

267.

DEA/283(s)

*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis  
au sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States  
to Acting Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TOP SECRET

[Ottawa], January 8, 1949

Mr. Pearson and I discussed the North Atlantic Treaty briefly with the Prime Minister yesterday. The Prime Minister said that he had read the draft with great care. There were three points which struck him as being important for the public acceptance of the Treaty in Canada.

(1) The areas specifically covered should not include any colonial territory. This applied to Algeria as well as to the rest of French North Africa. He would prefer also that Italy should not be a full partner in the Treaty, although special assurances might be given to Italy of the concern with which Italian security was regarded by the other parties. These assurances might be given by the U.S., the U.K. and France, but if it was felt necessary that they should be given in the names of all the parties, he would be willing that Canada should join in them. No special assurances should be given collectively to Greece, Turkey or other countries.

(2) He would prefer that the Treaty should be for a firm term of twelve years. If a longer term was accepted, he thought that it would be well to include a provision which would permit the parties to hold a conference in eight or ten years to discuss whether further continuation of the Treaty was necessary to assure international security. The Prime Minister said that obviously the Treaty was now directed towards the Soviet Union, and while this state of affairs continued, it would be politically easy to defend Canadian participation. The world situation, however, may change drastically within a decade.

(3) The Prime Minister thought that we need not support or oppose the introduction of a reference to constitutional process in the Treaty, but could leave that to the United States. On balance such a provision would be of some value in defending the Treaty in Canada, even though it was only a statement of the obvious.

H. W[RONG]

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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-76

Washington, January 12, 1949

TOP SECRET

Following for Reid from Wrong, Begins: Reference North Atlantic Pact.