

October 27, 1976

**Jaakko Kaurinkoski, 'Diplomatic/meetings: Beijing,
Wednesday'**

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Summary:

A memo on talks between Nordic ambassadors in Beijing and their North Korean counterpart on the smuggling affair.

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Original Scan

Translation - English

Peking, onsdag. RBS korrespondent Jaakko Kaurinkoski.

De nordiske ambassadører i Peking har under en række møder med deres nordkoreanske kollega, Huyn Jun Keuk, oplevet, hvordan nordkoreanernes tonefald under diskussioner om diplomataffæren er skiftet fra det barske til det udmyge, siger diplomatiske kilder onsdag.

Opriindelig krævede ambassadør Huyn, at udvisningsbeslutningerne blev kaldt tilbage, og han truede samtidig med, at Nordkorea ville afbryde de diplomatiske forbindelser med Danmark, Norge og Finland, siger kilderne.

Men efternånden som tiden gik, ændredes tonefaldet, og ambassadøren er nu nået så langt som til at udtrykke taknemmelighed over, at der er blevet udstedt indrejsevisa til de diplomater, der erstatter de, der blev udvist på grund af anklage for smuglerier.

Ambassadør Huyn har dog kategorisk fastholdt, at smuglerier og illegal handel skulle være dirigeret fra Nordkorea. Han har sagt, at det var på de enkelte personers initiativ, smuglerier og ulovlig handel foregik.

Diplomater i Peking med godt kendskab til nordkoreanske forhold er dog skeptiske over for denne forklaring. De anser det for utænkeligt, at enkelte diplomater skulle have taget sådanne risikable initiativer uden instruks fra højere sted.
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Diplomatisk/møder - 2
Peking

Det største antal møder har ambassadør Huyn - der er doyen for det diplomatiske korps i Peking - haft med Danmarks ambassadør, Kjeld Mortensen. Det sidste foregik tirsdag, siger kilderne.

De norske og finske ambassadører har haft færre møder med deres nordkoreanske kollega, og forhandlingerne mellem Sverige og Nordkorea har ikke fundet sted i Peking, men i Pyongyang, hvor Sverige har en diplomatisk repræsentation under ledelse af en charges d'affaires.

I Peking siger diplomater, at Nordkorea stadig er meget isoleret i Verden, og at en afbrydelse af de diplomatiske forbindelser til de fire nordiske lande ville være et alvorligt bagslag for de nordkoreanske forsøg på at opnå en international position.

Endelig ville en afbrydelse højst få til følge, at Danmark og Norges ambassadører i Peking ville undlade at aflevere deres akkreditiver i Pyongyang.

Og skulle Nordkorea ønske at foretage en gengældelsesaktion med udvisning af nordiske diplomater, var det kun den finske handelsattaché i Pyongyang, Arto Vainioma:ki, der var i farezonen. Sverige, der forhandlede sig frem til en frivillig tilbagetrækning af nordkoreanske diplomater, ville formentlig slippe fri.

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Diplomatic/meetings

Beijing, Wednesday. RBs correspondent Jaakko Kaurinkoski.

According to diplomatic sources, the Nordic ambassadors in Beijing have through a series of meetings with their North Korean counterpart Hyun Jun Keuk, centered on the smuggling affair, noted how the North Korean tone has shifted markedly from aggressively defensive to a more humble tone.

Ambassador Hyun initially demanded the retraction of the expulsion notices, and threatened that North Korea would cut diplomatic ties with Denmark, Norway and Finland, according to the sources.

Over time however, the tone changed, and the Ambassador is now expressing gratitude for the visas issued to the diplomats set to replace those involved in the smuggling affair.

Ambassador Hyun has categorically denied that the smuggling was directed by the central government of North Korea. He claims the acts were carried out on an individual basis.

Diplomats in Beijing with knowledge of North Korean affairs have however been skeptical of this explanation. They consider it unimaginable that individual diplomats would take such risks without instructions from above.

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Diplomatic/meetings - 2

Beijing

Ambassador Hyun - who is the doyen of the diplomatic corps in Beijing - has held more meetings with the Danish Ambassador [than with any other diplomat from the Nordic countries]. The last meeting took place Tuesday, according to the sources.

The Norwegian and Finnish ambassadors have held fewer meetings with their North Korean counterpart, and the negotiations between Sweden and North Korea has not taken place in Beijing, but in Pyongyang, where Sweden has diplomatic representation led by a chargé d'affaires.

Diplomats in Beijing say North Korea is a largely isolated country on the global level, and that a severing of ties with the Nordic countries would constitute a major setback for their attempt to attain a higher status internationally.

Another likely outcome of a severing of ties is that the Ambassadors of Norway and Denmark in Beijing would abstain from submitting their accreditations to Pyongyang.

And if North Korea is to reciprocate by expelling diplomats from Pyongyang, only the Finnish trade attaché, Arto Vainiomäki, would be at risk of expulsion.

Sweden, who negotiated a voluntary withdrawal of the North Korean diplomats, would presumably be exempt from any sanctions.