

07.08.2017.

**Dear Mr. President V.Putin, Minister of Foreign Affairs S.Lavrov, Minister of Culture V.Medinski,**

**His Holiness, Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia,**

I apply to you as a citizen of the Republic of Estonia and as a `` peoples` diplomat `` who feels that his mission in life is to create friendship between our two countries -- the great Russian Federation and the small Republic of Estonia and to strengthen this relationship at the grass-roots level taking into consideration my modest possibilities as a pensioner.

I feel obliged to do something real and necessary to my people and country.

In 1988 my amateur historical-minded colleague and I found the burial ground of Konstantin Päts, the First President of the Republic of Estonia, in the forest nearby Burashevo village, Tver oblast. K.Päts died in the psychiatric hospital of Burashevo in 1956. In the process of looking for the grave the local Russian inhabitants helped us kindly. With the support of those people we placed the boulder with a memorial plaque to mark the burial ground of K.Päts. The stone was consecrated by the local priest.

The interest of the citizens of Burashevo is due to the fact that K.Päts family line extends to Russia.

K.Päts came from a mixed Estonian-Russian family. His mother was a Russian Olga Tumanova. All his life K.Päts was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church where he was baptized and he started his education in the Orthodox parish school of Tahkuranna in Estonia. Later he attended the Riga Clerical Seminar in Latvia and a high school in Pärnu in Estonia. In Tartu he attended the Faculty of Law of Tartu University, graduated as *cand.jur.* (1898). After the graduation he served as a volunteer in the Russian 96th Infantry Regiment of Omsk in Pskov and was promoted an ensign. He was given the right to belong to the highest social class.

In 1904 he organised an electoral block between Estonians and Russians, which managed to win that year Tallinn municipal elections vs Baltic Germans.

In 1907-1908 Päts started the publishing company in St Petersburg editing a very popular newspaper (*Peterburi Teataja*) *The St Petersburg Gazette* that used to describe the life of Russia and Estonia.

These facts and many other similar ones that I have explained to the inhabitants of Burashevo and also to the administration of Tver oblast have driven us to good productive relationship as time went by.

Amid our relationship we have noticed the great interest of Burashevo schoolchildren that they have had to the life history of Päts and the life of Estonia. In the local museum there is a collection of articles and photos introducing the life of K.Päts and they have developed bilateral program of culture, etc.

The destiny of K.Päts in Burashevo has been the primary reason for developing good relations and still the future communication of the people of that district.

Only recently a photo album was published ``On the Tracks of Konstantin Päts`` in Estonian-Russian-English that describes in chronological order the search of the burial place of the First President of Estonia starting in 1988. The album portrays all the meantime events from 1988 till 2016 up to the labelling the gravesite.

With our best intention and your kindness we would like to give you this photo album as a token and sign of our goodwill.

Through our mutual activities, we Estonians and Russians have found that we have something in common.

Thanks to our good relations and cooperation I dare to apply to you

Mr President Vladimir Putin

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Sergei Lavrov

Minister of Culture Mr Vladimir Medinski

with the request to help us – the Republic of Estonia – to return our Estonian President's Chain of Office and hand it over to the Republic of Estonia.

The above mentioned chain of office is in the storage of the Kremlin Armory as a museum exemplar.

The new chain of office of our Estonian President was made for the 90th anniversary of our republic in 2006 and the sitting President is wearing it as an insignia now and in the future. The previous chain of office ( now in the Kremlin Armory) will be an object of the museum also in the Republic of Estonia. Since in 2018 we will be celebrating the centenary of our republic and the return of the old chain of office with its symbolic value to all Estonians would be an act of goodwill from the Russian Federation.

I am writing this application on behalf of my hobby colleagues called ``peoples` diplomats`` ( this is how the council of the rural town of Burashevo called me in their thank- you letter).

Our motto is – that can't be done between states and by the official diplomacy can be done by peoples` diplomats in the name of our friendship, goodwill and the value of the humankind.

Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience we have caused by our request.

We look forward to your kind comprehension.

Yours sincerely,

Henn Latt

dedicated pensioner

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