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INCOMING
 TELEGRAM

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 ACTION EUR-00

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INFO ACOC-01 DSO-02 VG-01 PG-01 R-01 PGF-01 EU-01 PPF-01
 VBB-01 VBXC-01 VBXM-01 VBE-01 VBR-01 PPF-01 /017 A3 1

2. THE APRIL 19 TV DEBATE AMONG THE ELEVEN CHAIRMAN
 WHOSE PARTIES WILL COMPETE IN THE ELECTIONS WAS THE
 FIRST GLIMPSE FOR THE DANISH ELECTORATE OF CAMPAIGN
 ISSUES. DESPITE EFFORTS OF SEVERAL LEADERS, MOST

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
 H-01 MSC-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03
 TRSE-00 PM-10 PA-01 OMB-01 NRRR-01 INRE-00 AGRE-00
 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 P-02
 T-01 /078 W

NOTABLY SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC (SDP) CHAIRMAN SVEND AUKEN, IT
 WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DEFLECT INTEREST FROM THE QUESTION OF
 DANISH SECURITY POLICY. BOTH THE SPECIFICS OF THE SHIP
 VISIT RESOLUTION WHICH PROVOKED SCHLUETER TO CALL THE
 ELECTIONS AND THE OVERALL QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT
 DENMARK CAN REMAIN A FULL PARTNER IN NATO DOMINATED THE
 DEBATE.

-----137464 261606Z /48 38

P 261526Z APR 88
 FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3836
 INFO NATO COLLECTIVE
 AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
 AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
 AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
 DIA WASHDC
 ALL POLADS COLLECTIVE
 USDOC WASHDC
 SECDEF WASHDC
 CNO WASHDC
 HQAFSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//CC/XPXB//
 HQUSAF WASHDC//XOXXE//
 CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
 USCINCEUR VAINHGEN GE
 USNMR SHAPE BE
 RUWJBGA/1012ABG THULE AB GL//CC//
 RUEBAPA/1015ABS SONDRESTROM AB//CC//
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//CC//

3. THE SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER OF THE NATO'S NUCLEAR
 PLANNING GROUP'S MEETING (APRIL 26-27) FROM KOLDING,
 DENMARK, TO BRUSSELS, THE STRONG MESSAGE OF CONCERN
 ABOUT THE SHIP VISIT RESOLUTION ISSUED AFTER THE NAC
 MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON APRIL 20, AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT
 THAT NATO SEGGEN LORD CARRINGTON HAD POSTPONED HIS
 FAREWELL VISIT TO DENMARK ALL ASSURED THAT THE NATO
 ANGLE STAYED ON THE FRONT PAGES AND ON THE VOTERS' MINDS
 DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN. IF THE MESSAGE
 OF ALLIED CONCERN WERE NOT CLEAR ENOUGH, THE
 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE END OF THE WEEK THAT BOTH THE
 BRITISH AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENTS HAD POSTPONED THEIR
 SCHEDULED SHIP VISITS TO DENMARK LEFT NO DOUBT IN
 ANYONE'S MIND THAT NATO INTERESTS HAD INDEED BEEN
 AFFECTED BY THE APRIL 14 SHIP VISIT RESOLUTION. FINALLY
 EDITORIAL COMMENT, EVEN IN THOSE MEDIA MOST CLOSELY
 ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, CONTINUED
 TO POUND AWAY AT THE QUESTION OF DENMARK'S MEMBERSHIP IN
 NATO THAT THE CRISIS HAS RAISED. THUS DENMARK IS FACING
 ITS FIRST ELECTION ON SECURITY POLICY SINCE 1929.

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USDOC FOR 4220/ITA/OWE/HLYONS

 "A POX ON BOTH YOUR HOUSES"

PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA/FAS FOR O'HARA ITP

4. ANOTHER INDICATION THAT THIS ELECTION WOULD BE
 UNUSUAL WAS THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON APRIL 21 THAT NIELS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MNUC, DA
 SUBJECT: DANISH ELECTIONS: NATO DOMINATES FIRST WEEK OF
 CAMPAIGN

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 COPENHAGEN 2886

1. SUMMARY: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE DANISH GENERAL
 ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 10 BEGAN WITH A TELEVISIED
 DEBATE AMONG THE LEADERS OF THE ELEVEN COMPETING
 PARTIES. THE FOCUS DURING THE DEBATE AND THROUGHOUT THE
 FIRST WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN WAS ON THE QUESTION OF DANISH
 MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. NIELS HELVEG PETERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF
 THE PACIFIST-NEUTRALIST RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY, ANNOUNCED
 THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO RUN THE COUNTRY RATHER THAN SERVE
 AS KINGMAKER FOR EITHER THE LEFT OR THE RIGHT BLOCS.
 THE LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) IS
 GLEEFULLY PREPARING FOR ANOTHER JUMP IN SUPPORT FROM THE
 VOTERS WHICH SF HOPES WILL FORCE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS TO
 BRING SF INTO COALITION SHOULD THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FORM
 THE NEXT GOVERNMENT. WHILE SDP CHAIRMAN SVEND AUKEN
 SEEKS TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE TO HIS IMAGE DONE BY THE
 APRIL 14 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FOLKETING, HIS PARTY WILL
 DO ITS BEST TO TURN THE FOCUS TO ECONOMIC ISSUES AS THE
 CAMPAIGN GOES INTO THE STRETCH. END SUMMARY.

POL 14
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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 (X) RELEASE (X) DECLASSIFY
 () EXCISE () DECLASSIFY IN PART
 () DENY () Non-responsive info.
 TGL EO 1.3 () PA exemptions TS authority
 () CLASSIFIED () S or () C, OADR
 () DECLASSIFIED TO () S or () C, OADR

"TO BE OR NATO BE" (GRAFFITI SPOTTED ON THE WALL OF THE
 FOREIGN MINISTRY)

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ACTION EUR-00

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INFO ACCO-01 DSO-02 VG-01 PG-01 R-01 PGF-01 EU-02 PPF-01
VBB-01 VBXC-01 VBXX-01 VBE-01 VBR-01 PPFE-01 /017 A3 1

AS HIS INTENTION AND THERE IS EVERY INDICATION TO BELIEVE HE IS UNHAPPY WITH AUKEN'S ACTIONS ON APRIL 14. THUS, ONE MUST TAKE HELVEG PETERSEN AT HIS WORD THAT HE INDEED DOES HOPE TO FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT PERHAPS

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 OIC-02 CIAE-00 EB-00
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TRSE-00 PH-10 PA-01 OMB-01 NRRC-01 INRE-00 AGRE-00
ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 C-01 PRS-01 P-02
T-01 /078 W

ALONE OR PERHAPS IN COALITION WITH ONE OR TWO PARTIES WITH WHOM HE CAN REBUILD A POLITICAL CONSENSUS IN THE FOLKETING.

"AYE, THERE'S THE RUB"

-----137472 261606Z /48 38

P 261526Z APR 88
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3837
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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
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SECDEF WASHDC
CNO WASHDC
HQAFSPACECOM PETERSON AFB CO//CC/XPXB//
HQUSAF WASHDC//XOXXE//
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE
USNMR SHAPE BE
RUWJBGA/1012ABG THULE AB GL//CC//
RUEBAPA/1015ABS SONDRESTROM AB//CC//
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//CC//

6. ONE OPTION HELVEG PETERSEN HAS APPARENTLY CLOSED OFF IS THAT OF SUPPORTING AN SDP-SF COALITION GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, THE SF LEADERS REMAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WILL ONCE AGAIN EXPAND THEIR SUPPORT AT THE POLLS AND PERHAPS REALIZE THEIR LONGTIME GOAL OF A "RED MAJORITY" COMPOSED OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THEMSELVES IN THE NEXT FOLKETING. THE ABSENCE OF SEVERAL FRINGE PARTIES OF THE LEFT FROM THIS ELECTION COULD HELP SF INCREASE ITS SEATS IN THE FOLKETING APART FROM ANY GAIN MADE AT SDP'S EXPENSE. IN THE PAST THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE SAID THEY WOULD NOT FORM A COALITION WITH SF IF SDP'S STRENGTH DECLINES. SDP AND LO LEADERS HAVE NOT EMPHASIZED THAT CONDITION IN THIS CAMPAIGN.

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E.O. 12356: N/A

7. THROUGH THEIR QUICK MANEUVERING ON THE SHIP VISIT DEBATE ON APRIL 14, THE SF MANAGED TO DERAIL THE SCHLUETER-AUKEN DEAL ON SHIP VISITS AND DESTROY THE GROWING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND THE GOVERNMENT ON ECONOMIC POLICY. NOW WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS LOCKED EVEN DEEPER INTO AN SF-LED ANTI-NUCLEAR POLICY, THE SF WOULD TRY TO USE FUTURE COOPERATION WITH AN AUKEN-LED GOVERNMENT TO PUSH FURTHER STEPS IN ALTERING DANISH SECURITY POLICY SUCH AS REDUCING THE DEFENSE BUDGET OR PULLING DENMARK OUT OF NATO NUCLEAR PLANNING AND EXERCISES. IN THE APRIL 21 TV DEBATE, SF CHAIRMAN GERT PETERSEN, SENSING VOTER CONCERN OVER NATO MEMBERSHIP, MADE CLEAR HIS PARTY WOULD STOP SHORT OF DEMANDING THE UNACCEPTABLE -- THAT DENMARK LEAVE NATO.

TAGS: PGOV, PREL, MNUC, DA
SUBJECT: DANISH ELECTIONS: NATO DOMINATES FIRST WEEK OF

HELVEG PETERSEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SWING RADICAL LIBERAL PARTY, WAS NOW AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER. HELVEG PETERSEN, WHOSE SUPPORT HAS BEEN CRITICAL TO SCHLUETER'S GOVERNMENT IN CARRYING OUT ITS ECONOMIC PROGRAM, AND CRITICAL TO THE LEFT IN CARRYING OUT ITS ALTERNATIVE MAJORITY SECURITY AND DEFENSE POLICY, TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO GIVE BOTH BLOCS "A PUNCH IN THE NOSE." AFTER WHAT HE AND MANY OTHERS EXPECT WILL BE ANOTHER UNCLEAR ELECTION MANDATE, HELVEG PETERSEN WOULD TAKE UPON HIS SHOULDERS THE TASK OF BUILDING A BROAD CONSENSUS ACROSS THE CENTER BY LEADING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT.

5. WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS OWN CANDIDACY, HELVEG PETERSEN PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER THE FOUR-LEAF CLOVER GOVERNMENT SINCE SCHLUETER CAN NO LONGER COUNT ON THE RADICALS' SUPPORT IF THE ELECTION RESULTS IN A QUEEN'S ROUND (REF A). IN THE LAST ROUND FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 8 ELECTIONS, HELVEG PETERSEN COULD NO LONGER GUARANTEE HIS PARTY'S SUPPORT FOR THE COALITION'S PROGRAM BUT STILL POINTED TO POUL SCHLUETER AS HIS CHOICE TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT. THEREFORE, OFFERING HIMSELF TO FORM THE NEXT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY SOME AS EASING THE WAY FOR AUKEN, WHOSE PARTY IS STILL SURE TO EMERGE AS THE LARGEST, TO END UP AS PRIME MINISTER. HELVEG PETERSEN HAS DENIED THAT THIS

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ACTION EUR-00 261600Z HAVE TO EU10 COMPROMISES TOGETHER AFTER MAY 10.
007070 ICC104

INFO ACOC-01 DSO-02 VG-01 PG-01 R-01 PGF-01 EU-03 PPF-01
VBB-01 VBXC-01 VBXX-01 VBE-01 VBR-01 PPFE-01 /017 A3 1

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H-01 HSC-01 IO-19 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 HA-09 L-03
TRSE-00 PH-10 PALZ<Z!QS T4S!JRL1826GPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRILANT NORFOLK VA//CC//

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PASS ELECTRONICALLY TO USDA/FAS FOR O'MARA ITP

E.O. 12356: N/A

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8. LIKEWISE, SVEND AUKEN KNOWS THAT THE AVERAGE DANE, INCLUDING THE AVERAGE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, CONTINUES TO SUPPORT DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO. OPINION POLLS TAKEN AFTER APRIL 14 SHOW THAT SUPPORT IS WELL OVER 50 PERCENT IN ALMOST ALL AGE GROUPS AND ALL POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS, EXCEPT THE FAR LEFT. THEREFORE, AUKEN HAS ATTEMPTED TO DISMISS THE QUESTION OF DANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO SAYING THAT HIS PARTY SUPPORTS IT FULLY AND THAT THE SHIP VISIT ISSUE WAS MERELY A BAGATELLE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CALL ELECTIONS IN THE FACE OF ITS OWN FAILURES.

9. IN RESPONSE THE SDP WILL NOW CONCENTRATE ITS CAMPAIGN ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS AS DETAILED IN THE PARTY'S PLATFORM ANNOUNCED ON APRIL 23 AND NOT YET FULLY AVAILABLE TO US. WHAT INFORMATION WE DO HAVE SUGGESTS IT IS AN ORTHODOX CENTRIST PROGRAM ON WHICH COOPERATION WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT COULD BE BASED. WE WILL BE REPORTING ON THIS IN GREATER DETAIL IN A LATER MESSAGE.

10. THIS CENTRIST SDP PROGRAM MAKES IT LESS LIKELY THAT THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN ITSELF WILL ROCK THE DANISH ECONOMY. BOTH THE SHORT SPAN OF THE CAMPAIGN AND THE IRRELEVANCE OF THE SHIPS CLEARANCE ISSUE TO THE ECONOMIC POLICY DEBATE ALSO SHOULD HELP DAMPEN THE EFFECTS ON THE EQUITY AND BOND MARKETS. AFTER ERRATIC SWINGS IN BOTH DIRECTIONS AS THE MARKETS REACTED TO ELECTION RUMORS DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF APRIL, STOCK AND BOND PRICES SAILED THROUGH THE FIRST WEEK OF THE CAMPAIGN WITH SCARCELY A TREMOR. EXTERNALLY, THE RECORD-HIGH LEVEL OF

OFFICIAL FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES, NOW AT ABOUT 11 BILLION DOLLARS, SO FAR HAS EFFECTIVELY DISCOURAGED EXTERNAL PRESSURE ON THE KRONE.

CONCLUSION

11. AS THE CAMPAIGN MOVES INTO ITS SECOND WEEK, THE NATO ISSUE IS LIKELY TO RECEDE FROM THE FRONT PAGES AND ECONOMIC ISSUES BECOME MORE CENTRAL TO THE DEBATE. AN UNKNOWN REMAINS -- HOW THE VOTER WILL RESPOND TO THE ISSUE OF LEADERSHIP. CRITICISM OF SVEND AUKEN AS AN UNRELIABLE LEADER CONTINUES BUT AT A LESSER DEGREE AS THE AFTERSHOCKS OF HIS ACTIONS ON THE SHIP VISIT VOTE RECEDE. INSTEAD BOTH HE AND POUL SCHLUETER ARE TRYING TO DOWNPLAY THEIR ANGRY CLASH IN CASE THEY ONCE AGAIN

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