

# Wallace Prepares For European Trip To Show He Is Fit OCT 11 1975

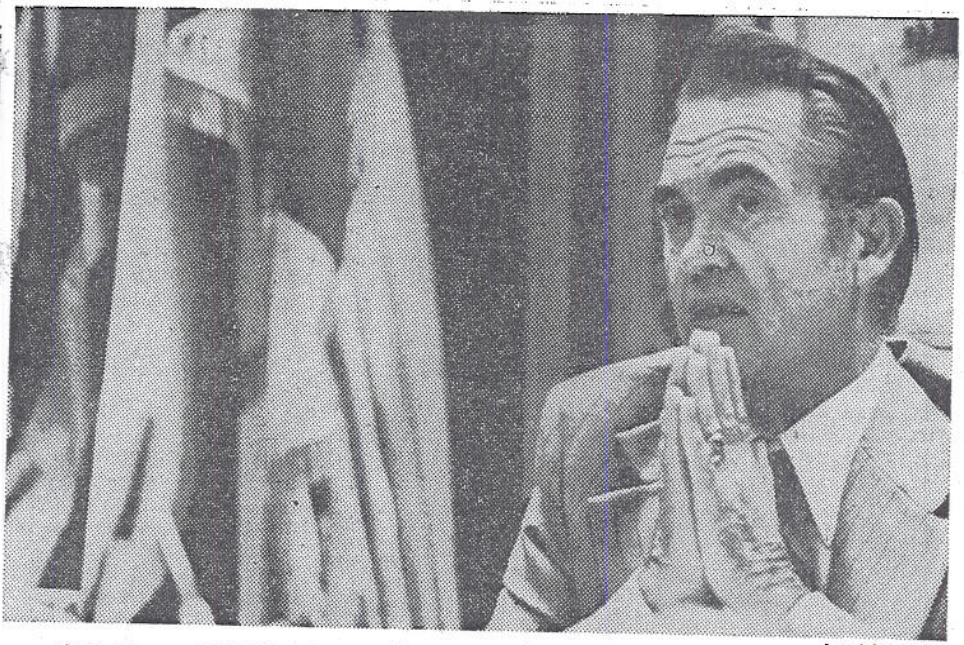
By B. DRUMMOND AYRES Jr.  
Special to The New York Times

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Oct. 10—Gov. George C. Wallace is scheduled to head for Western Europe late tomorrow on a two-week trip that he hopes will convince voters that he is healthy enough to run for President and well informed not only on national but also on international issues.

Mr. Wallace, who, aides say, is nearing the time when he will officially announce his fourth candidacy for the Presidency, plans to visit the capitals of Britain, Belgium, Italy, West Germany and France.

He also will stop in West Berlin and in Edinburgh, the

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Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama at his office in Montgomery the other day

Associated Press

## Wallace Set to Begin European Trip

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Scottish city from which some of his ancestors came. In most countries, the Governor plans to meet with top national leaders, but the list was not complete late today. His first stop will be in London, where he will see Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

The Governor has never been to Europe. He has been to Asia twice—as an airman in World War II and on a fact-finding trip during the Vietnam War.

### Speeches Broadened

His reputation rests on national issues. But in the last month or so, he has expanded the content of his speeches—once limited to discussions of busing, welfare and crime—to include talk of détente, arms control, relations with Cuba and control of the Panama Canal.

His foreign policy positions are as conservative as his positions on domestic policy. He warns of Soviet trickery, insists that Cuba must mend some of its Communist ways and demands retention of the Panama Canal.

Asked during an afternoon news conference today what he hoped to accomplish on his European trip, Mr. Wallace answered:

"All of us who have a constituency should go. Western Europe is very important. We can't be completely isolationist."

### Health a Factor

Privately, the Governor's aides say that the trip will prove that Mr. Wallace is healthy enough to run for President, despite the paralysis in his leg that lingers from a 1972 attempt on his life in Maryland.

The aides also contend that the trip will give the Governor a broader political image.

Mr. Wallace appears to be in good health except for the paralysis and some hearing difficulties. He is reported to take a mild drug for a slight pain that lingers in the area where he was shot three years ago.

Periodically, he suffers small urinary-tract infections, a common physical malady in paraplegics.

And sometimes, those closest to him say, he becomes despondent for a day or two, another malady that doctors

describe as common to paraplegics.

There is a story making the rounds in Montgomery that during his latest period of despondence, a week or so ago, the Governor complained that he did not really want to run for President again or go to Europe, that it was "too much trouble."

Experienced Wallace watchers concede that the Governor might have said as much, but they tend not to take him seriously.

Many consider the Governor to be a chronic campaigner, a man who "has" to run, who cares more about the hot excitement of the race and the quick flush of victory than the drawn-out wielding of power that follows.

They note that Wallace organizers have been active in 35 states and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds. They fully expect George Wallace to announce within the next month or so that he is going to run again for the Democratic nomination—or the nomination of a third party if the Democrats will not have him.

### Jet Is Leased

The best proof of that was the disclosure today that the two-engine jet he will take to Europe tomorrow has been leased by his campaign organization for the next 11 months at a cost in excess of \$500,000, plus operating expenses.

The cost of the European trip will be borne by the campaign organization, according to Charles Snider, the campaign manager.

"The Governor will be seeking industry for the state in some of the countries, but mainly it's a look-see trip that we'll pay for," Mr. Snider said.

Those who ask Mr. Wallace about his ability to withstand the rigors of an overseas trip or a campaign get a quick answer.

"The only thing that's wrong with me is that I can't walk," he always replies. Then, he frequently holds up an arm, flexes it and tells the skeptic, "Feel that."

It is rock hard. Mr. Wallace spends a part of most mornings doing exercises at the Governor's mansion. After lunch he heads for his office in the capitol, sometimes working into the night.

He was up until 4 o'clock

this morning as the Alabama Legislature struggled unsuccessfully on the last day of its session to pass a school finance bill. Some legislators complained quietly off the floor that Mr. Wallace was providing little leadership in the struggle because he was bored with state politics and preoccupied with national affairs.

At his news conference this afternoon, the Governor announced that he would run the schools by "emergency executive order" until the Legislature could be called back into special session in early November to reconsider the finance bill.

The Alabama Attorney General has handed down an opinion that the Governor has the power to do so.

### Record May Be an Issue

Mr. Wallace's stewardship of Alabama, as its only three-term Governor, could become a Presidential campaign issue. In various Federal and private studies, the state's schools, hospitals, asylums and prisons rated near the bottom nationally before Mr. Wallace took office, and in many cases they are still ranked near the bottom.

On his European trip, the Governor will be guarded by state troopers and Secret Service agents. He will be accompanied by his wife, several aides and a few close friends.

Many of the arrangements for his visits to various countries were made by the State Department. When American Embassy officials in several capitals talked of full-dress dinners in his honor, he sent word that he was "not that sort of Governor."