



## Blaðaúrklippur.

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Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnámál – Utanríkisráðherra – Utanríkismál – Blaðaúrklippur – Blaðagreinar –  
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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

THE WASHINGTON POST  
Monday, October 1, 1951

# Ottawa Parley Evaded Problem

By Drew Pearson

Diplomats returned from the Ottawa conference report privately that it wasn't anywhere near so successful as the headlines and the official press communiques indicated.



Pearson

In fact, it ducked the most important problem for which it was called—the question of deciding how much money is to be spent on European rearmament and how much for civilian uses.

Furthermore, the Ottawa diplomats did not even bother to read General Eisenhower's report on Europe's military defense. Ike had prepared a report on the present strength of Europe, and on how much more armament would be necessary. But his analysis was not even read.

Instead it was referred to the next meeting in Rome, which will not be held until November—after Great Britain gets a new government.

Most of this took place at closed-door sessions and was not known to the public.

Keynote of the general attitude at the Ottawa conference was a speech given by Bjarni Benediktsson, Foreign Minister of Iceland, a handsome Viking-type gentleman with long, drooping mustaches very much like a walrus.

"Iceland," said Benediktsson, "has already done her share. We can do no more. We have American troops on our soil. And we have a new air base at Reykjavik which is keeping all the people awake."

## One-Sided Game

Other foreign ministers took a similar position. They weren't quite so blunt, but their general feeling was that further efforts should come from the United States. As one delegate put it afterward: "It was like a tennis game played against a wall, with the United States the lone tennis player and Europe the wall."

Secretary of State Acheson led off the first closed-door session with a none too inspiring speech. Whereas he was very much on the ball at San Francisco, Dean seemed tired at Ottawa. He addressed the Foreign and Finance Ministers on the obvious fact that Russian foreign policy has not changed in several hundred years, that it continues one of aggression, and that Russia under the Kremlin, as under the czar, is still struggling for warm-water ports.

Acheson also dwelt on the equally obvious fact that trouble in the Near and Middle East—as Iran—could vitally affect Europe.

The Portuguese delegate also complained: "The one country which has stanchly and consistently fought communism is not here. It should be seated beside us, carrying on this battle shoulder to shoulder. I refer of course to Spain."

Though he wasn't present, the chief shadow which hung over the conference was that of Aneurin Bevan, resigned British Minister of Health, who left the Labor Government because he claimed it was spending too much on armament and not enough on health benefits. The standard of living of the British people, he argued, must not come down.

Unquestionably a majority of the Foreign Ministers at Ottawa agreed privately with former Minister Bevan. They didn't put it in exactly the same words, but they knew that their governments would fall if workers' wages were further reduced by inflation—and inflation is increasing because of rearmament. They also knew that communism inside their countries would increase if they spent too much money on armies to resist com-

system of putting the chief tax burden on the masses. This remains one of the greatest breeders of communism inside Europe, but it was not discussed.

The Army has lost all control over its chief lobbyist on Capitol Hill, Brig. Gen. Robert Moore. He has so many friends in Congress that he ignores his bosses in the Pentagon and does as he pleases. When the army passed over his promotion, Moore's congressional friends made him a general anyhow by writing it into the Appropriations Bill . . . A bay window can be a political liability. So two Senators have gone on strict diets to get rid of them—Johnson (D-Tex.) and Ives (R-N. Y.). Each has lost 25

pounds.

A secret analysis just completed by the Pentagon reveals that 41 percent of all the major defense contracts awarded up to August 15 have gone to only three States.

The contracts total more than 22 billion dollars. Of this amount, California received \$2,700,000,000; Michigan, \$2,250,000,000; but New York State topped the list with more than 4 billion dollars in prime defense contracts.

In many cases the figures reflect the State where the products will be assembled, with many parts farmed out to smaller plants in other States.

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*Þeir eru ruglað saman við  
forsætisráðh. Luxemburg,  
hvað umtali smertir.*



## Letters to The Times

### Aiding Iceland's Defenses

History of Wartime Occupation by  
United States Troops Reviewed

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

I was deeply impressed in reading your May 9 editorial—"Iceland Saga," giving a brief historic résumé of our military relationship to Iceland since July 1, 1941, when the Premier of Iceland consented to the presence of American troops to protect Iceland during the war provided they were withdrawn after the war. Five years later the United States withdrew her troops.

The Editor of THE NEW YORK TIMES in referring to the way in which the United States lived up to her agreement states:

"We cite these facts as a useful reminder that the freedom and sovereignty of Iceland are respected as a matter of course by her larger and stronger democratic friends and neighbors of the Atlantic community."

In view of your enlightened editorial I wish to cite certain facts which took place five years ago just prior to the withdrawal of our troops:

On March 21, 1946, a Scandinavian correspondent came to see me concerning certain remarks I had made at a dinner given to Daisy Harriman, our Minister to Norway, paying tribute to the famous mixed economy of the Scandinavian countries. Incidentally and altogether as an aside he brought up the question of when American troops were going to get out of Iceland. I was surprised and said I assumed the Scandinavian countries wanted our troops in Iceland as a protection against Russia. He said, "No," that Iceland felt the presence of our troops in time of peace infringed on her sovereignty. I then said if Iceland felt that way about it we should get out. In so saying I made it clear that I was speaking off the record and as an individual and in no way as a representative of the United States Government. Unfortunately the Scandinavian newspaper man printed this part of my interview, which was purely incidental, conversational, personal and off the record.

As a result Joseph Alsop wrote a story for the May 20, 1946, Life Magazine in which he blamed me for the failure of the United States to hold on to her military base in Iceland. Thereupon various segments of the press began to attack me.

One of the leading Washington correspondents stated on June 2, 1946, that "Truman, Byrnes and Vandenberg were upset by his (Wallace's) recent assertion that the United States ought to take its troops out of Iceland."

Today, five years later, the world situation has changed and Iceland wants to contribute to the security of herself and the free nations by asking our troops back to Iceland. Now when we help her at her own request she will respect and trust us. We earned her confidence when we proved our respect for democratic principles and small nations by pulling out five years ago.

I congratulate THE TIMES on giving the essential facts so concisely. I was abused five years ago by many people because I stated off the record and in personal conversation that I believed we should respect the sovereignty of Iceland. It is good to know that THE TIMES stands resolutely on the proposition of respecting the sovereignty of small nations.

No nation is more richly deserving of respect than Iceland. It is our privilege to respond promptly to her cry for help in 1951.

HENRY A. WALLACE,  
South Salem, N. Y., May 11, 1951.

N.Y. News - 3/14

# Iceland Foreign Minister

## Arriving for Pact Talks

Washington, D. C., March 13 (U.P.).—Icelandic Foreign Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was scheduled to arrive here late today to discuss his country's participation in the North Atlantic security pact.

Accompanied by Iceland's Ministers of Trade and Education, he probably will confer tomorrow with Secretary of State Dean Acheson on whether Iceland will join final treaty discussions.

American officials were hopeful that the pact, which started out as a seven-nation agreement, soon will embrace 11 North American and Western European countries. They are mindful of increased Communist pressure against the treaty, however, and expect the Moscow-inspired opposition to increase as more nations show signs of joining.

The treaty has been drafted by the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Norway. Officials see Denmark, Italy and Iceland joining as charter members despite Communist objections.

American officials believe that bases in Iceland and Greenland, the latter a Danish outpost, would strengthen the defenses inside the treaty's "security zone."

### Predicts Danish OK.

Danish Foreign Minister Gustav Rasmussen returns to the State Department tomorrow for additional data on Denmark's participation. He plans to submit a list of arms and military equipment which Denmark will need for its home defenses. An expert on Danish affairs predicted that Denmark's entry into the alliance would be approved within 10 days.

Denmark and the United States agreed Saturday on a plan which would bring Greenland's air bases into the joint defense system and, at the same time, end the 1941 Danish-American agreement on U. S. bases in the island. In effect, Greenland's bases would be assigned to all nations joining the treaty instead of just to the United States.

The pact will provide the democ

racies with security against renewed German aggression as well as a barrier against Communist attack, a report of the Foreign Policy Association said today.

### Explains French Fears.

The report was written by Dr. Jane Perry Clark Carey of Barnard College, New York City, who recently served as a consultant to the U. S. military government in Germany.

She said that "French anxiety about a resurgent Germany is real," but the French should be reassured by the pact.

While conceived primarily as a defense against possible Communist aggression, the pact "would perhaps be the most important security agreement thus far" in keeping Germany from going on the warpath again, she said.

### Italian Communists

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Bjarni Benediktsson