

EXCISE

UA MK/UC

(from RPM's fully cleared message to Secretary 6/7/88)

EC025

1989

DENMARK
Danish Ship Visit Issue

Background

- o April 14 Danish Parliament resolution called on government to inform visiting ships of Danish policy "not to accept nuclear weapons in Danish territory, including ports."
- o U.S. and other allies reacted strongly, expressing concern over implications for NATO unity and for our NCND policy.
- o U.S. France, and UK postponed ship visits to Denmark, pending resolution of Danish policy on the issue.
- o Three weeks after May 10 election, conservative PM Schlueter formed a Conservative/Liberal/Radical Liberal coalition.
- o New government's defense program resolves ship visit issue without challenging NCND, provides a pro-NATO parliamentary majority, but promises zero real growth in defense budget.

9/25/90
M. B. Schlueter

New Danish Ship Visit Procedures

- o Announced by Schlueter in Folketing on June 7, after consultation with U.S. and UK, includes:
 - Circulation of diplomatic note reiterating Danish anti-nuclear policies;
 - Attachment to note, for NATO countries, of DPC draft document describing Denmark's position in NATO;
 - Addition of following sentence to ship clearance letters: "The Danish Government assumes that the visit of the vessel is in compliance with rules laid down by the Danish Government"; and
 - Statement by Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen that new procedures respect NCND.

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U.S. (and UK) Position

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(U) Press Points: Danish Ship Visit Issue

- The U.S. "neither confirm nor deny" policy applies globally; it is essential to our ability to carry out our NATO political and security commitments.
- The Danish handling of the ship visit issue does not infringe on NCND.
- The U.S. notes the statement of Foreign Minister Ellemann-Jensen that the new Danish policy respects NCND.
- Our NCND policy is essential to maintaining the operational flexibility of our Navy and the security of our forces.
- We are not going to change it.

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