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FROM COPENHAGEN TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Cypher/OTP

FOREIGN OFFICE AND WHITEHALL

Mr. Henniker-Major

DISTRIBUTION

No. 221  
June 18, 1964.

D: 5.59 p.m. June 18, 1964.  
R: 7.26 p.m. June 18, 1964.

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20 JUN 1964  
CK 10312/9

Addressed to Foreign Office telegram No. 221  
of June 18

Repeated for information to Moscow Helsinki  
Oslo UNDel NATO  
Stockholm Washington

Moscow telegram No. 1199: Khrushchev's Scandinavian Tour.

So far Khrushchev's visit to Denmark (on which I shall report fully by despatch) has passed off quietly, and it seems unlikely that any [grp, undec] political or economic developments will emerge from discussions. Khrushchev appears to be bent on conducting what the Danes call a "charm offensive" and is wisely avoiding arguments about political differences. The Danes have gone out of their way to emphasize, and the Russians to recognise, the different political and social systems of the two countries. A keynote of Krag's two speeches have been the determination of Danish people to safeguard their peace and their liberty. He said that relations between Denmark and Russia had always been peaceful, despite the fact that they held different views on important problems. Khrushchev responded by agreeing that time should be left to decide ideological arguments; meanwhile the two countries had a common aim despite their different views, to preserve peace. Relations between the two countries were developing favourably despite different political systems.

2. Krag announced after yesterday's business session that politics had not been discussed at all. Haekkerup had

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damped down political expectations by announcing, in advance, that Krag had not returned from the United States with any message for Khrushchev from President Johnson, that Denmark with the rest of Scandinavia formed in practice a nuclear-free zone [grp. undec.], and that Denmark, who rejected the Kakkonen plan, hoped it would not be raised. In his speech last night Krag stressed Danish support for United Nations and particularly its peace-keeping operations in the Middle East, and the Congo and Cyprus (Haekkerup had previously said that Denmark wanted to discuss Cyprus with Khrushchev and I will try to find out from him or Krag what passes between them and Russians on this subject). Krag also said in his speech how important it was to peace that Russia, Denmark and other industrially developed countries should help the under-developed and this foreshadows a somewhat more generous Danish attitude after the elections.

3. At yesterday's talks a committee was set up to consider trade questions within the framework of existing Six-Year Trade Agreement. Denmark is unable to offer long credits and Khrushchev has announced here that he is unwilling to use Russian gold for extra purchases. Any increase in trade which may be negotiated in future would have to be self-balancing. The question of credit may have risen particularly in connexion with the construction of a fertilizer factory in Russia. During his speech last night Khrushchev announced that orders had been placed in Denmark for four ships, in addition to the three ordered when Krag visited Moscow; but this, though presented as a surprise, had been widely expected. Denmark is interested in selling more agricultural products and in buying oil, petrol and coal and something may result in this direction.

4. In general the Danish Government's reception of Khrushchev has been friendly but distinctly guarded. They are taking pains not to lay themselves open to charges of deserting their friends or of softness to Communism. The Conservative opposition most of whom are ostentatiously

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absenting themselves are ready to make capital out of any such signs in the September elections, but at present the Government seems to be playing the hand better. Crowds have been distinctly small but this is probably due to the fact that Khrushchev's routes are not being published. I judge the Danish public to be intensely interested, especially in television coverage, which Conservatives think excessive, but they are too stolid and anxious to show themselves too balanced to be dazzled by any amount of charm, however flattering they may find it.

Foreign Office pass Moscow 7, UKDel NATO 5 and Washington 10.

[Repeated as requested]

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