

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-04

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R 301521Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1059

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

COMMANDANT CG WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

NAVTECOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0544

LONDON FOR COAST GUARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO

SUBJECT LORAN C: CLARINET PILGRIM

REFS: (A) STATE 16767, (B) OSLO 0073

1. DEFENSE MINISTER SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHANSEN INFORMED US JAN 30 THAT NORWEGIAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE RECOMMENDED IN FAVOR OF OUR CLARINET PILGRIM PROGRAM FIRMLY MAINTAINING THAT PROPOSAL IS IN NORWEGIAN AS WELL AS AMERICAN SECURITY INTERESTS.

2. STEPHANSEN SAID NEXT STEP IS TO SECURE BLESSING OF NEW DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND AND SELECTED OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF GOVERNMENT, PRESUMABLY INCLUDING PM NORDLI. INDICATING THAT HANSEN WOULD RAPIDLY ENDORSE PROPOSAL, STEPHANSEN PREDICTED CLEAR SAILING THROUGH CIVILIAN SIDE OF GOVERNMENT ESPECIALLY SINCE REPORT ON HELLEBUST AFFAIR (SEE PARA 2 OF REF B) FULLY EXONERATED PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT DECISIONS
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RE OMEGA AND LORAN C.

3. ALTHOUGH VERY RELUCTANT TO SPECULATE, STEPHANSEN SAID NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION ON CLARINET PILGRIM COULDBE REACHED IN THREE TO FOUR MONTHS.

4. SOCIALIST LEFT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT ASKED DEFENSE MINISTER HANSEN DURING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION PERIOD JAN 28 WHETHER ALL PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD RECEIVE COPY OF HELLEBUST AFFAIR REPORT AND MINISTER'S RESPONSE WAS AFFIRMATIVE. STEPHANSEN ADVISED US THAT ALL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WOULD RECEIVE COPY OF CLASSIFIED VERSION OF GEPORT BUT TOP MOD OFFICIALS HAD ALREADY REVIEWED DOCUMENT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE THAT NO COMPROMISE OR DISCLOSURE OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION WOULD RESULT. HE ADDED THAT CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT BASED ON CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS FROM 1950'S USED TO RESEARCH HELLEBUST ACCUSATIONS AND THESE DOCUMENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOWNGRADED LONG AGO.
BYRNE

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