



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

March 28, 1949

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

ATLANTIC PACT We have advised our Legation in Reykjavik that we would prefer to have Iceland accept the invitation to join the Atlantic pact without comment. If, however, the Icelandic government feels it must say something, we suggest it state that Iceland's special position as an unarmed nation limits the action it might take under Article V of the pact. Meanwhile, our Charge in Copenhagen has been told of Denmark's hope that the US will reconsider Denmark's arms application so that Denmark might receive promptly a "symbolic" arms shipment. Our Charge feels that such a shipment would serve as a boost to military morale and would have a beneficial political effect.

ISRAEL King Abdullah of Transjordan has given to our Charge in Tel Aviv for transmission to President Truman a message which sets forth the demands made by Israel of Transjordan in the recent talks and which requests the President to prevent these "new movements". Abdullah says that these "movements" may cause a renewal of the conflict in Palestine. Meanwhile our Charge states that while Abdullah feels strongly about the manner in which the agreement has been forced upon him, he also realizes that failure to ratify it would lead to Israeli military action and to consequent territorial adjustments which would far exceed what Israel is trying to "extort" from Abdullah through negotiation. Our Charge adds his opinion that unless the US takes a strong line to stop Israel now, its frontiers may be extended to the Jordan River.

GERMANY General Clay has expressed to our Acting Political Adviser in Berlin his opinion that the establishment of the west German government would inevitably be postponed. Clay feels that a failure to agree on common policies has resulted in a political failure for the western powers and that German sentiment is now turning against the formation of a west German government.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3-402

State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979

By NLT-*HC* Date *11-13-80*

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MILITARY AID

In connection with the military aid program, our Ambassador in London feels we must do everything we can to foster the unity and solidarity of the Western Union countries. Douglas stresses that the Western Union countries comprise the hard core of the military strength which may be developed in western Europe, and that the defense plans of Western Union constitute an important step toward achieving an "army of Europe" instead of nationalistic forces loosely coordinated. Douglas feels the US should vigorously encourage Western Union as a body and not place emphasis upon bilateral relations with individual Western Union members.

Meanwhile, US representatives in London concerned with the military aid program state their opinion that we ought not unilaterally to interpret our UN obligations by suspending arms shipments to the Netherlands. Our representatives point out that we have been urging integration on European nations and we ought not to indicate an unwillingness to act in concert with other Western Union countries on this issue. They add that unilateral action would imply that we feel the other Western Union countries are less zealous in carrying out their UN obligations than we and would weaken the military potential of Western Union.

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