

own—that we should run no risk of involvement under the Treaty in native uprisings.

(4) Our conjecture is accurate that one of the reasons why the French wish to spell out in the Treaty the general powers of a defence organization is their fear that the Combined Chiefs of Staff may in practice become the central authority. On the United States side, they will not commit themselves at this point to support of a definite plan for organizing collective defence. Incidentally, the Combined Chiefs have not held a formal meeting for a long time, but have taken up some questions informally. I think the best current course for us, even though we share French apprehensions, is to leave the problem of defence organization under the Treaty for discussion in the Council later on. The United States will strongly resist putting in the Treaty anything more definite than the language of the present draft, and the United Kingdom will support them in this.

(5) You will have noted in [James] Reston's articles that pressure is being exerted for greater publicity about what we are doing. I have been seeking to hold Reston in check for a few days in the hope that we might get tentative agreement on the matters still under dispute and particularly on the area to be covered. He has been seeing Vandenberg and Dulles and insists on the importance of keeping the language sufficiently fluid to allow suggestions from them and from other Congressional quarters to be discussed and possibly adopted. Ends.

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H.H.W./Vol. 6

*Le sous-secrétaire d'État par intérim aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*

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

TELEGRAM EX-97

Ottawa, January 14, 1949

TOP SECRET

Following for Wrong from Reid, Begins: North Atlantic Treaty. Your telegrams WA-76 of January 12 and WA-93 of January 13.

2. I shall discuss these matters with Pearson immediately on his return to Ottawa on Monday. Meanwhile, I thought it might be useful if you had my own hurried views on some of the questions.

3. I realize the strength of the arguments for leaving the problem of defence organization under the Treaty for discussion in the North Atlantic Council later on. However, my worry is that if Hickerson's views on Article 8, as set forth in your WA-76 are not commented on by us sometime during the discussions in Washington, they will remain on the record without any kind of questioning or challenge recorded as coming from us.

4. This is not a matter of attempting to put anything into the Treaty more definite than the language of the present draft. It is a matter of having the record of the Washington discussions make it clear that we do not support Hickerson's views.