



Ministry of Defence

Our Ref: FOI2020/01229

Ministry of Defence
Main Building
Whitehall
London SW1A 2HB
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44(0)20 7218 9000

E-mail:

nuclear-
secretariatteam@mod.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
12 February 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email requesting the following information:

File reference AB 16/673

As confirmed previously, we have treated your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and we can advise that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holds information in scope of your request.

We attach the following document:

- AB 16/673

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

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Yours sincerely,

Defence Nuclear Organisation Secretariat

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *L. G. Cordery (LO)*
2/1/77
[Signature]

Classification Control changed

TO **SECRET**
By Authority of *instructions dt 2/19/58*

Name	Title	Date
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>H O</i>	<i>DEC 1958</i>

BT 3-6/Greenland

—When re-ordering specify—

Oxford
TYPE WRITERS

STOCK No. 1531/3

MADE IN U. S. A.

Grade 5

GREENLAND

~~SECRET~~

Close on fifty occurrences of uranium-bearing minerals are recorded from Greenland, but almost all are of pegmatitic type and no deposit is known to contain ore in commercial quantities. The prospect of discovery of a major deposit seems remote. 3-21/5

> A field party was sent to Greenland in 1944 by U.M.D.C., who have also made a survey of existing literature. No uranium minerals were discovered by this field investigation. It is recommended that no further action should be taken at present.

> Meeting of B&H Oct 26-27 - Report of field party outstanding

18 26 4 Jan
8 Feb ✓

DECLASSIFIED

J. G. Cordery (LC)
21/1/77
JG

whilst at the same time involving Denmark in political disputes. Otherwise the only published comment has been by the Director of Sophus Berentsen Ltd., one of Denmark's biggest lead importers, who stated that he considered cooperation between State and private enterprise would be natural in regard to the mining of lead in Greenland.

6. I am sending copies of this Despatch to H.M. representatives in Washington (No.12) Oslo (No.56) Reykjavik (No.6). I am also giving a copy, as usual, to my Canadian colleague.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Sgd) A.F.G. RANDALL.

11/10/48
JNA
copied from file
BRITISH EMBASSY,
COPENHAGEN.

4th October, 1948.

No. 327.
(91/61/48)

Sir,

I have the honour to report that on the 16th September the Prime Minister's Office and the Greenland Administration issued an official statement that the geological expedition to North East Greenland headed by Dr. Lauge Koch, to which reference was made in my despatch No. 258 of the 26th July, had been concluded for this year.

2. According to this statement, investigations had been made for possible uranium deposits, and it had been found that certain strata of slate showed increased radio-activity; this was, however, no greater than that found in corresponding veins in many other countries where the extraction of uranium was considered impossible.

3. The announcement nevertheless, received great prominence in the Danish press since it also contained the news that at Mesters Vig, on the Southern side of King Oscar's Fjord, three large deposits of galena had been discovered. Samples were now being analysed and when the results were available the exploitation of the deposits would be considered. (In a subsequent interview, the Prime Minister said that the deposits would be further investigated next summer by ~~the~~ Swedish mining engineers, since there were no suitable Danish experts, and that a Commission would be sent to Greenland to study the possibility of Denmark starting mining activities). Dr. Koch reported that the lead was on the surface and easy to quarry. Access to the deposits was, however, difficult, as north eastern storms often blocked the fjord with drifting ice.

4. The deposits were provisionally estimated as containing 1 million tons of lead. At the present world market price of lead, the value of the find would be about 1,350 million kroner which, after deducting working and transport expenses, would give a sale value of about 500 million kroner.

5. The find has been hailed in the press as the most important discovery since the detection of cryolite on the West coast of Greenland at the end of the last century. If the first estimates were correct and it was practicable to exploit the deposits, they would be of great importance both to Denmark, whose present annual consumption of lead was 7,000 tons which has to be paid for in hard currency, and to the rest of the world, for which it was stated that lead deposits so far known would only suffice for about 20 years. The Communist paper "Land og Folk" lived up to expectations by pointing out that this new find would hardly encourage the Americans to abandon their occupation of Greenland. They claimed that the Government and the Greenland Administration were frightened by their find since, according to the Marshall Agreement, the U.S.A. was entitled on Danish account to mine lead, uranium and possibly other raw materials in Greenland. If Denmark did not free herself from American guardianship, there was every prospect of Greenland lead and uranium being employed at the expense of Denmark to strengthen the American war machine.

The Rt.Hon.Ernest Bevin, M.P.
etc., etc., etc.,
Foreign Office,
London S.W.1.

No. 12
(91/61/48)

Greenland
49/11/48

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Copenhagen
presents his compliments to H.M. representative
Washington,
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British...Embassy,.....
....Copenhagen,.....
....Denmark,.....

5th..October., 1948..

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch No. 327 dated 4th October 1948, addressed to Foreign Office.	Greenland. 1. <i>Miss Birney</i> <i>Please transfer to</i> <i>me of the files</i> 2. <i>Mr. Eaton</i> 3. <i>Mr. Baines</i> <i>J. Henderson</i> <i>13/X</i>

Mr. Henderson

BUFILED
OCT 1948

JAN 30 1950

G. C. BATEMAN

Room 578-A, Sun Life Building,
Montreal.

January 28th, 1950.

Mr. P. J. Eaton,
United Kingdom Treasury and Supply Delegation,
Box 680 Benjamin Franklin Station,
Washington, D.C.

3-6/5.

Dear Eaton,

I understand that a Dr. Lauge Koch, a Danish scientist, headed a Danish geological expedition to Greenland, I think in 1948 and reported a discovery of substantial lead deposits and also, on his return to Copenhagen, reported that preliminary investigations had revealed layers of radio active slate in some quantity.

I am wondering if you have any information on this and, if so, would appreciate hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

G. C. Bateman

*Spk Miss Brown
They have a call name
from Copenhagen dated
December 1949. This will
be sent to me.*

No. 20.

Greenland
588/5/49

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Copenhagen presents his compliments to H.M. Ambassador, Washington, and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British... Embassy,.....

.....Copenhagen.....

2nd December, 1949...

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of Copenhagen despatch No. 309 E of 2nd December, 1949, to the Foreign Office.	Lead deposits in East Greenland.
<p><i>In file</i> <i>19/12</i></p> <p><i>Mr. Keaton</i> <i>30/1/50</i></p>	<p><i>Mr. Rastan</i> <i>20/12</i></p> <p>The reference despatch was retained by Mr. Henderson. Presumably you now have it. Is this of interest to you?</p> <p><i>J</i> <i>19/12</i></p>



British Embassy,
Copenhagen.

No. 309 E.

2nd December, 1949.

Sir,

Retained by Mr. Anderson.
With reference to my despatch No. 327 of 4th October, 1948, regarding the discovery of lead deposits at Mesters Vig, on King Oscars Fjord, in East Greenland, I have the honour to report that an optimistic report on these deposits has been given to the Danish Government by Dr. Lauge Koch, according to a report in "Berlingske Tidende" of 10th September, 1949. Dr. Koch made this statement to the press after returning from a two months expedition to Greenland, and 40 tons of ore had been brought to Denmark for examination.

2. It appears that the ores show a very high lead content, but that the difficulties of exploitation of the deposits are expected to be considerable and that foreign technical assistance in the matter will be required, as well as possibly financial assistance. I enclose a copy of a record of a conversation in the Commercial Department with Mr. W.W. Connor, of the Zinc Corporation Ltd., who has recently been visiting Denmark on the invitation of a Danish firm to discuss possibilities of exploiting the lead deposits. Mr. Connor has also had conversations with Dr. Lauge Koch, the explorer, and with Director Eskebruun of the Greenland Board. He asked for, and was given, certain information about the Danish firm which had invited him to come to Denmark, as well as other information about the administration and economic possibilities of Greenland and about the Greenland Trading Company and the Cryolite Company Limited.

3. I am sending copies of this despatch to the Board of Trade (Commercial Relations and Exports) (O.T. 604), with reference to previous reports O.T.471 of 17th September, 1948, and O.T.573 of 5th November, 1948; and to His Majesty's Representatives at Washington (No. 20) and Reykjavik (No. 12).

I have the honour to be with the highest respect,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

(Signed) A.W.G.Randall.

His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
London, S.W.1.

Minute to Mr. Simmonds.

Mr. W.W. CONNOR of The Zinc Corporation Ltd., 37 Dover Street, W.1, called at this office on the 28th November, 1949. He stated that his company had received a letter from Messrs. Paul Bergsøe & Co. of Copenhagen asking whether his company would be interested in assisting in the exploitation of the lead deposits in Greenland.

Mr. Connor requested various information regarding Greenland and companies connected with Greenland and the attached report was given to him.

During his visit to Denmark Mr. Connor saw not only Messrs. Paul Bergsøe, but also Director Eskebruun of the Greenland Board and Dr. Lauge Koch, the explorer, who found the lead deposits in Greenland. Mr. Connor told me that he got the impression that the Danish authorities must have foreign assistance in exploiting the Greenland deposits. The great need is for technical assistance and one body of opinion favours Swedish technical assistance. Apparently several experts from the Boliden Mining Co. of Sweden accompanied Dr. Lauge Koch on his expedition this year to Greenland. Other people, however, thought that the Swedes had not sufficient experience to be of real assistance and this was the reason why his company had been approached. He told me that he understood that several separate American concerns had sent representatives to Denmark, but he did not think the Americans would have much chance. Mr. Connor said that whoever supplies the technical assistance would also be required to part-finance the project. A committee is to be formed in Copenhagen to advise the Government on the best method of exploiting the Greenland lead deposits. Members of the committee will be Director Eskebruun, Dr. Koch, Mr. Kemp, the State Advocate, and Mr. Tuxen, Director of the Cryolite Company.

Mr. Connor has seen samples of the 40 tons of ore shipped from Greenland this year and states that the ore has a very high lead content - some of it up to 80 per cent.

One of the main difficulties is the fact that it will only be possible to ship the ore during six weeks in every year, and in some years ice will entirely block the entrance to the creek throughout the year. To exploit the lead will need special ships, perhaps running between Greenland and Iceland where the lead could be dumped for later trans-shipment. Meteorological stations would also have to be installed working in co-operation with aeroplanes during the short season of shipment. Commercial exploitation would therefore be a risky proposition.

L.E.T.

30th November, 1949.

Report on PAUL BERGSØE & SØN.

Objects: Metal works and chemical factory, manufacturing pure pewter and lead, and all types of pewter and lead alloys, also aluminium, copper-aluminium and zinc alloys. The chemical factory produces solder, flux, smelting powders and various metal salts.

The business was founded in 1902 by Mr. Paul Bergsøe, Dr. Tech. In 1935 his son, Mr. Svend Bergsøe, was admitted as partner, and in 1942 Paul Bergsøe retired from the firm, so that Mr. Bergsøe, junr. is now owner.

In addition to manufacture, the firm carries on a considerable export-import business in metals and has a financial interest in Paul Bergsøe & Søn, Landskrona, Sweden, and in a firm of the same name in Norway.

In the spring of 1937, the firm bought a large farm in Glostrup, valued for taxation at about 130,000 Kroner. A fully modern factory block has been erected on this site, which carries a fire insurance of 2.3 million kroner. The firm formerly owned the property at 34 Bülowsvej, Copenhagen, but sold it in August of 1937 for 1.3 million kroner. Mr. Svend Bergsøe also owns property at 23 Steen Blichersvej, Copenhagen, valued at 65,000 kroner. Since it is a private firm there is no legal obligation for it to publish its balance sheet, which is consequently unknown to the bankers (Den Danske Landmandsbank, Holmens Kanal 12, Copenhagen K.).

The Danish factory employs 175 workmen and 65 staff, while the Swedish branch employs 125 workpeople and 15 staff. In 1948, the turnover of the Danish firm was 30 million Danish kroner, and of the Swedish firm 25 million Swedish kroner.

Current annual production of metals is estimated at 10-15,000 tons.

The owner is reported to be in possession of considerable means and the firm is considered safe for its business engagements.

The Greenland Trading Co. (Grønlandsk Industri & Handels
Kompagni A/S., Vesterbrogade 30,
Copenhagen.)

This company was registered on 14th June, 1948, with the object of trade, fishing, transport, etc. in Greenland, and has obtained a Government concession for this purpose, since the Greenland Administration in Copenhagen has monopoly of trade with Greenland.

The share capital is Kr. 100,000 which is very small in view of the company's objects, but the members of the board are wealthy men who could provide any more capital required. As part of its concession the company is being allowed to build a trading station and houses for its employees in Greenland.

A full report on the company is being obtained, but further information might be obtainable from Mr. Henning Arup, Copenhagen (a barrister, and member of the board). Telephone Central 6874

Greenland's Exports.

The following are the figures of Greenland's trade with Denmark. No statistics are published of Greenland's trade with other countries.

	1946	1947	1948	Jan-Sept 1949
	(million kroner)			
Exports to Denmark	11.0	10.7	12.1	10.1
Imports from Denmark	2.7	6.1	13.9	18.8

The principal items of Danish export to Greenland are timber, corn, textiles, metal goods, machinery and apparatus, meat, dairy products, tobacco and sugar. The principal Danish imports from Greenland are fish, cryolite, skins and animal oils.

Greenland Administration.

The area of Greenland (the world's largest island) is 2,182,000 square kilometres, of which 318,000 are permanently covered with snow and ice. At the census on 31st December, 1944, there were 20,574 natives, of which 10,372 lived in South Greenland, 8,577 in North Greenland, and 1,315 in East Greenland. At the above date there were 494 Europeans (including 155 staff and workers at the cryolite diggings at Ivigtut).

By Law of 18th April, 1925, the administration of Greenland was placed under the Danish Ministry of the Interior, while matters concerning religion and education were the responsibility of the Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs. This law was later superseded by a law of 29th May, 1933, transferring responsibility for the administration of all matters concerning Greenland to the Office of the Prime Minister. In practice, administration is effected, under the Prime Minister, by the Greenland Administration in Copenhagen, headed by a Director and with a Trade Administrator responsible to him for trade matters. All trade with Greenland is under Government monopoly. Internal trade in Greenland is free.

For trading purposes Greenland is divided into eleven colonial districts at the head of each of which is an Administrator appointed by the King.

For other purposes the country is divided into three areas - North, South and East Greenland. At the head of each of these areas is a local governor who represents the supreme judicial, commercial and medical authority. The country is further split up into local municipalities and counties, to the councils of which the inhabitants elect members, the chairmen, however, being appointed by the local governors.

For ecclesiastical purposes, Greenland is divided into 10 parish regions and the numbers of Danish and Greenlandic priests appointed to these are as far as possible equal. In each parish region the children's school will be supervised by the priest with the assistance of native lay preachers and teachers. School attendance is compulsory and higher education is provided for in three secondary schools and one teachers' school. The best pupils are sent to Denmark for 2 or 3 years training as ministers of religion or as teachers.

The Cryolite Company Ltd. (Kryolith Mine & Handels Selskabet
A/S.)

Founded in 1865. Share capital Kr. 1.5 million. The company is financially tied up with Fabriken "Øresund" A/S who process the cryolite excavated by the Cryolite Company. In 1947 the operating surplus amounted to Kr. 156,778, and in 1948 to Kr. 137,409. The dividend on these two years was - 1947: 14 per cent. 1948: 13 per cent.

No information is at present available as to the total number of people employed by the company, but see under "Greenland's Administration" above (paragraph 1).

The following is a copy of the balance sheet as at 31st December, 1948.

ASSETS.

	<u>Kr.</u>
Bonds	1,961,123.90
Shares in Fabriken "Øresund" A/S	462,000.00
Own shares	24,000.00
Cash in hand	119,841.14
Sundry debtors	1,388,214.21
	<hr/>
	3,955,179.25

LIABILITIES.

Shareholders' capital	1,500,000.00
Legal reserve fund	375,000.00
Disposition fund	918,096.15
Exchange regulating fund	591,941.17
Depreciation account	1,900.00
Sundry creditors	2,949.38
Profit and loss account	565,392.55
	<hr/>
	3,955,179.25
	<hr/>

Pennsylvania Salt Company.

There is no official record of any connection between this company and any of the firms reported upon above.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*now all PPE (RAT) in
June 29/50 above
see also CFA/Wick Sept. 7/51
above*

BT 3-6/0 ✓

Ext. 165.

January 21, 1950.

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Greenland

On receiving your letter of January 28, I made enquiries and find that we have some information concerning the lead deposits in Greenland, and also a reference to the radioactive slate which you mentioned.

The first report, which we received in October, 1948, showed that such prominence was given in the Danish press to the expedition led by Dr. Louge Koch, and the discovery at NESTERS VIG on the southern side of King Oscar's Fjord, of three large deposits of galena. The Prime Minister of Denmark later stated that the deposits would be further investigated in the summer of 1949 by Swedish mining engineers (as there were no suitable Danish experts), and that a Commission would be sent to Greenland to study the possibility of Denmark starting mining activities there. Dr. Koch reported that the lead was on the surface, and easy to quarry, but that access to the deposits was difficult as the fjord was often blocked with drifting ice. The deposit was provisionally estimated as containing 1,000,000 tons of lead.

We also heard when the above report was received, that strata of slate had been found, and that the material "showed increased radioactivity". Our information was however that the radioactivity of the slate was no greater than found in corresponding veins in other countries where the extraction of Q is considered impossible. It would seem from our records that the Canadian Department of External Affairs probably received similar information in 1948, through your Embassy in Copenhagen.

Our latest report indicates that the "Berlingske Tidende" of September 10, 1949 stated that Dr. Koch, after returning from a two months expedition to Greenland (apparently undertaken in the summer of 1949), gave an optimistic account of these Nesters Vig lead deposits, and it appears that 40 tons of ore was shipped to Denmark for examination. It is believed that the ore shows a high lead content, but that the Danes may be having much difficulty in arranging for the deposits to be exploited. We have no information whether the Swedes assisted in the further investigation, but it seems that one of the interested Danish firms has Swedish associates.

DECLASSIFIED

1662
R. G. Contary (LC)
21/1/77

BT 3-6/8

January 31, 1950

It is hoped that this information will be of assistance to you, and if any further reports should be received I will gladly let you know.

Yours sincerely,

P.J. Eaton.

G.C. Eaton, Esq., C.M.G.,
Sun Life Building, Room 578-A,
Montreal, Quebec,
CANADA.

cc: Mr. F.W. Marten
Mr. John A. Hall - for information.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

BT 3-5/0 ✓

Ext.165

January 31, 1950.

Memorandum to: Mr. F.W. Marten
from: P.J. Eaton.

Greenland

Returned herewith are two copies of despatches from the British Embassy in Copenhagen - dated 4th October, 1948 and 2nd December, 1949.

Also attached is a copy of a reply to Mr. Bateman, following an enquiry from him as to whether we had any information on the lead deposits and the so-called radioactive slate which is mentioned. I was anxious to get a reply off to Mr. Bateman as quickly as possible, first because we often seek information from him about Canada and secondly as he is leaving for Florida at an early date.

It would be appreciated if I could see any further reports that may come in on mineral deposits in Greenland.

encs.

P.J. Eaton.

DECLASSIFIED

R. G. Cordery (L.C.)

21/1/77

[Signature]

FEB 8 1950

G. C. BATEMAN

Room 578-A, Sun Life Bldg.,
Montreal.

February 3rd, 1950.

*3-6-50
File*

Mr. P. J. Eaton,
United Kingdom Treasury and Supply Delegation,
Box 680, Benjamin Franklin Station,
Washington D.C.

Dear Eaton,

Thanks very much indeed for your
letter of January 31st regarding the Greenland
ore deposits.

Yours very truly,

G. C. Bateman

~~SECRET~~

BT 3-5/6

DECLASSIFIED

June 29, 1950.

D.G. Cooley (LO) 2/1/77

EX. 2020
SERIALIZED
Ext. 165

Memorandum to: Mr. John A. Hall

from: P.J. Eaten.

"Atomic Energy Activities in Scandinavia"

Enclosed herewith are two copies (No. 2 & 3/AW) of a note, titled as above, by Dr. C.F. Davidson, dated March 21, 1950. He visited several Scandinavian countries in March last, and this note would have been available earlier, but for the fact that Dr. Davidson has since been abroad again.

The U.K. side think that the U.S. members would like to have an opportunity to see Dr. Davidson's report.

DECLASSIFIED

encs. 2

P.J. Eaten.

- cc: (Estonia) 3-5/Est.
- 3-5/ France
- 3-5/ Norway
- 5-4el (Beryl)
- 3-6/ Greenland
- 3-5/ USSR

When separated from enclosures handle this document

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OR (insert proper classification)

See report in 3-5/5 re deposits in Greenland including cryolite.

cc: Sir Derick Hoyer Millar
& Mr. F.W. Marten
Dr. W.B. Mann

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED

Not out of Greenland
see RAT Reply July 4 - & other 3-5/5 & CFB/Ewaldsk Sept 17/51 above

BT 3-5/5

EX. 2020
XXXXXX
Ext. 165

June 29, 1950.

Dear Thompson:

A.N. Activities in Scandinavia

3-5/5

Thank you for your letter (121/4 & 5) of June 26, enclosing copies of Davidson's interesting note of March 31st, 1950. Copies have been passed to our U.S. friends.

Normally we do not send the Canadians things of this kind, on the grounds that they have little or no interest in geological matters in foreign countries.

In January last, however, Bateman asked whether we had any information concerning a Danish expedition to Greenland, headed by Dr. Lange Koch, to whom Davidson now refers. Bateman was interested in the reported discovery there of large lead deposits with layers of radioactive slate. As I had a note of reports from the British Embassy in Copenhagen to the F.O. dated 4/10/48 and 2/12/49, it was possible to give him a summary of what we knew, and this was helpful to him. I take it that there is no harm in giving Bateman the gist of Davidson's latest comments, as these amplify in important respects the earlier information given to Bateman. Perhaps you would confirm that no objection is seen. I don't know whether Bateman is interested in the lead or the radioactive slate. We might also mention the cryolite, if there is no objection, as Bateman was at one time the Canadian Metals Controller, and he is closely interested in all such matters.

The 'separate report' mentioned by Davidson, of which you state that a copy has been sent to me, cannot at present be traced. If however you are sending four more copies we shall then be able to identify it. Perhaps you would say when the one copy was sent, to check that it has not gone astray.

Yours sincerely,

DECLASSIFIED

P.J. Eaton.

Wash. 856

Mr. R.A. Thompson,
Ministry of Supply,
Division of Atomic Energy,
Fourth Floor, Shell Mex House,
London, W.C. 2, England.

*H. G. Corday (L.O)
21/1/77
Dy*

cc: Dr. C.F. Davidson

The Embassy file 1192/1 - /50 was sent to me on October 2, 1950 containing several more despatches from our Embassy in Copenhagen to the F.O., regarding the lead deposits at Mester's Vig, Greenland.

Briefly summarised these are:-

Despatch Date11/1/50

Now announced by Danish P.M. agreement reached with three Danish engineering firms to investigate possibility of exploiting the deposits:-

J. Saabye & O. Lerche A/S,
Nyropsgade 19, Copenhagen V.

Monberg & Thorsen A/S,
Grønningen 19, Copenhagen K.

Kampsax A/S,
Dagmarhus, V. Boulevard, Copenhagen V.

These firms have prepared plans which are to be submitted for approval.

The discovery created considerable interest and apparently abroad. Reported that offers received from foreign countries for concessions. Government has decided, however, as far as possible deposits should be exploited by Danish interests. Danes realise difficulties and have had little experience in mining. Possible Swedish miners will be employed to assist.

Dr. Lauge Koch who discovered the deposits is to return to Greenland next summer to continue the investigations. He expressed annoyance that reports arrangements made with above firms have already been published and feels that insufficient attention has been given to problem of finance.

30/5/50

Reported in Danish press May 26 American mining expert Lester S. Thompson has, by arrangements with ECA been made available to Danish Government in connection with these deposits. Thompson prepared plan for resumption of investigations; expenses estimated Kroner 1.5M. P.M. (under whose office Greenland is administered) has now obtained approval of Parliamentary Finance Committee for allocation of this sum.

Swedish explorer Dr. Josef Eklund, who took part in last year's expedition, has prepared exhaustive report which gave grounds to suppose existence of large lead deposits - report laid before various experts including Thompson. After perusal of this and other available material, and after discussion with Koch and Eklund, Thompson prepared memorandum for Danish Gov't. which contains estimate of Kroner 1.5M. Greenland Administration will now proceed to implement Thompson's plan and probably he will lead expedition himself. Task of expedition to determine extent of deposits, possibility of exploitation, also consider location harbours, waterworks and equipment for mines.

7/6/50

According to Danish press American scientists and mining experts are of opinion lead deposits in Greenland probably greatest in world. Estimated that deposits contain 10 to 15 million tons of lead. Press report adds last year some American companies including American Smelting and Refining Co. offered take part. This company proposed to invest up to \$25 M over 2 or 3 year period. Proposal refused by Danish authorities. American companies were offended.

15/9/50

Reports that Koch returned to Denmark after 2 months in Greenland with Thompson, and other Swedish and Danish technicians.

In interview Koch expressed satisfaction with investigations. Thompson also interviewed and stated would take at least three years before deposits could be commercially exploited. "Lot of work, lot of money needed", he said. Stated lead easy to mine and distance transporting to coast was short. Weather this summer not been favorable but hope further investigations next year. Up to now cost Kroner 2M but most deal this been expended on machinery and apparatus

containing several more despatches from our Embassy in Copenhagen to the F.O., regarding the lead deposits at Mester's Vig, Greenland.

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30/5/50

Reported in Danish press May 26 American mining expert Lester S. Thompson has, by arrangements with ECA been made available to Danish Government in connection with these deposits. Thompson prepared plan for resumption of investigations; expenses estimated Kroner 1.5M. P.M. (under whose office Greenland is administered) has now obtained approval of Parliamentary Finance Committee for allocation of this sum.

Swedish explorer Dr. Josef Eklund, who took part in last year's expedition, has prepared exhaustive report which gave grounds to suppose existence of large lead deposits - report laid before various experts including Thompson. After perusal of this and other available material, and after discussion with Koch and Eklund, Thompson prepared memorandum for Danish Gov't. which contains estimate of Kroner 1.5M. Greenland Administration will now proceed to implement Thompson's plan and probably he will lead expedition himself. Task of expedition to determine extent of deposits, possibility of exploitation, also consider location harbours, waterworks and equipment for mines.

7/6/50

According to Danish press American scientists and mining experts are of opinion lead deposits in Greenland probably greatest in world. Estimated that deposits contain 10 to 15 million tons of lead. Press report adds last year some American companies including American Smelting and Refining Co. offered take part. This company proposed to invest up to \$25 M over 2 or 3 year period. Proposal refused by Danish authorities. American companies were offended.

15/9/50

Reports that Koch returned to Denmark after 2 months in Greenland with Thompson, and other Swedish and Danish technicians.

In interview Koch expressed satisfaction with investigations. Thompson also interviewed and stated would take at least three years before deposits could be commercially exploited. "Lot of work, lot of money needed", he said. Stated lead easy to mine and distance transporting to coast was short. Weather this summer not been favorable but hope further investigations next year. Up to now cost Kroner 2½M, but great deal this been expended on machinery and apparatus for use in future years. Samples of lead from Mester's Vig now being examined in Swedish laboratories.

October 6, 1950.

3-6/0

Mr. Marten:

Greenland

Your Greenland File No. 1192/1-/50 is returned with thanks. A note has been made of the contents of the various despatches in the file. With regard to your question below, there is no A.E. significance with these lead deposits.

Mr. Bateman enquired some time ago whether we had any information concerning these lead deposits in Greenland, and also some reported deposits of radioactive shale. He was interested in both, but only in the latter so far as our subject is concerned. You may know that at one time Mr. Bateman was the Canadian Metals Controller and he is still consulted on many matters concerning metallic ores.

On the propriety of giving Canada any information on this subject (I have only given Mr. Bateman very brief summaries), you will see that our Ambassador ^{in Washington} gave his Canadian colleague a copy of the despatch of October 4, 1948 to Mr. Bevin.

enc.

P.J. Eaton.

14 Oct/50 (No. 256E)

Despatch from A.W.G. Randall, Br. Emby. Copenhagen.

Re despatch 15th Sept. (No. 240E)

Prof. E. Rosenkrantz has returned from Greenland where he has been investigating the possibility of nickel ore deposits in N.W. Greenland.

2. Prof. Rosenkrantz and his team have been making investigations from Egedesminde to Orluksfjord north of Thule. Deposits of magnetic pyrites containing nickel have been discovered in many places in the district from Upernavik and Svartenhauk down to Umanak. From press reports it appears that the proportion of nickel in the ore is small.

3. The Danish team has been working in collaboration with Scottish geologists under Prof. Harold Drever of St. Andrews' University. From Danish press reports it appears that Prof. Drever is continuing his work in Ejland.

4. (copies of this to Wash. and Reykjavik and B. of T.)

CFD/ME

Cc. Mr. R. A. Thompson.

SEP 21 1951
3-6/6

✓ x ref'd in
3-5/15

17th September, 1951.

Dear Welsh,

In my memorandum on Scandinavia sent you on 31st March, 1950, I mentioned the lead-zinc discoveries in Greenland.

I have just had a visit from Dr. J. D. Bateman, (son of G. C. Bateman, Canadian representative on the C.D.A.) who has just been visiting these deposits on behalf of Frobisher Limited, the Canadian mining company. Frobisher had been invited to study the occurrences by the Greenland Administration. Bateman states that the deposits are definitely of major economic interest, and warrant the expenditure of another million dollars on exploration. In at least one of the major ore bodies the ore grade over large widths is 15 - 20 per cent Pb + Zn. Unlike various other geologists that we know, Bateman is completely sold on the idea that Lauge Koch has here made a really first-class discovery.

Yours sincerely,

C. F. Davidson

C. F. Davidson

Lt. Comdr. E. Welsh,
Ministry of Supply,
Division of Atomic Energy,
Shell Mex House,
Strand, W.C.2.

Mr. Eaton

For your personal information. You will recollect that Bateman senior showed interest in these lead-zinc deposits (Your letter BT 3-5/S to Thompson of June 29th 1950 refers), and you may therefore like to know what is presumably the outcome of that interest. C.F.D.

Jarm 589

3-6/9.

Lead, Zinc Project Due

COPENHAGEN. — A Danish-Swedish-Canadian company has been formed in Copenhagen to explore lead and zinc deposits in eastern Greenland.

Wood Star Mar 14/53

with 100 LIVES

*by GCB
May 26/53*