

October 22, 1976

**Telegram to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the
Royal Danish Embassy in Helsinki, 'Finnish Press
Coverage of the Expulsion of North Korean
Diplomats'**

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Summary:

A summary of Finnish press coverage of the expulsion of North Korean diplomats produced by the Danish Embassy in Helsinki.

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UDENRIGSMINISTERIET.

GEORGSGATAN 9, 00120 HELSINGFORS 12

TELEFON 6419 48

TELEGRAM ADR.: AMBADANE

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Nr. 560.

Finske pressekommentarer til udvisningen af nordkoreanske diplomater. 4@110 (58138)
Amtel 90 af 21.10.76.

Den finske regerings beslutning om udvisning af fire af de fem nordkoreanske diplomater har givet anledning til udførlig omtale og kommentarer i den herværende presse. Også udvisningen af de nordkoreanske diplomater fra Danmark i sidste uge er blevet udførligt refereret i finsk presse.

Lederkommentarerne spekulerer i årsagerne til de nordkoreanske ambassaders ulovlige aktiviteter i de nordiske lande, og finder, at disse aktiviteter synes at være organiseret fra et centralt punkt. Bladene henviser til Nord Koreas dårlige økonomi, der bla. har indebåret, at en række lande, herunder Finland, har store ubetalte tilgodehavender, og til den i de senere år kraftigt ekspanderede nordkoreanske udenrigstjeneste. Man finder det ikke usandsynligt, at udbyttet af de ulovlige transaktioner har skullet finansiere ambassaderne og deres omfattende propagandavirksomhed.

"Helsingin Sanomat" (uah.) betegner de nordkoreanske diplomaters adfærd som et groft brud på spillereglerne, der kan skabe vanskeligheder for det/diplomatiske samarbejde. "Hufvudstadsbladet" kritiserer det finske udenrigsministerium for ikke, som det var tilfældet f.eks. i Danmark, at præcisere overfor offentligheden, hvad der var grundlaget for udvisningen af de nordkoreanske diplomater. Den finske offentlighed er således uden klar viden om, hvorvidt der også har været tale om narkotikahandel i sagen, hvilket er en særligt oprørende forseelse mod opholdslandet.

/internationale

P. A. V.

N. Jæger
(Nils Jæger)

Royal Danish Embassy in Helsinki

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Department for Protocol

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No. 560

Finnish press coverage of the expulsion of North Korean diplomats

21.10.76

The Finnish government's decision to expel four of the five North Korean diplomats has received broad coverage in the Finnish press. The expulsion of diplomats from Denmark last week has also been covered extensively.

Editorials have been speculating about the causes behind the North Korean activities in the Nordic countries, and it has been suggested that the activities have been organised by the central government. The newspapers have discussed this in relation to the poor state of the North Korean economy. A part of this story is the country's high level of foreign debt, held by Finland and several other countries. The rapid expansion of the North Korean foreign service over the last few years may also be an underlying cause. It is not unlikely that profits from the illegal transactions have been financing the Embassies and their extensive propaganda activities.

"Helsingin Sanomat" (independent) describes the North Korean diplomats behaviour as a grave breach of norms which has the potential to complicate diplomatic cooperation. "Hufvudstadsbladet" criticizes the Finnish foreign minister for not explaining to the public the reason behind the expulsion, as was done in eg. Denmark. In other words, the Finnish public does not know whether narcotics have also been involved in Finland. This would of course be a particularly serious offense to the receiving country.

P.A.V.

Nils Jæger