

that the Canadian people would support the commitment of Canada on these grounds, although the machinery of the treaty would have to be employed to increase the combined power of the parties to it.

He went on to say that it was most important to him that the treaty should not be a military alliance only, but should hold out the prospect of close economic and social collaboration between the parties. An article to this effect would be of the greatest value to him politically in securing the full acceptance of the treaty by the Canadian people.

Not very much was said by the President or Mr. Acheson on the subject of the treaty, and other pending questions in connection with it were not alluded to.

[H.H. WRONG]

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DEA/283(s)

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
aux ambassadeurs en France, en Belgique et aux Pays-Bas*

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassadors in France, in Belgium and in The Netherlands*

TELEGRAM 80

Ottawa, February 17, 1949

TOP SECRET

Economic clause in North Atlantic Treaty.

1. Since the very beginning of the discussions in Washington the Canadian representative in the discussions has outlined the need for a satisfactory article calling for economic and social collaboration among the signatories, an article which would contribute to general security, and ensure the widest measure of public support for the Treaty. When we first made the proposal, we received United States support and, though the Western Union countries were not keen, they agreed, somewhat reluctantly, to an article (Article 2) reading as follows:

"The parties will encourage cooperative efforts between any or all of them to promote the general welfare through collaboration in the cultural, economic and social fields. Such efforts shall, to the greatest possible extent, be undertaken through and assist the work of existing international organizations."

2. As you know, both the Prime Minister and I, in recent statements made in the House of Commons and outside, have stressed that the Treaty must include adequate provision for economic cooperation and should not be merely a military alliance designed for the immediate emergency. Article 2, as drafted, is the only essentially non-military article in the Treaty. It is weak, but it does provide a foundation on which to build. A stronger article would ensure increased support for the treaty, both in the Canadian Parliament and in Canada generally.

3. We have, therefore, authorized Wrong to do his best to get Article 2 strengthened by the addition of the following two sentences, which would be placed between the two sentences of the present draft: