

Department of State

ACTION COPY

TELEGRAPH BRANCH

11-20-51, 9 a.m.

SECRET

CORRECTED COPY

LMS:ECW

Control: 8669

Rec'd: November 18, 1951
4:45 p.m.

28-M

Action

EUR ←

FROM: Reykjavik

Info

SS

G

SAE

DCR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 82, November 18, 2 p.m.

SENT DEPT 82, RPTD INFO LONDON 13.

FONMIN yesterday showed me November 13 London TIMES article quoting Sen Edwin Johnson statement that Ice, North Africa and Turk would be better atomic bases than England. Art entitled "Mr. Churchill's US Visit".

FONMIN perturbed over probability statement will reach local press as Commies and other anti-mil circles try foment public worry. Gen McGaw has no (rpt no) helpful info. Leg strongly recommends official reassurance that no (rpt no) present plans estab atomic base Ice.

RSP:MAM

HUGHES

*Reply drafted in
EUR / BNA / K Byrnes
Nov. 21, 1951; # 97*

OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MESSAGE CENTER

NOV 20 PM 2 13

DEC 4 1951

FILED

RECORD FILE

711.56340-B/11-1857/1.52340-B/11-1857

Subj. Desk

SECRET

PERMANENT RECORD COPY

• This copy must be returned to DC/R central files with notation of action taken •

REPRODUCTION OF THIS MESSAGE IS PROHIBITED

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 852931

CH

SECRET

(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

711.56340b/11-2751

N SERVICE DESPATCH

198
DESP. NO.

November 27, 1951

FROM : AMLEGATION, REYKJAVIK.
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.
REF : Legation's Secret Telegram 85, Nov. 24, 1951.

23 For Dept.	ACTION EUR	DEPT. I N F O	DCR OLI S/S G S/AE	28008
Use Only c	REC'D DEC 1	OTHER		

SUBJECT: FIRST ICELANDIC REACTION TO SENATOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT ON ATOMIC BASES.

The statement of Senator Edwin Johnson that atomic bases should be established in Iceland, North Africa and Turkey and not in England has been picked up by the local Communist press. The daily THJODVILJINN published the story on the first page on November 25, 1951, quoting a Reuters news despatch. (See enclosure). No editorial comment has appeared as yet. THJODVILJINN stated that, due to the pressure of the British people, Churchill had promised to negotiate with the United States for the transfer of these bases, and the article assumed that the United States is considering the possibility of moving the bases to Iceland. THJODVILJINN concluded that Americans feel that it does not matter if Iceland should be subjected to the attack and horrors which such bases would bring upon the nation.

A spokesman at the Foreign Office said informally that as yet no mention of the article has been heard from Icelanders.

Morris N. Hughes
Charge d'Affaires ad interim

Enclosure: *att*

Unofficial translation of article appearing in the Communist daily THJODVILJINN.

Department send copies:

- BNA
- OIR/DWE
- MATS (as per attached instruction)

Copy to General McGaw via Legation.

MSOlmsted/ar
REPORTER

SECRET

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This Document Must Be Returned to
 DC/R
 Central Files
 711.56340B/11-2751

SECRET FIVE

FILED

FEB 21 1952

RP

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE COMMUNIST DAILY THJODVILJINN, NOVEMBER 25, 1951, PAGE 1, COLUMN 2-5.

WILL THE AMERICAN ATOM BASES BE TRANSFERRED TO ICELAND?
A MEMBER OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS SAYS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SUBJECT BRITAIN TO THE HORRORS OF ATOMIC WARFARE. CONSIDERS THAT THE BASES WOULD BE BETTER PLACED IN ICELAND.

A Reuter's report from Washington dated the 12th of November, which has been carried by many foreign newspapers, says:

"At a press conference today the Democratic Senator Edwin Johnson declared that the United States should discard its atom bases in Britain, as they would be much better placed elsewhere, in Iceland, North Africa and Turkey, for example.

He concluded by saying that there was no excuse for subjecting Britain to the danger of enemy attack.

Senator Johnson is a member of the Atomic Energy Committee of the U.S. Congress."

MORGUNBLADID seems to have been of the opinion that it would not be beneficial for the Icelanders to see this report, as one would hardly expect a Reuter's report which concerns Iceland to escape its attention. Not least because the person involved is a member of the innermost U.S. preparations for an atom war, and who has more than once before reported on atomic energy issues which were to have been kept secret.

A movement to rid Britain of the U.S. atom bases, because they subject the British nation to tremendous danger, has been growing in intensity. This movement has become so powerful that Churchill has had to pay attention to it and has promised to try to negotiate the transfer of these bases from Britain by the United States.

The comments made by the American statesman indicate that the U.S. Government is considering the possibility of meeting this "request" by moving their atom bases to Iceland. His comments reveal that the Americans do not think there is much at stake, even if Iceland were subjected to the attacks and horrors which such bases would bring upon the Icelandic nation.

Department of State

08057

INDICATE: COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

RECEIVED DC/T
ACCEPTANCE UNIT

For DC/T use only.

SENT TO: AmLegation, REYKJAVIK **98**

DEC 21 6 20 PM '51

71156340 by 11-2451

Legtel 85, NOV 24.

Inform FONMIN it US policy not (rpt not) to deny or affirm rumors or unauthorized public statements re location atomic bomb bases or answer questions concerning them. To do so makes possible for Soviets determine pattern of our defenses by process of filling in and plotting geographical points concerning which US has made statements, even if these negative.

Central Files

You may tell FORMIN for his confidential information and that of his ~~Government~~ ^{Govt} that US has no (rpt no) intention going beyond letter or spirit of defense agreement and of course wld make no (rpt no) move do so without full consultation and agreement ICE Gov.

Bellevue
ACHESON *HFM*

DC/R
Anal. <u>1</u>
Rev. _____
Cat. _____

(JLH) KMB

Drafted by: **EUR: BMA: KMB** rns: jg
12/18/51

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: **H. Freeman Matthews**

Clearances:
S/AE - Mr. Chase
RA - Mr. Rogers
DEFENSE - Mr. Finletter
(through Stuart Rockwell)

~~TOP SECRET~~
Classification

S/S - CR

DEC 21 1951 P.M.

REPRODUCTION FROM THE COPY, IF CLASSIFIED, PROHIBITED.

TOP SECRET FILE

711.56340B/111-2451
Must Be Returned To

71156340-11-24