

DENMARK

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"Under Article I of the Treaty, the parties undertake to settle any international dispute by peaceful means. As has been recently said by a high American official, behind this pledge stand the character and policies of the countries which are parties to the Treaty. The very nature of their institutions makes a calculated plan of aggression a virtual impossibility."

Gustav Rasmussen, Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Remarks at NAT signing ceremony, Washington, D.C., April 4, 1949.

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(Speech given by  
His Excellency Gustav Rasmussen  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark,  
at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty  
in Washington, D.C., on April 4, 1949.)

"When today, on behalf of Denmark, I sign the North Atlantic Treaty, I do so because it is an instrument of peace and because it has no other purpose than defense in case an armed attack should occur against any one of the signatory powers.

"Under article 1 of the treaty, the parties undertake to settle any international dispute by peaceful means. As has been recently said by a high American official, behind this pledge stand the character and policies of the countries which are parties to the treaty. The very nature of their institutions makes a calculated plan of aggression a virtual impossibility.

"The North Atlantic Treaty contains a solemn affirmation of the pledges given by those countries under the United Nations Charter. The treaty is therefore designed to strengthen the system of the United Nations. It constitutes a cornerstone in the fundamental structure of general security.

"Twice in this century the United States of America has gone to war in order to come to the aid of the democratic nations of Europe in their fight against aggression.

"By this treaty the United States has in advance expressed her readiness also in the future to stand by democratic and peace-loving peoples and has thereby contributed in a magnanimous way to the maintenance of peace.

"This goal, the preservation of peace, is also Denmark's, in deep accord with the ardent desire and old tradition of the Danish people."

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- (3) ... "Denmark alone can only exercise in a very minor degree any influence on the question of war or peace. This it only has a chance of doing by co-operating with other countries, and the Atlantic Pact is the basic law for an international co-operation concerning the preservation of peace, a co-operation which demands sacrifices, but these are small in comparison with what the peoples of the European countries can experience if a new world war breaks out."....

(Danish Press Summary, August 29, 1950.

Speech in Copenhagen by M. Rasmus Hansen, Minister of Defence, August 28, 1950)

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