

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 4, 1951

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12065, Sec. 3-402
State Dept. Guidelines, March 6, 1982
By DeB NLT, Date 9-5-80

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SUMMARY OF TELEGRAMS

GREECE-TURKEY Our NAT Council Deputy has furnished us with a round-up of the present attitudes of the governments represented, and their probable positions at the forthcoming Ottawa Council meeting, on the question of full NATO membership for Greece and Turkey, based on discussions with each Council Deputy in the last few days. Since many of the Deputies spoke very frankly and on a personal basis, he has asked that their comments be handled with extreme care. The UK and France both support full membership, and have agreed to the Standing Group paper on command structure, although each government still has some reservations on this aspect. Italy has been a consistently strong advocate. Canada, although it would have preferred a separate pact, has stated both privately and in the Deputies' meetings, that it would agree to full membership. The Belgian Deputy has stated privately his government's full agreement, but has indicated this only guardedly in the meetings. A governmental decision has not yet been taken by Luxembourg, but it will probably be influenced by Belgium. The Netherlands is still opposed but will "probably yield". The first Dutch reaction to the Standing Group command paper was strongly unfavorable, and they may press for inclusion of Turkey under a direct NATO command as such as a condition for agreement. A governmental decision has been taken by Iceland not to oppose full membership. Norway is still opposed, but "will not veto". Denmark is officially still opposed, but the Danish Deputy has pointed out that Denmark has never indicated that it would block full membership and "will probably bow to the will of the majority". Portugal is also officially still opposed, but their Deputy has stated privately that they "will probably not make too much trouble".

Ambassador Spofford has impressed on each Deputy the necessity for issuance by the Council at Ottawa of an unconditional invitation to Greece and Turkey. Allowing for the possibility that the attitude of individual Deputies may be more cooperative than

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that of their governments, he believes this can be done if there is continued satisfactory development, including some publicity, of US support for the North Atlantic concept, and if a generally satisfactory agreement on command structure, which may involve slightly more direct NATO control than that provided in the Standing Group paper, is reached.

IRELAND

The Irish Foreign Minister has raised informally with the Department's representative at SHAPE the possibility of Ireland's purchasing certain modern arms and military equipment from the US. He said that the new Irish Government feels strongly that it must build up Ireland's defense capabilities increasing both the size and effectiveness of its standing forces and that receipt of limited amounts of US equipment on a purchase basis would not only increase the morale of the armed forces, thereby helping recruiting, but would also stimulate public support for an increased effort and the sacrifices which would be necessary to build greater defensive strength. Our representative replied that, policy issues aside, the military equipment situation in the US was very tight at the present time, pointing out our commitments in the Far East and to our NAT allies. He mentioned that Ireland had had a chance to join NAT but had refused, and expressed his personal view that the surest way to insure that such Irish requests received sympathetic consideration would be for Ireland to indicate its determination to contribute in some positive way to the collective defense of the West. The Foreign Minister stated that, in his personal opinion, there was no possibility at this time of Ireland's joining NAT or any other collective defense arrangements, but that, if we could help on equipment, he believed confidential military staff talks would be possible, which would enable NATO planners to have knowledge of Ireland's defense plans so that there could be proper military coordination should aggression against Ireland occur.

When our representative inquired whether the Irish Government intended to raise this question with the US Government officially through diplomatic channels, the Foreign Minister replied in the affirmative but indicated that there might be some delay since his government did not wish to begin its campaign for additional recruits and a further military effort until after the harvest.