

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3790

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NO
SUBJECT: LORAN C - STORTINGSMEN RELEASE SCHEI REPORT

REF: (A) OSLO 3736 (B) STATE 29672 (C) OSLO 3012

1. STORTINGSMEMBER AND LEFT SOCIALIST (SV) PARTY CHAIRMAN BERGE FURRE FINALLY MADE GOOD ON HIS THREAT TO RELEASE THE SCHEI REPORT. THAT REPORT, A 1975 NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY DOCUMENT PREPARED FOR THE STORTING DEFENSE COMMITTEE, CONCERNS NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NORWAY AND THE U.S. REGARDING THE MID-60S INSTALLATION OF LORAN C FACILITIES IN NORWAY. THE REPORT, EXTRACTED IN REF C, INCLUDES INTERNAL GON MEMORANDA AND EXCHANGES WITH USG OFFICIALS.

2. FURRE AND FELLOW SV STORTINGSMAN FINN GUSTAVSEN QUOTED PORTIONS OF THE REPORT TO AN OPEN SV PARTY MEETING ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 22. BOTH CLAIMED THAT THEY HAD BROKEN THEIR OATHS OF SILENCE AS STORTINGSMEN BECAUSE OF THEIR DUTY TO THE PEOPLE OF NORWAY. THEY ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE FULL REPORT WOULD BE PUBLISHED ON AUGUST 24. BOTH FURRE AND GUSTAVSEN WERE CAREFUL TO SAY THAT NONE OF THEIR DISCLOSURES WOULD ENDANGER RELATIONS WITH A FOREIGN COUNTRY (IE., U.S.).

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3. THE INITIAL REACTION OF THE NEWS MEDIA HAS BEEN NOTABLY RESTRAINED. THUS FAR, THE BROADCAST MEDIA HAVE NOT AIRED ANY PORTIONS OF THE REPORT. THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE ALSO, WITH ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION, REFRAINED FROM PUBLISHING THE SCHEI REPORT MATERIAL. THE EXCEPTION, DAGBLADET, PUBLISHED SEVERAL OF THE EXCERPTS NOTED IN REF C. THE REMAINING MEDIA HAVE, INSTEAD, REPORTED ON THE FURRE/GUSTAVSEN ACTIONS

AND ON THE REACTIONS OF VARIOUS POLITICAL LEADERS.

4. THE REACTIONS OF POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE BEEN STRONG, WITH NEAR UNIVERSAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE SV PARLIAMENTARIANS' BREACH OF SECRECY. THAT ACTION IS SEEN AS DEPLORABLE ON THE PART OF THE PERPETRATOR AND, IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES, AS INDICATIVE OF FLAWS IN THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY.

5. WHILE MUCH ATTENTION HAS BEEN FOCUSSED ON THE DEEDS OF FURRE AND GUSTAVSEN, LITTLE INTEREST, AS YET, HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SCHEI REPORT. AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON ON AUGUST 23, THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED ONLY TWO INQUIRIES ON THE MATTER. (RESPONSES WERE IN ACCORD WITH GUIDANCE CONTAINED REF A PARA 4).

6. SUBSEQUENT PRESS/POLITICAL REACTIONS AS WELL AS ANALYSIS OF LOCAL IMPLICATIONS FOR USG INTERESTS TO FOLLOW SEPTEL.
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