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Folder Title:
Estonia: Estonia - NATO

Staff Office-Individual:
European Affairs-Norland, Richard

Original OA/ID Number:
2630

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<th>Row:</th>
<th>Section:</th>
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## Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

**Clinton Library**

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<tr>
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<th>SUBJECT/TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESTRICTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>re: NATO Enlargement (3 pages)</td>
<td>02/10/2000</td>
<td>P1/b(1)</td>
</tr>
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- European Affairs (Richard Norland)
- OA/Box Number: 2630

**FOLDER TITLE:**
- Estonia: Estonia - NATO

**RETRACTION 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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- 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]
Dear Mr. Koiva:

Thank you for your letter of April 4 to Christopher Hill and me, in which you discussed NATO enlargement and urged further actions by the President.

I share your commitment to the NATO enlargement process. The issues you raise on the timing of next steps in the process will be discussed in months to come. At the same time, I believe we should focus on two key issues. First, the full and successful integration of the first three new members -- Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic -- into the Alliance. Second, further progress by countries that aspire to join NATO on their Membership Action Plans. Success in both of these endeavors will build a strong foundation for further enlargement.

Thank you again for your letter, and the commitment to the security of America and Europe that it represents.

Sincerely,

Antony Blinken
Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs

Mr. Mati Koiva
President
Estonian American National Council
693 Dill Road
Saverna Park, Maryland 21146-4119
Mr. Anthony Blinken  
Special Assistant to the President and  
Senior Director for European Affairs  
National Security Council  
Washington, DC 20504

Mr. Christopher R. Hill  
Special Assistant to the President and  
Senior Director for Southeast European Affairs  
National Security Council  
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Messrs. Blinken and Hill:

Thank you for your recent letter to follow up on some of the discussions the Central and East European Coalition representatives had at the January, 2000 meeting with you. Thank you also for sending us copies of the statements by the President and the Secretary of State issued on the first anniversary of the accession of Poland, Hungary and the Chech Republic to NATO and the address by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott in Tallinn, Estonia on January 24, 2000. We look forward to future meetings with you to continue our discussions regarding NATO expansion and other issues of mutual concern.

Although we are aware that the President Bill Clinton’s policy is that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) door remains open for future expansion, we urge you to suggest to him that he explicitly and publicly state that he is recommending to the next President, whoever is elected, that aspiring candidates for NATO membership should be extended invitations at the 2002 NATO summit meeting. It is necessary that the NATO expansion policy, started by him, continue on track to assure peace and stability in Europe. We also urge him to state that he will personally continue to promote NATO expansion in precise and concrete terms until the end of his term and after he leaves office in 2001.
We commend President Clinton on the initiative he took to undertake the expansion of NATO. As a result of that initiative, Poland, Hungary and the Chech Republic became the first three new members of NATO since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Numerous other countries have formally or informally expressed their desire to join the alliance and are awaiting invitations.

President Harry S. Truman had the courage and foresight to form NATO in 1949. As a result of that historic decision, NATO has maintained peace in Europe even in spite of continuous threats by the Soviet Union and later by others. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO demonstrated its willingness to re-establish peace earlier in Bosnia and last year in Kosovo. These recent events demonstrated that there is no alternative to peace in Europe than NATO.

Thank you again for writing to us and we look forward to our continued cooperation to assure that the national security and economic interests of the United States are protected.

Sincerely,

Mati Koiva
President
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ESTONIA IS TO ACCELERATE PREPARATIONS FOR JOINING NATO

The Estonian Government decided yesterday to establish a ministerial commission whose main task is to co-ordinate Estonia's preparations for joining NATO. This commission was created to accelerate Estonia's domestic preparations.

The commission is headed by Prime Minister Mart Laar and includes the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior Affairs, Minister of Justice and Minister of Finance. The Acting Commander of the Estonian Defense Forces has also been invited to participate in the work of the commission.

Joining NATO is the top priority of the Estonian Government's foreign policy. In its Coalition Agreement the Estonian Government has committed itself to increase defense expenditure up to 2% of Estonia's GDP by the year 2002.

Estonian Government also decided to restructure the expert commission responsible for implementing the necessary measures of Estonia's accession to NATO and for developing the cooperation between Estonia and NATO. Estonian Defense Minister Jüri Luik is responsible for the work of the expert commission. The commission includes specialists from several ministries, Defense Forces and representatives from the Office of the President and Riigikogu (Estonian parliament).

The first task of these subordinated bodies is to prepare and confirm Estonia's individual Membership Action Plan, which will be presented to NATO in the fall of 1999.

Estonia joined the Partnership for Peace programme in February 1994 and has closely co-operated with NATO for several years. Estonia has participated in NATO's IFOR and SFOR missions in Bosnia and will take part in NATO's KFOR mission.
To: Office of the President
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Foreign Appropriations
House Committee on International Relations
Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus
House Baltic Caucus
Office of the Joint Chiefs
Department of State
Department of Defense
National Security Council: Central & European Affairs
Federal Bureau of Investigation
American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Nations
Central and East European Coalition
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The American Legion
Association of the United States Army
Polish American Congress
Jewish War Veterans
AMVETS
American GI Forum
US Committee to Expand NATO

Date: July 8, 1999
From: Ethan Goodson
Re: Defense Report

Pages total including this cover sheet: 3

The following is a defense report from the past weeks. These reports are sent out on a weekly basis. These reports are designed to stress our military stability, which is a precursor to a possible future NATO membership.

Contact: Ethan Goodson, Embassy of the Republic of Estonia
Estonian Defense Report For Weeks of June 16-June 29

Top Defense News Story

June 31
President Meri appoints Colonel Urmas Roosimagi as Acting Army Commander during Lieutenant General Johannes Kert’s one-year leave of absence. Roosimagi, the Commander of the Air Defense Battalion, graduated from the Kiev higher air defense school and has served in the Estonian defense forces since 1991. (ETA, June 31)

Military Exercises & Training Reports

June 27
A thirty-man platoon of Tallinn Defense League members return from a two week training mission in the US. The joint exercise includes troops from the US National Guard platoons from the states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Maryland, as well as troops from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The exercise involved cross-country movement and evasion of sniper drills, reconnaissance training, training on the establishing and manning of roadblocks, as well as various contests of military skills. The Estonian platoon was commended for its skill in reconnaissance exercise and came first in the marksmanship contest. (ETA, June 27)

Estonian Defense Announcements

June 21
The Parliament approves the use of up to 20 Estonian soldiers on a peace enforcement mission in Kosovo. The length of stay is six months from deployment. The group will be ready for departure on July 14. Tiit Tammsaar, the chairman of the defense commission, explains that current plans require only 10 of the available 20 Estonian troops for the mission, mainly as military policemen. (ETA, June 21)

June 22
US Ambassador Melissa Wells hands over a US aid package to the Rescue Department bomb squads. The aid package includes two Nissan Patrol jeeps, two trailers and auxiliary and
special equipment, worth a total of $70,000. The new vehicles will be handed over to the Jõhvi and Tartu rescue companies. The Rescue Department units have disposed of a total of 23,000 various rounds of ammunition since the restoration of independence in 1991. (ETA, June 22)

June 27
It is announced that the air-cushion vehicle (hovercraft) purchased in the UK by the Estonian Border Guard will arrive in August. The vehicle will be especially efficient for rescue missions in winter, when neither motor launches nor the use of snowmobiles are possible due to weak ice. (ETA, June 27)

Diplomatic Announcements

June 25
This year's Victory Day parade is held in Valga, according to the tradition of holding it in a different town every year. The event is opened by an address of President Meri, who recalls the War of Independence and stresses that no nation, which is ready to defend itself, is too small to repel an aggression. (ETA, June 25)

June 29
Commander of the Royal Danish Navy, Rear Admiral Kresten Winther arrives for a visit. The Estonian and Danish navies have had a cooperation memorandum since 1998. Five Estonian cadets are currently training in the Royal Danish Naval Academy. (ETA, June 29)
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