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WASHINGTON 8, D.C.

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Dansk overtagelse af Blue
West Eight.
Am.tel.nr.
UM's D.nr. 8.U.67.a.

I forbindelse med ovenciterede telegrafiske indberetning
indsender ambassaden hermed afskrift af det omhandlede fra
State Department idag modtagne nye notoudkast.
./.

s. Henrik Kauffmann

Udenrigsministeriet.

DANISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

Ref. Nr. 8.U. 2117

COPY

URGENT

The Danish Ambassador presents his compliments to the Honorable the Secretary of State and has the honor to inform the Secretary of the following:

Information which has reached the Danish authorities indicates that the American authorities concerned are contemplating to close down the air base at Soendre Stroemfjord in Greenland, Blue West Eight, as of June 30th, 1950.

The base of Blue West Eight is of great importance as an intermediate landing-ground for Danish aircraft flights to and from Thule in Northern Greenland and it is contemplated to use the base this summer during photo surveying with an airplane of type B-17. The base is furthermore significant as an alternate landing ground for transportation flights in Greenland with Catalina aircrafts. Accordingly, the Danish Government finds continued operation of the base absolutely necessary if Danish military airplanes are to serve their purpose in Greenland.

In the course of informal discussions which have taken place in Greenland on the matter between Danish military officials and American military personnel at Blue West Eight, it was stated that it would be a simple matter to arrange all practical details in connection with a transfer of Blue West Eight, including the necessary equipment, to the Danish authorities, provided instructions from Washington to that effect were received at the base before June 20th. On the other hand, a reopening of the base after its dismantling would be complicated and expensive. It is considered a very valuable supplement to the security service of aviation in Greenland that the operation of the base be continued, at any rate during a considerable part of the year, as a Danish measure.

The Embassy has therefore been instructed, assuming that it is the intention of the American authorities to close the base, to seek the consent of the American authorities to the transfer of Blue West Eight for the time being to the Danish military authorities, and to the stationing at the base of Danish military personnel in order to take over temporarily operation

of the base, which is strictly necessary.

Should an arrangement as outlined be agreeable to the American authorities concerned, the Danish military authorities would appreciate it that equipment which is to be found at the base and which is necessary for its operation and maintenance (including broadcasting-stations, motor vehicles, motor boats, fuel, beds, bedding) be placed at their disposal against receipt. Any equipment which might be spoiled or used up would be paid for later. The Danish authorities should, however, not be held responsible for or keep in repair any buildings or any material which might not be used by Danish personnel.

As the matter is pressing, M. de Kauffmann would be very grateful to learn as soon as possible the views of the United States Government about the arrangement in question.

Washington, D.C.

June 14th. 1950.