

## OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

INDICATE: ☐ COLLECT  
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106059

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Origin

ACTION: Amembassy, COPENHAGEN ~~EXXEXX~~ IMMEDIATE

27 JAN 68 23 21Z

Info:

NODIS

REFTEL: 106058

STATE 106059

~~FOR AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN~~ PERSONAL FOR AMBASSADOR FROM LEDDY.

XXX Following is text referred to in reftel:

XXI. Our review of the record indicates that in 1957 we determined that the effective operation of the strategic deterrent would require sometime in the future storage of nuclear weapons at Thule, Greenland. Our records indicate that while we believed that Article II(b)(3)(ii) of the 1951 Defense Agreement entitled us to store these weapons at Thule, nevertheless, we considered it important to determine whether your Government wished to be informed prior to introducing nuclear weapons into Greenland. Accordingly, our Ambassador made an approach of this nature to the then Prime Minister/~~HANSEN~~ Hansen on November 13, 1957. On November 18, 1957, Prime Minister/~~HANSEN~~ Hansen gave our Ambassador a written statement which he characterized as informal, personal, highly secret and limited to one copy each on the Danish and American side. This statement noted the United States Government's view of the Base Agreement and that we had not submitted a concrete plan for storage nor asked questions as to the attitude of the Danish Government. The Prime Minister concluded that in these circumstances no comment on his part was necessary. He was adamant, however,

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Clearances:

S/S - Mrs. Davis

SANITIZED

E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.5

NLJ/RAC 00-354

By is, NARA, Date 12-10-04~~TOP SECRET~~

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however, that there should be no publicity now or later since any kind of leak ~~XXX~~ could be highly damaging to our two countries. Inasmuch as the Prime Minister did not register objection to the possibility of storage and did not request that he be informed prior to actual introduction of nuclear weapons, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ the United States Government. 3.3 (b)(6)

XX2. Our records also indicate that the question of nuclear weapons operations from Thule was discussed early in 1964 by Under Secretary for Greenland Brun and Ambassador Blair in relation to an accident in the state of Maryland involving a U.S. bomber carrying nuclear weapons. This discussion frankly addressed the possibility that a similar accident could arise as a result of operations ~~XXX~~ involving nuclear weapons at or near Thule which would raise difficult questions in the Folketing. Ambassador Blair suggested that if such an unfortunate incident ever occurred, the Danish Government could state that U.S. activities in Greenland had as their sole object the defense interests of the Free World and that they had been worked out in full cooperation with Danish defense forces and the ~~XXXXXX~~ Danish Government under terms and conditions of the 1951 Defense Agreement and in accordance with over-all Danish policies. Under Secretary Brun made no objection to this proposal and pursued the matter no further.

XX3. In connection with overflights of Greenland, the effective operation of the strategic deterrent has also required that such flights involving nuclear weapons be carried on from time to time in accordance with Article V (3) of the 1951 Defense Agreement.

3.3  
(b)(6)  
SX 4. As for the current situation ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ nor are there now any overflights of ~~§~~ Greenland by U.S. strategic

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aircraft.

I wish to emphasize again that in view of the sensitivity of military operations with nuclear weapons, the United States Government must continue to stand by its policy of neither confirming nor denying publicly the presence of nuclear weapons on its aircraft or bases anywhere in the world. In addition, I urge that your Government in addressing this problem publicly in the future limit itself to a statement along the following lines:

"U.S. Operations in Greenland are the subject of regular consultation between the two Governments and are in accord with the 1951 Defense Agreement as well as their respective policies. The Government of Denmark is fully aware in this connection of its responsibilities to the Danish people in Greenland for their safety and defense. We are fully satisfied that the interests of the Danish people ~~are~~ are being protected."

5. We hope that all public statements on this matter by either Government will be subject to consultation between the two Governments. END

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