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Authority NND 969000-By CWV NARA Date 3/6/97

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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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SECRET 008

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ACTION SS 70

INFO SSO 00, NSCE 00, USIE 00, CCO 00, MM 01, /071 W

U 221832Z JAN 68
 FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1287
 INFO HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN, GERMANY

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 2835

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: THULE B-52 CRASH

1. DEPT OF DEFENSE STATEMENT RE THULE ACCIDENT ARRIVED COPENHAGEN SHORTLY AFTER SPATE OF RUMORS REGARDING CRASH BEGAN CIRCULATING THROUGHOUT CITY. PENTAGON RELEASE HAS HELPED BUT THE EMBASSY STILL DELUGED BY PRESS, RADIO AND TV SEEKING DETAILS AND INQUIRING ABOUT US POSITION IN GREENLAND.

2. FONMIN HANS TABOR IN A PRESS RELEASE ABOUT 1700 SAID THAT IT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN A CASE OF AN EMERGENCY LANDING BY A US AIRCRAFT NOT RPT NOT BASED IN GREENLAND. TABOR'S STATEMENT

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 SAID: "THE DANISH POLICY REGARDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS ALSO APPLIES TO GREENLAND AND ALSO THE AIR SPACE OVER GREENLAND."

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THERE ARE NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN GREENLAND. THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ARE AWARE OF DENMARK'S NUCLEAR POLICY AND THE DANISH GOVT ASSUMES THAT THERE ARE NO AMERICAN OVER-FLIGHTS OF GREENLAND BY AIRCRAFT CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACCIDENT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT AMERICAN AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES. FOUR AMERICAN INVESTIGATIVE GROUPS ARE PRESENTLY ON THE WAY TO THE SITE OF THE ACCIDENT. THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ACCIDENT. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE US FOR REASONS OF WESTERN SECURITY ALWAYS HAS NUCLEAR ARMED AIRCRAFT ALOFT AND IT IS CLEAR THAT A LACK OF AIRPORTS IN THE ARCTIC AREA CAN MAKE IT NECESSARY AT TIMES OF EMERGENCY FOR AN AIRCRAFT TO SEEK A LANDING IN GREENLAND. IT APPEARS FROM THE AMERICAN EXPLANATIONS THAT THIS WAS A CASE OF AN EMERGENCY LANDING OR AN ATTEMPTED LANDING IN THE THULE AREA." PM KRAG AT ABOUT 1900 LOCAL TIME MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT.

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3. LT. COL. JAMES H. DICKSON, HEADQUARTERS US EUCOM, UNDER ORDERS FROM ASST. SECY OF DEFENSE GOULDING ARRIVED LATE THIS AFTERNOON FROM STUTTGART. HE WAS DOD ACTION OFFICER IN CHARGE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR THE PALOMARES INCIDENT AND WILL ASSIST EMBASSY IN MEETING PROBLEMS HERE.

4. POSSIBLE REQUIREMENT AT A FUTURE DATE FOR U.S. EXPERTISE IN FIELDS OF WEAPONS, HEALTH, PHYSICS AND CIRCUMSTANCES THIS ACCIDENT MAY DICTATE SUCH EXPERTS BE IDENTIFIED AND ALERTED. INQUIRIES ALREADY RECEIVED DEMONSTRATE INTENSE INTEREST IN DETAILS ABOUT RADIATION HAZARDS, BOMB SAFETY, AND THE SIMILARITY THIS TO PALOMARES.

5. POLICE HAVE REINFORCED SECURITY PRECAUTIONS CHANCERY AREA ACCORDING TO RELIABLE PRESS INFORMANTS.

6. EFFECT OF ACCIDENT ON THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS TOMORROW, OF COURSE, IS UNKNOWN. SOME SPECULATE THAT TIME BEFORE POLLING IS SO SHORT THAT THE CRASH IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE A MEASURABLE

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EFFECT UPON THE OUTCOME. WHITE

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