





*People, places*  
and *policies*  
that made history in Latvia

THE NATO RIGA SUMMIT 2006

*The year 2006 was historically significant for both the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and for Latvia, as one of NATO's newest member States. The fact that the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government took place in Riga, Latvia's capital city, in November, was of both symbolic and practical importance for all concerned, as it signaled the true return of Europe's former captive nations to a growing family of free and democratic countries.*

*Latvia, which acceded to the Alliance in 2004, is proud of the Summit's successful outcome. The Riga Summit underscored NATO's strength and unity and emphasized the transformation that the Alliance must still undergo to meet the security challenges of the 21st century. The gathering confirmed that the leaders of NATO's member States are prepared to adopt responsible decisions to strengthen our security, not only in Europe but also beyond the borders of the current Alliance. For example:*

- the NATO Response Force (NRF) was declared fully operational. Capable of rapid deployment whenever and wherever needed, it has been described as the driving engine of the Alliance's military transformation;*
- Afghanistan and the UN-mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were central to the discussions at the Summit. In addition to agreeing on increased assistance to Afghanistan's army and police, the leaders of the member States agreed not to obstruct the redeployment of NATO troops to those regions where they are most needed;*
- the Alliance reiterated its strong commitment to an open door policy. Those countries capable of meeting NATO's criteria for accession will be able to continue along the path of partnership towards eventual membership;*
- the Summit prepared the groundwork for expanding cooperation with partners outside of the Euro-Atlantic space.*

*It now remains for us to carry on in the directions agreed upon at the Summit and political responsibility requires that we fulfill the commitments made in Riga. Latvia is determined for its part to ensure that the goals set forth last November are met. The Riga Declaration, adopted by the twenty-six Member States, is succinct:*

*“Here in Latvia, a nation whose accession to NATO has strengthened security for all in the Euro-Atlantic area and brought us closer to our common goal of a Europe whole and free, united in peace and by common values, we have reaffirmed the indispensable link between North America and Europe, and underlined our commitment to the continuing transformation of our Alliance.”*



Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga  
President of Latvia  
March 2007



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*During the 2006 NATO Summit, Rīga was large enough to accommodate the world's most powerful leaders, small enough to make them all feel at home, and diverse enough to make every aspect of the Summit a success. Many of the places in Rīga where Summit activities took place already had a proud and notable history. For others, it was new history in the making.*

## *Official Summit events*

### **The Olympic Sports Centre**

If the leaders of NATO can be viewed as the 'Olympians' of Transatlantic security, then it was only natural that the **main venue of the NATO Rīga Summit** take place in Latvia's Olympic Sports Centre. This magnificent new national headquarters for Latvian sports was completed in 2005 and specially renovated and enlarged to provide a variety of multi-functional facilities for 26 NATO heads of state, their delegations and the international media. Several new structures were added to the Centre to accommodate over 250 different rooms for meetings, press conferences, and the main meeting hall with its massive 18-metre diameter circular Summit table. A virtual 'Delegates' village' was created to house the delegation offices and facilitate bilateral meetings. The huge 2000 square metre media centre provided state-of-the-art facilities and expert assistance from special 'IT Volunteers' for over 1,500 journalists from around the world.







- The main meeting room of the 2006 NATO Summit.
- ✓ Journalists file their stories in the media centre.
- ⇐ A special IT volunteer in the media centre.



- ⤴ A volunteer passes a microphone during a press conference.
- ⇐ A volunteer offers online assistance to a journalist.

## Latvian National Opera

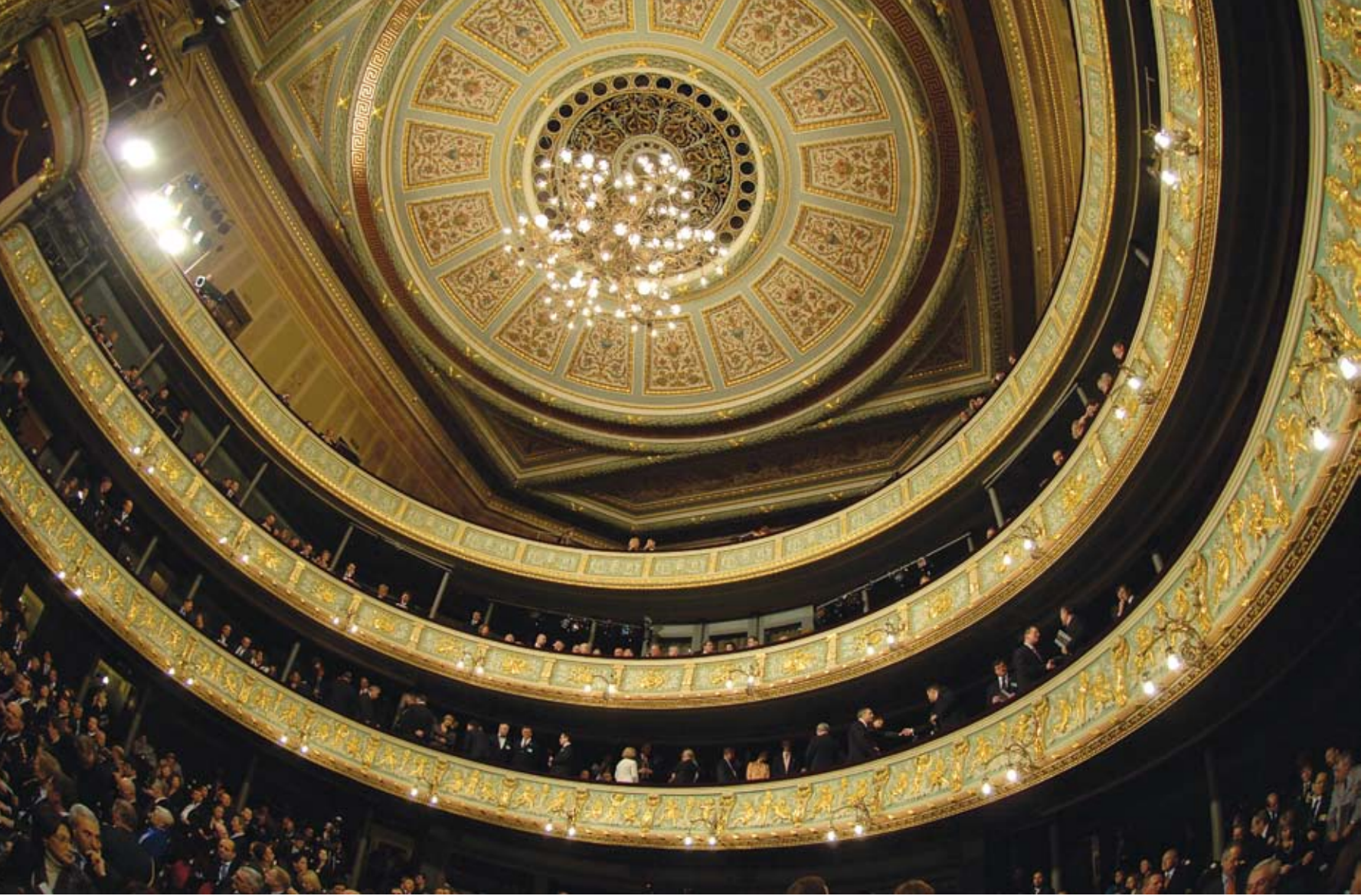
On the evening of November 28, Latvian President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga hosted Summit guests at a **Gala Concert** in Rīga's famous 'White House' – the historic National Opera. The prestigious guest list included NATO heads of state and government and their spouses, the delegations, representatives of the Latvian government, members of the NATO Support Committee, participants in the Rīga Conference, and the Young Leaders Forum. The theme of the concert programme was deeply symbolic, both for Latvia and NATO. It was called 'The Returning' and was based on the endless cycle of regeneration and renewal created by the flow of water on this earth. The star-studded cast included Gidons Krēmers and Kremerata Baltica, cellist Misha Maisky, opera singer Kristīne Opolais, pianist Vestards Šimkus and the award-winning Latvian youth choir 'Kamēr'. The historic concert was broadcast live across the country on Latvian TV and radio. Following the concert, NATO heads of state and government joined President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga for dinner in an adjacent hall, specially designed for the Summit.





- NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and his wife Jeannine at the opening of the concert.
- His Excellency Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, and his wife arrive at the Opera House.
- NATO military attaches raise a toast to the Summit.





A panoramic view of the guests as they take their seats before the concert.



Conductor Māris Sirmis enthusiastically leads the choir 'Kamēr' during the performance.



The ballerinas of the Latvian National Opera prepare to go onstage.



- The NATO leaders' dining room in the Opera House.
- ⤴ Colourful video images serve as a vibrant backdrop for the performance of the choir 'Kamēr'.
- ⤵ Waiters set the tables for NATO leaders' after-concert dinner.

### **Media Accreditation Centre – Hansa Secondary School**

This Riga secondary school was transformed into the **Media Accreditation Centre** for the busy week of the Summit. Here 1500 journalists received their security passes and credentials, as well as a wide variety of background information not only about the Summit, but also Latvia and its capital city of Riga. Students from the school took an active part in creating the Centre before it opened, and also modelled for the large photo murals that were used to decorate the building and greet its guests.



PLACES



- > Journalists receive their credentials before the Summit opens.
- └ Students pose for the murals that will decorate the walls of the Media Accreditation Centre.



## Arena Rīga

Located just a few steps from the Olympic Sports Centre, this new multi-functional sports and entertainment facility hosted the World Hockey Championships in May of 2006, and was used to house the **NATO exhibition – “Transformation through/in Action”** during the Summit. The exhibition displayed a wide array of NATO’s new technological advances as well as an overview of NATO’s involvement in operations around the world. Visitors could learn about NATO’s contribution to civilian crisis management, disaster relief, and peace operations, and see how various NATO structures coordinated the activities of NATO member countries.

Since Latvian units have been actively deployed in various NATO operations, a special section of the exhibition was devoted to **Latvia’s contributions to NATO**, focusing in particular on Latvia’s Afghanistan mission. A photo exhibition showed Latvia’s military-civilian cooperation and the role of its special units. An inside look at the daily life of Latvian soldiers in Afghanistan was provided by the documentary film, *“Latvia’s Peace Mission”*. After the Summit, all the exhibitions were opened to the general public.







Latvian servicemen and women display explosive materials they successfully deactivated in Afghanistan.



Latvia's President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga and NATO Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer at the opening of the NATO exhibition.



## *Summit-related events in Riga*

### **Blackheads House**

This beautiful Gothic building with its Dutch Renaissance façade is a replica of the original Blackheads house, built in the 17th century but destroyed during World War II. During the NATO Summit it served as a grand setting for the **Rīga Conference** on November 28 and 29. Over 200 foreign affairs experts and policymakers from around the world engaged in frank and sometimes provocative discussions of present and future challenges facing NATO. The conference was jointly organized by the President's Strategic Analysis Commission, the Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO) and the German Marshall Fund of the United States. While the building itself reflects the impact of war on Latvian and European history, the discussions focused on the future of NATO and its mission to promote peace in the 21st century. Speakers included President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, Zbigniew Brzezinski, former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves.





□ Participants in the Riga Conference were provided with a comfortable contemporary setting in the elegant main hall of the Blackheads House.



## Small and Large Guilds

The lavishly decorated 19<sup>th</sup> century Small Guild Hall in Riga's Old Town had recently hosted Queen Elizabeth II and U.S. President George Bush. On the evening of November 27<sup>th</sup> it served as a splendid setting for the **opening dinner of the Rīga Conference**. President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, and Žaneta Ozoliņa, Chairman of the President's Strategic Analysis Commission made opening remarks, while U.S. Senator Richard Lugar was the keynote speaker. Following the dinner, the first substantive discussions of the conference took place in 'Night Owl sessions' in both the Small Guild Hall, and the Large Guild Hall across the street.





☑ President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga and Mr. Freibergs greet Sen. Richard Lugar and Rudolph Giuliani at the opening dinner.

☑ Žaneta Ozoliņa, Chairman of the President's Strategic Analysis Commission talks with the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Nino Burjanadze.



## Rīga Town Hall

The recently completed Rīga City Hall building, located across the city square from the Blackheads House, served as the site of the *Young Leaders Forum*. While the Rīga Conference was led by the world's top foreign policymakers, the Forum allowed the next generation of leaders to contribute their thoughts to the NATO debates. Participants included 48 future leaders from 30 countries, including many non-NATO countries. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer engaged the future leaders in a long and substantive discussion of key issues. Fittingly, among the more notable speakers to appear in the Riga City Council chambers was former New York Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. The Rīga Town Hall, like the neighbouring Blackheads House was destroyed during World War II but rebuilt as part of a reconstruction of the historic Town Hall Square. The Forum was organized by the Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO), the NATO Summit Latvia Task Force and NATO, while financial support was provided by the NATO Summit Support Committee, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, and the Rīga City Council.

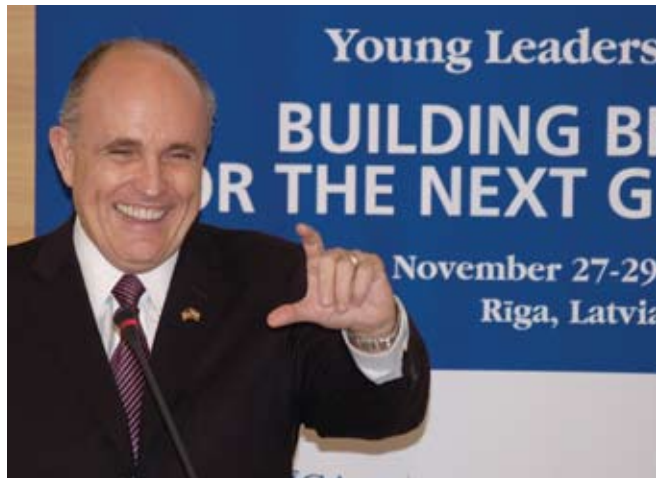




> Participants in the Young Leaders Forum pose for a group picture on the steps of Riga Town Hall.

└ Issues concerning NATO's future were discussed in the modern City Council chambers.

└ Former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani answers a question from the audience.



## University of Latvia

On November 28, U.S. President George W. Bush took time away from the official Summit to give a major policy speech at the University of Latvia to the participants of the Rīga Conference and the Young Leaders Forum. The grand Aula Magna of the University was filled with hundreds of special guests from Latvia, as well as the diplomatic corps. Marc Leland, Co-Chairman of the German Marshall Fund of the United States introduced Latvia's President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, who then introduced President Bush. This was President Bush's second major speech in Rīga - the first took place in the Small Guild Hall during a visit to Latvia on May 7, 2005.







President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga introduces President George W. Bush to the audience in the Aula Magna.



### **Latvian Society House**

This historic building located down the street from the University of Latvia was originally the heart of Latvian cultural and social life at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to Latvia's independence. The building faces Rīga's elegant Vērmanes Garden, one of the city's most beautiful and popular parks. On the evening of November 28<sup>th</sup>, following the Gala Concert at the Opera, the Society House served as the location of a special **diplomatic reception hosted by Latvia's Foreign Minister Artis Pabriks**.





➤ The glittering White Room of the Society House is set for the Foreign Minister's reception.

✓ Foreign Minister Artis Pabriks addresses the assembled guests following the Gala Concert.



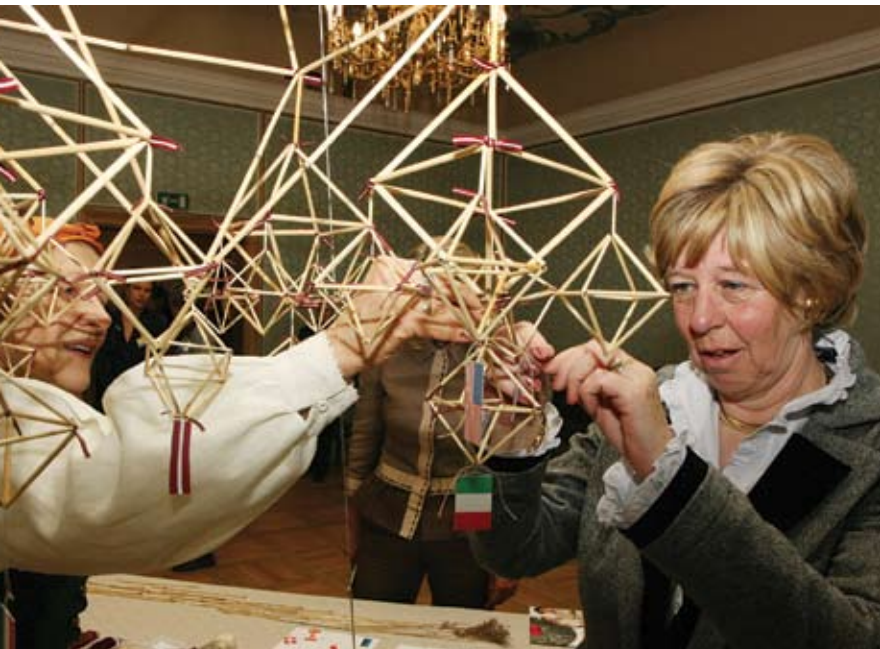
### Reiterna House

The long list of special guests during the Rīga Summit also included many **spouses of the NATO leaders**. To provide the spouses with a unique opportunity to explore the many aspects of Latvian culture, on November 29, a wide variety of activities, exhibits and programmes were arranged in the many rooms of the historic Reiterna House in Rīga's Old Town. Guests could watch and try their hand in many crafts, including ceramics, metalworking, candle making, basket weaving, jewelry making and woodworking. Both traditional folk dress as well as modern fashions were on display, and entertainment included both traditional and contemporary music.



> The traditional folk music ensemble 'Grodī' provides a musical backdrop for the activities in the Reiterna House.

└ The wives of NATO Summit leaders enjoy the 'hands-on' experience of making traditional Latvian ornaments and crafts.



### **Decorative Arts and Design Museum**

The building housing the Decorative Arts and Design Museum is one of the oldest in Rīga's Old Town, dating back to the 13th century. During the NATO Summit it served as the site for the 27 November **Young Leaders Forum dinner**. This informal buffet dinner in an ancient setting was accompanied by modern jazz, led by one of Riga's top jazz musicians, Nic Gotham. A day later this same venerable building was used for the **NATO spouses' dinner**, hosted by Mr. Imants Freibergs, husband of Latvian President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga.





- Young leaders choose from a sumptuous array of dishes at the informal dinner.
- └ Nic Gotham's saxophone offers modern jazz in an ancient setting.



## **Dailes Theatre**

To provide the people of Latvia with an understanding of all the preparations, plans and activities that went into organizing the Rīga Summit, a **multi-media 'open house'** was staged at the recently renovated Dailes Theatre on the weekend of November 25 and 26. While the imaginative exhibits and activities were geared toward children, thousands of people of all ages filled the theatre for two days to participate in games, lotteries and interactive exhibits. The various rooms, hallways and vestibule of the theatre were imaginatively transformed into labyrinths, exhibit spaces and art galleries. Guests could meet Latvia's now famous 'mitten makers' and experience the new sound and light system in the theatre's main hall. Artwork created by students across Latvia specially for the NATO summit was also on display. Over 7,000 people visited the Dailes Theatre, and among them 2,500 participated in the interactive events. A highlight of the two-day event was an awards ceremony where President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga honoured many of the outstanding young artists and essayists who had developed special projects for the Rīga Summit.







➤ President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga speaks to the media after the awards ceremony at the Dailes Theatre.

☑ 'Interactivity' took many forms during the open house, providing visitors with an endless array of fun things to do.



## *Other sides of the Rīga Summit*

### **The City of Rīga**

While each of the new or historic buildings that housed one of the Summit events added its own charm and colour to the activities, the big star of the Summit was the city of Rīga itself. Travel to and from the many sites was easy, whether by car, bus, or just walking. The natural beauty of Rīga's Old Town and the surrounding park area was given an added festive flavour by tasteful NATO Summit posters and decorations. Although security is always a factor at major events like this, the thousands of Summit participants, guests and curious on-lookers had ample opportunities to enjoy the many charms of the city between events. Those Rīga residents who chose to spend their Summit week 'holiday' in the city were treated to a variety of colourful and historic events.





□ Attractive posters around the city of Riga featured photos that expressed the underlying theme – 'It's good to be TOGETHER.'



### **The NATO Summit symbols – logo and postage stamp**

Each NATO Summit is symbolized by its distinctive logo. The Summit Task Force organized a nationwide competition for the logo design and over 148 ideas were submitted by Latvians from all walks of life. After a jury of prominent Latvians chose the finalists, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer chose the winning entry, submitted by Latvian artist Uldis Freimanis. Mr. Freimanis' theme was *"Historic Crossroads – Rīga"* and offered a new look at one of Rīga's most familiar symbols – the city skyline as seen from the River Daugava.

To commemorate the NATO Rīga Summit in another way, the Latvian Postal Service created a special postage stamp utilizing the official Summit logo. The 55 santim postage stamp had a print run of 600,000 and was extremely popular, not only among NATO Summit guests and souvenir hunters, but also among philatelists around the world.



TO SUMMIT / RIGA ACCUEILLE LE SOMMET DE L'OTAN



- ⤴ Defence Minister Atis Slakteris and NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer unveil the official Summit logo design.
- Artist Uldis Freimanis proudly poses with his winning logo design.
- ⌋ Minister Slakteris holds up a special edition NATO envelope featuring the logo and postage stamp.



### **A Touch of Latvia**

To give Summit guests a special feel for Latvia, its food, and traditions, a special gift box was created and presented to members of the official delegations, the media and participants in the Summit-related conferences. Summit participants received popular products that have always been especially dear to the people of Latvia - traditional hand-made Latvian mittens, cranberries in honey, lime blossom tea, Riga Black Balsam and a Latvian music CD. After the hectic business of the Summit, guests could return to their rooms and taste, smell, feel and hear the best of Latvia. In all, 4,500 pairs of mittens, 150 kilograms of cranberries, 320 litres of honey, 9 kilograms of lime blossom tea and 900 litres of Black Balsam made the Riga Summit a unique experience for all who attended.

☑ The sensation-filled array of ingredients that went into the Summit guest gift boxes.



### **A tradition handed down through the generations**

To demonstrate the richness of Latvia's cherished ethnographic traditions, hand-made knitted mittens were chosen as the distinctively Latvian symbol of the NATO Rīga Summit. Beyond their practical value, Latvian mittens have always had a deep, symbolic value. 4,500 pairs of mittens, each original and unique, were knitted based on the ethnographic designs of Latvia's Vidzeme, Zemgale, Kurzeme and Latgale regions. 'Mitten masters' were recruited from all over Latvia and ranged in age from 30 to 86 years old, with an average age of 60.

The creation of this massive mitten collection took on historic proportions for the people of Latvia, not only because of the enormity of the undertaking, but also because of the international media attention it attracted. It was an activity that engaged the hearts and imaginations of people throughout the country and gave everyone a sense of pride that something so warmly Latvian could become an integral part of the NATO Summit. To record this unique event in Latvian history, each pair of mittens was individually photographed and catalogued before they were packed into gift boxes and distributed to Summit guests.







Hand-made traditional Latvian mittens are like snowflakes in nature – no two are ever alike.



### **The NATO Rīga Summit Website**

What's an event without a website? A great deal of time and effort was invested into the Summit's special homepage [www.rigasummit.lv](http://www.rigasummit.lv), and the results were praised by all who used it. In the months leading up to the Summit it included a wide variety of information about the upcoming events: news, articles, quotes, information for the media, as well as audio and visual information. The site also included information about Rīga and Latvia with links to other informative web pages. A special system was created that enabled webmasters to incorporate new stories, photos and even videos in less than 20 minutes. By the end of the Summit over 118,892 people from 111 countries had visited the Summit homepage. The Latvian Defence Ministry decided to keep the website available after the Summit, to provide historians and other interested parties with a valuable source of information about the Summit.





- The NATO Riga Summit website was 'unlocked' by teams of Latvia's TV personalities, musicians and other celebrities, who competed to find clues in the streets of Riga's Old Town.
- The winning 'key' to the Riga Summit homepage is displayed by Summit Task Force members.

**RIGA**  
NATO  
OTAN

Samits NATO Medijiem Rīdziniekam

Ministru prezidents pateicās visiem Rīgas NATO samita organizētājiem

„Mēs esam patiesi gandarīti par iespēju atbalstīt NATO galveno tēlvaru Rīgā, ja mums, tāpat kā daudzām citām Latvijas uzņēmējām, ir svarīga nekāda uzņēmējdarbība vai arī ekonomiskā stabilitāte pasaulē. Mā arāms, drošība mūsu draudzībai, labklājībai un kopīgi darot pie veiksmīgas NATO samita norises ir katru mūsu spēka ta īstenošana...“

— Valdis Tarantjevs, Aizsardzības ministru prezidents

Ziņas

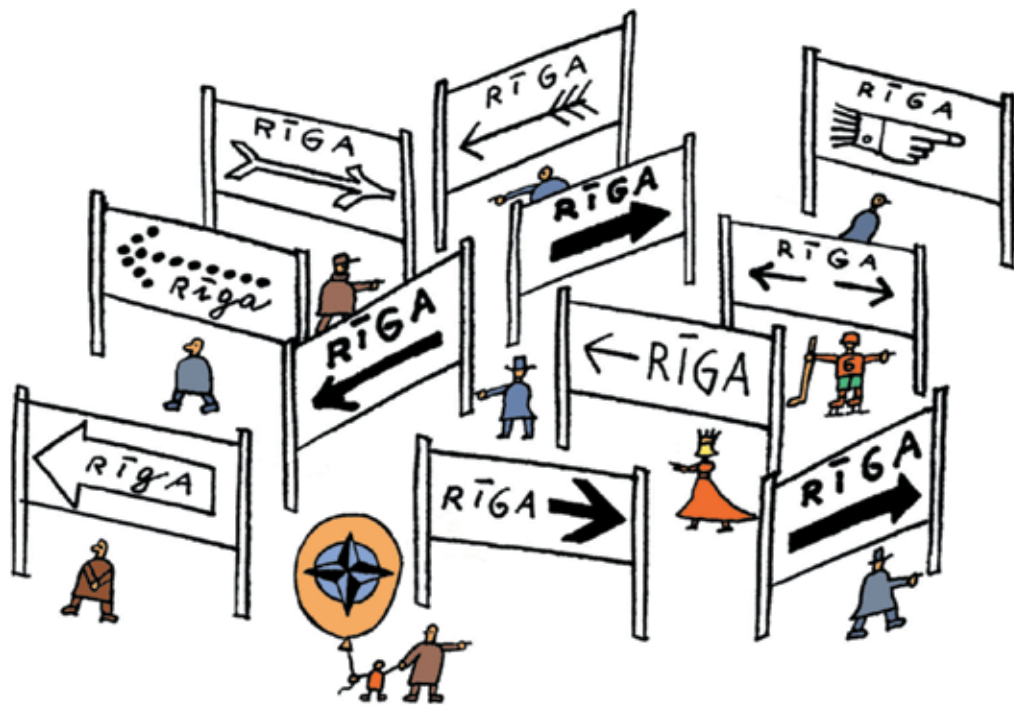
- Neliela statistika par NATO samita organizāciju
- Ministru prezidents pateicās visiem Rīgas NATO samita organizētājiem
- Kopaspriekšruna par NATO Rīgas samitu un svarīgu pasākumu organizāciju ar izmantojamiem līdzekļiem



### **Māris Bišofs makes all roads lead to Rīga**

The first invitation to visit Rīga during the Summit appeared in the summer of 2006 in the form of a clever postcard designed by internationally-renowned Latvian artist Māris Bišofs. Bišofs, who for 20 years illustrated the covers and editorial pages of Time magazine, Atlantic Monthly, the New York Times and Washington Post, and has published numerous books, returned to his homeland of Latvia in 2003 where he continues to illustrate local newspapers and magazines. Over 21,000 postcards featuring Bišofs' illustration were distributed around the world and became one of the most frequently viewed items on the NATO homepage.





ALL ROADS LEAD TO RĪGA!

### **Visual arts competition for children**

To inform and engage the children of Latvia, a special art competition was held in the months leading up to the Summit. Children from classes 1-4 and from 5-9 were asked to use their imaginations and the official blue colour of NATO to illustrate one of three subjects: Defence in the Air, Defence on the Sea or Defence on Land. Older students were asked to provide their artistic interpretations of three NATO related subjects: Cooperation, Security and Defence. Students from aspiring NATO countries – Albania, Croatia, Georgia, Macedonia and Ukraine – were also invited to submit their works. A jury chose 12 works, which were used to decorate a special 2007 calendar. The winners and many of the hundreds of imaginative renderings were put on display at the Dailes Theatre prior to the Summit.

### **Meetings with secondary school and university students**

Students around Latvia were interested in the Summit, and since they couldn't all come to Riga, the Summit went to them. From September 15 until November 15, NATO experts, ambassadors and Latvian government representatives visited 27 secondary schools around Latvia, showing a film, answering questions and engaging in lively discussions and presentations about NATO and its operations. The students had special courses on NATO, wrote essays and were thoroughly tested on NATO topics.

University students in Riga had a chance to hear from such foreign policy experts as Simon Serfaty, Hans Binnendijk, Ian Brzezinski and Walter Slocombe, while students in Valmiera were visited by Frank Kramer. Students were also asked to prepare research papers on NATO topics, and the winner of the competition, Juta Martinova, participated in the Young Leaders Forum.



> The most creative pieces of children's art were used to decorate a special 2007 NATO calendar.

### **The Summit Tent and hot air balloon**

A travelling tent and hot air balloon brought the NATO Summit to 12 different cities in Latvia from July through September. Organized by the Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO), the popular interactive programme entertainingly engaged thousands of people of all ages in regions across the country. The program programme in the city of Cesis during its 800th anniversary and was attended by NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. In each city, informative materials and souvenirs were distributed, there were competitions and specially trained volunteers met with local residents to answer their questions about NATO. Competition winners were rewarded with a special treat – the chance to fly above their town in a hot air balloon. In all, over 100 lucky winners experienced the thrill of soaring above the forests and fields of Latvia, guided by Latvia's premier hot air balloon pilot, Gunars Dukšte.



PLACES







Members of the Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO), the NATO Summit Task Force and local municipality representatives enlivened many town and city festivals with activities at the interactive NATO Summit tent.





Balloons of every size delighted participants of all ages at the NATO Summit Tent. Gunars Dukšte's hot air balloon was an especially big hit.

### ***Bon anniversaire!* A birthday cake for President Chirac**

As it happened, the Riga Summit coincided with the birthday of France's President Jacques Chirac. To help the French President feel at home, Latvia's President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga surprised him with a 5 kilogram birthday cake decorated with real Bourdeaux roses. The roses were nestled atop 500 white chocolate rose leaves and a sugary bed of white angel hair.





French President Jacques Chirac receives his birthday present – a whipped cream cake with real, crimson red roses

## *The Summit in numbers*

### ***Among those who participated:***

26 national leaders and their spouses  
2000 delegation members  
1500 media representatives  
200 world policymakers and opinion leaders

### ***Among the 13,800 who made it possible:***

77 Summit Task Force staff members  
1400 construction-related personnel  
8000 security personnel  
400 medical personnel  
200 Media Centre workers  
780 cultural event organizers and participants  
750 people involved in catering  
160 communication and IT specialists  
600 transportation and logistics workers  
300 gift-box assemblers  
600 volunteers



## Hotels

Summit guests enjoyed the comfort and convenience of Rīga's large variety of hotels, many of which were opened for business just prior to the Summit. Over 4,000 Summit guests were housed in 42 hotels in and around Riga. Official NATO government delegations used 2067 rooms in 14 hotels, while the 1,500 international journalists covering the Summit were housed in 19 different hotels. Rīga Conference and Young Leader Forum participants stayed in 220 rooms in 4 hotels.

## Rīga International Airport

Although the explosive growth of tourism to Latvia has made the Rīga International Airport the busiest in the Baltic States, it rose to an even greater challenge during the Rīga Summit. The Norwegian delegation was the first to arrive in Riga on November 21 at 17:45. Turkey followed on November 22, while most others arrived on November 28 – all during a 2-hour period between 16:00 and 18:00! The Czech delegation was the last to leave Rīga, on December 2. During the Summit over 20 buses shuttled guests back and forth between the airport and Rīga centre. Despite the extra load and special security provisions, most regular commercial flights in and out of Rīga went on as usual.



## 2 PART PEOPLE

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*While the purpose of any Summit is to bring the leaders of NATO together, in Riga it also brought the people of Latvia together in welcoming nearly 4,000 guests from around the world. From the ministers that walk the halls of government to the policemen that walk the cobblestone streets, the NATO Riga Summit was a success because of the enthusiasm of the people who made it happen.*

**The Hosts -  
President of the Republic of Latvia, Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga  
NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer**

Two of the busiest people at the NATO Riga Summit were the President of Latvia and the General Secretary of NATO. While President Vīķe-Freiberga welcomed the leaders of the 25 NATO delegations to Latvia and Riga, Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer greeted them on behalf of NATO. Both leaders participated in all of the Summit-related functions while still retaining a full schedule of individual and group meetings with Summit dignitaries. In addition to press conferences, bilateral meetings and dinners, the leaders made a special point of meeting with the many people behind the scene who made the Summit possible – the volunteers, security staff, organizers and others.



□ President of the Republic of Latvia,  
Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga  
and NATO Secretary General  
Jaap de Hoop Scheffer



## Heads of State and Governments

BELGIUM- His Excellency Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium

BULGARIA- His Excellency Georgi Parvanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria

CANADA- His Excellency Stephen Joseph Harper, Prime Minister of Canada

CZECH REPUBLIC- His Excellency Vaclav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic

DENMARK- His Excellency Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark

ESTONIA- His Excellency Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia

FRANCE- His Excellency Jacques Chirac, President of the Republic of France

GERMANY- Her Excellency Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

GREECE- His Excellency Costas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

HUNGARY- His Excellency Ferenc Gyurcsany, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary

ICELAND - His Excellency Geir Haarde, Prime Minister of the Republic of Iceland

ITALY- His Excellency Romano Prodi, President of the Ministers' Council of the Italian Republic

LATVIA- Her Excellency Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, President of the Republic of Latvia

LITHUANIA- His Excellency Valdas Adamkus, President of the Republic of Lithuania

LUXEMBOURG- His Excellency Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

NETHERLANDS- His Excellency Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands





⤴ NATO heads of state and government at the close of the Summit.

⤵ President of Poland Lech Kaczynski arrives for the group photo.

⤵ Romanian President Traian Basescu, President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga and Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.



NORWAY- His Excellency Jens Stoltenberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway  
POLAND- His Excellency Lech Kaczyński, President of the Republic of Poland  
PORTUGAL- His Excellency José Sócrates Carvalho Pinto de Sousa, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic  
ROMANIA- His Excellency Traian Basescu, President of Romania  
SLOVAK REPUBLIC- His Excellency Ivan Gasparovic, President of the Slovak Republic  
SLOVENIA- His Excellency Janez Janša, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia  
SPAIN- His Excellency José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, President of the Kingdom of Spain  
TURKEY- His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey  
UNITED KINGDOM- His Excellency Tony Blair, M.P., Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA- His Excellency George W. Bush, President of the United States of America  
Mrs. Alma Adamkiene, spouse of the Lithuanian President  
Mrs. Anu Ansip, spouse of the Estonian Prime Minister  
Mrs. Urska Bacovnik, spouse of the Slovenian Prime Minister  
Mrs. Cherie Blair, spouse of the UK Prime Minister  
Mrs. Klara Dobrev, spouse of the Hungarian Prime Minister  
Mrs. Emine Erdogan, spouse of the Turkish Prime Minister  
Mrs. Flavia Franzoni, spouse of the Italian Prime Minister  
Mr. Imants Freibergs, spouse of the Latvian President  
Mrs. Natasa Pazaiti, spouse of the Greek Prime Minister  
Mrs. Anne-Mette Rasmussen, spouse of the Danish Prime Minister  
Mrs. Jeannine de Hoop Scheffer, spouse of the NATO Secretary General



Jacques Chirac, President of France.



UK Prime Minister Tony Blair and Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.



Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip with the Latvian President and NATO Secretary General



Italian President Romano Prodi shakes hands with the NATO Secretary General.



Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus talks with the NATO Summit hosts.



Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan joins the NATO Summit hosts.



## Participants in the Rīga Conference and Young Leaders Forum

Over 200 of the world's leading foreign affairs, defence and security experts led the discussions at the Rīga Conference and Young Leaders Forum. Among them were present and former government ministers and diplomats, as well as the heads of the world's most influential foreign policy think tanks. They included:

**Dr. Ronald D. Asmus**, Executive Director of the Transatlantic Center of the German Marshall Fund.

The Hon. **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, Trustee and Counselor of the Center for Strategic & International Studies, former National Security Advisor to the President of the United States.

His Excellency **Faisal El Fayed**, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Jordanian Senate, former Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Jordan.

The Hon. **Karl-Theodor Freiherr Zu Guttenberg**, member of the German Bundestag.

The Hon. **Bronislaw Geremek**, member of the European Parliament, former Foreign Minister of Poland.

**Rudolph Giuliani**, CEO of Giuliani Partners LLC, and former Mayor of New York.

Ambassador **Marc Grossman**, Vice-Chairman of the Cohen Group, former U.S. Ambassador and Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs.

The Hon. **Hans Haekkerup**, former Minister for Defence of Denmark.

His Excellency, **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, President of Estonia.

**Dr. Sergei Karaganov**, Chairman of the Council for Foreign Relations and Defence Policy in Russia.

**Craig Kennedy**, President of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The Hon. **Richard Lugar**, U.S. Senator from Indiana and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

His Excellency **Peter Mackay**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

The Hon. **Karel Schwarzenberg**, Senator, Parliament of the Czech Republic.

The Hon. **Jeff Sessions**, U.S. Senator from Alabama.

His Excellency **Radoslaw Sikorski**, Minister of Defence of Poland.

The Hon. **John Smith**, British Member of Parliament.

**Wilhelm Karl Staudacher**, Secretary General, Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

**Kurt Volker**, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs in the U.S. State Department.





➤ LATO Chairman Toms Baumanis looks on as Rudolph Giuliani addresses the Riga Conference in the Blackheads House.

└ Conference participants during discussions



➤ Organizers of the Riga Conference



### **The Georgian Delegation**

Although not a member of NATO, Georgia had a high profile in Riga during the Summit. The Georgian delegation was headed by Speaker of the Georgian Parliament, Nino Burjanadze, who met with a wide variety of people. Latvia's popular support for Georgian membership was expressed through a book of 'palm prints' collected from young people throughout Latvia. A special conference on Georgian defence policy was held in the Small Guild Hall and attended by Defence Minister Slakteris and U.S. Senator Lugar. The Latvian parliament also passed a resolution prior to the Summit, expressing support for Georgia's aspirations to join NATO.





> Nino Burjanadze and the Georgian delegation listen carefully to discussions about future NATO enlargement.

□ Young Latvians take a 'hands on' approach in expressing their support for Georgia by recording their palm prints in a book that was presented to the Georgian delegation.



## *Other Hosts, Supporters and Participants*

### **Prime Minister of Latvia, Aigars Kalvītis**

As head of the Latvian Government, Prime Minister Kalvītis took charge of NATO Summit planning from the beginning and made sure that every ministry and government agency put its full resources to work to make the Rīga Summit one of the most successful in NATO history. In addition to his official Summit duties, Prime Minister Kalvītis made use of this historic gathering of world leaders to hold separate meetings with the President of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper, and Prime Minister of Portugal Jose Socrates Carvalho Pinto de Sousa. He also participated in a Baltic leaders meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Prior to the opening of the Summit, Prime Minister Kalvītis accompanied NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer in a tour of the Summit venues and took part in a joint press conference.





□ Prime Minister of Latvia,  
Aigars Kalvītis

### **Latvia's Foreign Minister Artis Pabriks**

As head of Latvia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Pabriks met with many other Foreign Affairs ministers, foreign policy leaders and government officials, making use of the NATO Summit to conduct ongoing business of the State. Minister Pabriks talked about international affairs and visa policies with the Canadian Foreign Minister, about OECD membership with Minister Geoff Hoon of the United Kingdom, and had an in depth discussion with the Chairman of the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Richard Lugar. Of note too was Minister Pabriks' special meeting with Mikhail Marinics, leader of the democratic opposition groups in Belarus. Despite his heavy official schedule, the seemingly tireless Minister stayed late into the night at the November 28 reception at the Riga Latvian Society House to meet and greet hundreds of Summit guests.





- Foreign Minister Pabriks checks his busy schedule with the Latvian Foreign Ministry Political Director, Ilgvars Kļava.
- Minister Pabriks conducts bilateral talks with Slovakia's Foreign Minister Jan Kubiš and Ambassador to Latvia, Ivan Špilda.
- Turkey's Ambassador to Latvia Duray Polat shares some information with Minister Pabriks.
- Minister Pabriks joins Canada's Ambassador to Latvia, Claire Puolin as they meet with students at the Agenskalns State High School.



### **Latvia's Defence Minister Atis Slakteris**

As the key government official responsible for Latvia's defence and membership of NATO, Minister Slakteris attended all the NATO meetings, met with special guests and too students. During the Summit, Minister Slakteris engaged in separate bilateral discussions with the Defence ministers of the United Kingdom, Poland and Norway, and reviewed Latvia's defence priorities with the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Raymond Henault. Minister Slakteris also hosted the Solidarity Event for Georgia at the Freedom Monument and participated in a round table discussion on Georgia's defence preparedness with Georgia's parliamentary speaker Nino Burjanadze.







> Defence Minister Slakteris welcomes NATO Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer to Riga.



^ Minister Slakteris with his Baltic colleagues



└ The Czech Republic's Ambassador to Latvia Jan Finferl looks on as Minister Slakteris explains NATO policy to students at the Jurmala 1st High School.

> Minister Slakteris with Senator G. Lugar, Chairman of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Nino Burjanadze, the Speaker of the Georgian Parliament in a round table discussion



### **The NATO Summit Task Force**

To undertake the enormous task of organizing, coordinating and realizing the NATO Riga Summit, the Latvian Defence Ministry created a special Summit Task Force, which employed 77 full-time workers. This hard working staff included 44 women and 33 men, and their average age was 31. They managed a large array of working groups responsible for protocol, public exhibits, transportation, housing, security, the Summit website, legal issues and cultural events. Much praise for the success of the Summit has been directed toward the head of the NATO Summit Task Force, Edgars Rinkevičš. Mr Rinkevičš is the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence.



- ⏪ Latvian President Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga addresses the Summit Task Force
- ⏩ Head of the Summit Task Force State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence Edgars Rinkēvičs
- ⏴ Group photo of the Summit Task Force in the main conference hall
- ⏵ The Summit Task Force of work





◀ Dr. Žaneta Ozoliņa, Chairwoman of the Strategic Analysis Commission under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Latvia.

### **The President's Strategic Analysis Commission**

One of the keys to successfully expanding the scope and breadth of the official business of the Summit was the organization of the Rīga Conference. The task of preparing the issues, inviting experts and setting the vigorous agenda for this historic gathering of international foreign policy experts fell to Dr. Žaneta Ozoliņa, Chairwoman of the Strategic Analysis Commission under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Latvia. Under her direction, the SAC organized several seminars and conferences in the months leading up the Summit, prepared a number of scholarly reports, and ensured that the range of substantive issues discussed at the Rīga Conference would continue to serve as an important foundation for future foreign policy discussions.

### **Latvian Transatlantic Organization (LATO)**

One of the Latvian government's most important strategic partners in the organization of the Summit was the non-governmental organization LATO. Formed in 2002, LATO has an active membership throughout Latvia, especially among young people, and played a valuable role in building popular support for Latvia's membership in NATO. LATO members helped plan and organize a wide variety of pre-Summit events and became popular grass roots emissaries for NATO around the country. One of the founders, as well as Chairman of LATO, Toms Baumanis,

Toms Baumanis, Chairman of the  
Latvian Transatlantic Organization  
(LATO).



not only helped organize the Rīga Conference and Young Leaders Forum, but also served as editor of the 'Policies' section of this book.

Craig Kennedy, President of the  
German Marshall Fund of the  
United States at the Rīga Conference.



### **The German Marshall Fund of the United States**

The German Marshall Fund under the leadership of its President Craig Kennedy played an indispensable role in helping the Latvian Government organize the highly successful Rīga Conference. Dr. Ronald Asmus, Executive Director of the



rectorship of Dr. Ronald Asmus, the Transatlantic Center of the German Marshall fund shaped the forward-looking agenda and ensured a star-studded list of participants for the Conference. As former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs in the U.S. State Department, Dr. Asmus was one of Latvia's strongest supporters and best friends during its successful campaign to join NATO.



← Amb. Ojārs Kalniņš,  
Director of the Latvian Institute.

### **The Latvian Institute**

A state agency affiliated to the Foreign Ministry, the Latvian Institute is primarily responsible for promoting international knowledge about Latvia, its history, culture and society. Under the leadership of its Director, Amb. Ojārs Kalniņš, the Latvian Institute was directly involved in all phases of the Rīga Summit's public diplomacy and media relations activities. Recently tasked with the development of a nation branding strategy for Latvia, the Latvian Institute recognized that the NATO Rīga Summit was both a platform for popularizing Latvia, as well as an historic event that will shape Latvia's image in the world for years to come. Amb. Kalniņš was also responsible for conceiving, writing and editing this book on the Rīga Summit.

### **The NATO Rīga Summit Support Committee**

Private sector involvement is a tradition in the organization of every NATO Summit. In Latvia, the financial support of the companies that formed the Support Committee was essential in ensuring the success of many Summit-related events and activities. These included the Rīga Conference, Young Leaders Forum, NATO

Aivis Ronis, head of the NATO Riga Summit Support Committee and Chairman of the Latvian-American Financial Forum.



information tours to Latvian cities and towns, and the open house at the Dailes Theatre. The efforts of the Support Committee helped bring news and information about the Summit to people throughout Latvia. The three Co-Chairmen of the Support Committee were AT&T Vice President Timothy McKone, Daimler-Chrysler Vice-President Robert Liberatore and Latvian-American Financial Forum Chairman, Amb. Aivis Ronis. Among the Summit event sponsors were Parex Bank, AT&T, Daimler-Chrysler, Liepajas Metalurgs, Statoil Latvia, Pirmais Baltijas Kanāls, EADS, AQMI, Joker Klubs, Trīs Ā Brokeri and OVI.

### **Security**

Over 8000 people helped provide security for all aspects of the NATO Summit. They included Latvia's police, armed forces, firemen, border guards and others. To minimize misunderstandings and inconvenience, Riga's residents were kept constantly updated about security preparations well in advance of the Summit. Residents were regularly informed about changes in traffic patterns, locations of secure areas and other alterations in the normal pattern of city life. A free phone service was available 24 hours a day to answer any and all questions about security preparations or other Summit-related facts.

## Summit Volunteers

Although international media attention was understandably focused on the heads of state and government that made policy at the Summit, their ability to work was guaranteed by the large number of people who made it all possible. An event on the scale of the NATO Riga Summit could not be undertaken without the active involvement of many people, from government employees and specially trained professionals, to citizen volunteers. For the people of Latvia, the enthusiasm and responsiveness of the volunteers was the pride and joy of the Riga Summit. When the Summit Task Force put out a call for volunteers, over 2,300 applied. Only 600 could be chosen, but for many they were the brightest, friendliest and most helpful faces of the Summit. Both Summit hosts, President Vaira Viķe-Freiberga and Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, made a point of personally thanking the volunteers for their hard work and enthusiasm.







The spirit of the Riga Summit was exemplified by the enthusiasm, high spirits and tireless energy of its many volunteers.



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*The Baltic city of Rīga served as both a setting and symbol for all that NATO has set out to do to promote peace and security in a democratic Europe. The ongoing reunification of Europe, along with global strategies that reach far beyond NATO's own territories, were all part of the successful agenda of the 2006 NATO Riga Summit.*

*President of Latvia Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga eloquently recognized the historic significance of the NATO Summit 2006 in Riga: "I think the presence of NATO here in Latvia is another reminder how changed the world is, how fortunate we are in no longer having that division across the European Continent, how fortunate we are in so many countries beside Latvia having now regained their freedom, their opportunity to determine their own fate and their direction and live in peace, security and in democracy".*







## *Nato Riga Summit 2006*

### **Riga strengthens the bonds between the United States and Europe**

The Riga NATO Summit reaffirmed the indispensable partnership between the United States and Europe. The importance of common values and goals in the face of common security concerns was stressed by many leaders during the Riga Summit.

*"NATO is and will remain the main anchor of our common security. It is the central Trans-Atlantic forum for consultation and coordination"*

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor.

*"After the Prague Summit, Riga symbolizes our continent's new face. The decisions made here have created confidence in the military alliance between Europe and North America – an alliance that has been our guarantee of security for 50 years."*

Jacques Chirac, President of France

A soldier of the Latvian mission in Afghanistan



### Afghanistan – NATO's Priority

In Riga, Afghanistan was recognized as NATO's top security priority. NATO leaders strengthened their commitment to the Afghanistan mission and called for broader international engagement. The heads of 26 NATO countries agreed to remove some caveats – national restrictions on how, when and where forces can be used to increase the effectiveness of the Alliance led forces in the country. The need for an overall reconstruction strategy in Afghanistan and the fight against drug

production were also key topics during the Summit meetings.

*"If we don't succeed in making Afghanistan a drug-free country, we will fail in a lot of things. We will fail with the democratic process, the rule of law, human rights, everything",* reminded General L. Jones, NATO Supreme Commander in Europe.

### **NATO Enlargement in Focus**

Just as the location of the NATO Summit in Riga demonstrated the success of enlargement as a policy, the substance of the discussions reiterated the need to continue consolidating democracy in the former Eastern block countries. NATO kept its focus on further enlargement and the Alliance leaders praised the efforts of Albania, Croatia, and Macedonia to prepare for NATO membership. It was clear that the enlargement of NATO has a direct impact on the expansion security throughout the region.

*"The Riga summit will be a summit at which NATO will continue its transformation. We have talked about the importance of NATO reaffirming its open door policy to those who meet NATO's criteria, democracies that meet NATO's criteria"*

Condoleezza Rice, US State Secretary.

### **Engaging Georgia and Ukraine**

Riga will be remembered as the place where an Intensified Dialogue was furthered with Georgia and Ukraine to discuss a full range of political, military, financial, and security issues relating to their NATO membership aspirations. The development of a liberal democracy in Ukraine and the emergence of Georgia as a democratic role model for Eurasia and the Caucasus were recognized as important factors reshaping the geopolitical map of Europe. It was agreed that NATO members need to assist the Georgians and Ukrainians in their endeavours to become credible candidates for NATO membership. Not only NATO members, but the world at large, will only benefit from greater stability, security and democracy in Ukraine and Georgia.

### **Open Doors for Georgia**

NATO leaders used the Riga Summit to welcome Georgia's contribution to international peacekeeping and security operations. The Alliance noted Georgia's progress on political, economic, military reforms, and judicial reforms. More needs to be done and Georgia was encouraged to continue with reforms in order to





complete preparations as an aspiring nation. It was recognized that prosperity and democracy in Georgia would have positive effects well beyond its borders in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

*“Georgia is seeking NATO membership, as well, and as it continues on the path of reform, we will continue to support Georgia’s desire to become a NATO ally”:*

George W. Bush, President of the United States.

### **New Partners in the Balkans**

The success of the development in the Balkan region was at the centre of discussions in Riga. Long term stability and successful reforms in the Balkans are an important contribution to strengthening Euro-atlantic security and stability. The achievements of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro were especially noted and the three countries were invited to participate in the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the “Partnership for Peace” programme. The Euro-Atlantic family is expanding and becoming more secure.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer at the opening of the Riga Conference:  
*“... by 2008 we will have less NATO in the Balkans, but more of the Balkans in NATO.”*





## **New Issue on NATO's Agenda – Energy Security**

A new topic was included in the Riga summit agenda – energy security. This question, which is topical in any NATO member country, was first discussed amongst Allies during the Riga summit. The talks, which began in Riga will be continued within various workgroups during official and unofficial events. The international environment and its challenges are changing and NATO is taking this into consideration.

*“As underscored in NATO's Strategic Concept, Alliance security interests can also be affected by the disruption of the flow of vital resources. We support a coordinated, international effort to assess risks to energy infrastructures and to promote energy infrastructure security. With this in mind, we direct the Council in Permanent Session to consult on the most immediate risks in the field of energy security, in order to define those areas where NATO may add value to safeguard the security interests of the Allies and, upon request, assist national and international efforts.”*

Article 45 of the Riga Summit Declaration, issued by the Heads of State and Government participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Riga on 29 November 2006

## **Global Partnership Initiative for NATO**

One of the crucial issues facing NATO is whether to assume greater global responsibility by establishing partnerships with countries far beyond NATO's traditional area of operation. U.S. President George W. Bush took the initiative on this issue in Riga by announcing the NATO Global Partnership Initiative. Its goal would be to unite likeminded non-NATO countries in joint action for increased global security.

*“We will launch the Riga Global Partnership Initiative that will allow NATO to conduct joint training and joint exercises and common defense planning with nations like Japan and Australia, and countries that share NATO's values and want to work with our Alliance in the cause of peace”*

U.S. President George W. Bush.



### **The Riga Conference**

While heads of state made policy at the NATO Summit, the top defence, security and foreign affairs experts that helped them develop that policy continued their deliberations on key issues at the Riga Conference. The high-level participants explored the implications of NATO's transformation with a particular focus on NATO's outreach – both through global partnership and long-term plans for enlargement. The focus here was on NATO 'after Riga'.

*"A think-tank conference gathered the brightest minds all over the world to offer new, provocative, challenging and brave ideas that will contribute to a better understanding what the international community can deliver to make the world more secure" said Prof. Žaneta Ozoliņa, Chairwoman, Strategic Analysis Commission under the auspices of the President of Latvia.*



◀ Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski elaborates a point at the Riga Conference.

### **Challenges for NATO Transformation**

A wide variety of issues facing NATO's transformation process were discussed during the Riga Conference. Policy-makers from more than 38 countries challenged NATO leaders with new approaches and provocative questions regarding future decisions on critical policy issues. The non-governmental experts urged NATO to become a more global organization, especially in response to growing energy insecurity.

### **A More Global NATO**

The importance of NATO global partnerships was the main theme of the panel discussion "A New Global Role and Partners for NATO". To assist NATO in developing a new concept of global partnerships, Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski proposed a new 'NATO Partner Status' which would recognize the commitment of global partners to the goals of the Alliance. Many countries from Sweden to Japan, Australia and New Zealand already associate themselves with NATO. They share the same basic values of NATO member countries and have already made a commitment to assist NATO in peace support and enforcement operations.

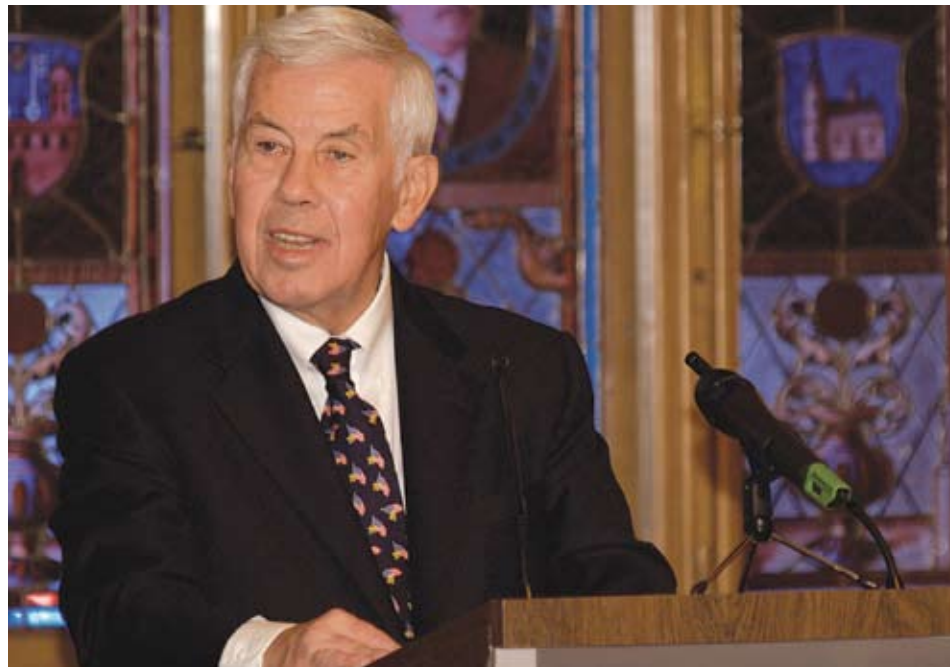
An ambitious view in this regard was outlined in the publication "Re-Reinventing NATO" by Ronald D. Asmus and Richard C. Holbrooke. Their call for NATO to

'go global' is based on confidence that the Alliance is capable of working with others to meet threats stretching across an arc of instability from Northern Africa through the Middle East to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

*"That will require us to build a closer and more strategic US – EU relationship, in parallel with a more global NATO. ... At stake is nothing less than our ability to recreate the West to meet the strategic challenges of our time"*

R.Asmus and R.Holbrook, Re-Reinventing NATO, Riga Papers, 2006.

Senator Richard G. Lugar,  
Chairman of the United  
States Senate Foreign  
Relations Committee.



### **Energy Security in Focus**

Senator Lugar took the lead on energy issues by calling for Alliance intervention when its energy sources are threatened:

*"Article 5 of the NATO Charter identified an attack on one member as an attack on all. It was also designed to prevent coercion of a NATO member by a non-member state. There is little ultimate difference between a member being forced to submit to coercion because of an energy cutoff and a member facing a military blockade or other military demonstration on its borders. An attack using energy as a weapon can devastate a nation's economy and yield hundreds or even thousands of casualties, the Alliance must avow that defending against such attacks is an Article 5 commitment."*



### **The next NATO Enlargement**

Despite earlier doubts, the enlargement of NATO has proven to be one of the greatest success stories in the history of Europe. It has also dramatically expressed the transformation that NATO and Europe as a whole have undergone since the early 1990's. Full integration of all European countries, however, has not yet been achieved. To realize a Europe at peace, whole and free, all aspiring countries must be given an opportunity to contribute to NATO's goal of safety and security.

The President of Estonia Toomas Hendrik Ilves spoke frankly in characterizing the complexity of further enlargement: *"A complete lack of courage, a complete lack of willingness, a fortress Europe mentality is the impression that we don't want any more. Holding the Balkans, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia at more than arm's length is ... not a very substantial neighbourhood policy... Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia are fledgling democracies, they all have those little problems, but still they are doing their best. They are bordering a large country that treats democracy on its borders as a security threat; where colour revolutions and all those things are considered as very bad; and a country that considers despotisms on its borders as being the repositories of stability".*





### **New Leaders in Search of Alternatives**

The Young Leaders Forum served as a companion event to the Riga NATO summit and the Riga Conference by bringing together more than 50 leading young professionals from both sides of the Atlantic to discuss the most pressing challenges currently facing NATO. Future leaders from more than 30 countries shared their generation's views on how to improve the situation in Afghanistan and create a coherent EU and NATO policy towards Russia. They also explored issues relating to NATO enlargement and energy security issues.

*"But to keep the Alliance in good shape, [...] we need the steady support of young, creative and energetic people, not just from NATO nations, but from other countries as well. In other words, we need your engagement – the engagement of the successor generation. That's why the theme of this Young Leaders Forum is well chosen: "Building Bridges for the Next Generation" said NATO SG General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.*



### **Latvia's Success and Accomplishments Hailed**

Latvia was praised on two counts. First, for its active and valuable contribution to NATO since becoming a member in 2004. And second, for the outstanding manner in which it hosted the Riga Summit. Since restoring independence in 1991, Latvia has served as an example to the world of what can be achieved through a commitment to democracy, a free market economy and international cooperation.

*"Today the Baltic nations have taken their rightful place in the community of free nations. And Latvia is a host for an important NATO summit. The first time our alliance has met in one of the captive nations that was annexed by the Soviet Union. It is a proud day for the people of Latvia and all the Baltic states. And on behalf of the American people, I thank you for your hospitality, your friendship and the courage you are showing in the NATO alliance. Each of the Baltic countries is meeting this obligation to strengthen NATO by bringing new energy and vitality and clarity of purpose to the alliance. Your love of liberty has made NATO stronger. And with your help, our alliance is rising to meet the great challenges and responsibilities of this young century by making NATO the world's most effective united force for freedom"*

George W. Bush, President of the United States.



## **The Way Forward After the Rīga Summit**

*“The Rīga Summit will be remembered for many reasons, but foremost will be NATO’s unequivocal message to the world that the Alliance is strong, future-oriented and firmly grounded in the real issues of the day.*

*Despite the uncertainties created by Iraq, the NATO Rīga Summit was able to focus on those areas of concern where common goals and commitments prevail. A strong message was sent regarding the importance of Afghanistan. This commitment to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan was seen as part of a broader recognition that out-of-area threats are a legitimate and essential concern of all NATO member states. The Summit’s underlying theme of transformation highlighted the need to improve, enhance and adapt NATO’s capabilities to address all nature of threats, including international terrorism, weapons-of-mass-destruction and energy security. By leaving the door open to future enlargement, the Rīga Summit offered encouragement to all those countries who wish to join with the Alliance in addressing these critical global issues.*

*Since restoring its independence in 1991, Latvia has successfully achieved its goal of becoming an integral part of a united Europe and a strong NATO. The NATO Rīga Summit of 2006 underlined Latvia’s success in this regard, and reinforced Latvia’s commitment to broaden the zone of peace, security and stability beyond the borders of NATO. Latvia welcomes the moral and political support that has been extended to Ukraine and Georgia, and is prepared to join with other NATO countries to provide assistance that will enable them to achieve their democratic objectives.*

*The success of the NATO Riga Summit, as well as the contributions of the Riga Conference and Young Leader’s Forum have demonstrated that Latvia is ideally equipped and well motivated to continue hosting high level international gatherings dedicated to the discussion, debate and resolution of global issues.*

*The Latvian poet Rainis wrote that ‘He who evolves himself, endures.’ Latvia too continues to develop, grow and evolve as the Baltic keystone in an enduring Europe.”*

Ojārs Kalniņš, Director, Latvian Institute





