

the Congress as such would have no part in making the declaration. In the United Kingdom and United States view such a declaration would also have to cover Iran.

5. Stone pointed out that insofar as the United States, at least, was concerned the declaration would presumably be a reaffirmation of what the President said in his speeches of March 12th, 1947, (Truman doctrine) and March 17th, 1948, (Brussels Pact and North Atlantic Community of Interests).

6. Fourthly, Hickerson asked for the personal views of the members of the working group as to the sort of information he should give to the Ambassadors of Norway and Denmark before they return to their countries. It was agreed that he should allow them to see the draft articles and even to take notes though not to make a copy. He was, at the same time, to give them a very careful briefing to ensure that the two Ambassadors understood that the articles were not final and also to emphasize the importance of secrecy. Stone did not, repeat not, bring before the working group your suggestion about releasing the text of the draft articles after agreement on the Ambassadorial level. I want to have a word with Hickerson privately on this before taking it up.

7. Duration of the treaty was not discussed. Stone asked all members of the group however, to study our suggestion about consultation at the halfway mark if the Treaty is to be for, say, 16 or 20 years. I think the suggestion might be acceptable if we omit the word "terminate", on which people here have reservations, and limit the provision to consultation for "revision". Ends.

279.

DEA/283(s)

*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis  
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures  
Ambassador in United States  
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM WA-260

Washington, February 2, 1949

TOP SECRET

The Working Group for the North Atlantic Treaty met on the afternoon of January 31st. Hickerson set forth at some length the need for Mr. Acheson to become completely familiar with every aspect of the draft Treaty and the discussions to date. He said that this process had been retarded by the press of other problems, notably the crisis in China. A three-hour session with Mr. Acheson had already produced a number of pertinent questions which had not yet been discussed internationally, or, in some cases, even thought of. The uncertainty of his timetable made it impossible for the Secretary of State to fix a definite time for the next meeting with the Ambassadors, especially since he wanted first to talk to the President and Senators Connally and Vandenberg. Hickerson assured the meeting that Mr. Acheson was very well aware of the need for speed. He has also told me that the questions raised by Mr. Acheson would not involve any serious changes in the draft articles.