



SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

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H.E. Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
United States of America

July 21, 2020

Dear Secretary,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits.

As you are an understandably busy man, I shall be concise and get to the point.

Secretary, as we approach the eightieth anniversary of the Sumer Welles Declaration explaining and justifying the principles behind the firm and resolute U.S. Policy of non-recognition of the Soviet occupation and annexation of the three Baltic States in 1940, our region again faces new and ominous challenges. After Russian unlawful aggressions in Georgia and Ukraine, President Vladimir Putin and the Russian parliament are using the fig leaf of “historical truth” to attempt to rewrite history. In his recent piece in “The National Interest”, Putin speciously argues that the Baltic States voluntarily joined the USSR in 1940 and that it this was in line with international and state law of that time.

As you and I both know, nothing could be further from the truth.

The democratic West cannot allow this falsification of history to continue to increase and be amplified and used to subjugate the current independent neighbouring states of Russia. The European Parliament took a welcome first step last year of calling out Russia for these falsifications. I now ask you, Mr. Secretary, to take the lead in a determined and concerted effort to push back on this falsification of history.

I ask you to:

1. Stress that Russia's attempts – led by President Putin – to rewrite history by whitewashing the calamitous secret protocols of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and lying that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania voluntarily joined the Soviet Union are both an implied and direct threat to the sovereignty and independence of the Baltic States which the U.S. will not tolerate.
2. Act to release the relevant Department of State and CIA archival material showing the repeated attempts by the Soviets from Stalin to Gorbachev on to pressure the U.S. into betraying the Baltic diplomatic missions firmly recognized by the U.S. as the lawful continued representations of pre-war Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Their existence showed the world that the Baltic independent statehoods were not forgotten and that there were glimmers of hope for the future.

3. Lead an international effort to ascertain the true cost of the Soviet occupation, taking into account deaths, deportations, refugees, and the devastating economic cost of nationalizations, including of Jewish-owned property. Prospering societies before the Second World War, they were thrust into the communist Middle Ages. Russia is indebted for the Soviet occupation.
4. Invite the Russian Ambassador to the U.S. to the Department to explain the recent statement by his counterpart in Latvia last week in a general new-old concept about Latvia voluntarily joining the USSR.
5. Evaluate and condemn the Russia-adopted constitutional amendments under which Russian law is considered above international law and which provides the basis for questioning territorial integrity as is the case with annexed Crimea.
6. Ensure that American boots on the ground will be firmly planted in the Baltic States together with those of other NATO military forces and that the U.S. will do everything to prevent the Baltic States from energy captivity by Russia.
7. State that the Ostrovets nuclear power plant is an unsafe and environmental threat to the entire region.
8. Congratulate all the Baltic democratic movements of 1988 with the achievement of independence in 1990 and repeat that the U.S. never abandoned the Baltic States and together with our NATO allies, will defend them from aggression with all our collective might.
9. Extend heartfelt best wishes to the last Holocaust survivors in Lithuania, the remnants of a vibrant community that numbered 250,000 before the Second World War.
10. Firmly support the Euro-Atlantic path of Georgia and Ukraine.
11. Firmly support the Lithuanian moral stance on Belarusian and Russian dissidents and Cuba freedom fighters.

As Secretary Welles so eloquently stated: "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 out 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."

I hope you will favorably consider my request. As the United States lead the way with its non-recognition policy, so should it again take the lead renouncing Russian historical revisionism.

With deep regards,



Emanuelis Zingeris, MP
 Chairman
 Subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations and Democratic Development
 Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania
 Chairman

International Commission for the Evaluation
of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation Regimes in Lithuania
Signatory
Act of the Independence of the Republic of Lithuania