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DECLASSIFIED
 E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5 + NLJ 01-68
 NSC Memo, 1/30/95, State Dept. Guidelines
 By JCS NARA, Date 1-5-01
8-2-01

Monday, May 27, 1968

MR. PRESIDENT:

Profile

Attached for your approval is a draft note amending the 1951 U. S. -Danish Defense Agreement. Secretary Rusk has approved the note subject to your concurrence.

Since the B-52 crash in Greenland, the Danes have been pressing us to amend the Agreement. They have sought an absolute prohibition on nuclear overflights or the storage of nuclear weapons in Greenland. The 1951 agreement does not contain such a prohibition.

The Danes have now agreed to an exchange of notes amending the 1951 agreement making nuclear overflights and storage of nuclear weapons in Greenland subject to joint decision by the U. S. and Danish Governments.

Furthermore, John Leddy told the Danes orally that there may be a need for U. S. nuclear overflights under conditions of a grave and sudden threat that did not allow time to obtain the agreement of the Danish Government. The Danish Foreign Office has taken formal note of this statement.

The Danes have the right to request reopening the 1951 agreement at any time. By agreeing to this amendment:

- We will have the right to overfly or store nuclear weapons in Greenland subject to Danish approval (unilaterally in case of emergency); and
- We will avoid a full scale renegotiation of the 1951 agreement which covers our air base and radar installations in Greenland.

Paul Warnke at Defense and the JCS have cleared the amendment.

I concur in Secretary Rusk's recommendation.

W. W. Rostow

Approve _____
 Disapprove _____
 Call me _____
[Signature]
 MWG: rmm

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PROPOSED U.S. NOTE

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5 +NLJOT-68
State Dept. Guidelines
By jc/sj NARA, Date 8-2-01

Excellency:

I have the honor to refer to the recent discussions between our two Governments regarding the request of your Government, made on February 26, 1968, that the U.S. and Denmark agree to supplement the Agreement of April 27, 1951 on the Defense of Greenland with respect to the storage of U.S. nuclear weapons in Greenland and the overflight of Greenland by U.S. aircraft carrying nuclear weapons.

As a result of these discussions, I have the honor to propose the following Agreement:

The United States Government assures the Government of Denmark that in the exercise of its rights and duties in accordance with the provisions of the agreement of April 27, 1951, concerning the defense of Greenland, it will not store nuclear weapons in Greenland or overfly Greenland with aircraft carrying nuclear weapons without the consent of the Government of Denmark.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to your Government, I have the honor to propose that this note and your reply to that effect shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments,

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effective on the date of your reply, which shall form an integral part of the Agreement of April 27, 1951.

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

L/EUR:ER^WBerlack:EUR/SCAN:EK^{SK}lebenov:mbw

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