

One of the factors which causes us grave anxiety is the fear that the problem may become an explosive one. It has already exploded several times since Partition was created in 1920. At the moment it shows all the signs of being in ferment again. That is one of the reasons why I believe there is such an impelling obligation on all of us to press on with constructive action before a more difficult situation arises.

I was so sorry that you were not able to visit us on your way back from UNO. Please remember that whenever you can manage to get free for a few days we shall always be glad to welcome you here.

Yours sincerely,  
SEAN MACBRIDE

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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-337

Washington, February 9, 1949

TOP SECRET

North Atlantic Treaty.

1. Mr. Acheson met the Ambassadors yesterday afternoon at their first meeting since he assumed office. He confined his introductory remarks to three important points. First, his contact with Senators Vandenberg and Connally had led him to alter his first impressions on the possible timetable. Mr. Lovett's discussions with the Senators had not gone as far as he had thought. It was now necessary to "proceed slowly enough so that the Foreign Relations Committee is abreast of us at all points". He had tried last week to rush the Senators, and the effort had completely failed. He now thought that signature could not take place until "several weeks after March 1st". Secondly, the language of Article 5 was "the heart of the Senators' concern". They were in complete accord with the nature and extent of the obligation as defined at previous meetings and their objections were verbal. The adverbs and adjectives used at the end of the draft gave an impression of "a rising crescendo of rush and haste". What the Senators wanted was clearly that the words "forthwith such military or other" and "as may be necessary" should be dropped. The inclusion of these words would make no difference in the application of the Treaty, which depended on the initiative and determination of the parties and not on verbal embellishment of the fundamental pledge to take action to restore and assure the security of the area. Thirdly, he said that the Norwegians were feeling a strong pull towards participation but, at the same time, consider that splitting Scandinavian unity is a very serious step. They (the Norwegians) are not sure that it is in our interest that Scandinavia should be split. They said that any Scandinavian bloc would be confined to the home territories: if they made an agreement among