

October 28, 1976

**Cable, US Embassy Helsinki to the Secretary of
State, 'Expulsion of North Korean Diplomats'**

Citation:

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Summary:

This cable reports on the departure of four North Korean diplomats expelled from Finland for smuggling alcohol, tobacco and narcotics. New diplomats arrived via train from Moscow to replace those expelled.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-05

OES-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /099 W
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R 280735Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0632
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, FI, KN

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS

REF: (A) HELSINKI 2229 (NOTAL), (B) DAR ES SALAAM 3934 (NOTAL)

1. THE FOUR NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS, HEADED BY CHARGE CHANG DAE HI, WHO WERE DECLARED PERSONAE NON GRATAE BY THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT (REF A) DEPARTED FINLAND BY TRAIN FOR MOSCOW ON OCTOBER 26. ALTHOUGH THEY THEREBY RETREATED FROM THEIR EARLIER DECLARATION THAT THEY WOULD REFUSE TO LEAVE, THEY CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN THEIR INNOCENCE IN A FINAL STATEMENT ISSUED ON THEIR DEPARTURE. THE STATEMENT DENIED ANY WRONG-DOING BY THE EMBASSY STAFF AND CAUTIONED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF FINLAND WOULD BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY RESULTANT STRAINS IN FINNISH-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS.

2. THE FINNISH PRESS HAS FOUND THE NORTH KOREANS' PROTESTATIONS OF INNOCENCE UNCONVINCING. LEADING INDEPENDENT HELSINGIN SANOMAT NOTED UNOFFICIAL BUT RELIABLE REPORTS THAT

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THE NORTH KOREANS HAD BEEN EXPELLED FOR BLACKMARKETING ALCOHOL

AND TOBACCO AND HAD BEEN SUSPECTED ALSO OF SMUGGLING NARCOTICS. WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUSED TO COMMENT OR PROVIDE FURTHER SPECIFICS ON WHAT FINNISH LAWS THE NORTH KOREANS BROKE, THE PRESS GENERALLY CONCLUDES THAT THE EXPULSION ORDER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT HAD FIRM EVIDENCE OF ILLICIT ACTIVITIES SIMILAR TO SELLING OF CONTRABAND IN OTHER NORDIC COUNTRIES.

3.

3. EDITORIAL REACTION HAS RANGED FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PAPER'S OBSERVATION THAT NORTH KOREANS' ACTIVITY HERE HAS CONTRAVENED EFFORTS AT GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES TO SWEDISH LANGUAGE HUFVUDSTADSBLADET'S CONDEMNATION OF SUSPECTED NARCOTICS SMUGGLING AS "OUTRAGEOUSLY GROSS ABUSE AGAINST THE HOST COUNTRY." LATTER PAPER SAID THAT IF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY VIOLATIONS CONTINUE, "THE BASIS FOR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WILL BE UNDERMINED." HOWEVER, THE PAPER ENDORSED THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE INITIAL REACTION BY THE NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY -- USING VIOLENCE AGAINST A FINNISH TELEVISION CREW -- IS A THING OF THE PAST.

4. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FOUR NEW NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS ARRIVED BY THE SAME TRAIN FROM MOSCOW OCTOBER 26 TO REPLACE THE FOUR EXPELLED.

5. FOR DAR ES SALAAM: EMBASSY IS POUCHING ADDITIONAL PRESS TRANSLATIONS.
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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, DRUG TRAFFIC, PRESS COMMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL EXPULSIONS, TOBACCO PRODUCTS
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To: STATE
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