March 28, 1949

SUMMARY OF TELEGRAM

ATLANTIC Pact: We have advised our Legation in Reykjavik that we would prefer to have Iceland accept the invitation to join the Atlantic Pact without comment. If, however, the Icelandic government feels it must say something, we suggest it state that Iceland's special position as an unarmèd nation limits the action it might take under Article V of the pact. Meanwhile, our Charge in Copenhagen has been told of Denmark's hope that the US will reconsider Denmark's arm shipments so that Denmark might receive promptly a "symbolic" arm shipment. Our Charge feels that such a shipment would serve as a boost to military morale and would have a beneficial political effect.

ISRAEL: King Abdullah of Transjordan has given to our Charge in Tel Aviv for transmission to President Truman a message which sets forth the demands made by Israel of Transjordan in the recent talks and which requests the President to prevent these "new movements." Abdullah says that these "movements" may cause a renewal of the conflict in Palestine. Meanwhile our Charge states that while Abdullah feels strongly about the manner in which the agreement has been forced upon him, he also realizes that failure to ratify it would lead to Israeli military action and to consequent territorial adjustments which would far exceed what Israel is trying to "restore" from Abdullah through negotiation. Our Charge adds his opinion that unless the US takes a strong line to stop Israel now, its frontiers may be extended to the Jordan River.

GERMANY: General Clay has expressed to our Acting Political Adviser in Berlin his opinion that the establishment of the west German government would inevitably be postponed. Clay feels that a failure to agree on common policies has resulted in a political failure for the western powers and that German sentiment is now turning against the formation of a west German government.
MILITARY AID

In connection with the military aid program, our
Ambassador in London feels we must do everything
we can to foster the unity and solidarity of the Western Union countries.
Douglas stresses that the Western Union countries comprise the hard core
of the military strength which may be developed in Western Europe, and
that the defense plans of Western Union constitute an important step
toward achieving an "Army of Europe" instead of nationalistic forces
loosely coordinated. Douglas feels the US should vigorously encourage
Western Union as a body and not place emphasis upon bilateral relations
with individual Western Union members.

Meanwhile, US representatives in London concerned
with the military aid program state their opinion that we ought not
unilaterally to interpret our UN obligations by suspending arms ship-
ments to the Netherlands. Our representatives point out that we have
been urging integration on European nations and we ought not to indicate
an unwillingness to act in concert with other Western Union countries
on this issue. They add that unilateral action would imply that we feel
the other Western Union countries are less serious in carrying out their
UN obligations than we and would weaken the military potential of Western
Union.