

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. letter	<del>President Meri to President Clinton re: United States and Estonia</del> (2 pages)	07/04/1995	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 WHORM Subject File-General  
 CO056  
 OA/Box Number: 21711

**FOLDER TITLE:**

122617

2007-1804-F  
jm252

**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]



*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, July 4, 1995

*Dear Mr. President:*

On the occasion of Your Independence Day, I take great pleasure in extending to You and to all the people of the United States of America my most heartfelt congratulations.

We here in Estonia look to the United States as a partner and leader in the world community. We watch closely what happens in Your country, as America plays an important role in forging the world's political and economic agenda. For over two hundred years now, the United States has uniquely averted tyranny and despotism. This is a wonderful commentary on the attitudes and perseverance of Your people and a steady reminder of America's dedication to democracy. Estonia's gallant war against the Red Army invasion in 1918-1920 was inspired by President Wilson's ideas on self-determination. In a way, our Independence is a child of Jefferson's and Washington's visions.

I avail of myself of this opportunity to offer to You my best wishes for Your personal health and happiness and to the people of the United States my hope for continued prosperity and progress. I am confident that the friendship ties

The Honourable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
Washington, D. C.

Photocopy Misc. Handwriting

..12

that exist between the people of the United States and Estonia will be developed and based on Estonia's membership in NATO and in the European Union, thus guaranteeing a close co-operation of our nations both on bilateral relations, as well as through international organisations.

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001- letter	President Meri to President Clinton re: Independence (1 page)	07/04/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 9/17/2022

### COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records  
WHORM Subject File-General  
CO056  
OA/Box Number: 21711

### FOLDER TITLE:

270859

2007-1804-F  
jm253

### 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]
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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]
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152



*President  
Republic of Estonia*

#270859

Kadriorg, July 4, 1998

*Dear Bill,*

On behalf of the people of Estonia and on my own, I have the pleasure to extend to you and to the people of United States our warmest felicitations on the occasion of the Day of the Proclamation of Independence of the United States of America.

More than once have the United States manifested its supportive attitude towards Estonia's aspirations to integrate into European structure of co-operation and security, for which we are deeply grateful.

I am also confident that the ties between our countries are growing stronger in our mutual desire to expand NATO and forge a Trans-Atlantic community in order to ensure security and the rule of law for all its members.

Allow me to congratulate your country and you personally and to thank you for your commitment to the creation of stability in the world.

Please accept my best wishes for your personal well being and for the happiness of your people.

*Sincerely Yours,  
Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President

Paper Copy Generated by  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY  
NLWIC Staff

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/28/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022
<del>001b.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/28/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓
<del>001c.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/06/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓
<del>001d.</del> note	<del>re: Baltic states (1 page)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓
<del>001e.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/28/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓
<del>001f.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/28/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓
<del>001g.</del> letter	<del>President Clinton to President Meri re: Gift (1 page)</del>	<del>10/06/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 WHORM Subject File-General  
 GI002  
 OA/Box Number: 10781

**FOLDER TITLE:**

043500

2007-1804-F  
 jm254

**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]
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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)]**

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

jc

043500

GI 002

October 28, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the exquisite amber stone. I appreciate being remembered with such a special gift.

It was a pleasure to meet you in New York and discuss many important issues. The United States will continue to support the speedy withdrawal of Russian troops from the Estonian territory on mutually acceptable terms. I also want to reaffirm our support and enthusiasm for the establishment of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund, which will usher in a new era in cooperative relations between our countries.

I hope your visit to the United States was enjoyable and productive.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON A

His Excellency  
Lennart Meri  
Chairman of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Estonia  
Tallinn  
BC/EKS/TF/bws (Corres. #1053092)

93 1029

cc: White House Gifts

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH through John Podesta

CLEAR THRU JOHN PODESTA  
CLEAR THRU ITOH

~~RESIDENT TO SIGN~~

~~DISPATCH THRU STATE DEPARTMENT~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

October 28, 1993

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I hope your visit to the United States was enjoyable and productive.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Lennart Meri  
Chairman of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Estonia  
Tallinn  
BC/EKS/TF/bws (Corres. #1053092)

cc: White House Gifts

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH  
through John Podesta

CLEAR THRU JOHN PODESTA  
CLEAR THRU ITOH

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

DISPATCH THRU STATE DEPARTMENT

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GIFT UNIT-DRAFT OF BC LETTER

INITIALS: BC / eks /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /gifts/draft/lennart.meri.eks

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Oct 06 1993 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 1053092

CLEAR WITH: ITOH

WHCC:

CC: WH Gifts

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:  
His Excellency Lennart Meri  
Chairman of the Supreme Council  
Of the Republic of Estonia  
Tallinn

ENCLOSURES AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:  
DISPATCH THROUGH STATE DEPARTMENT

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the exquisite amber stone. I appreciate being remembered with such a special gift.

It was an <sup>pleasure</sup> ~~an honor to have the opportunity~~ to meet you <sup>in New York</sup> and discuss ~~many~~ <sup>will continue to support the</sup> important issues. The United States ~~recognizes the importance of~~ <sup>Estonian territory on</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>speedy</sup> withdrawal of ~~the~~ Russian troops from the Baltic States, ~~to your~~ <sup>mutually acceptable terms,</sup> ~~country's success.~~ I also wanted to reaffirm our support and enthusiasm for the establishment ~~and future~~ of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund, <sup>which will usher in a new era in</sup> ~~cooperative relations between our countries.~~

I hope your visit to the United States was ~~an~~ enjoyable and productive ~~one.~~

Sincerely,

per Andrew Filthi at State Dept.  
(647-3187) :

- this was the President's first  
meeting with these 3 leaders

- they discussed the U.S.'s  
support for getting Russian  
troops in Baltic out,

also

- support for already <sup>agreed upon</sup> ~~established~~  
of Baltic-American Enterprise  
Fund. (President very enthusiastic  
about idea.)

October 28, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your gracious gift of the amber stone. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

I deeply valued the opportunity to meet you and discuss issues of importance to our two countries. In this context, the initiation of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund is a very promising development. Its formation and success will lead our countries to a new era of cooperative relations.

Sincerely,

BILL CLINTON A

93 1029

His Excellency  
Algirdas Brazauskas  
President of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Lithuania  
Vilnius

BC/EKS/TF/bws (Corres. #1053570)

cc: White House Gifts

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH  
through John Podesta

CLEAR THRU JOHN PODESTA  
CLEAR WITH ITOH

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

DISPATCH THRU STATE DEPARTMENT

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

October 28, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

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I deeply valued the opportunity to meet you and discuss issues of importance to our two countries. In this context, the initiation of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund is a very promising development. Its formation and success will lead our countries to a new era of cooperative relations.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Algirdas Brazauskas  
President of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Lithuania  
Vilnius

BC/EKS/TF/bws (Corres. #1053570)

cc: White House Gifts

Xeroxed copy of personally signed original to NH  
through John Podesta

CLEAR THRU JOHN PODESTA  
CLEAR WITH ITOH

PRESIDENT TO SIGN

DISPATCH THRU STATE DEPARTMENT

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GIFT UNIT-DRAFT OF BC LETTER

TK

INITIALS: BC / eks /

DOCUMENT TITLE: /gifts/draft/brazauskas.algirdas.eks

DRAFT DATE / LETTER DATE: Oct 06 1993 /

CORRESPONDENCE #: 1053570

CLEAR WITH: *ITOH*

WHCC:

CC: WH Gifts

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESSED TO:  
His Excellency/Algirdas Brazauskas  
President of the Supreme Council  
of the Republic of Lithuania  
Vilnius

ENCLOSURES AND SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:  
Dispatch through State Department

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your gracious gift of the amber stone. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

*of importance to our two countries. In this context,*  
I deeply valued the opportunity to meet you and discuss ~~many important~~  
issues, and concerns. I understand the importance of the withdrawal  
~~of the Russian troops from the Baltic States. This issue is of great~~  
~~concern to the United States.~~

*The* initiation of the Baltic-American Enterprise Fund is <sup>a</sup> very  
*development.* promising. Its formation and success will lead our countries to a new  
era of cooperative relations.

Sincerely,



OCT 27 1993

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001- letter	President Meri to President Clinton re: Independence (2 pages)	07/04/1995	P1/b(1) ✓ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 WHORM Subject File-General  
 HO027-01  
 OA/Box Number: 23333

**FOLDER TITLE:**

123122

2007-1804-F  
jm255

**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]
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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)]

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#123122

NSC



*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg, Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, July 4, 1995

*Dear Mr. President:*

On the occasion of Your Independence Day, I take great pleasure in extending to You and to all the people of the United States of America my most heartfelt congratulations.

We here in Estonia look to the United States as a partner and leader in the world community. We watch closely what happens in Your country, as America plays an important role in forging the world's political and economic agenda. For over two hundred years now, the United States has uniquely averted tyranny and despotism. This is a wonderful commentary on the attitudes and perseverance of Your people and a steady reminder of America's dedication to democracy. Estonia's gallant war against the Red Army invasion in 1918-1920 was inspired by President Wilson's ideas on self-determination. In a way, our Independence is a child of Jefferson's and Washington's visions.

I avail of myself of this opportunity to offer to You my best wishes for Your personal health and happiness and to the people of the United States my hope for continued prosperity and progress. I am confident that the friendship ties

The Honourable William Jefferson Clinton  
President of the United States of America  
Washington, D. C.

..12

that exist between the people of the United States and Estonia will be developed and based on Estonia's membership in NATO and in the European Union, thus guaranteeing a close co-operation of our nations both on bilateral relations, as well as through international organisations.

Sincerely,  
Sirs,

*Lennart Meri*

*His Excellency*

**Lennart Meri**

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001- letter	President Meri to President Clinton re: Birthday (1 page)	08/19/1996	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VL 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 WHORM Subject File-General  
 PP010-01  
 OA/Box Number: 13983

**FOLDER TITLE:**

189069 [Meri]

2007-1804-F  
jm256

### RESTRICTION CODES

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

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, 19. August, 1996

*Dear Bill,*

It gives me great pleasure to send my sincere greetings on your golden jubilee day. The candid closeness of our last meeting as well as the recent visit by Hillary who captivated all Estonia are such vivid memories that I have a feeling of stretching out my hand to shake yours next door.

My memories of my own 50th birthday - which I spent in the U.S. - are reasonably fresh to remember the feeling of equilibrium when you already have plenty of experience and so much is still in store.

The past four years of your life have contributed to shaping a most interesting and promising period in world history since WWII. However, the world is not complete yet. Democratization must go on, NATO as the defender of democratic processes needs an injection of new strength and fresh blood. I know the US has the full sense of the magnitude and responsibility of its role as world leader. I have not the slightest doubt that your future lifework will be carried by this responsibility. The very best of luck to you for that!

Yours sincerely,

Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a. form</del>	<del>Department of State transmittal form (1 page)</del>	<del>10/28/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022
<del>001b. letter</del>	<del>Letter from President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)</del>	<del>09/22/1993</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 167

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9307910

2007-1804-F  
 bm183

### 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]
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Classification

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

7910

TRANSMITTAL FORM

S/S 9324642

Date 28 October 1993

FOR: Mr. William Itoh  
Executive Secretary  
National Security Council Staff  
The White House

REFERENCE:

To: The President  
From: Estonian President Lennart Meri  
Date: September 22, 1993  
Subj: U.S. - Estonian media cooperation

WH Referral Dated: 25 October 1993  
NSCS ID# (if any): 9307910

       The attached item was sent directly to the Department of State.

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached.
- A draft reply will be forwarded.
- A translation is attached.
- An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
- X   We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below.
- The Department of State has no objection to the proposed travel.
- Other (see remarks).

REMARKS: Meri's letter merely advocates our support and does not request a response or any specific action on our part.

*Ronald A. Weist*  
Director  
Secretariat Staff

CLINTON ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TOCOTOPY  
Decl: OADR

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS  
Initials: VZ Date: 4/27/2017



7910

*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, September 22, 1993

Dear Mr. President:

As I mentioned in my last letter, Estonians have always looked to America as both a model of how a free society should operate and a major source of help for those of seeking to restore our freedom after long years of communist occupation. Because of this bitter experience, we know that a free media is an essential element in the construction of a free society – and that television is increasingly important in that regard. Consequently, I was extremely pleased to learn of a new initiative that your administration is considering and I am writing you to urge you to approve it.

Last week, Robert Coonrod, the executive vice president of your Corporation for Public Broadcasting and Piret Allas of the U.S. – Baltic Foundation, visited me in Tallinn. Mr. Coonrod told me about the proposed mandate of his organisation's International TV Council, including plans to facilitate cooperative arrangements between your public television system and the electronic media in our country. As the outlined the proposed effort to me, such cooperative ventures could include co – productions, assistance to Estonian productions, and help with

The President  
United States of America  
Washington D.C.

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distribution. I was especially interested in his ideas on the development of meaningful programs for the Russian – speaking community in Estonia.

Knowing of your longstanding support for both public broadcasting in the United States and our efforts to recover the freedom that was taken from us, I very much hope that you will back this important endeavour.

Sincerely,



Lennart Meri

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. coversheet	NSC cover sheet (2 pages)	12/22/1993	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
001b. cable	re: Letter from President Clinton to President Meri (2 pages) Partial Release	12/23/1993	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001c. cable	re: Letter from President Clinton to President Ulmanis (2 pages) Partial Release	12/23/1993	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001d. memo	re: Balties (2 pages)	12/22/1993	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
001e. letter	From President Clinton to President Ulmanis [partial] (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001f. letter	From President Clinton to President Meri [partial] (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 178

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9309975

2007-1804-F  
 bm184

**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]

TO: MERI, LENNART  
ULMANIS, GUNTIS

FROM: PRESIDENT

DOC DATE: 23 DEC 93  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BALTIC STATES  
MILITARY POSTURE

RUSSIA  
HS

PERSONS: ULMANIS, GUNTIS

MERI, LENNART

SUBJECT: PRES MSGS TO PRES OF ESTONIA & LATVIA RE RUSSIAN TROOP W/DRAWAL

ACTION: PRESIDENT APPROVED CABLES

DUE DATE: 25 DEC 93 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: BEYRLE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

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

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

BEYRLE  
BURNS  
NSC CHRON

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSJEB CLOSED BY: NSMEM DOC 2 OF 2

~~SECRET~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPIED

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526  
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017  
By: [Signature] NARA, Date: 4/26/2022  
2014-0636-11

ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 LAKE  
001  
002

Z 93122220 FOR DECISION  
X 93122710 LAKE APPROVED RECOM  
X 93122710 PRESIDENT APPROVED CABLES

DISPATCH DATA SUMMARY REPORT

DOC DATE

DISPATCH FOR ACTION

DISPATCH FOR INFO

002 931223 MERI, LENNART  
002 931223 ULMANIS, GUNTIS

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

9975

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

December 22, 1993

Natl Sec Advisor  
has seen

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: NICHOLAS BURNS *for NB*  
FROM: JOHN BEYRLE *JB*  
SUBJECT: Russian Troop Withdrawals from the Baltics:  
Steps to Energize the Process

As we have discussed, we see the upcoming weeks before the Moscow Summit as an opportunity to try to push the Russians, Estonians, and Latvians to resolve their few remaining differences and reach final agreement on the pullout of Russian troops. This kind of concrete progress in our foreign policy dialogue with Russia will help to allay charges that we are unconcerned by a perceived Russian aggressiveness in the Near Abroad. The first step in this process was made this morning by the President, when he raised the Baltics as one of the foreign policy areas in which we would like to see progress made by the summit. We propose to follow up with the following actions:

- with the Baltic States: Presidential messages to the Presidents of Estonia and Latvia (Tabs I and II), informing them of the phone call to Yeltsin and urging them to seize this chance to try to close the deal;
- with Moscow: 1) instructions to Ambassador Pickering to elaborate on the President's message to Yeltsin on the Baltics, while working out details of 2) the visit to Moscow next week of Strobe's deputy Jim Collins to discuss the Baltics and other regional issues with the Foreign Ministry (Yeltsin gave the go-ahead for this trip in the phone call);
- with Sweden, Germany, and Finland: approaches by our Embassies in the capitals of these three countries, laying out our strategy and seeking to enlist their aid through demarches to the Balts to reinforce the core message. The Swedes, Finns, and Germans have special influence on this issue with the Latvians and Estonians, who we believe will need some extra persuasion to overcome political and psychological barriers to a final compromise with the Russians on this highly-charged issue. Swedish Prime Minister Bildt has told us he will weigh in strongly to push the Balts. He has agreed to do this in concert with our own efforts.

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPIED

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

PER E.O. 13526

102 2014-0656-M (1.07)

4/24/2022

~~SECRET~~

2

~~SECRET~~

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the attached messages to Presidents Meri and  
Ulmanis.

Approve   *R*   Disapprove       

Attachments

Tab I      Message to Latvian President Ulmanis  
Tab II     Message to Estonian President Meri

~~SECRET~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY  
~~SECRET~~

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. memo	For Anthony Lake from John Beyrle re: Presidential Messages to the President of Estonia and Lithuania (1 page)	06/13/1994	P1/b(1) VL 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 476

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9404707

2007-1804-F  
bm186

**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]
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- b(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4707

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

June 13, 1994

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: NICHOLAS BURNS *NB*

FROM: JOHN BEYRLE *JNB*

SUBJECT: Presidential Messages to the Presidents of Estonia and Lithuania

The announcement of the Baltic stop July 6 has, as expected, generated tremendous interest and excitement in the region. Latvia has reaped a great deal of reflected credit as the host of the event, and it has not passed unnoticed that this will be the third meeting between the President and President Ulmanis in less than a year. To help even things out somewhat and ensure that Presidents Meri and Brazauskas feel they are equal partners in this event, we recommend sending the following brief courtesy messages to Vilnius and Tallinn.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the attached Presidential messages.

*OK*  
*As ~~revised~~ revised.*

Attachments

- Tab I Message to Estonian President
- Tab II Message to Lithuanian President

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
Declassify on: OADR

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 13526  
White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017  
By *VL* NARA, Date *4/27/2017*  
*2014-0656-M*

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. letter	From President Clinton to President Yeltsin (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001b. letter	From President Clinton to President Meri (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001c. cable	re: Letter from President Clinton to President Yeltsin [partial] (3 pages)	07/16/1994	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001d. cable	re: Letter from President Clinton to President Meri (2 pages)	07/16/1994	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001e. memo	re: Presidential Messages to Yeltsin and Meri (1 page)	07/13/1994	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2012
001f. letter	From President Clinton to President Yeltsin (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001g. letter	From President Clinton to President Meri (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 478

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9405665

2007-1804-F  
 bml87

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

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

- 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]
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- 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(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]

- 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.

July 13, 1994



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: NICHOLAS BURNS *NB*

FROM: JOHN BEYRLE *JHB*

SUBJECT: Presidential Messages to Yeltsin and Meri on Estonian Troop Withdrawal

As previewed in an earlier e-mail update on our near term tactics for pushing the Russian-Estonian talks along, attached are proposed messages from the President to Yeltsin and Meri. Their primary purpose is to push both Presidents to set an early date for their meeting, before the lower levels have a chance to slow the momentum. Deputy FM Churkin told Amb. Pickering that he plans to meet with his Estonian counterpart in the next few days to begin laying the groundwork for the Meri-Yeltsin meeting. We remain in close contact with both sides.

The letters also deal with what is emerging as the last serious stumbling block to an agreement: an Estonian regulation on the books that would bar approval of residence permits to any retired Russian officers born in 1930 or later. The Meri letter to Yeltsin gave explicit assurances that the majority of retirees would be approved for residence permits; the Russians respond that those are nice assurances to have, but in the end, the regulation will govern the actual decision. This impasse neatly symbolizes the gulf of mistrust that hangs over the endgame of the talks. Clearly, the Russians and Estonians need to work out an approach that will permit a case-by-case review of applications without reference to this regulation because at this point, it is too much to ask the Estonians to repeal it. The President's letter to Yeltsin stresses the good faith we see behind the Estonian position, while the message to Meri highlights the regulation as a significant problem that must be dealt with in some way.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve these two messages for transmission to Embassies Moscow and Tallinn.

Approve *R* *as revised* Disapprove       

*State cleared?*  
*Yes, per John Beyrle*

Attachments

- Tab I Message to President Yeltsin
- Tab II Message to President Meri

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. profile	Various papers handed to POTUS on trip (2 pages)	07/05/1994	P1/b(1) ✓ 9/27/2022
001b. letter	From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)	07/05/1994	P1/b(1)
001c. paper	Latvian-Russia agreement (24 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1)

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 3532

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9410184

2007-1804-F  
bm190

### 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]
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- 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]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

TO: PRESIDENT

FROM: MERI, LENNART

DOC DATE: 05 JUL 94  
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: ESTONIA  
HS

LATIN AMERICA  
NATO

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: VARIOUS PAPERS HANDED TO POTUS ON TRIP TO RIGA -- LTR FM PRES MERI  
RE PARKING AT EMBASSY & RUSSIAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT W/ LATVIA

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES DUE DATE: 11 SEP 99 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: NONE

LOGREF:

FILES: PA

NSCP:

CODES:

DOCUMENT DISTRIBUTION

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO  
NSC CHRON

UNCLASSIFIED UPON REMOVAL  
OF CLASSIFIED ATTACHMENTS

Initials: VL Date: 4/27/02

2014-0626-m

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DISPATCHED BY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_ BY HAND W/ATTCH

OPENED BY: NSTSM CLOSED BY: NSTSM DOC 1 OF 1

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001

X 99083115 FOR RECORD PURPOSES

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. eable	re: Letter from President Clinton to President Meri (3 pages)	07/29/1995	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
001b. letter	From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)	06/09/1995	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001c. letter	From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)	06/09/1995	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019

**COLLECTION:**

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

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9505077

2007-1804-F  
 bm192

**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]

UNCLASSIFIED

## WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

DIST: COMM, SIT, BELL, BLACKER, GRAY, HESLIN, SCHMIDT, SIGLER, SUM, SUM2, WHSR\_OUT, WITKOWSKY, FRIED

-----  
PREC: IMMEDIATE      CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED      DTG:292242Z JUL 95

FM: SECSTATE WASHDC

TO:  
AMEMBASSY TALLINN IMMEDIATE 2730

////

UNCLAS STATE 181844

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPDC, PREL, EN

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON IN RESPONSE TO  
LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MERI

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT MERI'S JUNE 9 LETTER ON NATO EXPANSION AND EUROPEAN SECURITY. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL. DEPARTMENT AND WHITE HOUSE DO NOT INTEND TO RELEASE TEXT, BUT HAVE NO OBJECTION IF MERI WISHES TO DO SO.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR PRESIDENT MERI:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RECENT LETTER CONCERNING EUROPEAN SECURITY IN POST-COLD WAR EUROPE. I APPRECIATE HAVING THE BENEFIT OF YOUR VIEWS ON THIS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

I AGREE WITH YOU THAT SECURITY AND PROSPERITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE, WHAT YOU CALLED THE ZONE BETWEEN BERLIN AND MOSCOW, IS ESSENTIAL TO EUROPEAN SECURITY AS A WHOLE. AS I HAVE SAID, THERE SHOULD BE NO "GREY ZONES"

CREATED FOR EUROPE'S NEW DEMOCRACIES.

FOR THESE REASONS, I SUPPORT ESTONIA'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A DURABLE SYSTEM OF EUROPEAN SECURITY, A SYSTEM WHICH WILL ADVANCE AND SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND MARKET ECONOMIC REFORMS IN A STABLE AND INTEGRATED EUROPE. IN THE VIEW OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THIS EMERGING SYSTEM SHOULD INCLUDE AN EVOLVING NATO THAT WILL TAKE IN NEW MEMBERS; A STRONG AND BROADLY-BASED PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE; A DEEPENING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

NATO AND RUSSIA; AN ACTIVE, VALUE-BASED ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE; AND A EUROPEAN UNION WHICH IS BROADENING ITS MEMBERSHIP WHILE DEEPENING ITS TIES OF INTEGRATION.

THE PROCESS OF NATO ENLARGEMENT HAS BEGUN AND WILL CONTINUE ON A STEADY AND DELIBERATE COURSE. THE ALLIANCE'S STUDY OF THE PRINCIPLES THAT WILL GUIDE THE PROCESS IS NEARING COMPLETION AND NATO REPRESENTATIVES LOOK FORWARD TO BRIEFING YOUR GOVERNMENT THIS FALL ON ITS CONCLUSIONS.

NO DECISIONS HAVE YET BEEN MADE CONCERNING EITHER THE TIMETABLE FOR THE ACCESSION OF NEW NATO MEMBERS OR WHICH COUNTRIES SHALL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO BE INVITED TO BEGIN ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ALLIANCE. TAKING NEW MEMBERS INTO NATO IS A MATTER OF THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND THESE DECISIONS WILL BE MADE VERY CAREFULLY. NATO AND ONLY NATO WILL MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT ITS FUTURE EVOLUTION.

AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL EUROATLANTIC STATES THAT A DEMOCRATIC RUSSIA BE A FULL PARTICIPANT IN EUROPE'S EMERGING SECURITY SYSTEM AND A PARTNER IN ADDRESSING THE COMMON SECURITY CHALLENGES. THE UNITED STATES, LIKE ESTONIA, HAS NO INTENTION OF CREATING NEW, IMPOSED DIVISIONS IN EUROPE. WE SEEK TO END EUROPE'S DIVISION BY FOSTERING SECURITY AND STABILITY IN ALL OF EUROPE'S NEW DEMOCRACIES.

LET US IN THE UNITED STATES AND ESTONIA CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER AS WE STRIVE TO SHAPE A NEW AND BETTER TRANSATLANTIC COMMUNITY FOR THE COMING CENTURY.

SINCERELY,

WILLIAM J. CLINTON  
END TEXT.  
TARNOFF  
BT  
#1844

NNNN  
<^SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 01  
<^SSN>1844  
<^TOR>950729184619 M1787144

FROM:

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

SITREPT

UNCLASSIFIED  
CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a. letter</del>	<del>From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)</del>	<del>11/06/1996</del>	<del>P1/b(1) v2</del> 9/27/2022
<del>001b. letter</del>	<del>From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)</del>	<del>11/06/1996</del>	<del>P1/b(1) v2</del> 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 1133

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9608052

2007-1804-F  
bm196

### 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]
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- 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(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]

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

NSC

#1957/77  
4052



*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, November 6, 1996

*Dear Mister President:*

Allow me to congratulate you on your election victory. I am pleased that the people of America have made this decision, re-electing as the leader of the leading country of the world a man whose resoluteness has been proven in the difficult crises of the Twentieth Century and who has the ample experience and will to make the world in the Twenty-first Century a better place.

As a European I am deeply pleased that the President of the United States has deemed it necessary to emphasize the national interest of the U.S. especially in Europe. Your positions on foreign and security policy clearly mirror your exceptionally great sense of responsibility in increasing a sense of security throughout the world. Your words regarding the role of NATO add to the feeling of security for every small nation in Europe and should be an example to larger states.

William J. Clinton  
The President  
The United States of America

..2/

Photocopy Misc. Handwriting

Mr. President,

Throughout our existence the United States has been one the most loyal and greatest allies of Estonian democracy. The U.S. policy of Non-Recognition of the Soviet occupation led as a logical outgrowth to support for Estonia's political strivings to join the European Union and NATO. We feel this support at all times in our everyday diplomatic activity, in the immeasurable economic and know assistance from the United States and in your continuing initiatives to find new forms of co-operation. Thanks precisely to this co-operation it was possible for you to mention Estonia in your October 22nd speech as ranking among the most successful states of Eastern Europe.

I thank you, Mr. President, for your personal support and I hope that our joint efforts will carry us into a happier world in the Twenty-first Century.

I wish you good health and success in all your efforts.

God bless America!

*Sincerely Yours*

*Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri



5057

*President  
Republic of Estonia  
Kadriorg Palace, Tallinn*

Kadriorg, November 6, 1996

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William J. Clinton  
The President  
The United States of America

..21

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God bless America!

*Sincerely Yours*

*Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. talking points	re: NATO enlargement (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001b. report	re: Estonia (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001c. report	re: Latvia (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001d. report	re: Lithuania (2 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
001e. report	re: Kaliningrad (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) KDE 12/16/2019
002. note	re: Summary of meeting with Baltic Presidents (2 pages)	01/15/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
003a. note	From GO to JS/SRB (1 page)	01/10/1998	P5 VZ 9/27/2022
003b. note	re: Summary of meeting with Baltic Presidents (2 pages)	01/15/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
003c. talking points	re: Points to be made for meeting with Estonian President Meri, Latvian President Ulmanis and Lithuanian President Brazauskas (7 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022
003d. memo	re: Meeting with Baltic Presidents (6 pages)	01/14/1998	P1/b(1), P5 VZ 9/27/2022
003e. talking points	re: Points to be made for meeting with Estonian President Meri, Latvian President Ulmanis and Lithuanian President Brazauskas (3 pages)	01/15/1998	P1/b(1) VZ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2009

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9800131

2007-1804-F  
 bm204

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

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

- 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.

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003f. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	01/06/1998	P1/b(1)
003g. report	U.S. Government Report (1 page)	01/12/1998	P1/b(1)
003h. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	01/06/1998	P1/b(1)
003i. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	01/06/1998	P1/b(1)
003j. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	12/30/1997	P1/b(1)
003k. report	U.S. Government Report (2 pages)	01/06/1998	P1/b(1)
003l. memo	For the President from Madeleine Albright (3 pages)	01/15/1998	P1/b(1), P5
<del>003m. memo</del>	<del>re: Presidential Meeting with Baltic Presidents Meri, Brazauskas and Ulmanis on January 16, 1998 (1 page)</del>	<del>01/09/1998</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>003n. memo</del>	<del>re: Meeting with Baltic Presidents (5 pages)</del>	<del>01/16/1998</del>	<del>P1/b(1), P5</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>003o. memo</del>	<del>re: Meeting (1 page)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>003p. note</del>	<del>re: Summary of Meeting with Baltic Presidents (1 page)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>003q. memo</del>	<del>re: Meeting and investment (1 page)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2009

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9800131

2007-1804-F  
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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
003r. memo	re: Meeting and relations (1 page)	n.d.	P1/b(1) VZ
003s. memo	re: Meeting with Baltic Presidents (6 pages)	01/16/1998	P1/b(1), P5 VZ
003t. talking points	re: Points to be made for meeting with Estonian President Meri, Latvian President Ulmanis and Lithuanian President Brazauskas (3 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) VZ
003u. memo	re: Meeting with Baltic Presidents (5 pages)	01/16/1998	P1/b(1), P5 VZ
003v. memo	re: Meeting with Baltic Presidents (6 pages)	01/16/1998	P1/b(1), P5 VZ
003w. talking points	re: Points to be made for meeting with Estonian President Meri, Latvian President Ulmanis and Lithuanian President Brazauskas (3 pages)	n.d.	P1/b(1) VZ

9/27/2022

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0131  
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN  
1-21-98 30 JAN 15 PM 6:43

SUMMARY OF MEETING  
WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

- Highlight importance of Partnership Charter as demonstration of U.S. commitment to advance Baltic states integration into Western institutions through concrete initiatives. Common agenda
- Underscore U.S. commitment to keep NATO's door open. First round of enlargement not last, but need to get first round right. Welcome your help. Now good time to deepen your engagement in Alliance through PFP enhancements and intensified dialogue. International
- Note strong support for WTO accession and inform them of USTR's agreement with EU yesterday to find a solution on the audiovisual problem.  
Fish → EU →
- Applaud Baltic efforts to work together and with neighbors to advance integration -- evidenced in creation of Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat) and other military initiatives. Welcome engagement with Nordic states.

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Reason: 1.5 (b,d)

Declassify On: 1/13/08

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PER E.O. 13526

W 2014-0656-M (1.4)

4/27/2022

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PHOTOCOPY  
WJC HANDWRITING

- Commend efforts to improve relations with Russia:
  - Recent Lithuanian-Russian border agreement on Kaliningrad,
  - Estonian-Russian cooperation on border surveillance/ combating organized crime
  - Emphasis in Charter on expanding cooperation between northeast Europe and Russia where have common interest, such as trade/ combating organized crime.

**If Asked:** Know Latvia concerned Russia may delay departure from Skrunda radar facility. We expect Russia to abide fully by terms of agreement. Have strong indications Russia intends to do so.

CONFIDENTIAL

'98 JAN 15 PM 6:43

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WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

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Reason: 1.5 (b, d)

Declassify On: 1/13/08

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**PER E.O. 13526**

VR 2014-0656-M (1.49)

4/27/2012

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Card 1 of 13

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT MERI, LATVIAN PRESIDENT ULMANIS  
AND LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS

**PARTNERSHIP CHARTER**

- CHARTER IMPORTANT FOR UNITED STATES, ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA BECAUSE IT MARKS HOW FAR WE HAVE COME TOWARD OUR SHARED GOAL OF BUILDING A NEW EUROPE AND ADVANCING YOUR INTEGRATION INTO WEST. ALSO MAPS OUT CLEAR DIRECTIONS FOR ROAD AHEAD.

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Reason: 1,5(b,d)  
Declassify On: 01/09/08

**DECLASSIFIED**

**PER E.O. 13526**

VZ 2014-0656-M(1.50)

4/27/2022

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Card 2 of 13

- CHARTER MAKES CLEAR OUR "REAL, PROFOUND AND ENDURING INTEREST" IN INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SECURITY OF YOUR COUNTRIES.
- CAN BE VERY PROUD OF YOUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO ADVANCE GOALS OF CHARTER EVEN BEFORE IT WAS COMPLETED. NEED TO KEEP WORKING TO PROMOTE RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS AND DEAL WITH LEGACY OF PAST.
- TOGETHER, YOU ARE CREATING FACTS OF INTEGRATION ON GROUND THROUGH YOUR PARTICIPATION IN PFP, SFOR, AND HOST OF REGIONAL INITIATIVES.

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Card 3 of 13

- CHARTER GIVES US MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE RELATIONS IN BOTH SECURITY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. EVENTS OF LAST FEW DAYS -- SIGNING OF DOUBLE TAX TREATIES, INITIATIVES ON JUSTICE AND ORGANIZED CRIME, AND CREATION OF BALTIC-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP FUND -- SHOW THAT WE ARE ALREADY MOVING TO BUILD ON THIS FRAMEWORK.

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Card 4 of 13

#### NATO ENLARGEMENT

- WELCOME YOUR DESIRE AND SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF NATO. WANT TO UNDERSCORE THAT NATO'S DOOR WILL REMAIN OPEN.
- YOUR MEMBERSHIP WILL DEPEND ON SATISFACTION OF NATO PRINCIPLES, INCLUDING YOUR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO OVERALL SECURITY.

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Card 5 of 13

- FIRST ROUND OF ENLARGEMENT WILL NOT BE LAST. BUT IT'S TOO SOON TO TALK ABOUT NEXT STEPS. WE MUST ALL FOCUS ON GETTING FIRST ROUND "RIGHT" AND SECURING SENATE RATIFICATION. WELCOME YOUR HELP IN THIS REGARD. THE STRONGER OUR SUCCESS IN INTEGRATING POLAND, HUNGARY, AND CZECH REPUBLIC, EASIER NEXT STEPS WILL BE.
- THIS IS GOOD TIME TO MAKE USE OF INTENSIFIED DIALOGUE, PARTNERSHIP FOR PEACE ENHANCEMENTS AND EURO-ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL TO DEEPEN YOUR ENGAGEMENT WITH ALLIANCE.

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Card 6 of 13

- WE ARE COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU ADVANCE THESE GOALS IN MORE SYSTEMATIC WAYS. FULLY SUPPORT WORK OF OUR MILITARY EXPERTS TO ASSESS NEEDS OF YOUR COUNTRIES' ARMED FORCES AND HELP YOU DEVELOP REALISTIC DEFENSE PLANS. WE WILL INCREASE OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE NEXT YEAR AND WORK CLOSELY WITH OTHER DONOR STATES.

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Card 7 of 13

EU/WTO ACCESSION

- SUPPORT EACH OF YOUR EFFORTS TO JOIN EU, BUT RECOGNIZE DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY EUROPEANS.
- STRONGLY SUPPORT YOUR ACCESSION TO WTO, AND HOPE THAT WE CAN COMPLETE YOUR THREE SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR.
- AMBASSADOR BARSHEFSKY ADVISED ME SHE DISCUSSED PROBLEM ON AUDIOVISUAL WITH SIR LEON BRITTAN YESTERDAY AND THEY AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER EXPEDITIOUSLY TO FIND A SOLUTION. IN FACT, U.S. AND EU OFFICIALS WILL MEET NEXT WEEK.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Card 8 of 13

- I KNOW THERE MAY BE OTHER ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED (PARTICULARLY FOR ESTONIA AND LITHUANIA) BUT WE ARE COMMITTED TO FINDING MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL SOLUTIONS TO ANY REMAINING ISSUES.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Card 9 of 13

**RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS**

- APPLAUD EFFORT TO DEVELOP COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER, NORDICS, AND RUSSIA.
- ESPECIALLY PLEASED WITH YOUR JOINT EFFORT TO PROMOTE REGIONAL SECURITY AND INTEROPERABILITY WITH NATO THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN BALTIC PEACEKEEPING BATTALION (BALTBAT), BALTIC SEA SQUADRON (BALTRON), AND REGIONAL AIRSPACE INITIATIVE (BALTNET).

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Card 10 of 13

- NOW IT'S TIME TO EXPLORE IN DETAIL OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUILDING ECONOMIC AND OTHER NON-SECURITY COOPERATION THROUGHOUT BALTIC REGION. AM FULLY COMMITTED TO ENHANCING OUR INVOLVEMENT IN NORDIC/BALTIC AND BALTIC/RUSSIAN COOPERATIVE VENTURES.

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Card 11 of 13

**RUSSIA**

- ENCOURAGED BY RECENT SIGNATURE OF KALININGRAD BORDER AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRESIDENTS BRAZAUSKAS AND YELTSIN IN MOSCOW.
- AGREEMENT MEETS ONE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NEIGHBORING STATES, ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON BORDERS IN MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY MANNER. WITH BORDER AGREEMENTS IN PLACE, LITHUANIA AND RUSSIA CAN MOVE ON TO OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Card 12 of 13

- HOPE RUSSIA WILL SIGN SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WITH ESTONIA AND LATVIA SOON. PLEASED THAT ESTONIA AND LATVIA ARE COMMITTED TO EXPANDING PRACTICAL COOPERATION WITH RUSSIA ON COMMON CONCERNS.
- KNOW LATVIA CONCERNED THAT RUSSIA MAY DELAY DEPARTURE FROM SKRUNDA RADAR FACILITY. WE EXPECT RUSSIA TO ABIDE FULLY BY TERMS OF AGREEMENT WITH LATVIA. HAVE STRONG INDICATIONS THAT RUSSIA INTENDS TO DO SO.

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Card 13 of 13

- NOTE RUSSIA HAS PROPOSED SECURITY GUARANTEES TO YOU. AS WE STATED PUBLICLY, AGREE SOVEREIGN STATES HAVE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN SECURITY ORIENTATION, INCLUDING WHETHER OR NOT TO BECOME MEMBER OF AN ALLIANCE. YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR.
- WANT TO WORK WITH YOU AND NORDICS TO EXPAND COOPERATION BETWEEN NORTHERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA IN AREAS WHERE WE ALL HAVE COMMON INTERESTS.

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1-16-98

0131

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

98 JAN 14 PM 10:50

January 14, 1998

MEETING WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

DATE: January 16, 1998

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:40 p.m.

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER I. PURPOSE

- Underscore our commitment to advancing the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into Western institutions and to strengthening our bilateral relations.
- As a symbol of this commitment, sign the Charter of Partnership, which codifies the terms of the relationship and maps out the road ahead.
- Reaffirm our commitment to keep NATO's door open and support their efforts to become members of NATO. Also note our support for their accession, on appropriate terms, to the EU and WTO.
- Applaud Baltic efforts to develop friendly relations with their neighbors, particularly Russia, and offer support for expanded cooperation between Russia and northeastern Europe in areas where there is common ground.

II. BACKGROUND

The Baltic Presidents see this visit as a truly historic occasion both because of the Charter signing and because it will be the last time they, as key figures in their countries' post-communist transformations, will be together with you in the White House. Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American former EPA official in Chicago, will replace Brazauskas, who chose not to seek reelection, next month. Meri, nearly 70, is unlikely to stand for another term in Estonia, and Ulmanis, whose second term expires next year, probably will not run again.

These very different men -- the urbane and intellectual Meri; the earthy, former Communist Brazauskas; and the

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Reason: 1.5(b,d)

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2014-0656-11 (1,51)

4/27/2022

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centrist, business-like Ulmanis -- have succeeded in putting their states at the forefront of the reform movement in Central Europe. Over the past four years, they successfully used their positions to forward democratic reform, continue the transition to market-oriented economies, move closer to Western institutions, and enhance relations with their neighbors, including Russia.

All three leaders believe that **the United States is the key to their full reintegration into the West.** For over fifty years, successive U.S. Administrations maintained a strong policy of non-recognition of their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union. We then played a critical role in helping them implement democratic and free market reforms and strengthen their security and sovereignty. The Charter of Partnership you will sign during this visit symbolizes how far they have come since 1991 and expresses our commitment to help them complete this journey.

**The Charter is a political statement of common principles and a framework** for the expansion of our relations. Most importantly to the Baltics, it affirms that they are part of our vision for a new Europe and will not be left out or discriminated against due to history or geography.

- On NATO, it builds on the Madrid Summit, stating that **the United States welcomes Baltic aspirations and supports their efforts to join NATO.** It also recalls Madrid's caveat that aspirants must be able to assume the responsibilities of membership and that Allies must agree inclusion of any new members would serve overall European stability. **It does not pre-commit us to Baltic membership or extend any surrogate security guarantees.**
- The Baltic states reaffirm their commitment to continue market-oriented reforms. The four governments pledge to enhance joint efforts to promote cooperative relations throughout the Baltic region, including with Russia.
- The Charter notes the progress of existing bilateral working groups on defense and establishes a new working group on trade, investment, and related fields. It also establishes a Partnership Commission of senior officials, who will hold annual stock-taking meetings.

**Moving Ahead.** As evidence of our commitment to pursuing Charter goals, you will announce at the signing ceremony

the establishment of a **Baltic-American Partnership Fund** -- using \$7.5 million of our assistance money and **matching funds from George Soros** -- whose charter will be to foster the development on non-governmental organizations in these states. Also during their visit here, Charlene Barshefsky will sign a bilateral investment treaty with Lithuania (Estonia and Latvia have accords already), Bob Rubin will sign **treaties against double taxation** with all three states, and Attorney General Reno and FBI Director Freeh will announce enhanced **cooperation** among the three in the administration of **justice and the combating of organized crime.**

### **Likely Topics**

**NATO Membership.** The Baltic Presidents will raise their aspirations for NATO membership. They all hope there will be a second tranche of new members in 1999, and at least Lithuania believes it is well on the way to qualifying. Lithuania has devoted the most resources and made the greatest progress of the three in building its armed forces. But even they have very limited capabilities to work with NATO in defense of their territory or in peacekeeping missions elsewhere.

While continuing to advance the public line that all Baltic states belong in NATO, both Tallinn and Riga realize that they won't be ready militarily to join soon and that most Allies have serious reservations about their membership because of Russian objections. Thus, they have focused their efforts on joining the EU. In their meeting with you, the presidents will accept the view that it is premature to discuss the "next tranche" and that the Charter does not commit the United States to support their bid. However, they will seek reaffirmation that NATO's door remains open, and, as Strobe has put it, that we are working seriously to help them walk through that door.

- You should urge them to focus on taking advantage of the many programs we and the Allies are offering, including \$18 million in military assistance next year, to help them enhance their security, ability to work with NATO, and preparations for membership. You might remind them that the Charter is neither a security guarantee nor a firm commitment to support their membership.

Investment, EU and WTO. The Baltic economies all are still in transition, but Estonia and Latvia are the furthest along. U.S. investment in the region has been slow to develop, now totaling about \$550 million, only 19 percent of all their foreign investment.

- **Estonia** has made steady progress across the board and in 1996 became the first Central European country to "graduate" from our assistance program Support for East European Democracy (SEED). In December 1997, it was the only Baltic state invited to commence EU accession talks.
- **Latvia** is close to getting an offer from the EU to begin accession talks. Its strong progress was slowed by lagging privatization and a 1995 banking crisis.
- **Lithuania** has made steady progress in privatization but has suffered from very slow growth (linked to taxation policies and a lagging financial sector).

Regarding the WTO, Latvia has been the most aggressive of the three in pursuing this goal. Its bid, however, is being held up over the issue of audiovisual services, which pits us against the EU and puts Latvia and the other two Baltic EU aspirants in between. The EU is insisting that Latvia make no commitment to open its market to audiovisual services. While ready to accept Latvia's adoption of current (51 percent foreign) EU content restrictions, we want Riga to go no further toward restrictions and believe this is a significant concession.

- You should tell the Presidents that we are very supportive of their accession to the EU and the WTO -- on appropriate terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

**Russians & Northeastern Europe Cooperation.** The Baltic leaders cooperate well with each other and most of their neighbors. The Nordics and the United States have supported several initiatives that promote regional security and compatibility with NATO, including the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat). The Nordics have extensive trade and investment in the region.

Lithuanian-Russian relations are the best of the three, in large part because Russian speakers account for only

8 percent of the population. In October, Presidents Yeltsin and Brazauskas signed a demarcation agreement of the land border with Kaliningrad. Vilnius remains concerned, however, about transit through Lithuania from this heavily-militarized Russian province to its west.

Latvia and Estonia, which have much larger ethnic Russian communities (29 and 33 percent respectively), maintain normal but cool relations with Russia. Estonia and Latvia have not reached border agreements, primarily because of Moscow's linkage of conditions on the treatment of the Russian-speaking minorities. They have, however, begun practical cooperation with Russia on such problems as border controls and countering crime.

In August 1994, with your intervention, Russia withdrew its troops from Latvia **except for about 800 technicians who stayed to operate the Skrunda missile early-warning radar facility** until it shuts down this August. Russia has allowed inspections of this facility. But Latvia is concerned that departure of the technicians and the commencement of dismantlement may be slowed due to construction delays in the essential replacement facility in Belarus. Based on political signs and available intelligence, **we expect Russia to abide fully by the terms of the agreement with Latvia, which Yeltsin has previously affirmed to you.**

In December, as part of an emerging "charm offensive," **President Yeltsin** floated the notion of enhanced economic cooperation with the Baltic states, but linked it to Baltic neutrality and offers of **joint security guarantees**. The Balts promptly rejected the latter notions, making clear that they aspire to be members of NATO.

- Rather than fight Moscow on Baltic membership in NATO, we have sought to focus on areas where there is a common ground. Madeleine and Strobe have told their Russian interlocutors that we must agree to disagree on NATO, but we want to help promote expanded cooperation between northeastern Europe and northern Russia (as existed in **Hanseatic period**) in trade, energy development, the environment, and combating transnational problems such as organized crime. You should encourage the Baltic Presidents to pursue a similar tack as a way to show Moscow that Baltic integration will create opportunities.

III. PARTICIPANTS

See Scenario at Tab B.

IV. PRESS PLAN

See Scenario at Tab B.

V. SEQUENCE

See Scenario at Tab B.

Attachments

Tab A	Points to be Made
Tab B	Scenario
Tab C	Biographies
Tab D	Secretary of State Memo to the President
Tab E	Summary of The Charter of Partnership

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT MERI, LATVIAN PRESIDENT ULMANIS AND  
LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS

'95 JAN 15 PM6:

**Partnership Charter**

- Charter important for United States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania because it marks how far we have come toward our shared goal of building a new Europe and advancing your integration into West. Also maps out clear directions for road ahead.
- Charter makes clear our "real, profound and enduring interest" in independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and security of your countries.
- Can be very proud of your individual and collective efforts to advance goals of Charter even before it was completed. Need to keep working to promote respect for rights of all citizens and deal with legacy of past.
- Together, you are creating facts of integration on ground through your participation in PFP, SFOR, and host of regional initiatives.
- Charter gives us many opportunities to expand and improve relations in both security and economic fields. Events of last few days -- signing of double tax treaties, initiatives on justice and organized crime, and creation of Baltic-American Partnership Fund -- show that we are already moving to build on this framework.

**NATO Enlargement**

- Welcome your desire and support your efforts to become members of NATO. Want to underscore that NATO's door will remain open.
- Your membership will depend on satisfaction of NATO principles, including your ability to contribute to overall security.
- First round of enlargement will not be last. But it's too soon to talk about next steps. We must all focus on getting first round "right" and securing Senate ratification. Welcome your help in this regard. The stronger our success in

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integrating Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic, easier next steps will be.

- This is good time to make use of intensified dialogue, Partnership for Peace enhancements and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to deepen your engagement with Alliance.
- We are committed to helping you advance these goals in more systematic ways. Fully support work of our military experts to assess needs of your countries' armed forces and help you develop realistic defense plans. We will increase our security assistance next year and work closely with other donor states.

#### **EU/WTO Accession**

- Support each of your efforts to join EU, but recognize decisions will be made by Europeans.
- Strongly support your accession to WTO, and hope that we can complete your three separate negotiations this year.
- Ambassador Barshefsky advised me she discussed problem on audiovisual with Sir Leon Brittan yesterday and they agreed to work together expeditiously to find a solution. In fact, U.S. and EU officials will meet next week.
- I know there may be other issues to be resolved (particularly for Estonia and Lithuania) but we are committed to finding mutually beneficial solutions to any remaining issues.

#### **Relations with Neighbors**

- Applaud effort to develop cooperative relationship with each other, Nordics, and Russia.
- Especially pleased with your joint effort to promote regional security and interoperability with NATO through participation in Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and regional airspace initiative (Baltnet).
- Now it's time to explore in detail opportunities for building economic and other non-security cooperation throughout Baltic region. Am fully committed to enhancing our involvement in Nordic/Baltic and Baltic/Russian cooperative ventures.

## Russia

- Encouraged by recent signature of Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin in Moscow.
- Agreement meets one of fundamental responsibilities in relationship between neighboring states, establishment of common borders in mutually satisfactory manner. With border agreements in place, Lithuania and Russia can move on to other areas of cooperation.
- Hope Russia will sign similar agreements with Estonia and Latvia soon. Pleased that Estonia and Latvia are committed to expanding practical cooperation with Russia on common concerns.
- Know Latvia concerned that Russia may delay departure from Skrunda radar facility. We expect Russia to abide fully by terms of agreement with Latvia. Have strong indications that Russia intends to do so.
- Note Russia has proposed security guarantees to you. As we stated publicly, agree sovereign states have right to choose their own security orientation, including whether or not to become member of an Alliance. Your choice is clear.
- Want to work with you and Nordics to expand cooperation between northern Europe and Russia in areas where we all have common interests.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

January 9, 1998



ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: STEPHEN J. FLANAGAN *SJF*

FROM: SUSAN R. BRADEN *SB*

SUBJECT: Presidential Meeting with Baltic Presidents Meri, Brazauskas and Ulmanis on January 16, 1998

*see changes*

Attached at Tab I is your memorandum to the President forwarding briefing material and talking points for his meeting with Baltic Presidents Lennert Meri, Guntis Ulmanis and Algirdas Brazauskas on January 16, 1998.

Concurrences by: Ki Fort *KF SF* and Nancy McEldowney *NMF SF*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

- Tab I Memo to the President
- Tab A Points to be Made
- Tab B Scenario
- Tab C Biographies
- Tab D Secretary of State Memo to the President
- Tab E Partnership Charter

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White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017

By *VZ* NARA, Date *4/27/2022*

*2016 0656-11*

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
MEETING WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

DATE: January 16, 1998

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:40 p.m.

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

I. PURPOSE

- Underscore our commitment to advancing the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania ~~by~~ into Western institutions and to strengthening our bilateral relations.
- As a symbol of this commitment, sign the Charter of Partnership, which codifies the terms of the relationship and maps out the road ahead.
- Reaffirm our commitment to keep NATO's door open and offer more focused support to Baltic efforts to enhance their security and candidacies for NATO membership. Also note our support for their accession to the EU and WTO.
- Applaud their efforts to deepen friendly ~~relations~~ <sup>ties</sup> with their neighbors, particularly Russia, and offer enhanced U.S. engagement in efforts to expand cooperation throughout northeastern Europe. ✓
- Welcome the recent signature of the Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin. Underscore that we will encourage Russia to sign similar border agreements with Estonia and Lithuania soon and continue to press Moscow to abide by its 1994 commitment to depart the radar facility at Skrunda, Latvia by August.

II. BACKGROUND

The Baltic Presidents see this visit as a truly historic occasion both because of the Charter signing and because it will be the last time they, as key figures in their countries' post-communist transformations, will be together with you in the White House. Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American who was formerly the EPA regional administrator in Chicago, will replace Brazauskas, who chose not to run for

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Reason: 1.5(b,d)

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reelection, next month. Meri, nearly 70, is unlikely to seek another term, and Ulmanis, whose second term expires next year, probably won't run again.

These very different men -- the urbane and intellectual Meri, the earthy, reform Communist aparatchik Brazauskas, and the centrist, business-like Ulmanis -- have succeeded in putting their states at the forefront of the reform movement in Central Europe. Over the past four years, they have successfully used their positions to ~~forward~~ *advance* democratic reform, continue the transition to market-oriented economies, move closer to Western institutions, and enhance relations with their neighbors, including Russia.

All three leaders believe that the United States is key to their full reintegration into the West. For over fifty years, successive U.S. Administrations maintained a strong policy of non-recognition of their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union. We then played a critical role in helping them implement democratic and free market reforms and strengthen their security and sovereignty. The Charter of Partnership you will sign during this visit symbolizes how far they have come since 1991 and expresses our commitment to help them complete this journey.

The Charter is a political statement of common principles and a framework for the development of our relations. Most importantly to the Baltics, it affirms that they are part of our vision for a new Europe and will not be left out or discriminated against due to factors of history or geography.

- On NATO, the Charter builds on Madrid Summit Communique language by stating that the United States welcomes their aspirations and supports their efforts to join NATO. It also recalls that aspirants must be able to assume the responsibilities of membership, and that Allies must agree that their inclusion would serve European stability and the strategic interests of the Alliance. It does not pre-commit us to Baltic membership or extend any surrogate security guarantees.
- The Baltic states reaffirm their commitment to continue market-oriented reforms. The four governments pledge to enhance joint efforts to promote cooperative

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relationships throughout the Baltic region, including with Russia.

- The Charter takes note of the progress of existing bilateral working groups on security and military affairs, and establishes a new working group on economic reform, trade, investment and related fields. The Charter also establishes a "Partnership Commission" of senior officials, who will meet annually to take stock of the overall relationship.

**Moving Right Along.** As evidence of our commitment to pursuing the Charter's goals, during the three-day visit Charlene Barshefsky will sign a bilateral investment treaty with Lithuania (Estonia and Latvia have accords already), Bob Rubin will sign treaties against double taxation with all three states, Attorney General Reno and FBI Director Fren<sup>e</sup> will announce enhance<sup>d</sup> cooperation<sup>in the</sup> in the three in administration of justice and combating organized crime, and you will announce the establishment of a Baltic-American Partnership Fund -- using the last \$7 million of our assistance money and matching funds from George Soros - whose charter will be to help consolidate civil society in these states.

**Likely Topics**

**NATO Membership.** The Baltic Presidents will raise their aspirations for NATO membership. They all hope there will be a second tranche of new members in 1999, and at least Lithuania believes it is well on the way to qualifying. Lithuania, with the largest population and the weakest economy of the three states, has devoted the most resources and made the greatest progress in preparing its armed forces to join the Alliance.

While continuing to advance the public line that all Baltic states belong in NATO, both Tallinn and Riga realize that they won't be ready militarily to join soon and that most Allies have serious reservations about their membership in any case because of Russian objections. Thus, they have focused their efforts, instead, on joining the EU. In their meeting with you, the presidents will accept the view that it is premature to discuss the next tranche and that the Charter does not commit the U.S. to support their bid. However, they will seek reaffirmation that NATO's door

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on defensible terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

**Life in the 'Hood: Russians & Hansa.** The Baltic leaders deserve considerable praise for their efforts to build cooperation among themselves and with most of their neighbors. With support from the Nordics and the U.S. all three states participate in several initiatives aimed at promoting regional security and compatibility with NATO. These include the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), the Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and a regional airspace initiative (Baltnet). The Nordics have also developed extensive trade and investment ties in the Baltics.

With regard to relations with Russia, Lithuanian-Russian relations are the best of the three, in large part because Russian speakers account for only 8 percent of the population. In October, Presidents Yeltsin and Brazauskas signed a demarcation agreement of the land border with Kaliningrad. Vilnius remains concerned, however, about transit through Lithuania from this heavily militarized Russian province to its west.

Latvia and Estonia, which have much larger ethnic Russian communities, maintain normal but cool relations with Russia. Estonia and Russia have not reached a border agreement, primarily because of Russia's linkage of conditions on the treatment of the Russian-speaking minority (29 percent) to it. The two countries have, however, begun practical cooperation on border surveillance, information exchange on criminals, anti-smuggling measures, and extradition of criminals.

Latvia and Russia also do not have a border agreement and continue to disagree on the adequacy of Latvia's protection of the rights of its sizable (33 percent) Russian minority. President Ulmanis has played a strong personal role in resisting nationalist pressures to curtail educational and cultural opportunities for Russian speakers.

In August 1994, with your intervention, Russia withdrew its troops from Latvia except for about 800 Russian technicians who stayed to operate the Skrunda missile early-warning radar facility until it shuts down this August. Russia has abided by the terms of the inspections of this facility, but Latvia is concerned that Russia may delay the departure

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of its personnel and the commencement of dismantlement because of construction delays in the essential replacement facility in Belarus. Based on political signs and available intelligence, we expect Russia to abide fully by the terms of the agreement with Latvia, which Yeltsin has previously affirmed to you.

In December, as part of an emerging "charm offensive," President Yeltsin floated the notion of enhanced economic cooperation with the Baltic states, but linked it to Baltic neutrality and offers of joint security guarantees. The Balts promptly rejected the latter notions, making clear that they aspire to be members of NATO. Our public response to Yeltsin noted that we respected the Balts' right to choose their security arrangements and welcomed Russia's willingness to cooperate in non-security areas.

- Rather than fight Moscow on Baltic membership in NATO, we have sought to focus on areas where there is a common ground. Madeline and Strobe have told their Russian interlocutors, that we must agree to disagree on NATO, but we want to help promote expanded cooperation between northeastern Europe and northern Russia (as existed in Hanseatic period) in trade, energy development, the environment, and combating transnational problems such as organized crime. You should encourage the Baltic Presidents to pursue a similar tack as a way to show Moscow that Baltic integration will create opportunities.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

See Scenario at Tab B.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

See Scenario at Tab B.

### V. SEQUENCE

See Scenario at Tab B.

#### Attachments

Tab A Points to be Made  
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Tab D Secretary of State Memo to the President  
Tab E Summary of The Charter of Partnership

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- For now you should focus on making best use of intensified dialogue, Partnership for Peace enhancements and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to deepen your engagement with the Alliance.
- We are committed to helping you advance these goals in a more systematic way. I fully support your continued work with our military experts to assess the needs of your countries' armed forces.

**EU/WTO Accession**

- Support each of your efforts to join EU, but recognize the decisions will be made by Europeans.
- We support your accession to WTO on defensible terms. Will be as flexible as <sup>we</sup> can; hope EU will do same. <sup>H</sup>
- As Ambassador Barshefsky explained, we will continue to work with the EU on what we think is a reasonable compromise on <sup>ip</sup> audiovisual content that is consistent with the goals of the EU Broadcast Directive and protects our interest in maintaining an open market for audiovisual content.

**Relations with Neighbors**

- Applaud effort to develop cooperative relationship with each other, Nordics, and Russia.
- Especially pleased with your joint effort to promote regional security and interoperability with NATO through participation in Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Balibat), Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and regional airspace initiative (Baltnet).
- Now it's time to explore in detail the opportunities for building economic and other non-security cooperation throughout the Baltic region. I am fully committed to enhancing our involvement in Nordic/Baltic and Baltic/Russian cooperative ventures.

**Russia**

- Encouraged by recent signature of Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin in Moscow.

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SUMMARY OF MEETING  
WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

- Highlight importance of Partnership Charter as demonstration of U.S. commitment to advance Baltic states integration into Western institutions through concrete initiatives.
- Underscore U.S. commitment to keep NATO's door open. First round of enlargement not last, but need to get first round right. Welcome your help. Now good time to deepen your engagement in Alliance through PFP enhancements and intensified dialogue.
- Applaud Baltic efforts to work together and with neighbors to advance integration -- evidenced in creation of Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat) — and other military initiatives. Welcome engagement with Nordic states.
- Commend efforts to improve relations with Russia:
  - Recent Lithuanian-Russian border agreement on Kaliningrad,

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stronger our success in integrating Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic, easier next steps will be.

- This is good time to make use of intensified dialogue, Partnership for Peace enhancements and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to deepen your engagement with Alliance.
- We are committed to helping you advance these goals in more systematic ways. Fully support work of our military experts to assess needs of your countries' armed forces and help you develop realistic defense plans. We will increase our security assistance next year and work closely with other donor states.

#### EU/WTO Accession

- Support each of your efforts to join EU, but recognize decisions will be made by Europeans.
- We support your accession to WTO on appropriate terms. Will be as flexible as can; hope EU will do same.
- As Ambassador Barshevsky explained, we will continue to work with EU on what we think is reasonable compromise on audiovisual content that is consistent with goals of EU Broadcast Directive and protects our interest in maintaining an open market.

#### Relations with Neighbors

- Applaud effort to develop cooperative relationship with each other, Nordics, and Russia.
- Especially pleased with your joint effort to promote regional security and interoperability with NATO through participation in Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and regional airspace initiative (Baltnet).
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Investment, EU and WTO. The Baltic economies are all still in transition, but Estonia and Latvia are the furthest along. U.S. investment in the region has been slow to develop, now totaling about \$550 million, only 19 percent of all their foreign investment.

- **Estonia** has made steady progress across the board and in 1996 became the first Central European country to "graduate" from our assistance program Support for East European Democracy (SEED). In December, it was the only Baltic state invited to commence EU accession talks.
- **Latvia** is close to getting an offer from the EU to begin accession talks. Its strong progress was slowed by lagging privatization and a 1995 banking crisis.
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Regarding the WTO, Latvia has been the most aggressive of the three in pursuing this goal. Its bid, however, is being held up over the issue of audiovisual services, which pits us against the EU and puts Latvia and the other two Baltic EU aspirants in between. The EU is insisting that Latvia make no commitment to open its market to audiovisual services. While ready to accept Latvia's adoption of current (51 percent foreign) EU content restrictions, we want Riga to go no further and believe this is a significant concession.

- You should tell the Presidents that we are very supportive of their accession to the EU and the WTO -- on *appropriate* ~~defensible~~ terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

**Russians & Hansa.** The Baltic leaders cooperate well with each other and most of their neighbors. *Bold* ~~The Nordics and the United States~~ have supported several initiatives that promote regional security and compatibility with NATO, including the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat). The Nordics have extensive trade and investment in the region.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

DATE: January 16, 1998

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:40 p.m.

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

I. PURPOSE

- Underscore our commitment to advancing the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania into Western institutions and to strengthening our bilateral relations.
- As a symbol of this commitment, sign the Charter of Partnership, which codifies the terms of the relationship and maps out the road ahead.
- Reaffirm our commitment to keep NATO's door open and offer more focused support to Baltic efforts to enhance their security and candidacies for NATO membership. Also note our support for their accession to the EU and WTO. *on appropriate terms on appropriate terms*
- Applaud their efforts to deepen friendly ties with their neighbors, particularly Russia, and offer enhanced U.S. engagement in efforts to expand cooperation throughout northeastern Europe.
- Welcome the recent signature of the Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin. Underscore that we will encourage Russia to sign similar border agreements with Estonia and Lithuania soon and continue to press Moscow to abide by its 1994 commitment to depart the radar facility at Skrunda, Latvia by August.

II. BACKGROUND

The Baltic Presidents see this visit as a truly historic occasion both because of the Charter signing and because it will be the last time they, as key figures in their countries' post-communist transformations, will be together with you in the White House. Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American who was formerly the EPA regional administrator in Chicago, will replace Brazauksas, who chose not to run for

reelection, next month. Meri, nearly 70, is unlikely to seek another term, and Ulmanis, whose second term expires next year, probably won't run again.

**These very different men** -- the urbane and intellectual Meri, the earthy, reform Communist aparatchik Brazauskas, and the centrist, businesslike Ulmanis -- have succeeded in putting their states at the forefront of the reform movement in Central Europe. Over the past four years, they have successfully used their positions to advance democratic reform, continue the transition to market-oriented economies, move closer to Western institutions, and enhance relations with their neighbors, including Russia.

All three leaders believe that **the United States is key to their full reintegration into the West**. For over fifty years, successive U.S. Administrations maintained a strong policy of non-recognition of their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union. We then played a critical role in helping them implement democratic and free market reforms and strengthen their security and sovereignty. The Charter of Partnership you will sign during this visit symbolizes how far they have come since 1991 and expresses our commitment to help them complete this journey.

**The Charter is a political statement of common principles and a framework** for the development of our relations. Most importantly to the Baltics, it affirms that they are part of our vision for a new Europe and will not be left out or discriminated against due to factors of history or geography.

- On NATO, the Charter builds on Madrid Summit Communique language by stating that **the United States welcomes their aspirations and supports their efforts to join NATO**. It also recalls that aspirants must be able to assume the responsibilities of membership, and that Allies must agree that their inclusion would serve European stability and the strategic interests of the Alliance. **It does not pre-commit us to Baltic membership or extend any surrogate security guarantees.**
- The Baltic states reaffirm their commitment to continue market-oriented reforms. The four governments pledge to enhance joint efforts to promote cooperative

relationships throughout the Baltic region, including with Russia.

- The Charter takes note of the progress of existing bilateral working groups on security and military affairs, and establishes a new working group on economic reform, trade, investment and related fields. The Charter also establishes a "Partnership Commission" of senior officials, who will meet annually to take stock of the overall relationship.

**Moving Right Along.** As evidence of our commitment to pursuing the Charter's goals, during the three-day visit Charlene Barshefsky will sign a bilateral investment treaty with Lithuania (Estonia and Latvia have accords already), Bob Rubin will sign **treaties against double taxation** with all three states, Attorney General Reno and FBI Director Freeh will announce enhanced **cooperation among the three in administration of justice and combating organized crime**, and you will announce the establishment of a **Baltic-American Partnership Fund** -- using the last \$7 million of our assistance money and **matching funds from George Soros** - whose charter will be to help consolidate civil society in these states.

#### **Likely Topics**

**NATO Membership.** The Baltic Presidents will raise their aspirations for NATO membership. They all hope there will be a second tranche of new members in 1999, and at least Lithuania believes it is well on the way to qualifying. Lithuania, with the largest population and the weakest economy of the three states, has devoted the most resources and made the greatest progress in preparing its armed forces to join the Alliance.

While continuing to advance the public line that all Baltic states belong in NATO, both Tallinn and Riga realize that they won't be ready militarily to join soon and that most Allies have serious reservations about their membership in any case because of Russian objections. Thus, they have focused their efforts, instead, on joining the EU. In their meeting with you, the presidents will accept the view that it is premature to discuss the next tranche and that the Charter does not commit the U.S. to support their bid. However, they will seek reaffirmation that NATO's door

remains open, and, as Strobe has put it, that we are working seriously to help them walk through that door.

- You should urge them to focus on taking advantage of the many programs we and the Allies are offering, including \$18 million in military assistance next year, to help them enhance their security, ability to work with NATO, and preparations for membership. You might remind them that the Charter is neither a security guarantee nor a firm commitment to support their membership.

**Investment, EU and WTO.** These three economies are all still in transition, but Estonia and Latvia have been the most successful. U.S. investment in the region has been slow to develop and now totals approximately \$550 million, 19 percent of all foreign investment.

- **Lithuania** has made steady progress in privatization but has suffered from very slow growth (linked to taxation policies and a lagging financial sector).
- **Estonia** has made steady progress across the board and in 1996 became the first Central European country to "graduate" from our Support for East European Democracy (SEED). It was an easy winner in December's first round of decisions on commencing EU accession talks.
- **Latvia**, whose strong progress has been slowed by lagging privatization and a 1995 banking crisis, thought it unfair that Estonia was singled out, particularly when some EU leaders told them they were "very close."

Almost as a consolation prize, Latvia has aggressively pursued membership in WTO and taken the greatest strides toward meeting this goal. Its bid, however, is being held up over the issue of audiovisual services, which pits us against the EU and puts Latvia and the other two Baltic EU aspirants in between. The EU is insisting that Latvia make no commitment to open its market to audiovisual services. While we are ready to accept Latvia's adoption of current (51 percent foreign) EU content restrictions, we want Riga to commit not to go any further and believe this to be a significant concession.

- You should tell the presidents that we are very supportive of their accession to the EU and to the WTO --

on defensible terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

**Life in the 'Hood: Russians & Hansa.** The Baltic leaders deserve considerable praise for their efforts to build cooperation among themselves and with most of their neighbors. With support from the Nordics and the U.S. all three states participate in several initiatives aimed at promoting regional security and compatibility with NATO. These include the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), the Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and a regional airspace initiative (Baltnet). The Nordics have also developed extensive trade and investment ties in the Baltics.

With regard to relations with Russia, Lithuanian-Russian relations are the best of the three, in large part because Russian speakers account for only 8 percent of the population. In October, Presidents Yeltsin and Brazauskas signed a demarcation agreement of the land border with Kaliningrad. Vilnius remains concerned, however, about transit through Lithuania from this heavily militarized Russian province to its west.

Latvia and Estonia, which have much larger ethnic Russian communities, maintain normal but cool relations with Russia. Estonia and Russia have not reached a border agreement, primarily because of Russia's linkage of conditions on the treatment of the Russian-speaking minority (29 percent) to it. The two countries have, however, begun practical cooperation on border surveillance, information exchange on criminals, anti-smuggling measures, and extradition of criminals.

Latvia and Russia also do not have a border agreement and continue to disagree on the adequacy of Latvia's protection of the rights of its sizable (33 percent) Russian minority. President Ulmanis has played a strong personal role in resisting nationalist pressures to curtail educational and cultural opportunities for Russian speakers.

In August 1994, with your intervention, Russia withdrew its troops from Latvia except for about 800 Russian technicians who stayed to operate the Skrunda missile early-warning radar facility until it shuts down this August. Russia has abided by the terms of the inspections of this facility, but Latvia is concerned that Russia may delay the departure

Shoren  
Substantially

of its personnel and the commencement of dismantlement because of construction delays in the essential replacement facility in Belarus. Based on political signs and available intelligence, we expect Russia to abide fully by the terms of the agreement with Latvia, which Yeltsin has previously affirmed to you.

In December, as part of an emerging "charm offensive," **President Yeltsin** floated the notion of enhanced economic cooperation with the Baltic states, but linked it to Baltic neutrality and offers of **joint security guarantees**. The Balts promptly rejected the latter notions, making clear that they aspire to be members of NATO. Our public response to Yeltsin noted that we respected the Balts' right to choose their security arrangements and welcomed Russia's willingness to cooperate in non-security areas.

- Rather than fight Moscow on Baltic membership in NATO, we have sought to focus on areas where there is a common ground. Madeleine and Strobe have told their Russian interlocutors, that we must agree to disagree on NATO, but we want to help promote expanded cooperation between northeastern Europe and northern Russia (as existed in Hanseatic period) in trade, energy development, the environment, and combating transnational problems such as organized crime. You should encourage the Baltic Presidents to pursue a similar tack as a way to show Moscow that Baltic integration will create opportunities.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

See Scenario at Tab B.

### IV. PRESS PLAN

See Scenario at Tab B.

### V. SEQUENCE

See Scenario at Tab B.

#### Attachments

Tab A Points to be Made  
Tab B Scenario  
Tab C Biographies  
Tab D Secretary of State Memo to the President  
Tab E Summary of The Charter of Partnership

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT MERI, LATVIAN PRESIDENT ULMANIS AND  
LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT BRAZAUSKAS

Partnership Charter

- Charter important for United States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania because it marks how far we have come toward our shared goal of building a new Europe and advancing your integration into West. It also maps out clear directions for the road ahead.
- Charter makes clear our "real, profound and enduring interest" in independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and security of your countries.
- Can be very proud of your individual and collective efforts to advance goals of Charter even before it was completed.
- Together, you are creating facts of integration on ground through your participation in PFP, IFOR, and host of regional initiatives.
- Charter gives us many opportunities to expand and improve relations in both security and economic fields. Events of the last few days -- signing of double tax treaties, initiatives on justice and organized crime, and creation of the Baltic-American Partnership Fund - show that we are already moving to build on this framework.

NATO Enlargement

- Welcome your desire and support your efforts to become members of NATO. Want to underscore that NATO's door will remain open.
- Your membership will depend on satisfaction of NATO principles, including your ability to contribute to overall security.
- First round of enlargement will not be last. *al gety send report and getting Senate ratification* But it's too soon to talk about next steps. We must all focus on getting the first round "right." Welcome your help in this regard. The stronger our success in integrating Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, the easier next steps will be.

- ~~Besting~~ This is a good time to <sup>is</sup> This is a good time to.
- For now you should focus on making best use of intensified dialogue, Partnership for Peace enhancements and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to deepen your engagement with the Alliance.

- We are committed to helping you advance these goals in a more systematic way. I fully support your continued work with our military experts to assess the needs of your countries' armed forces.

#### EU/WTO Accession

- Support each of your efforts to join EU, but recognize the decisions will be made by Europeans.
- We support your accession to WTO on <sup>normal normal</sup> ~~defensible~~ terms. Will be as flexible as we can; hope EU will do same.
- As Ambassador Barshefsky explained, we will continue to work with the EU on what we think is a reasonable compromise on audiovisual content that is consistent with the goals of the EU Broadcast Directive and protects our interest in maintaining an open market for audiovisual content.

#### Relations with Neighbors

- Applaud effort to develop cooperative relationship with each other, Nordics, and Russia.
- Especially pleased with your joint effort to promote regional security and interoperability with NATO through participation in Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltrou), and regional airspace initiative (Baltnet).
- Now it's time to explore in detail the opportunities for building economic and other non-security cooperation throughout the Baltic region. I am fully committed to enhancing our involvement in Nordic/Baltic and Baltic/Russian cooperative ventures.

#### Russia

- Encouraged by recent signature of Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin in Moscow.

- Agreement meets one of fundamental responsibilities in relationship between neighboring states, establishment of common borders in mutually satisfactory manner. With border agreements in place, Lithuania and Russia can move on to other areas of cooperation.
- Hope Estonia and Latvia will sign similar agreements with Russia. Pleased that Estonia and Russia have begun practical cooperation on border surveillance, information exchange/extradition of criminals, and anti-smuggling.
- Know Latvia concerned that Russia may delay departure from Skrunda radar facility. We expect Russia to abide fully by terms of agreement with Latvia. Have strong indications that Russia intends to do so.
- Note Russia has proposed security guarantees to you. As we stated publicly, agree it's a right of sovereign states to choose their own security orientation, including whether or not to become member of an Alliance.
- Also want to encourage expansion of cooperation between northern Europe and Russia in areas where you have common interest. Charter advocates pursuit of increased cooperation in economic, trade, environmental arena as well as in fight against organized crime.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

DATE: January 16, 1998

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:40 p.m.

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

I. PURPOSE

- Underscore our commitment to advancing the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania<sup>in</sup> into Western institutions and to strengthening our bilateral relations.
- As a symbol of this commitment, sign the Charter of Partnership, which codifies the terms of the relationship and maps out the road ahead.
- Reaffirm our commitment to keep NATO's door open and support their efforts to become members of NATO. Also note our support for their accession, on appropriate terms, to the EU and WTO.
- Applaud Baltic efforts to develop friendly relations with their neighbors, particularly Russia, and offer support for expanded cooperation between Russia and northeastern Europe in areas where there is common ground.

II. BACKGROUND

The Baltic Presidents see this visit as a truly historic occasion both because of the Charter signing and because it will be the last time they, as key figures in their countries' post-communist transformations, will be together with you in the White House. Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American former EPA official in Chicago, will replace Brazauskas, who chose not to seek reelection, next month. Meri, nearly 70, is unlikely to stand for another term, and Ulmanis, whose second term expires next year, probably

*will not* won't run again.

These very different men -- the urbane and intellectual Meri; the earthy, former Communist Brazauskas; and the

centrist, business-like Ulmanis -- have succeeded in putting their states at the forefront of the reform movement in Central Europe. Over the past four years, they successfully ~~have~~ used their positions to forward democratic reform, continue the transition to market-oriented economies, move closer to Western institutions, and enhance relations with their neighbors, including Russia.

All three leaders believe that **the United States is the key to their full reintegration into the West.** For over fifty years, successive U.S. Administrations maintained a strong policy of non-recognition of their forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union. We then played a critical role in helping them implement democratic and free market reforms and strengthen their security and sovereignty. The Charter of Partnership you will sign during this visit symbolizes how far they have come since 1991 and expresses our commitment to help them complete this journey.

The Charter is a political statement of common principles and a framework for the expansion of our relations. Most importantly to the Baltics, it affirms that they are part of our vision for a new Europe and will not be left out or discriminated against due to history or geography.

- On NATO, it builds on the Madrid Summit, stating that the **United States welcomes Baltic aspirations and supports their efforts to join NATO.** It also recalls Madrid's caveat that aspirants must be able to assume the responsibilities of membership and that Allies must agree inclusion of any new members would serve overall European stability. **It does not pre-commit us to Baltic membership or extend any surrogate security guarantees.**
- The Baltic states reaffirm their commitment to continue market-oriented reforms. The four governments pledge to enhance joint efforts to promote cooperative relations throughout the Baltic region, including with Russia.
- The Charter notes the progress of existing bilateral working groups on defense and establishes a new working group on trade, investment, and related fields. It also establishes a Partnership Commission of senior officials, who will hold annual stock-taking meetings.

**Moving Ahead.** As evidence of our commitment to pursuing Charter goals, you will announce at the signing ceremony the establishment of a **Baltic-American Partnership Fund** -- using \$7.5 million of our assistance money and **matching funds from George Soros** -- whose charter will be to foster the development on non-governmental organizations in these states. Also during their visit here, Charlene Barshefsky will sign a bilateral investment treaty with Lithuania (Estonia and Latvia have accords already), Bob Rubin will sign **treaties against double taxation** with all three states, and Attorney General Reno and FBI Director Freeh will announce enhanced **cooperation** among the three in **the** administration of justice and **combating organized crime**.

### Likely Topics

**NATO Membership.** The Baltic Presidents will raise their aspirations for NATO membership. They all hope there will be a second tranche of new members in 1999, and at least Lithuania believes it is well on the way to qualifying. Lithuania has devoted the most resources and made the greatest progress of the three in building its armed forces. But even they have very limited capabilities to work with NATO in defense of their territory or in peacekeeping missions elsewhere.

While continuing to advance the public line that all Baltic states belong in NATO, both Tallinn and Riga realize that they won't be ready militarily to join soon and that most Allies have serious reservations about their membership because of Russian objections. Thus, they have focused their efforts on joining the EU. In their meeting with you, the presidents will accept the view that it is premature to discuss the "next tranche" and that the Charter does not commit the United States to support their bid. However, they will seek reaffirmation that NATO's door remains open, and, as Strobe has put it, that we are working seriously to help them walk through that door.

- You should urge them to focus on taking advantage of the many programs we and the Allies are offering, including \$18 million in military assistance next year, to help them enhance their security, ability to work with NATO, and preparations for membership. You might remind them that the Charter is neither a security guarantee nor a firm commitment to support their membership.

Investment, EU and WTO. The Baltic economies all are still in transition, but Estonia and Latvia are the furthest along. U.S. investment in the region has been slow to develop, now totaling about \$550 million, only 19 percent of all their foreign investment.

- Estonia has made steady progress across the board and in 1996 became the first Central European country to "graduate" from our assistance program Support for East European Democracy (SEED). In December, <sup>1997</sup> it was the only Baltic state invited to commence EU accession talks.
- Latvia is close to getting an offer from the EU to begin accession talks. Its strong progress was slowed by lagging privatization and a 1995 banking crisis.
- Lithuania has made steady progress in privatization but has suffered from very slow growth (linked to taxation policies and a lagging financial sector).

*Bold* Regarding the WTO Latvia has been the most aggressive of the three in pursuing this goal. Its bid, however, is being held up over the issue of audiovisual services, which pits us against the EU and puts Latvia and the other two Baltic EU aspirants in between. The EU is insisting that Latvia make no commitment to open its market to audiovisual services. While ready to accept Latvia's adoption of current (51 percent foreign) EU content restrictions, we want Riga to go no further toward restrictions and believe this is a significant concession.

- You should tell the Presidents that we are very supportive of their accession to the EU and the WTO -- on appropriate terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

Russians & Northeastern Europe Cooperation. The Baltic leaders cooperate well with each other and most of their neighbors. The Nordics and the United States have supported several initiatives that promote regional security and compatibility with NATO, including the Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat). The Nordics have extensive trade and investment in the region.

Lithuanian-Russian relations are the best of the three, in large part because Russian speakers account for only (8)

*New page*

percent of the population. In October, Presidents Yeltsin and Brazauskas signed a demarcation agreement of the land border with Kaliningrad. Vilnius remains concerned, however, about transit through Lithuania from this heavily-militarized Russian province to its west.

Latvia and Estonia, which have much larger ethnic Russian communities, maintain normal but cool relations with Russia. Estonia and Latvia have not reached border agreements, primarily because of Moscow's linkage of conditions on the treatment of the Russian-speaking minorities (29 and 33 percent respectively). They have, however, begun practical cooperation with Russia on such problems as border controls and countering crime.

In August 1994, with your intervention, Russia withdrew its troops from Latvia except for about 800 technicians who stayed to operate the Skrunda missile early-warning radar facility until it shuts down this August. Russia has allowed inspections of this facility. But Latvia is concerned that departure of the technicians and the commencement of dismantlement may be slowed due to construction delays in the essential replacement facility in Belarus. Based on political signs and available intelligence, we expect Russia to abide fully by the terms of the agreement with Latvia, which Yeltsin has previously affirmed to you.

In December, as part of an emerging "charm offensive," President Yeltsin floated the notion of enhanced economic cooperation with the Baltic states, but linked it to Baltic neutrality and offers of joint security guarantees. The Balts promptly rejected the latter notions, making clear that they aspire to be members of NATO.

- Rather than fight Moscow on Baltic membership in NATO, we have sought to focus on areas where there is a common ground. Madeleine and Strobe have told their Russian interlocutors that we must agree to disagree on NATO, but we want to help promote expanded cooperation between northeastern Europe and northern Russia (as existed in Hanseatic period) in trade, energy development, the environment, and combating transnational problems such as organized crime. You should encourage the Baltic Presidents to pursue a similar tack as a way to show Moscow that Baltic integration will create opportunities.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH BALTIC PRESIDENTS

DATE: January 16, 1998

LOCATION: Cabinet Room

TIME: 1:40 p.m.

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

I. PURPOSE

- Underscore our commitment to advancing the integration of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania's into Western institutions and to strengthening our bilateral relations.
- As a symbol of this commitment, sign the Charter of Partnership, which codifies the terms of the relationship and maps out the road ahead.
- Reaffirm our commitment to keep NATO's door open and support their efforts to become members of NATO. Also note our support for their accession, on appropriate terms, to the EU and WTO.
- Applaud Baltic efforts to develop friendly relations with their neighbors, particularly Russia, and offer support for expanded cooperation between Russia and northeastern Europe in areas where there is common ground.

II. BACKGROUND

The Baltic Presidents see this visit as a truly historic occasion both because of the Charter signing and because it will be the last time they, as key figures in their countries' post-communist transformations, will be together with you in the White House. Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American former EPA official in Chicago, will replace Brazauskas, who chose not to seek reelection, next month. Meri, nearly 70, is unlikely to stand for another term, and Ulmanis, whose second term expires next year, probably won't run again.

These very different men -- the urbane and intellectual Meri and the earthy, former Communist Brazauskas, and the

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### Likely Topics

**NATO Membership.** The Baltic Presidents will raise their aspirations for NATO membership. They all hope there will be a second tranche of new members in 1999, and at least Lithuania believes it is well on the way to qualifying. Lithuania, with the largest population, ~~has~~ in fact, *has* devoted the most resources and made the greatest progress of the three in building its armed forces. But even they have very limited capabilities to work with NATO in defense of their territory or in peacekeeping missions elsewhere.

While continuing to advance the public line that all Baltic states belong in NATO, both Tallinn and Riga realize that they won't be ready militarily to join soon and that most Allies have serious reservations about their membership because of Russian objections. Thus, they have focused their efforts on joining the EU. In their meeting with you, the presidents will accept the view that it is premature to discuss the "next tranche" and that the Charter does not commit the United States to support their bid. However, they will seek reaffirmation that NATO's door remains open, and, as Strobe has put it, that we are working seriously to help them walk through that door.

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Regarding the WTO, Latvia has been the most aggressive of the three in pursuing this goal. Its bid, however, is being held up over the issue of audiovisual services, which pits us against the EU and puts Latvia and the other two Baltic EU aspirants in between. The EU is insisting that Latvia make no commitment to open its market to audiovisual services. While ready to accept Latvia's adoption of current (51 percent foreign) EU content restrictions, we want Riga to go no further and believe this is a significant concession. *toward restrictions*

- You should tell the Presidents that we are very supportive of their accession to the EU and the WTO -- on appropriate terms -- and hope the audiovisual issue with the EU can be resolved soon. You might also note our interest in expanding trade and investment.

*Northwestern Europe Cooperate*

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In December, as part of an emerging "charm offensive," **President Yeltsin** floated the notion of enhanced economic cooperation with the Baltic states, but linked it to Baltic neutrality and offers of **joint security guarantees**. The Balts promptly rejected the latter notions, making clear that they aspire to be members of NATO.

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III. PARTICIPANTS

See Scenario at Tab B.

IV. PRESS PLAN

See Scenario at Tab B.

V. SEQUENCE

See Scenario at Tab B.

Attachments

Tab A	Points to be Made
Tab B	Scenario
Tab C	Biographies
Tab D	Secretary of State Memo to the President
Tab E	Summary of The Charter of Partnership

POINTS TO BE MADE FOR MEETING WITH  
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT MERI, LATVIAN PRESIDENT ULMANIS AND  
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**Partnership Charter**

- Charter important for United States, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania because it marks how far we have come toward our shared goal of building a new Europe and advancing your integration into West. Also maps out clear directions for road ahead.
- Charter makes clear our "real, profound and enduring interest" in independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and security of your countries.
- Can be very proud of your individual and collective efforts to advance goals of Charter even before it was completed. Need to keep working to promote respect for rights of all citizens and deal with legacy of past.
- Together, you are creating facts of integration on ground through your participation in PFP, IFOR, and host of regional initiatives. *OSFOR?*
- Charter gives us many opportunities to expand and improve relations in both security and economic fields. Events of last few days -- signing of double tax treaties, initiatives on justice and organized crime, and creation of Baltic-American Partnership Fund - show that we are already moving to build on this framework.

**NATO Enlargement**

- Welcome your desire and support your efforts to become members of NATO. Want to underscore that NATO's door will remain open.
- Your membership will depend on satisfaction of NATO principles, including your ability to contribute to overall security.
- First round of enlargement will not be last. But it's too soon to talk about next steps. We must all focus on getting first round "right" and securing Senate ratification. Welcome your help in this regard. The

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stronger our success in integrating Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic, easier next steps will be.

- This is good time to make use of intensified dialogue, Partnership for Peace enhancements and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council to deepen your engagement with Alliance.
- We are committed to helping you advance these goals in more systematic ways. Fully support work of our military experts to assess needs of your countries' armed forces and help you develop realistic defense plans. We will increase our security assistance next year and work closely with other donor states.

#### **EU/WTO Accession**

- Support each of your efforts to join EU, but recognize decisions will be made by Europeans.
- We support your accession to WTO on appropriate terms. Will be as flexible as can; hope EU will do same.
- As Ambassador Barshefsky explained, we will continue to work with EU on what we think is reasonable compromise on audiovisual content that is consistent with goals of EU Broadcast Directive and protects our interest in maintaining an open market.

#### **Relations with Neighbors**

- Applaud effort to develop cooperative relationship with each other, Nordics, and Russia.
- Especially pleased with your joint effort to promote regional security and interoperability with NATO through participation in Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion (Baltbat), Baltic Sea Squadron (Baltron), and regional airspace initiative (Baltnet).
- Now it's time to explore in detail opportunities for building economic and other non-security cooperation throughout Baltic region. Am fully committed to enhancing our involvement in Nordic/Baltic and Baltic/Russian cooperative ventures.

Russia

- Encouraged by recent signature of Kaliningrad border agreement between Presidents Brazauskas and Yeltsin in Moscow.
- Agreement meets one of fundamental responsibilities in relationship between neighboring states, establishment of common borders in mutually satisfactory manner. With border agreements in place, Lithuania and Russia can move on to other areas of cooperation.
- Hope Russia will sign similar agreements with Estonia and Latvia soon. Pleased that Estonia and Latvia are committed to expanding practical cooperation with Russia on common concerns.
- Know Latvia concerned that Russia may delay departure from Skrunda radar facility. We expect Russia to abide fully by terms of agreement with Latvia. Have strong indications that Russia intends to do so.
- Note Russia has proposed security guarantees to you. As we stated publicly, agree sovereign states have right to choose their own security orientation, including whether or not to become member of an Alliance. Your choice is clear.
- Want to work with you and Nordics to expand cooperation between northern Europe and Russia in areas where we all have common interests. ~~Charter notes increased cooperation in economic development, trade, environmental arena as well as in fight against organized crime. As you have heard in meetings earlier this week, we are ready to move on this agenda in practical ways.~~

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a. memo</del>	<del>Memorandum of conversation with Baltic Presidents (6 pages)</del>	<del>01/16/1998</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>001b. memo</del>	<del>Memorandum of conversation with Baltic Presidents (1 page)</del>	<del>n.d.</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2013

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9800709

2007-1804-F  
 bm199

**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]
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Meeting with Baltic Presidents

PARTICIPANTS: The President  
 The Vice President  
 Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State  
 Samuel R. Berger, Assistant to the President  
     for National Security Affairs  
 Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State  
 Leon Fuerth, Assistant to the Vice President  
     for National Security Affairs  
 Marc Grossman, Assistant Secretary of State  
     for European and Canadian Affairs  
 Larry Napper, U.S. Ambassador to Latvia  
 Keith Smith, U.S. Ambassador to Lithuania  
 Walter Andrusyszyn, U.S. Chargé to Estonia  
 Stephen Flanagan, Special Assistant to  
     the President and Senior Director for  
     Central and Eastern European Affairs, NSC  
     Staff (Notetaker)  
 Tiina Ets, Interpreter (Estonia)  
 Alvin Skipsna, Interpreter (Latvia)  
 Emilija Sakadolskas, Interpreter (Lithuania)

Estonia

Lenert Meri, President  
 Kalev Stoicescu, Ambassador to the U.S.  
 Indrek Tarand, Chancellor, Permanent Under  
     Secretary  
 Sven Jurgenson, Director, Political  
     Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Kaja Tael, Interpreter

Latvia

Guntis Ulmanis, President  
 Valdis Birkavs, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
 Ojars Kalnins, Ambassador to the U.S.  
 Ivars Millers, Chief of Staff

~~SECRET~~

Classified by: Glyn T. Davies

Reason: 1.5(b,d)

Declassify on: 7/30/98

**DECLASSIFIED**

**PER E.O. 13526**

2014-0656-M (1,59)

4/27/2022

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~~SECRET~~

Ieva Zalcberga, Interpreter

Lithuania

Algirdas Brazauskas, President

Algirdas Saudargas, Minister of Foreign  
Affairs

Stasys Sakalauskas, Ambassador to the U.S.

Neris Germanas, Advisor to the President

Zita Makutiene, Interpreter

DATE, TIME

January 16, 1998, 1:40 - 2:25 p.m.

AND PLACE:

Cabinet Room

The President: Today is an important day. I just want to make a few remarks and really listen to what you have to say. (U)

The Charter of Partnership is an historic document and a demonstration of our commitment to advance integration of your countries into Western institutions through concrete initiatives. We welcome your aspirations to join the Alliance and are committed to keeping NATO's door open. The first round of enlargement will not be the last, but we need to get the first round right. Welcome your help. (U)

I applaud your efforts to work together and with your neighbors, particularly with Russia. We welcome the recent Lithuanian-Russian border agreement and hope that Russia will sign agreements with Estonia and Latvia soon. ~~(S)~~

We strongly support your accession to WTO, and I hope we can complete your three separate negotiations this year. I know you discussed this issue with Ambassador Barshefsky earlier in the week. She has since advised me that she discussed the problem on audiovisual with Sir Leon Brittan yesterday, and they agreed to work together expeditiously to find a solution. In fact, U.S. and EU officials will meet next week. But I want to underscore that I have made clear to Ambassador Barshefsky that this must be resolved this year. ~~(S)~~

Now, I really want to hear what you all have to say. (U)

President Meri: Thank you very much for your comments and your support to make this day possible. The Charter is truly an historic document and we welcome it. We are committed to moving forward on implementation. On WTO, we are very grateful for

your commitment and hope that this can be resolved very soon. ~~(S)~~

The President: Again, on WTO I just want to emphasize that we want this resolved this year. I truly believe that it is in the interest of the United States and the EU to work this out so that we don't stand in the way of your integration. ~~(S)~~

President Meri: There is also the question of our membership in the OECD, which we hope can be resolved soon. At the same time, we are busy in Estonia developing our economy and building practical cooperation with all our neighbors, including Russia, as you mentioned. One of my favorite projects is the effort to get internet connections in every school in Estonia. I hope Mr. Vice President that when you arrive in the White House, sometime after the year 2000, that every school will be connected. (U)

President Brazauskas: I am most grateful for this opportunity to meet with you. A stable security system is important to Lithuania and to all of us. This Charter signing is the most important event on the political agenda of Lithuania this year and we look forward to its implementation. We desire NATO membership and are working through the development of our military forces and other actions to make this possible. We have, indeed, signed the Border Delimitation Treaty with Russia, and hope that this will spur others.

We are also working to put our relations with Belarus on a broader and more normal course. But still there are other problems that relate to the internal politics of Belarus.

I welcome your words on WTO. WTO and OECD membership are highly important to Lithuania. We recognize that we can't be members of these and other Western institutions unless we meet the criteria and clear up remaining problems. But I am grateful to all elements of the U.S. Government, particularly on the military side, for your help in this regard. ~~(S)~~

The President: Thank you for those words. I welcome the Estonian border cooperation and also Lithuania's border agreements. ~~(S)~~

President Meri: Our border agreement is nearly ready. ~~(S)~~

President Ulamanis: Ambassador Napper speaks such beautiful Latvian, I am going to follow his example and deliver my remarks in English. I'll do my best. (U)

~~SECRET~~

The President: That's pretty good. Your English is a lot better than my Latvian. (U)

President Ulmanis: Mr. President, we have a common vision, economic, political and social. This is enshrined in the Charter of Partnership, which we fully embrace. We look forward to working actively on implementation. In fact, I would like to propose that we have the first quadrilateral meeting of the Partnership Council in Riga. ~~(S)~~

The 1994 NATO Summit has two formal objectives: to review progress of applicant countries towards membership and to set the agenda for the Alliance in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We want to be part of that vision. ~~(S)~~

Mr. President, thank you for your leadership and your support in our dealings with Russia. I have a vision of a new Russia that is a good neighbor. We are building practical cooperation with Russia to advance this goal. You can count on Latvia to do its part. I recently sent a letter to President Yeltsin expressing my hopes for further cooperation with Russia. I received a very cordial response that thanked me for my efforts to reconcile relations between Russia and Latvian society. ~~(S)~~

Finally, Mr. President, Latvia will be celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence in November of this year. I would like to welcome you to Riga for this celebration. (U)

The President: I am encouraged by your vision of Russia and its relations with the Baltic states. I welcome your positive input and I think we have made some good progress. Now I know you have been concerned that Russia may delay its departure from the Skrunda radar facility. We expect Russia to abide fully by the terms of the agreement and have strong indications that Russia intends to do so. But we'll keep on top of this. I would like to ask Vice President Gore to say a few words. ~~(S)~~

The Vice President: This is an historic meeting. It will be looked back upon as important in the development of transatlantic and European relations. Your pleasures are matched by ours. I also look forward to working on the many practical areas of cooperation that we have outlined. (U)

Secretary Albright: We had a wonderful lunch at the State Department and really celebrated this day. We are delighted that Strobe will soon follow up as head of the Partnership

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Commission. One of the issues we discussed at lunch was our guests' concerns about Ukraine, and I would invite them to mention some of these to you, Mr. President. (S)

President Meri: Thank you, Madame Secretary. It may seem inappropriate for such a small country to speak of helping such a large country as Ukraine, but I think we have common experiences that can be of value to our friends in Kiev. Estonia has been successful in building up its financial and the banking sector. President Kuchma knows how to get things done, but he might be able to use some of the lessons of our experience in certain sectors, as a post-Soviet society, to good effect. One thing is clear, it is important that all of us support Ukraine. Because Ukraine's success is also a way to ensure democracy in Russia. (S)

President Brazauskas: I also want to say a word about Ukraine. Relations between all three Baltic states and Ukraine are good. Our security depends on stability and democracy being preserved in Ukraine. A month ago I had a meeting with President Kuchma and I feel that President Kuchma adheres to the same line. But his situation is very difficult. All the military factories are either closed down or at a standstill. Thousands of workers are affected. This common attention to Ukraine is helpful. (S)

President Ulmanis: I welcome this discussion. Ukraine's stability is critical to security in the region. Elections are coming up in Ukraine and the left-wing is active. I think that it is important that we engage Ukraine in our Hanseatic cooperation. (S)

By the way, I hope that the United States will play a role in the Council of the Baltic Sea States. (S)

The Vice President: We would welcome the opportunity to help advance regional cooperation and to include Ukraine. (S)

Secretary Albright: Also on Belarus, the three Presidents have some very interesting ideas on how to deal with this situation. We discussed this over lunch. (S)

President Brazauskas: Lukashenko has lost touch with reality and is only concerned with maintaining power. We need to appeal to the forces of reason in Belarus. Russia can play a constructive role here. We need to press ahead together with some of the ideas we discussed at lunch (NFI). (S)

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Deputy Secretary Talbott: The Council of the Baltic Sea States can be a practical vehicle for our engagement in regional cooperation. In particular, we want to participate in the Operative Committee of the Working Group on Organized Crime.

~~(S)~~

President Ulmanis: We discussed this in the Justice Department earlier today. We are in agreement with this. ~~(S)~~

President Meri: One last point with regard to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. These can seem outdated now that the Cold War is over, but there are many tasks involved in building a democratic society, more than just having elections. Free media and the flow of ideas are also vitally important. (U)

Finally, let me say "I am delighted that Strobe Talbott will lead the "Joint Commission." It ensures solid implementation.

(U)

The President: Well thank you all very, very much. I think we need to proceed to the signing ceremony. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

~~SECRET~~

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~~SECRET~~

your commitment and hope that this can be resolved very soon.  
(C)

The President: Again, on WTO I just want to emphasize that we want this resolved this year. I truly believe that it is in the interest of the United States and the EU to work this out so that we don't stand in the way of your integration. (C)

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President Meri: Our border agreement is nearly ready. (C)

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<del>001a. letter</del>	<del>From President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)</del>	<del>10/27/1998</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022
<del>001b. letter</del>	<del>From President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)</del>	<del>10/27/1998</del>	<del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2067

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9807494

2007-1804-F  
bm207

### 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]

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

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- b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

- 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.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY



*President  
Republic of Estonia*

Kadriorg, October 27, 1998

*Dear Mr. President,*

Allow me to congratulate you on the breakthrough achieved on the Israeli-Palestine negotiations. The Estonian people, as well as many others in Europe, know only too well how complicated the problems born out of past violence can be. In the Middle East, the greatest of today's threats - terrorism - complicates the picture even further. Once more, we could see that the United States are willing and able to restrain violence, and I hope with you, dear friend, that after all the unsuccessful diplomatic measures, the strong political will of the USA will put an end to the still continuing criminal massacre in Kosovo.

With best wishes of success and zeal for future

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President  
The United States of America

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

NOV 2 9:04



*President  
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Kadriorg, October 27, 1998

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Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President  
The United States of America

NOV 2 9:04

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001 letter	From President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)	<del>10/27/1998</del>	P1A(1) v2 9/27/2022
002a letter	From President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)	<del>10/27/1998</del>	P1A(1) v2 9/27/2022
002b form	Correspondence tracking worksheet (1 page)	<del>11/17/1998</del>	P1A(1) v2 9/27/2022

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2067

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9807500

2007-1804-F  
 bm208

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

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

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With best wishes of success and zeal for future

*Sincerely Yours,*

Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President  
The United States of America

NOV 2 9:04

# 284906  
7500

NSU



*President  
Republic of Estonia*

Kadriorg, October 27, 1998

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Allow me to congratulate you on the breakthrough achieved on the Israeli-Palestine negotiations. The Estonian people, as well as many others in Europe, know only too well how complicated the problems born out of past violence can be. In the Middle East, the greatest of today's threats – terrorism – complicates the picture even further. Once more, we could see that the United States are willing and able to restrain violence, and I hope with you, dear friend, that after all the unsuccessful diplomatic measures, the strong political will of the USA will put an end to the still continuing criminal massacre in Kosovo.

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*Lennart Meri*

Lennart Meri

William J. Clinton  
President  
The United States of America

Photocopy Misc. Handwriting

NOV 10 1998

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 17, 1998

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: HIS EXCELLENCY LENNART MERI

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT ON THE BREAKTHROUGH  
ACHIEVED ON THE ISRALI-PALESTINE NEGOTIATIONS  
AND HOPES THE USA WILL PUT AN END TO THE  
CONTINUING CRIMINAL MASSACRE IN KOSOVO

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
SAMUEL R. "SANDY" BERGER REFERRAL NOTE: _____	ORG	98/11/17		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

- ```

*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                       *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *      OF SIGNER    *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED        *      CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *      OUTGOING   *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****

```

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE  | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                                             | DATE                  | RESTRICTION                    |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| <del>001a. cable</del> | <del>re: Letter from President Clinton to President Meri (2 pages)</del>                                  | <del>03/06/1999</del> | <del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022 |
| 001b. memo             | For the President from Samuel Berger re: Message to President Lennart Meri of Estonia (1 page)            | 03/06/1999            | P1/b(1) ✓ 9/27/2022            |
| <del>001c. cable</del> | <del>re: letter from President Clinton to President Meri (1 page)</del>                                   | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022 |
| 001d. letter           | From President Meri to President Clinton (2 pages)                                                        | 01/15/1999            | P1/b(1)                        |
| 001e. paper            | re: Northeast European Initiative (2 pages)                                                               | n.d.                  | P1/b(1)                        |
| <del>001f. memo</del>  | <del>For the President from Samuel Berger re: Message to President Lennart Meri of Estonia (1 page)</del> | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> ✓ 9/27/2022 |

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2711

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9901068

2007-1804-F  
 bm201

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

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

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**WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM**

**DIST:** BRADEN, BUTLER, COQ, DAVIDSON, FLANAGAN, SUM2, NSC, SIT{C2}

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**PREC:** IMMEDIATE      **CLASS:** UNCLASSIFIED      **DTG:**062125Z MAR 99

**FM:** THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC

**TO:**  
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASH DC

UNCLAS  
QQQQ

**SUBJECT:** MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MERI

AMBASSADOR OR DCM: PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PRESIDENT MERI AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE UNITED STATES ON MARCH 11. NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR LENNART:

PAGE 2 RHEHAAA2223 UNCLAS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER CONCERNING YOUR PRIVATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LATER THIS MONTH. I REGRET THAT MY TRAVEL PLANS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS PRECLUDE A MEETING AT THAT TIME.

I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS ON ESTONIA'S ECONOMY AND TO LEARN THAT OUR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO DEEPEN. I ALSO VALUE YOUR COMMENTS ON NATO'S OPEN DOOR POLICY. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I REMAIN COMMITTED TO AN OUTCOME AT THE NATO SUMMIT THAT WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ALLIANCE'S NEWEST MEMBERS WILL NOT BE THE LAST. MOREOVER, I WANT THE SUMMIT TO PROVIDE ESTONIA AND OTHER NATO ASPIRANTS WITH A CLEAR ROADMAP AND A SET OF PRACTICAL PROGRAMS THAT WILL HELP THEM BECOME THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DEVOTE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING YOUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IS AN IMPORTANT STEP ALONG THAT PATH.

AMBASSADOR STOICESCU PASSED ME YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS ON

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 3 RHEHAAA2223 UNCLAS

ADVANCING THE INTELLECTUAL DIMENSION OF THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE. I THINK THE KIND OF EXCHANGES YOU ENVISION AMONG OPINION LEADERS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND COUNTRIES IN THE NORDIC AND BALTIC SEA REGIONS COULD GIVE ADDITIONAL DYNAMISM TO THE PROCESS. I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR WELLS AND MY STAFF IN WASHINGTON TO SEE HOW WE MIGHT FACILITATE SUCH CONTACTS.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT MONTH AT THE NATO SUMMIT.

SINCERELY,

BILL CLINTON

<^SECT>SECTION: 01 OF 01

<^SSN>2223

<^TOR>990306165250 M3730540

**FROM:**  
SITREPT

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

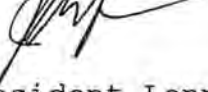
UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

March 6, 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER 

SUBJECT: Message to President Lennart Meri of Estonia

Purpose

Respond to a letter from President Meri seeking a meeting with you during his private visit to Washington March 13-15 to attend a meeting of the Trilateral Commission.


Background

You met with President Meri last January at the signing of the Charter of Partnership with the three Baltic countries. You will also see him next month at the NATO Summit. It is likely that Madeleine will meet with him next week. Meri hoped to speak with you about NATO enlargement and ways to increase cooperation among all the states in the Baltic Sea region, including Russia.

Your message notes that your trip to Central America and other scheduling difficulties preclude a meeting at this time. It thanks President Meri for his perspectives on NATO's Open Door policy and on advancing cooperation in the Baltic region.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize the transmittal of the message at Tab A.

Approve 

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

Tab A Message to President Meri  
Tab B Incoming correspondence

cc: Vice President  
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

PREC: IMMEDIATE CLASS: UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: THE WHITE HOUSE

TO: AMEMBASSY TALLINN

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT MERI

1. AMBASSADOR OR DCM: PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CLINTON TO PRESIDENT MERI AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR THE UNITED STATES ON MARCH 11. NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW.

2. BEGIN TEXT.

DEAR LENNART:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER CONCERNING YOUR PRIVATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LATER THIS MONTH. I REGRET THAT MY TRAVEL PLANS AND OTHER COMMITMENTS PRECLUDE A MEETING AT THAT TIME.

I WAS GLAD TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS ON ESTONIA'S ECONOMY AND TO LEARN THAT OUR BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS ARE CONTINUING TO DEEPEN. I ALSO VALUE YOUR COMMENTS ON NATO'S OPEN DOOR POLICY. I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT I REMAIN COMMITTED TO AN OUTCOME AT THE NATO SUMMIT THAT WILL MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ALLIANCE'S NEWEST MEMBERS WILL NOT BE THE LAST. MOREOVER, I WANT THE SUMMIT TO PROVIDE ESTONIA AND OTHER NATO ASPIRANTS WITH A CLEAR ROADMAP AND A SET OF PRACTICAL PROGRAMS THAT WILL HELP THEM BECOME THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE ESTONIAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO DEVOTE SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING YOUR DEFENSE CAPABILITIES IS AN IMPORTANT STEP ALONG THAT PATH.

AMBASSADOR STOICESCU PASSED ME YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS ON ADVANCING THE INTELLECTUAL DIMENSION OF THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN INITIATIVE. I THINK THE KIND OF EXCHANGES YOU ENVISION AMONG OPINION LEADERS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND COUNTRIES IN THE NORDIC AND BALTIC SEA REGIONS COULD GIVE ADDITIONAL DYNAMISM TO THE PROCESS. I HAVE ASKED AMBASSADOR WELLS AND MY STAFF IN WASHINGTON TO SEE HOW WE MIGHT FACILITATE SUCH CONTACTS.

I HOPE YOU HAVE A PRODUCTIVE VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU NEXT MONTH AT THE NATO SUMMIT.

SINCERELY,

BILL CLINTON

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER

SUBJECT: Message to President Lennart Meri of Estonia

Purpose

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Background

You met with President Meri last January at the signing of the Charter of Partnership with the three Baltic countries. You will also see him next month at the NATO Summit. It is likely that Madeline will meet with him next week. Meri hoped to speak with you about NATO enlargement and ways to increase cooperation among all the states in the Baltic Sea region, including Russia.

Your message notes that your trip to Central America and other scheduling difficulties preclude a meeting at this time. It thanks President Meri for his perspectives on NATO's Open Door policy and on advancing cooperation in the Baltic region.

RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize the transmittal of the message at Tab A.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments

Tab A Message to President Meri

Tab B Incoming correspondence

cc: Vice President  
Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE   | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                                                                              | DATE                  | RESTRICTION                     |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 001. letter             | President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)                                                                               | 11/14/1999            | P1/b(1)                         |
| <del>002a. letter</del> | <del>President Clinton to President Meri (2 pages)</del>                                                                   | <del>11/30/1999</del> | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |
| <del>002b. memo</del>   | <del>From Samuel Berger to President Clinton (1 page)</del>                                                                | <del>11/30/1999</del> | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |
| 002c. letter            | President Meri to President Clinton (1 page)                                                                               | 11/14/1999            | P1/b(1)                         |
| <del>002d. email</del>  | <del>Richard Norland to June Bartlett and Anne Witkowsky re: Pkg 8399<br/>Letter to Estonian President Meri (1 page)</del> | <del>11/26/1999</del> | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |
| <del>002e. letter</del> | <del>President Clinton to President Meri (2 pages)</del>                                                                   | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |
| <del>002f. letter</del> | <del>President Clinton to President Meri (1 page)</del>                                                                    | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 2760

**FOLDER TITLE:**

9908399

2007-1804-F  
 bm203

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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

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

- 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]

- 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]

- 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.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1999

Dear Lennart:

I was sorry not to see you at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, but wanted to thank you for your letter outlining the reasons why you decided not to attend.

I think you would agree that Istanbul produced several important results. The leaders sent an unambiguous message to Russia regarding the conflict in Chechnya and our conviction that a purely military solution is not possible. All participants -- including Russia -- reaffirmed the need to alleviate the hardships of the civilian population and to pursue a political settlement to the conflict. We announced that the Chairman-in-Office will visit the region. This limited progress will not end the conflict overnight, but we intend to continue to press for meaningful dialogue and a political solution.

We also signed an adapted CFE treaty that will maintain legally binding flank limitations on Russia, including in the North Caucasus. The Treaty will also strengthen the principle of host nation consent to the presence of stationed forces, which speaks directly to the concerns of a number of Russia's neighbors. Once it enters into force, the adapted CFE Treaty will be open to accession of other European states, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

The Charter we signed in Istanbul recognizes that the greatest threats to our security today are as likely to come from conflicts that begin within states as between them. It acknowledges that such threats are of immediate and legitimate interest to all OSCE states. I am confident that Estonia, under your leadership, will continue to contribute to the role OSCE can play in promoting European security.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Clinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

His Excellency  
Lennart Meri  
President of the Republic  
of Estonia  
Tallinn

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1999

NOV 30 1999

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

SAMUEL BERGER *JSB*

SUBJECT:

Response to Estonian President Meri on OSCE

*signed 12-1-99*Purpose

Inform President Meri of accomplishments of the Istanbul Summit with respect to Chechnya.

Background

President Meri wrote to you ahead of the OSCE Summit to indicate that he would not be attending in order to register his "profound fears" that the OSCE would be "celebrating when it should be acting" to address Chechnya and other issues. Your response would point out that Istanbul resulted in worthwhile accomplishments in many areas, including Chechnya. Writing to Meri will emphasize that his concerns were registered and matter to us.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the response to President Meri at Tab A.

## Attachments

Tab A Proposed response to President Meri  
 Tab B Incoming correspondence

cc: Vice President  
 Chief of Staff

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC)

8399

**From:** Norland, Richard B. (EUR)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 1999 3:39 PM  
**To:** Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC); Witkowsky, Anne A. (DEFENSE)  
**Cc:** @EUROPE - European Affairs; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary  
**Subject:** RE: Pckg 8399 - Letter to Estonian President Meri [UNCLASSIFIED]

I think "carry forward" is meant to imply keeping in place the flank limitations contained in existing CFE Treaty, while amending the treaty in other respects....but Anne Witkowski is the expert and I would have to defer to her interpretation. Anne?

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

**From:** Bartlett, L. June (EXSEC)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 26, 1999 3:34 PM  
**To:** Norland, Richard B. (EUR)  
**Cc:** @EUROPE - European Affairs; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary  
**Subject:** Pckg 8399 - Letter to Estonian President Meri [UNCLASSIFIED]

Letter to President Meri on OSCE

Dick,

Bob Bradtke has a question concerning paragraph 3 of the outgoing letter (I have highlighted the two words in blue that are in question). Bob's question:

"What does this mean?" Can this be stated more directly?"

<< File: 8399 meri letter.doc >>

8399

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Dear Lennart:

I was sorry not to see you at the OSCE Summit in Istanbul, but wanted to thank you for your letter outlining the reasons why you decided not to attend.

I think you would agree that Istanbul produced several important results. The leaders sent an unambiguous message to Russia regarding the conflict in Chechnya and our conviction that a purely military solution is not possible. All participants -- including Russia -- reaffirmed the need to alleviate the hardships of the civilian population and to pursue a political settlement to the conflict. We announced that the Chairman-in-Office will visit the region. This limited progress will not end the conflict overnight, but we intend to ~~hold firm to our support~~ <sup>continue to press</sup> for meaningful dialogue and a political solution.

We also signed an adapted CFE treaty that will carry forward legally binding flank limitations on Russia, including in the North Caucasus. The Treaty will also strengthen the principle of host nation consent to the presence of stationed forces, which speaks directly to the concerns of a number of Russia's neighbors. Once it enters into force, the adapted CFE Treaty will be open to accession of other European states, including Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

What does this mean? can this be stated more directly?

The Charter we signed in Istanbul recognizes that the greatest threats to our security today are as likely to come from conflicts that begin within states as between them. It acknowledges that such threats are of immediate and legitimate interest to all OSCE states. I am confident that Estonia, under your leadership, will continue to contribute to the role OSCE can play in promoting European security.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns on these matters.

Sincerely,

His Excellency  
Lennart Meri  
President of the Republic  
of Estonia  
Tallinn

8399

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Dear Lennart:

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I think you would agree that Istanbul produced several important results. The leaders sent an unambiguous message to Russia regarding the conflict in Chechnya and our conviction that a purely military solution is not possible. All participants -- including Russia -- reaffirmed the need to alleviate the hardships of the civilian population and to pursue a political settlement to the conflict. We announced that the Chairman-in-Office will visit the region. This limited progress will not end the conflict overnight, but we intend to continue to press for meaningful dialogue and a political solution.

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## Clinton Library

| DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE     | SUBJECT/TITLE                          | DATE                  | RESTRICTION                     |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <del>001a. note</del>     | <del>BB to RAB (1 page)</del>          | <del>05/30/2000</del> | <del>P5</del> VZ 9/27/2022      |
| <del>001b. schedule</del> | <del>Schedule proposal (2 pages)</del> | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |
| <del>001c. schedule</del> | <del>Schedule proposal (2 pages)</del> | <del>n.d.</del>       | <del>P1/b(1)</del> VZ 9/27/2022 |

**COLLECTION:**

Clinton Presidential Records  
 NSC Records Management  
 [Meri]  
 OA/Box Number: 4092

**FOLDER TITLE:**

0003624

2007-1804-F  
 bm210

**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]
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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Schedule Proposal

date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

\_\_\_ ACCEPT

\_\_\_ REGRET

\_\_\_ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett

FROM: Samuel Berger

REQUEST: Meeting with Estonian President Lennart Meri

PURPOSE: Estonians wish to pay tribute to President Clinton's support for Baltic independence.

BACKGROUND: President Meri will be in Washington June 13-15. The Estonian Ambassador requested a brief meeting for Meri with President Clinton. This meeting is a good opportunity for the President to acknowledge the appreciation of the Baltic community for his support following the break-up of the Soviet Union. A meeting will also signal to the Russians that the United States continues to pay attention to the Baltic region and intends to keep the door to NATO membership "open."

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President last saw Meri at the NATO Washington Summit in April 1999.

DATE AND TIME: June 14 or 15, 2000.

BRIEFING TIME: 5 minutes

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: TBD

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reason: 1.5(d)

Declassify On: 11/30/10

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 13526

White House Guidelines, May 16, 2017

By VZ NARA, Date 4/21/2022

2016-0656-11

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

CONFIDENTIAL

2

PARTICIPANTS: TBD

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: TBD

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be provided by NSC

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required

RECOMMENDED BY: NSC

CONTACT: Richard Norland, x 6-9157

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: May 24, 2000 letter from Estonian  
Ambassador Sven Jurgenson

SECOND LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTOCOPY

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Schedule Proposal

date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

\_\_\_ ACCEPT

\_\_\_ REGRET

\_\_\_ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett

FROM: Samuel Berger

REQUEST: Meeting with Estonian President Lennart Meri

PURPOSE: Estonians wish to pay tribute to President Clinton's support for Baltic independence.

BACKGROUND: President Meri will be in Washington June 13-15. To take part in events on the Hill marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of Baltic independence. The Estonian Ambassador ~~has~~ requested a brief meeting for Meri with President Clinton. This ~~would be~~ <sup>meeting is</sup> a good opportunity for the President to acknowledge the appreciation of the Baltic community for his support following the break-up of the Soviet Union. Amidst concern about tough statements from Moscow concerning the Baltic states, a meeting ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> also signal <sup>to</sup> the Russians that the United States continues to pay attention to the Baltic region and intends to keep the door to NATO membership "open."

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: The President last saw Meri at the NATO Washington Summit in April 1999. Meri also attended the Baltic Charter signing in January 1998. to

DATE AND TIME: June 14 or 15, 2000.

CLINTON LIBRARY PHOTO

BRIEFING TIME: 5 minutes

DURATION: 15 minutes

LOCATION: TBD

PARTICIPANTS: TBD

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: TBD

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be provided by NSC

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required

RECOMMENDED BY: NSC

CONTACT: Richard Norland, x 6-9157

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: May 24, 2000 letter from Estonian  
Ambassador Sven Jurgenson

SECOND LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not Required