



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

February 28, 1949

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

SYRIA We have instructed our Legation in Damascus to inform the Syrian government that we appreciate its desire to align itself with the US and the western powers, and to reiterate that our support of Israel does not lessen our basic policy of friendship toward the Arab countries. Our Legation should state however that we do not as yet envisage broadening our defensive security relationships beyond the contemplated Atlantic pact, which constitutes in itself a radical departure from traditional US policies. Nonetheless, we are gratified to learn of Syria's preoccupation with the problem of its relation to the west, and we will keep its views in mind.

INDOCHINA We are informing Embassy Paris that in spite of the reported progress in the negotiations between the French government and ex-Emperor Bao Dai, we question whether the French are really making concessions to Bao Dai which will enable him to return to French Indochina and realize any successes there. We point out that over a period of three years the French have shown no intention or desire to make the concessions which are necessary to solve the Indochina question. We fear that the present formula for a solution may be only another French device to delay basic action, and as a consequence we do not want to be committed in any way to approval of the present French action.

BERLIN We have informed Ambassador Douglas in Berlin that we have continued to impress upon the British here our strong feeling that we should aim at March 10 as a date for the establishment of the western mark in Berlin. At the same time, Caffery in Paris is urging similar views on the French. We have explained to Douglas that besides being critically necessary for the economy of the western sectors, establishment of the western mark in Berlin will place us in a stronger bargaining position in subsequent discussions of a solution to the Berlin problem. After establishment of the western mark has placed us in position of equality with the USSR, we will endeavor to explore further UN action with a view to lifting the blockade, establishing an equitable and workable currency solution, and unifying the city politically.

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ATLANTIC PACT In connection with our desire to reply promptly and affirmatively to Norway's request for immediate admission to discussions on the North Atlantic pact, France has indicated its position that Italy ought simultaneously to be admitted. The French feel that Italy is as important to the west's defense as Norway, and they ask that the question of Italy's participation be decided upon at once by the Washington discussion group. Previous to this formal statement of the French government's views, members of the discussion group indicated to the French Ambassador here that the Norwegian Foreign Minister's problems, both domestic and in relation to the USSR, represent a crisis that must be met, and to delay Norway's admission at this time would be catastrophic. We also told Bonnet of our feeling that insistence on inclusion of Italy at the same time as Norway would involve great risks to which France is not entitled to subject all the western powers.

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