

# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

50th Anniversary Year

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## THE ATLANTIC PACT AND PEACE

WHEN President Truman sprang his "bold new plan" of economic aid to backward nations on a unsuspecting United States last month, the people had a brief, restless moment when they thought the new fashion in cold war would be economic rather than military.

But a snowballing development of the North Atlantic Defense Pact has caused U. S. citizens to understand that the cold war and at some time must remain a two-front conflict. One of these fronts is military.

The cold war remains one-part military despite Russia's recent success in the South Atlantic. The Russian drive in the South is at least 25 airplanes which bind the East into a Soviet fortress.

As early as 1949, when the Soviet signed a mutual assistance pact with Czechoslovakia, there was an Eastern Defense Pact. Alliances with Poland, Yugoslavia, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Rumania and Finland followed.

The world could—and in some cases did—accept these successive military alliances as plans for aggression. That potential aggressive force has not as yet been put into effect.

Thus, the North Atlantic Defense Pact is a defensive military alliance of the Western democracies aimed at preventing—through the power of superior force—a world war.

But the Kremlin will not accept the Pact as a defensive balancing of power. "Preparations for a new war," Stalin cries, conveniently forgetting his own alliances through the past five years.

And this Russian finger of scorn has still another hang-nail on it: the North Atlantic Defense Pact is sanctioned (as are the Eastern alliances) under United Nations authority. U. N.'s Charter permits regional alliances to preserve the peace.

The West has all the moral justification it needs for the Pact. It is a pact of peace. But even if the West lacked moral justification, the Pact has been made imperative through the chill practicalities of the cold war.

For one cannot say bluntly, flatly that the USSR is on the verge of launching a war against the West. Indeed, this seems unlikely as foreign observers have begun to see the Russian drive toward a military potential for a major war and few believe they have cracked their own atoms as yet.

But if—and when lives and national assets are involved the Pact becomes very large—if Russian troops were to make a lightning attack against Europe at this moment, they could sweep to the sea in a matter of days.

It will be difficult—perhaps impossible—

for the United States to provide enough weapons of war to make Western Europe impregnable against such an attack, but we could strengthen France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway, Denmark sufficiently to discourage a Russian attack.

And the political advantage Western democracy will gain in the participating countries will be far from trivial. For, within the North Atlantic Defense Pact, there would be no such coups d'etat as that which put Czechoslovakia inside the Iron Curtain and made of the Baltic nations a world Soviet bloc.

The implementation, rather than the application, of the Pact is of the most immediate concern, since the United States could hardly pledge war against an attacker of any participating nation. No such treaty can be made since the Congress alone can make such a pledge.

It is this matter of implementation which is what has brought Pact negotiations to a crisis in Norway, which shares a common border with the Soviet Union, is participating in talks to determine whether she would welcome an invitation to join the Pact. It seems now that she would, providing the United States can offer her security against Russian conquest. (There is a possibility that Russia would consider the action hostile.) Whether Stalin would call for immediate "punishment" of Norway in the event of Norwegian participation in the Pact is uncertain. That is Norway's gamble: It is the job of the Western powers to see to it that the odds are even.

This assurance—as requested by Norway—

—flow to these points:

(1) What will the Western powers do to protect Norway during the period of negotiation before the signing of the pact?

(2) Would Norway, possessing a common border with Russia, have priority in the shipment of military equipment?

(3) What kind of equipment and how much of it can the United States provide?

(4) Would Norway be provided military equipment even if she did not join the pact?

The questions are before U. S. Secretary of State Acheson. Scandinavian participation in the Pact is essential and the Pact itself means peace to world peace. Thus the Scandinavian countries—Norway, Sweden, Denmark—have become, as the *Christian Science Monitor* puts it, "the subject of diplomatic showdown between Russia and the West."

The West—and the world—is in sight of security, resolution of the cold war brought about through a balance of power. The Pact will make it clear whether peace is an illusion or a reality.

## Joseph Alsop

### The Miracle Of Britain

IT is good news generally regarded as British would long ago have made the headlines in American newspapers. There is only one way to describe it. In the past year, the British people have accomplished a miracle.

In November, 1947, when this correspondent was last in London, the economic outlook was as dark as the military outlook in July, 1940. The nation was suffering from an massive financial hemorrhage which threatened the collapse of its currency. Exports and imports appeared to be hopelessly unbalanced, an Englishman's weekly ration was gravely low. And the prospect of immediate American aid stood between the British and a total disaster.

Now the traveler observes that things are better in the very hour of arriving in London. This sprawling, imperial city is one which depends upon imports for its food, and the polished brass, the whirled steel and even the neat by-ones in time that made the old London are at least beginning to reappear.

ASTERTY ACCEPTED

The British people are still accepting without grumbling a degree of austerity that would bring on a revolution in most countries—barring starches and fresh vegetables, an Englishman's weekly ration does not make two reasonably hearty meals. But the shops are nonetheless full. The restaurant food is hardly a British delicacy, but it is a central theme of mystique. And although home cooking is hardly a British specialty, it is a central theme of mystique. And although home cooking is hardly a British specialty, it is a central theme of mystique.

It is not in all this outward improvement, however, that the real British miracle. To find the miracle, you must look, rather, to sorted ranks of statistics which used to make every rich English person look like members of an entirely separate race.

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These remarkable achievements by no means permit the British to relax in their efforts. For one thing, they frequently argued with the United States with the world as a whole, they are still forced to buy from the United States for most of their needs. Furthermore, the deficit is still big—about \$670 million for the last half-year 1948. And while these figures represent a substantial gain, this dollar deficit must eventually be abolished altogether. In the meantime, the British people are still accepting without grumbling a degree of austerity that would bring on a revolution in most countries—barring starches and fresh vegetables, an Englishman's weekly ration does not make two reasonably hearty meals. But the shops are nonetheless full. The restaurant food is hardly a British delicacy, but it is a central theme of mystique. And although home cooking is hardly a British specialty, it is a central theme of mystique.

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## Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

NOT since the pigs got out and muscled our laws has my wife been as irked at me as last week when I stood in front of the Argentine Embassy in Washington and received his medal from dictator Peron.

Probably she is right. She usually is. Of course, Mrs. P has always wanted me to be a pundit like Walter Lippmann. But my frequent refusal to argue with the United States and can't get over it. Moreover, she has put up with a lot of ribbing about me from all sorts of people.

But I don't blame her for being so. My wife is a woman who is not afraid to stand up for her principles. She is a woman who is not afraid to stand up for her principles. She is a woman who is not afraid to stand up for her principles.

## Once Democratic Argentina

"ONCE" was back in the days when I was writing for a Latin American magazine. At that time I was writing for a Latin American magazine. At that time I was writing for a Latin American magazine.

We had some distinguished Argentine Ambassadors in those days, including Fulpi Espil and before him Honorio Pueyrredon. They were men of high character and high ability. They were men of high character and high ability. They were men of high character and high ability.

They vigorously opposed our high protective tariff, against our reaction to the tariff. They were men of high character and high ability. They were men of high character and high ability. They were men of high character and high ability.

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## 'Awake! Arise!'



Act, with a provision for a fact-finding board to look into the cause of the disruption during a specified period, while the board was reaching its conclusion, both sides would refrain from any striking action.

Sec. 12 provides much of the debate over the power of the President to seek an injunction in the event of a national emergency. It is a purely national emergency. It is a purely national emergency. It is a purely national emergency.

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## Marquis Childs

### The Middle Road

IN A SMALL, hot, crowded room the delegates to the National Labor Relations Board were penned in by closed rows of spectators. Outside the room, the air was thick with the patient for a seat to be vacant.

This is the hearing on the new labor legislation, the most important since the enactment of the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. It is a purely national emergency. It is a purely national emergency. It is a purely national emergency.

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## COMPLETE OVERHAULING

A NEW measure introduced by Rep. J. M. McCullum of Chowan County offers a simple, workable way to overhaul North Carolina's archaic, much-abused justice of the peace system. It is to be hoped that the bill gains strong support in the General Assembly and that it offers a reasonable facsimile thereof. It is hoped.

Mr. McCullum's bill goes straight to the heart of the magistrate problem by prescribing an effective way to hold the number of magistrates within reason and to supervise their work closely.

At present, magistrates may be elected by the people, appointed by the Governor, or their counties may elect them. The bill provides for the Ombudsman Bill method. Mr. McCullum would have County Commissioners appoint the magistrates, taking into consideration the population and the need for justices in fixing the number of magistrates.

Term of office would be limited to two years, and re-appointment would be required. Temptation for the magistrates to drum up business so he might collect more fees would be removed by the bill. Instead,

magistrates would be paid an annual salary of a certain sum per diem, and such fines and fees as they collect would be paid into the general fund of the county.

Mr. McCullum would also make every justice of the peace subject to the "Daily Deposit Law" and require him to make monthly deposits of his receipts for salaries, showing fees, fines and forfeitures.

Finally, the bill would bond each magistrate, the premium to be paid by the County Commissioners.

In view of the many flagrant abuses in North Carolina in recent years, it would seem that the General Assembly would be anxious to correct some of the faults and deficiencies which have become so many cases, would considerable political influence and the Legislature has traditionally been reluctant to arouse their ire.

Perhaps this year will be different. Certainly the evidence turned up in the Turner case here a few weeks ago proves how easily the system can be abused, and shows the pressing need for a major overhauling.

From The St. Louis Globe-Democrat

## HIGH COST OF GLAMOUR

NOTHING is more mysterious in the American scene than the way in which the average woman spends her money on clothes. She spends more on clothes than she does on any other single item. She spends more on clothes than she does on any other single item. She spends more on clothes than she does on any other single item.

Fortune magazine sheds some discouraging light on this mystery in its current issue. The annual cost of keeping the women folks clothed, shod and looking and smelling alluring is—hold on to your seats, men—\$129,000,000. This sum, it might be purchased amounting to \$600,000,000, and that, which most men are inclined to view as outrageous extravagance, take only \$400,000,000. Gloves, handkerchiefs and

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## James Marlow

### What Of The U. S.?

WASHINGTON

TODAY the papers are full of the story of the Soviet spy ring which was broken up in Canada and Japan.

Compared with this, the Soviet spy ring which was broken up in Canada and Japan.

It is the most startling spy story of our times, and perhaps of any time.

The Japanese finally discovered the ring and crushed it during the Russo-Japanese war.

It revolves around two men, the leaders of the ring, and both Communists.

Richard Sorge, a German, and Oad Hounami, a Japanese. Both were newspapermen in New York.

Richard Sorge was an adviser to the German ambassador in Tokyo. He couldn't have been much closer to secrets.

And Ozaki Hounami, posing as a loyal Japanese Communist, was the link between Japanese Communists and Communist-sympathizers, gathering information about the Soviet Union.

It's getting to be a familiar story. It's getting to be a familiar story. It's getting to be a familiar story.

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