

# 'Shield Against Aggression' US Joins 11 Western Nations in Security Pact

WASHINGTON — (AP) The scratch of pen on parchment late yesterday raised over the western Atlantic nations what President Truman called "a shield against aggression"—their mutual security pact.

The actual signing of the 12-nation alliance capped nine months of preliminary negotiations and more than two hours of ceremonious high diplomatic pageantry.

President Truman came to the scene of the ceremony—the government's departmental auditorium—to speak for 15 minutes.

In his flat mid-western tones, he earnestly emphasized that the treaty's whole purpose is peace-

ful—that it aims to be "a shield against aggression and the fear of aggression."

Mr. Truman said, too, that if there had been such a "simple document" in 1914 and 1939 the world would have escaped two terrible wars of this half century.

When Mr. Truman entered the hall to the strains of "Hail to the Chief" from the Marine Band orchestra he shook hands with each of the visiting foreign ministers.

Within a minute after Mr. Truman finished, Belgium premier and foreign minister, Paul-Henry Spaak became the first of the 12 foreign ministers to sign the pact. His ambassador to the U.S., Bar-

on Silvercrucys also signed for Belgium.

Canada was next as the signatures went on in alphabetical order by countries. It took about two minutes for each country to sign.

Last to sign was the United States.

It was 4:51 p.m. (EST) when Secretary of State Dean Acheson and President Truman came forward to the front of the rostrum.

Mr. Truman called Vice-President Alben Barkley and gave him a hand in mounting the platform from the audience. They then stood at Acheson's right hand while the secretary of state signed the treaty.

Mr. Truman shook hands with Barkley as Acheson wrote his name on the treaty.

The entire signing ceremony, from the end of Mr. Truman's walk to the last flourish of Ache-

son's pen, had taken only about 12 minutes.

Acheson, as presiding officer at the ceremony, then stated the provision in the treaty itself that



PRESIDENT TRUMAN Upholds Atlantic Treaty

the seven nations which originally negotiated the pact would have to ratify it before it could come into force.

A few seconds after 4:52 p.m., the president and the foreign ministers left the rostrum. The audience remained seated at Acheson's suggestion.

Mr. Truman was the last speaker before the signing of the historic pledge that the 12 non-communist nations of the Atlantic community will stand together if any one of them is attacked.

Without mentioning Russia, the president rejected the Soviet claim that the alliance is aimed at aggression. He said:

"There are those who claim that this treaty is an aggressive act on the part of the nations which ring the North Atlantic.

"This is absolutely untrue." Instead, he said, its whole aim is peace, pegged to this conviction:

"Men with courage and vision can still determine their own destiny. They can choose slavery or freedom—war or peace."

Secretary of State Acheson, in an address opening the signing ceremony, described the pact as a powerful warning to any aggressor.

Drawing on the Bible, Acheson said that to the peace loving the treaty is "a guide to refuge and strength" and to the aggressor a warning of "woe unto them by whom the offense cometh."

## A Gamble for Peace

In solemn assembly in Washington yesterday twelve western nations pooled their collective will for peace by signing a historic document—The Atlantic Treaty.

The signing was the last step-but-one to final fulfillment of the general idea that the anti-communist western nations should ally themselves in a "one for all" defense against Russia. The final step is ratification of the treaty by the home governments of the nations signing it.

In the United States ratification means approval by a two-thirds vote of the senate. President Truman last week expressed confidence that the pact will be ratified by the upper chamber.

Will the treaty prevent a third world war? Alliances of this type have seldom, if ever, prevented war. On the contrary, such arrangements have usually become an incitement to war by creating large-scale armament races.

However, Russia's aggressive policy of expansion since the end of World War II has left little for the western countries to do but band together. A unified front has become a necessary instrument to meet Russian aggression.

The chance seems slim, indeed, that the Atlantic Treaty can lead to peace by containing Russia with a ring of armed nations.

It's a gamble which Russia, however, has forced upon us and one that we believe is worth taking.

## A Few Sage Words

The New Yorker left off being flippant recently to saw a few words on academic freedom, some of which we feel bear repeating here.

The magazine has the uneasy feeling that the firing of university professors during the past eighteen months strongly resembles a political purge. They feel that the nervous tension resulting from this near-purge "abets Communism by making millions of highly fit Americans a little cautious, a little fearful of having naughty 'thought,' a little fearful of believing differently from the next man, a little worried about associating with a group or party or club."

If such is true, it is a distinctly unhealthy situation. Unhealthy too is the system adopted by some universities in the country of teaching straight Americanism—whatever that may be. The New Yorker considers this dangerous since it identifies the universities with a national philosophy, thus sacrificing the elasticity wherein lies the strength of democracy.

The New Yorker is more inclined to agree with President Eisenhower's firm statement that Columbia, while admiring one idea, will examine all ideas. "We believe with President Eisenhower that a university can best demonstrate freedom by not closing its doors to antithetical ideas. We believe that teachers should be fired not in blocks of three for political wrongness but in blocks of one for unfitness. A campus is unique. It is above and beyond government. It is on the highest plane of life. Those who live there know the smell of good air, and they always take pains to spell truth with a small 't.' This is its secret strength and its contribution to the web of freedom; this is why the reading room of a college library is the very temple of democracy."

We agree with these words but it seems that the last sentence could stand qualification. The reading room of a college library should be the very temple of democracy, and one of the tragedies of higher education is that it sometimes fails to hit the mark. During the last eighteen months these failures have received national publicity.

It might be wise if university administrations and boards of regents left off Red-hunting long enough to do a little soul-searching. B. B.

## Same Old Stand

By Tom Marquis

This weekend puts a strain on stay at homes, and since I am not one of same I am taking the easy way out this time. Follows a few insignificant, or at least non-world shaking items. It's much easier than trying to think up something original.



To campus Housemother's: concerned: "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it." — VOLTAIRE.

MISCONSTRUE: to get the wrong meaning from; to put a false interpretation upon—WINSTON COLLEGE DICTIONARY.

It was nice to see Allen West on campus again looking as chipper as ever after a lengthy illness. Glad to have you back, Al.

From the CALL ME KILLJOY department, and especially appropriate after these last couple of days—

Behold yon band, Students drinking by the door, Madly merry, bock in hand, Saucers stacked to mark their score.

Get you gone, you jolly scamps; Let your parting glasses clink; Seek your long neglected lamps: It is later than you think.

from BALLADS OF A BOHEMIAN by Robert Service.

Because of certain changes in weather conditions plans for the Marquis Controlled Weather World Encompassing Plastic Bubble have been shelved for the time being. However, I am now enough of an Oregonian to know that it won't be long before the need for such a project will again become self evident.

I have been informed that Alpha Gam Donna Babb does not want her name to appear in this column because of the notoriety that will then be forthcoming. Now I wouldn't want to do anything that didn't agree with Donna Babb, so her name will not appear in this column.

Is that O.K., Donna? "All the girls tote little cases Designed for making up their faces. I wish they had some other kinds Designed for making up their minds."

Pi Kap pledge Ray Beyer has blossomed out like a flowering peach tree since spring hit the campus.

One of the nice things about Ray is his impartiality. It doesn't matter if a girl is Greek or Independent to him as long as she is a girl.

It's tough to be popular, isn't it, Ray?

ANSWERING THE WEEK'S MAIL department: There wasn't any.

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