

~~file~~
MWH

11:

This came in late Wed. Mr. Hopkins told me to write it up and send in pouch to WDH - which I did.

~~On phone
Mr. [unclear] said it was
"reputed" and,
X.~~



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HASSETT

In accordance with your request of March 8, I attach a draft reply, for the President's consideration and signature, if he approves, to Senator Watkins' telegram of March 7.

W. J. McWilliams
Acting Director
Executive Secretariat

Attachment



U. S. Naval Base,
Key West, Florida.
March 17, 1949

Dear Senator Watkins:

I have received your telegram of March seventh asking that the text of the proposed North Atlantic Treaty be communicated to the Senate and made public before it is signed.

The Secretary of State and I have long intended that this be done and you will by now have seen press reports that it is intended to make the text public on March eighteenth and to have signature take place early in April.

I should like to call your attention to the extent of the cooperation between the Senate and the Executive Branch of the Government in the formulation of this treaty. Ordinarily treaties are negotiated by the State Department and discussed with the Foreign Relations Committee only after they have been signed and submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. In view of the importance of the present treaty there has been close collaboration between the State Department and the Committee since its inception.

Last spring the Committee, after protracted consultation with the State Department, unanimously reported Senate Resolution 239 which was adopted by the Senate on June eleventh. The treaty has subsequently been negotiated in accordance with the "advice" contained in that Resolution and with full and detailed consultation with the Committee. The further unusual step will be taken, as I have said, of communicating the proposed text to every member of the Senate and making it public in advance of signature.

I do not agree that there should be a sixty-day interval between publication and signature. While I trust Senate action on the Treaty, when presented to it, will be as expeditious as is consistent with full consideration -- and the fact that the Foreign Relations Committee has already carefully considered its provisions should expedite the matter -- there will undoubtedly be ample opportunity for full public and senatorial consideration of the Treaty between the time it is made public and the time final Senate action is taken.



I stated in my inaugural address that the primary purpose of the Rio Treaty and the proposed North Atlantic Treaty "is to provide unmistakable proof of the joint determination of the free countries to resist armed attack from any quarter." It is my belief that if we can make it sufficiently clear, in advance, that any armed attack affecting our national security would be met with overwhelming force, the armed attack might never occur.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sed) HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Arthur V. Watkins,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

air mail



U.S. NAVAL BASE
Key West, Florida

March 8, 1949

*Sent
12 noon
March 10
Red Jay
By hand*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE: x20

The accompanying telegram addressed to the President by Senator Watkins of Utah is respectfully referred to the Department of State for the preparation of appropriate reply for the President's signature.

WILLIAM D. HASSETT
Secretary to the President

Tel to the President, March 7, 1949 -- copy retained in file

(this memorandum was rewritten and signed by me for Mr. Hass because the original memorandum was received at the White H. from Key West, unsigned, and with only initials "W.D.H.")



CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1220

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

K Z27 GOVT PD=SN WASHINGTON DC MAR 7 400P=

HON HARRY S TRUMAN, REPORT DELIVERY=
KEYWEST FLO=

MY DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

IN YOUR INAUGURAL ADDRESS, YOU DECLARED THAT A JOINT DEFENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACIES WAS BEING NEGOTIATED. FROM THE PRESS I LEARN THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE GONE FORWARD TO THE POINT WHERE THE PROPOSED TREATY WILL SOON BE READY FOR THE SIGNATURES OF THE NATIONS PARTICIPATING.

¶ YOU WILL REALIZE, AND I BELIEVE IT IS GENERALLY CONCEDED, THAT THIS PROPOSED PACT, AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES ENTRY INTO IT IS CONCERNED, WILL BE PRECEDENT-MAKING AND ONE OF THE MOST MOMENTOUS STEPS THIS COUNTRY HAS EVER TAKEN.

¶ FROM TIME TO TIME NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS PURPORTING TO GIVE THE LANGUAGE OF THE IMPORTANT ARTICLES IN THE PACT HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO THE PRESS. MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO READ PRELIMINARY DRAFTS. OTHER SENATORS, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN KEPT IN THE DARK AS TO WHAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE PACT WILL BE MEANWHILE. A GENERAL DEBATE HAS BEEN CARRIED ON IN THE PRESS AND OVER THE AIR BY EDITORS,

END 1=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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K ZA27 /2=

COLUMNISTS AND COMMENTATORS ON THE NECESSITY FOR, AND
THE WORDING OF, THE PACT.

¶ THE PROPOSAL THAT THE UNITED STATES ENTER INTO A
PACT WHICH IN EFFECT IS A TREATY OF ALLIANCE WITH EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES, IS UNPRECEDENTED. FOR THAT REASON I AM TAKING
THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF RESPECTFULLY URGING YOU NOW TO
GIVE TO THE ENTIRE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE
PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY AT LEAST SIXTY DAYS BEFORE THE
DATE SET FOR THE SIGNING OF THE PACT, THE TEXT OF THE
PROPOSED AGREEMENT AND THE NAMES OF THE NATIONS WHICH
WILL PARTICIPATE AND THE REASONS WHY THE UNITED STATES
SHOULD BECOME A PARTY TO THE PACT.

¶ I AM CONVINCED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE
GIVEN TIME TO STUDY AND THINK ABOUT THIS PROPOSED DEPARTURE
FROM OUR HISTORIC POLICY OF "NO ENTANGLING ALLIANCES,"
AND THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE SHOULD HAVE ADDITIONAL
TIME IN WHICH TO STUDY THIS IMPORTANT MATTER.

¶ YOU WILL REALIZE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT IF THE TEXT
OF THE PROPOSED TREATY AND THE REASONS FOR ENTERING IT AND
THE NAMES OF THE NATIONS INVITED TO JOIN ARE NOT GIVEN TO
END 2=

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

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602P.
 60910

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:KZ27 / 3=

THE SENATE IN ADVANCE OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY, THAT IT WILL BE EMBARRASSING, AND POSSIBLY HARMFUL, TO THE UNITED STATES TO HAVE THE TREATY DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT THE HEARINGS BEFORE A COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, AND POSSIBLY IN THE END TO HAVE IT REJECTED OR HAVE IT APPROVED WITH SUBSTANTIAL RESERVATIONS.

I SUBMIT, MR PRESIDENT, THAT THE SUBMISSION OF THE TREATY TO THE SENATE AS A FAIT ACCOMPLI WILL BE DECIDEDLY UNFAIR TO THE SENATE AND TO THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS.

I AM URGING THIS SUGGESTION IN ALL SERIOUSNESS BECAUSE I SINCERELY BELIEVE THAT IN TIMES OF PEACE WE SHOULD ADOPT AND FOLLOW THE PRINCIPLES OF PRESIDENT WILSON, WHO ADVOCATED "OPEN COVENANTS, OPENLY ARRIVED AT" RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED=

ARTHUR V WATKINS US SENATOR FROM UTAH=