

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 03227 121643Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-04 SS-15
NSC-05 INR-07 INRE-00 CIAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 /048 W
-----022791 121653Z /46

O R 121615Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4062
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3227

SECDEF FOR OASD/PA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NO, ETEL, SV
SUBJECT: CONTINUED PRESS TREATMENT OF LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM

REFS: (A) OSLO 3159 (B) OSLO 3147 (C) OSLO 3038 (D) OSLO 2870

1. OSLO MEDIA HAS CONTINUED DURING PAST WEEK TO GIVE SPACE TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM STORY ALBEIT LESS PROMINENT. ABSENCE OF LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM QUESTIONS AT JULY 8 PRESS CONFERENCE ABOARD VISITING USS CALIFORNIA COUPLED WITH VERY SUPPORTIVE "LET'S GET OFF IT" EDITORIAL IN "VERDENSGANG" LED US TO HOPE THAT TEMPEST HAD SUBSIDED.

2. HOWEVER, NATIONAL "DAGBLADET" JULY 12 PRODUCED AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "PILGRIM PROJECT HIGHLY CLASSIFIED IN USA? SMOKE SCREEN BUILDING-UP AROUND LORAN-C SYSTEM" IN WHICH AUTHOR CITES SEVERAL UNSECCESFUL ATTEMPTS TO GET CLARINET PILGRIM INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY AND COAST GUARD. (COMMENT: QUESTION PUT TO EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER BY "DAGBLADET" REPORTER CONCERNED QUOTE TESTS IN THE PACIFICE OF CLARINET PILGRIM SYSTEM UNQUOTE. RESPONSE WAS THAT THERE WAS NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT EMBASSY ON SUCH TESTS BUT THAT "DAGBLADET" SHOULD REFER QUESTION TO DOD IN WASHINGTON.

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COAST GUARD ANSWERED SUBSEQUENT "DAGBLADET" INQUIRY SIMILARLY.)

3. "DABGLADET QUOTED EMBASSY AND COAST GUARD RESPONSES IN ANOTHER CONTEXT I.E. TO MAKE IT APPEAR THAT NEITHER THE EMBASSY NOR COAST GUARD HAD ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING CLARINET PILGRIM SYSTEM. GENERAL IMPRESSION OF THE SLANTED ARTICLE WAS THEREFORE TO MAKE IT LOOK AS IF USG AND GON WERE COVERING UP CKARUBET PILGRIM INFOR-

MATION.

4. DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY HOLST DISCUSSED "DABGLADET" ARTICLE
JULY 12 WITH CHARGE IN CONTEXT OF FUTURE GON/USG ACTIONS.
WILL REVIEW THINKING TO DATE IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.

5. COMMENT: OUR FEELING IS THAT LORAN-C/CLARINET PILGRIM
ISSUE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE GRIST FOR CRITICAL MEDIA MILLS
UNTIL GON ANSWERS FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION BURIED IN ALL STORIES, THAT
IS WHETHER POSSIBLE USES OF LORAN-C AND CLARINET PILGRIM WOULD
VIOLATE PRINCIPLES OF NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY IN ANY WAY. THERE
ARE INDICATIONS THAT GOVERNMENT MAY BE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION.
WHAT CONCERNS US MOST ABOUT "DABGLADET" ARTICLE OTHER THAN TONE
AND QUESTIONABLE JOURNALISTIC TECHNIQUES, IS THAT IT
REPRESENTS FIRST CRITICAL TREATMENT OF SUBJECT IN NON-LEFT NEWSPAPER.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 12-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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