



Bjarni Benediktsson, dagblöð 1956-1965, 5. hluti

Bjarni Benediktsson – Dagblöð

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Red Pressure on Iceland

THE demand, backed by a 31-18 vote in Iceland's parliament, that the United States remove all its armed forces from the strategically important island is a concrete and unpleasant example of how pervasive the influence of Communism is throughout the world.

Here is an isolated nation on a bit of land in the North Atlantic. Its economy is simple. Its people have no ideological ties with Communism or practical reasons to need to conciliate Russia. It is true that Iceland is vulnerable to air attack from the east, but it is equally vulnerable from the west, in the event of war, should it find itself on the side of the Soviets.

The Communists have been working on Iceland's people for a long time and their propaganda and "hate America" campaign have succeeded at least to the extent that they appear to control the country's legislative machinery, perhaps that of the whole government.

The demand ostensibly is based

on popular feeling that Iceland wants no foreign troops stationed on her soil; that Iceland is capable of manning her own defenses with her own resources.

No one can blame any nation for wishing to be self-sufficient. Moreover, the United States is a longtime and traditional defender of the principle of the right of any people to self-determination — to decide how to run their own affairs without outside interference.

Yet the crisis — minor perhaps, but still a crisis — undeniably puts the U.S. in a difficult position.

If we acceded, we are virtually conceding the struggle for control of Iceland and its strategic advantages to the enemy of the free world. If we refuse and apply pressure to make the decision stick, we are open to the accusation of using the same methods as the enemy.

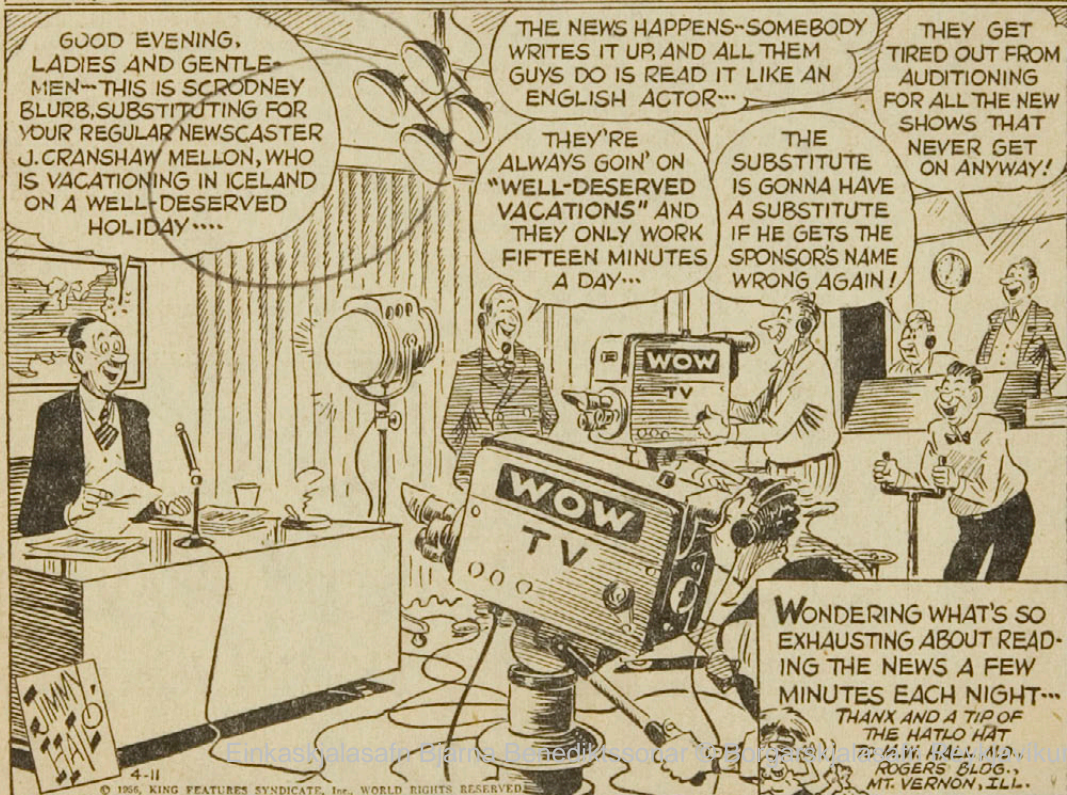
What the outcome will be, no one can say at this time. The only certain thing about it is that neither alternative is an attractive one.

Columbus, Ohio, Dispatch, Mar 30

They'll Do It Every Time

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By Jimmy Hatlo



BASE ON ICELAND IS VITAL TO NATO

U. S. Hopes Government Will Change Its Mind About Withdrawal of Forces

By ANTHONY LEVIERO

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WASHINGTON, March 31—The first shock from Iceland has passed and Washington is wondering what may be done to keep that small but vital bastion in the Western alliance.

Dispatches from Reykjavik Wednesday suggested a blunt parliamentary demand for the withdrawal of all United States forces based on the volcanic island near the Arctic Circle. The more recent news indicates, however, that the resolution may really be a maneuver to outwit the Communists. If the Communists fail to gain in the Icelandic parliamentary elections in June, the go-home talk is expected to die.

The situation therefore calls for reappraisal and positive action by Washington during the next two months if the United States forces, to say nothing of prestige, are to be maintained in that little republic. Moscow, which has already started exploiting the incident in its propaganda, is expected to do its utmost to widen this little fissure in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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An Important Base

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This would mean that if hostilities occurred there would be a race to occupy the island and if the Soviet got there first it would gain a dangerous salient in the sea and air flank of the Western alliance.

Iceland is a little country of 39,758 square miles, about 160,000 people and meager natural resources. Her economy is not in good condition. Reykjavik, the capital, is 2,600 miles from New York and 2,100 miles from Moscow.

Comparatively heavy United States expenditures, including \$200,000,000 for a naval base, have contributed to an inflationary situation that was aggravated last year by a Communist-led strike that hit the fisheries and shipping.

Thus the economic field is one that offers possibilities for constructive American action that would favorably impress Icelanders when they go to the polls in June.

N.A.T.O. Pact Weaknesses Show Up

IRELAND may not carry through its Parliament's resolution asking the United States to withdraw its military force stationed there as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization defense.

But the mere fact the resolution was passed is added evidence of something that has been going on for some time, the deterioration of N.A.T.O. The eastern flank of N.A.T.O. has been weakened seriously by the Greek-Turkish-British quarrel over Cyprus. Its center has been sapped by withdrawal of French army units (another division was taken out this week) to try to handle the disorders in North Africa. And now part of the western flank may be weakened.

The nations involved in all these actions surely recognize that these things have in fact diminished N.A.T.O.'s potential. Why are they willing to risk destroying the shield which, theoretically at least, has protected them for five years?

Is Concept Outdated?

The answer, we believe, may lie in a growing belief that the original concept of N.A.T.O. as a ground shield against Russian overland aggression is outdated.

N.A.T.O. took effective form early in 1951 while the Korean war was raging and the West feared Russia might use that outbreak as a cover for an invasion of Western and Southern Europe. N.A.T.O.'s forces were to wage a delaying action while the American strategic air force struck the heart of the Soviet Union with atomic bombs. The theory was that while Russia had had atomic weapons for more than a year, it did not have them in sufficient quantities to risk an atomic war.

In the last five years, that situation has changed. Russia now has the bombs and the means to deliver them. Presumably it could devastate any of the European N.A.T.O. countries, and only the United States could retaliate in force. Thus the importance of N.A.T.O.'s ground shield has diminished.

Chief Deterrent Remains

Of course, the ultimate deterrent, American power to retaliate powerfully in an atomic war, remains. It is the shield upon which, we suppose, the European N.A.T.O. countries are relying. It is hard to believe, for example, that the Greeks would be so pugnacious about Cyprus if they feared a Soviet invasion as much as they did five years ago.

From the American point of view, bases for our atomic-bomb-carrying planes still are needed in N.A.T.O. countries. If the alliance is weakened and those bases are denied us, the countries involved are endangering themselves as well as the rest of the alliance.

For their part, the weaker N.A.T.O. countries may be asking: Why should we provide bases that might invite an enemy attack? Why not seek safety by withdrawing, letting the two giants (Russia and the United States) fight it out?

That may be too gloomy an interpretation, but the gradual weakening of N.A.T.O. indicates something of the sort is happening.

Louisville (Kentucky) Times Mar 30

The Providence Journal

(Rhode Island)

PROVIDENCE, SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 1956

Iceland Is a NATO Problem

The resolution of the parliament of Iceland asking the United States to withdraw its troops from the base there is a symptom which, if it infects others, may gravely undermine the strategic defenses of NATO.

The Icelandic parliament formally makes its request with the assertion that since international tensions have noticeably eased, the need for foreign troops on her soil has passed.

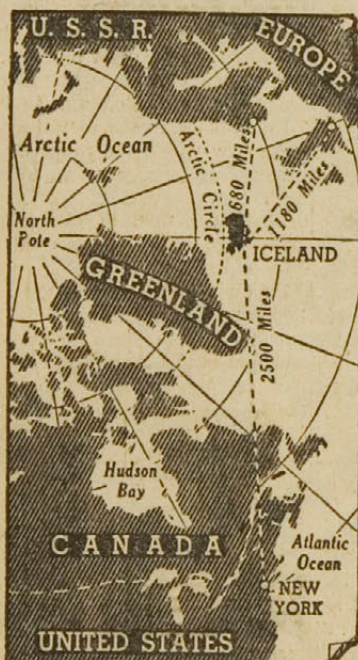
But there is more in the background than this statement of justification. The people of Iceland are stalwartly proud of their independence and sovereignty: their parliament dates back 1,000 years and is the oldest in the Western world. The presence of foreign troops touches the delicately sensitive nerve of their pride. As is

implicit in a situation where troops of one land are stationed in another, points of friction have developed, and have broken out in open resentment of our garrison by the Icelanders. Then again, although not publicly stated by Iceland, the easing of international tensions has increased the sentiment of neutralism and furnished an opportunity for nations bent that way to try to get out from taking sides.

What is disturbing is that such assertive insistence on national sovereignty may spread with unhappy results. The countries of North Africa and in the Arab world, coming into their independence and belligerently assertive against what they consider infringements upon it, might be infected by Iceland's declaration. We have important air bases in that whole area which are as essential in the defense of the West as is the Iceland base.

Iceland controls the routes by sea and air between the United States and Western Europe. In the hands of an enemy in wartime, Icelandic bases could prove dangerous to the Western cause. The United States, it will be remembered, moved into Iceland by agreement, as a security measure, even before we entered the last war.

The decision of Iceland to reassert its independence of even the relatively small U.S. garrison is not a problem for Washington alone. It is a problem for NATO, of which Iceland is an original member. The delicate issue in diplomacy produced by the request is the working out of a formula that will at once satisfy the deep pride of the Icelanders and yet keep the base functioning in the NATO framework. Fortunately, there is a year and a half of grace to seek accommodations.



Iceland is a strategic crossroads.

BASE ON ICELAND IS VITAL TO NATO

U. S. Hopes Government Will Change Its Mind About Withdrawal of Forces

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REYKJAVIK, Iceland—The Iceland Parliament's call for withdrawal of U.S. troops is not expected to get beyond the talking stage unless the Communists gain enough strength in parliamentary elections June 24 to back demands for further action.

Parliament approved a resolution over Conservative opposition Tuesday calling for departure of U. S. troops stationed here as an NATO force since 1951.

The demand, which would leave this strategic North Atlantic outpost undefended, aroused open concern in Washington and gleeful support in Moscow.

But informed sources here said it was all part of a political maneuver designed to cut the ground from under the Reds.

They said the Farmers party and others joined the Communists in supporting the resolution in order to steal thunder from the left. The Reds reportedly hope to gain strength in the parliamentary elections with demands that foreign troops get out of Iceland.

The idea appeared to be that if the Reds did not score major gains in the election, the go-home demand would be allowed to die.

PHILADELPHIA—Men and machines bored deeper today into the still smoking ruins of a big granary in search for the last of three who perished in the city's worst explosion.

Beyond the loss of life, the cost was reckoned in injuries inflicted on between 85 and 100 persons; in property damage estimated by some as much as 3½ million dollars; in dislocations that in some instances will last for weeks.

Rescue squads yesterday recovered the bodies of men identified, the first with assurance and the other tentatively, as Arthur Harrell, 35, Vineland, N. J., and Vyrin Whilden, 31, Dorchester, N. J.

We'll Have to Persuade Iceland

It's started. America's overseas bases are coming under the same sort of attack that has driven the British from Suez, the Sudan, Palestine, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Southern Ireland, Southern Iran, and that threatens the British forces remaining in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Singapore, Hong Kong, Cape Town and Bahrein.

The parliament of strategic little Iceland (population 160,000; present armed forces: none) has voted 31 to 18 to ask the withdrawal of U. S. Army, Navy and Air forces.

During the U. S. occupation of 1941-47 and 1951-56, the U. S. has spent millions in Iceland—on air base facilities, radar installations, and so on. Since 1951, the U. S. has been responsible for the defense of Iceland under an agreement with the Icelandic government.

As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Iceland has had no armed forces to contribute, but it has contributed its strategic geographic situation flanking the NATO alliance's North Atlantic lifeline.

Now Icelandic parliamentarians are talking of building up a defense force of Icelanders to replace the U. S. forces. That would be something like the people of Polk county taking over from the United States the defense of Iowa and Nebraska.

The 1951 agreement can be ended by either the U. S. or Iceland in an 18-months' period.

The U. S. still hopes it may be able to salvage something out of the agreement, and suspects that the depressed state of Iceland's major export industry—selling fish on the world market—has a good deal to do with present dissatisfaction. Neither Britain nor the U. S. has been buying as much of the Icelanders' fish catch lately as they

used to, under pressure from their own national fishery interests.

There is also a substantial strain of neutralism and isolationism among Icelanders, and the Icelandic Communists rank third among Iceland's four biggest political parties in voting strength.

★ ★ ★

The U. S. system of alliances and bases is fundamentally different from the Communist system. U. S. alliances are based upon genuinely-voluntary agreements of genuinely-sovereign governments—and in the nature of things sovereign governments are not going to agree all the time. No sovereign government is long happy with foreign bases and foreign troops on its soil.

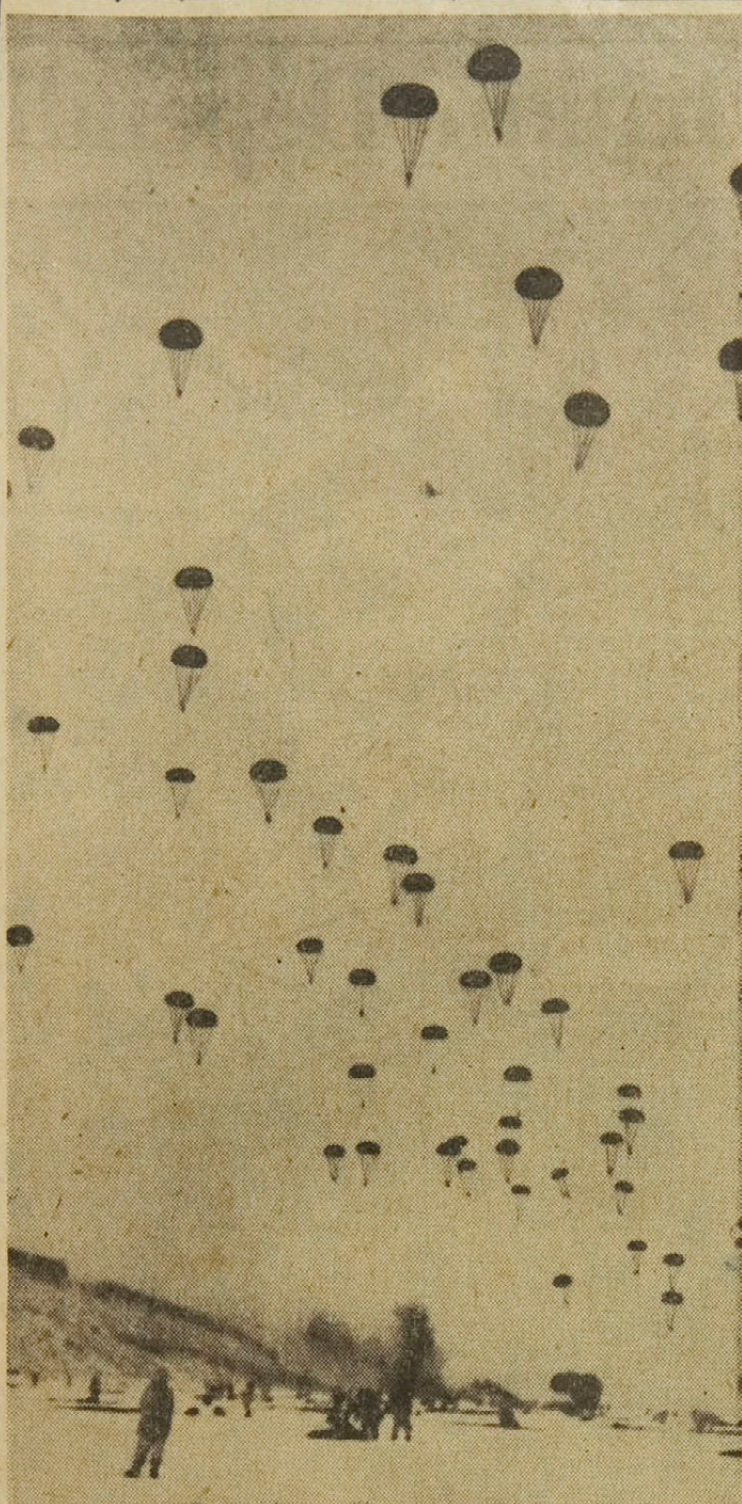
In the long run, the only really workable solution (and brother! is that hard to work) is to turn the free world alliances into some kind of free world federal union, in which decisions are made by and for the whole system, instead of separately, nation by nation.

In the short run, the U. S. must give sympathetic consideration to all the many grievances of its allies, and try to win their co-operation. It must try to lead them, not drive them.

The U. S. cannot "buy" them: no country with self respect is for sale, and no country which is for sale stays bought for very long. But judiciously and tactfully used, the tremendous economic strength and know-how of the U. S. can be a powerful asset in winning co-operation.

The temptation which the U. S. must avoid at all costs is the brutal shortcut of imposing its will by force upon weaker allies. Many Icelanders feel the U. S. did exactly that in taking over the defense of Iceland in 1941 and again in 1951.

Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur
Des Moines, Iowa, Register, Mar. 31



Herald Tribune—United Press from Defense Department

EXERCISE ARCTIC NIGHT—Paratroopers of the 82d Airborne Division jump near Thule Air Force Base in Greenland to seize an "enemy" stronghold. The importance of Thule has been enhanced in view of Iceland's demand for withdrawal of American troops.

session of the five-power United Nations Subcommittee on Disarmament. Russia presented some revised proposals of its own, and they were noteworthy for their lack of emphasis on banning atomic weapons.

For about ten years Russia has been demanding that the destruction of existing stocks of nuclear weapons should be the first step in armaments reduction. The United States could not go along with that; atomic superiority acted as our shield. The fact that Russia no longer is so anxious for an atomic ban could mean that the Soviet Union believes it now is on a footing of equality with the United States in the nuclear weapons field.

Another indication of possible progress toward East-West agreement was Russia's acceptance—in principle—of President Eisenhower "open skies" proposal. If the idea can be worked out it will mean that Russian observers in planes will keep tabs on what is going on militarily in the United States, and our observers will gaze down on Russia. Russia has looked askance at the proposal, calling it "aerial espionage." The kindlier view which Russia now seems to be adopting was forwarded in detail to Washington for study.

Iceland Is Restive

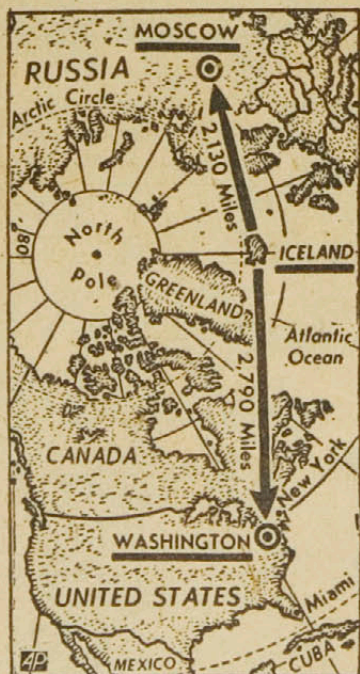
A potential chink in the armor of NATO appeared. Iceland, which was one of the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, demanded in a Parliamentary resolution that American troops be withdrawn.

The bleak, volcanic island of Iceland, which is about the size of Kentucky, has no armed forces of its own. To protect it against possible seizure by the Germans in World War II, the British occupied Iceland in 1940 when it was nominally a part of Denmark. Two years later the United States took over the task of protection, but our forces were withdrawn when the war was over.

It was at Iceland's request that American troops again landed

there in 1951 to form part of the chain of NATO defenses. Since then the United States has spent \$150 million building and maintaining the island's defenses. The main item is the airfield at Keflavik and three American-operated radar stations. This is Iceland's contribution to NATO—to act as a strategically situated airfield. Sitting at the Arctic Circle, near the top of the world, the island is about half way between New York and Moscow, and it is a valuable refueling stop for trans-Atlantic planes.

Last week's resolution was a triumph for the Icelandic Communists. They echoed the Khrushchev line: the world atmosphere has changed for the better, so why bother about expensive defenses and burdensome alliances? This is one of the Soviet methods of try-



ing to undermine NATO, and the same song is being sung in Norway and Denmark.

The moderate parties, although voting with the Communists to demand withdrawal of American troops, softened the resolution to include an assertion that Iceland would continue to co-operate with NATO.

Iceland Electioneering Ominous For Future Of Vital NATO Base

By KEN METHERAL

Canadian Press Staff Writer

LONDON (CP) — Iceland's future as a major NATO base rests on the outcome of a general election June 24 to elect a new parliament.

The key issue in the election campaign is the question of allowing United States forces to remain in the country.

The same issue in late March brought about the downfall of the country's coalition government. And the final act of the outgoing parliament was to give decisive approval to a resolution calling for withdrawal of all foreign troops.

A NATO source said any such withdrawal would "vitaly affect the North Atlantic alliance."

Iceland, an oval-shaped island whose bleak, rocky terrain was a familiar sight to hundreds of Canadian servicemen during the Second World War, is strategically situated just south of the Arctic circle some 200 miles east of Greenland. It is a vital base for control of the North Atlantic in time of war. The northern tip of Scotland is only 500 miles to the southeast; Newfoundland 1,500 miles to the southwest.

TOOK OVER DEFENCE

Lacking an army or navy of her own, Iceland in 1951 signed a bilateral agreement with the United States allowing American Army, Navy and Air Force to take over defence of the 40,437-square-mile island.

This agreement is under fire in the electioneering now under way.

The agreement, negotiated at NATO's request, has never been popular with Iceland's 10,000 inhabitants, who share the traditional Scandinavian tendency toward neutrality. The country's constitution, drafted in 1918 when Iceland won independence from Denmark although retaining a link with the Danish crown, gives voice to this desire in a clause stating that "foreign forces shall not be stationed in Iceland in peacetime."

Only the intensity of the cold war in 1951 brought the reluctant waiving of the clause and acceptance of the agreement by Icelanders. The gradual lessening of international tension brought a corresponding growth in demand for revision or cancellation of the agreement, climaxed March 27 when the government of Premier Olafur Thors was overthrown.

Mr. Thors, who supports the agreement, had headed a coalition government made up of his con-

servative Independence party and the Progressive, or Farmers', party. In the 1953 general election the coalition won 37 seats in the 52-member Althing — the Icelandic parliament.

QUIT COALITION

But early this year, the Farmers' party, holding 16 seats, voted to withdraw from the coalition. The Farmers' party joined with members of the Social Democrat, Communist and National Defence parties to pass the resolution calling for withdrawal of foreign forces and Thors resigned. The vote was 31 to 18 for withdrawal with three members of the premier's party abstaining.

The resolution stressed that it was withdrawal of foreign troops, not complete abandonment of NATO, that was sought. It suggested that the agreement be "revised immediately" with a view to Icelanders themselves "taking over maintenance and management of all defence posts, though not military activities."

An Icelandic legation source in

Year-Round St. Lawrence Route Costly

MONTREAL (CP)—Recent research has revived debate on the possibility of year-round navigation on the St. Lawrence river, now closed to ships approximately 3½ months every winter.

Research experts say the river and Great Lakes route could be kept open throughout the year, but at considerable expense. Veteran seamen argue that winter navigation would be hazardous and too costly to help shippers.

Prof. E. R. Pounder, director of McGill University's new Ice Research Project said Monday that year-round navigation on the river would be feasible if:

1. Large capital expenditures were made on improvements designed to conserve the heat of Lake Ontario and direct it into the shipping channel.

2. If a large number of small ice-breakers were maintained to keep the shipping channel open.

Prof. Pounder in an interview said the development of huge iron ore deposits in northern Quebec has brought year-round navigation closer to reality.

London said the resolution meant Iceland would be willing to maintain the defence establishments for use in case of emergency, but that they would not be manned under present conditions.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 United States personnel now are in Iceland, the majority at a huge air base situated some 36 miles from the country's capital of Reykjavik.

The United States has spent more than \$1,500,000,000 on building up the island's defences, the majority on the air base that covers 20 square miles of volcanic lava.

Although the island is the most sparsely populated country in Europe, about 20,000 Icelanders emigrated to Canada near the end of the 19th century, the majority settling in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

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U. S. Has Hope of Keeping Forces at Iceland Base

By John W. Finney
United Press

United States officials expressed hope yesterday that arrangements can be made with Iceland to avoid American withdrawal from a vital air base at Keflavik.

The Icelandic Parliament on Wednesday called for revision of the 1951 treaty under which United States forces are stationed at the base, an important stepping stone on flights to Europe.

However, the Icelandic Ambassador here said the resolution did not call for withdrawal of United States forces, as had been reported in some news dispatches from Reykjavik.

The State Department received a copy of the resolution yesterday and began studying it immediately. It declined comment on the matter for the time being.

Informed sources believed Iceland is seeking some arrangement that would tend to

decrease American activity in that country without taking away United States rights to use the strategic base. Air Force officials voiced "grave concern" over the possibility of losing the base.

Iceland's Foreign Minister, Kristinn Gudmundsson, said missile warfare has reduced Iceland's importance as an Allied base. He also said there has been an easing of East-West tensions.

Under the 1951 agreement, Iceland may ask for renegotiation of the treaty. The North Atlantic Treaty Council will make recommendations for the two nations to consider in the negotiations.

One step might be for the United States to remove American civilians now working in Iceland under the base agreement. This would not require withdrawal of military forces or bar the Air Force from using the Keflavik base.

Although there have been some points of conflict with Iceland over the base, Air Force officials were caught by surprise by the Parliament's action.

The island, east of Greenland just below the Arctic Circle, serves as a stopping point for relatively short-range planes, such as the F-84 fighter-bomber.

NATO Council May Scrap Headquarters

By Russ Braley
N. Y. Daily News Service

FRANKFURT, March 29 — The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has decided to scrap the billion-dollar American nerve center for European defense, now jammed into the range of Russia's vaunted 1500-mile guided missile, press reports said today.

Swiss and German newspapers said NATO ministers agreed at their February meeting to decentralize the activities. Their new locations still may be within range of Soviet missiles, but they will no longer be sitting ducks.

United States Army Headquarters refused comment on the reports.

The center, much of it built in a rush during the Korean War, has been criticized as a gold mine of graft. Almost before the complex of United States bases there were operating, strategists marked them as vulnerable to Russian atom bombers.

Some 25,000 American servicemen and their dependents are in the area. It contains three air bases, headquarters of the United States 12th Air Force, a giant engineers' ordnance depot, two-thirds of the Army's combat equipment, acres of fuel storage, the biggest American overseas hospitals, and many other activities.

Anti-Kremlin Blast Shakes Italian Reds

ROME, March 29 (U.P.)—A new

THE WASHINGTON POST
and TIMES HERALD
Friday, March 30, 1956

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Anti-Kremlin Blast Shakes Italian Reds

ROME, March 29 (P)—A new outburst of protest aimed at the Kremlin itself ripped through the free world's biggest Communist Party organization today.

Unita, official organ of the Italian Communist Party, published a scathing speech by 60-year-old Sen. Umberto Terracini in which he denounced Soviet Communists as "undemocratic" because of their campaign to minimize the work of the late Premier Josef Stalin.

Many anti-Communist observers interpreted the speech, which was made yesterday at a meeting of Communist Italian Senators, as a bid to oust Palmiro Togliatti as head of the Italian party. Other sources said the address could have been intended to show the "democratic" side of the Italian Communists.

Terracini has been in the party doghouse for some time because he was anti-Stalin when the rest of the Communist world was worshipping at the Stalin altar.

His new attack on the Kremlin, combined with comment from disgruntled "old-line" Reds who dislike the Soviet party's new "soft" policy, placed Togliatti in a weaker position. It also created confusion in the Italian party, with nation-wide local elections only two months away.

Unita admitted for the first time that Italian Reds were distressed by the anti-Stalin move. It printed a watered-down version of Terracini's criticism.

"Do you really believe that one can speak of real democracy in the Soviet Union when the Supreme Soviet meets only a couple of times a year?" He asked.

"It is said that the demolition of Stalinism has been in course for three years. We have no knowledge of it. But we do know we are faced by a bad situation that will create for us a severe setback . . .

"Today, they say things have changed, but the only thing changed is the men. If the myth of one man is created, it is the fault of everyone . . .

"So the truth of yesterday is not the truth of today, and the responsibility becomes collective."

Togliatti was invited to the meeting of Italy's Communist Senators, but did not appear.

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Specials for Fri. & Sat.
March 30 & 31

Hours 8:30 A.M.—9:00 P.M.

Editorials—

Weakening NATO

As a former prime minister of Iceland said on a visit to St. Paul last week, both internal and international politics will be factors in final determination of whether or not American troops remain there, manning a NATO air base that happens to be almost precisely midway between Moscow and Washington. Even so important an issue is being colored by a domestic competition for votes next June.

Iceland is a charter member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the peculiar position of having nothing to contribute to the western world's collective security program beyond its location on the globe. It has no armed forces. Likely, it never will have, for armed strength is a costly impossibility in a nation that numbers 150,000, inhabiting a country half Minnesota's size.

Americans and British shared Iceland's strategic location in the World War II period, and aircraft based there played a major role in finally winning the battle of the Atlantic. Convoys to Murmansk, carrying supplies to Soviet Russia, were all organized in a fjord on Iceland's west coast. Unfortunately for Icelanders, with their peaceable tradition of more than ten centuries, the country is still strategically located in view of tensions that have now long divided east and west.

American troops returned to the airport they had built at Keflavik, 35 miles southwest of Iceland's capital city of Reykjavik, through a military protection agreement under NATO auspices, in 1951. The Korean war was then at its height. Ever since, in Iceland and in other countries where Americans are stationed abroad, reaction to the presence of such troops has fluctuated in accordance with the presumed imminence or remoteness of war danger.

There are Icelanders who sincerely believe that the smiles at Geneva last summer ushered in an easing of tensions that may become permanent. There are others, in their Communist party, disguised under the mouth-filling label, "United People's Front Socialist Party," who follow the Moscow line, with its recently redoubled efforts toward weakening NATO in every way possible.

The elections now scheduled for Iceland's 52-member parliamentary body, on June 24, have been increasingly inevitable for more than a year. Regular elections would have come in 1957, but the present situation is precipitated by the desire of Hermann Jonasson, the Progressive party's chairman, to end cabinet cooperation with the Conservatives, and form a government with more of a leftist orientation. The campaign now starting is complicated not alone by the Communists' uncompromising anti-American position, but by the fact that the federation of Icelandic labor unions will be offering candidates from a combination of leftist parties, bringing organized labor, as such, directly into the political lists for the first time.

If the NATO agreement as to military protection be finally abrogated, that formal process will take a year and a half, after the first step is launched. But a majority of Icelanders will want four radar installations manned, with some protection for a giant airport.

The whole situation, important to NATO and to the western world's defensive chain, will be an incident to elections in which serious inflation and heightened export problems will be issues. The outcome may not be conclusive at all as to the Keflavik base. World tensions will be the major factor there. Yet the issue, in Iceland or elsewhere, of whether American troops are now "necessary" or not challenges the NATO concept and its aims and gives Soviet Russia a new tack for continuing propaganda.

driving that they may become better acquainted with present traffic problems posed by many, many more cars on the roads than there were when many of them learned to drive.

Mrs. Theodore Chapman, federation president, says the national group has suggested four possible undertakings to help older motorists to drive better. The four proposals are: women drivers' forums, drivers' refresher courses, driver testing clinics and traffic court school. The proposals are largely self-explanatory; the greatest emphasis will be placed on refresher courses.

We talk about proper training for younger drivers, for youngsters of grade and high school age, and we have made excellent progress in such training. Hundreds of thousands of high school students have taken driving lessons and have come out good drivers as a result of training under skilled instructors. But many an older person, though he may think himself a good driver, needs a thoroughgoing examination of his driving habits and in many cases their revision.

Four-lane traffic in the same direction, one-way streets, the increasing speed necessary on throughways, new procedures in making turns and a host of later problems have arisen that call for work and practice on the part of motorists not familiar with them now.

A Good Patient

The advantage to the heart patient of following out faithfully the regimen prescribed for him is currently illustrated in President Eisenhower's case. From all accounts the president's cooperation in the program his physicians have for him is excellent, his willingness to follow instructions he knows are for his own good is beyond question. Rules prescribed for him are simple and common sense ones, recommended with the idea of improving his health in the days ahead. The present daily program places more stress, apparently, on mild exercise that builds for future strength. In other words, he is a good patient, according to the doctors, and that means much in the conquering of any disease. Mr. Eisenhower's steady determination to lick the disease by faithfully observing health rules should be an inspiration to others who may have had an experience similar to this one.

Link Varied Issues

With Welfare Week

Welfare Week in Minnesota has an appropriate opening today as the three-day meeting of the Minnesota Welfare Conference, its sixty-third annual session, gets under way. St. Paul Hotel headquarters for the gathering will, as usual, find the public, tax-supported agencies having the heaviest representation. That is logical. Theirs is the biggest load. Yet the privately supported agencies, those maintained by the Community Chest and by church groups, will all be well represented.

Welfare activity is a tremendously broad field. The need for it continues, despite general prosperity. It ranks with schools and highways as a major avenue of public spending. And the growth of private agencies proceeds, supplementing some of the programs government maintains and adding warmly intimate touch which government can never quite achieve.

Among experts in the field, there are usually three views as to relations between the government welfare agencies and their private counterpart. There is the term the "extension ladder" by which government agencies reach out to those privately supported agencies as a direct extension of the government effort. This is the view which would tend to avoid duplication of the government effort.

Women's Clubs Advocate Driver Refresher Course

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is striking matter which safe

Icelander Wins Nobel Prize for Literature

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN—
(P)—The 1955 Nobel prize for literature went Thursday to Halldor Kiljan Laxness, a left-leaning novelist from Iceland. He is little known in the United States, though he used to live there and one of his books was a best seller there in 1946.

Laxness describes himself as one who "loves the Russians but practices a lot of the American way of life."

"I still dream of California when I feel really good," he told a reporter yesterday in Goteborg, Sweden.

"I'm not a politician. I'm a literary man writing novels."

Laxness

I have been accused of three Cs—Catholicism, Communism and Capitalism.

"I'm no longer a practicing Catholic. I'm not a Communist. As for capitalism, I guess I will have to present my books for the answer, for that is a matter of opinion."

He is enough of a capitalist to be interested in what he'll get out of the \$36,720 Nobel prize after Iceland's tax collectors get through with it.

"I hope they will leave me 10 per cent for brandy," he observed.

He was a strong contender for the prize the last two years, when it went to Sir Winston Churchill and Ernest Hemingway. The Swedish academy of letters, in making the award, cited "his vivid epic writing, which has renewed the great Icelandic narrative art."

Laxness is best known in the United States for "Independent People," a novel distributed by the Book of the Month club in 1946.

Air Conditioning to Cool Iron Lungs

CHICAGO —(P)— Polio patients confined to uncomfortable warm iron lungs are finding relief by air conditioning. The idea was the brainchild of Dr. Tohru Uemura, a Japanese physician who has been working on the problem for several years.

AND INTERESTING

This Sunday, Green Beans are sprinkled on beans are always



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Iceland Rocks the Boat

The resolution passed on Wednesday by the Icelandic Parliament, calling for withdrawal of American forces from Iceland, is bound to arouse grave misgivings in this country. Iceland is a charter member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Situated midway between Moscow and New York, it occupies a highly strategic position in NATO defense plans. Its Keflavik air base is of great importance not only for refueling aircraft on the Atlantic crossing but as a base of operations for the American medium range B-47 bomber. Loss of Keflavik might mean a serious blow to the striking power of the Strategic Air Command.

The resolution cites, to be sure, an "altered situation" in the world today and suggests that foreign forces are no longer needed in Iceland. American forces were sent there in 1951, it may be remembered, at the invitation of the Icelandic government. They were invited then, as they had been ten years earlier, because the government recognized a threat of war and had no armed forces at its disposal. At the end of World War II the first American contingent was withdrawn; Icelanders seem to feel that by now the second one should have followed suit.

Quite without reference to any threat of war, the continued stay of American forces on Icelandic soil has been a source of considerable friction in the island republic. Inflation has upset the country's

economy; labor has been attracted to American employers; housing troubles have been blamed on Americans; inevitable irritations have sprung up between hosts and their long-term guests. Communists have fanned the embers of this discontent through the years, and now there is a considerable anti-American front of minor parties. When the two-party government coalition split this week on the Keflavik issue and Premier Olafur Thors resigned, the future of the defense base was clearly in jeopardy.

President Asgeir Asgeirsson has dissolved Parliament and called for new elections on June 24. One can only hope that the results will show a revived appreciation on the part of Icelanders of their country's continuing need for help to defend themselves. The United States might help the process by a serious and sustained attempt in the meanwhile to assure the people of Iceland that every possible source of inconvenience and friction attributable to United States forces in the island will be removed. This has been done successfully in the neighborhood of other American bases by co-operation between the base command and local authorities and groups. Certainly every avenue should be explored which might lead to realization by the Icelanders that the United States values highly their co-operation in NATO and wishes it to continue on a basis of mutual respect and good will.

N.Y. Herald-Tribune *Reykjavik*

Truck Net Interests Icelander

The American system of large fleet ownership of trucks interested the chairman of the Icelandic truck drivers union here today.

Fridleifur Fridriksson, chairman of the Throttur Truck Drivers union of Iceland for 14 years, was one of eight union leaders from his country touring business plants in St. Paul today.

In Iceland, he said, large fleet ownership of trucks is almost unknown, with each driver owning his own vehicle. He spent most of the day visiting Murphy Motor Freight, Inc.

The labor leaders said Iceland, whose total population is 160,000, has 160 different labor unions with a membership of 29,000.

Two other members of the group, Ragnar Gudleifsson and Jon Hjartar, representing the seamen's union, said an activity by the American seamen's union at San Pedro and San Francisco, Calif., interested them. At the San Pedro port the union is maintaining a school to teach young men the life of a seaman. Job recruitment for the sea is a problem in Iceland as well as in America, the two said.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

Iceland Says 'Go Home'

OCCASIONAL reports of discontent with the presence of American troops in Iceland have now been climaxed by a vote of the Icelandic Parliament asking this country to withdraw them. Unless a change of sentiment follows the election of a new Icelandic government on June 24, this country will have no choice but to comply even though withdrawal of troops would leave a dangerous power vacuum.

Our forces in Iceland are not large. While the number remains secret for security reasons, it is known to consist of a single fighter squadron of 25 planes, a battalion-sized Army unit and a small naval unit. The most important military installation is the Keflavik air base, which the U. S. built in 1942 when Iceland was occupied as a precaution against German aggression.

There have long been stories of Icelandic unhappiness over the presence of our forces. As in other countries where American troops are stationed, there may be resentment of a sort which gave rise to complaints in Western Europe that our troops were "over-paid, over-sexed and over here." Since Iceland's total population is only a few more than 150,000 people, its difficulties in absorbing foreign troops without social and economic dislocations are readily appreciated.

* * *

American forces first went to Iceland in 1942, with the consent of the Icelanders, when they took over the burden of protection from the British. After the war, they were withdrawn, but returned in May, 1951, at Iceland's request after that country had joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a founding member.

In abrogating the treaty under which our forces returned, Iceland is required to give NATO six months' notice and this country 12 months' notice. Thus there will be no immediate withdrawal even though Parliament's decision stands.

If the decision does stand and withdrawal becomes necessary, Iceland—a strategic base almost midway between New York and Moscow—will be left undefended. It has no military forces of its own. It is thus clear that the Parliament has taken an important, and perhaps perilous, step. We hope, for that reason, that the decision will be reversed by the next Parliament. If it isn't, this country will have no choice but to get out; it must not risk any action giving rise to a charge of American imperialism.

After a Treeless Millenium

Iceland Imports Forests

By Frank Sheer

THE offices of the Icelandic Forestry Service are housed, perhaps appropriately, in a brick building in Reykjavik, the capital. For the island forests have always been sparse and Iceland still uses less wood than any other nation in Western Europe. Was it in part the attraction of wood that drew Icelandic pioneers, three quarters of a century ago, to the parklands of Manitoba?

Isolated Iceland, situated between 60°24' and 66°32' north latitude, covers about 40,000 square miles. It is roughly 1,600 miles west of Norway and 800 miles east of Greenland. But Alaskan and Norwegian areas in the same latitude are well stocked with coniferous forests and Iceland's barrenness is attributed to the isolation of the country.

The native flora on Iceland, which is rather limited, is almost entirely of European origin, and only about half as numerous as the number of species growing under similar climatic conditions in Scandinavia.

When the country was settled about 1100 years ago, only a few, non-coniferous species grew wild here, all of them

species whose seeds can be carried by heavy winds or birds.

As most of Iceland's forested area consisted of birch, the country has from the very start been dependent on timber imports for building. The shortage is still felt. But due to the very heavy costs of transportation the annual import of timber is far below the island's need.

Reforestation started in a vague way about 200 years ago. On and off, small programs were attempted up to the start of this century, often with poor results as knowledge of general climatic conditions was limited, and people often tried to introduce trees from places with a continental climate.



Serious reforestation dates from 1936. Seeds were obtained from areas with comparable climatic conditions, especially Alaska, Northern Norway and Russia. These species have given far better results than those formerly used.

In 1938 seed from Canada, probably from British Columbia, was planted and proved very successful.

Summing up, the Icelanders feel that planting timber will be of economic importance in the future. The main problem involved is soil erosion, and experiments in the large nurseries tend to show that a happy selection of seeds from various altitudes will eliminate the disadvantage of the short length of solar radiation in the summer time.

Perhaps it takes a forester fully to comprehend and appreciate the tremendous work done by these hardy Icelanders. However, any visiting tourist will understand the importance of their task in a country where wood is as scarce a commodity as precious metals elsewhere.

It cannot have been far from Reykjavik that Gunnar, according to the Saga, turned his prow shoreward, uttering the famous words: "Beautiful is the valley and forever this will be my home." But Iceland was to wait many centuries for the beauty of trees.



1956, The Register and Tribune Syndicate

in fund contributions
wouldn't get away

We'll Have to Persuade Iceland

It's started. America's overseas bases are coming under the same sort of attack that has driven the British from Suez, the Sudan, Palestine, India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Southern Ireland, Southern Iran, and that threatens the British forces remaining in Cyprus, Gibraltar, Singapore, Hong Kong, Cape Town and Bahrein.

The parliament of strategic little Iceland (population 160,000; present armed forces: none) has voted 31 to 18 to ask the withdrawal of U. S. Army, Navy and Air forces.

During the U. S. occupation of 1941-47 and 1951-56, the U. S. has spent millions in Iceland—on air base facilities, radar installations, and so on. Since 1951, the U. S. has been responsible for the defense of Iceland under an agreement with the Icelandic government.

As a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Iceland has had no armed forces to contribute, but it has contributed its strategic geographic situation flanking the NATO alliance's North Atlantic lifeline.

Now Icelandic parliamentarians are talking of building up a defense force of Icelanders to replace the U. S. forces. That would be something like the people of Polk county taking over from the United States the defense of Iowa and Nebraska.

The 1951 agreement can be ended by either the U. S. or Iceland in an 18-months' period.

The U. S. still hopes it may be able to salvage something out of the agreement, and suspects that the depressed state of Iceland's major export industry—selling fish on the world market—has a good deal to do with present dissatisfaction. Neither Britain nor the U. S. has been buying as much of the Icelanders' fish catch lately as they

used to, under pressure from their own national fishery interests.

There is also a substantial strain of neutralism and isolationism among Icelanders, and the Icelandic Communists rank third among Iceland's four biggest political parties in voting strength.

★ ★ ★

The U. S. system of alliances and bases is fundamentally different from the Communist system. U. S. alliances are based upon genuinely-voluntary agreements of genuinely-sovereign governments—and in the nature of things sovereign governments are not going to agree all the time. No sovereign government is long happy with foreign bases and foreign troops on its soil.

In the long run, the only really workable solution (and brother! is that hard to work) is to turn the free world alliances into some kind of free world federal union, in which decisions are made by and for the whole system, instead of separately, nation by nation.

In the short run, the U. S. must give sympathetic consideration to all the many grievances of its allies, and try to win their co-operation. It must try to lead them, not drive them.

The U. S. cannot "buy" them: no country with self respect is for sale, and no country which is for sale stays bought for very long. But judiciously and tactfully used, the tremendous economic strength and know-how of the U. S. can be a powerful asset in winning co-operation.

The temptation which the U. S. must avoid at all costs is the brutal short-cut of imposing its will by force upon weaker allies. Many Icelanders feel the U. S. did exactly that in taking over the defense of Iceland in 1941 and again in 1951.

Einkaskjalasafn Bjarna Benediktssonar © Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

Des Moines, Iowa, Register, Nov. 31

Ike Hopes For Iceland Solution

WASHINGTON (Special-NYHT) — President Eisenhower emphasized Wednesday that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization remains essential to the morale of the western world which, in his opinion, is still confronted by the unchanging Communist drive for world revolution. Wednesday was NATO's seventh anniversary.

The president, speaking at his press conference, expressed hope that some solution could be found to the most recent NATO headache — a resolution by the Icelandic parliament calling for removal of U.S. ground troops guarding the NATO bases there. Iceland is a charter member of NATO which has now expanded to include fifteen members.

According to agreement between Iceland and the United States within the framework of the NATO, there would be an 18-month delay before and decisive action in the event that Iceland should stick by its call for the evacuation of U.S. ground forces.

"There is no question that the Icelanders are our friends," the president said. "I think that their problem can probably be worked out."

"One of the great things of NATO is to make us all feel we are part and parcel of the same defensive security problem. Morale is the most important thing that a human being has whether he is tackling a job or whether he is going to war or whether he is trying to gain a peace. It is the belief in the spirit. It is the strength of a democracy at war."

The president said that the stationing of a quarter of a million Americans in Europe was of "indefinite tenure" but had never been intended as permanent. The continued presence of U.S. troops has been made necessary, the president said, by unexpected delays in West European rearmament, particularly that of Germany. Another factor has been France's need to transfer troops from Europe first to Indochina and later to North Africa.

In Paris during colorful ceremonies commemorating the anniversary, detachments of 14 NATO armies — Iceland, which has no army, was the exception — provided a color guard for all of the NATO flags. The French Republican Guard watched over the standard of Iceland.

For the first time, helmeted West German troops, in iron grey uniforms, participated in an allied ceremony on French soil. There were Belgian soldiers in white trousers, and in bearskins resembling the British Guards regiments; who were also represented as well as Royal Dutch and Norwegian Guards; Greek Commandos in green berets, Turks in British-style helmets; Portugese Lancers in grey tunics; Canadians in scarlet tunics; Danish Royal Life Guards in plumed helmets; U.S. footsoldiers in silk scarves and polished helmets, and Italian Bersaglieri, with their black plumes waving in the breeze.

The Washington Post

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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

PAGE 28

The Crisis in NATO

The crisis which has been confronting NATO for many months past is now plain for all to see. Iceland's action in calling for the withdrawal of all NATO forces is merely the latest, though the most spectacular, sign. The force in Iceland is American. It is there in virtue of a treaty concluded directly between the United States and Iceland at Iceland's request—a force which is mainly concerned with manning an airbase. It operates as the anchor of the northern flank of NATO for instant activation when NATO Europe is attacked. How Iceland could pull any weight as a member of NATO without permitting use of the base, as she proposes, is a mystery.

Iceland's request will not go into effect immediately. NATO must have six months' notice, and another 12 months is the due of the American Government as the initial contracting party. Furthermore, if the moderate views of the Independence Party should prevail at the polls in June, a reversal of policy is still possible. What has prompted the Icelanders to demand withdrawal? Undoubtedly in a country with a population of only 155,000, the economic impact of a contingent of foreign troops is a constant irritant. It said from Reykjavik, however, that the easing of international tension is responsible. In other words, the seeming defection is the direct result of the "summit" conference at Geneva. In Iceland, where there is no military establishment, the view quickly gained favor that the parley at the top had come to what was tantamount to a nonaggression pact. That this was a mistaken view was argued in vain by this newspaper among others after Geneva.

However, more than the Geneva spirit is to blame for Iceland's default. What is equally at fault is the slackness and lack of coordination on the political level at NATO. Iceland, along with Greece, actually voted against a fellow-NATO member, France, in the last U. N. Assembly. What an indictment of the lack of even diplomatic concert in NATO! Moreover, Iceland has been having trouble with another fellow-NATO member, Britain, on fisheries. These divisive tendencies in NATO have been developing progressively.

When he was Supreme Commander at SHAPE, Dwight D. Eisenhower declared "Unity of NATO must rest ultimately on one thing—the enlightened self-interest of each participating nation." What have the great powers done to develop that self-interest? Nothing. Iceland is unable—and for that matter so are the other small powers in the Atlantic coalition—to detect any self-interest attaching to NATO membership. This is a challenge to the NATO Council when it meets in May. A political body corresponding to the military and economic groups must be created as a condition of NATO's very survival. Otherwise Soviet Russia, which, incidentally, is reported recently to have made an advantageous trade deal with Iceland, will simply divide and conquer what we are pleased to call the Atlantic Community.

moded and be changed.

Georgi Malenkov, former Soviet premier, sent a bottle of Russian perfume and a huge



Dame Fonteyn

sent a bouquet of tulips to Britain's leading ballerina, Dame Margot Fonteyn. Malenkov, who is on tour of Britain, sent the gifts after watching Dame Margot perform to the music of Cesar Franck's symphonic variations at Convent Garden.

Foreign Minister Khristinn Gudmundsson said at Reykjavik that Iceland was "not in a great hurry" for the departure of United States troops from the island. Parliament passed a resolution last week requesting the departure of the Americans.

Princess Margaret of Britain, who made her first solo tour last year, will embark on another one next fall. She will visit Britain's Indian and African territories.

U.S. HOPES TO KEEP TROOPS IN ICELAND

U.S. HOPES TO KEEP TROOPS IN ICELAND

New East German Army Due to March May Day

Effect of Parliament's Bid for Withdrawal Still Under State Department Study

Special to The New York Times.
WASHINGTON, March 29—United States officials were hopeful today that continued American use of the Keflavik air base in Iceland could be arranged.

The request yesterday by Iceland's Parliament that United States forces be withdrawn from the island was being studied carefully in the State Department.

Lincoln White, State Department spokesman, said that "pending the time we can get more information on this and study its nature, substance and circumstances, we have no comment."

Senior officials of the department took the view that the Iceland bid should not be "written off" at this stage.

They acknowledged that opposition to the continued presence of United States forces had been rising for some time. The Parliament's action, therefore, came as no great surprise.

Loss Held No Catastrophe

Loss of the base would not be catastrophic for the countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, military officials said. They emphasized, however, the island's importance as a "natural link" in the early warning network that the United States and Canada are jointly extending seaward from both coasts.

In addition, the officials warned that Iceland's possible renunciation of the 1951 treaty permitting the stationing of United States forces on the island would be interpreted as a victory for the Soviet Union in its campaign to undercut Western military alliances.

[Soviet propagandists already have seized upon the Icelandic decision as an indication that the people of the island have "become convinced from practical experience of the friendly intentions of the U. S. S. R." This "reflects the sentiments which are now maturing in Western countries," the Moscow radio said, according to news agency dispatches from London.]

The pertinent section of the Iceland Parliament's resolution reads:

"In view of the changed situation since the 1951 defense agreement was concluded and declarations announcing that foreign armies shall never be stationed in Iceland in peacetime, revision of the conduct of foreign affairs then initiated should immediately be undertaken with the aim in mind that Icelanders themselves undertake the guarding and maintenance—they shall not, however, undertake to carry out military activities—and the defense force be withdrawn from the country.

"If an agreement for this change cannot be reached, this shall be followed by renunciation under Article 7 of the [defense] agreement."

Article 7 of the United States-Iceland agreement provides that

Continued on Page 2, Column 4

Continued From Page 1

either Government may ask the North Atlantic Treaty Council to "review the continued necessity for the facilities and their utilization." If at the end of six months the parties have not reached an understanding, either one can serve notice of its intention to terminate the agreement within a year.

The agreement thus provides an eighteen-month period in which alternative arrangements can be worked out.

Iceland's legation here confirmed that the parliamentary resolution called for revision of the 1951 agreement and the removal of United States forces. The legation stressed, however, the parliament's reaffirmation of Iceland's adherence to the North Atlantic Alliance.

Iceland has no armed forces of her own. She is the only NATO country that makes no manpower contribution to the alliance's forces.

No final decision on the base arrangement is likely in advance of the parliamentary elections set for next June. Officials said a binding agreement would have to await a new government with a fresh mandate from the voters.

Meanwhile, the State Department is expected to seek through diplomatic channels further clarification of Iceland's intentions.

NATO Aides Await Election

Special to The New York Times.
PARIS, March 29—Atlantic alliance officials here were displeased by the action of Iceland's Parliament. But they suggested that the election in June rather than the resolution might determine whether the country would seek new negotiations with Washington.

If Iceland asks the removal of United States troops, it would not be the first Atlantic pact nation to object to foreign forces on its soil. This position has been taken by Norway under pressure from Moscow.

Although resulting from an agreement between the United States and Iceland, the air base on the island forms part of the North Atlantic treaty chain extending across Western Europe.

But the United States troops protecting the base are not under North Atlantic command, it

Special to The New York Times.
BERLIN, March 29—Willi Stoph, East German Defense Minister, announced today that formation of the first land, sea and air units of the new "national peoples army" had begun. Units of the Army are due to march in the East Berlin May Day parade.

East Germany already has a quasi-military force estimated at more than 100,000 men but they are classified as "People's Police in Barracks." It has been expected that this force would shortly be proclaimed a "People's Army."

The statement by Herr Stoph, made at the East German Communist party congress, may indicate that the transfer will be gradual. Officers wearing the new Army uniform have been in evidence on the streets of East German cities for several weeks. The law providing for the creation of an army was approved Jan. 21.

was said at supreme headquarters here. Iceland has no army to replace the United States troops if they should leave.

The Iceland resolution was regarded by some observers here as mainly a domestic political move that reflected popular reaction to what was generally considered as a relaxation of international tension in recent months.

RABBI SILVER PRAISED

Ben-Gurion and U. S. Envoy Pay Tribute to His Work

JERUSALEM (Israel Sector), March 29 (AP)—Premier David Ben-Gurion and Edward B. Lawson, United States Ambassador to Israel, paid tribute today to Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver of Cleveland.

The occasion was the dedication of the "Kfar Silver Agricultural School" on the southwestern coastal plain of Israel near the western Negev, now opened up to intensive agricultural development.

Funds for the new school had been contributed by the Zionist Organization of America.

Mr. Ben-Gurion stressed the importance of the school as a pioneering institution. He also referred to the present political situation and the "war danger threatening Israel." He said "I still hope we are able to avert such a catastrophe."

Winnipeg Free Press

WINNIPEG, FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1956

Iceland's Call To Clear Base Alarms U.S.

Washington Hopes For Compromise

WASHINGTON (Special-NYHT) — President Eisenhower views with deep concern the Icelandic parliament's call for removal of American ground troops but top administration officials are hopeful of some compromise before the time, now 18 months away, when final action is due, it was learned Thursday.

Special Correspondent Marguerite Higgins writes that the resolution calling for revision of the American Iceland treaty of 1951 is causing anxiety that goes far beyond the value to the western allies of the Icelandic base itself. A psychological question is involved in the precedent such a withdrawal could set for other North Atlantic Treaty Organization powers, especially Norway and Denmark. These two nations have been under particularly intensive Soviet pressure to reduce, and indeed eliminate, NATO commitments.

—Continued

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Legislature Reports

"Panic" over by-elections reverses cause of large road program says Opposition Leader Duff Roblin. Page 1.

Three full-time commissioners needed for government liquor control commission in contention. Page 1.

Referendum on Wheat Board suggested by Jack McDowell. Page 1.

House approves to speed up business. Page 1.

Two-cent a gallon not needed, W. contends. Page 1.

Resolution of council of county. Page 14.

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MORE ABOUT Iceland

(Continued from page 1)

Even though, according to diplomatic sources, Iceland resolution reflects emotions involved in domestic politics, it is of vast importance internationally because it offers disturbing evidence of the effectiveness of Soviet propaganda about the relaxation of international tension. According to administration officials, the Russians, in their current quest for international respectability, have been arguing that there is no need for NATO now that international tensions have allegedly been relaxed.

It is the United States view that despite Russian smiles the hard facts of Communist expansion into Middle Europe, its conquests in Asia and its actions in the Middle East prohibit and western let-down.

Soviet Big Buyer

One of the many problems affecting Iceland's international relations have been its difficulty in finding markets for its goods in the West. Since England put a ban on Icelandic fish three years ago in retaliation for Icelandic ban on Hull trawlers which for years had been fishing in Icelandic water. Iceland has been selling a large proportion of its fish haul to the Soviet Union and its overall trade with the U.S.S.R. amounts to nearly 40 per cent of its total. Foreign trade with the United States amounts to about 30 per cent of Icelandic foreign trade.

Ambassador Explains

Thor Thors, Icelandic ambassador to the United States, explained that the parliamentary resolution specified merely a revision of the American Icelandic treaty of 1951, under which troops were stationed there to guard and maintain the strategic Keflavik air base. But the ambassador explained that the resolution reflected current nationalist sentiment in parliament which has demanded that Icelanders themselves guard the base rather than foreign troops.

Continued use of the airbase itself by NATO forces is not at stake, ambassador Thors said, pointing out that in the resolution, the Icelandic parliament specifically reaffirmed its loyalty to NATO of which the country was a founding member.

The Icelandic resolution was under urgent study Friday at State Department, the Pentagon and the White House, not only because of strategic implications but international repercussions.

A special study is being prepared for the National Security Council and President Eisenhower who has intimate personal knowledge of NATO due to the years he spent as supreme commander of SHAPE.

Vital Air Base

The Icelandic air base is vital as an essential stopping point for American bombers flying to Europe and — in case of war — to the Soviet Union, administration officials said.

The resolution calling for removal of American troops followed a heated foreign policy debate on stationing of foreign troops that split the government. The issue will be a hot one until Iceland's elections in midsummer. Once the elections are past, it is felt in Washington, a more moderate attitude may prevail in that country on the issue.

Icelandic foreign minister Kristinn Gudmundsson has explained the demand for withdrawal of all foreign troops as stemming from the reduction of international tension that followed the Geneva conference of the Big Four heads of government last July.

Small Garrison

Although the number of American troops stationed in Iceland is small by most standards, reportedly less than 8,000, the impact of these troops on the Iceland population of only 156,000 is considerable.

The United States with its large population would suffer similar impact if 8,000,000 foreign troops were to be stationed here, Washington officials compared.

As outlined by Iceland's Ambassador Thors, under present treaty arrangements Iceland's request for revision of its treaty will be sent to the NATO council which has a six months time limit for making recommendations to both parties concerned.

Should Iceland stick by its request for withdrawal of American troops, another 12 months period would elapse before actual withdrawal would take place.

So, as it is pointed out there, there is a long "cooling-off period."

According to Ambassador Thors, "even if the agreement between Iceland and the United States were terminated, our country would remain a member of NATO."

Editorials—

Weakening NATO

As a former prime minister of Iceland said on a visit to St. Paul last week, both internal and international politics will be factors in final determination of whether or not American troops remain there, manning a NATO air base that happens to be almost precisely midway between Moscow and Washington. Even so important an issue is being colored by a domestic competition for votes next June.

Iceland is a charter member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in the peculiar position of having nothing to contribute to the western world's collective security program beyond its location on the globe. It has no armed forces. Likely, it never will have, for armed strength is a costly impossibility in a nation that numbers 150,000, inhabiting a country half Minnesota's size.

Americans and British shared Iceland's strategic location in the World War II period, and aircraft based there played a major role in finally winning the battle of the Atlantic. Convoys to Murmansk, carrying supplies to Soviet Russia, were all organized in a fjord on Iceland's west coast. Unfortunately for Icelanders, with their peaceable tradition of more than ten centuries, the country is still strategically located in view of tensions that have now long divided east and west.

American troops returned to the airport they had built at Keflavik, 35 miles southwest of Iceland's capital city of Reykjavik, through a military protection agreement under NATO auspices, in 1951. The Korean war was then at its height. Ever since, in Iceland and in other countries where Americans are stationed abroad, reaction to the presence of such troops has fluctuated in accordance with the presumed imminence or remoteness of war danger.

There are Icelanders who sincerely believe that the smiles at Geneva last summer ushered in an easing of tensions that may become permanent. There are others, in their Communist party, disguised under the mouth-filling label, "United People's Front Socialist Party," who follow the Moscow line, with its recently redoubled efforts toward weakening NATO in every way possible.

The elections now scheduled for Iceland's 52-member parliamentary body, on June 24, have been increasingly inevitable for more than a year. Regular elections would have come in 1957, but the present situation is precipitated by the desire of Hermann Jonasson, the Progressive party's chairman, to end cabinet cooperation with the Conservatives, and form a government with more of a leftist orientation. The campaign now starting is complicated not alone by the Communists' uncompromising anti-American position, but by the fact that the federation of Icelandic labor unions will be offering candidates from a combination of leftist parties, bringing organized labor, as such, directly into the political lists for the first time.

If the NATO agreement as to military protection be finally abrogated, that formal process will take a year and a half, after the first step is launched. But a majority of Icelanders will want four radar installations manned, with some protection for a giant airport.

The whole situation, important to NATO and to the western world's defensive chain, will be an incident to elections in which serious inflation and heightened export problems will be issues. The outcome may not be conclusive at all as to the Keflavik base. World tensions will be the major factor there. Yet the issue, in Iceland or elsewhere, of whether American troops are now "necessary" or not challenges the NATO concept and its aims and gives Soviet Russia a new tack for continuing propaganda.

Women's Clubs Advocate Driver Refresher Courses

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is striking right at the heart of a matter which is adversely affecting traffic safety in this country. Its action has to do with antiquated styles of driving in this new era of high powered cars and high speed potentials. The federation is canvassing older drivers, both men and women, through its 15,000 clubs, in an effort to get them to take "refresher courses" in

driving that they may become better acquainted with present traffic problems posed by many, many more cars on the roads than there were when many of them learned to drive.

Mrs. Theodore Chapman, federation president, says the national group has suggested four possible undertakings to help older motorists to drive better. The four proposals are: women drivers' forums, drivers' refresher courses, driver testing clinics and traffic court school. The proposals are largely self-explanatory; the greatest emphasis will be placed on refresher courses.

We talk about proper training for younger drivers, for youngsters of grade and high school age, and we have made excellent progress in such training. Hundreds of thousands of high school students have taken driving lessons and have come out good drivers as a result of training under skilled instructors. But many an older person, though he may think himself a good driver, needs a thoroughgoing examination of his driving habits and in many cases their revision.

Four-lane traffic in the same direction, one-way streets, the increasing speed necessary on throughways, new procedures in making turns and a host of later problems have arisen that call for work and practice on the part of motorists not familiar with them now.

A Good Patient

The advantage to the heart patient of following out faithfully the regimen prescribed for him is currently illustrated in President Eisenhower's case. From all accounts the president's cooperation in the program his physicians have for him is excellent, his willingness to follow instructions he knows are for his own good is beyond question. Rules prescribed for him are simple and common sense ones, recommended with the idea of improving his health in the days ahead. The present daily program places more stress, apparently, on mild exercise that builds for future strength. In other words, he is a good patient, according to the doctors, and that means much in the conquering of any disease. Mr. Eisenhower's steady determination to lick the disease by faithfully observing health rules should be an inspiration to others who may have had an experience similar to this one.

Link Varied Issues With Welfare Week

Welfare Week in Minnesota has an appropriate opening today as the three-day meeting of the Minnesota Welfare Conference, its sixty-third annual session, gets under way. St. Paul Hotel headquarters for the gathering will, as usual, find the public, tax-supported agencies having the heaviest representation. That is logical. Theirs is the biggest load. Yet the privately supported agencies, those maintained by the Community Chest and by church groups, will all be well represented.

Welfare activity is a tremendously broad field. The need for it continues, despite general prosperity. It ranks with schools and highways as a major avenue of public spending. And the growth of private agencies proceeds, supplementing some of the programs government maintains and adding warmly intimate touches which government can never quite attain.

Among experts in the field, there are usually three views as to relations between the government welfare agency and its private counterpart. There is what some term the "extension ladder" concept—that government agencies reach farthest, with those privately supported being simply in direct extension of the same field. There is the view which parallels both, seeking to avoid duplication. Then there is something of the laboratory viewpoint as to private agencies, encouraging new ventures on their part, experimentation with changes in approach, testing procedures on a smaller scale which can then be entered upon with greater safety by the more large-scale government programs.

The present conference and the emphasis which Welfare Week brings should help promote better understanding of the varied issues arising in an important field. There should be some gain, too, in focusing attention on an activity that needs a continuing supply of trained recruits, no less so than do the teaching and nursing professions.

April
13

Iceland: Where U.S. May Lose a Base

Red Strategy Paying Off, Defense Line in Danger

A huge American air base in Iceland, regarded as essential to defense of the U. S. itself, no longer is secure.

The Communist idea of ousting U. S. forces now is supported by Iceland's Parliament.

At stake: first big "payoff" in the Soviet "peace" drive, control of air and sea routes across the Atlantic, a break in U. S. radar defenses.

Reported from

REYKJAVIK and WASHINGTON

Armed forces of the United States now are threatened with ouster from one of the world's most valuable pieces of strategic real estate.

In Iceland, the Parliament is asking the Government to cancel an agreement giving the U. S. rights to an air base on the island. If this request is granted, American military forces will be required to give up a defense post of great value

in peacetime and of highest value in case of war.

Trouble for the U. S. in Iceland is regarded as one of the first major results that may flow from the Soviet Union's drive for "peaceful coexistence." Iceland is an example of how the Soviet Union is using agitation, peace talk, and trade as strategic weapons to crack the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Loss of Iceland as an outpost in the North Atlantic, if it occurs, is expected by U. S. military experts to be followed by growing Communist maneuvers to force the U. S. out of valuable bases in North Africa, in the Middle East, and in other parts of the world.

Present events in Iceland were foretold in a report from that country printed in *U. S. News & World Report*, Nov. 26, 1954. That article said this:

"Russia and the Communists are establishing a powerful and dangerous beachhead here in this remote island nation where the United States is building one of the free world's most vital strategic bases.

"As a result, Americans are not ruling out the possibility that the U. S., in the not-too-distant future, will be asked for-

mally to withdraw its military forces from this island."

Communist infiltration goes deep. Communists hold many jobs in Government. Key trade unions are under Communist control or influence. In politics, Communists are regarded as a respectable party, hold 7 of the 52 seats in the Parliament, now have swung a majority in Parliament to their side.

Russia has made itself a major trading partner of Iceland, having stepped in to buy Iceland's main product, fish, when disagreement between Britain and Iceland shut off English markets.

Soviet peace talk now convinces many Icelanders that war is out of the picture, that U. S. troops no longer are necessary to guard this vital island. Members of the Parliament, with an election coming up in two months, are responding to growing public pressure.

A glance at the map on this page shows reasons why U. S. strategists believe Iceland is necessary as a base as long as the uncertain "cold war" goes on:

- Iceland commands the shortest air route and sea lane that link forces in Europe with the U. S.

(Continued on page 44)

WHY ICELAND IS SO IMPORTANT TO U.S.

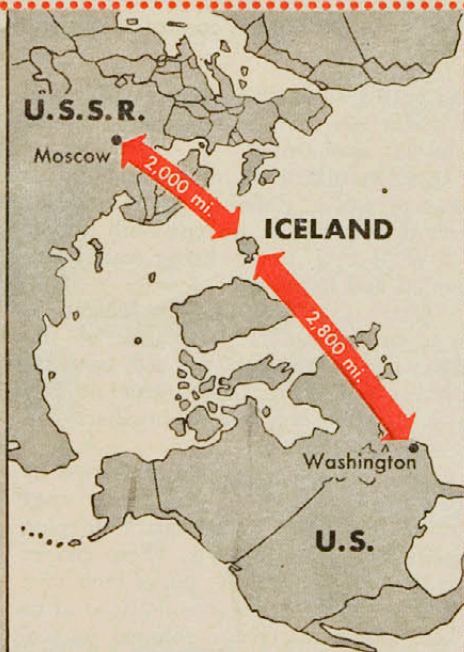
If U. S. loses its Iceland base—

Air and naval dominance in the Atlantic will be reduced.

Radar protection of U.S. will be weakened.

A potential bomber base 3.5 hours from Moscow will be lost.

A service station for aircraft and naval craft no longer will be available.



If Russia gains Iceland as a base—

Great Britain will be outflanked by air and sea.

Bombers will be brought within easy range of U.S. and Canada.

Submarines and aircraft could turn the North Atlantic into a Soviet lake.

U.S. supply lines to forces in Europe will be in danger.

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[continued] **ICELAND: BASE
IN DANGER**

try remain a NATO member, but send U. S. forces home. Iceland, they say, could continue to keep the base open—and the U. S. could pay the costs.

However, full-scale operation, requiring pilots, electronics experts and other technicians, would cease. Icelanders are not trained in these complexities.

In the U. S. view, even such a modified withdrawal would be a blow. Loss of a military base and supply dump is not the only disadvantage.

What also is feared is the psychological victory for Russia that would result from withdrawal. Both military men and diplomats cite the risk that the example of Iceland might be followed in other countries where Soviet peace talk is taken at face value and where "neutralism" is growing.

Definite risks exist in Norway and Denmark, where U. S. forces are not wanted. An agreement for base rights in the Azores, coming up soon for renewal, might be modified or canceled. Iceland's example might be followed in Morocco, Libya, the Middle East, thus forcing the U. S. out of other air bases. Even the latent British sentiment for getting rid of U. S. airmen might be aroused.

Russia is trying hard to break the NATO alliance wide open. In Iceland Soviet plans are found to be gaining ground.

Yet, U. S. policy makers are still optimistic about the troublesome situation that has been shaping up, in full view, for a long time.

These experts feel that they have time to negotiate. Notice of 18 months is required, under present agreements, before the U. S. can be forced out—and that notice has not yet been served by the Government despite the ouster resolution approved by the Parliament.

A big factor in whether the U. S. will keep its base in Iceland may turn out to be money. In addition to the millions already spent there, many more millions are to be spent—if the U. S. stays.

Dollars bring complaints. Yet U. S. officials find that many people in Iceland do not regard the influx of American money as a blessing. Some complain that it causes inflation. Employers in the fishing industry say that employment of local residents on the base robs them of employees. There are complaints, too, that presence of U. S. troops is changing the 1,000-year-old customs of Iceland.

Communists constantly stir up such complaints. As a consequence, the U. S. faces a real danger of being thrown out of a base that military men regard as essential to defense of the U. S.