

ATLANTIC PACT - 12 NATIONS UNITE FOR PEACE

Washington

As the Foreign Ministers of 12 Western Nations enter the Departmental Auditorium in Washington, there begins a new epoch in the history of the world. In this city - once a stronghold of isolationism - democracy opens a new era of co-operation. Acknowledging that security is indivisible, 12 nations combine in a United Front from the Tropic of Cancer to the North Pole. "An attack on one is an attack on all." That is the pledge the Atlantic democracies proclaim. President Truman underlines America's support for this powerful group of nations, united in peace for the prevention of war. By radio, the President's summing-up of the Atlantic Pact is carried all over the world.

First to sign the Pact - which recognizes the common heritage of the Western World - is Paul Henri Spaak, Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary of Belgium. As the ink dries upon his signature and as the other Ministers step up to add their names the free world breathes a sigh of relief. Realising reluctantly that the universe is split into two massive blocs, the chosen representatives of 330 million people have absorbed the bitter lesson of Munich. To those to whom this pact seems provocative, the answer is that it is directed against no-one. It binds together a group of peaceful people, determined to defend their common way of life. It is a pact for peace and only guilty men can see in it a threat of arms. In alphabetical order the Ministers, each one accompanied by his country's Ambassador in Washington, add their names. Foreign Minister Stikker signs for the Netherlands. For Norway, Foreign Minister Lange.

For Portugal, Jose Caserio de Matta.

Signing Great Britain into this group of nations are Ernest Bevin and Sir Oliver Franks. President Truman greets Vice-President Alben Barkley to the platform and together they witness Dean Acheson sign for the United States. So comes into being the Atlantic Pact - a milestone in the history of mankind.