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NORTH ATLANTIC SECURITY

Proposed Pact Would End Traditional United States Policy of Isolationism

By CLARKE BEACH

WASHINGTON — If the United States joins the union of Western European nations in a North Atlantic security pact, it will be taking its farthest step away from traditional American isolationism. Never before has this country joined European countries in a military defense agreement in time of peace. It has religiously followed George Washington's caution in his Farewell Address:

"It must be unwish in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in the ordinary vicissitudes of her (Europe's) politics, or the ordinary combinations and collisions of her friendship, or enmities."

It was such a proposal which proved Woodrow Wilson's undoing when he sought to get this country to join the League of Nations. The Senate turnaround was based primarily on Article X of the League Covenant, particularly the word "preserve".

"The Members of the League undertake to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League. . . . We have joined other American republics in defense agreements with European nations in trade and economic pacts. But this Atlantic Union proposal is military and European. It would commit us morally to take part in World War III if it came. Its sponsors in Congress and in the State Department look upon it, however, as a measure to safeguard the peace. A strong commitment like this, followed by the necessary military preparations, would serve to deter an aggressor, they say, while disunion and unpreparedness on the part of the Western democracies might tempt a designing nation to seek a conquest.

Consequences Foreseen
George Washington's advice was sound, they say, but only as applied to the problems of his



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time. We have twice learned that we are inevitably drawn into any world war, they continue, and now we are faced with a new danger—the worldwide threat of Communism. The consequences of our joining the Atlantic Union are freely admitted by its sponsors:

1. It would mean increased military expenditures. Formation of the union would be an empty and dangerous gesture if each country did not strengthen its forces as much as possible. There would be mutual assistance, but most of it would inevitably come from the United States.

Estimates of the cost to us of military supplies for the Western nations in the first year range from \$1,000,000,000 to \$3,000,000,000.

Our own armed forces, say diplomatic sources, should not be weaker than planned in last year's military program. And some experts now say that the \$15,000,000,000 defense budget which the President is said to contemplate would not provide money enough to make possible the expansion which was planned last year.

2. We would be committed to resist aggression in Europe. This doesn't mean that we would pledge ourselves to go to war as that would be unconstitutional. We can go to war only when Congress has declared war.

It is likely, according to well informed officials, that the U. S. will agree to a pledge similar to that made with the American republics at Rio de Janeiro on Sept. 2, 1947. That agreement provided that "an armed attack by any state against an American state shall be considered as an attack against all American states." And in case of attack, all the nations would immediately join for consultations as to the next step.

Precedents Recalled
The idea of U. S. armed resistance to foreign colonization or invasion of any independent Western Hemisphere nation is not new. It was implicit in the doctrine which President Monroe laid down in his message to Congress in 1823. It was broadened in the Act of Chapultepec in 1945, when the American Republics as a group agreed to look upon an attack against any of them as an attack upon all. It was this act which Sen. Vandenberg (R-Mich.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, sought to preserve when he was helping to draw up the charter of the United Nations. He and others there insisted that the charter include a statement that the United Nations endorsed regional arrangements.

Such a regional arrangement for the Western Hemisphere was later formalized in the Reciprocal Assistance Treaty at Rio de Janeiro.

If the U. S. joins the Atlantic Union, and if some nation invades one of the member nations within the next two years, the people of this country would have no further chance to express their opinion as to the issue of peace or war. It would be up to Congress to implement the agreement; and a new Congress will not be elected until 1950.

Diplomatic officials say, however, that the people have expressed widespread approval of such a pact in letters and editorials. They add that public opinion detectors find that the public's chief concern is over the cost in dollars and the effect on taxes. Both major parties included in their platforms in the last campaign an endorsement of the principle of the Atlantic Union.

Earliest mention of the legendary Robin Hood occurs in the latter part of the 14th Century, in the second edition of Piers Plowman.



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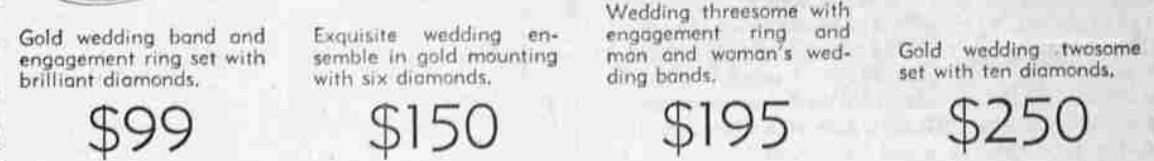
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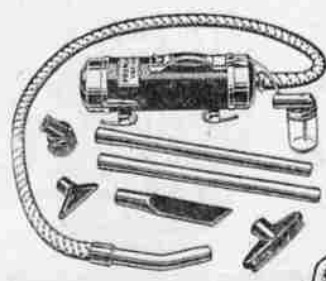


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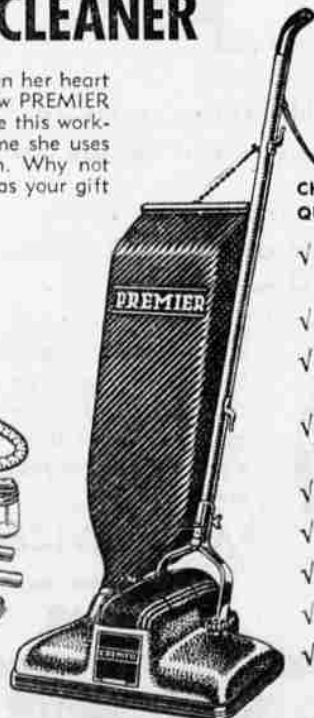
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