

FM REYKJAVIK
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 151
OF 231500Z AUG 91
INFO PRIORITY [REDACTED]
INFO ROUTINE [REDACTED]

CLASS	SECRET
INDEXED	

Nordic Baltic *X*

(6) (28)

FOI 0139/17

UKDEL NATO TELNO 366: BALTIC STATES/ ICELAND

SUMMARY

1. MFA CONFIRM INFORMATION IN TUR. AGREEMENT BETWEEN BALTIC STATES AND ICELAND POSSIBLY TO BE SIGNED IN REYKJAVIK WEEK BEGINNING 25 AUGUST. ODDSSON AND HANNIBALSSON THE PRIME MOVERS. APPARENTLY LITTLE CONSULTATION WITH NORDIC PARTNERS.

DETAIL

2. SVEINN BJORNSSON, DEPUTY PUS AT THE MFA, HAS CONFIRMED THAT JON BALDVIN HANNIBALSSON WROTE TO HIS LATVIAN AND ESTONIAN COUNTERPARTS ON 22 AUGUST. WE HAVE COPIES OF THE LETTERS WHICH REAFFIRM ICELAND'S RECOGNITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY OF LATVIA AND ESTONIA. THIS HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DONE WITH LITHUANIA. THE TEXTS OF THE LETTERS HAVE BEEN FAXED TO SOVIET DEPARTMENT.

3. A MFA PRESS RELEASE ON 22 AUGUST (WHICH DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED HERE): THE TEXT OF WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN SENT TO SOVIET DEPARTMENT, REFERRED TO A MEETING BETWEEN HANNIBALSSON AND JANIS JURKANS OF LATVIA AT ICELAND'S EMBASSY IN COPENHAGEN. FOLLOWING THE MEETING HANNIBALSSON ALSO SPOKE TO LENNART MERI OF ESTONIA BY TELEPHONE. IN REYKJAVIK DAVID ODDSSON, THE PRIME MINISTER, INFORMED THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR OF WHAT HANNIBALSSON HAD DONE IN THE NAME OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION FROM THE SOVIETS YET.

COMMENT

4. THE ICELANDERS BELIEVE THE FAILURE OF THE COUP HAS PRESENTED TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS. THEY HAVE THEREFORE ACTED QUICKLY, WND WITH LITTLE CONSULTATION, AND PERHAPS EVEN WITH AN ELEMENT OF PIQUE THAT ALLIANCE PARTNERS HAVE APPEARED RELUCTANT TO ACT. THE IMPETUS FOR THE MOVES HAS

MAINLY COME FROM HANNIBALSSON AND ODDSSON, ALTHOUGH THE REST OF THE CABINET IS DOUBTLESS WITH THEM, AS IS THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOWEVER IF EITHER THE LEGAL OR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THESE ACTIONS HAVE BEEN THOUGHT THROUGH FULLY. THERE SEEMS ALSO TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE DISCUSSION WITH NORDIC PARTNERS.

5. WE HAVE HEARD UNOFFICIALLY FROM MFA CONTACTS THAT THE THREE BALTIC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A MEETING IN REYKJAVIK NEXT WEEK WHICH THEY HOPE WILL LEAD TO THE SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT ON RECOGNITION.

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