



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1949

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Summary of Telegrams

NORTH ATLANTIC Ambassador Marvel reports that a canvass of the Scandinavian situation, as viewed from Copenhagen, indicates that efforts will be made to delay any clear-cut decision on the position of the three Scandinavian countries until long after February 1. Such a delay, in his opinion, will give the Swedish Socialists valuable time to persuade the Norwegian and Danish Socialists to support the Swedish neutrality line and may well result in a Scandinavian defense agreement which is not acceptable to the US. In the latter event, we would be subjected to charges that the US was responsible for "splitting" Scandinavia.

The Danish Foreign Minister has told Marvel that it is by no means certain that a regional defense agreement can be reached, but he admitted that if such an agreement were concluded at variance with US policy, it would nevertheless be submitted to Washington for approval. Asked about possible developments in the event we rejected this approach, the Foreign Minister indicated that Norway would probably seek admission to the North Atlantic pact but that the decision of Denmark could only be taken in the light of events at that time.

Meanwhile we have pointed out to the Western Union countries that we will be guided in allocating US arms by major strategic considerations in which the North Atlantic pact will be the most important but not the only factor. Whether or not Italy is a party to the pact we will supply it with arms in fulfillment of our policy to prevent that country from falling under Communist control. We still favor Italian membership in the North Atlantic pact, and we hope that the current meeting of the European Consultative Council will make clear that Italy is a natural member of the western European community.

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E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

By NLT-116 NARS, Date 11-13-80

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