

SENDIRÁÐ ÍSLANDS

EMBASSY OF ICELAND

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F A X M E S S A G E

TO : Mr Nigel Dickerson, Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
FROM : Embassy of Iceland  
SUBJECT : Statement signed by Prime Minister of Iceland and  
Prime Minister of Estonia  
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For information.

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1 Eaton Terrace, London SW1W 8EY

Sími/Telephone: 01-730 5131/2    Símrít/Telex: 918226 Icemby G    Símfax/Teletax: 01-730 1683

## STATEMENT

At a meeting between Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson and Minister for Foreign Affairs Jón Baldvin Hannibalsson of Iceland and Prime Minister Edgar Savisaar and Minister for Foreign Affairs Lennart Meri of Estonia views were exchanged and information given on the status of the Baltic States' independence efforts.

The parties agreed that the matter must be seen as an international problem with its origins in the Second World War, and therefore appropriate to seek its solution in the international fora.

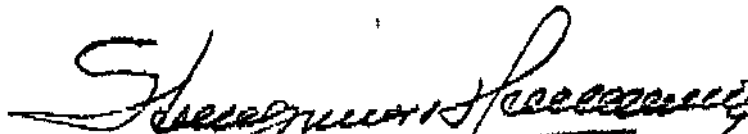
Despite great changes in the European political scene in recent years the matter of the Baltic States remains unsolved. Despite efforts made by the Baltic States over the past year negotiations with the Soviet Union have not materialized. Therefore it is imperative to seek new ways in the effort to reach a realistic solution to the problems. The parties discussed the steps that would be involved in the independence process and agreed that international agreements and guaranties would be required.


On Iceland's part full support for the independence struggle of the Baltic States was reiterated. Iceland will continue to pursue efforts in international fora to gain support for full independence of the Baltic States.

Iceland furthermore agrees to act as a mediator in negotiations between the Soviet Union and the Baltic States. Estonia will consult Latvia and Lithuania on that question. It was agreed that the first step in such a mediation effort should be to invite representatives of all the Baltic States to a meeting in Reykjavik in the month of March.

The parties also discussed means to strengthen cooperation between Estonia and Iceland. It was suggested that an Icelandic representative might be stationed in Tallinn in order to establish a closer relationship with the Baltic States.

Reykjavik, 21st February, 1991.

  
Steingrimur Hermannsson  
Prime Minister of Iceland

  
Edgar Savisaar  
Prime Minister of Estonia