President Toomas Hendrik Ilves phoned Valdis Zatlers, the Latvian Head of State, today to convey his condolences regarding the death of two members of the Latvian Defence Forces that were serving in Afghanistan. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves phoned Valdis Zatlers, the Latvian Head of State, today to convey his condolences regarding the death of two members of the Latvian Defence Forces that were serving in Afghanistan.

"I express my sympathies to the families and fellow soldiers of Sergeant Voldemars Anševics and Corporal Andrejs Merkuševs, as well as to the entire Latvian nation. I also wish the wounded a successful recovery," President Ilves said. "It is painful and unfair when brave young men are killed whose mission was a stable and internally peaceful Afghanistan."

Our membership in NATO, as well as our sense of duty and obligation toward our compatriots requires that we do not falter midway but resolutely persevere on the alliance's most important foreign mission, President Ilves emphasized.

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