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JOINT STATE/DEFENSE ATTACHE MESSAGE

- REF: 1. COPENHAGEN 27 JUL 66. (NOTAL)
- 2. STATE 14644. *Def 7 Den-45 7/25/66*
- 3. DAO COPENHAGEN S7293, JUL 66, DTG 151350Z.

SUBJECT: U.S. NAVAL VISIT APPROVED PROVIDED SHIPS HAVE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD.

1. DANISH FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICER OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HANDED U.S. NAVAL ATTACHE LETTER APPROVING FIVE NAVAL VISITS TO DANISH PORTS DURING JUNE AND JULY. IN HANDING OVER WRITTEN APPROVAL DANISH NAVAL OFFICER EMPHASIZED THAT NO RPT NO

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE PERMITTED EITHER ON DANISH SOIL OR ABOARD SHIPS WHEN IN DANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS OR HARBORS AND THAT THIS HAS BEEN POLICY SINCE AT LEAST 1961. HE COMMENTED THAT INASMUCH AS VISITING U.S. VESSELS ARE RELATIVELY SMALL, DANISH GOVT. ASSUMES THEY WOULD HAVE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD. IN APPROVING VISITS LIAISON OFFICER MADE IT CLEAR THAT DANISH GOVT EXPECTS U.S. GOVT TO COMPLY WITH ITS POLICY.

2. DURING VISIT USS RANDOLPH (CVS-15) JULY 14-18, 1966, COMMANDER AND U.S. EMBASSY ANSWERED INQUIRIES FROM DANISH PRESS AND GOVT BY STATING THAT U.S. NATIONAL POLICY IS NEITHER TO CONFIRM OR DENY PRESENCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD NAVAL VESSELS. THIS REPLY WAS UNSATISFACTORY TO BOTH DANISH GOVT AND PRESS. AT THAT TIME MFA INFORMED EMBASSY THAT IF PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS WERE RAISED IT MIGHT BE

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DEPT OF STATE APPEALS REVIEW PANEL (ARP)

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Exemptions

ARP Action Cert. *me*

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-2- COPENHAGEN 1245, APRIL 24

NECESSARY TO ASK EMBASSY FOR OFFICIAL ASSURANCE THAT VISITING VESSELS CARRIED NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. UNDER GREAT PRESSURE EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE FINALLY STATED THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO "WEAPONS ABOARD RANDOLPH WHICH WOULD VIOLATE WELL-KNOWN DANISH POLICY CONCERNING STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY STATE 14644 OF JUL 25 AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE TO NO CONFIRM-NO DENY RESPONSE, NAMELY STATEMENT THAT U.S. NAVAL VISITS "IN NO WAY IMPINGE UPON DANISH SOVEREIGNTY OR POLICIES." DEPT. COMMENTED "REALISTICALLY WE ARE AWARE THAT DANES MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING SUCH FORMULATION." IT WAS NOT USED BECAUSE TIMELY DEPARTURE OF RANDOLPH. I BELIEVE PROPOSED STATEMENT IS TOO EVASIVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DANES AND WOULD BE NO MORE EFFECTIVE THAN NO CONFIRM-NO DENY FORMULATION IN AVOIDING TROUBLE.

4. IN VIEW CONTINUING AGITATION OVER VIETNAM, PERSISTENT PUBLIC QUESTIONING FUTURE OF NATO, AND EXPANDED INFLUENCE OF PEOPLES' SOCIALIST PARTY, WE CAN ANTICIPATE SEARCHING DANISH QUESTIONS DURING THIS SUMMER'S VISITS. NEITHER PRESS NOR DANISH GOVT IS LIKELY TO BE PUT OFF BY INDIRECT OR EVASIVE ANSWERS. WHILE RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT ORDER OF BATTLE INFORMATION MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED BY PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGING WHETHER SHIPS HAVE OR HAVE NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, I BELIEVE OUR INTEREST WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY AT OUTSET TAKING HEAD OF DANISH GOVT INTO OUR CONFIDENCE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

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5. ALTHOUGH NAVAL VISITS CREATE GOOD WILL, THEY ARE NOT WORTH RISK VIOLATION DANISH POLICY. HENCE, I RECOMMEND VISITING SHIPS CONFORM WITH CONDITION STIPULATED BY LIAISON OFFICER.

6 I RECOMMEND THAT UNLESS OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS EXIST I BE AUTHORIZED CONFIDENTIALLY TO DISCUSS NAVAL VISITS WITH FM. KRAG AND TO:  
A. INFORM HIM NAVAL VESSELS WILL NOT CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS;  
B. EXPLAIN THAT IN ANSWERING PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES WE WILL ADHERE TO THE NO CONFIRM NO DENY FORMULATION AND WHY MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FROM INTELLIGENCE POINT OF VIEW;

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-3- COPENHAGEN 1245, APRIL 24

C. REQUEST HE SUPPORT OUR PUBLIC POSTURE. SINCE WE CAN ANTICIPATE EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS, PRIOR CONSULTATION WILL ENABLE US HARMONIZE OUR THINKING. KRAG WHEN QUESTIONED COULD SAY HE KNOWS AMERICAN GOVT IS FULLY AWARE DANISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY AND THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD VIOLATE SUCH POLICY (OR STRONGER, THAT HE HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE ABOARD U.S. VESSELS WHILE IN DANISH TERRITORIAL WATERS). SUCH CONSULTATION SHOULD HELP

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HEAD OFF DANISH DEMANDS FOR SPECIFIC UNDERTAKINGS. PRESS WOULD CONTINUE UNHAPPY WITH NO CONFIRM-NO DENY STATEMENT, BUT I BELEIVE WE COULD MANAGE PROBLEM IF KRAG NOT SURPRISED AND PRE POSITIONED TO SUPPORT US.

7. WITH MIN OF DEF APPROVAL SHIP VISITS NOW UNCLASSIFIED. FIRST U. S. SHIP VISIT JUNE 16-19 FOLLOWED BY OTHERS. SSRIISCF\* USS WILLIS (DE-1027) WILL VISIT AALBORG JUNE 30-JULY 5 AND PARTICIPATE IN DANISH/AMERICAN JULY 4TH CELEBRATION SPONSORED ANNUALLY BY REBILD SOCIETY NATL PARK JUST SOUTH OF AALBORG. SOCIETY WILL PUBLICIZE SHIP'S VISIT IN MAY NEWSLETTER WITH PICTURES SHIP, COMMANDING OFFICER AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

8. DEPT'S AND DOD'S GUIDANCE URGENTLY REQUESTED.

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\* - As received; will be serviced upon request.

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