



## Bréfa- og málasafn september - október 1948

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnámál – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Bréf – Thor Thors - John H. Sweet - O. Uden - Seth Brinck - bréf til Viðskiptanefndarinnar 22. september og 18, október

## Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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[bjarnibenediktsson.is](http://bjarnibenediktsson.is)

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Askja 2-10, Örk 4

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Reykjavik, 23rd September 1948,

Dear friend,

I only write these few lines to thank you and your wife for the splendid dinner you gave me. I enjoyed the dinner very much indeed but still more I enjoyed the good talk we three had together. My only regret is that at the time I did not remember all the points I would have liked to question you about. I will have to do that when we meet some-time and somewhere later, but then, of course, new questions will have popped up to bother us in these troubled times.

The outlook was certainly not very bright when we met but it seems still darker now. But whatever comes out of the general situation it does not affect my wish for the happiness and success of your wife and yourself, my dear friend.

With best regards from my wife,

Yours sincerely

*Sinn*



Reykjavík, 23. September 1948.

Dear friend,

I only wish these few lines to thank you and your wife for the splendid dinner you gave me. I enjoyed the dinner very much indeed but still more I enjoyed the good talk we three had together. My only regret is that at the time I did not remember all the points I would have liked to question you about. I will have to do that when we next meet here and somewhere later, but then, of course, my questions will have worked up to bother me in these troubled times. The outlook was certainly not very bright when we met but it seems still darker now. But whatever the general situation it does not affect my kind regards and wishes for you and yours.

Reykjavík, 23. September 1948.

Kære Udenrigsminister Undén,

Jeg skriver kun til at takke dig for den gastfrie Modtagelse som jeg havde under mit Ophold i Stockholm forleden men jeg vil ogsaa benytte Lejligheden til at Lykkønske dig med den Valgsejr som dit Parti har vundet.

Med Højjagtelse

*Erni*

Herr Udenrigsminister  
O. Undén,  
Stockholm.



Reykjavik, 23rd September, 1948.

Dear friend,

I only write these few lines to thank you and your wife for the splendid dinner you gave me. I enjoyed the dinner very much indeed but still more I enjoyed the good talk we three had together. My only regret is that at the time I did not remember all the points I would have liked to question you about. I will have to do that when we meet each other later, whenever and when that may be, but then, of course, new questions will have arisen to bother us in these troubled times.

The outlook was certainly not very bright when we met but it seems still darker now. But whatever comes out of the general situation it does not affect my wish for the happiness and success of your wife and yourself, my dear Hugh.

With best regards from my wife,

Yours sincerely

*Grinn*



Reykjavík, 23. September 1948.

Reykjavík, 23. September 1948.

Kære Udenrigsminister Undén,

Jeg skriver kun til at takke  
dig for den gæstfri Modtagelse som jeg  
fik under mit Ophold i Stockholm forleden  
men jeg vil ogsaa benytte Lejligheden  
til at lykkønske dig med den Valgsejr som  
dit Parti har vundet.

Med Hojagtelse

Herr Udenrigsminister  
O. Undén,  
Stockholm.

*Svein*



Reykjavik, d.24.September 1948.

Kære Konsul Brinck,

Jeg takker Dem meget den hjertelige  
Modtagelse under mit Besøg i Stockholm  
i Begyndelsen af denne Maaned.

Jeg er ogsaa meget glad for at have  
faaet Lejlighed til at stifte Bekendtskab  
med Dem.

Med venlig Hilsen

Deres hengivne,

Herr Konsul  
Seth Brinck,  
Stockholm



# U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

WASHINGTON

24th & N STREETS, N.W.  
WASHINGTON 7, D. C.

October 8, 1948

Mayor Bjarni Benediktsson  
Legation of Iceland  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For some time now we have been sending you with our compliments the regular weekly issues of "U.S. News & World Report." We have been very glad to send you our news magazines, and intend to keep your name on our mailing list.

However, once a year it is our custom to make a check on such copies to be sure that they are being received properly and regularly, and that some use is being made of them -- in other words, to make sure that the copies are serving the purpose for which they were intended.

Will you, therefore, let us know if we are addressing your copies correctly, and if they are proving of interest?

Also, it would be most valuable to our news department to have your comments and suggestions -- what you like and don't like -- about "U.S. News & World Report." And if you pass along your copies to others, please tell us if they find it useful.

Sincerely yours,

*John H. Sweet*

John H. Sweet  
Circulation Director

JHS/cil

*Swara. Segja mér lífi  
áætlan.*

*Þetta er frá Mayo of Reykjavík  
og líf þess vegna adressa Mr. B. B.*



COPY

Reykjavík 18. okt. 1948.

Viðskiptanefndin,

Reykjavík.

Vér leyfum oss að óska eftir svari við bréfi voru til nefndarinnar dags. 22. sept. s.l., en vér höfum ekkert svar fengið við því em.

Ennfremur viljum vér upplýsa yður um það, að fyrir nokkru síðan fórum vér að tilvísun yðar til Siggeirs Vilhjálmssonar, heildsala, til þess að fá frakkaefni til verksmiðjuframleiðslu vörrar. Þegar til kom átti Siggeir Vilhjálmsson aðeins til waterproof-efni í regnkápur og reiðjakka, og var verð þess pr. yard kr. 13,65 í 90 cm. breiðu. Sendum vér sýnishorn hér með, ásamt sýnishorni af waterproof-efni, sem ekki verður talið lakara, og flutt var inn af oss. Kostaði það pr. yard 8-9 kr. í 140 cm. breiðu, komið á lager. Vitnum vér einnig til þess, sem vér höfum áður rætt um þetta mál við Óskar Jónsson, fyrirv. nefndarmann.

Sýnist oss varhugavert að oss sé neitað um leyfi á þeim forsendum, að vér eigum að framleiða úr efnum frá öðrum innflytjendum, sem hafa tvöfalt dýrari vöru á boðstólum.

Virðingarfyllst,



Leyfisveitningar til Skjólfatagerðin h.f. samkvæmt skrá Viðskipta-  
nefndar:

Árin 1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Kr. 239.046,00	110.000,00	350.825,00	106.415,00	71000,00.

Þess skal þó geta að árin 1944-1946 fengum vér utan þessara leyfa  
talsvert af vörum hjá innkaupasambandi vefnaðarvöruinnflytjenda,  
en árin 1947 og 1948 ekkert af þeim ástæðum að vér erum ekki með-  
limir í félaginu lengur.

Virðingarfyllst,



COPY

Reykjavík, 22. sept. 1948.

Viðskiptanefndin,  
Reykjavík.

Þrátt fyrir margítrekuð viðtöl við Viðskiptanefnd og einstaka nefndarmenn með framlögðum skýringum og sönnunum fyrir framleiðsluþörf fyrirtækis vors, Skjólfatagerðarinnar h.f., hefur það fengið sáralítil gjaldeyris- og innflutningsleyfi á árinu, og leyfisbeiðnum þess ekki verið svarað í flestum tilfellum.

Hinn 7. apríl s. l. sendum vér inn umsóknir fyrir gjaldeyris- og innflutningsleyfum til efnivara í skjólfatnað o.fl. fyrir kr. 453.150:- samtals.

Engin svör hafa borizt við þessum umsóknum. Hinsvegar fengum vér send gjaldeyris- og innflutningsleyfi á nafni Belgjagerðarinnar h.f., (án þess að það fyrirtæki hefði sótt um slík leyfi) fyrir samtals kr.71,000:-, sem eflaust hafa verið ætluð Skjólfatagerðinni.

Þó að svo sé, er það aðeins lítið brot af þeim innflutningi, sem Skjólfatagerðin hafði í stríðslok og sem fyrirtækið nauðsynlega þarf.

Í viðtali við Viðskiptanefnd föstudaginn 10. þ.m. kom einn nefndarmanna með þær upplýsingar að fyrirtæki vort hefði fengið innflutnings- og gjaldeyrisleyfi á árinu 1945 fyrir samtals Kr. 110,000,00, og virtist leyfisveitingin fyrir yfirstandandi ár m.a. byggjast á þeim grundvelli, að við hefðum haft svo lítinn innflutning fyrir þremur árum.

Nú hefur athugun af vorri hendi á efnivörukaupum fyrirtækisins á árinu 1945 leitt í ljós eftirfarandi:

Innfl.af fyrirtækinu sjálfu gegn eigin leyfumfyrir <u>Kr. 3.44.209,29</u>	Keypt af heilsölum, að einhv.leyti gegn eigin leyfum fyrir <u>Kr. 389,025,38</u>	Innlendar efnivörur fyrir <u>Kr. 364,925,46</u>
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Á þessu sést greinilega, að Viðskiptanefnd hefur byggt leyfisveitinguna árið 1948 á alröngum forsendum, að því er snertir samanburð við innflutninginn 1945. Ef miðað er við að Viðskiptanefndin hefði haft rétta vitneskju um leyfisveitingar til vor á árinu 1945 og veitt oss gjaldeyris- og innfl. leyfi nú, eftir hlutföllunum 7 á móti 11, eins og hún virðist hafa gert, ættum vér að fá gjaldeyris- og innflutningsleyfi á þessu ári fyrir a.m.k. 250,000 í stað kr. 71,000:-

Vér krefjumst þess að þetta verði leiðrétt nú þegar.

Vér getum ekki sætt oss við að fá ekki svör við leyfisbeiðnum, og mótmælum þeirri aðferð að gefin séu út þau leyfi, á nafni Belgjagerðaninnar, sem Skjólfatagerðin sækir um og þarf á að halda, því að verið getur að einn góðan veðurdag verði sagt af einhverjum fróðum nefndarmanni: "Belgjagerðin skal aðeins fá leyfi fyrir belgjaefnum, en Skjólfatagerðin fær ekkert, því að hún fékk engin leyfi á árinu 1948."

Vér viljum benda á það, að samkvæmt ofanefndum samanburði er sem næst þriðjungur efnivörunnar innlend vara. Hvernig er hægt að verja það, að neita slíkum fyrirtækjum um innflutning á efnivörum, sem framleiða eingöngu nauðsynjavörur og nota að þriðjungi til innlend efni? Sérstaklega viljum vér skora á Viðskiptanefnd að kynna sér verð og gæði framleiðsluvöru vorrar, ef nokkur snefill af tortryggni um þá hluti liggur til grundvallar afstöðu nefndarinnar.

Varan, sem framledd hefur verið, er eftirsótt nauðsynjavara, skjólfatnaður, sem að öðrum kosti yrði fluttur inn tilbúinn í einhverju formi, fyrir langtum meira gjaldeyrismagn.

Vegna þess að iðnað þennan höfum vér byggt upp á mörgum árum og höfum komið honum, með ærnum tilkostnaði, í all samilegt horf, og vegna hinna mörgu viðskiptavina verksmiðjunnar, sem þekkja framleiðsluna og geta ekki sætt sig við að hún sé lögð niður, þá væntum vér þess að þér sjáið yður fært að veita oss þegar umbeðin leyfi.

Virðingarfyllst,



LEGATION OF ICELAND  
WASHINGTON 6. D. C.

- 2 -

p. t. Paris,  
30th October, 1948.

It is completely ridiculous in my opinion for the small nations to act as mediators. One has to take his side and practically doing that, contrary to what some of them did last year, when so many tried to abstain from voting.

*Godi Vinur,*  
The General Assembly has now lasted for five weeks but nothing positive has happened. I would have written to you before if there had been anything in fact to report, and besides I know that Olafur will have given you his impressions of his visit to Paris. You know so well my views and if anything they have grown stronger in favour of the Western powers.

As usual the most important matters are treated in the Political Committee and only two matters have been despatched from there as yet -- the atomic energy question and one Hallelujah proposal from Mexico, which only states that the Big Powers should come to an agreement. As you can imagine, no one could object to that and there was a lot of meaningless talk before this meaningless proposal was accepted unanimously. I am afraid the relations between the Big Powers will undergo very little change, even after the approval of this proposal.

With regard to atomic energy, a proposal from Canada was adopted after its original proposal had been treated for several days in a Special Sub-Committee. This final proposal says in fact very little, it mostly underlines the disagreement between Russia and the United States regarding the control of atomic energy. However, it expresses hope that the six permanent members of the Atomic Energy Commission will meet together and consult and try to find a basis for agreement. This proposal, which is in four paragraphs, was voted on by paragraph and was approved by 40 to 49 votes against 6 or 7. Russia had presented another proposal for propaganda purposes but that was rejected by 39 to 6.

I understand from Stefan Thorvardsson that the negotiations about We voted for the Canadian proposal and so did all the Scandinavian countries. I have not found occasion yet to make a speech but may do so today on the Greek case, mostly to explain our vote as compared to our attitude last year. There is nothing to do this time except to vote for the proposal of the United States, United Kingdom and China, which instructs the Special Committee on the Balkans to continue its work. Dr. Bebler of Yugoslavia attacked the Committee for three hours on the 27th, as did Vishinsky for over three hours on the 28th in the most violent terms.



It is completely ridiculous in my opinion for the small nations to try to act as mediators. One has to take his side and practically every nation is doing that, contrary to what some of them did last year, when so many tried to abstain from voting.

Even if Vishinsky can make good speeches, they are mostly propaganda and the truth is being told by the Western powers. Furthermore, we have nothing to expect from Russia but everything from the United States and Britain. I do not have to go into this any further. You know so well my views and if anything they have grown stronger in favour of the Western powers.

I am enclosing a letter from the Secretary General of the U.N., concerning the signing of a new Protocol on International Control of Drugs. I do not know if we have any interest in signing this Protocol but if so, you should send me authorization to sign. It is expected that signature will take place the second week in November.

I am also enclosing a cable from the Secretary General thanking the President of Iceland and you and the Bishop for your participation in the celebration of U.N. Day on October 24th. I am glad to see that there was a nation-wide celebration. I spoke on a record here, which was sent to the Radio and I hope it arrived in Iceland in due course because on that there could also be heard the voices of Marshall, Bevin, Spaak and Vishinsky, which might have been of interest.

I was very glad I made that short trip to Washington and I hope that the arrangements about the shipment of the frozen fish are coming off all right. It was also important that we were promised approximately seven million dollars as a grant until the middle of next year.

I understand from Stefan Thorvardsson that the negotiations about the renewal of the agreement for the landing of the trawlers in Germany, which have been formally taken up with the British, are presently under technical consideration in Germany, but I hope that agreement can soon be reached although it would not come into force until next year, as the British want all the fish for themselves during the winter months.

I was hoping that you would have come here to Paris, although you would have stayed only a short while. But I am convinced that you have spent your time in a much more useful way by staying at your post in Iceland. It had been announced that you would come as Chairman of the Delegation and therefore your absence has caused a little confusion as many people have wanted to contact you, and you will also notice from the bunch of invitations that were forwarded to you that your name was duly listed.



Working conditions for the Delegation have been much worse here than in New York because we were staying in four different hotels at one time and it took a long time every morning to get together. Besides the telephone system in Paris is unbelievably slow.

I shall be very happy when this is over, which is not expected to be before the middle of December, as I am not used to, nor do I like, spending months doing so little. And as you know, you get extremely tired of listening to more or less the same speeches all day long.

In my opinion, General Assembly could quite as well finish tomorrow as in a month and a half. It will have achieved equally little and the only result is to give the Russians their most suitable forum for world-wide propaganda.

Blessadur,

Thor

With regard to atomic energy, the proposal adopted after its original proposal was presented for several days in a Special Sub-Committee. The final proposal was in fact very little, it merely expresses the disagreement between Russia and the United States regarding the control of atomic energy. However, it expresses hope that the six permanent members of the Security Council will agree on a proposal for propoganda purposes.

P.S. It so happens that I spoke today on the Greek question and I am enclosing two copies of the speech as I promised Valtýr I would sent him my speeches. It is, however, for you to decide if you give it to Valtýr alone or to others as well. In my speech I mostly repeated our attitude from last year.

After its delivery, the chief Greek delegate came to me and thanked me very cordially for the nice words I had said about Greece, and I could see he meant it. He said he was particularly happy when these words came from Iceland.

I have not found occasion yet to make a speech but did so on the Greek case, mostly to explain our vote as compared to our attitude last year. There is nothing to do this time except to vote for the proposal of the United States, United Kingdom and China, which instructs the Special Committee on the Balkans to continue its work.

The behavior of Yugoslavia attacked the Committee and then spoke on the 27th, he did this for over three hours on the 27th. The most violent speech.