

**October 26, 1976**

**Cable, US Embassy Stockholm to the Secretary of State, 'Government Statements on Trafficking by North Korean Embassy Personnel'**

**Citation:**

"Cable, US Embassy Stockholm to the Secretary of State, 'Government Statements on Trafficking by North Korean Embassy Personnel'", October 26, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, 1976STOCKH05924, Access to Archival Databases (AAD).  
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/155143>

**Summary:**

This cable reports on Swedish press coverage of illegal alcohol, tobacco, and narcotics trafficking by North Korean diplomats as well as the broader implication of the trafficking disclosures for the Swedish-North Korean relationship.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-13 JUSE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 OES-06 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /111 W

----- 088043

R 261500Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9015

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AM/

BASSY LUXEMBOURG 258

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKHO

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

DEA HQS WASHDC

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5924

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KN, SW  
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON TRAFFICKING BY NORTH  
KOREAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL

REF: STOCKHOLM 5897

1. MFA ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE DATED OCTOBER 22  
ON ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND NARCOTICS  
BY STAFF OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM.

2. STATEMENT: THE NATIONAL SWEDISH POLICE BOARD  
PRESENTED ON OCOBER 18 TO MFA A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON  
SUSPICIONS AGAINST THE PERSONNEL OF THE EMBASSY  
OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN  
STOCKHOLM FOR HAVING DEALT ILLEGALLY WITH SPIRITS AND  
TOBACCO, AS WELL AS NARCOTICS. IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS  
THE POLICE RECEIVED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH CONFIRMED  
THAT A NUMBER OF THE EMBASSY'S PERSONNEL HAD  
PARTICIPATED IN THIS ILLEGAL ACTIVITY. FOUR SWEDISH  
CITIZENS HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED; THEY HAVE ADMITTED  
THAT THEY HAD BOUGHT CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF SPIRITS  
AND TOBACCO FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THE MINISTRY FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE LAST  
FEW DAYS INFORMED THE NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT  
THE STRONG SUSPICION THAT SEVERAL OF THE EMBASSY MEMBERS  
HAVE ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. THE MFA HAS ALSO  
UNDERLINED THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES THIS WOULD HAVE  
FOR THE PERSONS INVOLVED AND THEIR POSITIONS IN SWEDEN.  
ON OCTOBER 21 AMBASSADOR KIL JAE GYONG LEFT SWEDEN. TWO  
EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAVE LEFT TODAY. A COUPLE OF EMBASSY  
OFFICIALS LEFT SWEDEN AT AN EARLIER DATE. THE  
SWEDISH GOVERNMENT LOOKS UPON THIS MATTER SERIOUSLY.  
HOWEVER, IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE  
OTHERWISE NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SWEDEN AND THE  
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA WILL NOT BE  
DISTURBED.

3. PRESS ACCOUNTS INDICATE FIVE OF ORIGINLA NORTH  
KOREAN EMBASSY STAFF OF TEN REMAIN IN STOCKHOLM,  
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APPARENTLY UNTAINTED BY TRAFFICKING DISCLOSURES.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER KARIN SODER, ALSO ON OCTOBER 22,  
ISSUED STATEMENT TO PRESS REGARDING NORTH KOREAN CASE.  
MFA SUMMARY OF SODER'S STATEMENT, IN UNOFFICIAL  
TRANSLATION, AS FOLLOWS:

5. "MS. KARIN SODER, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS,

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SAYS IN A STATEMENT TO THE SWEDISH CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY CONCERNING THE NORTH KOREAN AFFAIR THAT IT MUST BE CONSIDERED AN OUTRANGE THAT OFFICIALS OF A FOREIGN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM SHOULD SO DEEPLY VIOLATE THEIR DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. SPIRITS AND TOBACCO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY IN GREAT QUANTITIES AND HAVE BEEN SOLD ILLEGALLY ON THE SWEDISH MARKET. SHIPMENTS OF NARCOTICS HAVE BEEN DIRECTED VIA SWEDISH TERRITORY. IT IS UNBELIEVABLE THAT OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS COULD INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN SUCH BLATENTLY CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES."  
SMITH

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SMUGGLING, TOBACCO, PRESS COMMENTS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 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:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 76 STOCKHOLM 5897  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** buchant0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS ON TRAFFICKING BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, KN, SW  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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