



SECRETARY GENERAL
LE SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
THE RT. HON.
LORD ROBERTSON OF PORT ELLEN

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21 November 2002

Ķeas Ķiniņš Kalniņš,

Following the decision by the Heads of State and Government of the NATO member countries at their meeting in Prague today to invite your Government to start talks with the North Atlantic Alliance leading to your country's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty, I have the pleasure to invite your Government to begin these accession talks.

The talks will have to confirm formally your country's willingness and ability to undertake the political and military obligations and commitments under the Washington Treaty and the Study on NATO Enlargement.

Following confirmation of your country's interest in taking up this invitation, I will then ask Ambassador Günther Altenburg, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, to brief your representatives at NATO HQ on the issues to be raised during these talks, and to discuss in general how the accession process will proceed.

The Accession talks themselves will be conducted in December 2002 and January 2003, with the aim of finalizing the Accession Protocols in time for signature by NATO member countries by the end of March 2003 at the latest. For the Alliance a team of members of the NATO International Staff and of the NATO Military Authorities, led by Ambassador Altenburg, will conduct the talks, under my authority.

I look forward to your early response and to working with you in preparing your country's accession to the Alliance.

Anders Fogh Rasmussen

Her Excellency
Mrs Sandra Kalniņe
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia
Riga

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