

October 19, 1976

**Cable, US Embassy Copenhagen to the Secretary of
State, 'North Koreans Described as "Diplomatic
Gang" in Danish Press'**

Citation:

"Cable, US Embassy Copenhagen to the Secretary of State, 'North Koreans Described as "Diplomatic Gang" in Danish Press'", October 19, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, 1976COPENH03512, Access to Archival Databases (AAD).
<https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/155141>

Summary:

This cable describes North Korean Diplomats' illegal cigarette and liquor trafficking in Norway and speculates on the possibility that the trafficking reflects official North Korean policy and a means to finance the country's propaganda efforts.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COPENH 03512 200815Z

21
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /061 W

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R 191630Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3449

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS COPENHAGEN 3512

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SNAR KN DA

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREANS DESCRIBED AS "DIPLOMATIC GANG" IN DANISH
PRESS

REF: COPENHAGEN 3493

SUMMARY: DANISH MEDIA CONTINUE TO BE DOMINATED BY STORIES

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PAGE 02 COPENH 03512 200815Z

ON THE NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS' ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES.

REPORTS OF ARRESTS AND EXPULSIONS IN NORWAY AND ARRESTS OF IMPLICATED SWEDES IN SWEDEN MADE DANES MORE AWARE OF SCOPE OF THE NORTH KOREAN ILLICIT ACTIVITY. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, THE NORTH KOREANS IN NORWAY WERE ENGAGED IN TRAFFICKING IN CIGARETTES AND LIQUOR BUT NO PROOF HAD BEEN FOUND OF HASHISH INVOLVEMENT. SOME REPORTS CITED BUDGETS CUTS SUFFERED BY THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTRY LAST SPRING AS BEING THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE FOR THE NORTH KOREANS' CRIMINALITY, BUT OTHERS MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF CALCULATED GOVERNMENT POLICY TO GET FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO FINANCE NORTH KOREAN POLICY OBJECTIVES. OTHERWISE, PRESS STORIES WERE CONCERNED WITH THE DETAILS OF POLICE OPERATIONS WHICH RESULTED IN THE CHARGES AGAINST THE NORTH KOREAN DPLOMATS HERE AND SPECULATION ON NORTH KOREAN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. COMMUNIST DAILY LAND AND FOLK IN AN EDITORIAL TODAY (OCTOBER 19 CALLED THE NORTH KOREANS NAIVE AND COMMENTED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO BLAME THE CIA FOR THIS SCANDAL BUT THAT PERHAPS THE SOUTH KOREAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE MIGHT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY HAD NOT HURT DENMARK BUT WAS CERTAINLY A BLACK EYE FOR NORTH KOREA'S IMAGE HERE. TODAY'S INFORMATION (LEFTIST INTELLECTUAL) RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW THE MONEY WHICH WAS OBTAINED FROM THE ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING WAS USED. IT SPECULATED THAT THE MONEY SUPPORTED NORTH KOREAN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND MIGHT EVEN HAVE ENDED UP IN SWISS BANKS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT IN ANY CASE THE NORTH KOREANS WERE OBVIOUSLY DILLETTANTES.

2. SOME ARTICLES DEALT WITH NORTH KOREA'S DEFAULT ON ITS FOREIGN DEBTS AND MENTIONED NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE DANISH COMPANY, DANNEBROG, FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF DEBTS OWED BY THE NORTH KOREANS. AKTUEL (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC DAILY) COMMENTED THAT, WHILE THE NORTH KOREAN "DIPLOMATIC GANG" IS MAKING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 COPENH 03512 200815Z

ILLEGALLY AND ENORMOUS SUMS ARE BEING PAID BY THE NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLISHING HOUSE TO PRAISE PRESIDENT KIM IL-SONG, THE GOVERNMENT IS RENEGING ON ITS DEBTS.

3. IN ITS REPORT ON OCTOBER 19, POLITIKEN (INDEPENDENT LEFT-OF-CENTER) NOTED THAT THE DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH KOREANS' LAWBREAKING FED THE SUSPICION THAT SIMILAR

CRIMES FINACED THEIR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD. POLITIEKN'S EDITORIAL SPECULATED THAT THE MONEY MADE HERE WAS USED FOR NOTH KOREA'S AMATERUISH PROPAGANDA EFFORTS IN SCANDINAVIA AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO BUILD UP AN ESPIONAGE APPARATUS - WITH ANY UNNEEDED SURPLUS FUNDS BEING TRANSMITTED TO PYONGYANG.

4. ONE PRESS REPORT FROM LUXEMBOURG, WHERE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL IS MEETING, HAS IT THAT NEW STAFF IS EXPECTED AT THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN DENMARK SOON.
DEAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, TOBACCO, DRUG TRAFFIC, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH03512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760393-0442
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761039/aaaabgzj.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 COPENHAGEN 3493
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREANS DESCRIBED AS "DIPLOMATIC GANG" IN DANISH PRESS
TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, KN, DA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006