

**PACT OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.
SIGNED AT MOSCOW, OCTOBER 5TH, 1939**

THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, of the one part, and

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA, of the other part,

With the object of developing the friendly relations established by the Treaty of Peace of August 11th, 1920, founded upon recognition of the independent political existence and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other Party;

Recognising that the Treaty of Peace of August 11th, 1920, and the Treaty of Non-Aggression and Peaceful Settlement of Disputes of February 5th, 1932, continue to constitute the firm foundation of their mutual relations and obligations;

Convinced that it is in the interests of both Contracting Parties that the exact conditions under which their mutual security is assured should be determined;

Have deemed it necessary to conclude between themselves the Pact of Mutual Assistance hereunder, and have for that purpose appointed as their Plenipotentiaries:

THE PRESIDUM OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS:

M. V. M. MOLOTOFF, President of the Council of People's Commissaries and People's Commissary for Foreign Affairs;

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA:

M. Vilhelm MUNTERS, Minister for Foreign Affairs;

Who, having communicated to each other their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed upon the following provisions:

Article I.

The two Contracting Parties undertake to render each other assistance of every kind, including military assistance, in the event of a direct aggression or threat of aggression by any great European Power against the maritime frontiers of the Contracting Parties in the Baltic Sea or against their land frontiers across the territory of the Estonian or Lithuanian Republics, and also against the bases provided for in Article III.

Article II.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics undertakes to assist the Latvian army, on advantageous terms, with armaments and other war material.

Article III.

The Latvian Republic, with a view to ensuring the security of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and consolidating its own independence, grants to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the right to have in the towns of Liepaja (Libau) and Ventspils (Windau) naval bases and a number of aerodromes for an air force, these to be leased at a reasonable

rent. The exact sites of the bases and aerodromes shall be assigned and their boundaries determined by special agreement.

With a view to the defence of the Strait of Irbes, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is granted the right, on the same conditions, to construct a base for coastal artillery on the littoral between Ventspils and Pitrags.

With a view to the defence of the naval bases, the aerodromes and the coastal artillery base, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall have the right to maintain at its own expense, in the areas allotted for the bases and aerodromes, a strictly limited quantity of Soviet armed land and air forces, the maximum number of which shall be determined by a special agreement.

Article IV.

The two Contracting Parties undertake not to conclude alliances or to take part in coalitions directed against either of the Contracting Parties.

Article V.

The enforcement of the present Pact may in no way impair the sovereign rights of the Contracting Parties, more especially with regard to their political structure, economic and social systems, and military measures.

The areas allotted for the bases and aerodromes (Article III) shall remain Latvian territory.

Article VI.

The present Pact shall enter into force on the date of the exchange of the instruments of ratification. The exchange of instruments shall take place at Riga within six days from the date of signature of the present Pact.

The period of validity of the present Pact shall be ten years, provided always that, if neither of the Contracting Parties finds it necessary to denounce the present Pact one year before the expiry of that period, the Pact shall automatically continue to have effect for the ten years following.

In faith whereof the above-named Plenipotentiaries have signed the present Pact and have thereto affixed their seals.

Done at Moscow in duplicate originals, in the Russian and Latvian languages, this 5th day of October, 1939.

V. MOLOTOFF.

V. MUNTERS.

[Quelle: League of Nations, Treaty Series, Vol. 198, 1939, p. 385-387.]