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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : Embassy, Copenhagen

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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

EC December 9, 1960

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For Dept.	REC'D	DEPT.
Use Only	12-17	RMK-2 INR-7 mto-1 mto-2, S/AE-4 D-7 P-3 S/A-1 4/mSC-3
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SUBJECT: Radical Liberal Newspaper Editorial Opposing Introduction of Atomic Weapons into Denmark

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

There follows a translation of an editorial from the Radical Liberal Newspaper Skive Folkeblad of Jutland, on the above subject. The newspaper is regarded as a favorite mouthpiece for the Radical Liberal Party leadership, and its views may be considered reasonably authoritative. The Embassy wishes to call attention to two points in particular which are made in the editorial: (1) The flat statement that continued government opposition to the acceptance of atomic weapons by NATO as well as by Denmark was a condition for Radical Liberal participation in the government, and (2) The comment that many Social Democrats share Radical Liberal views on this subject. In both published and private comments, leaders of both parties denied immediately following the November 15th elections that any "deal" involving defense policy was a factor in the Radical Liberal agreement to join the government. On the contrary, Danish Government officials, in private conversations with Embassy officers, have stressed the line that the Radical Liberals abandoned their traditionally pacifist line at the time the defense compromise bill was approved by all of the major parties last March.

The editorial tends to support the Embassy's preliminary conclusion reported in Deptel 433, November 22, that the new government can be expected to be wary of positive initiatives in NATO and National defense matters.

END CONFIDENTIAL - BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - BEGIN TEXT

ATOMIC WEAPONS THROUGH THE BACK DOOR

The population groups which in 1949 were so keen on placing Denmark in Nato hardly imagined that the organization was to be

POL:VPW:liber:jg
Translation: P.V. Johansen
REPORTER

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION TAKEN:	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
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(7) RELEASE (X) DECLASSIFY
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used for smuggling unwanted decisions in through the back door. But the proposal to introduce NATO atomic weapons must be looked upon as just such an attempt. The proposal has come from the NATO Commander-in-Chief, General Lauris Norstad.

There are two motives to this wish on the part of the NATO General. According to its legislation, the USA cannot deliver atomic weapons to other countries. In some countries, i.e. Denmark, there is a majority against atomic weapons. That is why General Norstad now uses the expression: "the collective will of the NATO member countries".

Danish foreign policy must naturally be on guard against such an expression. It can be taken for granted absolutely that in democratic Danish opinion no such "collective will" can possibly exist inside NATO member countries. The will can be expressed only through what the Parliaments of the individual countries, in harmony with their people, may decide. NATO cannot evade the Parliaments, which is evident from the Atlantic Pact itself. The Pact gives Denmark the right to protest.

As seen from the outside, Denmark, together with other opponents of atomic weapons, is now faced with a sinister attempt to introduce atomic weapons through the back door. As seen from the inside the introduction of atomic weapons into Denmark in one form or another has become a cardinal problem both for the Folketing and the Government.

To the Folketing it is becoming a question of resisting involuntary subjection to a super-national institution. To the Government it is a question of its continued existence in its present form.

The condition for Radical Liberal participation in the Government was a demand that atomic weapons not be introduced into Danish territory in any form. Neither Danish atomic weapons, nor West German atomic weapons, nor NATO atomic weapons. The Radical Liberal viewpoint has also met with sympathy on this question inside the Social Democratic Party. On the other side, the party is pressed by the atomic parties, i.e., the Moderate Liberals, Conservatives and Independents.

END TRANSLATION AND TEXT.

For the Ambassador:


Vincent P. Wilber
First Secretary

cc: AmEmbassy, Paris
Paris for USRO - 2

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