

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Feb. 14, 1968

TO: Mr. Leddy

Dave McKillop has not yet tried to sell the attached talking points to DOD. He wants to have language you have approved before he starts the process.

Dave hopes to be able to meet with you on this matter when you have had a chance to read the papers. The group would include those who are shown as having cleared these papers.

has

The Danish Ambassador/arrived back in Washington. While he has not been heard from, Dave expects that he will shortly request a meeting to discuss this matter.

RM
RMBeaudry

*No oral section.
Deal w/ secret agreement
Put in Peace-time
Concept.*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NN033705

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

T O P S E C R E T

EXDIS

TO : EUR - Mr. Leddy

FROM : EUR/SCAN - David H. McKillop

SUBJECT: Talking Points - Anticipated Danish Request for Assurances
re Nuclear Overflights and Storage in Greenland - ACTION
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 1968
STATE DEPARTMENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEW
☐ Retain class'n ☐ Change/classify to SECRET
☐ Declassify with concurrence of _____
EO 12958, 25X (S)(C)(9)
FPC/HDR by DKC Date: 10/30/96
UNTIL US-DANISH EXCHANGE OF NOTES
OF 5/31/68 IS MADE PUBLIC
Withdrawal No. _____

DECLASSIFIED

Authority FRUS, 1964-1968, Vol. XII
By MM, NARA, Date 6/15/94

DISCUSSION

1. In view of our earlier conversations with the Danes and in view of the resolution passed February 8 by the Danish Parliament (Paragraph 1, attached Talking Points), we expect Ambassador Rønne to seek an appointment in the Department of State in order to request assurances that the US is acting in accord with Danish nuclear policy in Greenland. They will probably request either a public USG statement or an exchange of notes between the two governments.

2. We believe that some formal USG assurance is necessary in order to maintain our present defense capability in Greenland. We wish to avoid taking a stance so rigid as to cause the Danes to question the desirability of retaining the 1951 Agreement on the Defense of Greenland. The Danes have not raised this point and probably do not now intend to. However, we believe that both State and Defense should keep in mind the fact that the Danes do hold the strongest cards in any bargaining sessions.

3. Danish nuclear policy encompasses one basic ambiguity; i.e., on the one hand they wish to demonstrate that all Danish territory is free of nuclear weapons; on the other hand, they realize that Denmark's security ultimately depends on the US nuclear deterrent.

5 4. We believe that the attached statement (Talking Point 4) meets this situation. It provides a nuclear free Greenland at present and allows the GOD to make a policy decision, in time of grave danger, to allow nuclear deployment and/or overflights.

5. Both we and the Danes realize that a situation might conceivably arise where there would be no time for consultations before initiating overflights or deployment. We believe that

T O P S E C R E T



DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 33705

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

T O P S E C R E T

- 2 -

this contingency can best be handled by an oral statement such as the Undersecretary made to Ambassador Rønne on February 2. (At that time the Undersecretary said that it was difficult to conceive circumstances where we would initiate nuclear storage or overflights in Greenland without consulting the GOD unless conditions were so extreme that reasons for such actions would be readily apparent.)

6. We hope to have an agreed State-Defense position prior to our discussions with Rønne. We would like to tell DOD that the attached talking points reflect a bureau level decision on this matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the attached talking points as the EUR position on the question of nuclear overflights and storage in Greenland.

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Talking Points.

Clearances:

EUR/SCAN - Mr. McKillop
G/PM - Mr. Trippe
L/EUR - Mr. Berlack
EUR/RPM - Mr. Baker

EUR/SCAN: EKlebenov:mbw
2/13/68

T O P S E C R E T

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND 33705

Clearances:

EUR/SCAN - Mr. McKillop
G/PM - Mr. Trippe
L/EUR - Mr. Berlack *ENL*
EUR/RPM - Mr. Baker

EUR/SCAN: EK *2K* lebenov:mbw
2/13/68

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND 33705

TOP SECRET

EXDIS

Talking Points
Danish Request for Assurances re Nuclear Overflights
and storage in Greenland

1. The Danish Parliament on February 8 passed a nearly unanimous resolution stating that, "Inasmuch as Parliament presumes that the Government, in attempting to obtain absolute guarantees that no nuclear weapons are stored in Greenland and that Greenland air space is maintained as a zone free of atomic weapons, will make certain that Danish atomic policy will be maintained in all parts of the realm and Danish sovereignty will be respected, the house continues its debate on the proposed budget bill for the fiscal year 1968-69."

2. The USG is prepared to give the Danish Government assurance on a confidential basis that we will not store nuclear weapons in Greenland or overfly Greenland with aircraft carrying nuclear weapons except as a result of a joint Danish-US decision that such storage or overflights were necessitated by a threat to Free World security.

3. As Undersecretary Katzenbach indicated it must be recognized that in circumstances of extreme emergency the situation may not permit advance consultation.

4. In our view such a statement would meet the current needs of the Danish Government and preclude a stronger stand on their part that could call into question the entire 1951 Agreement on the Defense of Greenland.

5. Under the circumstances, we would suggest that the Danish Government might wish to make a statement along the following lines:

"On the basis of recent discussions with the USG, the Government is satisfied that United States activities in Greenland are and will continue to be in accord with Danish nuclear policies."

6. As the Ambassador is aware the USG cannot publicly confirm any statement on the deployment of its nuclear weapons which may be made by the Danish Government, nor can it agree to make public any assurance it has given to the Danish Government.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND 33705

Clearances:

EUR/SCAN - Mr. McKillop
G/PM - Mr. Trippe
L/EUR - Mr. Barlack
EUR/RPM - Mr. Baker

EUR/SCAN: EKlebenov:mbw
2/13/68

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

NND 33705