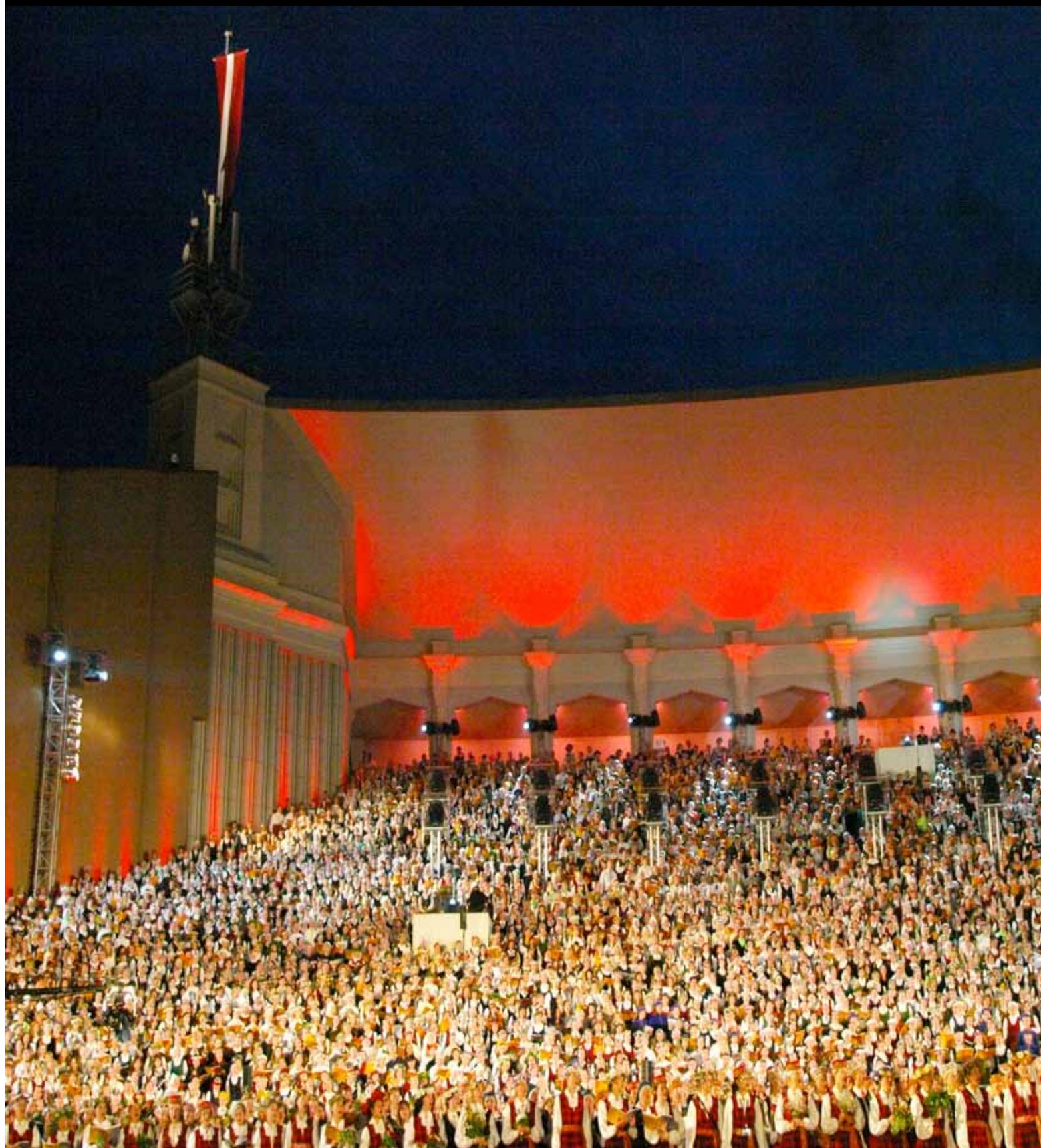


Prāta Bučas

LNJAK

2013. g. jūnijs

4. numurs



Sveiki!

Vasara ir klāt, un ir daudz notikumu un pasākumu, ko gaidīt. Šovasar LNJAK cenšas izmēģināt ko jaunu, tiek organizēts izbrauciens jūlijā uz Bērzaines šautuvi LNJAK biedriem, kā arī vērienīgs volejbola turnīru augustā. Tiekamies zem saules pielietajām debesīm!

Ja esat ievērojuši, mēs turpinām sūtīt Prāta Bučas sabiedrībai. Mēs domājam, ka ir svarīgi dalīties zināšanās, tāpēc esam nolēmuši atļaut Prāta Bučām būt pieejamām visiem!

Ja jūs vēlaties dalīties ar informāciju, tad rakstiet mums pratabucas@gmail.com.

Hello!

Summer is upon us and there are a lot of exciting events and upcoming dates to look forward to. LNJAK especially is trying something new with an outing in July to the Berzaine shooting range for members and hosting a bigger and better volleyball tournament in August. See you under the sunlit sky!

If you've noticed, we have continued sending issues of *Prāta Bučas* to the public. We here believe, that knowledge is important to share, so we've decided to keep *Prāta Bučas* available to all.

If you wish to share something then write to us at pratabucas@gmail.com.

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Uz pirmās lapas/ cover by: Dainis Matisons

KAS PAR DESĀM?

Ziņas un Notikumi



Eiropas BMX čempionāta devītais un desmitais sacensības notika Rīgā

Latvieši Edžus Treimanis un divu olimpisko zelta medaļu uzvarētājs Māris Štrombergs, ieguvuši augstas vietas gan Vīriešu Elites 9. un 10. sacīkstēs, kā arī nozīmīgus punktus Rīgas posmā 2013 BMX Eiropas čempionātā. Tautieti Rihards Veide pašlaik ir piektajā vietā. Pēdējie divi turnīra posmi notiks Beļģijā no 11.-14. jūlijam. Sieviešu Elites grupā, Sandra Aleksejeva šobrīd ir divpadsmitajā vietā.

Ugunsgrēks iznīcina daļu no Rīgas pils

Pagājušajā nedēļā Rīgas pilī izcēlās ugunsgrēks, iznīcinot 3200 m², nopietni cietušas prezidenta kancelejas telpas, bojājumi nodarīti arī Valsts Vēstures muzejam. Ugunsgrēkā nav cietuši. Valsts policija joprojām izmeklē iemeslus, ir izvirzītas trīs teorijas par ugunsgrēka cēloņiem. Pirmkārt, bērniņos ir atrasti cigarešu izsmēķi, kas liecina, ka strādnieki pārkāpuši aizliegumu smēķēt pils telpās. Kā otrs iemesls tiek minēts bojājums elektroinstalācijās. Trešā iespēja paredz, ka degšanu izraisīja dzirksteles no ventilācijas šahtās esošajiem rotatoriem. Ugunsgrēka izcelšanās vietā tika atrasti divi tukši ugunsdzēsamie aparāti, kas liecina, ka sākotnēji darbinieki paši mēģinājuši nodzēst liesmas. Kā informēja būvniecības uzņēmuma SBRE preses pārstāve Māriete Straume, pēc pils apskates, inženieri un eksperti no Valsts kultūras pieminekļu aizsardzības inspekcijas atzinuši, ka iekšpusē pils situācija ir labāka, nekā gaidīts. Bojātos artefaktus esot iespējas atjaunot.

30. jūnija līdz 7. jūlijs - Rīga

XXV Vispārējie latviešu Dziesmu un XV Deju svētki

10. līdz 20. jūlijs- Oshawa

2013 FIL Women's Lacrosse World Cup
Latvija spēlēs Pool B

19. līdz 21. jūlijs- Burlintonā

Pieaugušo nometne
Sidrebene
(5100 Appleby Line)
Vairāk infomāciju:
lakats@interlog.com

*** 20. jūlijs- East Gwillimbury

Šaušana ar
Latviešu mednieku un
makšķernieku kluba
Bērzainē
(19921 Kennedy Rd)

3. līdz 4. augusts- Three Rivers

ALJA Sirds Liksmo un
Cūku Bēres 4-2 nogalē
Gaņzerā
(57732 Lone Tree Rd)

11. līdz 18. augusts - Three Rivers

3x3 nometne
Gaņzerā
(57732 Lone Tree Rd)

*** 24. augusts- Burlintonā

Volejs Turnīs
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Goble: Russia will collapse in 20 years

ir journalist Aivars Ozoliņš interviews with Eurasian ethnic and religious expert Paul Goble

*This June 6th, 2013 article has been translated from Latvian. To see the original visit: <http://www.ir.lv/2013/6/6/goubls-krievija-sabruks-pec-20-gadiem>

"The Baltic's best friend in Washington" - this was how Paul Goble was once described. However, when he worked on the Delegation for the Russian army's withdrawal from Latvia, Goble earned another label "Russia's enemy No. 1." In late May, he visited Latvia and Estonia. This conversation took place in Tallinn, where Gobles participated in the Lennart Meri Conference.



Paul Goble studied at Miami University (B.A., 1970) and the University of Chicago (M.A., 1973), and has published more than 150 articles and volumes on ethnic and nationality questions. His resume includes Deputy Director, Research Department of Radio Liberty and Special Advisor on Soviet Nationality Problems, U.S. Department of State. He currently teaches at the Institute of World Politics.

Won't the powers in Moscow become aware of this situation and attempt to change?

Those options to contain the whole country will decrease. In addition, the more vulnerable the Russian leadership feels, the greater

You participated in the processes that brought the collapse of the Soviet Union and the independence of the Baltic States, and since then you've been closely watching developments in this part of the world. Do we live in a safer world than 20 years ago?

The next 20 years will be more dangerous and problematic than the previous twenty. Too many people have taken the "end of history" thinking - that the USSR no longer exists, the Cold War ended, and we now live in a world dominated by democracy, human rights and free-market capitalism. That is complete and definitive nonsense. There are far fewer signs, than one would like, that economic change has strengthened democracy and the redistribution of power, that has taken place in the world, has created more stability. And undergoing a major transformation is the Russian Federation, on the one hand, and the United States as a kind of metonym of the Western world, on the other.

I think that the Russian Federation over the next 20 years will collapse. The disintegration process reflects the fact that the R.F. simply does not have a natural common framework or values system containing it together. The upcoming break-up will be ugly, and what will facilitate this is not so much the non-Russian North Caucasus, which most people pay the greatest attention, but rather the Russians in Siberia, the Far East, and North-West, who are not satisfied paying taxes while receiving very little from Moscow.

the chance that it may engage in remedial action abroad, such as playing up support for fellow citizens. Over the past 20 years, we see how Russia has become increasingly stronger. It primarily produces raw materials and risks losing a large part of its revenue as raw material prices fall. Hardly ever again will we see \$150 per barrel of oil, unless there is war in the Middle East. This, unfortunately, may encourage some in Moscow to promote just such a crisis. And countries that are experiencing a decline, tend to try to prove that they still have weight.

What can the West do to deter Russia's leaders from such self-actualization?

Many in Latvia see and are aware of the difficulties in the Russian Federation, but not everyone and another thing - the role of America's relative decline. We not only have had several generations living beyond their means, but we no longer have predominance in resources, as was 20 years ago. After the war, in 1946, the U.S. with 6% of the world's population owned 50% of global GDP. Today, we are limited to 22%. After a few years we will be 10%. What the state can do, when it holds half of the world's goods and services, is very different, from what can be done, when holding only 10%. This does not mean that the U.S. is not a strong country.

We still have all the minimum three components of a superpower- a strong economy, large military forces and many a attractive set of ideas. People aren't queuing at consulates to study at Chinese universities, they still want to study in America. This is crucial. However, we no longer have the resources,

what was. Second, we have not invested enough in the international defense and international relations infrastructure. We've stopped radio broadcasts, our Navy has only 284 large vessels and can no longer meet its commitments around the world, to ensure freedom of navigation in all the seas. I do not see anyone on the horizon, which without us, would still be interested in free shipping for all. This means the potential for maritime rivalry and conflict. Within a few years, I believe that Japan will become a nuclear country and participate in the competition for free navigation. We know what that can mean from experience.

How can the U.S. compensate for its diminishing influence?

When countries lose influence it is notably apparent in their national characteristics. While countries are strong, they are also, of course, guided by their own national character, but they are able to think big. But American culture is characterized by at least three things. First of all, we Americans ignore geography. We do not know where anything is located. Most recently, the scandal of former Vice President candidate [Sarah Palin] who suggested we bomb Prague, because we are up against Chechens. This is Madness! But we really don't like to make an effort, to figure out, where things are, because geography is meandering. It has coalesced with history and culture and is very meandering.

Nevertheless, Americans so far have been heavily involved in Europe. Doesn't this mean that they have some idea of what or wherein goes on here?

We were in Europe to defend yourself. Because the Soviet Union directly challenged us. Now we no longer have this challenge. 30 years ago, when Gorbachev first came to Washington, with him was Georgy Arbatov, a leading Russian Americanologist. He said one interesting thing: Gorbachev will do something to you more terrifying than any of his predecessors - he will deprive you of enemies. We can no longer pay as much attention to Europe or any other region as once was. If we focus on anything at all, then it is the Middle East and the Islamic world.

Second, Americans believe that history does not matter. We explain to a wide variety of people - Forget the past, focus on the future, just as we do. In fact, for a large number of nations the past is not something, from which one can easily let go. No Latvian will ever forget that Latvia was occupied by the Russian state. This is the

reality. It makes no sense to recommend people to forget it and move on.

Third, Americans are culturally predisposed to believe that all problems have solutions. And those problems that do not have solutions, are not problems.

This has two important consequences for the Baltic countries. On the one hand, this means that the United States occasionally engages in things that no one else would risk to take. The policy of non-recognition towards the occupation was an American measure. If you think about it, it was admirably uncommon to declare, that a country, that was composed of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, did not include Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. And that was of great importance.

But it also means, that we are constantly engaging in affairs that do not have a solution. And in addition we also have a tendency, to ignore problems, for which as a rule, nothing can be done, because it's a kind of natural reality. And the world is filled with cases, with which we are not doing anything. Afghanistan is a classic example - we do not know, what we are doing there.

Do you think that after the allied coalition has left, Afghanistan will collapse?

No, I think it will once again become Afghanistan. Afghanistan has never been a single, centralized, efficient state. It will once again become a scattered territory. Where is it written, that all the nations of the world must be organized in the same way? That all must have a strong central government? It would be nice if that were the case. Afghanistan, however, has never had this, Kabul has never been the most important or the only player. And history tells us that our idea, that we can create it in such a way, is incorrect.

But there is something to the American national characteristic and its connection with a decrease in resources. In 1944, Winston Churchill said - Americans will always do the right thing — after exhausting all the alternatives. In 1944, we had so many resources, that we could try everything else, and even if we were wrong, try again and do it right. This no longer exists. This means, that we need to be smart and be able to do it correctly on the first attempt. I used to say to the Estonian and Latvian leaders, the big difference between your country and mine is that if Estonia makes a mistake, Estonia suffers, but if America makes a mistake, Estonia suffers. Now, for

the first time in my life, I would say, if a mistake is made by America, the United States also suffers, and perhaps even more. And it's not something that we Americans feel good about, or know what to do. We're confused.

We have problems, the Russian government has problems, and Latvia is in the middle. How to move forward? Be aware that you are not a member of NATO, which existed before 1989, you are a new member of NATO. Many of us, and certainly, many Latvians wanted to be in the old NATO - that, which defined itself as an alliance for protection against the East. I believe, that there are still compelling reasons to do so. Unfortunately, I do not have many like-minded thinkers in my country or government. I consider that the Russian Federation, as a dying state, is very capable of unsightly behaviour, or that the dissolution process will have an impact on its neighbors about which NATO should start thinking about. The next stage of dissolution will have much larger refugee flows, which can swamp neighboring countries. That is something we have to think about, but we are not.

It sounded so self explanatory and yet so strange to hear at the conference here, that, apart from the Baltic states, no one in Europe considers Russia as a threat. Does the fact that the last American tank leaving Europe, also mean, that Americans feel that Europe is not threatened?

Americans view Russia as a big and far away country which does not endanger the U.S., therefore it does not endanger anyone. I believe, that the current Russian government, which is neither stable nor will be able to exist in the years to come, is a threat because of its ability to maintain domestic discipline, though solely directed against external enemies. And it has interests, such as the crisis in the Middle East, in what may cause oil prices to rise. That is a strategic security issue for the United States. In my opinion, we have this absurd situation in which we talk about Russia as an ally with regards to Iran. Sorry, but Iran would not have a nuclear program if they didn't have Russian scientists and technology, which built Bushehr! I think, that the Israelis would have destroyed Bushehr several years ago, if it were not for a large number of Russians working there, of which at least some would be dead by the Israeli strike. No one in the United States Government for obvious reasons, wants to take the risk, because they do not know whether Moscow would respond spasmodically and do something really bad.

Russia is no longer a threat, in the manner, that it was thirty years ago, but it is a threat in other forms. And it's a huge mistake to hold, that in the absence of such a threat, as it once was, it's not a threat at all. The U.S. is in geopolitical competition in several places, the world is multipolar and multicentral, and we have challenges - energy, free shipping, access to raw materials, where the Chinese are buying up huge quantities of African raw materials. These are all security issues. I believe, that all this happy talk about collaboration with Vladimir Putin, who has stated that 1991 was the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the twentieth century, is dangerous wishful thinking. We are dealing with a government in Moscow, which is aware, that their only hope to stay in power is to create a crisis abroad, which would raise oil and gas prices, and which uses foreign threats as an excuse for the use of repressive powers at home. It is a very dangerous situation. I hope that we can pass through this stage without a disaster, however I will base, maybe we cannot.

Everyday in Latvia you hear three points: first, that Russia is not a threat because it has enough problems at home, secondly, Latvia should be more concerned about the situation in their own home instead of their neighbors, and thirdly - let us have pragmatic relations with Russia. What would you answer?

That each of these statements is either wrong, or either incomplete. Russia is a threat precisely because it has its own problems at home. Russia is a threat because it is internally weak and unstable. If Russia's economy were to grow by five per cent per annum, if such growth were based on industrial production, if it produced goods and services which the world would like to buy, it wouldn't need to stir up the waters of the Middle East in order to make a rise in oil prices, there would be no need to associate with brutal dictators around the world as with Assad in Syria. If Russia were in good condition, it would not be a threat. It's not in good condition, so it is a threat.

Second, it is of course true that Latvia basically should care about its own internal situation. You have economic problems, political problems, you have the problem of integration. Addressing these matters is crucial. To do so is of great importance, firstly, because it is good for your own country, but, secondly, by addressing some of these problems, you will increase your security. You must take care so that Latvia is a safe place and is able to cope with possible external threats.

You want to create a good, integrated, safe community that is able to defend itself against external threats.

Third - what "pragmatism"? Does that mean the middle ground? If you tell others that you want to find a common position on anything, they will insist on something more extreme, than they have the chance to get, just to force you into coming closer to their position. Pragmatism is a good idea, but pragmatism without context is dangerous self-deception.

Security is always relative. Is Latvia now less safe than a decade ago, when it was about to join NATO?

It is wrong to assume, as did many Latvians, that accession to NATO and the European Union itself would solve Latvia's security problems. In fact, as you say, security is always relative. I believe, regarding Latvia's security it is important first of all to evaluate, what NATO and the EU do not provide. I'm old enough to remember how people said - the USSR will never invade Afghanistan, because Afghanistan is outside the bloc. I'm not saying that Russia is preparing to invade Latvia. But I am willing to say, that the Russian Federation, or at least part of the political class, will do everything it can to destabilize your country to ensure, that Moscow has greater influence here than it would otherwise have, and more than the Latvian people themselves would like. Because from Moscow's point of view, Latvia is the Baltic region's key state. Not because it is in the middle. But because they need access to your ports, your heavy industry, your transport infrastructure.

In turn, what I think you should ensure, is that the government in Moscow realizes that Russia would benefit from a strong, secure, self-confident Latvia, instead of a Latvia, that is unstable, due to Moscow stirring up the waters here. If you can eliminate the problems, in which Russia may intervene, if you can focus on what Moscow wants and what can be reasonably done, then I think, it is highly probable that Latvia, ten, fifteen years from now can be a safe country which has good relations with Russia.

I will try to outline three general potential scenarios. The first would be - even though you're in NATO and the EU, it is not inconceivable, that at some point someone in Moscow decides to take the risk and solve problems by force. Unfortunately, there are people in Putin's government who would be willing to engage in such an adventure.

What kind of problem, as appears to them, would need resolving?

Well, it would not be simply concentrating tanks on the eastern border and sending them in. The argument would be - Latvia, which has the highest percentage of ethnic Russians more than any other country in the world outside of the Russian Federation, oppresses them, and we in Moscow are ready to defend ethnic Russians, and that's why we will intervene and ensure, that ethnic Russians in Latvia have as much or more rights than others. We will do this, because the Latvian government has not been flexible or supportive.

How would they come in, if not with tanks?

They would point to the existence of an alternative government, which would declare itself to be the representative of Russian interests in Latvia, just as Interfront did in 1991.

Something similar is now being undertaken with the so-called Non-citizen congress.

That's right. It exists for that reason.

How can Latvia respond? First, realize one important issue and take appropriate action. And that is - the overwhelming majority of Latvia's ethnic Russian population wants to be in Latvia. They do not want to be a part of the Russian Federation, because in Latvia they are much better off, than they would fare in Russia or in a "Latvian oblast" in the new Russian state. They do not want this, and it speaks in favor of Latvia's culture and Latvia's government. However, it is very important that the Latvian government, firstly, continue and not put the brakes on efforts to integrate the population, and secondly, a much better effort is needed in international public relations work, so that people understand that Russians in Latvia do not want such a scenario.

The second of the three potential scenarios - Latvia arises as a country, in which, in the view of the government in Moscow, Russia's interests are secured. Latvia benefits from trade, going through its territory, and bilateral relations are good. By this I do not mean that Moscow would give orders, simply - in that view, you are a good business partner. This would not be easy to accept by the Russians, and it would not be easily accepted by the Latvians. This is a challenging route, and it would never be complete, it would always be a process.

This is the second possible scenario. The first would therefore be of force majeure, which, hopefully will never happen, but it can happen. Second - Latvia strengthens as a state, in so far that Russian trade running through it, does not replicate such evils like corruption, sabotaging the country.

The third big scenario would be - the Russian government acts in such an unacceptable way, that the West, primarily the Atlantic powers - the United States and to a lesser extent, Britain - recognizes, that the new NATO is not enough and a defense alliance is needed again, which considers the R. F. as the latest incarnation of the Russian state, which does not play by rules, does not recognize current borders, and dreams of restoring its empire. Therefore, the line that crossed Germany, would now be located on Latvia's eastern border.

I mentioned the first scenario - Russia's force majeure solution - not very likely, it can happen, though I hope, will not occur. Though the third scenario - that the West realizes, Mr. Putin and company, for who they are - is just a little bit more possible. So it is especially important that Latvians are doing their best to promote the second, which remains the best possible solution, which Latvia can control. You cannot control what will be done in Moscow. If the Russians decide to do something terrible, there is nothing in the short term you can do to prevent or stop it. Similarly, I think you are unable to convince the West alone, that old aspects of NATO should be restored. Of course, you can raise the issue, but I fear that many, especially in Europe, will cast aside these concerns as nervous hysteria.

Which we are gradually starting to get used to ...

Yes, it has become routine. If anything would change, it would be because the Russians have done something, not because of anything you have said. The West would recover itself, if the Russians did something really terrible.

Hm, what if, we provoke them?

They would only rejoice, if they could blame you. And too many in London, Paris and Washington would be willing to believe, that the Russians are right. It has already happened in the past.

In 2008, when Russia occupied part of Georgia?

That's it. As I've already said many times before about what happened in Georgia - Saakashvili acted like a fool, but Putin acted like a felon. The West's reaction was unfortunate - that both men are bad, even if each were essentially different. In Latvia's case, the best solution is to promote social integration. In fact, you, as a nation, and your government have done a "terrible" thing - you have led to the realization that the reason why there are so many ethnic Russians in Latvia is - that they want to be there. If they were so oppressed, as claimed by Moscow, they would not wish to stay. But the fact remains, that most of the West believes Latvia oppresses its minorities. This is nonsense, of course.

You also have previously said that one of the major things that has not changed since Latvian independence, is an inability to create a good image of ourselves. What we are doing wrong?

Instead of always talking only about Latvians, Latvians, stress - yes, we have Russians. If I had a say, I would instruct all Latvian diplomats to speak to their colleagues in the West, that - yes, it is true, Latvia has the highest percentage of ethnic Russians of all countries, aside from the Russian Federation, but it shows that, first, our country is supportive, and second, successful. Instead, as often is the case, presenting it only as a threat, state the facts. And they are - ethnic Russians are in Latvia because they want to be there.

In 1991, Latvia was not the leading country in terms of percentage of ethnic Russians. Ethnic Russians since then have gone home from Kazakhstan, departed from Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. But they have not left Latvia. Why? Because ethnic Russians in Latvia, even those who are not citizens, have a better life with better prospects for themselves and their children, than they would have in Russia. Instead of attempting to reduce the importance of the Russian presence, it's time to highlight it as an indicator of Latvia's national success. But I've never heard or read such a statement by Latvian officials - that it is a successful indicator.

Maybe because, such a politician would in return get a logical question from the capitals of Europe - if you are already so happy about their presence, why not let the so-called Russian parties into government?

Wait, wait - the discussion is not about Latvians being very happy about the Russian presence, but that Russians are happy being in Latvia. Those are different

things - Latvian and Russian attitudes. I'm not saying, that you should say - we Latvians, we love our ethnic Russians. Not least because, in my opinion, that's not really the case. But your attitude toward them has been much better than in almost any other part of the world, it's just that you've never specified this. Russians love to be here, otherwise they would have left, they are not kept chained up here. These are two different arguments - we like the Russians and Russians love to be here.

As mentioned earlier - we are criticized on the basis that we do not allow a "Russian party" into government because they are Russian. How can it be explained that it's not that they are Russians, but because they are corrupt, populist, and have agreements with Putin's party?

I would turn these arguments against them - we hope that someday there will be a Russian party in Latvia, that is committed to democracy, the rule of law, transparency and the existence of the Latvian national state. Once this party appears and it is understood, that its goals are not to bring Latvia closer and integrate with the Russian Federation, but the representation of ethnic Russians ...

But they say that now!

No, they convey a great deal more. They have this agreement with Putin's party *United Russia*, and with these arguments there's no need to lose the debate, when discussing with Europe. But I can tell you, that you do not even raise such arguments in America, where they have a better chance of being heard. I find it rather surprising that Latvia has the highest percentage of Russians in all the countries of the former Soviet Union, and I think it's a very positive message for Latvia. If everything is as bad as claimed by Mr Putin, they would all have had to flee. They flee even from Belarus! My God - even from Belarus! But not from Latvia. And, in my opinion, the only requirement for a political party to become a part of Latvia's government and political system, would be they have confidence in the Latvian state, and not a foreign country. The U.S. believed, that the Communist Party could not be regarded as a genuine political party, because it was paid for by the government of another country, to which it was loyal.

Let's return to NATO. Military exercises, called Steadfast Jazz, are planned for autumn whereby 3000 French soldiers will attend, but American numbers will be less than Estonia's. What does this suggest about U.S.

attitudes towards the alliance and regional security challenges?

This shows, that we do not have the resources, to do everything we would like. Sometimes people forget, that from 1945 up to about 1970 was historically a very uncommon period, when the U.S. was able to have a major military presence in Europe, carry on a war in Southeast Asia and maintain huge naval forces. We now can no longer do this, we do not have the resources. Worse yet - two generations have lived on borrowed money, and now we find it difficult to object to certain countries because they hold our external debt. What if they stop buying our debt? Interest rates go up.

The United States has done wonderful things - Europe would not be what it is today had it not been for the Marshall Plan. Latvia would have been some sort of client of the Russian state. However, the United States, taking into account its internal problems and its relatively dwindling advantage in the world, no longer or, shall we say, does not want to tighten its belt and discipline themselves to support NATO, as it was 30 years ago, when it was much easier. I am very concerned about what is happening in this part of the world, and I would like for us to do more here. But the only way to do this is to somehow make our economy grow, to charge higher taxes and shift them to the defense sector. The absence of such a threat, such as the Soviet Union, in a democratic country makes it very difficult to convince people to agree to such sacrifices. That is the reality, even though many would like it to be different.

I think, the only thing that restrains Russia's behavior, is awareness - that the Americans won't intervene, if it doesn't do anything really terrible, but they won't stay on the side lines, if the Russians carry out something really horrible. Let us remember that the Americans did not have the courage to go to war against Japan and Germany, until it had been attacked in Pearl Harbor. At present, we still do not feel threatened. The threat posed by Russia, is different - not from its rising power, but by its decline in power, which will encourage some of those in the government to fly off on foreign adventures, particularly in the Middle East.

Isn't it nevertheless worse - when, recently in Moscow, Putin is allowed to make the Secretary of State John Kerry wait three hours, doesn't it indicate that he simply despises the Americans for their weakness?

No, he checked how much he could get away with. In my opinion, the Secretary of State should have got up, headed for the airport and left. Additionally, I do not see any reason why he had to go to Moscow at all. I think that we are an infinitely more important country in the world than Russia, and we should have said - we want to talk about this and talk about it here. Or, for example, Paris. Why did he go to Moscow? I think that was a mistake.

That, by the looks of it, is part of the “restart” policy ...

I have no idea what a “restart” means. It helps to sell newspapers, but don't think it has a lot of content. What does that mean - that we will have a “new relationship”? A new relationship with a government, which has an openly declared fascist in Dmitri Rogozin? With a president who believes that the collapse of the USSR was a tragedy and would like to restore it as the Eurasian Union? With a man who openly expresses contempt for the international system, supports all of the world's dictators, or the Iranian nuclear program? Indeed, we have so many common interests to develop! It seems, if you would allow me, to say, that the U.S. and Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin's government have a lot in common, is rather absurd. I am convinced that Vladimir Putin laughed out loud by the fact, that the Americans did not react in any way to his blatant treatment against our chief diplomat. I believe that we acted incorrectly, and I regret to have to say it.

Why does President Obama have such misguided policies?

I'm not talking about specific U.S. government policies, but, in my opinion, there is a general trend, that believes the only major threat to America is Islamist terrorism. And the Russian government has managed to convince many Americans, that there is a direct link between Chechnya and Boston. This is not true, but it is widely believed.

Do you see a link between Boston and Sochi?

Vladimir Putin will certainly have an easier time managing his brutal regime, that suppresses human rights, non-governmental organizations, limiting the freedom of the Russian people before and during the Sochi Olympics, so far as he may be able to convince Americans that - your people were blown up in Boston, and we want to avoid this in Sochi. And

many Americans, I think, believe this. It's a fact that is improperly being exploited. What happened in Boston, look, it was caused by an Islamist agenda, and not by Chechen nationalists, who I am familiar with, I can not imagine that an attack on the United States could benefit Chechnya. The Chechen national case is not the same as Islamists. Mr Putin has tried to equate these things together because it puts the Americans on his side against terrorism in the North Caucasus, which means that the Americans will be more understanding towards his brutal behavior.

Is there any basis for the speculation, that, by judging the way, who won the most out of the terrorist attacks in Boston, there might have been some connection to the Russian Federal Security Service?

I do not think it is worthwhile to speculate on that, not until we have more information than what we currently know. When something happens, it is always worthwhile to ask, who benefits. However, people will always try to get something from the events, that they have not committed. Do not think, that just because, Moscow is a clear beneficiary of what took place in Boston, it has any association with it. I just don't know, I do not have any evidence that it might be, therefore I think assuming this idea would be irresponsible. The fact that Moscow used this situation to its advantage, is not in doubt. To say, that Moscow itself created this situation, would require evidence. Making such assumptions without evidence would provoke a denial, that would divert attention, from what the Russian government really does. For example, continuing to arm the cruel dictatorship of Syria, opposing efforts to overthrow the brutal dictatorships elsewhere in the Middle East, and attacking non-governmental organizations in the Russian Federation. It is important to talk about this.

Vladimir Putin's government has made it clear, that is not going to respect international human rights and bilateral standards. And unfortunately, that arrogant, threatening and ruthless behaviour does receive a proper response - rejection and clear indication that it will not be allowed. To have Secretary Kerry wait three hours is just bad manners. The government did this to show that it can afford to do whatever it wants. And a government which thinks it can do what it wants, in the end inevitably does terrible things.



69. Dziesmai šodien liela diena

A. Skalbes vārdi

Cildeni, gaiši

S. A.

f

Dzie - smai šo - dien lie - la die - na, vi - sa zed - me ska - nēt skan:

T. B.

Dziesmai šodien liela diena

Dziesmai šodien liela diena,
visa zeme skanēt skan:
daudzas balsis - doma viena
tautu tuvu dara man.

Senās kokles gaišās stīgas
atkal brīvi skaņas dod,
še pie Rīgas latvji dziesmās spēku rod.
Naidnieks mūžam necels galvu!

Mūsu druvas zaļas zels,
tauta sviedriem gūto balvu
gaišai dienai pretī cels.

Dziesmai šodien liela diena,
visa zeme skanēt skan:
daudzas balsis - doma viena
tautu tuvu dara man.

Arvīds Skalbe



Svētkos visi vārtu stabi zāļu zālēm vīti
Mūzika ap vārtu stabiem apvij apinīti
Silta, silta zvaigznīte šonakt logā spīd
Dēliņ, tēva āmuru un meitiņ, mātes maizīti, izdziedi
mums rīt
Silta, silta zvaigznīte tavā mutē spīd

- Jānis Pēteris, Dziesmu Dzīvībā 2013. g.
dz. sv. noslēguma koncerta dziesma



Stir Fry à la Ledusskapis

-Kalvis Mikelšteins

Svaigi dšāržeņi (Es lietoju sīpolus, burkānus, un oranžo piparu)

vista/cūkas gaļa

Baltie rīsi

Jebkuras mērces, kas tev atrodās ledusskapja durvīs

1) Uzvārī rīsus, saskaņā ar produkta sagatavošanas informāciju. Kamēr rīsi vārās, sagriez visas saknes 2.5 cm gabalos. Sīpolus var sagriezt smalkāk un iemest pannā.

2) Attaisi ledusskapja durvis. Paņem visu, kas izskatās garšīgs, vai kas drīz ies bojā. Es lietoju pēc daudzuma, sākot no kreisās puses, saldo & skābo mērci, Teriyaki mērci, aso sriracha, melno piparu, saldo čili mērci, un dienvidrietuma-chipotle-stila mērci.

3) Uzlej drusku eļļu uz pannas, un sacep sīpolus, līdz tie ir mīksti. Tad pieliec gaļu un mērces pēc garšas.

4) Kad gaļa ir izcepusies, pieliec saknes un turpini cept kādas 4-6 minūtes, skatoties cik kraukšķīgas saknes tev garšo! Es atradu savā saldētavā zirņus, un tos pieliku pašas beigās. Ap šo laiku rīsiem vajadzētu būt gataviem.

5) Labu apetīti! Baudi paštaisītas pusdienas vai vakariņas, jo tās vienmēr būs vienreizējas!



Vai Jums ir kāda recepte ko Jūs gribētu dalīties? Atstūtiēt mums! pratabucas@gmail.com

Interneta Portāls

Mēs zinām, ka tu pašlaik sēdi darbā un garlaikojies. Izdari kaut ko derīgu - paskaties šīs saites, un palasi drusku par Latviešu lietām...

<http://delna.lv/>

Transparency International's Latvian representative, *Delna* is one of very few NGO organizations in Latvia committed to fighting corruption. Help support *Delna's* mandate of promoting a democratic society, promoting freedom of information and the prevention of corruption. Although a lot has changed, the 2011 National Integrity System Assessment Report for Latvia is available at: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/124684623/NIS-Assessment-Report-Latvia-2011>



<http://www.dziesmusvetki.tv/>

The official website of this year's festival includes up to date news, programs, videos and much more.



<http://www.ltv.lv/lv/ltv-svetku-raidiijumi/>

Can't make it to Latvia for the XXV Vispārējie latviešu Dziesmu un XV Deju svētki? Then check out *Latvijas Televīzija* for live streams of the festivities and concerts.



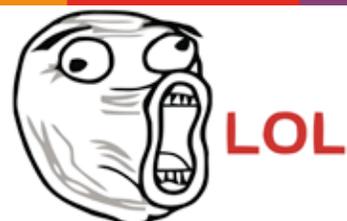
<http://www accuradio.com/>

Accuradio features online radio channels streaming all music genres and sub-genres from around the world. Best of all it's commercial free.



JAUTRĪBAS

JOKI, BAUMAS, SPĒLES, MĪKLAS utt.



Spot the differences...



Mēs meklējam karikatūras! Vai Jūs mākat zīmēt? Piesakieties! Joki, arī sūtiet joki!
pratabucas@gmail.com

Mīklas

1. Balts akmens linu drēbē.
2. Kungs brauc, zeme trīc.
3. Kas tas par jauku tilta gaisā, to neredzama roka taisa. Tur nevar iet, nedz braukt, nedz jāt, nedz ar kāds cilvēks tikt var klāt?
4. Salts kā medus, auksts kā ledus.
5. Kurai galvai nav ausu? Kurai galvai matu vietā lapas?
6. Ēd vienmēr, nekad nepa ēd.
7. No kalna skrien lejā diedama, bet kalnā nevar uziet iedama?

*** Mīkla

Konkursa***

Atbildēt uz visiem šiem mīklas pareizi un laimēt balvu! Nosūtiet mums savas atbildes uz pratabucas@gmail.com līdz 31. jūlijam. No cheating because we can find out if you do!