

# **Latvijas valsts ārpolitikas sākums un Ārlietu ministrijas izveidošana**

Pirmais Latvijas ārlietu ministrs Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics

## **Origins of Latvia's Foreign Policy and the Formation of the Ministry**

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics, Latvia's first Minister of Foreign Affairs

Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrija  
Rīga, 2014

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia  
Riga 2014



Z. A. Meierovics. Rīga,  
1920. gadu pirmā puse.  
ĀMA

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics.  
Rīga, the 1st half of the 1920s.  
ĀMA

## Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics

05.02.1887. Durbē –  
22.08.1925. netālu no Brizules

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics piedzima Durbes ārsta ģimenē. Agri zaudēja vecākus, uzauga pie mātesbrāļa, skolotāja. 1911. gadā beidza Rīgas Politehniskā institūta Tirdzniecības nodaļu.

No 1911. gada grāmatvedis, vēlāk – darvēdis, direktors-rīkotājs Rīgas Lauksaimniecības centrālbiedrības savstarpejā kredītbiedrībā. Pirmā pasaules kara laikā devās uz Maskavu, kur strādāja Tautas bankā. 1916. gada maijā kā Krievijas Pilsētu savienības nodaļas darbinieks ieradās Rēzeknē. 1917. gada pavasarī atgriezās Rīgā. Bija Vidzemes zemes padomes Finanšu nodaļas vadītājs. Kopš 1917. gada aprīļa Latviešu zemnieku savienības (LZS) biedrs. 1917. gada septembrī piedalījās Krievijas mazo tautu kongresā Kijevā. Vācu karaspēkam ieņemot Rīgu, pārcēlās uz Maskavu. LZS Centrālās padomes delegāts Latviešu pagaidu nacionālās padomes (LPNP) dibināšanas sesijā 1917. gada novembrī Valkā.

## Latvijas ārlietu ministrs:

19.11.1918.–26.01.1924.  
19.12.1924.–22.08.1925.

Z. A. Meierovics divas reizes (1921–1922 un 1923–1924) bija Latvijas Ministru prezidents, palikdamas arī ārlietu ministra amatā. Ievēlēts par Satversmes sapulces (1920–1922) un pirmās Saeimas (1922–1925) locekli no LZS.

Apbalvots ar Latvijas Lāčplēša Kara ordeni un Triju Zvaigžņu ordeni, Francijas, Igaunijas, Polijas, Vatikāna ordeņiem.

1925. gada 22. augustā gāja bojā autoavārijā.

## Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics

Born on 5 February 1887 in Durbe –  
died on 22 August 1925 near Brizule

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics was born in the town of Durbe. His father was a medical doctor. Orphaned as a small child, he was raised by his mother's brother, a teacher. He graduated from the Riga Polytechnical Institute's Department of Commerce in 1911.

Meierovics began working as an accountant in 1911, and was later promoted to manager and Executive Director of the credit union of the Riga Central Agricultural Society. During World War I, he went to Moscow, and worked at the People's Bank. He arrived in Rēzekne in May 1916 as an employee of the All-Russian Union of Cities. In the spring of 1917, Meierovics returned to Riga and headed the Financial Division of the Vidzeme Land Council. He joined the Latvian Farmers Union in April. And, in September 1917, he took part in the Small Nations Congress of Russia, in Kyiv. When German troops occupied Riga, Meierovics moved to Moscow. Meierovics was a delegate from the Latvian Farmers Union in the meeting to establish the Latvian Provisional National Council that took place in Valka during November 1917.

## Foreign Minister of Latvia:

19 November 1918 – 26 January 1924,  
and 19 December 1924 – 22 August 1925

Meierovics served two terms as Prime Minister of Latvia (1921–1922 and 1923–1924), while also holding the office of Foreign Minister. He was elected to Latvia's Constitutional Assembly (1920–1922) and to the First Saeima (1922–1925) representing the Latvian Farmers Union.

Meierovics was decorated with the Lāčplēsis Military Order and the Order of the Three Stars (Latvia), as well orders from Estonia, France, Poland, and the Vatican.

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics died in a car accident on 22 August 1925 near the Brizule manor house.

## Latviešu pagaidu nacionālās padomes nodibināšana. LPNP atzīšana *de facto*

Latviešu politisko partiju, bēgļu, kareivju un kooperatoru organizāciju delegāti 1917. gada novembrī Vācijas neokupētajā Ziemeļvidzemes pilsētā Valkā nodibināja Latviešu pagaidu nacionālo padomi.

Z. A. Meierovicu ievēlēja par Finanšu nodaļas vadītāju un LPNP pārstāvi ārvalstīs. Vācu karaspēkam ieņemot visu Latvijas teritoriju, LPNP Finanšu nodaļa turpināja darboties Maskavā, bet Ārlietu nodaļa – Petrogradā. Kā pārstāvis ārvalstīs

Z. A. Meierovics piedalījās Ārlietu nodaļas sēdēs un tika deleģēts sarunām ar ārvalstu diplomātiskajiem pārstāvjiem Petrogradā, Maskavā un Vologdā.

1918. gada augustā Z. A. Meierovics ar LPNP Ārlietu nodaļas pilnvaru ieradās Lielbritānijā. Viņu 1918. gada 23. oktobrī pieņēma Lielbritānijas ārlietu ministrs Arturs Džeimss Balfūrs un pazīnoja, ka Lielbritānijas valdība ir nolēmusi provizoriķi atzīt „Latviešu Nacionālo padomi par Latvijas valdību”. Ar 1918. gada

11. novembra notu Lielbritānijas un Īrijas Apvienotās Karalistes valdība rakstiski atzina Latviešu Nacionālo padomi kā *de facto* neatkarīgu institūciju un Z. A. Meierovicu – „par neoficiālu Latviešu Pagaidu valdības diplomātisko pārstāvi Lielbritānijā”.

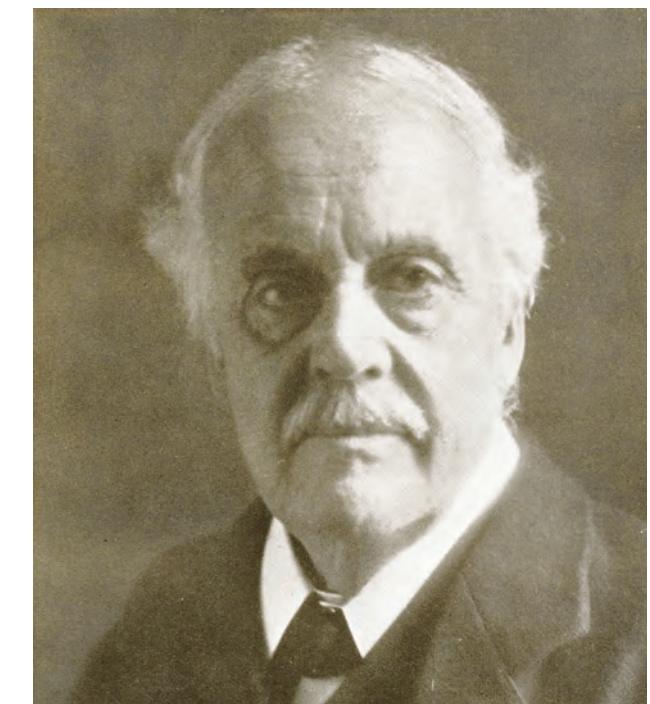
## Establishment of the Latvian Provisional National Council and its *De Facto* Recognition

Having gathered in Valka in November 1917, a town in northern Vidzeme, which was free of the German military forces occupying Latvia at the time, delegates from the Latvian political parties, cooperatives, and the organisations representing refugees and soldiers, together established the Latvian Provisional National Council (LPNC). Meierovics was elected Head of the Financial Division and a representative of the LPNC abroad. When the German troops had occupied the entire territory of Latvia, the LPNC Financial Division continued operating in Moscow, while the Foreign Affairs Division was run from Petrograd. As a representative abroad, Meierovics took part in the meetings of the Foreign Affairs Division and was sent from LPNC in negotiations with foreign diplomatic representatives in Petrograd, Moscow, and Vologda.

In August 1918, Meierovics arrived in United Kingdom bearing a letter of authorisation from the Foreign Affairs Department of the LPNC. On 23 October 1918, he was received by Arthur James Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, who announced that the British Government has decided to provisionally recognize “the Latvian National Council as the Latvian Government”. The British Government, as reflected in its Note of 11 November 1918, granted recognition in written form to the Latvian National Council as a *de facto* independent body and to Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics as “the informal diplomatic Representative of the Lettish Provisional Government” in Great Britain.

Z. A. Meierovics 1918. gada jūlijā Krievijā.  
LNA LVVA, 1313, f. 1. apr., 22. l., 2a. lp.

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics in Russia. July 1918.  
LNA LVVA, Collection 1313, Inventory 1, File 22, p. 2a



Arturs Džeimss Balfūrs (1848–1930) – Lielbritānijas politiķis, diplomāts. Ārlietu ministrs (1916–1919).  
*Ten Years League*

Balfour, Arthur James (1848–1930) – a British politician and diplomat. Foreign Secretary (1916–1919).  
*Ten Years League*



SAW  
13/XI/1918

FOREIGN OFFICE.

November 11th 1918.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 30th ultimo in which you enclose a copy of your appeal to Great Britain and the Allies to give their protection to Latvia.

I am happy to take this opportunity of repeating the assurance which I gave you on the occasion of your recent visit. His Majesty's Government have viewed with the deepest sympathy the aspirations of the Lettish people and its desire for liberation from the German yoke. They are glad to reaffirm their readiness to grant provisional recognition to the Lettish National Council as a *de facto* independent body until such time as the peace Conference lays the foundations of a new era of freedom and happiness for your people.

Monsieur Meirovici,

In

115, Park Road,  
Regents Park,  
N.W.

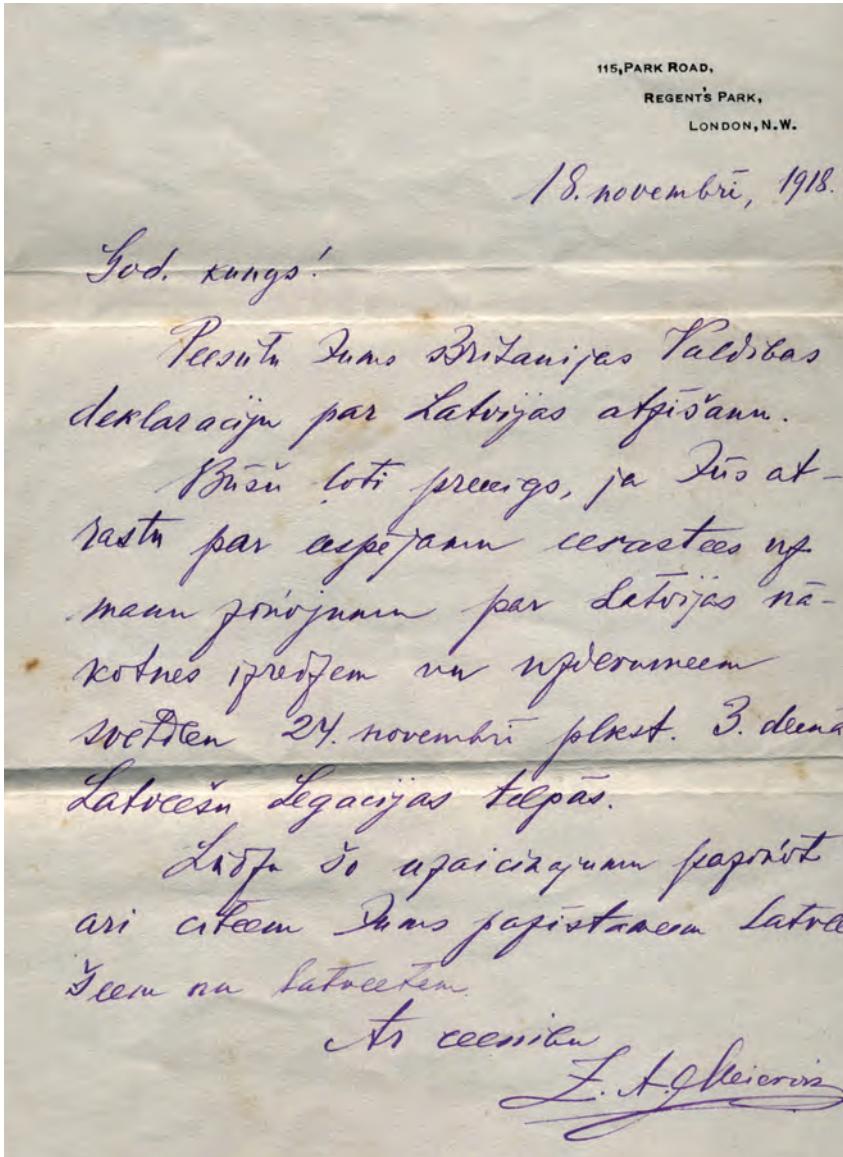
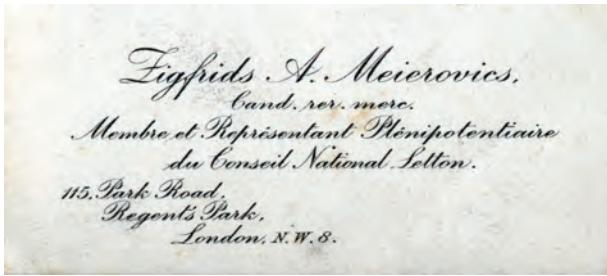


In the meantime His Majesty's Government will be glad to receive you as the informal diplomatic Representative of the Lettish Provisional Government.

*Yours  
A. J. Balfour*

Lielbritānijas un Īrijas Apvienotās Karalistes ārlietu ministra A. Dž. Balfūra nota par Latviešu Nacionālās padomes atzīšanu kā *de facto* neatkarīgu institūciju līdz Miera konferences lēmumam.  
Londona, 11.11.1918.  
LNA LVVA, 2570. f. 3. apr., 1126. l. 3.-4. lp.

Note from Arthur James Balfour, the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on granting provisional recognition to the Lettish (Latvian) National Council as a *de facto* independent body, until a decision could be made at the Peace Conference.  
London, 11 November 1918.  
LNA LVVA, Collection 2570, Inventory 3, File 1126, pp. 3-4



LPNP pārstāvja Z. A. Meierovica  
vizitkarte un uzaicinājums pīpu ražotnes  
„Kapp & Peterson” lidzīpašniekam  
Irijā, latvietim Kārlim Pētersonam  
(1852–1919) piedalīties sanāksmē.  
Londona, 18.11.1918.  
ĀMA

A business card showing that Zigfrids Anna Meierovics is an official representative of the Latvian Provisional National Council, and an invitation to Kārlis Pētersons (1852–1919), a co-owner of the Irish pipe manufacturing company, Kapp & Peterson, to attend a meeting, London, 18 November 1918.  
ĀMA

## Latvijas Tautas padomes nodibināšana. Latvijas Republikas pasludināšana. Pagaidu valdības izveidošana

Vācu okupētajā Rīgā kopš 1917. gada septembra notika latviešu partiju apvienības Demokrātiskā bloka apsriebes, kurās piedalījās politiķi no astoņām partijām. Demokrātisko bloku vadīja Kārlis Ulmanis un Miķelis Valters no LZS. Pēc Vācijas militārās sakāves, vienojoties Demokrātiskā bloka un LPNP pārstāvjiem, 1918. gada 17. novembra kopsēdē tika nodibināta Latvijas Tautas padome. Par Tautas padomes priekšsēdētāju ievēlēja Jāni Čaksti, par Ministru prezidentu – Kārli Ulmani.

Latvijas Republikas neatkarību pasludināja 1918. gada 18. novembrī Latvijas Nacionālajā teātrī (tolaik – Rīgas pilsētas Otrais teātris). Nākamajā dienā Tautas padome apstiprināja pirmo Latvijas pagaidu valdību, kurā Z. A. Meierovicam bija uzticēts ārlietu ministra amats.

## Establishment of the Latvian People's Council. Proclamation of the Republic of Latvia. Establishment of the Provisional Government

As of September 1917, in German-occupied Riga, a union of Latvian parties called the Democratic Bloc held meetings that brought together politicians from eight parties. The Democratic Bloc was chaired by Kārlis Ulmanis and Miķelis Valters from the Latvian Farmers Union. Following Germany's defeat in the war, the Democratic Bloc and the LPNC, at their joint meeting on 17 November 1918, agreed on the establishment of the People's Council. Jānis Čakste was elected Chairman of the People's Council, and Kārlis Ulmanis was appointed Prime Minister.

Independence of the Republic of Latvia was proclaimed on 18 November 1918 at the Latvian National Theatre (then called the Second Riga City Theatre). The day after, the People's Council approved the first Provisional Government of Latvia with Zigfrids Anna Meierovics as its Minister of Foreign Affairs.

D  
15-19  
14

Kopija no vēstules, kuru adresaeta Sabiedroto valstju,  
Frānzijs, Liel-Britānijas, Itālijas un  
Japanas valdībam.

LATVIJAS SULTĀNĀZĪBA  
115 Park Road  
St. John's Wood  
London N.W.8.

2. janvāri 1919.g.

Juhu skelzen!

Wiss angestzeenibā grēschos pēc Jums ar luhgumu nodot  
Juhu Waldibai scho rakatu, kusch reisā ar to adresaeta  
axi pahrejēm sabeedroto waldibam un kurā teek luhgts is-  
smeegt 15.000.000 (peezpademit miljoni) mahrziņu leelu  
aisņēmumā Latvijai pēcēch sekoschām vajadsībam;

1. Nacionālās apsardesības organiseschanai (pēc loe-  
linekeem);

2. Apghadusē māc ar pahrikas lihdsēkļem no kreweem  
un wahzeescheem aplauiptos eedsīwotajus un latvijā atgroe-  
suschos behglus;

3. Valata reorganisazijas un pahzuhves.

Bewehrojot leelo vajadsību, pagolinot wiss angestzeenibā  
Juhu luhgt pēcēt Latvijas pagaidu Waldibas luhgumu un peo-  
soķirt wiņai wiss džirsumā augschā mineto aisņēmumā.

Iai pamatotu scho Latvijas pagaidu Waldibas wahrda se-  
sneegto luhgumu, peewenoju schoit trihs peelikumas:

1. Latvijas Tautas īadome;

2. Latvijas vudsachets 1912.gada;

3. Par domēnu senem un Latvijas dsessszeleem.

Wiss angestzeenibā  
parakstījis Z.A. Meierovitzs,  
Latvijas Āhrlectu ministrs.

Z. A. Meierovica nota  
Sabiedroto valstu valdībām  
par aizņēmuma piešķiršanu  
Latvijas valstij, Londona,  
02.01.1919. Notas tulkojums  
latviešu valodā, noraksts.  
*LNA LVVA, 1313, f. 1, apr.,  
18. l., 19. lp.*

Zigfrids Anna Meierovics's  
note to the governments of  
the Allied Powers on issuing  
a loan to the state of Latvia.  
London, 2 January 1919.  
Translation into Latvian,  
a transcript.

*LNA LVVA, Collection 1313,  
Inventory 1, File 18, p. 19*

## Latvijas delegācija pie Parīzes Miera konferences

Z. A. Meierovics kopš 1918. gada 11. novembra  
bija Latvijas neoficiālais diplomātiskais pārstāvis  
Londonā. 1919. gada 6. janvārī viņš devās uz  
Parīzi, lai pilditu otrā pilnvarotā pārstāvja  
pienākumus Latvijas delegācijā pie Parīzes  
Miera konferences. Pēc pirmā pilnvarotā  
pārstāvja Jāņa Čakstes aizbraukšanas uz Latviju,  
Z. A. Meierovics no 1919. gada 21. maija līdz  
3. jūlijam bija delegācijas vadītājs.

Delegācija darbojās līdz 1919. gada  
15. decembrim un nepilna gada laikā adresēja  
Miera konferencei 34 notas. Konferences  
Baltijas komisijas 1919. gada 10. jūnija sēdē  
runāja Z. A. Meierovics un iesniedza  
delegācijas izstrādāto Latvijas Memorandum.

Latvijas diplomāti uzskatīja, ka 1919. gada  
28. jūnija Versalas miera līgumu ar Vāciju  
parakstījušās 32 pasaules valstis ir atzinušas  
Baltijas valstis *de facto*. Tomēr līdz 1919. gada  
jūlijam oficiāli Latviju *de facto* bija atzinušas  
tikai Lielbritānija, Vācija, Japāna un Haiti.  
Pārējās valstis rēķinājās ar Krievijas impērijas  
atjaunošanas iespējamību, tāpēc nogaidīja.

Latvijas delegācijai neizdevās panākt savu  
galveno prasību – valsts *de iure* atzišanu.

## Latvian Delegation at the Paris Peace Conference

From 11 November 1918 onwards, Zigfrīds Anna  
Meierovics was the informal diplomatic representative  
of Latvia in London. On 6 January 1919, he left for  
Paris to perform the duties as the second duly authorised  
representative of the Latvian delegation at the Paris  
Peace Conference. After the first plenipotentiary  
representative, Jānis Čakste, returned to Latvia,  
Meierovics became Head of Latvian delegation from  
21 May to 3 July 1919.

The delegation worked till 15 December 1919 and,  
within under a year, addressed 34 Notes to the Peace  
Conference. Meierovics spoke at the meeting of the  
Commission on Baltic Affairs of the Conference on  
10 June 1919 and presented a Memorandum drafted  
by the Latvian delegation.

In the opinion of Latvian diplomats, the 32 countries  
that signed the Versailles Peace Treaty on 28 June 1919  
had given *de facto* recognition to the Baltic States.  
However, as of July 1919, only Great Britain, Germany,  
Japan, and Haiti had *de facto* recognised Latvia.  
The other states were considering a possibility of the  
restoration of the Russian Empire, and were therefore  
biding their time.

The Latvian delegation failed, at that time, to achieve their  
main request, the *de iure* recognition of their country.

1  
LN

Paris , le 27 Janvier 1919

Monsieur le Président ,

J'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre les pleins pouvoirs donnés par le Gouvernement Provisoire Letton à la Délégation Lettone , et de vous prier de nous autoriser de prendre part aux délibérations de la Conférence de la Paix dans toutes les questions concernant LATVIA et la mer Baltique .

La Délégation Lettone se compose de :

Janis TSCHAKSTE , Président du Conseil d'Etat de Latvia ,  
Premier Plénipotentiaire ;

Zigfrids MEIEROVICS , Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de LATVIA , Second Plénipotentiaire ;

Janis SESKIS ,  
Troisième Plénipotentiaire ;

Marger SKUJENEK , Arved BREMER , BASILE SKUBIN et

Janis GRISCHAN , Conseillers ;

Henri SIMSON et Olgerd GROVALD , Secrétaires .

J. Čakstes nota Parizes Miera konferences priekšēdētājam Žoržam Klemanso (1841–1929) par Latvijas delegācijas sastāvu.  
Parīze, 27.01.1919.  
*LNA LVVA, 1313. f, 2. apr,  
I. l, 288. lp.*

A note from Jānis Čakste to the Chairman of the Paris Peace Conference, Georges Benjamin Clemenceau (1841–1929) on the composition of the Delegation of Latvia. Paris, 27 January 1919.  
*LNA LVVA, Collection 1313,  
Inventory 2, File 1, p. 288*



Jānis Čakste (1859–1927) – politiķis, jurists, Latvijas Tautas padomes priekšsēdētājs (1918–1920), pirmais Latvijas delegācijas pie Parīzes Miera konferences vadītājs (23.01.–21.05.1919.), Latvijas Valsts prezidents (1922–1927).  
ĀMA

Jānis Čakste (1859–1927) – a politician and lawyer. Chairman of the Latvian People's Council, (1918–1920), the first Head of Latvian delegation at the Paris Peace Conference (23 January – 21 May 1919), the President of Latvia (1922–1927).  
ĀMA

Note adressée par la Délégation lettone à la Conférence de la Paix .  
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Au nom du Gouvernement Provisoire Letton , la Délégation lettone a l'honneur de demander à la Conférence de la Paix

- 1) que la LATVIA soit reconnue comme un Etat souverain , indépendant , un et indivisible ,
- 2) que la destinée de la LATVIA soit réglée à la Conférence de la Paix de Paris , en collaboration avec les délégués lettons dûment accrédités et admis à la Conférence de la Paix de Paris et
- 3) que les Grandes Puissances Alliées envoient leurs représentants auprès du Gouvernement Provisoire Letton et entrent avec lui en relations régulières .

Signé :  
J. TSCHAKSTE  
Président du Conseil d'Etat de LATVIA  
Président de la Délégation lettone ..

PARIS , le 10 février 1919..

Jānis Čakstes nota Parizes Miera konferencei par Latvijas suverenitātes atzīšanu, atļauju Latvijas delegācijai pilnītiesīgi darboties konferencē un Sabiedroto valstu pārstāvju sūtīšanu uz Latviju. Parīze, 10.02.1919.  
*LNA LVVA, 1313. f, 2. apr, 23. l, 2. lp.*

Jānis Čakste's note to the Paris Peace Conference regarding the recognition of the sovereignty of Latvia, permission for the Latvian delegation to lawfully participate in the conference, and sending of the Allied representatives to Latvia.  
Paris, 10 February 1919.  
*LNA LVVA, Collection 1313, Inventory 2, File 23, p. 2*

## **MEMORANDUM ON LATVIA**

ADDRESSSED  
TO THE PEACE CONFERENCE  
BY THE LETTISH DELEGATION.

THE LETTISH COUNTRIES.

From ancient times the Letts have been established on the shores of the Baltic, from the port of Ainaži on the eastern bank of the Gulf of Riga, down to Palanga, which lies on the frontier between Prussia and Courland.

The following districts are inhabited by compact masses of Letts :

Courland, with an area of 27,023.3 km<sup>2</sup>;

The 4 southern districts of the province of Livonia (Riga, Wenden, Wolmar, Walk), with an area of 22,570.9 km<sup>2</sup>:

Latgale, which consists of the 3 north-western districts of the province of Vitebsk (Daugavpils, Rezekne, Ludze), with an area of 13,704.8 km<sup>2</sup>.

Latvia, which is divided into 17 districts, covers an area of 63,299 km<sup>2</sup>, not including the inland lakes; including the inland lakes, it covers an area of 64,106 km<sup>2</sup>.

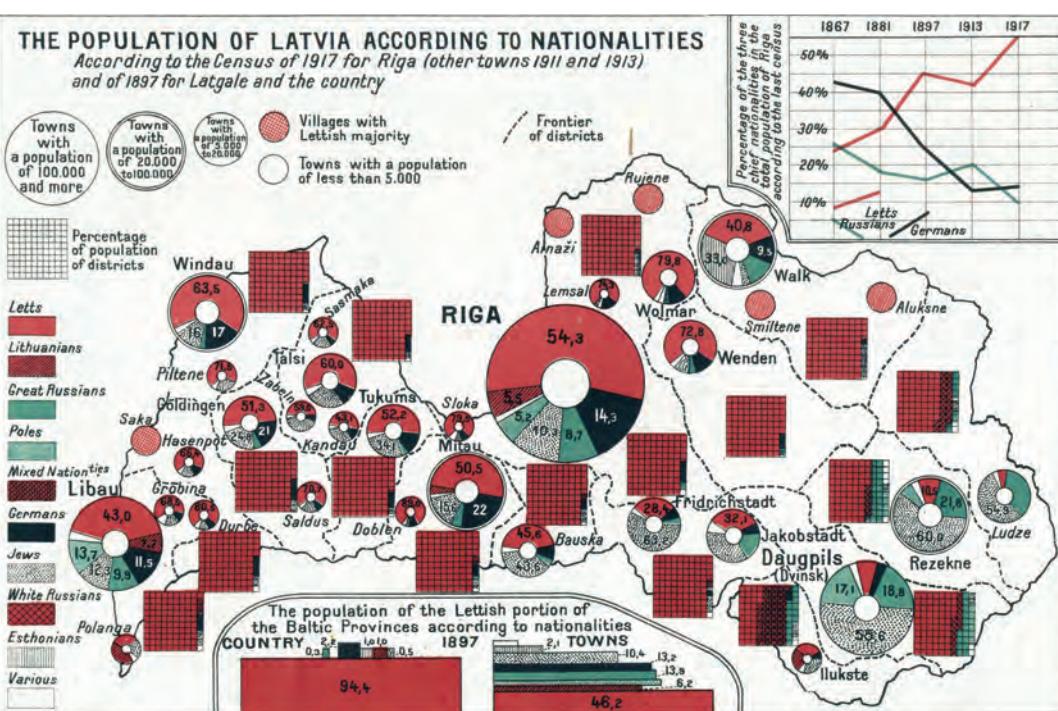
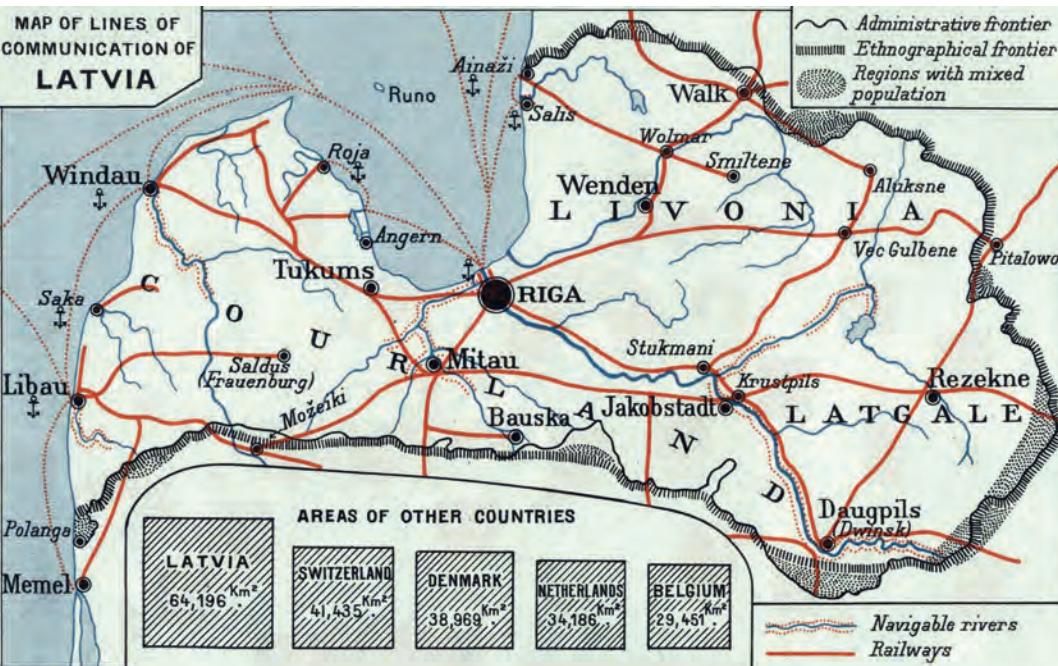
Latvia is considerably larger than Denmark ( $38,969 \text{ km}^2$ ) and Holland ( $34,186 \text{ km}^2$ ), which two countries it greatly resembles in regard to geographical position, climatic conditions, and economic organisation. Switzerland ( $41,435 \text{ km}^2$ ) and Belgium ( $29,451 \text{ km}^2$ ) are much smaller than Latvia.

**Frontiers.** Parts of the frontier of Latvia are identical with the administrative frontiers of the provinces and districts of the old Russian Empire. The western, and part of the northern frontiers, are formed by the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga. Of the total 1777 km. of frontier, the maritime frontier is 519 km. long. The southern frontier is the same as the administrative frontier of Courland; in the east it is formed by the eastern administrative frontier of the district of Ludze, and in the north, by the northern frontiers of the districts of Wolmar and of Walk, where Latvia joins the districts of Pernau, Fellin and Werro.

In the north, Latvia is separated from Estonia by 308 km. of frontier; in the east, in the province of Pskoff, it is separated from Great-Russia by a length of 168 km.; in the south-east, 177 km. of the frontier runs between Latvia and White-Russia, and in the south, 605 km. between Latvia and Lithuania.

Parīzes Miera konferences  
Baltijas komisijai 10.06.1919.  
iesniegtais Latvijas Memorands  
par Latvijas teritoriju,  
iedzīvotājiem, attiecībām  
ar Krieviju un Vāciju,  
ekonomisko situāciju un  
valsts išašumu. Memoranda  
1. lpp. otrā puse un divas kartes  
pielikumā pie tā.  
Parīze, 1919. g. maijs.  
*ĀMA*

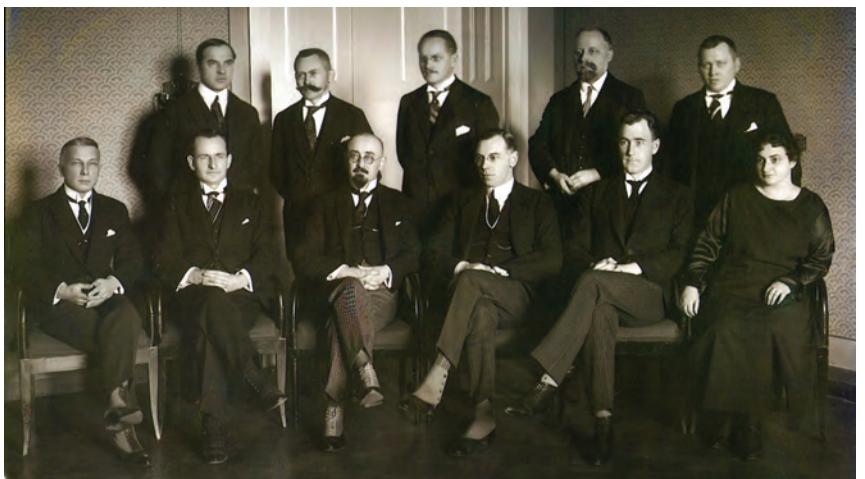
A Memorandum on Latvia presented to the Commission on Baltic Affairs of the Paris Peace Conference on 10 June 1919 concerning the territory of Latvia, its population, relations with Russia and Germany, the economic situation and state property. The reverse side of the 1st page of the Memorandum with two maps attached.



## Ārlietu ministrijas izveidošana

1919. gada jūlijā sākumā Z. A. Meierovics no Parīzes devās uz Londonu, Kopenhāgenu un Stokholmu, kur risināja valsts pārstāvniecību darbības jautājumus, un 23. jūlijā ieradās Rīgā. Pēc līdzekļu saņemšanas, 29. jūlijā tika izdota pirmā pavēle par ministrijas darbinieku pieņemšanu. Augustā izstrādāja pirmo Ārlietu ministrijas struktūru, ko reorganizēja 1920. gadā, piecu departamentu vietā izveidojot divus departamentus ar 14 nodalām. Šāda struktūra ar nelielām izmaiņām pastāvēja līdz 1938. gadam.

Z. A. Meierovics un Ārlietu ministrijas darbinieki noteica valsts ārpolitikas pamatvirzienus un uzdevumus – Latvijas atzīšanu *de iure*, uzņemšanu Tautu Savienībā un Baltijas valstu savienības noslēgšanu.



Z. A. Meierovics (pirmajā rindā trešais no labās), ministrijas departamentu direktori un nodalā vadītāji. Rīga, 1925. g. janvāris.  
Foto: K. Iltners. ĀMA

## The Formation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In early July 1919, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics travelled from Paris to London, Copenhagen and Stockholm, where he dealt with the matters of setting up Latvia's diplomatic missions. Meierovics arrived in Riga on 23 July. After funds had been granted, the first order on employing the ministry staff was issued on 29 July. The first organisational structure of the Ministry was devised in August. The Ministry was reorganised in 1920 by merging its five departments into two, with 14 sections. This structure, with small alterations, existed until 1938.

Meierovics and the Foreign Ministry staff charted the course and outlined the tasks for Latvia's foreign policy – *de iure* recognition of Latvia, joining the League of Nations, and establishing of the Baltic Entente.

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics (first row, third from the right), Department Directors and Heads of Divisions. Riga, January 1925.  
Photo: K. Iltners. ĀMA

## No Z. A. Meierovica raksta „Latvijas ārlietu politika. 18. novembris 1918. – 18. novembris 1919. g.”

### From Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics's article "Latvia's Foreign Affairs Policy. 18 November 1918 – 18 November 1919"

[..] Mūsu jaunā ārlietu politika Latvijas pirmā pastāvēšanas gadā ir pārdzīvojusi 3 laikmetus: pirmais posms – Latvijas starptautiskais stāvoklis lielā pasaules kara izbeigšanas laikā [...]. Pirmā darbības laikmeta panākumu kopsavilkums ir Latvijas neatkarības *de facto* atzīšana no Lielbritānijas un Japānas lielvalstīm [...].

Ar šī gada janvāra mēnesi, resp., miera konferences sanākšanu Parīzē sākās Latvijas ārlietu otrs posms. Mūsu valsts pastāvēšanas fakts tiek atzīts no visām valstīm, kuras piedalās miera konferencē [...].

Ar jūnija pēdējām dienām, kad Vācija parakstīja Versaļas miera līgumu un Latvijas pagaidu valdība saņēma atpakaļ no viņas ar svešu spēku palīdzību atņemtās tiesības, – ir atzīmējams Latvijas ārlietu trešais darba posms – ministrijas organizēšanās un valsts ārējās politikas saskaņošana ar mūsu kaimiņu valstīm ziemeļos un dienvidos [...].

[..] Latvijas diplomātijai bija un ir jātop bez iestrādājušos ierēdņu kadra, bez norūdītu diplomātu-valstsvīru sastāva.

[..] Pārvarot, cik labi prazdama, visus šos šķēršļus, Latvijas ārlietu ministrija, vairāk vai mazāk noorganizēta, veic savus darbus piecos departamentos.

[..] Pie mūsu priekšstāvniecību nodibināšanas ārvalstīs, es turējos pie ieskata, ka pirmā kārtā mūsu priekšstāvniecības nepieciešamas sabiedrotās valstis, turpmāk Skandināvijā un mūsu kaimiņu valstīs.

[..] Baltijas valstu „Entente cordiale” tālākizbūve ir viens no mūsu politikas tuvākiem un galvenākiem uzdevumiem nākotnē.

[..] Our new foreign policy during the first year of Latvia's existence has evolved over 3 specific phases: Latvia's position internationally at the time when the Great War came to an end represents the first period in this history [...]. Realization of *de facto* recognition of the independence of Latvia on the part of the great powers, Great Britain and Japan, shows in a nutshell what was achieved in this first phase [...].

This January, namely, the convening of the peace conference in Paris launched the beginning of the second period in Latvia's foreign affairs policy. The fact of the existence of our state is recognized by all states which are taking part in this peace conference [...].

The last days of June, when Germany signed the Versailles Peace Treaty and the Provisional Government of Latvia thereby received back the legal rights of which it had been deprived due to foreign forces, – this marks the third period of the development of Latvia's foreign affairs policy in which the Foreign Ministry is organised, and national foreign policy is harmonised with the countries neighbouring Latvia to the north and south [...].

[..] Latvian diplomacy had to be created without a staff of experienced civil servants, without tough diplomats and statesmen, and it is in this way that it will also have to proceed.

[..] Overcoming, to the best of its ability, all these obstacles, the Latvian Foreign Ministry, having been more or less established, is carrying out its tasks with five departments.

[..] As far as the establishment of our representations abroad are concerned, I maintained the view that, first of all, we need representations in the Allied states, and then in Scandinavia and our neighbouring countries.

[..] Building up the Baltic States' Entente Cordiale is one of the immediate priorities of our policy for the future.

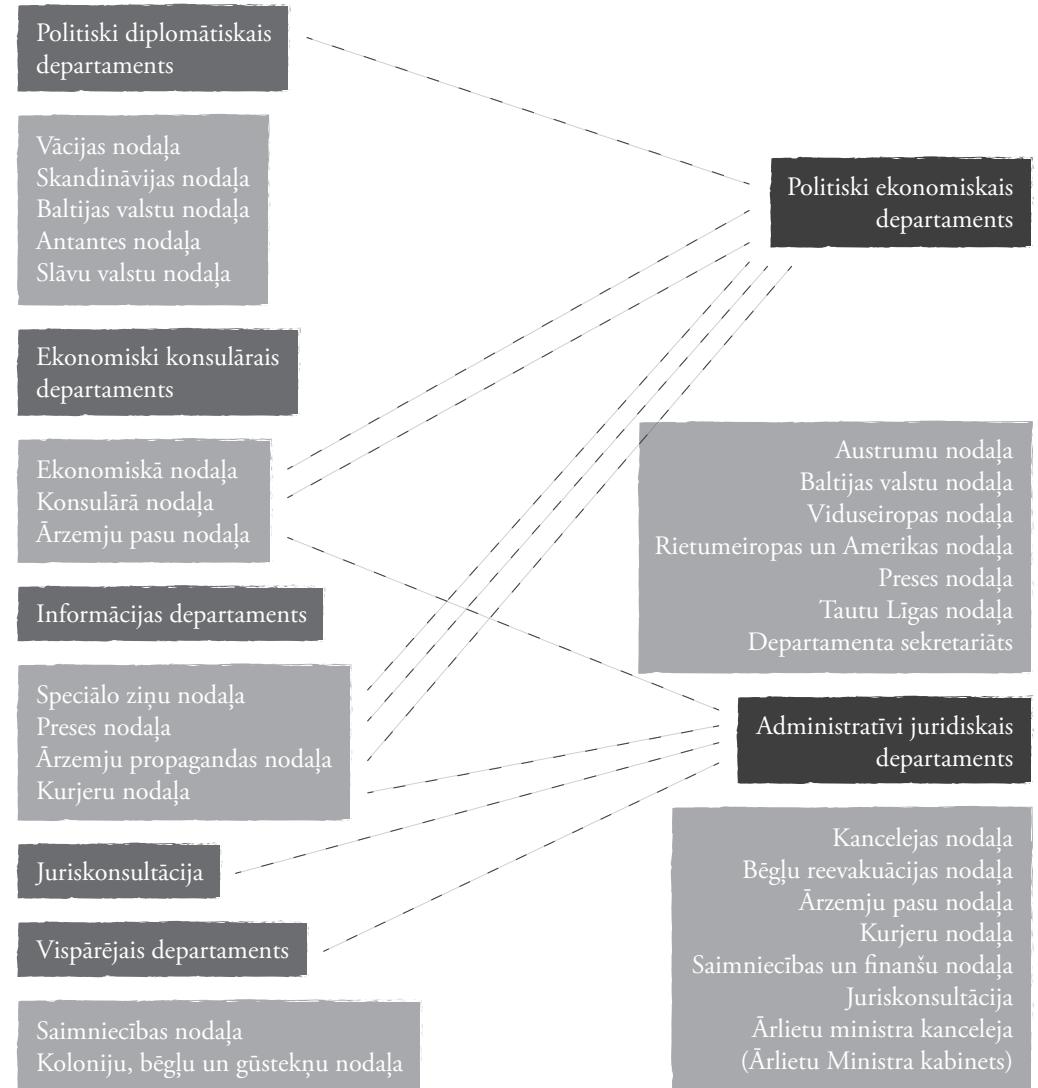


Z. A. Meierovics (pirmajā rindā vidū) un Latvijas sūtņu pirmās konferences dalībnieki. Konferencē piedalījās Saeimas Ārlietu komisijas priekšsēdētājs, seši sūtni, trīs ģenerālkonsuli, viens pagaidu pilnvarotais lietvedis un vadošie Ārlietu ministrijas darbinieki. Rīga, Ārlietu ministrijas nams dārza pusē, 1923. g. jūnijjs.  
ĀMA

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics (first row, in the middle) and the participants of the first conference of Latvian Envoys. Taking part in the conference were the Chairman of the Saeima Foreign Affairs Commission, six Envoys, three Consuls General, one Chargé d'Affaires a.i., and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Riga, the Foreign Ministry building on the side of the garden, June 1923.  
ĀMA

## Ārlietu ministrijas struktūras reorganizācija (1919–1920)

## Reorganisation of the Foreign Ministry Structure (1919–1920)



Šēma izstrādāta pēc Ārlietu ministrijas darbinieku sarakstiem un Ministrijas reorganizācijas komitejas sēžu protokoliem.  
LNA LVVA, 2570. f. 2. apr., 95. l., 88–101. lp.; 2574. f. 1. apr., 8. l., 8–10. lp.

The chart has been drawn up based on the Foreign Ministry staff lists and minutes from the Reorganisation Committee meetings.  
LNA LVVA, Collection 2570, Inventory 2, File 95, pp. 88–101;  
Collection 2574, Inventory 1, File 8, pp. 8–10

## Diplomātisko un konsulāro pārstāvniecību ārvalstīs nodibināšana

Piecos valsts pastāvēšanas gados sekmīgi tika izveidots un darbojās Latvijas diplomātiskais un konsulārais dienests, nodrošinot valsts pārstāvību un aizsargājot Latvijas politiskās un ekonomiskās intereses attiecībās ar starptautisko sabiedrību.

Pirmā Latvijas pārstāvniecība tika nodibināta 1918. gada novembrī Londonā, nākamās – 1919. gada pirmajā pusē Kopenhāgenā, Stokholmā un Helsinkos.

1925. gadā Latvija diplomātiski bija pārstāvēta 22 valstīs – ASV, Austrijā, Belģijā, Čehoslovākijā, Dānijā, Francijā, Igaunijā, Itālijā, Lielbritānijā, Lietuvā, Nīderlandē, Norvēģijā, Polijā, PSRS, Rumānijā, Somijā, Spānijā, pie Svētā Krēsla (Vatikānā), Šveicē, Ungārijā, Vācijā, Zviedrijā. Sūtņi rezidēja 13 valstīs. Ženēvā darbojās Pastāvīgā delegācija pie Tautu Savienības.

Z. A. Meierovica laikā atvēra 109 konsulārās pārstāvniecības, no kurām dažādu iemeslu dēļ 19 nācās slēgt. Lielākā daļa bija goda konsulārās pārstāvniecības. Svarīgākajos pasaules rūpniecības centros un ostu pilsētās atvēra karjeras konsulārās iestādes ar Ārlietu ministrija algotiem darbiniekiem. 1925. gada otrajā pusē Latvijas konsulārās pārstāvniecības darbojās Eiropā, Ziemeļamerikā, kā arī Āzijā un Austrālijā.

Dati apkopoti pēc sarakstiem „Latvijas diplomātiskie pārstāvji ārvalstīs. 1918–1991” un „Latvijas konsulārie pārstāvji ārvalstīs. 1918–1991”.

No: Biogrāfiskā vārdnica, 363.-392. lpp.

## The Establishment of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts Abroad

The Latvian diplomatic and consular service was successfully established and went into action during the first five years of statehood, thus ensuring Latvia's representation and protection of its political and economic interests in relation to the international community.

The first Latvian diplomatic mission was established in London in November 1918, to be followed by those in Copenhagen, Stockholm, and Helsinki in the first half of 1919.

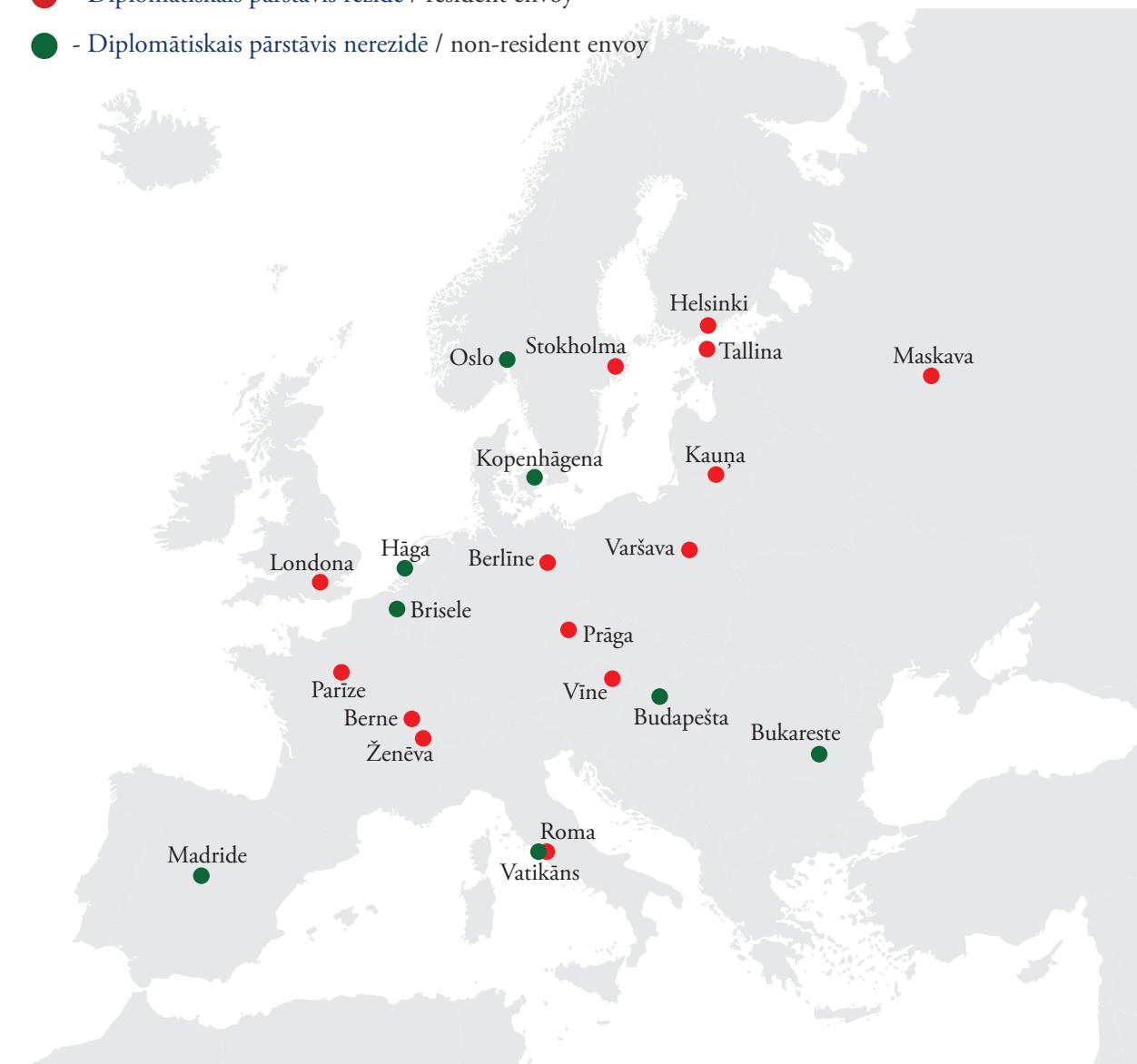
In 1925, Latvia had diplomatic representation in 22 countries – Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Holy See (the Vatican), Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, and the USSR. There were resident envoys in 13 countries. And Latvia's Permanent Delegation to the League of Nations was working in Geneva.

During Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics's time in office, 109 consular posts were opened, out of which, 19 had to be closed for various reasons. The majority of those posts were honorary consulates. Career diplomats that were employees of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were sent to perform consular services in major industrial centres and port cities. By the second half of 1925, Latvia had consular posts in Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

Data collected based on the lists “Diplomatic Representatives of Latvia abroad. 1918–1991” and “Consular Representatives of Latvia abroad. 1918–1991”.

From: Biogrāfiskā vārdnica, pp. 363–392

- - Diplomātiskais pārstāvis rezidē / resident envoy
- - Diplomātiskais pārstāvis nerezidē / non-resident envoy



Latvijas diplomātiskās pārstāvniecības Eiropā (1918. g. decembris – 1925. g. augusts).

Karte izstrādāta pēc saraksta „Latvijas diplomātiskie pārstāvji ārvalstīs. 1918–1991”.

No: Biogrāfiskā vārdnica, 363.–368. lpp.

Diplomatic missions of Latvia in Europe (December 1918 – August 1925).

The map has been produced based on the list from “Diplomatic Representatives of Latvia abroad. 1918–1991”.

From: Biogrāfiskā vārdnica, pp. 363–368

## Valsts robežas noteikšana

Latvijas un Padomju Krievijas robežu noteica 1920. gada 11. augusta Miera līgums.  
Par Latvijas robežām ar Igauniju un Lietuvu lēma šķīrējtiesas.

Latvijas un Polijas robežu noteica 1929. gada 12. februāra divpusējais līgums, ar kuru abas valstis atzina pastāvošās robežas *status quo*.

## The Delineation of the National Border

The border between Latvia and the Soviet Russia was fixed by the Peace Treaty of 11 August 1920. The borders of Latvia with Estonia and Lithuania were established through international arbitration.

The border between Latvia and Poland was determined under a bilateral treaty of 12 February 1929, by which both countries recognized the *status quo* of the existing border.

# MEERA LIHGUMS starp Latwiju un Kreewiju.

# МИРНЫЙ ДОГОВОР между Россией и Латвией.

— 8 —

### XX. pants.

Pehz schi lihguma ratifikacijas Kreewijas Waldiba atswabina Latwija pilsoņus un Latwija pilsonibas optantus, bet Latwija Waldiba — Kreewijas pilsoņus un Kreewijas optantus, kā militaras, tā ziwilas kahrtas, no sodeem par wisām politiskām un disziplināram leetām. Bet ja spredumi schals leetās wehl naw taisiti, tad wiļu isteesaschana isbeidsama.

Amnestija neatteezas us personām, kuras augschā minetos darbus isdarijuscas pehz schi lihguma parakstischanas.

Personas, kuras atrodas ismekleschanā waj sem teesas, waj kuras apzeetinatas kā apwainotas lihds schi lihguma ratifikacijai isdaritos kriminalos nosegumos un pahrakhpumos, kā ari tās, kuras par teen iszeesod suodu, us wiļu waldbias pеeprāsiju nekawejotees isdodamas. Wiļas isdodot, isdodami lihds ari ateezigēc ismekleschanā waj teesas materiali.

Reis ar to abas lihdsejas puses atswabina ari sawus paschu pilsoņus no sodeem par noseedsigeem darbeem, kurus wiļu lihds schi lihguma parakstischana isdarijuschi otras puses labā.

P e e s i h m e 1. Ziktahl pehz schi panta noteikumeem sinamas personas amnestejamas waj isodammas, tiktahl jau no schi lihguma parakstischanas momenta par scheem nosegumeem un pahrakhpumeem pеeprēste sodi ateezibā us wiļām naw ispildami.

P e e s i h m e 2. Schis pants neatteezas us Kreewijas pilsoņiem un Kreewijas pilsonibas optanteem, kuji peedaljuschees 1919. g. 16. aprīļa saswehrestibā un Bermonda usbrukumā.

### XXI. pants.

Publiski - teesiska un priwateesiska rakstura jautājumus, kuri izeltois starp abām lihdsejām pusēm, kā ari atsewischķus jautājumus starp abām walstīm waj starp walstīm un otras walsts pilsoņiem, isschķir sevisišķa jaunka komisija, ar weenadu skaitu lozekļu no abām pusēm, kura nodibināma tuhilt pehz schi lihguma ratifikacijas, un kuras sastahws, teesibas un peenahkumi nosaziti instrukcijā pehz abu lihdseju walstu weenoschanās.

### XXII. pants.

Schis lihgums sastahdits latweeschu un kreewu walodās.  
Wiļu istulkojot abi teksti usskatami kā autentiski.

### XXIII. pants.

Schis lihgums ir ratifizejams un stahjas spehkā no ratifikacijas momenta, ja lihgumā paschā naw teikts kas zits.

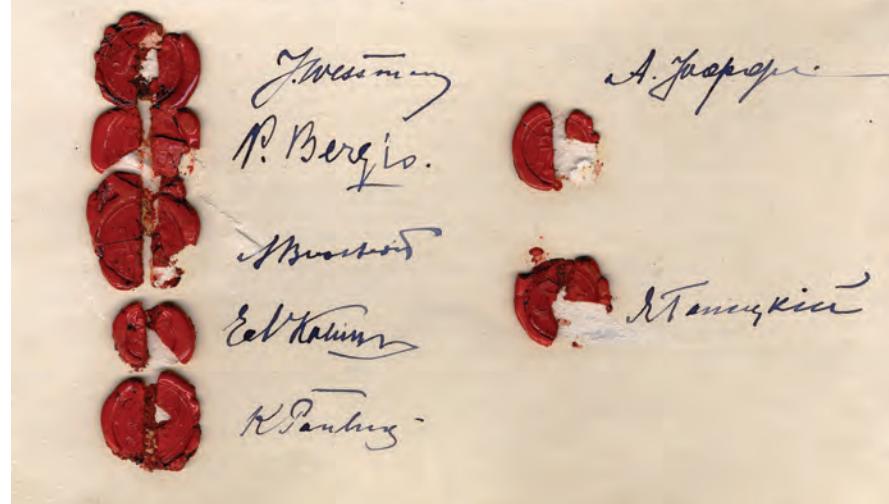
Ratifikacijas grahmatu apmaiņai janoteek Maskawa.

Wisur, kur schai lihgumā kā termijsch minets lihguma ratifikacijas moments, sem ta saprotams ratifikacijas grahmatu apmaiņas moments.

To aplezzinot, abu walstu pilnwarneekl paschrozigi parakstija scho lihgumu un apstiprinaja wiļu ar saweem silhogeem.

Originals diwos eksemplaros.

Sastahdits Maskawā, pabeigts un parakstits Rīgā, 11. augustā tuhkstots dewiļi simti diwdesmitā gadā.



Miera līguma starp Latvijas Republiku un Krievijas Sociālistisko Federatīvo Padomju Republiku pirmā un pēdējā lapa.

Riga, 11.08.1920.

LNA LVVA, 2570. f, 3. apr, 9. l, 1. un 9.lp.

The first and last pages of the Peace Treaty between the Republic of Latvia and the Russian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

Riga, 11 August 1920.

LNA LVVA, Collection 2570, Inventory 3,  
File 9, p.1 and 9



Stīvens Talentss (1884–1958) – Lielbritānijas komisārs Baltijas provincēs (1919–1920), Latvijas un Igaunijas robežas šķīrējtiesnesis (23.03.–03.07.1920).  
*Latvijas Kara muzejs*

Stephen George Tallents (1884–1958), Britain's Commissioner for the Baltic Provinces (1919–1920), the arbitrator who mediated the settlement of issues concerning delineation of the Latvian-Estonian border (23 March – 3 July 1920).  
*Latvian War Museum*



Z. A. Meierovics (no kreisās) un Džeimss Simpons (1873–1934) – Latvijas un Lietuvas robežas šķīrējtiesnesis (28.09.1920.–26.03.1921.).  
*Rakstu krājums, 168.–169. lpp.*

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics (on left) and James Young Simpson (1873–1934), the arbitrator who mediated the settlement of issues concerning delineation of the Latvian-Lithuanian border (28 September 1920 – 26 March 1921).  
*Rakstu krājums, pp. 168–169*

## Latvijas jautājums Tautu Savienības pirmajā pilnsapulcē

Tautu Savienības pirmās pilnsapulces 1920. gada 16. decembra plenārsēdē tika apspriests lūgums uzņemt Latviju Tautu Savienībā. Par Latvijas uzņemšanu balsoja piecas valstis (Itālija, Kolumbija, Paragvaja, Persija un Portugāle), 24 valstis bija pret uzņemšanu.

Lai panāktu Latvijas valsts pilnītiesīgu atzīšanu, Z. A. Meierovics devās uz Sabiedrotajām valstīm – Itāliju, Franciju un Lielbritāniju, kur viņu pieņēma valdības vadītāji.



## The Issue of Latvia at the First Assembly of the League of Nations

The plenary session of the First Assembly of the League of Nations on 16 December 1920 considered Latvia's membership application. Five countries voted in favour of membership (Columbia, Italy, Paraguay, Persia, and Portugal), and 24 countries were against the admission of Latvia.

To achieve full *de iure* recognition of the state of Latvia, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics went to the Allied states – Italy, France, and Great Britain, where he was received by the Heads of Government.

Z. A. Meierovica vēstule Latvijas delegātam (pilnvarotajam lietvedim) Francijā Olgērdam Grosvaldam par Tautu Savienības plenārsēdi 16.12.1920. un došanos uz Romu. Ženēva, 15.12.1920.

LNA LVVA, 2575. f., 7. apr., 48. l., 137. l.

A letter from Zigfrīds Meierovics to the Latvian Chargé d'Affaires to France, Olgerts Grosvalds, about the plenary session of the League of Nations on 16 December 1920, and his departure for Rome. Geneva, 15 December 1920.

LNA LVVA, Collection 2575, Inventory 7,  
File 48, p. 137

Application of Latvia for Admission  
to the League of Nations

## MEMORANDUM BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. In a note dated May 14, 1920, the Latvian Representative in Italy addressed to the President of the Council of the League a note, with which he enclosed the formal application of Latvia for admission to the League. The application also was dated May 14, 1920.

In accordance with the request of the Latvian Representative, the President of the Council transmitted the application to the Council, which was then sitting at Rome. The Council referred it to the Secretary General of the League, and the Secretary-General, on June 5, 1920, communicated it to the States Members of the League. The full text of the note and of the application is annexed to this document. (Annex 1)

In a note dated October 26, 1920, the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia at London informed the Secretary-General that the Constituent Assembly of Latvia had, on September 18, 1920, adopted a resolution, the text of which he quoted, affirming the desire of Latvia to become a Member of the League of Nations. The full text of this note, quoting the resolution, is annexed to this document. (Annex 2)

A similar note, dated November 8, 1920, has been received from the Latvian Representative at Paris.

A list of the documents in the archives of the Secretariat of the League, relating to the application of Latvia for admission to the League, is annexed. (Annex 3.)

L. of N. — Imp. Centrale. — 11/20.

— 2 —

2. The following brief summary of the history of Latvia is based upon the Memorandum on Latvia which was addressed to the Peace Conference by the Lettish Delegation, copies of which have been furnished by the Latvian Chargé d'Affaires at London, and are now in the possession of the Secretariat of the League.

After a struggle which continued for some centuries, the Lettish people were conquered by the Germans, and were incorporated into a State created by the Teutonic Order, which lasted until 1560. This State was then broken up. Estonia passing under the rule of Sweden and Latgale and Livonia under that of Lithuania united to Poland, while Piltene and Osel became Danish.

Courland alone retained her independence, in the form of a vassal duchy of Lithuania-Poland. During this period of independence Courland attained a high order of culture and prosperity, developed a large navy, and established colonies in America (Tobago) and in Africa (Gambia).

Livonia, which had been annexed by Sweden in 1621, was conquered by the troops of Peter I, and was formally annexed to Russia in 1710. After the first Partition of Poland, Latgale was assigned to Russia, and in 1795 Courland joined Russia. From that time onward until the German occupation in the course of the War, Latvia was a constituent part of the Russian Empire. There were various Latvian revolts against the Russian rule, notably one in 1905, none of which were successful.

The part taken by Latvia and the Lettish people in the War is recited at some length in this Memorandum.

The independence of Latvia was declared on November 18, 1918, by the National Council of Latvia. At the same time the National Council adopted a political programme which included the convocation of a Constituent Assembly at the earliest possible date, the members of the Constituent Assembly to be elected by "general, direct, equal, secret and proportional voting of both sexes."

Translations of this document, based upon an authenticated copy furnished by the Latvian Government, and now in the possession of the Secretariat of the League, are annexed. (Annex 4.)

The Constituent Assembly of Latvia, on May 26, 1920, adopted a provisional constitution for Latvia. Translations of this document, based upon an authenticated copy which has been furnished by the Latvian Government and is now in the archives of the Secretariat of the League, are annexed. (Annex 5.)

Latvia has been recognised *de facto* by the following States Members of the League<sup>1</sup>:

Great Britain . . . . .	November 11, 1918.
Japan . . . . .	January 10, 1919.
Poland . . . . .	October 22, 1919.
France . . . . .	April 28, 1920.
Belgium . . . . .	
Haiti . . . . .	
Liberia . . . . .	

Latvia has also been recognised *de facto* by<sup>2</sup>

Finland . . . . .	September 26, 1919.
Lithuania . . . . .	October 23, 1919.
The Ukraine . . . . .	December 10, 1919.
Estonia . . . . .	

<sup>1</sup> Authenticated copies of the acts of recognition of the following States Members of the League have been furnished by the Latvian Government, and are now in the possession of the Secretariat of the League: — Great Britain, Japan, Poland, France.

<sup>2</sup> Authenticated copies of the acts of recognition by Finland and by the Ukraine have also been received.

— 3 —

Latvia has been recognised *de jure* by Soviet Russia, by Article 11 of the Treaty between Latvia and Soviet Russia. Translations of the text of this article, based upon an authenticated copy, furnished by the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia, which is now in the possession of the Secretariat, are annexed. (Annex 6.)

The United States of America has consistently refused to accord any recognition to any of the so-called States which were formerly wholly or in part within the Russian Empire, with the exceptions of Poland and of Armenia. In this relation reference is made to the note of the Secretary of State of the United States to the Ambassador of Italy at Washington, dated August 10, 1920, a copy of which is annexed. (Annex 7.)

Latvia has also concluded a Protocol with Germany, signed at Berlin May 5, 1920, Articles 1 and 2 of which read, according to an unofficial translation, as follows:

"1. Latvia and Germany will immediately renew relations by the despatch of properly accredited plenipotentiaries.

"2. Germany declares her readiness to recognise Latvia *de jure*, as soon as "one of the Allied Powers named in the Peace Treaty of Versailles has announced "recognition.

Latvia has also concluded a treaty with Estonia, providing for the arbitration of questions of boundaries. This treaty has been executed, and the boundaries between Latvia and Estonia have been definitely established.

Latvia has also concluded a preliminary agreement with Lithuania to arbitrate questions of boundaries in the same way. This agreement has not yet been executed.

3. The application of Latvia for admission to the League is made under the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 1 of the Covenant. This paragraph provides that a fully self-governing State may become a Member of the League, provided, amongst other conditions, "that it shall give effective guarantees of its sincere intention to observe its international obligations." In this relation attention is invited to paragraph 3 of the application of Latvia.

4. The second paragraph of Article 1 of the Covenant also provides that the State applying for Membership in the League "shall accept such regulations as may be prescribed by the League in regard to its military, naval and air forces and armaments." In this relation attention is invited to the third paragraph of the application of Latvia.

The report of the Permanent Advisory Commission for Military, Naval and Air Questions, which was submitted to the Council of the League at its meeting at Brussels, on October 22, 1920, with reference to Latvia, is attached hereto. (Annex 8.) The report has formed the subject of a resolution of the Council, which is to be placed before the Assembly.

Attention is invited to one of the findings of the Commission, contained in the report, which reads as follows:

"The Commission considers that it must first of all state clearly that the "armaments proposed should only be regarded as provisional."

The text of a note prepared by the Permanent Advisory Commission for Military, Naval and Air Questions, which was submitted to the Council with the above Report, regarding the request of Latvia that the League might furnish her with certain naval forces, transmitted with the note from the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia at London of October 24, 1920, is attached. (Annex 9.)

— 4 —

5. In a note dated September 8, 1920, the Secretary-General asked the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia at London to forward to the President of the Council of Ministers of Latvia a note enclosed, in which it was suggested that the Council of Latvia might, if it desired, send a representative to Geneva, in order to furnish the Assembly with such information, if any, as it might request, regarding the question of the admission of Latvia to the League.

In a note dated September 10, 1920, the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia at London informed the Secretary-General that this communication had been forwarded to the Prime Minister of Latvia. The matter was again referred to in the note from the Chargé d'Affaires of Latvia of October 26, 1920; and in a note dated at Geneva, November 13, 1920, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia informed the Secretary-General that the following had been named for this purpose and had arrived at Geneva:

ZIGFRIDS A. MEIROVICS, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia,

JAN LASDIN, Chief Secretary to the Minister,

JAN SESKIS, Diplomatic Representative of Latvia in Switzerland,

JAN TOEPFER, Secretary.

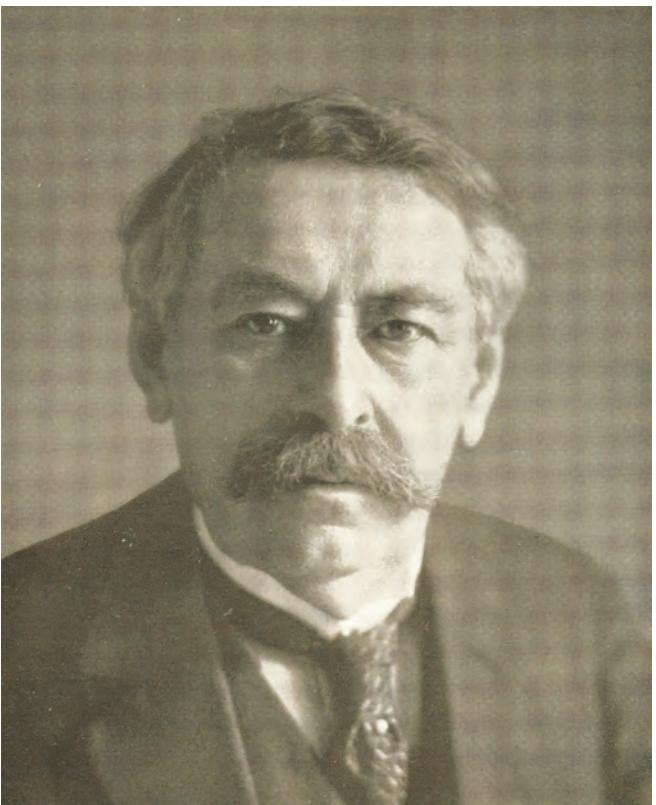
Tautu Savienības ģenerālsekretāra Ērika Dramonda (1876–1951) memorands „Latvijas lūgums uzņemt Tautu Savienību”. Ženēva, 1920. g. novembris.

LNA LVVA, 293. f., 3. apr., 2. l., 15.–18. lpp.

A memorandum by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, James Eric Drummond (1876–1951): "Application of Latvia for Admission to the League of Nations". Geneva, November 1920.  
LNA LVVA, Collection 293, Inventory 3, File 2, pp. 15–18

## Latvijas valsts atzīšana de iure

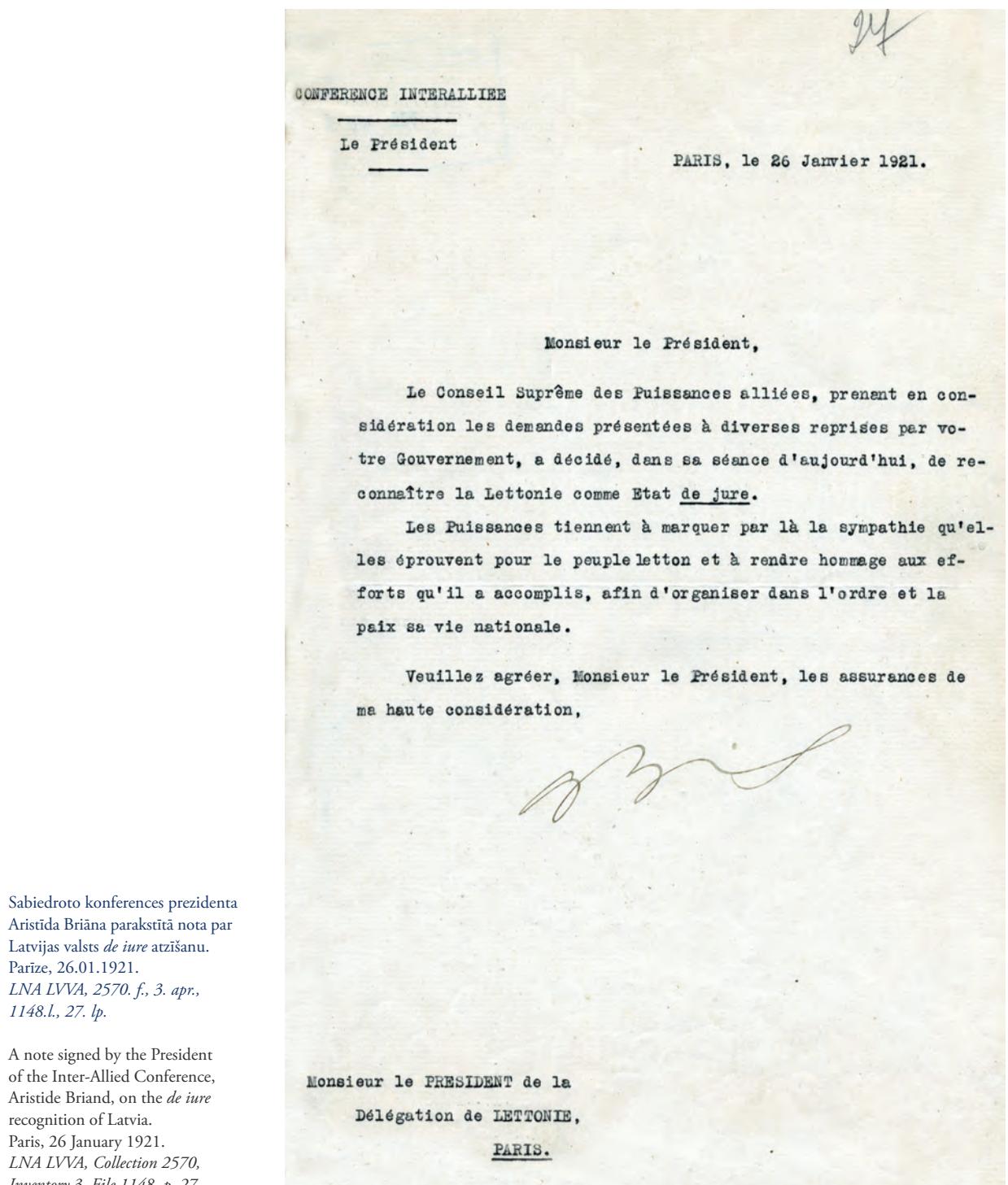
Z. A. Meierovics 1921. gada 23. janvārī no Londonas ieradās Parīzē. Tur no 24. janvāra notika Sabiedroto Augstākās padomes sēdes, kurās piedalījās Lielbritānijas, Francijas, Itālijas, Japānas un Beļģijas pārstāvji. 1921. gada 26. janvārī Sabiedroto Augstākā padome atzina Latvijas Republiku *de iure*.



Aristīds Briāns (1862–1932) – Francijas politiķis, diplomāts, Francijas premjerministrs un ārlieku ministrs (1921–1922), Sabiedroto 1921. g. janvāra konferences prezidents.  
*Ten Years League*

## *De iure* Recognition of the Republic of Latvia

On 23 January 1921, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics arrived in Paris from London in time for a meeting of the Supreme Council of Allied Powers which began on 24 January and included representatives from Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Belgium. On 26 January 1921, the Supreme Council of Allied Powers gave *de iure* recognition to the Republic of Latvia.



Aristide Briand (1862–1932) – a French politician and diplomat, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of France (1921–1922), President of the Inter-Allied Conference in January 1921.  
*Ten Years League*

Sabiedroto konferences prezidenta Aristīda Briāna parakstītā nota par Latvijas valsts *de iure* atzīšanu.  
Parīze, 26.01.1921.  
*LNA LVVA, 2570. f., 3. apr., 1148.l., 27. lp.*

A note signed by the President of the Inter-Allied Conference, Aristide Briand, on the *de iure* recognition of Latvia.  
Paris, 26 January 1921.  
*LNA LVVA, Collection 2570, Inventory 3, File 1148, p. 27*

## Latvija starptautiskajās attiecībās

1921. gada 22. septembrī Latviju uzņēma Tautu Savienībā.

Z. A. Meierovica laikā Latvija pievienojās 27 kolektīvajām konvencijām, piekrita izdarīt grozījumus Tautu Savienības Statūtu 12 pantos. Noslēdza piecus daudzpusējos starptautiskos līgumus un 47 divpusējos līgumus ar 11 valstīm.

### Z. A. Meierovica darbības laikā noslēgtie svarīgākie starpvalstu līgumi

•	1920	12. jūnijs	Bēgļu reevakuācijas līgums starp Latviju un Padomju Krieviju
•		15. jūlijs	Pagaidu līgums par sakaru atjaunošanu starp Latviju un Vāciju
•		11. augusts	Miera līgums starp Latviju un Krieviju
•	1922	17. marts	Politiskā vienošanās starp Latviju, Poliju un Somiju (Somija šo vienošanos neratificēja)
•		30. maijs	Konkordāts starp Svēto Krēslu un Latviju
•		7. oktobris	Tirdzniecības līgums starp Latviju un Čehoslovākiju
•	1923	22. jūnijs	Tirdzniecības un kuģniecības līgums starp Latviju un Lielbritāniju
•		1. novembris	Līgums par aizsardzības savienību starp Latviju un Igauniju
•		19. novembris	Tirdzniecības un kuģniecības līgums starp Latviju un Ungāriju
•	1924	22. decembris	Tirdzniecības konvencija starp Latviju un Zviedriju
•	1925	4. jūlijs	Tirdzniecības un kuģniecības līgums starp Latviju un Japānu
•		7. jūlijs	Tirdzniecības un kuģniecības līgums starp Latviju un Belģijas-Luksemburgas Saimniecisko Ūniju
•		25. jūlijs	Tirdzniecības konvencija starp Latviju un Itāliju

## Latvia in International Relations

On 22 September 1921, Latvia was accepted as a member of the League of Nations.

During Meierovics's time in office, Latvia joined 27 conventions, and supported amendments to 12 clauses of the Covenant of the League of Nations. Latvia also signed five multilateral international agreements, and 47 bilateral agreements with eleven countries.

### Important International Agreements Signed under the Guidance of Zigrfrīds Anna Meierovics

•	1920	12 June	Latvian-Russian Refugees Re-evacuation Agreement
•		15 July	Preliminary Agreement on the Resumption of Relations between Latvia and Germany
•		11 August	Peace Treaty between Latvia and Russia
•	1922	17 March	Political Agreement between Latvia, Poland and Finland (not ratified by Finland)
•		30 May	Concordat between the Holy See and Latvia
•		7 October	Trade Agreement between Latvia and Czechoslovakia
•	1923	22 June	Trade and Shipping Agreement between Latvia and Great Britain
•		1 November	Agreement on a Defence Union between Latvia and Estonia
•		19 November	Trade and Shipping Agreement between Latvia and Hungary
•	1924	22 December	Trade Convention between Latvia and Sweden
•	1925	4 July	Trade and Shipping Agreement between Latvia and Japan
•		7 July	Trade and Shipping Agreement between Latvia and the Economic Union of Belgium and Luxembourg
•		25 July	Trade Convention between Latvia and Italy



Līguma par aizsardzības savienību starp Latvijas un Igaunijas Republikām parakstīšana. Tallina, 01.11.1923.  
No: Bilmanis A., Penģerots V. *Latvijas daba un dzīve. Riga, 1927*

The signing of the Agreement on the Defence Union between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Estonia. Tallinn, 1 November 1923.  
From: Bilmanis A., Penģerots V. *Latvijas daba un dzīve. Riga, 1927*

6

TRAITE D'ALLIANCE DEFENSIVE  
ENTRE LA REPUBLIQUE DE LETTONIE ET LA REPUBLIQUE  
D'ESTHONIE.

Fermement résolues de sauvegarder leur souveraineté nationale et l'indépendance acquises au prix de tant de sacrifices ainsi que l'intégrité de leurs territoires la République de Lettonie et la République d'Estonie ont décidé de conclure un traité d'alliance défensive.

Dans ce but ont été nommés en qualité de délégués plénipotentiaires, savoir

de la part de la Lettonie  
Monsieur Z.A.METEROVICS, Président du Conseil, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,

de la part de l'Estonie  
Monsieur Fr. AKEL, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères,

lesquels, après s'être communiqués leurs pleins pouvoirs, trouvés en bonne et due forme, sont convenus des dispositions suivantes:

Article 1.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à suivre une politique purement pacifique ayant pour but de maintenir et de resserrer les liens d'amitié ainsi que de développer les relations économiques avec toutes les nations et surtout entre les Etats Baltiques et les pays voisins.

Article 2.

Afin de coordonner leurs efforts pacifiques, les deux Gouvernements s'engagent à se concerter sur les questions de politique extérieure d'une importance commune, et à se prêter une aide réciproque politique et diplomatique dans leurs rapports internationaux.

Article 3.

Les Hautes Parties Contractantes s'engagent à s'aider

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réciproquement dans le cas où l'une d'elles serait attaquée, sans provocation de sa part, sur ses frontières actuelles.

En conséquence, au cas où l'une des Hautes Parties Contractantes serait attaquée sans provocation de sa part, l'autre se considérera en état de guerre et lui prêtera une assistance armée.

Article 4.

Les autorités techniques compétentes de la République lettone et de la République esthoniennne fixeront d'un commun accord la manière dont les deux pays se prêteront assistance et les dispositions nécessaires pour l'exécution de l'article 3 du présent traité.

Article 5.

Si les Hautes Parties Contractantes, malgré leurs efforts pacifiques, se trouvaient en état de guerre défensive conformément à l'article 3, ils s'engagent à ne traiter ni conclure l'armistice ni la paix l'une sans l'autre.

Article 6.

Toutes les questions litigieuses qui pourraient surgir entre les Hautes Parties Contractantes et qui ne peuvent pas être résolues par voies diplomatiques, seront portées devant la Cour de Justice Internationale ou soumises à un arbitrage international.

Article 7.

Aucune des Hautes Parties Contractantes ne pourra conclure une alliance avec une tierce puissance sans le consentement de l'autre. Elles s'engagent à communiquer dès à présent l'une à l'autre le texte des traités conclus entre l'une d'elles et un ou plusieurs autres Etats.

Article 8.

La durée du présent traité est de dix ans à partir

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du jour de l'échange des instruments de ratification. Ce terme expiré chacune des deux Parties Contractantes aura la faculté de le dénoncer en avisant l'autre Partie un an d'avance.

Article 9.

Le présent traité sera communiqué à la Société des Nations dans le but d'y être enregistré et publié.

Article 10.

Le présent traité sera ratifié et les instruments de ratification seront échangés dans le plus bref délai à Riga.

En foi de quoi les plénipotentiaires ont signé le présent traité et y ont apposé leurs sceaux.

Fait en double exemplaire à Tallinn, le 1 novembre mil neuf cent vingt-trois.



Līgums par aizsardzības savienību starp Latviju un Igauniju. Tallina, 01.11.1923.  
LNA LVVA, 2570. f., 3. apr., 66. l., 6.-7. lp.

The Agreement on the Defence Union between the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Estonia. Tallinn, 1 November 1923.  
LNA LVVA, Collection 2570, Inventory 3,  
File 66, pp. 6-7

## Centieni izveidot Baltijas valstu savienību

Z. A. Meierovica ārpolitiskā vadlīnija bija Lielā Baltijas valstu (Igaunija, Latvija, Lietuva, Polija, Somija) savienība. Kopš 1920. gada beigām Viļņas apgabala piederības un citu problēmu dēļ vajadzēja pārorientēties uz Igaunijas, Latvijas un Lietuvas savienību. Šajā nolūkā Z. A. Meierovics kā Latvijas delegrāts no 1919. līdz 1923. gadam piecas reizes piedalījās Baltijas valstu konferencēs un apspriedēs Tallinā, trīs reizes Helsinkos (1920–1925) un vienu reizi Varšavā (1922). Latvijā 1920. gada 4. augustā sākās Bulduru konference, kas ilga veselu mēnesi un kurā piedalījās pārstāvji no piecām Baltijas valstīm. Politiskās savienības līgumu pieņēma 1920. gada 30. augustā, bet to neparakstīja Lietuva un neratificēja Polija un Somija.



Baltijas valstu ārlietu vadītāji. No kreisās: Lietuvas ārlietu viceministrs Petrs Klims (1891–1969), Latvijas ārlietu ministrs Z. A. Meierovics, Somijas ārlietu ministrs Rūdolfs Holsti (1881–1945), Igaunijas ārlietu ministrs Ants Piip (1884–1942). Tallina, 15.–19.12.1921.

Rakstu krājums, 168.–169. lpp.

## Efforts of Establishing a Union of the Baltic States

The main goal that Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics set for Latvia's foreign policy was the realization of a Great Union of the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Finland). Since the end of 1920, due to various problems including the dispute over the Vilnius district his effort was put into establishing union among Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. With this in mind, from 1919 to 1923, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics took part in five Baltic states conferences and meetings in Tallinn, in Helsinki (on three occasions, 1920–1925), and in Warsaw (1922) as a delegate from Latvia. The month-long Bulduri Conference in Latvia started on 4 August 1920 and brought together representatives from five Baltic countries. An Agreement on a political union was approved on 30 August 1920, but was not signed by Lithuania and was not ratified by Poland and Finland.



MEMBRES DE LA CONFÉRENCE DES ETATS BALTIQUES: DE DROITE à GAUCHE ET DE BAS EN HAUT:

Mr. le Dr. SAULYS (Lithuanie), Mr. le Dr. ŽAUNIUS (Lithuanie), Mr. KAMENECZKY (Pologne), Mr. ASTROEM (Finlande), Mr. IPSBERG (Esthonië), Mr. ELIASER (Esthonië), Mr. POCZARSKY (Pologne), Mr. le Dr. MÖTTUS (Esthonië), Mr. NATKEVICIUS (Lithuanie), Mr. KIRPS (Esthonië), Mr. ULMANIS (Latvia), Mr. GROENBLOM (Finlande), Mr. REIJONEN (Finlande), Mr. le colonel RAMATS (Latvia), Mr. MYCZKOVSKY (Pologne), Mr. le Dr. KASPARSONS (Latvia), Mr. le général RADZINS (Latvia), Mr. VASILEVSKY (Pologne), Mr. MEIEROVICS (Latvia), Mr. ZAMUELS (Latvia), Mr. HELSINGIUS (Finlande), Mr. STANKEVIC (Lithuanie), Mr. PUSTA (Esthonië), Mr. ALBATS (Latvia).

Heads of the Foreign Services of the Baltic States. From the left: the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Petras Klimas (1891–1969); the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Eino Rudolf Woldemar Holsti (1881–1945); the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Ants Piip (1884–1942). Tallinn, 15 – 19 December 1921.  
Rakstu krājums, pp. 168–169

Delegrāti un sekretariāta vadītāji Baltijas valstu konferencē Latvijā, Bulduros. Pirmajā rindā vidū konferences priekšsēdētājs, Latvijas Ministru prezidents Kārlis Ulmanis, otrajā rindā otrs no kreisās konferences vicepriekšsēdētājs Z. A. Meierovics (daļēji aizsegts). Bulduri, 04.08.–06.09.1920.

No: *Supplément Illustré du „BULLETIN“ publié par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Latvia. Le 5 septembre 1920*

Delegates and Heads of the Secretariat at the conference of the Baltic States in Bulduri, Latvia. In the middle of the first row, the conference Chairman, Latvian Prime Minister, Kārlis Ulmanis; second from the left in the second row – Vice Chairman, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics (partly obscured). Bulduri, 4 August – 6 September 1920.

From: *Supplément Illustré du „BULLETIN“ publié par le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de Latvia. Le 5 septembre 1920*

## Z. A. Meierovica pēdējais ārzemju komandējums

Z. A. Meierovics no 1925. gada 29. jūnija līdz 2. augustam bija komandējumā deviņas Rietumvalstu galvaspilsētās, lai noslēgtu divpusējos līgumus ar Beļģiju, Itāliju un Japānu, vestu sarunas par valsts ārējo aizņēmumu un parādiem, kā arī panāktu Latvijai labvēlīgu lēmumu vācbaltiešu sūdzības lietā par Latvijas agrārreformu.

1925. gada 22. augustā Z.A. Meierovics gāja bojā autoavārijā.

No Igaunijas valstsvīra un diplomāta, vairākkārtējā ārlietu ministra A. Pīpa raksta „Drauga piemiņai”

[..] Meierovics vadīja Latvijas ārlietu politiku tās dzimšanas laikā. Viņš nešaubījās, ka mūsu valstīm neatkarība radusies, pateicoties mūsu brālīgai kopdarbībai. Tāpēc nav nekāds brīnums, ka viņš stipri stāvēja par Igaunijas un Latvijas visciešāko savienību. [...]

Daudz svarīgāka nekā parakstītie akti ir savstarpējās cienības un draudzības sajūta un sasniegtā kopdarbība starp Baltijas tautām. Tas ir galvenais, ko mums atstājis Z. Meierovics.

Rakstu krājums, 150.–151. lpp.

## Last Business Trip Abroad of Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics

From 29 June to 2 August 1925, Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics went on missions to the capitals of nine Western European countries with the aim of concluding bilateral agreements with Belgium, Italy, and Japan, leading negotiations on Latvia's external loan and debts, as well as achieving a favourable outcome in the case of a Baltic German complaint about the agrarian reform in Latvia.

Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics died in a car accident on 22 August 1925.

From the article “In Memoriam of a Friend” by the Estonian statesman and diplomat, Foreign Minister, Ants Piip

[..] Meierovics directed Latvia's foreign policy at the time when the country was born. He harboured no doubt that our countries had attained their independence due to our close cooperation as neighbours. Therefore, it is small wonder that he strongly advocated a union between Estonia and Latvia. [...]

The feeling of mutual respect and friendship, and the cooperation achieved among the Baltic nations is much more important than the agreements signed. This is the lasting legacy that Meierovics has bequeathed to us.

Rakstu krājums, pp. 150–151

## Meierovica zāle Ārlietu ministrijā

Godinot izcilā Latvijas valstsvīra un diplomāta piemiņu, Ārlietu ministrijas pirmā stāva sēžu zāle 2008. gadā tika nosaukta par Meierovica zāli. Zāles gala nišā ievietota dekoratīvā stikla plāksne ar palielinātu Zigfrīda Annas Meierovica parakstu – faksimilu.

2013. gada novembrī, atzīmējot Latvijas Republikas pasludināšanas 95. gadadienu, zālē četros stendos atklāta eksposīcija par Z. A. Meierovica darbību ārlietu ministra amatā.



Uzraksts uz plāksnes pie Meierovica zāles durvīm.  
ĀMA

Inscription on the plaque by the door of the Meierovics Hall.  
ĀMA



Meierovica zāles  
kopskats.  
ĀMA

General view of  
the Meierovics  
Hall.  
ĀMA

## Meierovics Hall in the Foreign Ministry

In 2008, paying tribute to the notable Latvian statesman and diplomat, the meeting hall on the first floor of the Foreign Ministry building was named after Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics. A decorative glass panel with the enlarged facsimile signature of Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics has been displayed in the hall.

In November 2013, to mark the 95th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic of Latvia, an exhibition on the accomplishments of Zigfrīds Anna Meierovics while he was Latvia's Foreign Minister was installed in the hall.

## Saīsinājumi

ĀMA	Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrijas arhīvs
LNA LVVA	Latvijas Nacionālā arhīva Latvijas Valsts vēstures arhīvs
LPNP	Latviešu pagaidu nacionālā padome
LZS	Latviešu zemnieku savienība
Ten Years League	Ten Years League of Nations. Vienna, 1930
Rakstu krājums	Z. A. Meierovics. Latvijas pirmā ārlietu ministra darbības atcerēi veltīts rakstu krājums. Sakopojis Ed. Virza. Rīga: Z. A. Meierovica piemiņas fonds, 1935
Biogrāfiskā vārdnīca	Latvijas ārlietu dienesta darbinieki. 1918–1991. Biogrāfiskā vārdnīca. Sast. Ē. Jēkabsons, V. Ščerbinskis. Rīga: Zinātne, 2003

## Abbreviations

ĀMA	Archives of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Latvia
LNA LVVA	Latvian State Historical Archives of the National Archives of Latvia
LPNC	Latvian Provisional National Council
Ten Years League	Ten Years League of Nations. Vienna, 1930
Rakstu krājums	Z. A. Meierovics. Latvijas pirmā ārlietu ministra darbības atcerēi veltīts rakstu krājums. Sakopojis Ed. Virza. Rīga: Z. A. Meierovica piemiņas fonds, 1935
Biogrāfiskā vārdnīca	Latvijas ārlietu dienesta darbinieki. 1918–1991. Biogrāfiskā vārdnīca. Sast. Ē. Jēkabsons, V. Ščerbinskis. Rīga: Zinātne, 2003



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LATVIJAS REPUBLIKAS ĀRLIETU MINISTRĪJA

**Projekta vadītāja** Dokumentācijas pārvaldības departamenta direktore Eva Vijupe

**Teksts, dokumentu un fotouzņēmumu atlase**  
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