

WEBVTT

00:00:08.938 --> 00:00:15.178

<v SPEAKER_1>Hello again, and welcome to Global Exchange, part of The Canadian Global Affairs Institute's Podcast Network.

00:00:15.178 --> 00:00:17.258

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm your host, Colin Robertson.

00:00:17.258 --> 00:00:21.158

<v SPEAKER_1>On this episode, recorded on July the 17th, we speak with Dr.

00:00:21.158 --> 00:00:34.938

<v SPEAKER_1>Valdis Zatlers about his recent visit to Canada and the United States, and the urgency of maintaining support for Ukraine and supporting our allies in the Eastern Europe through NATO.

00:00:34.938 --> 00:00:38.118

<v SPEAKER_1>Trained and practicing as an orthopedic surgeon, Dr.

00:00:38.118 --> 00:00:42.578

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers served in the Latvian Parliament and as president of Latvia.

00:00:42.578 --> 00:00:52.658

<v SPEAKER_1>In his earlier role as a medical officer, he was part of the team dispatched to Chernobyl, Ukraine, after the nuclear disaster in 1986.

00:00:52.658 --> 00:00:54.698

<v SPEAKER_1>For listeners, I met Dr.

00:00:54.698 --> 00:00:57.538

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers during his recent visit to Ottawa.

00:00:57.538 --> 00:01:03.218

<v SPEAKER_1>With our partner, the Friedrich Ebert Steiftung, we hosted a luncheon discussion with Dr.

00:01:03.218 --> 00:01:11.758

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers that included fellow think tankers, students, scholars, parliamentarians, business representatives, and others.

00:01:11.758 --> 00:01:12.638

<v SPEAKER_1>And I thought what Dr.

00:01:12.638 --> 00:01:18.498

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers had to say should be shared with you, our listeners, of The Global Exchange.

00:01:19.138 --> 00:01:25.438

<v SPEAKER_1>As listeners know, Latvia is home to Canada's largest overseas military deployment.

00:01:25.438 --> 00:01:34.338

<v SPEAKER_1>Canada leads the recently ramped up NATO multinational brigade that includes over 1,700 Canadian troops.

00:01:34.338 --> 00:01:36.178

<v SPEAKER_1>So let's get started.

00:01:36.178 --> 00:01:36.518

<v SPEAKER_1>Dr.

00:01:36.518 --> 00:01:40.118

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers, you recently visited Ottawa and Washington.

00:01:40.118 --> 00:01:45.638

<v SPEAKER_1>What was the purpose of this visit, and what did you learn during these visits?

00:01:45.638 --> 00:01:52.038

<v SPEAKER_2>In these times, you get breaking news and controversial breaking news a couple of times a day.

00:01:52.038 --> 00:01:57.338

<v SPEAKER_2>It's very important to visit people on the ground to have the touch.

00:01:57.338 --> 00:01:58.378

<v SPEAKER_2>What's going on?

00:01:58.378 --> 00:02:00.498

<v SPEAKER_2>What is the mood in society?

00:02:00.498 --> 00:02:06.998

<v SPEAKER_2>What is the mood across the leadership of Canada and US?

00:02:06.998 --> 00:02:10.238

<v SPEAKER_2>Just to get back and get better understanding.

00:02:12.218 --> 00:02:19.758

<v SPEAKER_2>This is very important because the most valuable information is what you get from definite people.

00:02:20.518 --> 00:02:21.698

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not from media.

00:02:21.698 --> 00:02:23.898

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not from television.

00:02:23.898 --> 00:02:36.578

<v SPEAKER_2>Therefore, I really was happy to be in Ottawa for a day, two days in Washington, and I had a very nice conversations with different people, with different views.

00:02:36.998 --> 00:02:41.578

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it was a very successful visit.

00:02:41.578 --> 00:02:43.398

<v SPEAKER_2>A very successful visit.

00:02:43.398 --> 00:02:45.278

<v SPEAKER_1>What were you trying to get from?

00:02:45.278 --> 00:02:52.138

<v SPEAKER_1>Because in Ottawa, I know you met with a number of our leadership, and you probably did the same in Washington.

00:02:52.138 --> 00:02:55.878

<v SPEAKER_1>Did you find support in both places?

00:02:55.878 --> 00:03:08.658

<v SPEAKER_1>Of course, with Washington, with Donald Trump, and what's going on with his somewhat quixotic support for Ukraine, did you get a sense that there was a dedication within Congress and within think tank community?

00:03:08.658 --> 00:03:15.758

<v SPEAKER_2>We got the notion that all Canadian people, the leadership, are on the same track.

00:03:15.758 --> 00:03:17.558

<v SPEAKER_2>They understand what's going on in the world.

00:03:17.558 --> 00:03:20.478

<v SPEAKER_2>They understand the importance of NATO.

00:03:20.478 --> 00:03:24.278

<v SPEAKER_2>They understand the importance of Canadian forces being in Latvia.

00:03:24.278 --> 00:03:38.458

<v SPEAKER_2>So I was really happy to hear that because Latvians always had a very nice attitude toward Canadians because of many different reasons starting from ice hockey and ending up with the Latvian community in Canada.

00:03:38.458 --> 00:03:40.938

<v SPEAKER_2>So we are happy with your troops here.

00:03:42.638 --> 00:03:48.058

<v SPEAKER_2>How they behave, how they perform, and how the group is international.

00:03:48.058 --> 00:03:52.678

<v SPEAKER_2>You get the Swedish soldiers, you have, you know, Italian and Spanish soldiers.

00:03:52.678 --> 00:04:00.458

<v SPEAKER_2>So I think it was a very valuable exchange of views, what we are going to do in the future.

00:04:00.458 --> 00:04:05.638

<v SPEAKER_2>And I was very happy to talk also about the Canada's problems with the Northern territories.

00:04:06.758 --> 00:04:20.038

<v SPEAKER_2>So these things are important when you have the touch on the ground, meeting people, you know, and then I go back to my country, I can talk to my people in a much more confident way.

00:04:20.038 --> 00:04:36.318

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, Latvia and the Baltics and the other frontline states, I would include Poland and Romania in this, the relationship you have with Ukraine and with Russia, do you want to explain to listeners how that works?

00:04:38.298 --> 00:04:41.638

<v SPEAKER_2>Ah, first I'll finish the first question about US, you know.

00:04:41.638 --> 00:05:08.778

<v SPEAKER_2>US was in a much more confused situation, what I mean by saying that, the politicians and the think tanks and all the people we met on very different views, as I felt a consensus in Canadian community and society, there was no consensus in US, so that was a big difference, maybe you have to know that, you know.

00:05:08.778 --> 00:05:11.698

<v SPEAKER_2>And, but we have to adapt to this thing.

00:05:11.698 --> 00:05:20.438

<v SPEAKER_2>Talking about Ukraine and Latvia, you see, we understood immediately what's going on there because of our historical experience.

00:05:20.438 --> 00:05:31.838

<v SPEAKER_2>And we supported, let's say, Ukraine the same day, you

know, the Stingers and Javelins from Latvia arrived in Kiev the same day when the war started.

00:05:31.838 --> 00:05:39.798

<v SPEAKER_2>So we didn't need any time to realize and analyze what's going on, what side we should take, you know.

00:05:39.798 --> 00:05:42.158

<v SPEAKER_2>We took the Ukrainian side immediately.

00:05:42.158 --> 00:05:49.898

<v SPEAKER_2>And we have a pretty big number of Ukrainian refugees here, and we are treating them in the best ever way we can.

00:05:49.898 --> 00:05:52.698

<v SPEAKER_2>The different story is with Russia.

00:05:53.898 --> 00:05:56.958

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, practically, we don't have any relations right now.

00:05:56.958 --> 00:06:08.638

<v SPEAKER_2>That means no embassies, embassies are, but no ambassadors, and no direct flights connecting Latvia and Russia, you know.

00:06:08.638 --> 00:06:12.178

<v SPEAKER_2>All the TV, Russian TV channels are shut down in Latvia, yeah.

00:06:12.178 --> 00:06:18.398

<v SPEAKER_2>So we have about 25% Russian population in Latvia.

00:06:19.318 --> 00:06:32.018

<v SPEAKER_2>So we have to act very precisely, very openly, describing our politics, what we are going to do, and how we are going to support Ukraine, and what's our attitude towards Russia.

00:06:32.018 --> 00:06:35.678

<v SPEAKER_2>War is not acceptable in Latvian society.

00:06:36.718 --> 00:06:40.338

<v SPEAKER_2>So, may it will change someday?

00:06:40.338 --> 00:06:43.178

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, it may, but nobody knows when.

00:06:43.178 --> 00:06:59.238

<v SPEAKER_2>At present, you know, let's say the stability, the internal stability in Latvia, having Ukrainian refugees, having, you

know, Russian community here is a very stable one, because we are very strict on all the rules.

00:06:59.238 --> 00:07:01.018

<v SPEAKER_2>We are a democratic country.

00:07:01.018 --> 00:07:04.658

<v SPEAKER_2>We have a freedom of speech, and there is no place for hate speech.

00:07:04.658 --> 00:07:09.998

<v SPEAKER_2>So, and support for war is not present there.

00:07:09.998 --> 00:07:12.218

<v SPEAKER_2>The support for Ukraine is present.

00:07:12.218 --> 00:07:13.658

<v SPEAKER_2>That's a big difference.

00:07:15.518 --> 00:07:18.638

<v SPEAKER_1>And what about with the Russian population in Latvia?

00:07:18.638 --> 00:07:21.238

<v SPEAKER_1>You said about 25% of the population.

00:07:21.238 --> 00:07:37.818

<v SPEAKER_1>Are these Russians that settled during the long Russian occupation, or are these people that were living there because Latvia, being where it is, you have speakers of various languages and various ethnicities in a sense?

00:07:37.818 --> 00:07:56.678

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, about 8% Russians were living in Latvia before the Second World War because of, let's say, different communities coming here after the religious reform in Russia, created by Peter the Great.

00:07:56.678 --> 00:08:03.898

<v SPEAKER_2>So we always welcomed all those refugees, and they stayed here, and it was about 8% of our population.

00:08:03.898 --> 00:08:05.838

<v SPEAKER_2>Today, it's much, much more.

00:08:05.838 --> 00:08:13.558

<v SPEAKER_2>And most of them have come with Russian occupation, or Soviet occupation, but basically all of these people spoke Russian, and they stayed here.

00:08:13.558 --> 00:08:27.718

<v SPEAKER_2>And we have the unique situation that we have people

living in Latvia not with Russian passports and not with Latvian passports, what is called Latvian non-citizen passports.

00:08:27.718 --> 00:08:31.398

<v SPEAKER_2>And it's very difficult to understand what that is.

00:08:31.398 --> 00:08:36.258

<v SPEAKER_2>These are people who have still the feelings for Soviet Union.

00:08:37.078 --> 00:08:42.478

<v SPEAKER_2>And practically, these are Soviet Union's passports only issued by the Latvian state.

00:08:42.478 --> 00:08:49.838

<v SPEAKER_2>That's paradoxical, but we really follow the basic principles of democracy.

00:08:49.838 --> 00:08:56.898

<v SPEAKER_2>Free choice of each individual is a very important issue for our government and for our country.

00:08:59.178 --> 00:09:01.838

<v SPEAKER_1>I think you have conscription, don't you?

00:09:03.158 --> 00:09:03.378

<v SPEAKER_2>Sorry?

00:09:04.198 --> 00:09:06.798

<v SPEAKER_1>You have conscription for your armed forces?

00:09:09.158 --> 00:09:11.578

<v SPEAKER_2>Of course we have.

00:09:11.578 --> 00:09:14.878

<v SPEAKER_1>Would that also include your Russian speakers as well, like everybody served?

00:09:14.878 --> 00:09:19.938

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, if they are Latvian citizens, because we have a professional army.

00:09:19.938 --> 00:09:29.718

<v SPEAKER_2>That means if they make an application, nobody will say, no, we are not taking you to our army because you're ethnic Russian.

00:09:29.718 --> 00:09:32.938

<v SPEAKER_2>No, passport is important, loyalty is important.

00:09:33.378 --> 00:09:40.178

<v SPEAKER_2>Not the ethnic group to whom you belong.

00:09:40.178 --> 00:09:48.218

<v SPEAKER_2>But we are a lot of Russians in the Latvian army, because people feel like citizens of Latvia, and that's very important.

00:09:48.218 --> 00:09:51.758

<v SPEAKER_2>Those who don't, they don't replicate for armed forces.

00:09:51.758 --> 00:09:53.878

<v SPEAKER_1>That's true.

00:09:53.878 --> 00:09:56.198

<v SPEAKER_1>That would include your Russian population.

00:09:56.198 --> 00:10:03.678

<v SPEAKER_1>It's not, in the sense, homogenous in the sense it favors what's taking place or what President Putin is doing.

00:10:03.678 --> 00:10:20.198

<v SPEAKER_2>That was very interesting that, of course, in the first year of Ukrainian war, about 10 percent of the Russian population out of these 25, very openly said they are pro-Prussian and pro-Russian.

00:10:20.198 --> 00:10:31.058

<v SPEAKER_2>No one knows how many are right now there today, but there was a real divide between the generations.

00:10:31.058 --> 00:10:41.578

<v SPEAKER_2>The old generation were much more pro-Russian and the young generation much more pro-Latvian or pro-European or from Westia.

00:10:41.578 --> 00:10:53.878

<v SPEAKER_2>And therefore, they try to keep the peace in their families and they don't talk too much about Ukrainian war, just not to upset, let's say, their relatives.

00:10:54.618 --> 00:10:55.618

<v SPEAKER_2>But this is a reality.

00:10:55.618 --> 00:11:09.198

<v SPEAKER_2>But from the other point, you know, it's very good because people keep down a pragmatic attitude to what's going on and trying to keep the stability in the society is the most important.

00:11:09.198 --> 00:11:14.458

<v SPEAKER_2>And the same keeping stability and understanding in the families too.

00:11:14.458 --> 00:11:17.618

<v SPEAKER_2>They just don't talk about this topic.

00:11:17.618 --> 00:11:30.998

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, my guess is that the Latvian experience is to be similar to what's experienced in Estonia and Lithuania as well, because there are Russian-speaking populations in both the other Baltic states as well.

00:11:30.998 --> 00:11:32.378

<v SPEAKER_1>Is that correct?

00:11:32.378 --> 00:11:33.578

<v SPEAKER_2>That's right.

00:11:33.578 --> 00:11:39.498

<v SPEAKER_2>Lithuania, they have much more than a Russian-speaking Polish population.

00:11:39.498 --> 00:11:42.118

<v SPEAKER_2>In Estonia, they have Russians.

00:11:42.178 --> 00:11:44.738

<v SPEAKER_2>Yes, and they try and-

00:11:44.738 --> 00:11:51.338

<v SPEAKER_2>you see, the integration of ethnic groups in a one nation is a long process.

00:11:51.338 --> 00:11:52.398

<v SPEAKER_2>You should not hurry.

00:11:52.398 --> 00:11:54.478

<v SPEAKER_2>You should be very patient.

00:11:54.478 --> 00:11:59.098

<v SPEAKER_2>But you should follow the basic principles of freedoms and democracy.

00:11:59.098 --> 00:12:05.198

<v SPEAKER_2>That's what we sell to our minorities, including Russian minority.

00:12:05.198 --> 00:12:08.038

<v SPEAKER_1>Does that include ability to speak Russian?

00:12:08.038 --> 00:12:13.878

<v SPEAKER_1>In Canada, we're a bilingual country, but we have many languages as well, beyond our two official languages.

00:12:13.878 --> 00:12:22.198

<v SPEAKER_1>So if you're a Russian speaker in Latvia, you can work, can you study in Russian too?

00:12:22.198 --> 00:12:23.278

<v SPEAKER_2>No.

00:12:24.198 --> 00:12:28.818

<v SPEAKER_2>Just in, let's say, in a private school, yes.

00:12:28.818 --> 00:12:33.178

<v SPEAKER_2>But basically, there's a one language policy.

00:12:33.238 --> 00:12:44.638

<v SPEAKER_2>That means that there's only Latvian language, which is in the governance, in schools, in army, in medical care, in all, let's say, activities.

00:12:44.638 --> 00:12:53.338

<v SPEAKER_2>But it doesn't mean that you need a service or assistance, that people can use the Russian language.

00:12:54.458 --> 00:12:59.218

<v SPEAKER_2>Because a lot of people speak both languages, Latvian and Russian.

00:12:59.218 --> 00:13:02.398

<v SPEAKER_2>But basically, yes, it's one language only.

00:13:02.678 --> 00:13:03.998

<v SPEAKER_2>Only one language.

00:13:03.998 --> 00:13:12.898

<v SPEAKER_2>Because we have to take on an account that we are a nation about less than 2 million people.

00:13:12.898 --> 00:13:23.138

<v SPEAKER_2>And if we lose our language, and we lost our language nearly in the Soviet occupation time with the Russification.

00:13:24.598 --> 00:13:33.658

<v SPEAKER_2>Today, in 30 years, in the very gradual, very patient activities, we have created that the Latvian language is dominating everywhere.

00:13:35.518 --> 00:13:36.558

<v SPEAKER_2>You can use any language.

00:13:36.558 --> 00:13:44.738

<v SPEAKER_2>Now we will take, let's say, now we'll take in consideration that there are a lot of foreigners.

00:13:46.238 --> 00:13:49.698

<v SPEAKER_1>I know you grew up under the Soviet occupation.

00:13:49.698 --> 00:13:56.118

<v SPEAKER_1>Did you speak Latvian at home and then learn Russian in schools, and when you were practicing as a doctor?

00:13:56.118 --> 00:13:57.738

<v SPEAKER_2>That was not so bad.

00:13:57.738 --> 00:14:02.338

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's say there were Russian schools and Latvian schools.

00:14:02.338 --> 00:14:06.098

<v SPEAKER_2>So of course, being Latvian, I attended Latvian school.

00:14:06.098 --> 00:14:08.518

<v SPEAKER_2>We have a foreign language.

00:14:08.518 --> 00:14:10.518

<v SPEAKER_2>Today we say foreign language, Russian language.

00:14:10.518 --> 00:14:17.358

<v SPEAKER_2>At that, those days, they say we all learn Russian language, which is a bit by the way for me, it's a privilege.

00:14:17.418 --> 00:14:23.378

<v SPEAKER_2>I can understand the Russian leaders very precisely because I know this language.

00:14:23.378 --> 00:14:31.898

<v SPEAKER_2>Nothing is lost in interpretation or let's say, no takers for notes.

00:14:33.098 --> 00:14:34.198

<v SPEAKER_2>I have direct success.

00:14:34.198 --> 00:14:36.738

<v SPEAKER_2>I understand what they say.

00:14:36.738 --> 00:14:37.018

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes.

00:14:37.018 --> 00:14:44.538

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, I remember in your remarks to us, you commented that you've been in Red Square during Victory in Europe celebrations.

00:14:44.578 --> 00:14:48.298

<v SPEAKER_1>I think it was perhaps 2010 with Vladimir Putin was

there.

00:14:48.718 --> 00:14:50.698

<v SPEAKER_1>Tell us, you've met Mr.

00:14:50.698 --> 00:14:51.658

<v SPEAKER_1>Putin.

00:14:51.658 --> 00:14:53.818

<v SPEAKER_1>What do you think he's trying to achieve?

00:14:55.258 --> 00:15:03.258

<v SPEAKER_2>You'll see, we underestimated that, we means West, underestimated Putin's Munich speech in 2007.

00:15:04.958 --> 00:15:09.678

<v SPEAKER_2>Because it was a turning point when he declared his policies.

00:15:09.678 --> 00:15:12.238

<v SPEAKER_2>We thought this is rhetorics and nothing else.

00:15:12.898 --> 00:15:15.218

<v SPEAKER_2>No, it was his program.

00:15:15.218 --> 00:15:24.458

<v SPEAKER_2>The next year, 2008, I heard myself in the Russian NATO Council in Bucharest, when he said that Ukraine is an artificial state.

00:15:24.458 --> 00:15:25.898

<v SPEAKER_2>It has no right to exist.

00:15:26.478 --> 00:15:28.078

<v SPEAKER_2>It could easily be divided.

00:15:28.078 --> 00:15:31.058

<v SPEAKER_2>I always emphasize divided.

00:15:31.638 --> 00:15:33.498

<v SPEAKER_2>He doesn't want to take the whole Ukraine.

00:15:33.498 --> 00:15:37.418

<v SPEAKER_2>He wants to take what he sees is the Russian part of Ukraine.

00:15:38.978 --> 00:15:44.798

<v SPEAKER_2>These rhetorics were very close to the rhetorics about Poland before the Second World War.

00:15:44.798 --> 00:15:47.938

<v SPEAKER_2>The same style, the same text.

00:15:47.938 --> 00:15:50.858

<v SPEAKER_2>So we had to listen to him very carefully.

00:15:50.858 --> 00:15:52.918

<v SPEAKER_2>Nobody in Bucharest reacted.

00:15:52.918 --> 00:16:01.278

<v SPEAKER_2>All the leaders of NATO, many countries and allies, nobody reacted on that.

00:16:01.278 --> 00:16:03.318

<v SPEAKER_2>Just the same rhetorics.

00:16:03.358 --> 00:16:10.338

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, today these rhetorics have turned in a very dangerous situation we have in Ukraine.

00:16:10.338 --> 00:16:12.778

<v SPEAKER_2>Very dangerous situation.

00:16:15.958 --> 00:16:24.938

<v SPEAKER_2>Because he is a mixture of KGB officer and judo wrestler.

00:16:24.938 --> 00:16:28.078

<v SPEAKER_2>His mindset is a mixture of these two.

00:16:28.078 --> 00:16:33.258

<v SPEAKER_2>Therefore, you know, he will never give up until it will be very painful, you know.

00:16:34.058 --> 00:16:35.658

<v SPEAKER_2>Very painful, like in judo.

00:16:35.658 --> 00:16:43.038

<v SPEAKER_2>And he is a good tactic because of the spies' everyday life, you know.

00:16:43.038 --> 00:16:45.538

<v SPEAKER_2>And he is not so good in strategy.

00:16:45.538 --> 00:16:48.158

<v SPEAKER_2>And that's what he is.

00:16:48.158 --> 00:16:57.418

<v SPEAKER_2>But we had to take into account that this year he is showing all the arrogance he can show.

00:16:58.738 --> 00:17:12.238

<v SPEAKER_2>And all these, let's see, nice expectations, that President Trump will end the war in whatever weeks or months, you know, very false expectations.

00:17:13.398 --> 00:17:15.318

<v SPEAKER_2>Because the Russians take what they take.

00:17:15.318 --> 00:17:17.178

<v SPEAKER_2>If you give them, they immediately take it.

00:17:17.178 --> 00:17:20.438

<v SPEAKER_2>They don't give you anything in return.

00:17:20.618 --> 00:17:26.998

<v SPEAKER_2>I had a chance to talk to one of the Ukrainian officials who were in Istanbul negotiations.

00:17:27.938 --> 00:17:31.478

<v SPEAKER_2>Russian attitude towards the peace treaty is very simple.

00:17:31.878 --> 00:17:40.938

<v SPEAKER_2>No contributions, no restitutions, no criminal, military or political accountability.

00:17:40.938 --> 00:17:44.078

<v SPEAKER_2>They do what they want, you know, they don't care about you.

00:17:44.078 --> 00:17:52.518

<v SPEAKER_2>They don't care about what they think, what are our, let's say, systems of justice and accountability.

00:17:52.518 --> 00:17:54.978

<v SPEAKER_2>They don't care, they don't have this.

00:17:54.978 --> 00:18:13.558

<v SPEAKER_2>So, and it's very difficult for Western people to understand that the Russian elites, they don't care about Russian people, and they don't care about any people in the world, and they don't care about the rule of law, international law.

00:18:13.558 --> 00:18:18.938

<v SPEAKER_2>The only thing they need is a veto in a security council in the United Nations.

00:18:18.938 --> 00:18:21.178

<v SPEAKER_2>That's the only instrument they need.

00:18:21.178 --> 00:18:24.438

<v SPEAKER_2>All the others, they don't respect.

00:18:24.438 --> 00:18:28.578

<v SPEAKER_2>And this is a very difficult situation, how to get out of that.

00:18:28.578 --> 00:18:30.918

<v SPEAKER_2>That's the question.

00:18:30.918 --> 00:18:34.338

<v SPEAKER_3>Hi, I'm Dave Perry, the President and CEO of The Canadian Global Affairs Institute.

00:18:34.338 --> 00:18:38.938

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00:18:38.938 --> 00:18:47.798

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00:18:47.798 --> 00:18:53.038

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00:18:54.118 --> 00:18:57.178

<v SPEAKER_1>Now, you mentioned that the elites in Russia share Mr.

00:18:57.178 --> 00:19:00.218

<v SPEAKER_1>Putin's view towards Ukraine.

00:19:00.218 --> 00:19:01.678

<v SPEAKER_1>Does Mr.

00:19:01.678 --> 00:19:03.918

<v SPEAKER_1>Putin's ambitions go further than Ukraine?

00:19:03.918 --> 00:19:10.078

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you feel that Latvia and the other Baltic nations are potentially something that Mr.

00:19:10.078 --> 00:19:14.858

<v SPEAKER_1>Putin would like to bring back into Russia or Soviet hands?

00:19:14.858 --> 00:19:17.618

<v SPEAKER_2>No, they know what Mr.

00:19:17.618 --> 00:19:18.938

<v SPEAKER_2>Putin thinks.

00:19:20.598 --> 00:19:25.898

<v SPEAKER_2>Sometimes he himself doesn't know what he thinks about the future.

00:19:25.898 --> 00:19:40.958

<v SPEAKER_2>Because the problem what we have right now is the Soviet Union and the bipolar world tried to keep parity between the US and the Soviet Union.

00:19:40.958 --> 00:19:42.918

<v SPEAKER_2>Their goal was parity.

00:19:42.918 --> 00:19:47.778

<v SPEAKER_2>That means equal, let's say, controlled confrontation.

00:19:47.778 --> 00:19:49.978

<v SPEAKER_2>For Putin, Russia is dominance.

00:19:49.978 --> 00:19:51.358

<v SPEAKER_2>The priority is dominance.

00:19:51.358 --> 00:19:53.338

<v SPEAKER_2>He wants to dominate.

00:19:53.338 --> 00:19:56.138

<v SPEAKER_2>Whatever is his partner, he wants to dominate.

00:19:56.138 --> 00:19:57.618

<v SPEAKER_2>Including the US, by the way.

00:19:58.498 --> 00:20:01.578

<v SPEAKER_2>The only exception is China.

00:20:01.578 --> 00:20:23.358

<v SPEAKER_2>But the Soviet Union had war, or let's say special operation, because Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, and then Afghanistan in 1980, and later the Chechnya Wars every 12 years.

00:20:23.358 --> 00:20:30.838

<v SPEAKER_2>Chechnya was a real war and Afghanistan was a real war, but the Czechoslovakia was a special operation, and Hungary was a special operation.

00:20:32.018 --> 00:20:37.438

<v SPEAKER_2>Russia, today's Russia has wars every six years.

00:20:37.438 --> 00:20:45.978

<v SPEAKER_2>Chechnya 1, Chechnya 2, Georgia, Crimea, Donbass, now full scale.

00:20:45.978 --> 00:20:57.918

<v SPEAKER_2>The biggest problem is that really they have created wartime economy, and the elite business people, they make money on that.

00:20:57.918 --> 00:21:00.878

<v SPEAKER_2>And they don't care where the profit comes from.

00:21:00.878 --> 00:21:14.058

<v SPEAKER_2>It's much easier to make money from military supplies, because it's 100% guarantee that the Russian state will buy these products.

00:21:14.058 --> 00:21:16.538

<v SPEAKER_2>The second point is the military ideology.

00:21:17.338 --> 00:21:22.958

<v SPEAKER_2>And that's what Putin was doing for at least 15 years.

00:21:24.398 --> 00:21:35.678

<v SPEAKER_2>On a very, very permanent basis in the Russian media, it was told that war is a normal thing, and war is glorious.

00:21:35.678 --> 00:21:39.278

<v SPEAKER_2>And war has made Russia great.

00:21:39.278 --> 00:21:43.898

<v SPEAKER_2>So it's impossible to just switch off this ideology.

00:21:44.518 --> 00:21:50.418

<v SPEAKER_2>And the third point is what I call the social contract between the elites and society.

00:21:52.518 --> 00:21:57.298

<v SPEAKER_2>People who work in the military industry, they get paid on time.

00:21:57.298 --> 00:22:00.558

<v SPEAKER_2>Their salaries are higher than elsewhere.

00:22:00.558 --> 00:22:07.218

<v SPEAKER_2>And they feel happy, because they're better off in war than better off.

00:22:08.378 --> 00:22:14.538

<v SPEAKER_2>We want to say that you can be better off in a war time, but this is the case of Russia.

00:22:16.458 --> 00:22:27.598

<v SPEAKER_1>Were we in the West naïve to think that Russia would become a Western-style democracy, like Latvia, like Lithuania, like Estonia?

00:22:27.598 --> 00:22:34.718

<v SPEAKER_1>Or is Russia different from the rest of Eastern Europe in that sense?

00:22:34.718 --> 00:22:37.458

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, there was a chance in early 90s.

00:22:40.298 --> 00:22:51.438

<v SPEAKER_2>There was a big change in Russian thinking, and there was a shock therapy turning from planned economy to free market economy.

00:22:51.438 --> 00:23:07.658

<v SPEAKER_2>That was a moment in the West, especially the US, had to invest in Russia to help them to create a normal market economy with democracy.

00:23:08.778 --> 00:23:11.138

<v SPEAKER_2>Today, it's very difficult.

00:23:11.138 --> 00:23:12.558

<v SPEAKER_2>It's very difficult.

00:23:12.558 --> 00:23:18.798

<v SPEAKER_2>Because many people in the West, they say we should engage the civil society of Russia.

00:23:18.798 --> 00:23:23.878

<v SPEAKER_2>The problem is that the Russians don't have a civil society.

00:23:23.918 --> 00:23:24.618

<v SPEAKER_2>They don't.

00:23:24.618 --> 00:23:26.058

<v SPEAKER_2>They are three groups.

00:23:26.058 --> 00:23:33.698

<v SPEAKER_2>Those who rule, those who adapt, and those who make money, and those who don't care.

00:23:33.698 --> 00:23:46.538

<v SPEAKER_2>There's no, let's say, groups of citizens with their own views and trying to prove that their policies must be taken into account.

00:23:46.538 --> 00:23:48.638

<v SPEAKER_2>No, it's an absolutely different society.

00:23:50.198 --> 00:23:50.698

<v SPEAKER_1>So it is-

00:23:50.938 --> 00:23:54.598

<v SPEAKER_2>Nobody knows what is inside the minds of Russian people.

00:23:54.598 --> 00:24:00.498

<v SPEAKER_2>Because a lot of Russian people are nice people, but they can't stop their leadership.

00:24:00.498 --> 00:24:01.338

<v SPEAKER_2>They can't.

00:24:01.338 --> 00:24:13.438

<v SPEAKER_1>But in that sense, does the Russian culture triumph, in a sense, the desire for liberty or this is just the way it is?

00:24:13.438 --> 00:24:16.458

<v SPEAKER_2>They want to be powerful and respected.

00:24:16.458 --> 00:24:16.958

<v SPEAKER_2>That's all.

00:24:20.038 --> 00:24:30.258

<v SPEAKER_2>And you see, if you cannot be powerful by economic means, you replace this with military might.

00:24:30.258 --> 00:24:34.498

<v SPEAKER_2>Everything is on the emphasis of military might.

00:24:34.498 --> 00:24:42.878

<v SPEAKER_2>Putin was talking about five, six years, that they have the best army, and let's say the most modern weapons.

00:24:42.878 --> 00:24:47.618

<v SPEAKER_2>We see in the real war, it makes no sense.

00:24:47.618 --> 00:24:50.478

<v SPEAKER_2>There are no winners and losers in this war.

00:24:51.938 --> 00:24:54.538

<v SPEAKER_2>Russia has not won this war.

00:24:54.538 --> 00:24:56.658

<v SPEAKER_2>Ukraine has not won this war.

00:24:56.658 --> 00:25:01.378

<v SPEAKER_2>But Ukraine has not been defeated, and Russia has not been defeated.

00:25:01.378 --> 00:25:10.438

<v SPEAKER_2>So we are in this very specific situation that we have to find way out, because it can continue for many years.

00:25:10.438 --> 00:25:16.778

<v SPEAKER_2>I remember two statements by Putin just when the war started.

00:25:16.778 --> 00:25:22.598

<v SPEAKER_2>The first, he said, it's impossible to cut out Russia's economy from global economy.

00:25:23.498 --> 00:25:24.998

<v SPEAKER_2>And today we see that's right.

00:25:24.998 --> 00:25:28.038

<v SPEAKER_2>Okay, the West can do whatever we want.

00:25:28.038 --> 00:25:33.438

<v SPEAKER_2>There's still the rest of the world who is making business with Russia.

00:25:33.438 --> 00:25:35.338

<v SPEAKER_2>The second is we are not in a hurry.

00:25:36.798 --> 00:25:42.978

<v SPEAKER_2>Peter the Great was in the war for 20 years just to get the territories.

00:25:42.978 --> 00:25:45.878

<v SPEAKER_2>So, and he is not in a hurry today.

00:25:45.878 --> 00:25:55.138

<v SPEAKER_2>So we have to find irrational ways, you know, asymmetric ways how to make the life for Putin painful.

00:25:55.138 --> 00:25:58.038

<v SPEAKER_2>Only in that moment he would change his mind.

00:25:59.458 --> 00:26:03.338

<v SPEAKER_1>And some examples of that asymmetric way would be, for example, what would you recommend?

00:26:04.478 --> 00:26:11.538

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, if you look at the battlefield, because I was one of those who said, you know, everything be settled in the

battlefield.

00:26:11.538 --> 00:26:18.418

<v SPEAKER_2>We want it or not, but in the battlefield, results will shape the future.

00:26:18.538 --> 00:26:21.898

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, Ukrainians don't have any Navy.

00:26:21.898 --> 00:26:26.958

<v SPEAKER_2>Russians have a big one, Black Fleet, Black Sea Navy.

00:26:26.958 --> 00:26:28.798

<v SPEAKER_2>But they cannot win.

00:26:30.738 --> 00:26:32.818

<v SPEAKER_2>In the Black Sea, you know, they are losing, you know.

00:26:34.138 --> 00:26:38.378

<v SPEAKER_2>They have a very good, you know, let's say, Air Force.

00:26:38.378 --> 00:26:42.238

<v SPEAKER_2>Ukrainians have not such a strong Air Force, but they are not winning, you know.

00:26:42.238 --> 00:26:46.058

<v SPEAKER_2>That means in a war, we see the asymmetric approach.

00:26:47.518 --> 00:26:54.258

<v SPEAKER_2>When it's not tank against tank, you know, fighting jet against fighting jet, it's much more complicated.

00:26:55.678 --> 00:27:04.118

<v SPEAKER_2>So the philosophy of war tactics has changed significantly in these three years.

00:27:04.118 --> 00:27:15.078

<v SPEAKER_2>And on a political level, you know, of course, you know, when Trump was elected, I expected he will do everything to get the oil price down.

00:27:15.078 --> 00:27:17.678

<v SPEAKER_2>Because this is painful for Russians.

00:27:17.678 --> 00:27:21.818

<v SPEAKER_2>But I don't see too much efforts to do that.

00:27:21.818 --> 00:27:32.238

<v SPEAKER_2>Because all these talks about, you know, sanctions, secondary sanctions in 50 days, I'm sorry, that's typical Russian way.

00:27:32.238 --> 00:27:50.038

<v SPEAKER_2>When they signed the Minsk agreement, they said we should sign today, but it will be, let's say, in power after two weeks because we had to take over one small city called Debaltsevo because it's a railway hub.

00:27:50.278 --> 00:27:53.358

<v SPEAKER_2>At the same time, it's relevant today.

00:27:53.358 --> 00:27:54.898

<v SPEAKER_2>Trump gives them 50 days.

00:27:54.898 --> 00:28:06.578

<v SPEAKER_2>Putin said that in 60 days, he will reach his goals that take all the lands which are already written in the Russian Constitution.

00:28:06.958 --> 00:28:14.678

<v SPEAKER_2>Then it might be he will be ready to sign some peace agreement, but not sustainable one.

00:28:14.738 --> 00:28:16.338

<v SPEAKER_1>No, and it would continue.

00:28:17.958 --> 00:28:23.178

<v SPEAKER_1>Earlier in your career as a doctor, you went to Chernobyl after the nuclear exposure.

00:28:23.178 --> 00:28:30.918

<v SPEAKER_1>How concerned should we be about Putin using tactical nuclear weapons, which he threatens on a regular basis now?

00:28:32.238 --> 00:28:40.578

<v SPEAKER_2>When I was a schoolboy, there was a lot of literature and we were taught in school even about how to behave in a nuclear attack.

00:28:41.518 --> 00:28:45.238

<v SPEAKER_2>And everybody thought that this could be a reality.

00:28:45.238 --> 00:28:58.258

<v SPEAKER_2>The Cuban crisis and the relations with the US and the USSR were turned into what's called balance-controlled confrontation.

00:29:00.138 --> 00:29:03.818

<v SPEAKER_2>The threat of the nuclear war has gone down.

00:29:03.878 --> 00:29:10.558

<v SPEAKER_2>Because nuclear weapons has been used only once, and they are threatening weapons.

00:29:10.818 --> 00:29:18.558

<v SPEAKER_2>There's not too much sense to use them in the battlefield, and all people think that the tactical are something for the battlefield.

00:29:18.558 --> 00:29:22.838

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not so, it's a strategic and threatening weapon.

00:29:22.838 --> 00:29:24.198

<v SPEAKER_2>It's not for the battlefield.

00:29:24.198 --> 00:29:28.658

<v SPEAKER_2>In Chernobyl, the Soviet Army was not prepared for this catastrophe.

00:29:29.618 --> 00:29:36.618

<v SPEAKER_2>I was there the first two months, and I was there two weeks after the explosion.

00:29:36.618 --> 00:29:49.838

<v SPEAKER_2>So the disaster of the impotence of the Soviet Army and the troops and the commanders was awful.

00:29:49.838 --> 00:29:51.158

<v SPEAKER_2>They were not prepared.

00:29:51.158 --> 00:29:56.078

<v SPEAKER_2>They had nothing to do with, let's say, preparing for the nuclear war.

00:29:57.518 --> 00:29:59.958

<v SPEAKER_2>They were not prepared for the simple situations.

00:29:59.958 --> 00:30:07.198

<v SPEAKER_2>And the contamination, radioactive contamination, is a very serious thing.

00:30:07.198 --> 00:30:11.698

<v SPEAKER_2>It's present there in Chernobyl still today, after 35 years.

00:30:13.298 --> 00:30:19.998

<v SPEAKER_2>But use of weapons, nuclear weapons, tactical weapons, it's no sense.

00:30:19.998 --> 00:30:33.658

<v SPEAKER_2>But as weapons of threatening to attack London or to attack, you know, Paris or Berlin or New York, it's all theoretical battles.

00:30:34.058 --> 00:30:39.258

<v SPEAKER_2>In the people's minds, we get afraid that there might be a nuclear attack.

00:30:39.258 --> 00:30:42.358

<v SPEAKER_2>And we have two images in our minds.

00:30:42.358 --> 00:30:46.258

<v SPEAKER_2>And the first one was Hiroshima, destroyed Hiroshima.

00:30:46.318 --> 00:30:50.918

<v SPEAKER_2>And one picture and the other picture is Bikini Atoll with this test.

00:30:53.298 --> 00:30:54.638

<v SPEAKER_1>I think that's right.

00:30:54.658 --> 00:30:54.978

<v SPEAKER_2>Yeah.

00:30:54.978 --> 00:31:16.238

<v SPEAKER_2>And therefore, you know, this is much more on a theoretical level, on a psychological level, you know, how to really get down the confidence of the Western societies that they need to fight for their freedoms and defend their freedoms, you know.

00:31:17.758 --> 00:31:18.058

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes.

00:31:18.058 --> 00:31:34.158

<v SPEAKER_1>Well, certainly, you, having lived in Latvia under occupation and now under freedom, the further it seems, the closer to the frontier you get, the more committed people are to doing more for Ukraine.

00:31:34.158 --> 00:31:37.298

<v SPEAKER_1>Do you feel that the West is doing enough for Ukraine now?

00:31:38.618 --> 00:31:39.958

<v SPEAKER_2>There are two things, you know.

00:31:39.958 --> 00:31:44.118

<v SPEAKER_2>West is always hesitating and losing the right moment.

00:31:44.118 --> 00:31:52.078

<v SPEAKER_2>And let's say deliveries of weapons and also financial deliveries.

00:31:52.078 --> 00:31:53.298

<v SPEAKER_2>They're always delayed.

00:31:53.298 --> 00:31:55.618

<v SPEAKER_2>We don't do too much.

00:31:55.618 --> 00:32:07.018

<v SPEAKER_2>And we don't do enough because, you know, the best moment that Putin was weak when he was not confident in himself and his prestige went down in his allies.

00:32:07.018 --> 00:32:08.718

<v SPEAKER_2>You know, it was 2023.

00:32:11.258 --> 00:32:16.218

<v SPEAKER_2>And they said, oh, no, let's not, let's say, irritate Putin, you know.

00:32:16.218 --> 00:32:18.098

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's not escalate, you know.

00:32:18.098 --> 00:32:27.178

<v SPEAKER_2>What we got instead, we had the escalation to enormous levels, only in much worse situation that we had two years ago.

00:32:28.538 --> 00:32:30.938

<v SPEAKER_2>We were afraid of escalation.

00:32:31.278 --> 00:32:34.078

<v SPEAKER_2>We got this escalation only gradually.

00:32:34.078 --> 00:32:56.738

<v SPEAKER_2>And worse, we couldn't, let's say, attack, you know, I will not say Russian soil, but attack Putin as a leader and give the Ukrainian army much more potential.

00:32:57.418 --> 00:33:01.578

<v SPEAKER_2>In 2023, sorry, now it's too late.

00:33:01.578 --> 00:33:04.258

<v SPEAKER_2>It's much more difficult to tackle this problem.

00:33:07.058 --> 00:33:11.258

<v SPEAKER_1>You mentioned that Russia and China relationship.

00:33:11.258 --> 00:33:14.598

<v SPEAKER_1>How does China play into this situation?

00:33:14.598 --> 00:33:17.278

<v SPEAKER_1>You know, they've tried to extend their belt and road.

00:33:17.278 --> 00:33:20.298

<v SPEAKER_1>They had the challenges with Lithuania.

00:33:20.558 --> 00:33:23.478

<v SPEAKER_1>How do you see China playing into what's going on?

00:33:24.358 --> 00:33:28.018

<v SPEAKER_2>China is playing perfectly in their interests.

00:33:28.018 --> 00:33:33.858

<v SPEAKER_2>The trade between Russia and China went up significantly.

00:33:33.858 --> 00:33:40.818

<v SPEAKER_2>Big market, sanctions from one side and offers from the China side.

00:33:40.818 --> 00:33:57.438

<v SPEAKER_2>It seems to know that China is the most winning country in the world who gets benefits from this war, and they will use it until it will be advantages and profitable.

00:33:57.438 --> 00:34:02.238

<v SPEAKER_2>So they will keep the Russian not strong and not weak.

00:34:02.238 --> 00:34:07.738

<v SPEAKER_2>The war is going on, and the Chinese are earning money.

00:34:07.798 --> 00:34:17.058

<v SPEAKER_2>It's good for Chinese economy, and keeping all the best Europe and the US, keeping busy with this war.

00:34:19.618 --> 00:34:23.758

<v SPEAKER_2>So we have to accept Chinese are smart people.

00:34:25.958 --> 00:34:28.398

<v SPEAKER_1>Yes, indeed.

00:34:28.398 --> 00:34:35.438

<v SPEAKER_1>What more should we in the West be doing to support Latvia and the other frontline states?

00:34:35.438 --> 00:34:39.898

<v SPEAKER_2>You see, it's very important from one side, the military presence.

00:34:39.898 --> 00:34:49.558

<v SPEAKER_2>Let's say 15 years ago, there was not even any serious military facilities in Latvia.

00:34:49.558 --> 00:34:55.738

<v SPEAKER_2>Today, we have a real NATO troops presence on the ground.

00:34:55.778 --> 00:35:00.418

<v SPEAKER_2>So they are exercising these very modern weapons and so on.

00:35:00.418 --> 00:35:18.658

<v SPEAKER_2>But first, we had to really make this frontier a very strong military base, investing with soldiers, investing with weapons and investing in the planning.

00:35:18.658 --> 00:35:20.138

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a deterrence.

00:35:20.358 --> 00:35:26.138

<v SPEAKER_2>What it was called, let's say 10 years ago, it's still called today, it's deterrence.

00:35:26.138 --> 00:35:32.218

<v SPEAKER_2>To make sure that the attack on the Baltic States is a big mistake.

00:35:33.478 --> 00:35:37.978

<v SPEAKER_2>The second is the business support.

00:35:37.978 --> 00:35:41.818

<v SPEAKER_2>If you remember, the Germany was divided.

00:35:41.818 --> 00:35:58.738

<v SPEAKER_2>There were a lot of investments in the Western Germany just to show that everybody trusts in German state, that they are going to protect their investments, that they are going to invest and make money, and show that that is a strong country.

00:35:59.598 --> 00:36:03.018

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to do approximately the same.

00:36:03.018 --> 00:36:06.498

<v SPEAKER_2>Investments must come, the serious business must come.

00:36:06.498 --> 00:36:10.758

<v SPEAKER_2>We have to show where is the new Iron Curtain.

00:36:10.758 --> 00:36:16.198

<v SPEAKER_2>On the south side of this Iron Curtain, we are strong economically and we are strong military.

00:36:18.698 --> 00:36:30.218

<v SPEAKER_1>That's a good message for Canadians to hear, that it's,

as you said, maintain the deterrent power, which is of course the Canadian troops in Latvia, but also as you point out the business relationship to show that the economies can prosper.

00:36:30.218 --> 00:36:36.518

<v SPEAKER_2>The normal life, the normal life, the normal business life is very important one.

00:36:36.518 --> 00:36:47.438

<v SPEAKER_2>We are not afraid, we send the signals that we are not afraid, we are strong enough military, you know, and we keep on our economic life as normal.

00:36:50.858 --> 00:36:57.358

<v SPEAKER_2>We Latvians don't like that people around, let's say Europe, say that the Baltic States will be the next one.

00:36:57.358 --> 00:37:02.318

<v SPEAKER_2>We never tell that because we are not any more afraid.

00:37:02.318 --> 00:37:04.538

<v SPEAKER_2>It's a very important step forward.

00:37:04.538 --> 00:37:07.838

<v SPEAKER_2>We are not any more afraid of Russians.

00:37:11.838 --> 00:37:13.878

<v SPEAKER_1>All right, that's a good message on which to end.

00:37:13.878 --> 00:37:15.058

<v SPEAKER_1>My final question, Dr.

00:37:15.058 --> 00:37:17.198

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers, is what are you reading or streaming these days?

00:37:19.198 --> 00:37:22.198

<v SPEAKER_2>A very specific literature, basically.

00:37:24.478 --> 00:37:26.998

<v SPEAKER_2>I'll give some examples.

00:37:28.218 --> 00:37:37.258

<v SPEAKER_2>Afghanistan files written by Prince Turki AlFaisal of Saudi Arabia, about the Afghan wartime.

00:37:37.298 --> 00:37:47.958

<v SPEAKER_2>Then again, you know, DAX commercials, you know, diary, some strange stuff, you know, and poetry, a lot of poetry.

00:37:47.958 --> 00:37:49.958

<v SPEAKER_2>Because poetry is philosophy.

00:37:51.238 --> 00:37:53.538

<v SPEAKER_1>Oh, well, that's very good advice.

00:37:54.038 --> 00:37:56.638

<v SPEAKER_1>If ever we need poetry, this is the time.

00:37:56.638 --> 00:37:56.938

<v SPEAKER_1>Dr.

00:37:56.938 --> 00:38:00.818

<v SPEAKER_1>Zatlers, thank you, and thank you for listening to this episode of The Global Exchange.

00:38:00.818 --> 00:38:02.478

<v SPEAKER_1>We were joined today by Dr.

00:38:02.478 --> 00:38:08.878

<v SPEAKER_1>Valdis Zatlers, former president of Latvia, who recently visited Canada as well as the United States.

00:38:08.878 --> 00:38:12.838

<v SPEAKER_1>You can find The Canadian Global Affairs Institute on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

00:38:12.838 --> 00:38:21.198

<v SPEAKER_1>The Global Exchange is brought to you by our team at The Canadian Global Affairs Institute, and my thanks go out to our producer, Jordyn Carroll, and to Drew Phillips for providing the music.

00:38:21.198 --> 00:38:22.678

<v SPEAKER_1>I'm Colin Robertson.

00:38:22.678 --> 00:38:24.558

<v SPEAKER_1>Thanks for joining us today on The Global Exchange.