



Uppkast að ræðu Bjarna Benediktssonar, sem hann hélt við undirskriftina 4. apríl.
Ræðan á íslensku og ensku.

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórn­mál – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Ræða – Undirskirft samnings um Norður Atlantshafsbandalagið – NATO - 1949

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RESORT HOTEL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The SHOREHAM

2500 Calvert Street, N.W.

Washington 8, D.C.

2 The nations, who are now forming this new brotherhood, are unlike each other in many respects. Some of them are the greatest and most powerful in the world. Others are small and weak.

None is smaller nor weaker than my own, the Icelandic nation. My people is unarmed and has been so since the days of our Viking forefathers. We neither have nor can have an army. My country has never waged war on any country and as an unarmed country we neither can nor will declare war ^{against} any nation. ^{In truth we are quite un-} able to defend our ^{own} selves from any foreign attack. ^(I have no thank.) There was therefore

hesitation in our minds if there was a place for us as participants in this defensive pact. But our country is under certain circumstances of vital importance for the safety of the North-Atlantic Area. In the last war Great Britain took over the defence of Iceland and later we concluded an agreement with the United States for the military

protection of Iceland. Our participation in this pact shows that for our own sake as well as for others we want a similar arrangement in case of a new war, which we all indeed hope and pray (that) never will occur.

But it is not only this realistic reason which has decided our attitude. ~~We~~ We also want to make it quite clear that we belong and want to belong to this free brotherhood of free nations which now is being formed.

association

It is of course true what I said that we are unlike each other in many respects. But there are many things which bind us together.

sinister

We all face the same danger. In this world of ours, where the distances have vanished peace indeed is indivisible. The same disruptive elements are everywhere at their dark work. Everywhere they are accusing us who are working for peace as managers of war.



RESORT HOTEL IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

The SHOREHAM

2500 Calvert Street, N.W.

Washington 8, D.C.

When we were discussing this
Pact in the Parliament of Iceland
those elements tried ~~to obstruct~~
its acceptance with force and violence
to hinder that venerable institution
in its work, ~~for the first time~~
[ix] Such violence has never before
been used in ~~all the thousand~~
~~year old history~~ tried
against the thousand years old
Parliament of Iceland.

The misguided crowd who
tried this shouted they ^{wanted} were
for peace. This striking discrepancy
in throwing stones with your
hands ~~at the~~ while ^{and} your ~~lips~~ claiming
for peace with your lips is
not in accordance with Icelandic
tradition nor is it in conformity
with western culture. We all
know where ~~these habits are~~
formed, and ^{this mentality} ~~they are~~ ^{is} indeed the
greatest menace to the world today.

But it is not only this ^{threat} (menace)
to world-peace and well-being
which unites us. There are stronger
bonds, and not only geographical
reasons, which bind us together.

We all belong to the same
culture. We would all prefer to
die rather than lose our freedom,
either as individuals or nations.
We all believe in friendly
cooperation among nations.
We all want peace among
nations and well-being (among
men) for mankind.

Therefore we gather here
today ^{hopefully} to sign this solemn
treaty. ~~With the~~
with the

Þjóðir þær, sem nú eru að ganga í þetta nýja bræðralag, eru að mörgu leyti ólíkar hver annari. Sumar þeirra eru hinar mestu og völdugustu í heimi - aðrar eru smáar og lítils megandi.

Engin er þó minni né má sín minna en þjóð mín, - Íslenzka þjóðin. Íslendingar eru vopnlausir og hafa verið vopnlausir síðan á dögum vikinganna, forfeðra okkar. Við höfum engan her og getum ekki haft. Ísland hefir aldrei farið með hernaði gegn nokkru landi, og sem vopnlaust land hvorki getum við né munum segja nokkurri þjóð stríð á hendur, svo sem við lýstum yfir, er við gerðumst ein af Sameinuðu Þjóðunum. Staðreynd er, að við getum alls ekki varið okkur gegn neinni erlendri vopnaðri árás.

Við vorum þessvegna í vafa um, hvort við gætum gerzt aðilar þessa varnarbandalags. En svo getur staðið á, að Ísland hafi úrslitapýðingu um öryggi landanna við Norður-Atlantshaf. Í síðasta stríði tók Bretland að sér varnir Íslands og síðan gerðum við samning við stjórn Bandaríkjanna um hervarnir Íslands meðan á stríðinu stóð. Aðild okkar að Norður-Atlantshafssamningnum sýnir, að bæði sjálfra okkar vegna og annara viljum við svipaða skipan og þá á vörnum landsins, ef ný styrjöld brýzt út, sem við vonum og biðjum að ekki verði.

En það er ekki aðeins þessi ástæða, sem hefir ráðið afstöðu okkar. Við viljum einnig láta það koma alveg ótvírætt fram, að við tilheyrum og viljum tilheyra því frjálssa samfélagi

frjálsra þjóða, sem nú er formlega verið að stofna. *á: la þessa samningu eru*
Að vísu er það rétt, sem eg áðan sagði, að ~~við þessa~~ ó-
líkir um margt, en það er einnig margt sem sameinar okkur traustum
böndum.

Sama hættan ógnar okkur öllum. Í þeim heimi, sem við
lífum, þar sem fjarlægðirnar eru horfnar, er áreiðanlegt að annað-
hvort njóta allir friðar eða enginn. Sömu upplausnaröflin eru
hvarvetna að sinni ómurlegu iðju. Allstaðar ásaka þau okkur, sem
erum að vinna fyrir friðinn, um að við viljum spilla honum.

Þegar samningur þessi var ræddur á Alþingi Íslendinga
reyndu þessi öfl með valdi að hindra hina fornhelgu stofnun í
starfi sínu. Slíkt ófbeldi hefir aldrei fyrr verið reynt gegn
hinu þúsund ára gamla Alþingi Íslendinga.

Sá afvegaleiddi hópur, sem þetta reyndi, þóttist með köll-
um sínum vera að heimta frið. Þetta framferði, að kasta grjóti
með höndunum, en hrópa á frið með vörunum, er hvorki í samræmi við
arfleifð Íslendinga né vestræna menningu. Allir vitum við hvar
slíkir hættir eiga upptök sín. Heiminum stafar sannarlega ekki
meiri hættu nú af öðru en þessu hugarfari.

En það er ekki aðeins þessi ógnun við heimsfriðinn og
velferð mannkynsins, sem sameinar okkur. Það er heldur ekki einungis
það, að lönd okkar eru öll í sama heimshluta. Sterkari bönd tengja
okkur saman.

Allir tilheyrum við sömu menningunni. Allir mundum við
fremur kjósa að missa lífið en frelsið, hvort heldur frelsi
sjálfra okkar eða þjóða okkar. Allir trúum við á vinsamlega sam-
vinnu þjóða í milli. Allir óskum við heiminum friðar og mannkyn-

inu velferðar.

Þessvegna hittumst við hér í dag með góðar vonir í
brjósti til að tengjast tryggða-böndum með undirskrift þessa samn-
ings.

The nations who are now forming this new brotherhood are unlike each other in many respects: Some of them are the greatest and most powerful in the world -- others are small and weak.

None is smaller or weaker than my own -- the Icelandic nation. My people are unarmed and have been unarmed since the days of our Viking forefathers. We neither have nor can have an Army. My country has never waged war on any country and as an unarmed country we neither can nor will declare war against any nation as we stated when entering the United Nations. In truth we are quite unable to defend ourselves from any foreign armed attack.

There was, therefore, hesitation in our minds as to whether there was a place for us as participants in this defensive pact. But our country is under certain circumstances of vital importance for the safety of the North Atlantic area. In the last war Great Britain took over the defense of Iceland and later we concluded an agreement with the United States' Government for military protection of Iceland during the war. Our participation in this pact shows that for our own sake, as well as for the sake of others,

we want similar arrangements in case of a new war, which we all indeed hope and pray never will occur.

But it is not only this realistic reason which has decided our attitude. We also want to make it crystal clear that we belong and want to belong to this free community of free nations which now is being formally founded.

It is a fact as I said before, that we are unlike each other in many respects but there are many things which bind us solidly together.

We all face the same danger. In this world of ours, where distances have vanished, peace indeed is indivisible. The same disruptive elements are everywhere at their sinister work. Everywhere they are accusing us, who are working for peace, of being warmongers.

When we were discussing this pact in the Parliament of Iceland those elements tried with force to hinder that venerable institution in its work. Such violence has never before been tried against the thousand years old Parliament of Iceland.

The misguided crowd which tried this pretended they were shouting for peace. This contradictory behaviour ~~of~~ throwing stones with your hands

while you are clamouring for peace with your lips is not in accordance with Icelandic tradition nor is it in conformity with Western culture. We all know where those habits originate and this mentality certainly is the greatest menace to the world today.

But it is not only this threat to world peace and human well-being which unites us. Neither is it only the fact that we all live in the same part of the world. There are stronger bonds which bind us together.

We all belong to the same culture. We would all prefer to lose our lives rather than lose our freedom, either as individuals or nations. We all believe in friendly cooperation among nations. We all want peace for all the world and well-being for mankind.

Therefore, we gather here today hopefully to sign this solemn treaty.