

Brev af 26. november 1957 fra Deputy Under Secretary Robert Murphy. State Department, til Assistant Secretary of Defence, Mansfield D. Sprague

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S/AE-1141/9A
NOV 26 1957
ACTION COPY

TELEGRAMS, DESPATCHES, ETC.

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DATE RELEASED

In reply refer to
S/AE-1141

Dear Mr. Sprague:

I refer to your letter No. I-15496/7 of October 8, 1957, to me concerning introduction and storage of nuclear weapons at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland.

After further careful review and consultation with our Ambassador in Copenhagen, it was concluded that it was most advisable that we make a very private and informal approach to the Danish Government in the manner that was suggested in my letter of August 23, 1957, to you. Our Ambassador was accordingly authorized to inquire of the Prime Minister whether the Danish Government would wish to be informed in the event that the United States should place nuclear weapons in Greenland.

Ambassador Peterson has made this inquiry; the Danish Prime Minister has taken note of it on a strictly personal basis and made no other comment. We are, accordingly, now in a position to go ahead with the deployment.

Ambassador Peterson reports that the Prime Minister was "adamant" that there would be no publicity of any kind about this matter now or later, and he has restricted knowledge of it to himself. We believe that any disclosure would be highly damaging both to the Danish Government and to our defense relationship with Denmark. It is requested, therefore, that every precaution be taken to protect this knowledge.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Murphy
Deputy Under Secretary

The Honorable
Mansfield D. Sprague,
Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA).

S/AE:RFG:cm:ab

TOP SECRET

Clearances: EUR - Mr. Jones
BNA - Mr. Mavor

60. Brev fra Deputy Under Secretary Robert Murphy, State Department, til Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mansfield D. Sprague af 26. november 1957. RG 59, Lot 57D 688. Special Assistant for Atomic Energy. Country and Subject Files Relating to Atomic Energy Matters 1950-62, folder: Denmark, box 2. NARA.

Kilde: Dansk Udenrigspolitisk Institut (DUPI): Grønland under den kolde krig – Dansk og amerikansk sikkerhedspolitik 1945-68, bilag 60, København 1997.

Uofficiel oversættelse af brevet:

NOV 26 1957

Kære Hr. Sprague

Jeg refererer til Deres brev nr. I-15496/7 af den 8. oktober 1957 stilet til mig omhandlende introduktion og opbevaring af atomvåben på Thule-luftbasen i Grønland.

Efter grundige overvejelser og konsultationer med vores ambassadør i København blev det konkluderet, at det er anbefalelsesværdigt, at vi anvendte en meget personlig og uformel fremgangsmåde i forhold til den danske regering, som beskrevet i mit brev af 23. august 1957 til Dem. Vores ambassadør blev ifølge hermed bemyndiget til at forespørge den danske statsminister om, hvorvidt den danske regering ønskede at blive informeret i tilfælde af, at USA skulle placere atomvåben i Grønland.

Ambassadør Peterson foretog forespørgslen; Den danske statsminister tog notat af det på meget personlig basis og havde ingen kommentarer hertil. Vi er på det grundlag klar til at gå videre med placeringen.

Ambassadør Peterson rapporterer, at statsministeren var "ubøjjelig" omkring, at der ikke måtte være offentlig omtale af nogen art om denne sag hverken nu eller senere, og at han havde afgrænset al viden om den til sig selv. Vi tror, at en afsløring vil være meget skadelig for både den danske regering og for vort forsvarsmæssige samarbejde med Danmark. Der anmodes derfor om, at alle forholdsregler tages for at beskytte denne viden.

Med venlig hilsen

Robert Murphy
Deputy Under Secretary

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