

2. I spoke next in favour of making very rapid progress when the Ambassadors' meetings are resumed, and in this the other representatives agreed. Henderson, speaking for the British group, said that Sir Oliver Franks had instructed him to emphasize that the loss of time was serious. The Russians, he said, had made three attacks on the North Atlantic Treaty already: the Tass statement of 29th January, the threatening note to Norway, and Stalin's expression of willingness to meet Mr. Truman. Henderson emphasized the particular need for speed in dealing with Norway. The Foreign Minister plans to follow up his reply to the Soviet with a statement that Norway will accept an invitation to participate in the negotiation of the Pact, if one is forthcoming. It is the opinion of the British that the invitation should be sent at the earliest possible moment after this statement is made.

3. I asked that all representatives make sure they were in a position to authorize the United States to extend an invitation to Norway and other agreed countries on behalf of all seven Governments, when the time comes. Some representatives thought they already had such authority, and the rest agreed to confirm their position. I also suggested that the State Department should at once sound out again the countries which had made no reply to the semi-formal overtures of the United States, or had answered non-committally, and Hickerson said that he would seek authority to do so. He agreed that other countries should be formally invited at the same time as Norway if there seemed to be a fair chance of their acceptance.

4. A discussion of the countries which had been sounded showed: *Ireland* has as yet given no proper reply, though will probably do so by making the ending of partition a condition precedent. The United States will not accept this as a basis for discussion. *Denmark* is still uncertain. The Americans know that the Danes are unhappy, but do not know what they will do. Danish adherence is important both to secure bases in Greenland, and to influence the Icelanders. *Iceland* had been less unreceptive than was anticipated. The Government has not mentioned the constitution (which is thought to prohibit the raising of armed forces) but has referred to the necessity for Danish and Norwegian participation. *Italy* we know is anxious to join.

5. In a short discussion of the draft, it came out that nobody had any instructions for dealing with the draft preamble introduced by the Americans (Stone's letter to Reid of January 12th)† nor about the acceptance of Article 5 (bis) and the Canadian revision of Article 10 (my WA-236 of 29th January).†

6. On the subject of publicity, Hickerson said that he understood the desirability of publishing as much as possible, but did not think that a paraphrase of the text should be released yet; a paraphrase would be better than the text itself as publication of the latter might lead to the taking of more rigid positions in negotiation. He agreed that the publication of such a paraphrase would be an effective reply to the Russian statement of the 29th, and that the wording of it would have to be agreed to by all parties before release. A draft paraphrase may be submitted at the next meeting of Ambassadors or the Working Group following it.

7. In relation to the preamble, Hickerson said that the words "in accordance with their constitutional processes" would have to appear in the Treaty somewhere. Possibly it would be enough to have them in the preamble, but they might be needed in