



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402
State Dept. Guideline, June 12, 1979
By NLT-*NC* NARS, Date *11-13-80*

June 7, 1949

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM Ambassadors Harriman and Douglas have expressed their deep concern over any delay in the military assistance program and recommend emphatically that all possible efforts be made to have Congress act upon legislation to implement the program at the earliest possible time. They believe that delay in consideration of the military assistance program would have a seriously adverse effect on the total situation in western Europe. They say that such delay would give rise to suspicions that we are lukewarm in our intention of giving effective support to the North Atlantic Pact and point out that in Europe the hope that the pact will be an effective deterrent to war rests not only on the intent of all the parties to act together in the event of war but also on their intent to rebuild their military strength by mutual aid. Delay in the aid program would resurrect doubts as to the dependability and consistency of US policy and fears that our intentions are not to help defend Europe but only to accept the necessity for another liberation. Harriman and Douglas state that delay would result in the loss of the momentum that has been created in Europe as the result of our consistent efforts of the past two years and would retard economic recovery. They stress that, if the upswing in European assurance in the face of the Soviets is halted by a seeming slackening in US interest and a retrogression sets in, it may be immensely costly to set it in motion again.

Our Ambassador in Paris says that both Prime Minister Queuille and Foreign Minister Schuman have expressed concern over our intentions as to the North Atlantic Pact and the military assistance program and says that there is no question that the French are disturbed by the priority given labor legislation over the pact and by reports that the aid program might not be dealt with during the present session of Congress. Similar strong expressions of concern have been received from the Norwegians and from the Belgian Prime Minister.

CHINA

Our Charge in Canton says that the approach to our Consulate General in Peiping made by Communist leader Chou En-lai would appear to be more a tactical than a strategic move and recommends that we should regard it with suspicion. He points out that it would be fatal for us to be induced to assist the Communists in their period of need only to find too late that they wanted our help only until they could get along without us.

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