



## Utanríkisráðherra - Bréfasafn nóvember – desember 1948

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnsmál – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Bréf – John H. Sweet - Paul Dietz  
- Allis-Chalmers co.til Richard Thors - Thor Thors

### Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

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

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360  
Stjórnsmálamaðurinn  
Askja 2-10, Örk 4

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Reykjavík, 16 Dec. 1948.

Mr. John H. Sweet,  
Circulation Director,  
U.S. News & World Report,  
Washington.  
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Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of 3rd November, 1948, wherein you are inquiring if I still serve in any governmental capacity as I have resigned from the office of Mayor of Reykjavík.

When resigning from the office of Mayor of Reykjavík in February 1947 I took over as Minister for Foreign Affairs for Iceland as well as Minister of Justice in the Government of Iceland and am still in office.

Yours faithfully,

(Bjarni Benediktsson)

Eg vil skilja þér frá því, að í samt 31. desember, 1948.

Hr. utanríkisráðherra  
Bjarni Benediktsson,  
Reykjavík.

Kæri vinur:

Eg þakka bréf þitt frá 16. desember, sem mér barst í  
fyrradag.

Eg vil með örfáum orðum svara þessu bréfi þínu, einkum  
varðandi Atlantshafs-bandalagið. Eg er þér alveg sammála, að bezt  
er fyrir okkur í lengstu lög að bíða átekta. Þetta mál hefir ekki  
verið formlega upptekið við okkur, og meðan svo er, vitum við í  
rauninni ekkert. Eg er þér enn fremur sammála um að rétt er að að-  
vara stjórn Bandaríkjanna um það, að við þurfum langang undirbún-  
ing undir meðferð þessa máls, og að þeir megi ekkert gjöra án þess  
að hafa aðvarað okkur í tíma, og gefið okkur tækifæri til að undir-  
búa jarðveginn heima. Af þessum ástæðum finnst mér ekki koma til  
mála að svo stöddu að fara að senda neina sendinefnd til Bretlands  
eða Bandaríkjanna til að skýra sjónarmið okkar í málinu. Við getum  
einfaldlega ekki tekið afstöðu til máls, sem við ekki vitum hvernig  
liggur fyrir. Það gæti ef til vill síðar verið heppilegt af innan-  
lands ástæðum, að menn frá pólitísku flokkunum fari slíka sendi-  
fór. Slíkt gæti orðið til að skapa pólitíska samábyrgð innanlands.  
Um þetta þarf enga ákvörðun að taka enn sem komið er.

Hér í Washington hefir aldrei neinn minnst á Atlantshafs-  
bandalag við mig, og eg þar af leiðandi svo vel settur, að eg hefi  
ekkert þurft um málið að segja. Eg mun aldrei minnst á þetta mál  
við neinn að fyrra bragði, Verði á það minnst við mig, mun eg gjöra  
sem mest úr erfiðleikunum heima fyrir. Mér er þó ljóst, að eins og  
ástandið er nú í heiminum verðum við að líta með skynsemi á málið.  
Fyrst og fremst frá því sjónarmiði, að mannlífum sé ekki að óþörfu  
stefnt í grimman voða.

Eg vil skýra þér frá því, að í samtali okkar McNeil í París um daginn minntist hann á þetta mál, og spurði hvernig við mundum líta á það ef við yrðum beðnir að verða þátttakendur í bandalaginu. Eg sagði að íslenska ríkisstjórnin hefði engin slík til-mæli fengið, og benti honum á það, að hlutleysiskenndin væri mjög rík í hugum ~~mangra~~ Íslendinga, og þetta mál yrði því ætíð erfitt. Eg sagði, að það yrði að fara í málið með mestu varfærni, og senni-lega gætum við aldrei farið lengra en að hafa einhverskonar "tacit understanding". Eg sagði McNeil, að annars vissi eg ekkert um af-stöðu ríkisstjórnarinnar, þar sem málið hefði ekki verið tekið upp, og féll því tal okkar niður um þetta atriði.

Eg vona að Davíð Ólafsson fari nú aftur til Frankfurt, og þar verði loksins gengið frá samningunum um flutning freðfisks-ins. Það eru mikil vonbrigði hversu seint hefir gengið að hefjast handa um flutningana, en það er aðallega vegna þess, að allir kveinka sér undir hinu háa verði. Það verður að hafa það. Pening-ana fáum við, og samningur er samningur.

Það urðu mér mjög sár vonbrigði, þegar eg kom til Washington og sá að okkur var nú boðið upp á lán í stað "grant". Í samtali mínu við Mr. Wayne Taylor, aðalfjármálaráðunaut ECA hinn 8. okt. lofaði hann að ECA skyldi mæla með "grant" við National Advisory Council. Er eg talaði við hann aftur hinn 22. desember, daginn sem eg kom heim, kannaðist hann við þetta og lofaði að reyna að aðstoða okkur, en nú er beðið eftir komu Hoffman þann 3. janúar. Eg býst við að vita eitthvað nánar um 5. janúar. Í dag talaði eg við Hulley í State Department, og hann sagði, að State Department sé okkur hlynnt. Ef til vill tala eg við Snyder fjármálaráðherra eftir helgina. Eg síma þér strax og eitthvað ákveðið liggur fyrir.

Eg sé að Hans Andersen hefir í því eina samtali, sem hann átti við ECA og Magnús V. Magnússon fór með honum í, orðið var við nokkurn misskilning hjá ECA manna á högum okkar. Eg hefi orðið

var við það áður, að þeim þykir nokkuð mikið um bíla á Íslandi, og reynt að skýra það, en annars er það svo hjá ECA, að alltaf er verið að skipta um menn, og þarf því að viðhafa sama barnalærdóm- inn hvað eftir annað. Annars hefir ECA aðallega fróðleik sinn frá ameríska sendiráðinu í Reykjavík.

Endurtek svo óskir  
minar um farsæld á Romandi ári,  
þeir og fjölskylda þinni til lands.  
Með bestu kveðjum

Thorshors'

Eg þakka bréf þitt frá 10. desember, sem mér barst í  
Eg vil með þessum orðum svara þessu bréfi þínu.  
Eg er þér allveg sammála, að best  
er fyrir okkur í lengstu lög að þess  
verð formlaga upptekið við okkur, og ástæða þess er, ritun við  
rauninni ekkert. Eg er þér allveg sammála, að  
væri stjórnaðaríkjanu um það, að þessum löngum aðrir-  
lag umtalaðast þessu máli, og að þessum löngum aðrir-  
að hafa aðvænt okkur í þessu löngum aðrir-  
hvað þessu máli.  
sala að svo stöðu að fara að lands þessu umtalaðast þessu máli.  
sala þessu máli til að stjórna stjórnaðast okkur á öðrum. Við getum  
ofstaldlega ekki tekið ástæðu til aðils, sem við ekki vitum hvernig  
ligger fyrir. Það geti að til vill síðar verið heppilegt af inn-  
lands ástæðu, að menn þessu pólitísku stjórnaðast fari slíka sendi-  
rða. Síkt gæti orðið til að skapa pólitísku samþyrgð innalands.  
Eg þakka þér engu ákvörðun að taka um þessu máli er.

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bandalag við mig, og ég þér að Íslandi er svo vel setur, að ég hefi  
ekki þurft um slíkt að segja. Eg mun aldrei minnst á þetta máli  
við nein að ryta þessu máli. Hér í þessu máli við mig, mun ég gjaf  
sem mest af erfiðleikum þessu máli. Hér er þó ljóst, að slíkt  
ástand er að í þessu máli mun ég lifa með þessu máli á öðrum.  
Þessu máli þessu máli þessu máli þessu máli þessu máli þessu máli  
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A f r i t

ALLIS-CHALMERS MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Main Office  
Milwaukee 1 Wisconsin

December 7, 1948.

Mr. Richard Thors  
President  
Kveldulfur, Ltd.  
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Mr. Thors:

The Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Company has been observing with great interest the development of important postwar electrical utility and industrial projects as they are getting underway in Iceland. The excellent cooperation we have had from your goodselves in connection with the establishment of the solvent extraction plant for the herring fisheries has increased our interest in additional activities throughout Iceland of a nature that fits in with this Company's manufacturing program and consequently we would like to be of further service if we possible can.

We have also been following closely the so-called Marshall Plan program (ECA) as regards Iceland and have been gratified to note of late that arrangements are completed for a substantial dollar loan to Iceland. We presume this loan will facilitate the early development of the projects under consideration which we understand include among other items a cement plant, a flour mill, a fertilizer plant, and hydroelectric generating stations.

The cement plant and the flour mill as well as the hydroelectric plants will be of more than ordinary interest to the Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. As you are aware we are perhaps the major producer of hydraulic wheels in the United States and are the only company in position within its own organization to build wheels and generators as well as transformers and electrical control and switchgear equipment for such plants. The Company is consequently in a position to assume an undivided responsibility for such an effort, on all these pieces of equipment. We have already sold all the major equipment for several hydroelectric plants in export markets during recent years. As regards cement plants we are the leading producers of such equipment in the United States and are prepared to entertain contracts for complete plants and are also prepared to consider doing the engineering for a plant of this kind, or to cooperate closely with engineering companies in this Country who are prepared to undertake such engineering.

It is estimated that 90% of the wheat used in producing flour in the United States passes through Allis-Chalmers flour milling machinery. The Company's experience in building complete flour mills abroad extends back nearly 50 years. Somewhat over 200 flour mills have been built by the Company outside the United States.

We view considerable concern the fact that the Icelandic Government has to date not employed the services of an American specialist in surveying the contemplated cement plant. We understand

the Government has turned to England for advice on this matter and in view of the fact that American dollars are to be used to finance this plant we strongly urge that the Icelandic Government now prepare to avail itself of American cement plant advice in connection with this projected plant.

American cement plant engineering has made a number of notable advances during the course of the last decade and we sincerely believe that the Icelandic Government will find it of advantage to avail itself fully of the knowledge and experience that has been gained in this Country during the years when war conditions prevailed as well as during the postwar period. The Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. is today in a position to quote prices and deliveries which we believe cannot be bettered (or perhaps equalled) elsewhere for comparable quality equipment of the highest grade. We are prepared to recommend to the Icelandic Government the names of American specialists in the cement field whose services we believe can be obtained by the Icelandic Government for work in connection with the survey and establishment of a cement plant. These men are not connected with the Allis-Chalmers Mfg. Co. and their recommendations and advice consequently will be of a neutral nature.

The Company itself is prepared to assist the Icelandic Government in connection with the establishment of the flour mill as well as with the establishment of hydroelectric plants. Competent engineers can be placed at the service of the Icelandic Government from here and at the moment we have a competent hydroelectric engineer established at Oslo, Norway whose services can also be made available to the Icelandic Government.

We will very much appreciate whatever you can do to bring these matters before the competent officials of the Icelandic Government. We sincerely feel we are at the present time in a position to render valuable service to the Icelandic Government in connection with these projects, in view of the several decades of worldwide experience the Company has had in all three fields of the projects outlined above.

We will look forward with very great interest to your reply.

Sincerely,

ALLIS-CHALMERS MFG. CO.

(sign) Paul Dietz

Manager  
Export Department  
General Machinery Division

A f r i t

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We view considerable concern the fact that the Icelandic Government has to date not employed the services of an American specialist in surveying the contemplated cement plant. We understand



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We will look forward with very great interest to your reply.

Sincerely,

ALLIS-CHALMERS MFG. CO.

(sign) Paul Dietz

Manager  
Export Department  
General Machinery Division

It is estimated that 90% of the wheat used in producing flour in the United States passes through a roller mill flour mill machinery. The Company's experience in roller mill machinery flour mills covered extends back nearly 70 years. Over 1000 roller mill flour mills have been built by the Company outside the United States.

We view with considerable concern the fact that the Icelandic Government has to date not employed the services of an American specialist in surveying the contemplated cement plant. We understand

LEGATION OF ICELAND  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

- 2 -

p.t. Paris,  
15th November, 1948.

*God. vinnur,*

I am referring to the letter sent from the Ministry dated Nov. 1 regarding increased duties on Icelandic products sent to the United States. It will be impossible for me to have any influence on this matter until I arrive in Washington but most likely it will not be needed then as I expect that Mr. Buttrick will have ~~solved~~ *solved* the matter in the same way as I am informed that he sold the frozen fillets to Bizonia.

I think a strong appeal should be made to the U.S. Government through the American Legation in Reykjavik to have this decision rescinded. It will have no good influence on mutual trade and be difficult to explain to the enemies of the United States in Iceland why we are being discriminated against in this way.

With regard to the proposals set forth by the Ministry and detailed under Nos. 1 to 6, I think that either No. 2 or No. 6 would be the most favorable arrangements. No. 2 proposes that the S.H. be authorized to sell the fish at the actual market price to the U.S. but then is refunded the amount corresponding to the difference, which is to be used to try to find new markets for its products. No. 6 suggests that the export duties on frozen fish be abolished and this may also be a convenient solution. The other four solutions mentioned, namely Nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5, are, in my opinion, not applicable and would not satisfy the U.S. Government.

I recommended to you the other day that Magnus Vignir should be our representative at the FAO meeting, which convenes today in Washington. I do not think we need any further representative as the business of FAO is no longer of any great interest to us.

A member of the American Delegation came to me and called to my attention that the U.S. are greatly interested that the headquarters of FAO continue in the U.S. On the other hand, the Danes have extended an invitation for the headquarters to be moved to Copenhagen. I hope you have not made any promise to the Danes in this respect, as it suits our interests better to please the U.S. in this instance and besides, now that FAO has been established there and most of its staff are English speaking people, it seems unnatural that it should be moved to Copenhagen. I have already written to Magnus about this but he will expect instructions from you.

The question of Franco-Spain will soon come up and I am not quite sure what attitude we should take. Last year we voted for upholding the decision of 1946 but that did not get sufficient votes to be confirmed.

I spoke with Lange, the Foreign Minister of Norway, the other day and he thought that on account of party problems in Norway, they would have to vote for upholding the decision of 1946, whereas Norway might agree to admit Spain to at least some of the specialized agencies of the UN. He said his party would split if he were to vote for sending Ambassadors or Ministers to Franco. The strange thing is, however, that the Norwegian Parliament has agreed to take up trade negotiations with Franco Spain. There their business interests come in but this seems to be rather inconsistent.

Most likely the situation will develop into some compromise so I don't have to worry about our attitude, but I should like to have your opinion.

On Saturday we were voting on disarmament proposals which were introduced by the Soviet Delegation as mere propaganda. They, however, got only the habitual six votes for any of their proposals, many of which sounded so attractive. All the Scandinavian countries voted against their proposals and it was interesting to see Unden taking such a firm stand.

I am sending you herewith the disarmament proposal as it was approved, the final vote being 40 for and 6 against.

With reference to my previous remark about Butrick and his achievements in connection with the sale of the frozen fish, I should like you to know that when we parted in Washington last summer, he said, "I regret there is nothing I can do about the fish, but possibly you can do it".

I hope that shipments can now start to take place to Germany and I have urgently informed Magnus that the delay is causing the greatest inconvenience as the freezing plants are full and the fishermen cannot go on fishing.

I have not heard anything further from London regarding the renewal of the landing agreement in Germany for the trawlers but I expect that Stefan will let me know if anything happens.

I see from cables from Washington that Friðþjófur Johannesson is giving new and new reports to Johann Josefsson. I can only say that I am extremely surprised at the patience shown by Johann and I am not so sure that Friðþjófur's constant interference in this matter serves Iceland's interests or enhances the prestige of the Icelandic Government. This must be stopped. This is not a case of two old friends working a business deal according to pre-war methods but strictly Government business.

*12. des. f. mynd af vist og birtu til 17. des. 50*  
*Áður tilgreitt þ. um ástæðu og þáttur við þetta málið*  
*á 12. des. 1950. Þetta málið er ástæða málið eftir ástæðu*  
*á 12. des. 1950. Þetta málið er ástæða málið eftir ástæðu*

Today they decided to divide the Political Committee into two, so how am I possibly to attend both. I will try to follow up those matters which I think are of most interest to us and maybe I can vote on most of them. It would have been convenient if Pétur had also been appointed a delegate but I know he would not take it into consideration. I am, however, going to mention this to him and in case there is any chance of his accepting, I will cable to you.

I have already had more than enough of Paris and the United Nations, hearing the same speeches day after day for almost two months now. I guess, however, I will have to stay here until the bitter end. They are endeavouring now to finish the whole thing by December 8th and I am therefore booking return passage on the Queen Mary on December the 9th. I am going to leave on that boat, if the Assembly is over or not, as reservations must be decided and paid for if not used.

I forgot to tell you that when the voting took place for the International Law Commission, Hans Andersen got 4 votes. I thought these were the Scandinavian countries but then my friend from El Salvador told me that he had voted for our man. Norway had already told me that they had voted for Hans, so I asked the Danes and they said, "Naturally". Then it was evident that the Swedes had betrayed us, so I went to their delegates and told them: "You did not vote for our candidate. It is very good to know it. I have twice in this election voted for your candidate, and when 15 candidates are to be elected you cannot afford to vote for Iceland even in the first round. This is what you Swedes call Scandinavian co-operation. I am glad this became evident and it is no surprise to me." That afternoon two or three of them came to me and apologized but I told them it did not matter, in any case our man had no chance, it was only interesting to note facts.

About the frozen fillets again -- only one remark. Magnus V. writes to me from Washington that the reason for the delay in getting shipments started is, according to ECA explanations, that I claimed a reply on the spot when I was in Washington as to whether or not they would take the fish at our price and they agreed. They did not consult Bizonia beforehand, which is the business procedure always followed. This saved us, because if they had asked Bizonia they would never have agreed to buy the fish at our price and probably said they did not want it at all because other and cheaper foodstuffs were more needed. It is always like that when you consult the true experts -- then you get just the market value and nothing more.

*Nú er sagt að þinginu hafi þurft laus  
12. des. þá verð ég vist að biðja til 17. des. á  
Queen Elizabeth fer, nema ef Pétur vill taka málið  
að sér. En í lok fundarinnar eru starstu máli oft afgjafi,  
Hvað finst þér? Nú eru Aquino og Greba hér.  
Bestu kvæðjur, þinn einl.  
Thor*

ALPINGI

Dec. 16th. '48.

My dear friend.

I am really ashamed to write you because I am in debt to you, as I both owe you money for the books you bought for me and thanks for the nice things your wife and you sent us last spring with her friendly letter. I thank both of you for everything you have done for us and hope that you will write me how great my monetary debt is because then I will ~~at~~ once pay it. The greater debt, arising out of your

friendliness towards us, we  
can only pay with our gratitude  
and friendship.

We had hoped to see you this  
autumn, as I had intended to  
go to the General Assembly in  
Paris and then stay for a  
day or two in London. But  
nothing came out of it. Just  
the same I am glad you went  
to London and were not  
obliged to go to the holy  
places, although you would  
have enjoyed your Christmas  
there, if ~~you~~ had been  
alive at all.

Mr. Buttrick is a fine  
and upright man and we  
work very well together,  
and I am not at all belittling

him when I tell you that  
I often miss you. Perhaps we  
will have some opportunity  
later on to work together<sup>2</sup>.

My family is quite well.  
We have recently got a new  
flat, in the neighbourhood  
of the Golf-Club. As it  
was quite new and comfortable  
we moved out of Tjarnargata  
and are very glad to be at  
last under our own roof.

Sulaimaniye - moske.



J.V.

No. 1



Ankara, Dec. 1948.

Kære venner,  
modtag de bedste ønsker om en  
glædelig Jule- og et godt nytår.  
Her er for tiden sne og lidt kulde, så vi  
føler det helt hjemligt.

Eder hengivne  
Guðrún og Frastótt