

FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1948, WESTERN EUROPE, VOLUME III

- a. Telegram den 11. marts 1948 fra den amerikanske ambassadør i Norge (Bay) til den amerikanske udenrigsminister.
- b. Telegram den 12. marts 1948 fra den amerikanske ambassadør i Norge (Bay) til den amerikanske udenrigsminister.
- c. Telegram den 12. marts 1948 fra den amerikanske udenrigsminister (Marshall) til den amerikanske ambassadør i Norge.

757.61/3-1148: Telegram

The Ambassador in Norway (Bay) to the Secretary of State

TOP SECRET

OSLO, March 11, 1948—6 p. m.

143. Embtel 131, March 8. I saw Foreign Minister Lange today at his request. He informed me that at special Cabinet meeting called by him March 8 all members government agreed quickly and unanimously to refuse invitation to join any pact whatsoever which might be offered by Soviet along lines proposal to Finland. He informed Cabinet fully of his talk with me¹ and declared his intention to report Cabinet's meeting to me as well as to British Ambassador.

I asked whether that meant Norway would take such action regardless whether Norway's position supported by Sweden and Denmark. He said, yes, Norway determined, if necessary, carry on alone as determination to refuse is inexorable.

Lange feels Undén sincere although he believes entire Swedish Government influenced to some degree by elections this year. To my question whether he felt Swedish Government reflected wishes of Swedish people he replied not exactly although they follow parallel path and [Page 45] government keeping ear close to people for reactions. As indication Swedish people in general thinking along neutrality lines expressed by Undén, Lange said he was informed *Dagens Nyheter* which has taken stand against Undén has recently lost substantial percentage of its circulation.

Lange is leaving tonight for meeting Scandinavian Foreign Ministers tomorrow Copenhagen (Embtel 122, March 4) where he stated he will press question other Scandinavian Ministers, particularly Undén as to precisely what position they will take if Norway should receive invitation to make Soviet pact as Norwegian Government feels situation sufficiently critical to make it necessary to know whether and what degree of support from Scandinavian neighbors may be depended upon. When I asked whether he intended to exert influence to uproot Undén from present apparently firm neutrality stand, he answered affirmatively remarking Undén must be handled slowly and gently.

Lange believes Denmark sufficiently aroused by recent Czechoslovak and Finnish crises especially following Danish Riksdag attack against communism yesterday to place Denmark safely on side of west.

Sent Department 148; repeated Helsinki 7, Moscow 7, Stockholm 18, Copenhagen 18, Paris 11, London 9.

BAY

1. The talk referred to here is presumably that of March 8 described in telegram 131.

857.20/3-1248: Telegram

The Ambassador in Norway (Bay) to the Secretary of State

TOP SECRET
US URGENT

OSLO, March 12, 1948—noon.

146. In our conversation yesterday Foreign Minister Lange reverted to question of possible military support for Norway particularly from US in case of need (Embtel 134, March 9) stating he [Page 49] had informed government he would indicate to me importance of ascertaining US attitude regarding nature and extent of aid Norway might expect in event of pressure or attempted occupation by Soviet. All members of Cabinet supported him. Government obviously deeply worried regarding US thinking on this question and is hopeful that at least crumb of information or suggestion of policy may be forthcoming from Washington.

Department's instructions will be helpful (Embtel 88, February 19, Deptel 78, February 25²).

BAY

Kilde: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1948v03/d39> (FRUS, 1948, bind III, s. 48-49)

857.20/3-1248: Telegram

The Secretary of State to the Embassy in Norway

TOP SECRET
US URGENT

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1948—7 p. m.

107. Urtels 143 Mar 11, 6 p. m. and 146 Mar 12, noon. You may inform FonMin we are giving most urgent consideration to question of Norwegian security. If Soviet demands are made on Norway, in our opinion it is imperative that Norway adamantly resist such demands and pressure. Events in Czecho and elsewhere demonstrate futility of any other course. Soviet demands on Turkey and Iran were resolutely and successfully resisted by those countries. The American Govt supported both Turkey and Iran in resisting the Soviet demands.

You may tell FonMin in absolute confidence that we are in communication with Brit Govt about Norwegian situation. You should confer with your Brit colleague about advisability of correlating your talks [Page 52] with FonMin with those of BritAmb who I am sure wall have received instructions along this same line.

MARSHALL

Kilde: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1948v03/d43> (FRUS, 1948, bind III, s. 51-52)

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