

ITALY

SECRETARY ACHESON: His Excellency Count Carlo Sforza, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy.

COUNT SFORZA: The Italian Nation, after two World Wars, in the space of one generation, looks with confidence and hope to this treaty; it sees in it a decisive step towards the advent of peace in a free and united world.

This Pact is a complex and articulate instrument in which the will prevails to discourage, through our unity, any aggressive move, preposterous and unlikely as this may appear. To the very few who in good faith still hesitate, be it enough to remind that, had this treaty existed in 1914 and in 1939, there wouldn't have been the battles which spread ruin from Italy to England, from France to Russia.

It is not without significance that the European peoples should have apprehended with joy that this treaty would be signed on the free American soil. It helps everybody realize that oceans are becoming small lakes, and that even the most different historical formations represent no more than a variety of folklore in front of the necessity of uniting, all of us, in order to save our most cherished common patrimony: peace and democracy.

Signing a Pact, however, is not enough. Life shall have to circulate through it, as a result of a constant free collaboration in the service of peace between all its members, present and future.

It is within the spirit of this Pact that two of its signatories, the French and the Italians, signed a week ago in Paris a treaty of economic cooperation between Italy and France. Not only would we fail the spirit of the Pact, we would also belittle its force if we considered it only as a protective umbrella. We must pray to God that this Pact will prove to be like the English Magna Carta: on one side intangible, on the other side a continuous creation.

The North Atlantic Pact will constitute one among the noblest and most generous events in human history if all its members will show – within and outside the Pact – that the melancholy history of Europe has taught them this supreme lesson: that no Nation in the world can feel secure in its prosperity and peace if all its neighbors are not as safely marching towards the same goals of prosperity and security. (Applause)