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 S/AE-1141/9A

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In reply refer to  
 S/AE-1141

Office of the  
 the signed original  
 MAB

Dear Mr. Sprague:

I refer to your letter No. I-15496/7 of October 8, 1957, to me concerning introduction and storage of nuclear weapons at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland.

After further careful review and consultation with our Ambassador in Copenhagen, it was concluded that it was most advisable that we make a very private and informal approach to the Danish Government in the manner that was suggested in my letter of August 23, 1957, to you. Our Ambassador was accordingly authorized to inquire of the Prime Minister whether the Danish Government would wish to be informed in the event that the United States should place nuclear weapons in Greenland.

Ambassador Peterson has made this inquiry; the Danish Prime Minister has taken note of it on a strictly personal basis and made no other comment. We are, accordingly, now in a position to go ahead with the deployment.

Ambassador Peterson reports that the Prime Minister was "adamant" that there would be no publicity of any kind about this matter now or later, and he has restricted knowledge of it to himself. We believe that any disclosure would be highly damaging both to the Danish Government and to our defense relationship with Denmark. It is requested, therefore, that every precaution be taken to protect this knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Murphy  
 Deputy Under Secretary

The Honorable  
 Mansfield D. Sprague,  
 Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA).

S/ASST Courtney *[Signature]*

Clearances: EUR - Mr. Jones  
 RNA - Mr. Mayer