



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET

7126

MAY 9 1968

TO: The Secretary

THROUGH: S/S *SR*

FROM: EUR - John M. Leddy *JML*

SUBJECT: Agreement with the Government of Denmark on Nuclear Overflights and Storage in Greenland - ACTION MEMORANDUM

DISCUSSION:

In your reply (Tab C) to the Danish note of February 26 (Tab D) you stated that the United States Government was prepared to discuss with the Danes the matter of supplementing the Agreement of April 27, 1951 concerning the Defense of Greenland.

The Danish Ambassador has tentatively agreed that any such supplement should take the form of a secret exchange of notes. He has also agreed that future nuclear overflights and storage in Greenland should be subject to consultation between our two Governments. The latter provision is in contrast to the Danish request, stated in their February 26 note, for an unconditional ban on nuclear overflights and storage in Greenland.

On March 31 the Under Secretary authorized me to offer the Danish Ambassador a draft text (Tab B) for the consideration of his Government. The Ambassador, on April 1, read our draft and indicated that the first paragraph, which makes nuclear overflights and storage subject to consultation, would be acceptable to his

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Government. He felt, however, that the Danish Foreign Ministry would object to the second paragraph, in which we pointed out that there may be conditions of extreme emergency under which consultation with respect to overflights would be difficult. He suggested omitting the second paragraph since the situation it addresses does not need spelling out in advance.

After further consultation with the Department of Defense we are now prepared to offer the Danes, as a draft text, the first paragraph only of our April 1 text (Tab A), accompanied by an oral notation on my part, pointing out that there could be a requirement for U.S. overflights under conditions of a grave and sudden threat that did not allow time to obtain the agreement of the Danish Government.

If you concur, I plan to give a draft copy of our note to the Danish Ambassador this week, and tell him that we would be prepared to use that text in a secret exchange of notes supplementing the 1951 Agreement on the Defense of Greenland. I would, at that time, point out again the possible need for U.S. overflights without consultation, under the conditions described above.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the attached draft note (Tab A).

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Concurrences:

G/PM - Mr. Trippe L - Mr. Belman L/EUR - Mr. Berlack

Attachments:

Tab A - New Draft Note
Tab B - April 1 Draft Note
Tab C - Reply to Danish Note
Tab D - Danish Note

EUR/SCAN:EKlebohov:mbw, Ext. 4207, 5/7/68

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Draft Note to be Presented to Ambassador Rønne for
Consideration by Government of Denmark

The United States Government assures the Government of Denmark that, notwithstanding the provisions of the 1951 Agreement on the Defense of Greenland, it will not store nuclear weapons in Greenland or overfly Greenland with aircraft carrying nuclear weapons except as a result of a joint decision by our two Governments.

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Proposed Response to Confidential Danish Note of
February 26

The United States Government assures the Government of Denmark that, notwithstanding the provisions of the 1951 Agreement on the Defense of Greenland, it will not store nuclear weapons in Greenland or overfly Greenland with aircraft carrying nuclear weapons except as a result of a joint decision by our two Governments.

It must be recognized however, that in circumstances of extreme emergency, the situation may make advance consultation with respect to overflights difficult. The United States Government would, nonetheless, make every effort to consult the Government of Denmark in such circumstances.

DEF 15 Greenland - US

Clearances:

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

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Excellency.

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(21) I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note No. 93.USA.8., dated February 26, 1968 in which you conveyed the request of your Government for the initiation of discussions with a view to reaching agreement between our two Governments on supplementing the Agreement of April 27, 1951 concerning the Defense of Greenland.

The United States Government is, of course, prepared to join in the discussions you have proposed. Accordingly, the Department of State will convey its views to you as soon as possible.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

His Excellency

Torben Rønne,

Embassy of Denmark,

Washington, D.C.

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CONFIDENTIAL

Dean Rusk

Clearances:
EUR/SCAN - Mr. McKillop
EUR/FPM - Mr. Getz
L/EUR - Mr. Berland
G/PM - Mr. Trippe
DOD/ISA - Mr. Chinard
EUR:MR. LADD

S/S-S(C)

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Authority NND969000

February 10, 1968

Reference No, 93.USA.8.

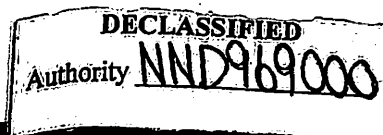
Sir:

1. With reference to our recent discussions regarding defense arrangements in Greenland, I have the honor to inform you that the Danish Government has considered the lack of consistency between the declared Danish policy on nuclear weapons on the one hand and the agreement of April 27, 1951, between our two governments concerning the defense of Greenland on the other.

2. The Danish Government appreciates the assurances recently given by the United States Government that there are no nuclear weapons in Greenland and that no overflights with such weapons are taking place. My Government has also noted with satisfaction the undertaking given by your Government that this situation will not be changed without prior consultation with the Danish Government.

3. The declaration made by the Danish Government at the opening session of the Danish Parliament on February 6, 1968, included the following section:

The Honorable
Dean Rusk

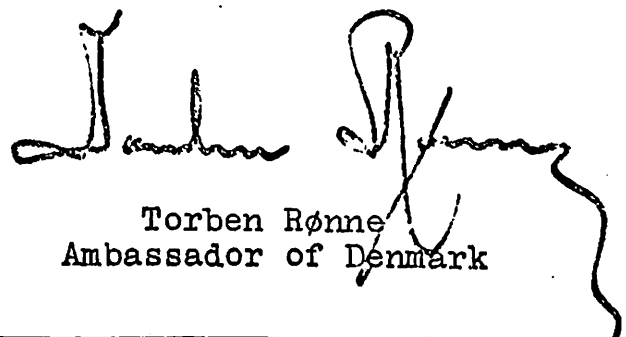


"It is the policy of the Government that no nuclear weapons should be found within Danish territory. This policy is also valid for Greenland and for Greenland air space".

4. On February 8 the Danish Parliament passed a resolution to the same effect and requesting the Government to get absolute guarantees that no nuclear weapons are stored in Greenland and that Greenland air space is kept free of such weapons so as to ensure that Danish nuclear policy is maintained in all parts of the realm.

5. I am instructed to ask the U.S. Government that discussions be initiated with a view to reaching agreement as soon as possible between our two governments on supplementing the agreement of April 27, 1951, concerning the defense of Greenland to the effect that no nuclear weapons may under the agreement be stored in or introduced into Greenland including Greenland air space.

Please accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.


Torben Rønne
Ambassador of Denmark