

fare", which seems to rouse in senatorial minds a vision of endless hand-outs to the other parties. I am sure we shall not get acceptance of your addition, but it seemed good tactics to propose it in order to emphasize our point of view. It would be worth while for the Prime Minister to mention the political importance of the substance of the article when talking to the President or Acheson.

3. More than half of the meeting, which lasted over two hours, was devoted to Scandinavia. Italy and Algeria were left in the air, and the preamble was not discussed. I have given the State Department our new draft of Article 5 BIS, but this article was not considered at the meeting, nor was anything said about duration.

4. We are now in the old familiar position of being at one end of a double negotiation between the State Department and the other countries on the one hand and the State Department and the Foreign Relations Committee on the other hand, with the Senators raising new issues and delaying the whole business. It is apparent, however, that the concern of the Senators so far consulted does not touch on the fundamental purposes of the Treaty, with which they are in full agreement. Acheson will probably have soon to meet the whole Committee in private session. It would be unwise to plan for signature before April 1st. Bermuda seems to be the favoured spot.

5. One reason why Acheson and the Senators are looking very closely at any undertaking to cooperate in economic, social, and cultural matters is that the Bogota Treaty of last year is now being considered by the Foreign Relations Committee. Acheson appeared to support ratification, after a hasty glance at the Treaty for the first time, and expected only to read a prepared statement and leave in five minutes. Instead, he was subjected to a grilling examination on the Treaty, and has told me that he took a terrible beating. He describes the Treaty as blessing nearly every human aspiration, including the provision of a university education for everybody. This unfortunate coincidence has increased the suspicion of general promises to promote welfare and the like. I am trying my hand at a re-draft of Article 2, which would be midway between the present language and your proposed additions. I shall send this to you later. Ends.

288.

DEA/283(s)

Note de l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis

Memorandum by Ambassador in United States

SECRET

Washington, February 12, 1949

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

The North Atlantic Treaty was briefly discussed.³ The Prime Minister emphasized his view that its major value was as a deterrent to war, and that he believed

³ Cette note rapporte une conversation tenue entre St-Laurent et Truman après un déjeuner offert par le président. St-Laurent en fit rapport au Cabinet le 14 février 1949.

This memorandum records a conversation between St. Laurent and Truman after a luncheon given by the President. St. Laurent reported to the Cabinet on February 14, 1949.