

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02

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TO AMEMBASSY OSLO

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045667

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO

SUBJECT: EXPOSE OF NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF LORAN AND OMEGA SYSTEMS

REF: OSLO 0673

1. REFTEL ADVISED THAT CHIEF OF FORMIN'S NATO SECTION, FREIHOW, WOULD LIKE TO STATE PUBLICLY, IF PRESSED, THAT LORAN C AND OMEGA HAVE BEEN USED BY THE MERCHANT MARINE SINCE THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED. OUR INFORMATION REVEALS THAT THIS DOD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WAS DECLARED OPERATIONAL BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN OCTOBER 1967. THIS INCLUDED THE THEN EXISTING FOUR OMEGA TRANSMITTING STATIONS, INCLUDING THAT LOCATED IN NORWAY. MERCHANT MARINE USE OF OMEGA FOLLOWED THEREAFTER AS ENOUGH RECEIVERS WERE MANUFACTURED AND BECAME AVAILABLE TO THE

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CIVILIAN SECTOR. OMEGA WAS NOT USEABLE THEN AND IS NOT

USEABLE NOW FOR SSBN MISSILE LAUNCH PURPOSES.

2. THE INITIAL USE OF THE LORAN C NETWORK WAS BY THE MILITARY, WITH CIVILIAN USE DEVELOPING LATER. THIS PATTERN HAS BEEN CUSTOMARY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF MOST RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEMS.

3. FREIHOW ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER, AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED, NUCLEAR SUBMARINES DEPENDED ENTIRELY ON LORAN C FOR NAVIGATION. AT THE TIME THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED AND TODAY, NUCLEAR SUBMARINES HAVE USED A VARIETY OF NAVIGATION SYSTEMS FOR NAVIGATIONAL DATA. EVEN AS FAR BACK AS THE INTRODUCTION OF THE POLARIS PROGRAM, FLEET BALLISTIC MISSILE SUBMARINES (SSBNS) HAD MULTIPLE MEANS OF OBTAINING NAVIGATIONAL INFORMATION OF SUFFICIENT ACCURACY TO SUPPORT MISSILE LAUNCH REQUIREMENTS. IN SUCCEEDING YEARS THE NUMBER OF SOURCES FOR OBTAINING NAVIGATIONAL FIXES HAS INCREASED, PARTICULARLY WITH THE ADVENT OF THE NAVY NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM IN 1965.

4. YOU MAY DRAW UPON THE PRECEDING IN RESPONDING TO FREIHOW'S QUERIES. WHILE WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE INFORMATION HEREIN PROVIDED NOT BE MADE PUBLIC BY THE EMBASSY, FREIHOW MAY USE IT IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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