



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

February 15, 1949

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

NORTH
ATLANTIC

According to the British Foreign Office Norwegian Foreign Minister Lange, during his conversation with Bevin, did not appear too discouraged over the results of his visit here but realized that his task in Norway will be made more difficult by his failure to obtain definite answers to his questions. He is considering the possibility of having Norway not be one of the original signers of the North Atlantic pact but of coming in later. The British emphasized to our Embassy in London that any further whittling down of the terms of the pact would be dangerous and that speed in its conclusion is essential. The French have informed Caiffery that while they would deprecate any changes in the draft of the pact they consider it of primary importance that there should be no "stop, break or undue delay" in its negotiation.

The Norwegians are concerned over the possibility that the USSR, in anticipation of Norway joining the North Atlantic pact, might occupy Finmark, the Arctic province of Norway, and Svalbard (Spitzbergen), particularly in view of the probable delay in the ratification of the pact. Our Embassy in Oslo believes that, while military action in northern Norway may be an extreme hypothesis, some Soviet move in relation to Svalbard seems likely.

PALESTINE

We have expressed to the Israeli representative here our hope that, as reported by the Israeli representative at the UN, the government of Israel has decided to make concessions on the points that have apparently constituted the principal stumbling block to the successful conclusion of the Rhodes armistice talks. Acting Mediator Bunche had informed our representative on the Palestine Conciliation Commission that the Jews were being adamant on these points but has now reported that the conversations are making steady but tortuous progress though continuing pressure from all sources on the parties is still indispensable to success.

CHINA

President Li has requested that the departure of our naval forces from Tsingtao be delayed for a few weeks on the ground that their continued presence at Tsingtao strengthens the position of the government during the critical phase of the peace discussions with the Communists.

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State Dept. Guidelines, June 12, 1979

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