



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 19, 2018

His Excellency  
Lars Lokke Rasmussen  
Prime Minister of Denmark  
Copenhagen

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

As we look forward to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit, we appreciate Denmark's invaluable contributions to NATO missions and your contribution of troops to the United Kingdom-led multinational battle group in Estonia as part of the enhanced Forward Presence initiative. In this regard, you are setting an example for other Allies to follow. We also appreciate the investments you are making to procure modern, high-end equipment, including from the United States.

In the 2014 Wales Defense Investment Pledge, we collectively agreed that NATO was under-resourced to meet the challenges of today and the future, and all Allies must do their part to fulfill our agreed commitments. Burden sharing, however, must include cash, in addition to capabilities and contributions. Strong performance in one area does not absolve any Ally of responsibility for the others. We recognize that Denmark is taking action to increase defense spending. Still, there is no explanation as to why the United States continues to devote more resources to the defense of Europe when the continent's economies, including Denmark's, are doing well. There is growing frustration that some Allies have not stepped up as promised.

This frustration is not confined to our Executive Branch. The United States Congress has taken note and is concerned as well. The United States is increasingly unwilling to ignore the European failure to meet shared security commitments.

I understand domestic political pressures, as I myself have expended considerable political capital to increase America's defense spending. It will, however, become increasingly difficult to justify to American citizens why some countries continue to fail to meet our shared collective security commitments. At the Summit, we must ensure Alliance credibility by living up to our agreed commitments. I, therefore, expect to see a strong recommitment by Denmark to meet the goals to which we have all agreed.

Sincerely,