

The Washington discussions had been informal and exploratory throughout and the report represented views on the official level only. It was concurred in by the U.S. State Department but had not yet been taken up with the White House nor with Congressional leaders. Consequently considerable revisions were still to be anticipated.

31. *Mr. Pearson* described the principal features contained in the Ambassadors' report.

It had been agreed that the Treaty should contain a guarantee of mutual assistance in a form which perhaps went somewhat further than the United States might eventually be willing to go. The Powers would agree to consult in the event of any indirect aggression; this was an important provision calculated to meet Communist subversion from within. The Treaty would provide for collaboration in the economic, cultural and social fields.

Agreement had not been reached on the area to be covered by the Pact and alternative provisions had been prepared for consideration. The French were anxious to include North Africa. The case for and against including Italy had also been discussed but no conclusion had been reached.

It had been agreed that the United States should approach Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Iceland and Ireland. Portugal would be approached by the United Kingdom.

32. *Mr. Pearson* said that when the Ambassadors met again next week they would consider the comments of governments upon their report. A second version of a draft treaty would then be produced for consideration by governments and for discussion with Congressional leaders in the United States. Thereafter a final text would be prepared for signature at a conference of Ministerial representatives.

33. *The Minister of National Defence* mentioned the possibility of introducing a resolution into Parliament at an early stage for approval of the Treaty. Whether or not this would be feasible would depend upon the timetable and upon the pressure of other Parliamentary business.

34. *Mr. Pearson* referred to a proposal put forward by Canadian representatives for a simultaneous declaration by the parties to the Treaty when it was ready for signature. The object would be to emphasize that the instrument was a "Pact for Peace", not a mere defensive military alliance and that it had been worked out within the framework of the United Nations.

35. *The Cabinet*, after discussion, noted with approval the report of the Secretary of State for External Affairs and agreed that, following the conclusion of the next stage of the Washington discussions, the text of the draft Treaty as then reported be considered by the Cabinet in detail; meantime the Prime Minister and other Ministers immediately concerned to be kept informed of progress.

With respect to the introduction of a resolution into Parliament prior to signature of the Treaty, it was agreed that this would be desirable if it proved feasible.