

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 DOTE-00 EB-07 /072 W
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R 291018Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3997
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
COMMANDER CG WASHDC
CNO
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 3038

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SV, NO, ETEL, MARR
SUBJECT: PRAVDA FOLLOWS TASS IN CRITICIZING LORAN C/OMEGA STATIONS

REFS: (A) OSLO 2990 (B) OSLO 2870

SUMMARY: RECENT "PRAVDA" EDITORIAL LINKED TO LORAN C/OMEGA NAVIGATION INSTALLATIONS AND CRITICIZING NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY AND COOPERATION WITH U.S. HAS BEEN REPORTED BY NORWEGIAN PRESS. EDITORIAL IS SECOND SOVIET PRESS ARTICLE IN PAST WEEK ON SUBJECT. IT IS ANOTHER IN LONG SERIES OF ATTACKS ON GON POLICY, COULD BE EFFORT TO EMBARRASS U.S. AND PUT PRESSURE ON GON FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. NORWAY'S PRESS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO "PRAVDA" EDITORIAL JUNE 27 CRITICIZING NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY. REPORTEDLY THE EDITORIAL REFERS TO CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN NORWAY ABOUT ESTABLISHMENT SOME YEARS AGO OF LORAN C
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AND OMEGA COMMUNICATIONS STATIONS AND REITERATES ARGUMENTS MADE JUNE 23 BY "TASS" (REFTEL A) THAT THE NORWEGIAN INSTALLATIONS VIOLATE NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY AND THAT THE GON IN PRACTICE HAS ALREADY GIVEN UP ITS EARLIER POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING STATIONING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND FOREIGN MILITARY BASES ON NORWEGIAN TERRITORY IN PEACE TIME.

2. THE "PRAVDA" STORY, ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, USES THE RECENT DISCUSSION OF THE SECRET SCHEI COMMITTEE REPORT (REFTEL B) AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE. THE EDITORIAL SAYS THE REPORT'S SECRECY HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN NORWAY AND HAS RAISED CONCERN IN THE STORTING ABOUT NORWAY'S BASE POLICY AND AMONG NORWEGIANS GENERALLY THAT NORWAY IS BEING IN PRACTICE DRAWN INTO U.S. ATOMIC WEAPONS STRATEGY. IT SAYS THIS HAS GENERATED BITTERNESS IN NORWAY AND PUT WORLD OPINION ON GUARD BECAUSE THE U.S.-NORWEGIAN ACTION RUNS COUNTER TO DETENTE POLICY.

3. COMMENT: AS NOTED ABOVE THIS IS SECOND TIME IN PAST WEEK THAT SOVIET OFFICIAL ORGANS HAVE ATTACKED NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY. ON BOTH OCCASIONS THEY HAVE PICKED UP THE RECENT DEBATE INITIATED BY NORWAY'S SOCIAL LEFT PARTY ON THE STORTING'S HANDLING OF THE SCHEI REPORT CONCERNING U.S.-GON LORAN C AND OMEGA NAVIGATION STATIONS. "PRAVDA" EDITORIAL, LIKE LAST WEEK'S CRITICAL "TASS" ARTICLE, LINKS THE NAVIGATION STATION CASES TO DETENTE POLITICS. SOVIETS APPEAR TO FEEL THIS IS GOOD OCCASION TO ASSAIL NORWAY'S SECURITY POLICY, PARTICULARLY THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TROOP BASING LIMITATIONS, AS THEY HAVE FREQUENTLY IN THE PAST. IN VIEW OF CURRENT DISCUSSIONS HERE OVER ESTABLISHMENT OF LORAN C AND OMEGA, SOVIETS MAY BELIEVE THEY CAN PLAY ISSUE OUT TO EMBARRASS

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THE U.S. AS WELL. WHILE "PRAVDA" EXAGGERATES THE CURRENT DEBATE IN NORWAY ON THE ISSUE, IT IS STILL POSSIBLE THAT THE MATTER COULD FIGURE IN THE UPCOMING ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

4. WE APPEAR TO BE WITNESSING A MORE AGGRESSIVE PUBLIC PHASE IN THE USSR'S PRESSURE CAMPAIGN ON THE GON. THE VIEW HERE IS THAT THE SOVIETS' TACTICAL GOAL IS TO EXPLOIT A LARGELY DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUE, LORAN C, TO TRY TO INFLUENCE THE GON'S CONSIDERATION OF THE CONTROVERSIAL EVENSEN-ISHKOV FISHERIES AGREEMENT (OSLO 2963). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CABINET, WHICH HAS ALREADY HAD LONG AND INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT, INTENDS TO DECIDE THURSDAY WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT THE EVENSEN AGREEMENT. THE DECISION WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO THE RELEVANT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FRIDAY.

5. IN THE BROADER FRAMEWORK, SUCH SOVIET TACTICS ARE ALSO CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERALLY HARDER LINE MOSCOW HAS BEEN PURSUING VIS-A-VIS OSLO OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS. AS OFTEN IS THE CASE IN NORWAY, THE SOVIETS MAY BE THEIR OWN WORST ENEMY. WE SUSPECT THAT THESE RATHER HEAVY-HANDED INTRUSIONS INTO DOMESTIC NORWEGIAN POLITICS

DO NOT HELP THE SOVIETS AND INDEED PROBABLY MAKE IT MUCH
HARDER FOR THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT TO BE FORTHCOMING ON
THE CONSTELLATION OF NORTHERN ISSUES WHICH DIVIDE THE
TWO COUNTRIES. FOR NO NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY ONE
UP FOR ELECTION IN TWO MONTHS, IS ANXIOUS TO GIVE
THE IMPRESSION THAT IT BUCKLED TO SOVIET PRESSURE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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