In Paldiski today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves met with members of the Defence Forces who, in the next few weeks, are starting service in the NATO peacekeeping operation in Mitrovica, Kosovo as part of the Danish DANBN battalion.

According to President Ilves, the missions to date have been successful as peace prevails in Kosovo to this day, although this does not mean that this is an easy foreign mission.

The Head of State emphasized that the Kosovo mission is important for the future of Europe, and added that by participating in international missions, we also guarantee Estonia's security.

President Ilves thanked the members of the Defence Forces and acknowledged their family members, who were also in Paldiski today, for their patience and understanding at a time when those close to them are far away doing difficult but important work in the service of Estonia.

Public Relations Department of the Office of the President Kadriorg, 6 February 2007