

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 NIC-01 BIB-01 TRSE-00 /070 W

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R 181556Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 607

INFO USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0788

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR DA UR

SUBJ: SAKHAROV HEARING IN COPENHAGEN SCHEDULED FOR
OCTOBER

REF A. COPENHAGEN 3317 OF 11/25/74

B. COPENHAGEN 3298 OF 11/22/74

1. THE PRESIDUM OF THE DANISH PARLIAMENT (FOLKETING)
HAS SET THE DATE FOR THE "SAKHAROV HEARING" ON THE STATUS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE HEARING IS NAMED FOR
ITS PROPONENT, SOVIET PHYSICIST ANDREJ SAKHAROV.

ALTHOUGH THE HEARING WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO HAVE
TAKEN PLACE IN THE SPRING OF THIS YEAR, THE TIMING HAS
BEEN CHANGED TO THE FALL, SPECIFICALLY OCTOBER 17-19 AT
CHRISTIANSBORG PALACE, THE SEAT OF PARLIAMENT. THE
HEARING IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE JOINT COUNCIL OF

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EASTERN EXILES, A DANISH ORGANIZATION OF MANY YEARS

STANDING WHICH REPRESENTS EMIGRANTS FROM EASTERN EUROPEAN AND BALTIC COUNTRIES RESIDENT IN DENMARK.

2. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THE JOINT COUNCIL OF EASTERN EXILES HAS CALLED UPON SWEIDSH PRIME MINISTER OLAF PALME TO USE HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR SAKHAROV TO ATTEND THE HEARING IN COPENHAGEN AND A GUARANTEE FOR HIS RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. IN ADDITION, INVITATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING HAVE BEEN SENT TO PAVEL LITVINOV AND BORIS SHAGRIN, CO-SIGNERS OF SAKHAROV'S "MOSCOW APPEAL"; THE AUTHORS ANDREW SINYAWSKI AND MAXIMOV, EDITORS OF THE EMIGRANT PAPER CONTINENT; THE POET ALEXANDER GATLICH, NOW A RESIDENT OF NORWAY; AND TO ALEKSANDER SOLZHENITSYN. IT IS FURTHERMORE EXPECTED THAT A NUMBER OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL WILL WANT TO TESTIFY.

3. PRESS REPORTS ALSO STATE THAT IB THYREGOD, A FORMER LIBERAL MEMBER OF THE FOLKETING, HAS ACCEPTED THE POSITION OF "SECRETARY" OF THE HEARING. AS SUCH HE WILL BE IN CHARGE OF ALL ARRANGEMENTS. THYREGOD, 54, IS A WELL-REPUTED COPENHAGEN LAWYER WITH A PRACTICE THAT SPECIALIZES IN SUPREME COURT CASES. HE WAS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM 1960 TO 1971, AND AN INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTEE TO THE US IN 1970.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THESE INDICATIONS THAT PREPARATIONS FOR THE SAKHAROV HEARING ARE PROGRESSING, THE SLIPPAGE IN TIMING IS EVIDENCE THAT THE JOINT COUNCIL OF EASTERN EXILES HAS RUN INTO SOME DIFFICULTIES. A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE PARLIAMENT'S PRESIDUM TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT THE POSTPONEMENT WAS DUE TO THE PASSIVE ATTITUDE TAKEN BY EASTERN EMIRE GROUPS. SOLZHENITSYN HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN NEGATIVE TO THE HEARING AND MANY OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN EAGER TO TESTIFY. THE PARLIAMENTARY SOURCE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY THE HEARING WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED OFF ENTIRELY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL REPRESSION, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH00788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750095-0894
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750342/aaaablbn.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 COPENHAGEN 3317, 75 OF 11/25/74
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <12 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAKHAROV HEARING IN COPENHAGEN SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER
TAGS: PFOR, DA, UR, (SAKHAROV, ANDREI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006