

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FAA-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-07
FMC-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 /089 W
-----085113 250710Z /21

R 241444Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3981
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
COMMANDANT CG WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2990

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, NO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: SOVIET NEWS AGENCY WEIGHS IN ON LORAN C/OMEGA ISSUE

REF: OSLO 2870

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: THE NORWEGIAN PRESS HAS REPORTED THAT THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY, TASS, HAS COMMENTED ON THE RECENT CONTROVERSY IN OSLO OVER LORAN C AND OMEGA RADIO NAVIGATIONAL SYSTEMS ON JUNE 23. SOVIET REPORT, ACCORDING TO NORWEGIAN PAPERS SAYS "THAT NORWAY IS ABOUT TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO A COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL CENTER FOR NATO IN NORTHERN EUROPE, AMONG OTHER THINGS FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

2. REPORTING ON THE TASS ACCOUNT JUNE 24, THE NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY DAILY "ARBEIDERBLADET" STATED: "IN AN ARTICLE IN THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS
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COMMENTATOR BORIS BOTSJKOV CLAIMS THAT THE INSTALLMENT OF THE RADIO NAVIGATION STATIONS LORAN C AND OMEGA ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST IS A CLEAR VIOLATION OF THE NORWEGIAN NUCLEAR POLICY.

"- NORWAY HAS BEEN THE OBJECT OF INCREASING ATTENTION FROM THE NATO AND PENTAGON LEADERSHIP. THE

ATTEMPTS BY NATO AND THE USA TO MAKE NORWAY A BULWARK FOR THEIR AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS IN THE NORTH ARE ALSO EVIDENT FROM THE PLANS TO LET AMERICAN NUCLEAR SUBMARINES WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS ABOARD MAKE USE OF THE LORAN C AND OMEGA STATIONS ALONG THE NORWEGIAN COAST, THE ARTICLE SAYS.

"- IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT THESE STATIONS ARE NOTHING BUT A LINK IN A WIDELY BRANCHED AMERICAN RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM. THE NATO STRATEGISTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PENTAGON ARE THIS WAY TRYING TO FORCE UPON NORWAY, WHICH AT ONE TIME WAS RELUCTANT TO OPEN ITS TERRITORY FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE DANGEROUS TASK OF BECOMING A COMMUNICATION AND CONTROL CENTER FOR NATO IN NORTHERN EUROPE, EVEN AS REGARDS NUCLEAR WEAPONS, BOTSJKOV WRITES.

"- NO AMOUNT OF SECRETIVENESS CAN HIDE THE FACT THAT THE NATO LEADERSHIP AND PENTAGON WILL EXPLOIT NORWAY IN ORDER TO PURSUE THEIR MILITARY AIMS TO INCREASE THE MILITARY TENSION IN DIRECT CONFLICT WITH THE PROCESS OF DETENTE AND COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS, HE WRITES." END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THE SOVIETS HAVE WASTED NO TIME IN SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LEFTIST CRITICISM
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OF THE NAVIGATION STATION ISSUE. BY INDICATING THAT NORWAY WAS AT ONE TIME RELUCTANT TO OPEN ITSELF TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE ARTICLE CLEARLY MEANS TO GIVE THE VIEW THAT NORWAY'S NUCLEAR POLICY IS NO LONGER FIRM. IT ALSO ADDS A NEW WRINKLE BY LINKING THE STATIONS TO DETENTE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

4. THE GON CANNOT HELP BUT BE DISMAYED BY THIS QUICK SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE LORAN C/OMEGA QUESTION, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS ALREADY EXISTING IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE USSR. IT WILL SURELY REINFORCE THE NORWEGIANS' CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO ISSUES RELATED TO THE TWO SYSTEMS.

5. WE EXPECT THAT THE GON AND PUBLIC REACTION TO THE SOVIET TACTIC WILL BE LARGELY NEGATIVE SINCE THE ARTICLE SETS THE SOVIET PRESS UP AS THE INTERPRETOR OF NORWAY'S NATIONAL POLICY. LEFT PARTY LEADER BERGE FURRE MAY ALSO SEE THIS SOVIET SUPPORT FOR HIS VIEWS ON LORAN C AS A MIXED BLESSING, SINCE IT WILL NOW BE EASIER TO DISCREDIT FURRE AS A SECURITY RISK. NEVERTHELESS WE EXPECT THAT FURRE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE MATTER FOR POTENTIAL ELECTION BENEFITS. END CONFIDENTIAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), LORAN, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977OSLO02990
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770227-1192
Format: TEL
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770620/aaaaaqzv.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7f4c0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 OSLO 2870
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2038014
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET NEWS AGENCY WEIGHS IN ON LORAN C/OMEGA ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, ETEL, MARR, SU, NO, TASS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7f4c0477-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009