

Afrit til h. Bjarna Benediktssonar.

Reykjavik,
Hringbraut 57,
30 October 1956.

of such a group, in their opinion the initiative
should pass from Icelandic side. Before Mrs. Osborn
Mr. Lithgow Osborne, 25 Wilton Lane, New York 21,
127 East 73rd Street,
New York 21, N.Y.

My dear President,

My best thanks for your kind letter of October
15, and please accept my apologies for not having replied
earlier. But I have had talks with various distinguished
persons in view of forming an Icelandic Atlantic Unity
Association and obtaining their assent to becoming
signatories to the Declaration of Atlantic Unity.

I have i.a. spoken with Mr. John J. Muccio, the
American Ambassador to Iceland, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson,
former Minister for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Gylfi Gísla-
son, Minister of Education. Mrs. Osborn's letter contains
the names of 72 Icelanders, but none of these has as yet
signed any obligation to become a member of an Icelandic
Atlantic Unity Committee, some of them are even persons
whom Mrs. Osborn can hardly have met. Very few of them
know anything more than Mrs. Osborn has told them, often
in a very brief interview, but all of them are very
sympathetic. But that is not enough to form such an
Association. A meeting must be arranged to discuss
the matter.

Because of the Communists - who are very numerous
here - the first steps would necessarily have to be
taken in quiet in order to avoid their attacks in the
beginning. Some persons are doubtful whether Mrs.
Osborn is the right person to sponsor the formation

of such a group. In their opinion the initiative should come from Icelandic side. Before Mrs. Osborn came here, three young editors (one from each of the main organs of the three democratic parties) all of whom have been in the United States, were deliberating on the same or similar step. It would be very desirable if they were allowed to try their hand and to choose the leading personalities which they desire. I think that Mrs. Osborn's list would be very useful to them.

I shall continue to work towards this goal in quiet and there may be some time before I can write to you about the results, but I shall keep you advised. I do sincerely think that the best policy would be the one I have suggested.

The Althing has just convened and has not yet elected the members for the Parliamentary delegation, but it is known that Mr. Jóhann Hafstein, Bank Director, will be among them.

You will hear from me again.

With cordial greetings, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Alexander Jóhannesson



British Embassy,
Copenhagen.

October 12, 1956.

Dear Mr. Benediktsson,

You may remember that you were kind enough to give me some of your time when I was in Reykjavik last June. I heard that you were in Copenhagen recently and tried to get in touch with you, but you had already gone. I shall however be paying a flying visit to Reykjavik next week, to see our new Minister, and it would be a pleasure if you could find time for lunch with me one day, or at any rate for a talk, if you are not too busy. Perhaps I may telephone you after my arrival?

Yours sincerely,

M. F. Cullis

(M.F. Cullis)

Regional Information Counsellor
for the Nordic Countries.

Hr. Bjarni Benediktsson.



Personal

Fyrverrandi Radherra
Bjarni Benediktsson,

Reykjavik,

ISLAND.

13/5, 1957.

Hr. Þirítur Benediktsson
Sendiráði Íslands,
L o n d o n

Góði vinur:

Svo sem þú o.t.v. hefur erfðið var við hofði ég á sínum tíma hofði Agnar El. Jónsson um að fá afstöppu af þúfskýrðum föðurfénum hjá mamma þeim í London, sem gert hafði myndina fyrir vaxmyndasafnið. Ég hafði sent Agnari peninga og skilt mér, að maðarinn hefði tekið við þeim en síðan haft andarbrögð. Staðreynd er, að ein hefði ég hverki fengið myndina né peningana endurgreidda. Ef þú ert lami í málinu, vottti ég o.t.v. biðja þig um, að kenna það fyrir mig og láta mig síðan vita. Annars réðle gja mér hvað tiltakið er verið.

Vona að þér og þínu fóaki lífi vel.

Með bestu kveðjum,

LONDON.

27. maí 1957.

Db. 1.R.3.

Góði vinur,

Þakka þér bréf frá 13. maí um höfuðmynd af föður þínum. Eg var satt að segja ekki inni í málinu, en Agnar Kl. Jónsson er samvirkusamur embættismaður og hefir haldið til haga afritum af bréfum og frásögnum af samtölum, svo að auðvelt var að sjá hvað gerzt hefir í þessu máli.

Greinilegt er að myndasmiðurinn, Richard Lee, er mestí mannhundur að eiga við. Hann hefir lofað og lofað að láta steypa myndina, en af einhverjum óskiljanlegum ástæðum aldrei haft manndað í sér til að koma því í verk. Nú hefi ég séð í hann aftur og segist hann vera búinn að koma þessu á rekspól og að myndin sé nú í bronze-steypunni og verði tilbúin eftir ca. 5-6 vikur. Ef þetta er satt finnst mér að svo stöddu rétt að gefa honum þennan eina sjans til að standa við loforð sín. Eg skal merkja í almanakið hjá mér og húa í hann aftur að fimm vikum liðnum. Hafi þú ekkert gerzt held ég að rétt sé að taka til annarra ráða.

Að því er greiðslu snertir segir hann að verkið muni kosta £50 (ekki £45 eins og áður var um talað). Segir hann að þetta stafi af þökkun á vinnu og efni. Eg bráttaði ekki við hann um þetta af því að mér fannst maðurinn svo ómerkilegur að ekki hefði þýtt neitt að benda honum á, að ef hann hefði staðið við gefin loforð þegar fyrst var um þetta samið, þá hefði verið getað orðið £45 eins og upphaflega var um samið.

Í þessu sambandi get ég glatt þig með því, að £45 sem þú sendir á sínum tíma liggja hér hjá sendiráðinu og eru auðvitað tiltek hvenær sem er. Vona ég að þú sambykkir þenna £5 mismun, ef myndin fæst með því verði.

Eg skal láta þig vita hvernig málum er komið að fimm vikum liðnum, nema þú óskir annars.

Með beztu kveðju, þínum einl.
Eiríkur Benediktsson

Hr. ritstjóri
Bjarni Benediktsson,
Morgunblaðinu,
Reykjavík.



DECLARATION OF ATLANTIC UNITY

51 EAST 42nd STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y. • MURRAY HILL 2-2562

UNITED STATES SPONSORS

Will L. Clayton
William H. Draper, Jr.
Hugh Moore
Lithgow Osborne
Hans Christian Sonne

Walden Moore
Project Director

August 2, 1957

Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, M.P.
Althing
Reykjavik, Iceland

Dear Mr. Benediktsson:

I enclose herewith a Circular Letter which is being sent to all 271 signers of the Declaration in eleven NATO countries.

It seems to us that unless our governments act now to carry out more fully the pledges which they made when they signed the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949 and adopted the Report of the Committee of Three in 1956, the threat to the lives and welfare of all of us will continue unabated. That so little has been accomplished in building up NATO on the non-military side is to some extent the responsibility of all the governments concerned, but primarily of the major NATO powers.

These circumstances place an obligation for leadership on those of us who signed the Declaration of Atlantic Unity. We hope that you, as a leader of opinion in Iceland, will accept this obligation.

In particular, will you - as an individual or member of a delegation - urge implementation of the recommendations of the Committee of Three and point up the urgency of strengthening both military and non-military aspects of NATO among the following groups:

1. leaders of your Government
2. your Parliament
3. your political party

It would be most helpful in coordinating efforts in various countries if you could let your Sponsor hear from you about anything you are able to do in this direction. He is Dr. Alexander Johannesson, Hringbraut 57, Reykjavik.

NATO was born of the will of the west for survival in freedom. Its vigor can be restored if leaders in NATO countries will take the initiative in awakening fellow citizens to the perils of postponing support for NATO's growth.

Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, M.P.

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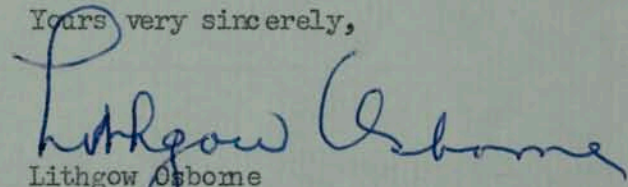
August 2, 1957

I also enclose for your information a copy of a letter addressed to your Prime Minister. We hope that the further proposals for Atlantic Unity suggested in that letter will also commend themselves to you. As a former Minister of Foreign Affairs, a leading editor and as Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party you are in a key position to assist this further effort.

Our Project Director, Mr. Walden Moore, will be in Iceland from August 20 to 24. He will be in touch with Dr. Johannesson and will hope to have an opportunity to talk with you at that time.

Dr. Johannesson will look forward to hearing from you. With appreciation for your understanding and cooperation, in the past, as now, I am,

Yours very sincerely,



Lithgow Osborne
For the American Sponsors of the
Declaration of Atlantic Unity

- Encs: 1. Circular Letter
2. Letter to Hermann Jonasson, August 2

P.S. We are sending you by regular mail and under separate cover a copy of the Report of the Committee of Three.