

European Situation 'Critical'

Western Bloc Treaty Terms Made Public

Five European Nations Pledge Mutual Military, Economic Aid

BRUSSELS, Belgium, (AP)—A five-power treaty starting a 50-year Western European union to defend democracy was signed here today.

The historic military, political and economic alliance was signed by the foreign ministers of Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The signing, at 5:34 P. M. (11:04 A. M. EST) took place in the 500th Session Hall of the Brussels Palace of Academies.

The treaty pledges the five nations to mutual military aid if any one of them is attacked. The treaty was completed here Friday.

The terms of alliance, embracing economic and military cooperation, were made public in the capitals of the five nations as their respective ministers formally signed the pact in Brussels.

The 50-year treaty, forged last night in atmosphere darkened by the westward advance of Communism, called for quick action to put its objectives of common security and economic recovery into operation. The treaty was a prelude to the formation of a new organization.

The treaty ordered formation of a "consultative committee" to operate on a continuing basis.

The council is to act immediately on any situation which might constitute a serious threat to peace.

The treaty's fourth article was the crux of the agreement. It said: "The five powers do not mention Russia by name.

The text did specify that the consultative council would determine "steps to be taken in case of a renewal by Germany of any aggression."

Significantly, the treaty added: "Or with regard to any situation constituting a danger to international peace and security and existing in any other part of the world."

"Under the plan, any such country invited could become a party to the agreement. It would be open to any country which is not at war with the United States or the United Kingdom."

The countries formally declared their "close community of interests" and expressed their belief in the "necessity of uniting in order to promote the economic recovery of Europe."

The treaty promised to "organize and co-ordinate their economic policies, the extent of production and the development of commercial exchange."

Obviously bearing in mind cooperation with the other eleven nations which had signed the European Recovery Program, the treaty said the common aims "shall not involve any duplication, or prejudice to, work of other international organizations in which they are members. On the contrary, the treaty said the alliance would assist such organizations."

This was in line with British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's announced goal of building a core for a future Western European union, while developing economic cooperation among the sixteen Marshall Plan nations.

The agreement on mutual military air defense directly realigns against "an armed attack off Europe."

The preamble to the treaty reaffirmed the nations' faith in fundamental human rights and the principles of democracy, personal and political liberty and constitutional government.

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Walkout Nearly Ends Soft Coal Production

Steel Industry Begins Cutbacks

PITTSBURGH — (AP)—The nation's soft coal production virtually was snuffed today by the United Mine Workers three-day-old labor walkout.

Labor forbearance began to spread to coal-dependent industries. A coal-carrying railroad posted notices that its shops would close Saturday. A steel corporation said one blast furnace and five open hearths will be closed for lack of coke in a few days.

The latest field count showed 52,000 of the 400,000-man union idle. These diggers had left the pits Sunday midnight in support of John L. Lewis' demand for 500 monthly miners' pensions. Other demands were expected to show today, making the shutdown complete.

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Leaders Map Military Strategy

Secretary of Defense James Forrestal... Admiral Louis E. Denfield, chief of U. S. armed services at the naval base in Key West, Fla., during a special meeting to discuss military problems. Left to right: Vice Adm. Arthur W. Radford, vice chief of major operations; Admiral Louis E. Denfield, chief of U. S. armed services at the naval base in Key West, Fla., during a special meeting to discuss military problems. Left to right: Vice Adm. Arthur W. Radford, vice chief of major operations; Admiral Louis E. Denfield, chief of U. S. armed services at the naval base in Key West, Fla., during a special meeting to discuss military problems.

Under that measure, the aid bill would go to House-Senate conference committee in ample time for Congress to complete action well before the Italian elections April 18.

House Passage Pushed

Republicans Ask Quick Aid Action

WASHINGTON — (AP)—House Republican leaders renewed today their call for April 1 but left details of the measure to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Under that measure, the aid bill would go to House-Senate conference committee in ample time for Congress to complete action well before the Italian elections April 18.

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Fast Action On Aid Plan Is Requested

Universal Training Law Urged To Bolster American Defenses

(Text Of Presidential Message Is On Page 13-A)

WASHINGTON — (AP)—President Truman urged Congress today to revive the draft in the face of what he termed St. Patrick's Day tie.

In a personal address to a joint Senate-House session, Mr. Truman also asked quick enactment of a Universal Military Training Law and of the \$5,300,000,000 European aid program.

A draft is needed, he said, as a temporary thing until universal training gives America the trained men it needs.

Mr. Truman wore a grey business suit, touched off with a green St. Patrick's Day tie.

SEES THREAT TO LIBERTY

Grinly, he told Congress Russia is out to destroy the independence of Europe's remaining free nations. He said the time has come when America must make its position unmistakably clear—in military as well as economic terms.

Slowly and carefully he read from his prepared text a prediction that the United States will extend to the free nations of Europe "the support which the situation requires" to keep them out of the hands of Communism.

Drafting men for the armed services and universal training is part of the price of peace, he declared, saying: "We must be prepared to pay the price or assuredly we shall pay the price of war."

As the President read his message, law making machinery was in motion to take up his proposals.

The House Republican leadership has agreed to push the European recovery bill, already approved by the Senate.

In the Senate, the Armed Service Committee announced hearings beginning later today. It will consider both the draft and UMIT requests.

Galleries were filled a half hour before the President appeared. Entrances were jammed with standees. Several hundred people, unable to get into the chamber, were massed in the driveway in front of the Capitol.

A sustained burst of applause greeted the President as he entered.

As he began speaking, promptly at 12:32 P. M., EST, he glanced at the section on his right where sixteen representatives of the diplomatic corps were seated.

HUSH FALLS OVER HOUSE

An unusual hush fell over the House. The President expressed his confidence that the United States will support "the free nations" in their effort to remain free.

For the most part, Mr. Truman read rapidly. He paused and his voice grew deeper when he mentioned "the tragic death of Czechoslovakia."

Billy Mr. Truman spoke these words of Soviet Russia—all of the war which crushed Germany and Japan: "One nation has not only refused to co-operate in the establishment of a just and honorable peace, but even worse—has actively sought to prevent it...."

That nation has persistently obstructed the work of the United Nations by constant abuse of the veto. That nation has vetoed 21 proposals for action....

"But that is not all. Since the close of hostilities, the Soviet Union and its agents have destroyed the independence and democratic character of a whole series of nations in Eastern and Central Europe...."

"It is this ruthless course of action, and the clear design to extend it to the remaining free nations of Europe today that make it necessary to take immediate action to ensure that our door is not closed to peace."

Mr. Truman also said: "The door has never been closed, nor will it ever be closed, to the Soviet Union or any other nation which will genuinely co-operate in preserving the peace...."

Meat Strike Is Studied

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May Change Oil Plans

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4 Injured As Freight Hits Passenger Train

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8 Royal Air Force Fliers Are Killed

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Weather

Fair and cool tonight. Thursday fair and milder. Temperature at 3 P. M. today 71. High and low last 24 hours: 71-59. Sunrise tomorrow 7:30.

More Weather Data on page 13-A