

An Enduring  
Relationship:  
Latvia and the US  
1922 – 2001  
Laiku lokos:  
Latvijas un ASV  
starpvalstu attiecības  
1922 – 2001

The United States of America recognized the Republic of Latvia *de iure* on July 28, 1922, and on November 13 the first envoy of the USA to Latvia, Frederick W. B. Coleman, submitted the Letter of Credence to the President of Latvia, Jānis Čakste. In his address on this occasion, the President gave a highly positive evaluation of the activities of the American Relief Organization and American non-governmental organizations in their support of Latvia between 1919 and 1922: "Latvia is happy to welcome the first official democratic representative of the great and renowned American democracy; the democracy which was the first to lend a helping hand to the unfortunate inhabitants of Latvia, victims of the World War" (*Government Journal*, November 15, 1922).

The interwar period consolidated the diplomatic relations between the two countries, and several bilateral agreements were signed. Despite the Great Depression of 1929 and the considerable geographical distance, economic, trade and culture relations were established.

When in June of 1940 the Baltic States were occupied and annexed, the US government came forward on July 23 with a Statement of the US Undersecretary of State, Sumner Welles, condemning the annihilation of the political and territorial integrity of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In July, 2000 a resolution of the US Congress reiterated and reinforced this statement once again.

The Statement of July 23 determined US policy with regard to the Baltic States and ensured the preservation of diplomatic representations of these countries in the USA for fifty years. During the years of occupation the Embassy of Latvia in Washington, D.C. enjoyed full diplomatic recognition which provided opportunities to remind the world continually of the judicial existence of Latvia and defend the interests of Latvia and its citizens.

After the restoration of independence in Latvia in August of 1991, the USA and the Republic of Latvia restored their diplomatic relations on September 5.

Three years ago, on January 16, 1998 the Presidents of the United States of America and the Baltic states signed the Charter of Partnership that laid a solid foundation for the development of US-Latvia relations.

Amerikas Savienotās Valstis atzina Latvijas Republiku *de iure* 1922. gada 28. jūlijā, un 13. novembrī pirmais ASV sūtnis Latvijā Frederiks Koulmens iesniedza akreditācijas vēstuli Latvijas Valsts prezidentam Jānim Čakstem. Atbildes runā prezidents augstu novērtēja ASV Palīdzības administrācijas un amerikāņu nevalstisko organizāciju darbību Latvijas labā 1919.–1922. gadā: "Latvija ir laimīga, ka tā var redzēt pie sevis lielās un slavenās Amerikas demokrātijas pirmo oficiālo demokrātisko priekšstāvi, tās demokrātijas, kas pati pirmā sniedza palīdzību nelaimīgajiem Latvijas iedzīvotājiem, pasaules kara upuriem" (*Valdības Vēstnesis*, 1922.–15.nov.).

Starpkaru posmā nostiprinājās abu valstu diplomātiskās attiecības, tika noslēgti vairāki divpusējie līgumi. Pārvarot 1929. gada pasaules ekonomisko depresiju un vērā ņemamus ģeogrāfiskos attālumus, veidojās saimnieciskie, tirdznieciskie un kultūras sakari.

Kad 1940. gada jūnijā Baltijas valstis tika okupētas un anektētas, ASV valdība 23. jūlijā nāca klajā ar valsts sekretāra vietnieka Samnera Velsa paziņojumu, kas nosodīja Igaunijas, Latvijas un Lietuvas politiskās un teritoriālās integritātes iznīcināšanu. 2000. gada jūlijā ASV Kongress ar savu rezolūciju šo atzinumu vēlreiz atkārtoja un apstiprināja.

1940. gada 23. jūlija paziņojums piecdesmit gadus noteica ASV politiku Baltijas valstu jautājumā un nodrošināja šo valstu diplomātisko pārstāvniecību pastāvēšanu ASV. Latvijas nebrīves gados sūtniecība Vašingtonā baudīja pilnu diplomātisko atzišanu, kas savukārt deva plašas iespējas nenogurstoši atgādināt pasaulei par Latvijas tiesisko esamību un aizstāvēt Latvijas un tās pilsoņu intereses.

Pēc pilnīgas Latvijas valsts neatkarības atgūšanas 1991. gada augustā ASV un Latvijas Republika 5. septembrī atjaunoja diplomātiskās attiecības.

Pirms 3 gadiem, 1998. gada 16. janvārī, ASV un Baltijas valstu prezidenti parakstīja Partnerības hartu, dokumentu, kas kļuvis par stipru pamatu ASV un Latvijas starpvalstu sakaru attīstīšanai.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 1922.

nia and Lithuania

No. 1  
Excellency:

In compliance with the Government, I have the honor to inform the Government of the United States that the Government of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania likewise extends similar recognition to the Government of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

In announcing the recognition of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia the Government of the United States has today made public the enclosed statement.

The rank of Minister has been conferred upon Commissioner Zvan M. Young and he will continue to represent the Government of the United States in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

have been recognized either de jure or de facto by the principal governments of Europe and have entered into treaty relations with their neighbors.

In extending to them recognition on its part the Government of the United States takes cognizance of the actual existence of these governments during a period of time and of the successful maintenance of their borders of political and economic stability.

The present Treaty and the ratifications thereof shall be exchanged in WASHINGTON on the 20th day of April, 1928. Done in duplicate, at Riga, this 20th day of April, 1928.



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*Franklin D. Roosevelt*  
President of the United States of America

To His Excellency  
The President of the Republic of Latvia.

Great and Good Friend:

I have made choice of John Van Dyke, a distinguished citizen of the United States, to reside in the Government of Your Excellency as the Charge d'Affaires and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. He is well informed of the relative interests of the two countries and of the steps which his Government is taking to cultivate to the fullest extent the friendship which has so long subsisted between them. My knowledge of his high character and ability gives me entire confidence that he will conscientiously endeavor to advance the interests and prosperity of both Governments and so render himself acceptable to Your Excellency.

I therefore request Your Excellency to receive him favorably and to give full credence to what he shall say on the part of the United States and to the assurances which I have charged him to convey to you of the best wishes of this Government for the prosperity of Latvia.

May God have Your Excellency in His own keeping.

Your Good Friend,

By the President,  
*Cordell Hull*  
Secretary of State  
Washington, September 19, 1933.

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*April 19 1928*  
*F. W. B. Coleman*



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1. The Announcement of the government of the United States concerning recognition of the Latvian government. July 28, 1922.  
ASV valdības paziņojums par Latvijas valdības atzīšanu. 28.07.1922.
2. Frederick W. B. Coleman (1874–1947), Envoy of the USA to Latvia, 1923–1932.  
Frederiks Koulmens (1874–1947), ASV sūtnis Latvijā 1923–1932.
3. Final page of The Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Consular Rights Between Latvia and the USA. Signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, A. Balodis, and Envoy of the USA F. W. B. Coleman. April 20, 1928.  
Draudzības, tirdzniecības un konsulāro tiesību līguma starp Latviju un ASV pēdējā lapa. Parakstījuši Latvijas ārlietu ministrs A. Balodis un ASV sūtnis F. Koulmens. 20.04.1928.
4. Letter of Credence of Envoy of the USA to Latvia J. A. MacMurray. Signed by the President of the USA, Fr. D. Roosevelt. September 19, 1933.  
ASV sūtņa Latvijā Dž. Mekmarija akreditācijas vēstule. Parakstījis ASV prezidents F. Rūzvelts. 19.09.1933.
5. Ludvigs Seja (1885–1962), Charge d'Affaires ad interim of Latvia to the USA, 1922–1925; Envoy of Latvia to the USA, 1925–1927.  
Ludvigs Seja (1885–1962), Latvijas pagaidu pilnvarotais lietvedis ASV 1922–1925, Latvijas sūtnis ASV 1925–1927.



# Highlights of the exhibit

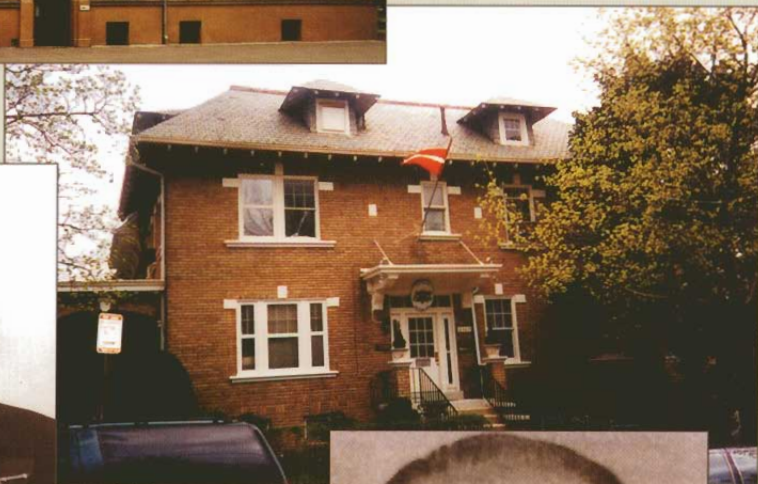
## Ieskats izstādē



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### STATEMENT OF UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE, THE HON. SUMNER WELLES.

Released to the Press  
on July 23, 1940.

During these past few days the devious processes whereof the political independence and territorial integrity of the three Baltic republics—Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania—were to be liberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors, have been rapidly drawing to their conclusion.

From the day when the peoples of these republics first gained their independence and democratic form of government the people of the United States have watched their admirable progress in government with deep and sympathetic interest.

The policy of this Government is universally known. The people of the United States are opposed to predatory activities no matter whether they are carried on by the use of force or by the threat of force. They are likewise opposed to any form of intervention on the part of one state, however powerful, in the domestic concerns of any other sovereign state, however weak.

These principles constitute the very foundations upon which the existing relationship between the 21 sovereign republics of the World rests.

The United States will continue to stand by these principles because of the conviction of the American people that unless these principles are maintained the relations between nations, the rule of reason, of justice, and of law—in other words, the basis of modern civilization itself—cannot be preserved.



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6. Rīga, Ausekļa Street 22. The US Embassy was situated in this building from 1930 to 1940. In the summer of 1939, future President of the USA John F. Kennedy visited Riga and the US Embassy.

Nams Rīgā, Ausekļa ielā 22. No 1930. līdz 1940. g. tajā darbojās ASV sūtniecība Latvijā. 1939. g. vasarā šeit uzturējās nākamais ASV prezidents Džons Kenedijs.

7. Johne Cooper Wiley (1893–1967), Envoy of the USA to Latvia, 1938–1940. Džons Vailijs (1893–1967), ASV sūtnis Latvijā 1938–1940.

8. Alfreds Bilmanis (1887–1948), Envoy of Latvia to the USA, 1935–1948. Alfreds Bilmanis (1887–1948), Latvijas sūtnis ASV 1935–1948.

9. Latvian Embassy building in Washington, 4325 17th Street NW (from 1951). Latvijas vēstniecības nams Vašingtonā, 17. ielā Nr. 4325 (kopš 1951).

10. Announcement of the US Undersecretary of State, S. Welles, denouncing the policy of annihilation of political and territorial integrity implemented against Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. July 23, 1940.

ASV Valsts sekretāra vietnieka S. Velsa paziņojums, kas nosoda politiskās un teritoriālās integritātes iznīcināšanas politiku pret Igauniju, Latviju un Lītvu. 23.07.1940.

11. Sumner Welles (1892–1961), US Undersecretary of State, 1937–1943. Samners Vels (1892–1961), ASV Valsts sekretāra vietnieks 1937–1943.



**SAPRAŠANĀS MEMORANDS  
STARP LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS VALDĪBU  
UN  
AMERIKAS SAVIENOTO VALSTU VALDĪBU  
PAR  
DIPLOMATISKAJĀM ATTIECĪBĀM**

Latvijas Republikas Valdība un Amerikas Savienoto Valstu Valdība,

ievērojot, ka tās uzskā diplomātiskās attiecības,  
vēloties nodrošināt efektīvu diplomātisko un konsulāro attiecību darbību

Saprašanas memorands stājas spēkā ar tā parakstīšanas brīdi.

Parakstīts Rīgā, 1991. gada 5. septembrī divos autentiskos eksemplāros latviešu un angļu valodās, pie kam abiem tekstiem

Latvijas Republikas  
Valdības vārdā

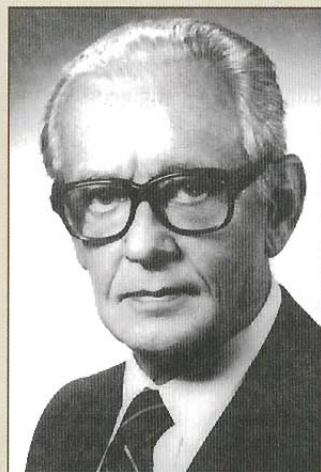
Amerikas Savienoto Valstu  
Valdības vārdā



Mārtiņš Virsis  
Ārlietu ministra  
pirmais vietnieks



Kertiss Kemons  
Valsts sekretāra  
palīga vietnieks



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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA  
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Latvia,

Considering that they have entered into relations,

Desirous of ensuring the effective performance of diplomatic and consular functions,

Hopeful of promoting enhanced relations between the peoples in economic, cultural and other fields,

Affirming their shared view of the importance of the Helsinki Final Act Principles and other CSCE principles and their determination to fully implement such principles,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

1. Each Government shall send a diplomat to the other with the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, as soon as the necessary legal arrangements in the sending State so permit.



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12. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the USA concerning diplomatic relations. September 5, 1991.

Saprašanas memorands starp Latvijas Republikas valdību un ASV valdību par diplomātiskajām attiecībām. 05.09.1991.

13. Anatols Dinbergs (1911–1993), Charge d’Affaires ad interim, Charge d’Affaires, Ambassador of Latvia to the USA, 1948–1993; Head of the Diplomatic and Consular Service of Latvia, 1971–1991.

Anatols Dinbergs (1911–1993), Latvijas pagaidu pilnvarotais lietvedis, pilnvarotais lietvedis, vēstnieks ASV 1948–1993; Latvijas diplomātiskā un konsulārā dienesta vadītājs 1971–1991.

14. US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, C. W. Kamman, (on the left) and the First Deputy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, M. Virsis, at the moment of signing the Memorandum of Understanding concerning diplomatic relations. Riga, September 5, 1991.

ASV Valsts sekretāra palīga vietnieks K. Kemons (no kreisās) un Latvijas ārlietu ministra pirmais vietnieks M. Virsis paraksta saprašanas memorandu par diplomātiskajām attiecībām. Rīga, 05.09.1991.

15. Ints M. Silins (1942), Charge d’Affaires of the USA to Latvia, 1991–1992; Ambassador of the USA to Latvia, 1992–1995. Ints Siliņš (1942), ASV pilnvarotais lietvedis Latvijā 1991–1992, ASV vēstnieks Latvijā 1992–1995.

16. Ojars Kalnins (1949), Ambassador of Latvia to the USA, 1993–2000. Ojars Kalniņš (1949), Latvijas vēstnieks ASV 1993–2000.

17. Larry C. Napper (1947), Ambassador of the USA to Latvia, 1995–1998. Lerijs Napers (1947), ASV vēstnieks Latvijā 1995–1998.



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106th CONGRESS  
2d Session  
S. CON. RES. 122  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
July 20, 2000

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 60th anniversary of the United States nonrecognition policy of the Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and calling for positive steps to promote a peaceful and democratic future for the Baltic region.

Whereas in June 1940, the Soviet Union occupied the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and forcibly incorporated them into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics;

Whereas throughout the occupation, the United States maintained that the acquisition of Baltic territory by force was not permissible under international law and refused to recognize Soviet sovereignty over these lands;

Whereas on July 15, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8484, which froze Baltic assets in the United States to prevent them from falling into Soviet hands;

Whereas on July 23, 1940, Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles issued the first public statement of United States policy of nonrecognition of the Soviet takeover of the Baltic countries, condemning that act in the strongest terms;

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ives concurring). That Congress—United States nonrecognition policy of d the contribution that policy made in f Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania to

nia for the reestablishment of their he disintegration of the former Soviet

nia for their success in implementing y further speed the process of their entry nd

ern Europe among the Baltic and and calls for further cooperation in enforcement, and public health problems, s and trade development, and similar c, prosperous, and secure future for on.

18. The President of Latvia, G. Ulmanis (on the right), the President of the USA, W. J. Clinton, the President of Lithuania, A. Brazauskas and the President of Estonia, L. Meri, during the visit of the President of the USA at the Freedom Monument in Riga. July 6, 1994.

Latvijas prezidents G. Ulmanis (no labās), ASV prezidents V. Dž. Klintonš, Lietuvas prezidents A. Brazauskas un Igaunijas prezidents L. Meri ASV prezidenta vizītes laikā Rīgā pie Brīvības pieminekļa. 06.07.1994.

19. Ambassador of the USA to Latvia James H. Holmes at the presentation of his credentials to the President of Latvia G. Ulmanis. October 27, 1998.

ASV vēstnieks Dž. Holms akreditācijas ceremonijā pie Latvijas prezidenta G. Ulmaņa. 27.10.1998.

20. Ambassador of Latvia to the USA A. Ronis at the presentation of his credentials to the President of the USA William J. Clinton. June 14, 2000.

Latvijas vēstnieks ASV A. Ronis akreditācijas ceremonijā pie ASV prezidenta V. Dž. Klintonā. 14.06.2000.

21. Concurrent Resolution 122 of the US Congress recognizing the 60th anniversary of the US policy of nonrecognition of the Soviet takeover of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. July 20, 2000.

ASV Kongresa rezolūcija Nr. 122 sakarā ar Igaunijas, Latvijas un Lietuvas aneksijas neatzišanas politikas 60. gadadienu. 20.07.2000.

## PARTNERĪBAS HARTA STARP LATVIJAS REPUBLIKU, IGAUNIJAS REPUBLIKU, LIETUVAS REPUBLIKU UN AMERIKAS SAVIENOTAJĀM VALSTĪM

Latvijas Republika, Igaunijas Republika, Lietuvas Republika un Amerikas Savienotās Valstis, turpmāk dēvētas par Partneriem,

Vienojoties mierpilnas un arvien integrētākas, nedalītas Eiropas kopīgā redzējumā, uzticīgas demokrātijai, likuma varai, brīvajam tirgum, un cieņai pret katra cilvēka tiesībām un pamatbrīvībām;

Atzīstot vēsturisko iespēju izveidot jaunu Eiropu, kurā katra valsts ir droša tās starptautiski atzītajās robežās un ciena katra transatlantiskās sadarbības veselumu;

Apņēmušies pilnībā ieguldījumu šīs jaun drošību, pielāgojot institūti;

Apņēmušies pilnībā ietverošās sabiedrībās līdztiesīgām attiecībām grupām piederošiem;

Atzīstot kopīgu ieintu pilnu attiecību attīstībai;

Atceroties draudzīgā Republiku, Lietuvas kuras ir nepārtraukti;

Atceroties to, ka Amerikas Savienotās Valstis, Latvijas, Igaunijas un Lietuvas;

Partneri saredz savas aizsardzības, kultūras, ciešākās saites starptautiskās integrācijas Eiropas un transatlantiskajās struktūrās sekmētāju.

Lai labāk atspoguļotu izmaiņas Eiropas un transatlantiskajā politiskajā un drošības situācijā, Partneri apņemas regulāri augstākajā līmenī no jauna izskatīt šo vienošanos.

LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS VĀRDĀ

AMERIKAS SAVIENOTO VALSTU VĀRDĀ

IGAUNIJAS REPUBLIKAS VĀRDĀ

LIETUVAS REPUBLIKAS VĀRDĀ

Vašingtonā, 1998. gada 16. janvārī

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Lai tālāk nostiprinātu šīs saites, Partneri nodibinās Partnerības Komisiju, kura tiks vadīta pienācīgi augstā līmenī un novērtēs kopīgos centienus. Šī Komisija tiksies reizi gadā, vai arī kad tas būs

22. The Charter of Partnership Among the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Lithuania and the USA. January 16, 1998.

Partnerības harta starp Latvijas Republiku, Igaunijas Republiku, Lietuvas Republiku un ASV. 16.01.1998.



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23. The President of the USA, William J. Clinton, (on the right), the President of Estonia, L. Meri, the President of Lithuania, A. Brazauskas, and the President of Latvia, G. Ulmanis, at the moment of the signing of the Charter of Partnership. Washington, January 16, 1998.

ASV prezidents V. Dž. Klintonis (no labās) Igaunijas prezidents L. Meri, Lietuvas prezidents A. Brazauskas un Latvijas prezidents G. Ulmanis paraksta Baltijas valstu un ASV Partnerības hartu. Vašingtona, 16.01.1998.



The exhibit was officially opened at the U.S. Information Resource Center, Smilšu iela 7, Riga on January 16, 2001.

The exhibit was prepared by the US Embassy in Latvia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

Documents and materials from the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, Latvia State Archives of Audiovisual Documents, Latvia State Historical Archives, US Department of State and private collections. Photographic reproductions by P. Korsaks. Photographs provided by A. Krieviņš, J. Krūmiņš, I. Kuškevics, Z. Segliņš. Layout of the exhibit by Aigars Lenkevičs.

Izstāde atklāta ASV Vēstniecības Informācijas centrā Rīgā, Smilšu ielā 7, 16.01.2001.

Izstādi sagatavoja ASV Vēstniecība Latvijā un Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrija.

Izstādē izmantoti dokumenti un materiāli no Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrijas arhīva (LR ĀMA), Latvijas Valsts kinofotofonodokumentu arhīva (LVKFFDA), Latvijas Valsts vēstures arhīva (LVVA), ASV Valsts departamenta un personiskajiem arhīviem. Fotoreprodukcijas izgatavojis P. Korsaks. Izmantoti P. Korsaka, A. Krieviņa, J. Krūmiņa, I. Kuškevica, Z. Segliņa fotouzņēmumi. Izstādi iekārtoja Aigars Lenkevičs.