

October 28, 1976

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

Citation:

"Cable, US Embassy Helsinki to the Secretary of State, 'Expulsion of North Korean Diplomats'", October 28, 1976, Wilson Center Digital Archive, 1976HELSIN02271, Access to Archival Databases (AAD). <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/155147>

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

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 HELSIN 02271 280911Z

10
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

----- 115132

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

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HELSIN 02271 280911Z

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.
AUSTAD

UNCLASSIFIED

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
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 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:
Document Number: 1976HELSIN02271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760402-0514
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761010/aaaaaibg.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 HELSINKI 2229, 76 DAR ES SALAAM 3934
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2004 by DuboseBM>; APPROVED <05 JAN 2005 by buchant0>
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: EXPULSION OF NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS
TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, FI, KN, (CHANG DAE HI)
To: STATE
DAR ES SALAAM
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006