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*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-163

Washington, January 19, 1949

TOP SECRET

Your EX-132 of 18th January.

1. North Atlantic Pact. The working group met yesterday afternoon to discuss four items.

2. First, they took up the proposal for a special arrangements clause put forward by Van Kleffens, and the Canadian group brought forward your proposed revision. They also gave the working group your views on the idea behind it. The discussion was inconclusive but seemed to point to a decision that something along the line of Van Kleffens' clause might be accepted to apply to Italy, Sweden, Switzerland and Austria unless it is decided to try to achieve the same object by amending the clause on accession. The discussion did establish that none of the representatives liked the idea of using a special arrangements clause which might be interpreted as setting up a second United Nations.

3. Secondly, there was a further discussion of the question of Italy. Hickerson said that the State Department now wished to have Italy sign the Pact and become a full partner, although he admitted that this had not yet been cleared with the new Secretary of State who would have to give final consent before it could become official policy. It was Hickerson's view that Italy's participation in the Pact should be accompanied by either admission to the Brussels organization or a statement by the Brussels powers that Italy would be welcome as a member of a future Council of Europe when such a Council is set up. Stone again stated Canada's reluctance to accept Italy on these terms but in accordance with your instructions did not press the opposition very far. It was agreed that if Italy was admitted as a full partner something would have to be done to show Western interest in Greece and Turkey.

4. Thirdly, the meeting discussed the draft declaration prepared by the United Kingdom, which was sent to you in WA-85† of 12th January. Stone expressed the Canadian view that such a declaration should be made by the great powers because if the number of signers was small, the Declaration would conceivably be much stronger than if a large number of countries signed. Hickerson said that he would not like to see guarantees of varying strengths given to the different countries. They ought all to be the same in order to avoid invidious distinctions. He also asked if consideration had been given to the inclusion of Sweden in such a declaration and Henderson replied in the negative. Hickerson said that the United States Government would make any declaration in the name of the President and that although members of the Congress might be shown the declaration or even consulted about it