

# **...Telegram of the Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the USSR V.M. Molotov to the plenipotentiaries of the USSR in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Finland. June 14, 1940**

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06/14/1940

I present the attitude of the Soviet government to the current activities of the Baltic Entente:

After the signing of mutual assistance pacts with the USSR by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Baltic Entente, whose members, Latvia and Estonia were even earlier been linked by a military alliance against the USSR, was not just liquidated but strengthened in activities hostile to the USSR and the pacts signed included a military alliance with it and Lithuania, and also began to prepare the inclusion of Finland in it. Before the pacts, the Baltic Entente did not meet for almost a year. After signing the pacts, it had two conferences just on a period of three months (December 1939, March 1940). These conferences, which were actually held behind the back of the USSR, secretly outlined ways to fight against the growing influence of the USSR in the Baltic States and against mutual assistance pacts in particular. The latter state of matters is confirmed by the concerted approach of all three states to issues related to the implementation of the pacts - delays in signing separate agreements, attempts to reduce the armed contingent of Sov. troops, etc.

In general, since December 1939, the Entente has developed exceptional, never-before-observed activity, and in all possible directions - military, political, economic, cultural, printing, tourism, etc. All these activities, both in large and secondary areas, were and are in fact of anti-Soviet character.

In the Baltic Entente, over the past months, coordinated measures of military character have been accelerated in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania secretly from the USSR. Estonia has appointed a military attaché to Lithuania, and Lithuania to Estonia. In November-December 1939, head-to-head trips of Lithuanian and Latvian chiefs of staff took place. In December 1939, three Lithuanian generals, accompanied by a Foreign Ministry official, traveled to Estonia and Latvia. From February 1940 in Tallinn, the Baltic Entente began to publish the "Baltic Review" in English, French and German, and, for example, in its first issue the Lithuanian Prime Minister Merkis did not say a word about the Soviet Union and the mutual aid pact, but emphasized that all political obstacles to the full cooperation (meaning military) of the three Baltic states have disappeared, etc.

In connection with the above, the Soviet government regards the military alliance of the three Baltic countries as a violation of the pacts that forbid participation in coalitions hostile to the Contracting Parties.

To the Lithuanian Prime Minister Merkis, who was in Moscow, I made on this matter an appropriate serious presentation on this matter. I inform this for your orientation. About what follows PCFA will inform you.

V. Molotov

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