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October 21, 1976

**Cable, US Embassy Helsinki to the Secretary of
State, 'Finland PNG's Four North Koreans'**

Citation:

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Summary:

This cable discusses the expulsion of North Korean diplomats from Finland after they were accused of smuggling cigarettes, alcohol, and drugs. It also discusses North Korean resistance to the expulsion and confrontations with the Finnish press.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 /060 W

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R 211343Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 608

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, FI, KN

SUBJECT: FINLAND PNG'S FOUR NORTH KOREANS

REF: HELSINKI 2216 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: FINLAND HAS JOINED DENMARK AND NORWAY IN EXPELLING NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE FINNISH ACTION ANNOUNCED OCTOBER 20, APPLIES TO ONLY PART OF THE STAFF OF THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN HELSINKI.

2. MFA STATEMENT FOLLOWS: "THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS TODAY DECIDED TO DECLARE THE ACTING CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, COUNSELOR CHANG DAE HI, SECOND SECRETARY LI SANG JUN, CHANCERY OFFICER LI CHON SOP, AND CHANCERY OFFICER BONG IN YENG AS PERSONAE-NON-GRATAE IN FINLAND. THE EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE PURSUED ACTIVITIES THAT ARE IN CONFLICT WITH FINNISH LAWS AND WITH THE VIENNA GENERAL AGREEMENT CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT EMPHASIZES THAT FINLAND CONSIDERS IT OF

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PRIMARY IMPORTANCE THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS PREVAIL-

ING BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHALL CONTINUE." WHILE THIS STATEMENT DID NOT SPECIFY WHAT ACTIVITIES THE NORTH KOREANS ENGAGED IN, THE FINNISH PRESS REPORTED THAT SMUGGLING AND SALE TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS OF CIGARETTES AND ALCOHOL WERE INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE SIX DAYS TO DEPART FROM FINLAND.

3. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS OCTOBER 20, NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN LI ZU GWON DENIED WRONGDOING BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND STATED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS DO NOT INTEND TO LEAVE FINLAND BUT WILL ASK THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER ITS ACTION. IN APPARENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GOODS FROM HIS EMBASSY HAD COME INTO THE WRONG HANDS, LI SAID THAT "PROFESSIONAL THIEVES" HAD STOLEN THESE ITEMS FROM THE EMBASSY BUILDING AT SOME UNSPECIFIED TIME.

4. THE FINNISH CAMERA CREW COVERING LI'S ANNOUNCEMENT WAS SET UPON BY THREE OTHER NORTH KOREANS WHO OBJECTED TO ITS PHOTOGRAPHING THE EMBASSY. THE NORTH KOREAN ATTACKERS USED THEIR HANDS AND DID NOT CAUSE ANY DAMAGE OR INJURY. THE FINNISH MEDIA HAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED THE FILM OF THE SCUFFLE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED TO US THAT FINNISH AUTHORITIES ARE IN POSSESSION OF AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT THE NORTH KOREANS WERE INVOLVED IN ILLEGAL SALES OF QUANTITIES OF NOT ONLY LIQUOR AND CIGARETTES BUT ALSO DRUGS. THE PRESS HAS INTIMATED AS MUCH, CITING UNNAMED FINNISH GOVERNMENT SOURCES. THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT HAS NOT DENIED THESE ALLEGATIONS BUT OBVIOUSLY PREFERS TO CARRY OUT THE EXPULSION ACTION WITHOUT DIRECTLY CONFIRMING THEM. AUSTAD

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