, and IFIs.
- These investments are good for Lithuania and its security, good for us, and contribute to regional prosperity and integration. Builds closer bilateral economic ties, facilitates transfer of the latest energy technology to Lithuania, strengthens Lithuania's energy independence and financial standing.

EU relations and Ignalina

- Congratulations on beginning accession talks with EU; hope Lithuania concludes WTO negotiations this year.
- Appreciate resolve to close Ignalina One reactor by 2005, which should facilitate accession talks with EU. What is EU doing to help? Will work with DOE Secretary Richardson (just returned from Vilnius energy conference) on what we can do.

NATO enlargement and MAP

- Admire Lithuania's spending resources on defense, and abiding by determination to reach 2% of GDP by 2002. May be difficult; every incremental increase counts.
- Very impressed by Lithuania's political commitment and defense planning and capabilities. Lithuania serious about preparing for NATO membership, and is on right track for 2002. Can't backtrack on commitments when you've come this far.
- Continue to use your well-written and comprehensive Membership Action Plan (MAP) to prepare for NATO membership. Encourage more realistic focus on national defense requirements (e.g. force sustainability, equipment upgrades, conscription).
- Will continue to endorse publicly a vigorous, merit-based "Round 2" for NATO enlargement in 2002, open to all aspirants regardless of potential Russian opposition.

- Unlikely any new Administration will reverse Open Door policy, but Lithuania must be realistic about further expectations before respective fall elections.

Russian relations

- Great work on cultivating excellent relations with Russia and on Kaliningrad assistance, especially during GOL's chairing of CBSS. This increases regional stability.
- USG funding several GOL initiatives under NEI (e.g., business/public administration training, AIDS education). GOL funding for treatment of Russian casualties in Chechnya **smart** political move for several reasons.
- Your views on Russian elections, Baltic policy? Welcome Russian Amb. Zubakov's statements that NATO accession is internal Lithuanian policy. Moscow has no veto over Lithuanian accession to CFE or NATO.

War Crimes/Holocaust Issues

- Perception of Lithuania as democracy and NATO candidate will be affected in part by how Lithuania deals with past, prosecutes Nazi war criminals. MAP also includes social issues (addressing war crimes legacy).
- President Adamkus' historical commission to examine war crimes legacy goes long way towards helping heal old wounds. Please work with Vad Yashem, others to ensure it functions effectively and gains full support of Israel and American Jewish lobbies. What is its status?
- Recognize that GOL is doing what it can to bring accused Nazi war criminals to justice, but disappointed that none yet have been brought to trial. Congratulations on passing legislation enabling accused war criminals to be tried in absentia. Hope that GOL soon will be able to prosecute a case fully.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

- 5 -

U:\SHARED FOLDERS\Baltics\Lithuania\BM - D - Landsbergis

Drafter: EUR/NB:ALSilski, 7-8378, 02/29/2000

Cleared: EUR:WEAndrusyszyn

EUR/NB:DEGraze, DRLeader

EUR/RUS:KSheehan

EUR/RPM:JLNovak

P:SNWhite

PA/PRS:JReside

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Blinken, Antony J.

From: Silski, Andrew L
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2000 4:23 PM
To: Blinken, Antony J.
Subject: for DICK NORLAND (Albright-Ivanov nonpaper)

Attached is our non-paper (everyone else but EUR/RPM has cleared this).

Regards, Andrew Silski, 647-8378



S nonpaper to Ivanov
re Konono...

Baltic Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals

The U. S. and Russia agree that all countries must vigorously prosecute Nazi war criminals among their citizens regardless of ideology. We have firmly and consistently demanded the prosecution of all kinds of war criminals. The U. S. has repeatedly reminded Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia that the success of their efforts in prosecuting Nazi war criminals will affect their relations with us and the rest of the world.

The Baltic countries are making progress in prosecuting Nazi war criminals. Lithuania has indicted two Nazi war criminals and has gone to extraordinary lengths to overcome judicial hurdles to ongoing prosecutions by enacting legislation that will allow *in absentia* trials.

You raised the case of Vassily Kononov, a Latvian citizen who was recently tried and convicted, according to international norms, of war crimes. We understand that he was found guilty of killing civilians and sentenced to six years imprisonment. The sentence has not been carried out because Mr. Kononov has filed an appeal. The Latvian Government has stated that Mr. Kononov was brought to trial because of war crimes, not anti-fascist activities. We understand that you have raised this case with the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna and requested that the resident OSCE Mission in Riga monitor the case. While the current resident OSCE missions in Latvia and Estonia will continue to monitor the Latvian and Estonian Government's implementation of OSCE-consistent legislation and their treatment of resident non-citizens, the United States consequently does not support an expansion of the current mandate.

You also raised the case of Konrads Kalejs. Latvia hosted a February 16-17 multilateral prosecutorial conference on Nazi war crimes to facilitate the prosecution of suspected Nazi war criminals such as Kalejs and others. We are supporting these efforts. The U. S. Department of Justice has pledged sending resident advisors to expedite the preparation of judicial cases for convictions.

Beyond these individual cases, we believe that positive engagement with Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia is the way to resolve outstanding problems in this area. Latvia's decision on February 17 to repeal observance of March 16 as "Latvian Soldiers Memorial Day" was a positive step. As a result of the recent Stockholm Holocaust conference which we supported, Latvia and Lithuania are developing education projects with help from experienced Europeans to re-examine their respective negative roles during the Nazi occupation and Holocaust. This work also is proceeding within the forum of international experts on the respective Presidential Historical Commissions. The U. S. supports the work of these Commissions.

Finally, we note that U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, a Holocaust survivor, visited all three countries in January to promote Holocaust education and to demand more attention to the prosecution of Nazi war crimes. U.S. Administration officials make the same points regularly to their Baltic counterparts and insist that the Governments of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia cannot "play favorites" with regards to the execution of international justice against war criminals without risking their status as respected members of the transatlantic community.

U:\SHARED FOLDERS\Baltics\Latvia\S nonpaper to Ivanov re Kononov

• Drafter: EUR/NB:ALSilski

Cleared: EUR:DEGraze - OK
EUR/RPM:AFeatherstone

OK DRL/BA:TJResler

OK EUR/RUS:DRussell

S/NIS:JBeyrle

rec'd 2/22/00

John Beyrle

cy: MM

Dick Norland

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 11

To	WEISS	From	Beyrle
Dept./Agency	NSC	Phone #	1047 3114
Fax #		Fax #	647 2699
NSN 7540-01-317-7388		5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

Unofficial translation

Dear Madeleine,

Extremely alarming news is coming today from the Baltic states. A few months before all civilized mankind is going to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the end of World War II which, in the true sense of the word, has devastated our continent and claimed millions of human lives, the boom of the fascists' drums is heard more distinctly in Europe. In the Baltic states one is launching a full-blown campaign of persecution of war-veterans who fought against nazism.

Recently V.M.Kononov, a former war partisan, was sentenced to 6 years of imprisonment. He was charged with leading a retaliation operation against Hitler's accomplices during World War II. We also learned that Latvia's Procurator's Office is working on approximately another 150 cases of Soviet patriots who fought against fascism.

Similar «witch-hunt» is being launched in Estonia and Lithuania. At the same time these countries reluctantly, if not to say - with open unwillingness, undertake to investigate the cases of Nazi criminals hiding from justice. Thus, for example, Latvian authorities are in no hurry to take legal action against K.Kaleis, Australian resident, who is former officer of Arais's zondercommand, which slaughtered thousands of people in Latvia and a number of other countries. Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga, explaining indistinctly the reasons of such sluggishness, went so far as to say that there was no reason for concern and that, she said, there was a kind of a «highest court» which would give Kaleis and alike their dues if they were guilty of something.

Really, one starts wondering why the leaders of anti-Hitlerite coalition created the Nuremberg tribunal?! Why punish people in this world for genocide and crimes against humanity?

We would like to get an answer to the question why the United States keep silent while leaders of the Baltic countries jeer at memories of millions of fascism victims, trying «on the sly» to revise the results of World War II. Is it not obvious that we have a kind of a Baltic anti-Nuremberg on our hands?! Is it possible that among extremely important business of organizing different seminars, symposiums and conferences on such issues of vital importance as feminism, gender factor, giving equal rights to sexual minorities, our European partners do not have time (or wish?) to see how the «brown plague» is spreading around the continent and how the sprouts of revanchism are shooting from the Baltic states?!

It is my hope that your country will properly respond to this dangerous development. For my part, I am ready to discuss all possible joint measures to neutralize the growing threat of revival of fascism and revanchism in Europe.

I would be grateful for your opinion on the essence of the raised issues.

Sincerely,

I.Ivanov

Clinton Presidential Records

Foreign Language Marker

This is not a presidential record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff to identify the location of a document written in a foreign language

Foreign Language Marker

Collection: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup: National Security Council

Series: European Affairs

Subseries: Norland, Richard

Document Title I. Ivanov to Madeleine Albright

Language: Russian

Folder Title Latvia [2]

OA/ID: 2630

Norland, Richard B. (EUR)

From: Weiss, Andrew S. (RUE)
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2000 8:56 AM
To: Norland, Richard B. (EUR)
Cc: @RUSSIA - Russia/Ukraine; @EUROPE - European Affairs
Subject: Russia-Latvia [UNCLASSIFIED]

Dick:

Don't know facts of case but below Russian statement is in the flagrant foul category on terminology grounds alone (Latvians rehabilitating Nazism!*\$*(\$?). Need your sense of whether Latvians' handling of the case has been adequate. Am also querying State on how they would like to respond. Assume press guidance (and perhaps a planted question at State briefing?) and a demarche are in order. Agree?

Moscow Blasts Trial of Russian Veteran in Latvia[0]

CEP20000301000074 Moscow Interfax in English 1101 GMT 1 Mar 00

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

MOSCOW. March 1 (Interfax) - The Russian Foreign Ministry has sharply criticized the trial of Yevgeny Savenko, an 86-year old Russian citizen. The hearing began in Latvia[0] on February 28.

"Once again, a World War veteran, an old and ill man, a second- degree handicapped person is facing a court. He is charged with crimes against humanity and genocide," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement released on Wednesday.

The court views Savenko's "participation in the post-war investigations into people who served the Nazi occupation regime," as a criminal activity, the document reads.

"The Latvian authorities are persistent in unleashing a political campaign aimed at rehabilitating Nazism[0] and its collaborators. They draw hatred and animosity toward the people who sacrificed their lives and health to liberate Latvia[0] from fascist occupation," he said.

Russia is aware that the Latvian Prosecutor General's Office intends "to launch 150 more cases against former resistance members."

The international community should properly assess "these attempts which are revising the results of World War II. Open abuse of elderly and ill people who defended the world against [fascism] should be prevented," the statement reads.

[Description of Source: Non-government information agency known for its aggressive reporting, extensive



International Security Affairs

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Office of European Policy
2400 Defense Pentagon, Room 4D762
Washington, DC 20301
Tel 703-695-6538 / Fax 703-695-6506

Fax Cover Sheet

To: <u>Dick Norland</u>	From: <u>Jane Miller-Floyd</u>
Fax: <u>202-456-9150</u>	Phone: <u>703-697-2469</u>

Date: <u>17 Mar 00</u>	Number of pages (incl. cover): <u>4</u>
------------------------	---

Comments:

Dick,

Just to formalize the invitation to

join us for dinner and The BWG.

Here's the details on dinner, our schedule/agenda,

and the delegation list.

The BWG is at Embassy Suites / Crystal

City.

Please let me know which, if any, of

these events you plan to attend.

Jane

U.S. – Latvian Bilateral Working Group
March 20-21, 2000 Washington, DC
Agenda/Schedule

Monday, March 20, 2000

Latvian delegation transfers to hotel (many arrive over weekend)
Dinner at Portofino Restaurant (Arlington), U.S. Host

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

0900-0915: Welcome and opening remarks (heads of delegations)
0915-1030: NATO: Enlargement and Tools to Get There
U.S.: commitment to open door and hopes for MAP process
Latvia: progress on the MAP, NATO 19+1 discussion (25 Feb), PARP
PGs, PARP assessment team
1030-1045: Coffee Break
1045-1200: Defense Reform
Latvia: progress in implementing recommendations of OSD/EUCOM
defense assessments, focusing on PPBS (including economic outlook),
force structure, personnel system/structure, officer and NCO training,
C4I, and logistics
1230-1400: Lunch, U.S. host
1400-1515: Russia and Baltic regional stability
Latvia: regional projects and their relationship to national defense plans;
progress/efforts to integrate Russian-speaking residents
U.S.: NATO and bilateral engagement
1515-1530: Coffee Break
1530-1630: U.S. Security Cooperation
U.S.: security assistance program/EUCOM Engagement Action Items
(including JCTP)/National Guard State Partnership Program
Latvia: priorities for assistance and the ties to Defense Reform/MAP/
PARP goals
1630-1700 Concluding comments/next steps/wrapup

Dinner, hosted by COL Matiss at Sam & Harry's

March 22, 2000

PM Delegation departs, transport provided to airport

*On the occasion of the
U.S.-Latvia Bilateral Working Group*

*The Principal Director for European and NATO Affairs
Major General Joseph G. Garrett, III, USA
requests the pleasure of your company for dinner
on Monday, the twentieth of March, 2000
at seven o'clock p.m.*

*The Portofino Restaurant
526 South 23rd Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202*

*Direction: Crystal City Vicinity, Exit 23rd Street, Off Route 1
(703)979-8200*

*Dress: Civilian Informal
RSVP (703)695-6538*

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
026. list	Delegation List for U.S.-Latvia Bilateral Working Group [partial] [10 U.S.C. 424] (1 page)	03/17/2000	P3/b(3)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
European Affairs (Norland, Richard)
OA/Box Number: 2630

FOLDER TITLE:

Latvia [2]

2011-1037-F
ke2189

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).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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]

Delegation List

U.S. Delegation

MG Joseph G. Garrett III, Principal Director, European and NATO Policy,

OUSDP, Head of Delegation

CAPT Joseph Benkert, Acting Director, European Policy, OUSDP/ISA

Ms. Jane Miller Floyd, Country Director, ISA/EUR

(b)(3)

[026]

Ms. Maggie Smith, Desk Officer, DSCA

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Mr. John McGuinness, NATO Policy, OUSDP/ISA/NATO

COL Kevin Ryan, Desk Officer, RUE, OUSDP/S&TR

LTC Walt Lord, National Guard Bureau

Mr. Richard Norland, National Security Council

Amb. James Holmes, U.S. Ambassador to Latvia

Mr. Damian Leader, Deputy Director, Nordic/Baltics, DOS

Mr. Andrew Silski, Desk Officer, EUR/NB, DOS

Major Carl Knotts, Desk Officer, J-5

LTC Jeffrey Seng, Defense Attache, U.S. Embassy Riga

LTC Victor Bunde, Security Assistance Officer, U.S. Embassy Riga

Latvian Delegation

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Mr. Ilmars Krasts, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of Defense

Mr. Ivars Pundurs, Deputy State Secretary, Head of Security and International Affairs Branch, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Andzejs Vilumsons, Head of NATO Division, Security Policy Dept, MFA

Mr. Janis Karlsbergs, Head of Multilateral Relations Division, International Relations Department, MOD

Ms. Gita Leitlande, Head of NATO Integration Division, Plans and NATO Integration Department, MOD

Mrs. Ieva Pupola, Senior Desk Officer, Bilateral Relations Division, International Relations Department, MOD

COL Abols, Strategic Planning Department (J-5), National Armed Forces Staff

LTC Janis Hofmanis, Chief of Communications and Informatics Department (J-6), National Armed Forces Staff

Edgars Rinkevics, Student, ICAF (State Secretary)

Mr. Peters Vinkelis, Charge d'affaires, Latvian Embassy, Washington, DC

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Mr. John Eichmanis, Pol/Mil Counselor, Latvian Embassy, Washington

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^Latvian Waffen SS veterans to march on Thursday

By Burton Frierson

RIGA, March 15 (Reuters) - Valentins Silamikelis took an enormous risk to avoid being drafted into the German army that was occupying his native Latvia during World War Two -- until the hated Red army came to town.

"My teacher gave me an address of a doctor who gave me a false report that I had tuberculosis, and with this I escaped for more than one year," said Silamikelis, who is now 76.

"But when the Russians came here...I did not try to escape mobilisation anymore."

Silamikelis and several hundred of his fellow Latvian Waffen SS veterans will walk through the centre of Riga on Thursday in an annual procession that has upset Jewish groups and been blasted as glorifying defenders of the Third Reich.

The Latvian Legion's march has also tarnished the image of Latvia, whose leaders have been eager to advertise democratic and economic achievements to aid the country's bids to join Western organisations such as the European Union (EU) and NATO.

It has also been criticised by neighbouring Russia, which lost millions during World War Two and has accused Latvia of trying to rehabilitate Nazism by trying a former Soviet security official for genocide and crimes against humanity.

"It has of course damaged the image of Latvia in the past. That is without question," said one EU diplomat.

"It's part of this nation's history...but it can't be part of modern Latvia and the Latvia of the future," he said.

WAFFEN VETERANS SAY MISUNDERSTOOD

For their part, the veterans say they have been misrepresented as ageing Nazis nostalgic for the days of Hitler.

They say they were drafted illegally by the Nazis and fought only to avoid another invasion -- by the Soviets, who killed and deported thousands to labour camps in Siberia during a 1940-41 occupation that Latvians refer to as the Year of Horror.

Latvia regained independence from Moscow in 1991 after five decades of Soviet and German occupation.

After World War Two the allies recognised that the Nazi conscription of Latvians was illegal, saying their service should not block immigration for the thousands in refugee camps.

The veterans also say that after centuries of rule by German barons, few Latvians felt any fondness for them during World War Two. They also point out that thousands of military-age men who managed to avoid the Germans were forced into the Soviet army.

"We were fighting in hated uniforms," said Silamikelis.

"None of us were fighting under the right flag, but all of our enemies were the right ones," he added.

WAFFEN GATHERING STILL UNSETTLING

Latvian officials have tried to distance themselves from the Latvian Legion event by ending the celebration of March 16 as a national day of remembrance for Latvian soldiers.

But Jewish groups still find the idea of former Waffen SS

soldiers holding a public event unsettling.

“It's clear the people who are marching just don't get it. They don't understand that people who were willing to fight alongside the Waffen SS are hardly heroes,” said Effraim Zuroff, head of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Jerusalem office.

Ninety five percent of Latvia's 70,000 pre-war Jewish population was murdered during the German occupation, sometimes with local collaboration.

After international allegations of foot-dragging, Latvian prosecutors have stepped up efforts to investigate Latvian-born Konrad Kalejs, whom Nazi hunters accuse of aiding Germany's World War Two slaughter of Jews.

But Silamikelis said the Latvian Waffen SS soldiers should not be confused with the black-uniformed SS of concentration camps or with the Latvian Arajs hit squad that helped kill Jews.

“We called them rats in the rear,” said Silamikelis referring to the Arajs squads. “About Kalejs, if he is guilty of what they say he is, he should shoot himself.”

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