

ATLANTIC FACT.

President Truman signs the Atlantic Pact that pushes America's frontiers to the banks of the Rhine. 12 nations join in the treaty that considers an attack on one an attack on all. The President says it is an historic step to world peace, but only the first step. An hour later, he submits the next - military aid for Europe - amounting to \$400 million. Secretary of State Dean Acheson tells Congressmen that the programme will give Western Europe new security. In the words of Defence Secretary Louis Johnson, the Atlantic Pact would be meaningless unless the 12 nations had the means to implement its provisions. To check on the resources needed by the Pact signatories, President Truman's personal - plane the Independence - takes top-ranking U.S. Service Chiefs on a brisk tour of Europe. Air Chief Lord Tedder, the Navy's Lord Fraser and Field Marshall Slim greet the American Chiefs of Staff at Northolt. Admiral Louis Denfeld - the senior officer - leads the way as the Americans meet their British opposite numbers for a general exchange of views on matters of common strategy. Representing the U.S. Air Force is General Hoyt Vanenberg - here with Lord Tedder, who is shortly retiring from the R.A.F. There for the G.I. is that Normandy veteran and successor to General Eisenhower, General Omar Bradley.

Summing up the purpose of their visit, Admiral Denfeld says:

First outcome of the talks is that an Atlantic Pact supreme command will probably be set up within the next few months. This would seemingly supersede the present Western Union staff organization. Although the American Service Chiefs had little time to spare during their whirlwind tour, they did inspect some of the American forces now stationed in Britain. As General Bradley says, the U.S. forces here - and in Germany - are ready for any emergency and will be kept at their present strength. And it is Bradley, too, who says, Western Europe must count on America, if it is to survive. And America must count on Western Europe, if it is to endure - for only through the backing of America's power and goodwill can Europe survive.

