

SECRET

-2- COPENHAGEN 1245, APRIL 24

UNCLASSIFIED

NECESSARY TO ASK EMBASSY FOR OFFICIAL ASSURANCE THAT VISITING VESSELS CARRIED NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. UNDER GREAT PRESSURE EMBASSY PRESS ATTACHE FINALLY STATED THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO "WEAPONS ABOARD RANDOLPH WHICH WOULD VIOLATE WELL-KNOWN DANISH POLICY CONCERNING STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

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3. SUBSEQUENTLY STATE 14644 OF JUL 25 AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE TO NO CONFIRM-NO DENY RESPONSE, NAMELY STATEMENT THAT U.S. NAVAL VISITS "IN NO WAY IMPINGE UPON DANISH SOVEREIGNTY OR POLICIES." DEPT. COMMENTED "REALISTICALLY WE ARE AWARE THAT DANES MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE ACCEPTING SUCH FORMULATION." IT WAS NOT USED BECAUSE TIMELY DEPARTURE OF RANDOLPH. I BELIEVE PROPOSED STATEMENT IS TOO EVASIVE TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE DANES AND WOULD BE NO MORE EFFECTIVE THAN NO CONFIRM-NO DENY FORMULATION IN AVOIDING TROUBLE.

4. IN VIEW CONTINUING AGITATION OVER VIETNAM, PERSISTENT PUBLIC QUESTIONING FUTURE OF NATO, AND EXPANDED INFLUENCE OF PEOPLES SOCIALIST PARTY, WE CAN ANTICIPATE SEARCHING DANISH QUESTIONS DURING THIS SUMMER'S VISITS. NEITHER PRESS NOR DANISH GOVT IS LIKELY TO BE PUT OFF BY INDIRECT OR EVASIVE ANSWERS. WHILE RECOGNIZING IMPORTANT ORDER OF BATTLE INFORMATION MUST NOT BE COMPROMISED BY PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGING WHETHER SHIPS HAVE OR HAVE NOT NUCLEAR WEAPONS, I BELIEVE OUR INTEREST WOULD BEST BE SERVED BY AT OUTSET TAKING HEAD OF DANISH GOVT INTO OUR CONFIDENCE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

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5. ALTHOUGH NAVAL VISITS CREATE GOOD WILL, THEY ARE NOT WORTH RISK VIOLATION DANISH POLICY. HENCE, I RECOMMEND VISITING SHIPS CONFORM WITH CONDITION STIPULATED BY LIAISON OFFICER.

6 I RECOMMEND THAT UNLESS OVERRIDING OBJECTIONS EXIST I BE AUTHORIZED CONFIDENTIALLY TO DISCUSS NAVAL VISITS WITH FM KRAG AND TO:

- A. INFORM HIM NAVAL VESSELS WILL NOT CARRY NUCLEAR WEAPONS;
- B. EXPLAIN THAT IN ANSWERING PRESS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES WE WILL ADHERE TO THE NO CONFIRM NO DENY FORMULATION AND WHY MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL FROM INTELLIGENCE POINT OF VIEW;

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