Minute by G. Jebb[[1]](#footnote-1) for Sir Orme Sargent, Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, and other attendees of a meeting on Western Union, held in the Foreign Office, 21 January 1948

TOP SECRET

General Security

[1.] I feel that the consensus view this morning was that, from a long term point of view, it was largely immaterial whether the regional or the general approach was adopted as long as we achieved our end, namely the publicly declared support of the United States for any potential victim of Soviet aggression.

2. On the other hand, the general feeling of the meeting seemed, so far as we were concerned, to be in favour of a Three-Power Treaty for Germany, another for Italy, some special arrangement, if possible, for Scandinavia, coupled with unofficial and indeed secret assurances of American support for Greece and the Middle Eastern countries, to any general Convention based on Article 51 […].

3. The one thing we should, I think, seek to avoid is any suggestion by the Americans that the Western European states should themselves enter into some defensive arrangement aimed at Russia, to which the United States would not be a party. This seems to be implicit in Mr. Dulles’ suggestion recorded in today’s Times.[[2]](#footnote-2) It is surely something we should do our best to avoid, and strong pressure ought to be put on the United States against toying with such a dangerous notion. On the other hand, if it were desired it would be possible to form a regional organisation of the Western European states plus America based on Article 51. Unless, however, this Convention covers Greece, and perhaps also Turkey and Persia, we might be in the same trouble to which I have alluded in an earlier passage.

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1. Jebb, Sir H. M. Gladwyn (1900 - 1996) - British diplomat. Head of the Economic and Reconstruction Department, Foreign Office (1942 - 1946); Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs - United Nations Affairs (1946 - 1948); Deputy Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs - Political (1949 - 1950); Permanent Representative to the United Nations Organisation, New York (1950 - 1954). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See “Federation Of Europe More Powerful Than U.S., Mr. Dulles's Belief, From Our Own Correspondent” *The Times* (London), Wednesday, 21 January 1948, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)