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*Note de l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*  
*Minute by Ambassador in United States*

TOP SECRET

[Washington], January 4, 1949

With reference to my memorandum of yesterday dealing with the line to be taken during the next talks on the North Atlantic Treaty, Mr. Pearson spoke to me on the telephone this morning to say that he had gone over the draft with the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister's main concern was about possible political difficulties in Canada if French North Africa and Italy were included in the Treaty, and in particular French North Africa. He thought that this would introduce into public discussion of the Treaty the colonial question and possibly give rise later on to difficult issues should an independence movement develop strongly among the inhabitants of Morocco, Algeria or Tunis. Mr. St. Laurent was agreed that the inclusion or non-inclusion of this area is not a matter of much practical importance in relation to the main purposes of the Treaty, since it is impossible to see how an attack by a great power on French North Africa could take place without a previous attack on France or other parties to the Treaty.

Mr. Pearson did not elaborate on the Prime Minister's views about Italy except to say that he hoped that Italy would not become a full party.

He is going to go over the Working Group's report carefully with the Prime Minister and Mr. Claxton, but will not take it up with other Ministers until the next stage of the talks here has been completed. I told him that I hoped that we might complete this stage by the end of next week unless new and controversial questions were introduced which would require reference to governments. His intention is to submit his full report to the Cabinet when the forthcoming series of talks here has ended.

H. W[RONG]

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*Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet*  
*Extract from Cabinet Conclusions*

TOP SECRET

Ottawa, January 5, 1949

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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY; WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS; PROGRESS REPORT

30. *The Secretary of State for External Affairs*, referring to discussion at the meeting of December 1st, reported upon the progress of discussions in Washington between representatives of the United States and the Ambassadors of Canada and the Western Union Powers.

With the Canadian Ambassador he had gone over in detail a report which had now gone forward to governments setting out the principal features which it had been agreed should be included in a North Atlantic Treaty.