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October 21, 1976

**Cable, US Embassy Stockholm to the Secretary of
State, 'North Korean Embassy Illegal
Trafficking--Swedish Phase'**

Citation:

"Cable, US Embassy Stockholm to the Secretary of State, 'North Korean Embassy Illegal Trafficking--Swedish Phase'", October 21, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, 1976STOCKH05857, Access to Archival Databases (AAD).
<https://wilson-center-digital-archive.dvincitest.com/document/155146>

Summary:

This cable describes extensive Swedish media coverage of illegal North Korean trafficking in both Sweden and other nordic countries and considers the factors influencing whether the North Korean Ambassador will be expelled by the Swedish government.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13

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

OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 EURE-00 /098 W

----- 026842

P R 211133Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8991

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USLO PEKING

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION NATO

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW, KN

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 05857 211245Z

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING--SWEDISH PHASE

REF: STOCKHOLM 5788 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. GOS DECISION ON POSSIBLE EXPULSION OF NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NORTH KOREAN MISSION IN STOCKHOLM BELIEVED TO BE IMMINENT. SWEDISH MEDIA IS HAVING FIELD DAY REPORTING ON NORTH KOREAN SMUGGLING TRANSGRESSIONS IN OTHER NORDIC CAPITALS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRESS AND SEVERAL EMBASSY SOURCES, GOS DECISION ON WHETHER TO PNG NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIL JAE GYONG AND OTHER MEMBERS OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM MAY BE TAKEN OCTOBER 21 OR 22. MFA SECRETARY-GENERAL SVERKER ASTROM IS REMAINING TIGHT-LIPPED ON WHICH COURSE SWEDEN WILL TAKE WITH REGARD TO APPARENTLY PROVEN CHARGES OF ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING IN ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO BY NORTH KOREAN MISSION HERE. ASTROM SAID MFA WAS STILL WAITING FINAL POLICE REPORT ON CASE, BUT WOULD NOT DISCUSS WITH PRESS CALL MADE ON MFA OCTOBER 19 BY NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT AMBASSADOR KIL'S EXPULSION FROM OLSO, ASTROM SAID THAT SWEDEN, IN SPITE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THE BEST OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. HE ADDED THAT THE FACT THAT KIL HAS BEEN EXPELLED FROM NORWAY WOULD NOT HAVE BEARING ON THE SWEDISH DECISION.

3. MEANWHILE SWEDISH MEDIA HAS GIVEN HEAVIEST PLAY TO ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREANS IN SWEDEN AND IN OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES. AS RESULT OF EXTENSIVE RAIDS BY SWEDISH POLICE ON OCTOBER 18 AND 19 AGAINST NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY'S "WHOLESALEERS" AND "WAREHOUSES", FOUR SWEDISH CITIZENS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND INTERROGATED. TWO ADDITIONAL SWEDES MAY BE PICKED UP TODAY. THUS FAR, THE SWEDISH POLICE HAUL HAS BEEN MODEST--500 BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL AND 10,000 CIGARETTES. NO NARCOTICS HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED THUS FAR ACCORDING TO POLICE SPOKESMAN.

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4. PRESS REPORTS SWEDISH POLICE BELIEVE THAT NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM HAS BEEN THE CENTER FOR EXTENSIVE SMUGGLING ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION TO EXTRAORDINARY REQUESTS TO MFA FOR DUTY FREE IMPORTS OF LIQUOR AND TOBACCO, NORTH KOREANS HERE HAVE SECURED EXTENSIVE SUPPLIES FROM ABROAD--PRINCIPALLY FROM POLAND. TRUCK OWNED BY NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY HAS,

ACCORDING TO POLICE, BEEN USED FREQUENTLY TO BRING IN FULL LOADS OF WHAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE DESCRIBED TO SWEDISH CUSTOMS AS "PROPAGANDA MATERIAL." PRESS REPORTS ALSO CONFIRM THAT SWEDISH POLICE HAVE BEEN WORKING IN CLOSE COLLABORATION ON THIS CASE WITH THEIR NORDIC COUNTERPARTS.

5. CIA HAS BEEN CREDITED IN SEVERAL MEDIA REPORTS, PARTICULARLY IN INDEPENDENT DAGENS NYHETER ON OCTOBER 20, WITH ASSISTING SWEDISH AND OTHER NORDIC POLICE IN GATHERING INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE ON NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITY.

6. COMMENT: GOS UNDOUBTEDLY HAS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE A DECISION TO PNG AMBASSADOR KIL JAE GYONG AND OTHER MISSION MEMBERS HERE, BUT HAS SEVERAL REASONS WHY IT MAY WANT TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN THIS DIRECTION. THERE IS THE MATTER OF THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF THE SMALL SWEDISH EMBASSY STAFF IN PYONGYANG. IT MAY ALSO BE TRUE THAT THE TRAFFICKING ILLEGALITIES IN SWEDEN HAVE TURNED OUT TO BE OF A LESSER SCALE THAN WAS EVIDENT IN THE OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES. THE PRESS HAS ALSO POINTED OUT REPEATEDLY THAT THE PYONGYANG REGIME CONTINUES TO OWE SWEDISH SUPPLIERS MORE THAN \$175 MILLION FOR VARIOUS MACHINERY SHIPPED TO NORTH KOREA OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. DESPITE THESE VALID CONSIDERATIONS, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SWEDISH PUBLIC WILL NOT EASILY UNDERSTAND A GOS DECISION NOT TO EXPEL NORTH KOREANS HERE IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.
SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, TOBACCO, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STOCKH05857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760394-1286
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761026/aaaaawly.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STOCKHOLM 5788
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING--SWEDISH PHASE
TAGS: PFOR, SW, KN, (KIL JAE GYONG)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006