

No. 541

**BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FRANCE,
ICELAND, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS,
NORWAY, PORTUGAL, UNITED KINGDOM
OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
and
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**North Atlantic Treaty. Signed at Washington, on 4 April
1949**

*English and French official texts communicated by the Permanent Representative of the United States of America at the seat of the United Nations.
The registration took place on 7 September 1949.*

**BELGIQUE, CANADA, DANEMARK, FRANCE,
ISLANDE, ITALIE, LUXEMBOURG, PAYS-BAS,
NORVEGE, PORTUGAL, ROYAUME-UNI
DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD
et
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE**

**Traité de l'Atlantique Nord. Signé à Washington, le 4 avril
1949**

*Textes officiels anglais et français communiqués par le représentant permanent des Etats-Unis d'Amérique au siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies.
L'enregistrement a eu lieu le 7 septembre 1949.*

No. 541. NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY¹. SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON 4 APRIL 1949

The Parties to this Treaty reaffirm their faith in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and their desire to live in peace with all peoples and all governments.

They are determined to safeguard the freedom, common heritage and civilization of their peoples, founded on the principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.

They seek to promote stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area.

They are resolved to unite their efforts for collective defense and for the preservation of peace and security.

They therefore agree to this North Atlantic Treaty:

Article 1

The Parties undertake, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, to settle any international disputes in which they may be involved by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice, are not endangered, and to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Article 2

The Parties will contribute toward the further development of peaceful and friendly international relations by strengthening their free institutions, by

¹ Came into force on 24 August 1949 in respect of all the signatory States, by the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of instruments of ratification, in accordance with the provisions of article 11. Following are the dates on which an instrument of ratification was deposited on behalf of each of the signatory States:

Belgium	16 June 1949	Netherlands	12 August 1949
Canada	3 May 1949	Norway	8 July 1949
Denmark	24 August 1949	Portugal	24 August 1949
France	24 August 1949	United Kingdom of Great	
Iceland	1 August 1949	Britain and Northern	
Italy	24 August 1949	Ireland	7 June 1949
Luxembourg	27 June 1949	United States of America ..	25 July 1949

bringing about a better understanding of the principles upon which these institutions are founded, and by promoting conditions of stability and well-being. They will seek to eliminate conflict in their international economic policies and will encourage economic collaboration between any or all of them.

Article 3

In order more effectively to achieve the objectives of this Treaty, the Parties, separately and jointly, by means of continuous and effective self-help and mutual aid, will maintain and develop their individual and collective capacity to resist armed attack.

Article 4

The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened.

Article 5

The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all; and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defense recognized by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area.

Any such armed attack and all measures taken as a result thereof shall

Europe or North America, on the Algerian departments of France, on the occupation forces of any Party in Europe, on the islands under the jurisdiction of any Party in the North Atlantic area north of the Tropic of Cancer or on the vessels or aircraft in this area of any of the Parties.

Article 7

This Treaty does not affect, and shall not be interpreted as affecting, in any way the rights and obligations under the Charter of the Parties which are members of the United Nations, or the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 8

Each Party declares that none of the international engagements now in force between it and any other of the Parties or any third State is in conflict with the provisions of this Treaty, and undertakes not to enter into any international engagement in conflict with this Treaty.

Article 9

The Parties hereby establish a council, on which each of them shall be represented, to consider matters concerning the implementation of this Treaty. The council shall be so organized as to be able to meet promptly at any time. The council shall set up such subsidiary bodies as may be necessary; in particular it shall establish immediately a defense committee which shall recommend measures for the implementation of Articles 3 and 5.

Article 10

The Parties may, by unanimous agreement, invite any other European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area to accede to this Treaty. Any State so invited may become a party to the Treaty by depositing its instrument of accession with the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America will inform each of the Parties of the deposit of each such instrument of accession.