

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

UNCLASSIFIED

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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,

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

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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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760399-0993
From: STOCKHOLM
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