

CREATING AN ATLANTIC UNION DELEGATION

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Mr. McGEE, from the Committee on Foreign Relations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S.J. Res. 21]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, to which was referred the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 21) to create an Atlantic Union Delegation, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the joint resolution do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The purpose of Senate Joint Resolution 21 is to authorize the creation of a delegation of 18 eminent citizens to meet with similar unofficial delegations "from such North Atlantic Treaty parliamentary democracies as desire to join in the enterprise" in order to explore the possibility of agreement on "a declaration that the goal of their peoples is to transform their present relationship into a more effective unity based on Federal principles." Any such convention would be empowered to invite other parliamentary democracies to participate in the process, which would also explore the possibilities for a timetable and a commission to move toward that goal by stages.

BACKGROUND

Senate Joint Resolution 21 is almost identical to Senate Joint Resolution 217 of the last Congress, which, after favorable committee action, was approved by the Senate by voice vote on October 4, 1972. However, the House of Representatives did not vote on a companion resolution reported by the Foreign Affairs Committee last March. The resolution is the latest in a series of similar proposals introduced in the Congress on a number of occasions since 1949, so that Members are fully acquainted with the terms of Senate Joint Resolution 21.

One such effort was approved by the Congress in 1960 and resulted in a convention of citizens of NATO countries in Paris less than 2 years later. The recommendations of the ensuing declaration, however, generally were not acted upon by the Governments concerned.

According to the terms of Senate Joint Resolution 21, a delegation of 18 eminent citizens—not more than half of whom would be from one political party—would be appointed for the purpose of stimulating and participating in a convention contemplated by the resolution. They would be appointed in equal numbers by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, and the President of the United States. Consultation with the leadership in both Houses and with the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations would precede the naming of the 12 citizens by the Speaker and the Vice President. This requirement for consultation with the leadership is the single difference between the current proposal and the resolution approved by the Senate last October. The delegation members would serve without compensation, except for expenses, and would vote strictly as unofficial individuals in any meetings they attend. A limitation of 10 is placed upon the numbers of temporary staff to be employed by the delegation—although most committee members do not believe a staff of that size would be needed—and not more than \$100,000 may be devoted to the cost of meetings and conferences. The delegation is to make semiannual reports to Congress on its operations and expenditures, and would cease to exist within 3 years after the resolution is enacted. Senate Joint Resolution 21 authorizes appropriations of not to exceed \$200,000 to the Department of State to implement the work of the delegation.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On January 18, 1973, Senator Gale W. McGee (for himself and 18 cosponsors, including the majority and minority leaders of the Senate) introduced Senate Joint Resolution 21, which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. Although formal comment from the State Department had not been received at the time the committee considered Senate Joint Resolution 21 on March 14, the latter was unofficially assured that the Department had no objection to the resolution. This was confirmed in the following letter received on March 16:

MARCH 16, 1973.

HON. J. W. FULBRIGHT,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary Rogers has asked me to respond to your letter of January 23, 1973, requesting the comments of the executive branch on Senate Joint Resolution 21. This resolution calls for the creation of an Atlantic Union Delegation which would organize and participate in a convention of delegations from the North Atlantic Treaty parliamentary democracies. The convention would explore the possibility of transforming these countries into a federal union, of setting up a timetable for such a goal, and creating a commission to advance this process.

As you know, this resolution has the same objectives and provisions as Senate Joint Resolution 217 of the 92d Congress, which was passed by the Senate on October 4, 1972. In testimony before your committee on September 22, 1972, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State George S. Springsteen stated that the Department of State had no objection to the enactment of Senate Joint Resolution 217 since it was in keeping with the concept of seeking better ways to improve Atlantic relations.

This administration continues to recognize the importance of increased cooperation between the countries of the North Atlantic area. Consequently, our position with regard to Senate Joint Resolution 21 of the 93d Congress remains the same as it was toward the earlier resolution.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

MARSHALL WRIGHT,
*Acting Assistant Secretary
for Congressional Relations.*

More importantly, Senator McGee was able to read to committee members a letter from President Nixon addressed to Congressman Paul Findley, traditionally the chief sponsor of the Atlantic Union resolution in the House of Representatives. The text of the letter follows:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, March 10, 1973.

HON. PAUL FINDLEY,
*House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.*

DEAR PAUL: It was good to see you on March 2 and to have an opportunity to discuss the Atlantic Union resolution and other legislative matters. Let me reiterate what I told you about the resolution. As a goal and a concept, I have favored Atlantic Union for many years, dating back to my service in the Congress. As President, I have made it a policy not to give specific endorsement to resolutions of this kind, but I want you to know that my longstanding position on the concept and the goal which you are seeking to achieve through this resolution has not changed.

With best wishes always,

Sincerely,

RICHARD NIXON.

The committee, having held public hearings on this measure late last year, did not believe further information was required. At the same time, members believed it important to stress the point that there was no intention of interfering in the process of movement toward greater unity in Western Europe. Moreover, it was considered necessary to emphasize the fact that any actions taken under Senate Joint Resolution 21 would not affect the activities of the Committee of Nine of the North Atlantic Assembly. This latter committee of eminent Europeans and North Americans, under the chairmanship of Senator

Jacob Javits, is deeply engaged in working on a report on the future of the North Atlantic Alliance to be delivered to the Assembly next October.

Two further points were made by committee members last October and should be quoted here:

First, it was believed that the Department of State should be authorized and encouraged to cooperate with the delegation through making facilities and other assistance available. Second, it was agreed that the term "eminent citizens," when applied to the delegation's composition, did not preclude appointment of Members of Congress. This issue was raised because the 1962 delegation did not include any such Members.

On March 14, the Committee on Foreign Relations in executive session approved Senate Joint Resolution 21 and ordered it reported favorably to the Senate by voice vote and without objection.

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