



## Ræða við lok utanríkisráðherrafundar NATO í London, 18. maí 1950.

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Ræður – Utanríkisráðherrafundur – NATO – Atlantshafsbandalagið  
– London – 18 maí 1950

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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Rein vilt lok utambjóðingunni undan NATO í London 18 maí 1950?  
Alk. Alk. 20. maí 1950.

My country, Iceland, is a member of this family of free democratic nations, not only because of our geographical position but also by reason of common heritage and of common ideals. We are, indeed, neighbours both by fact and in mind.

If I were to give a common description of the nations we represent I would say that above all they are peaceful nations. Nowhere in the world has the will and endeavour to let peace rule within the separate societies, as well as in the relations between nations, been more sincere and persistent than among these nations.

No nations have shown more clearly that they are opposed to the use of force and abhor aggression. They indeed have shown that they want liberty and freedom and stand for the rule of law and equality.

Of course the history of these nations is a mixture of good and bad. So is human nature.

But no nations have better proved that they have learned the lessons of history. Therefore they want to live in peace and bring peace to others, as the will for peace must not become negative. It must not turn into apathy for the fate of others. That would be

the greatest gain for the powers of aggression.

The will for peace must be constructive, it must imply that those who are friends, who have common interests and common ideals, assist and help each other. Only with such constructive co-operation can the will for peace create that bulwark which alone is capable of holding back the powers of destruction and war.

In our meetings here the spirit of friendship and understanding has prevailed. I hope that that spirit will be maintained and peace may be preserved for mankind.

1) Speech of Icelandic 7. 13

Iceland.

The danger that is confronting us as well as the whole world - is on one hand the ambition of an aggressive great power, on the other hand the force of an ideology, which this power has used and continues to use for subversive activities in all other countries, great and small.

As we all know those subversive elements use with some effect arguments which appeal to people who do not consent to their real motives, but are being misled.

For us, the smaller nations perhaps the most dangerous

2)

argument is that in this organisation we ourselves are just involved in an alliance of great powers, which will only use our country for purposes of war and forget us in all other connections.

We have on the other side maintained the same as Mr. Bevin stressed in his excellent speech that here we are experiencing something entirely new in the relations of states.

We are all desirous to work for the survival of our civilisation and our way of life that means we all want to cooperate as equals for the common good.

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At this stage I only want to express that developments since the North Atlantic Treaty was signed show clearly that it is necessary to coordinate our efforts not only in connection with defense problems but also in order to build up and promote closer economic collaboration to ensure security and strength for all our nations.