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CITE: (b)(3):10 USC 424

SERIAL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

/\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*/

**BODY**

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COUNTRY: (U) NORWAY (NO); NETHERLANDS (NL);  
UNITED KINGDOM (UK).

SUBJECT: (b)(3):10 USC 424 /NATO SUPPORT FOR EXERCISE  
BATTLE GRIFFIN 1993 (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY  
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DO I: (U) 020993.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "AFTENPOSTEN", OSLO NORWAY,  
930209, IN NORWEGIAN (U). PAPER IS WIDELY READ AND  
CONSIDERED INFLUENTIAL ESPECIALLY BY CONSERVATIVES.

SUMMARY: (U) REDUCTION IN THE PARTICIPATION BY NATO  
FORCES IN EXERCISE BATTLE GRIFFIN 1993 IS REPORTED AS  
'NATO TURNING ITS BACK ON NORWAY'.

TEXT: 1. (U) BOTH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE  
NETHERLANDS HAVE RECENTLY REMOVED FORCES FROM EXERCISE  
BATTLE GRIFFIN 1993. SOURCE POINTS OUT THAT THIS IS  
ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE ALLIES TURNING THEIR BACK ON  
NORWAY. WHILE EXPLAINING THE REASON FOR THE REDUCTIONS,  
SOURCE CONTENDS THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT  
THESE ACTIONS ARE DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER COOPERATIVE  
EFFORT WITH NORWAY'S ALLIES.

2. (U) THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS WITHDRAWN THE CARRIER  
((ARK ROYAL)) AND ITS SUPPORTING SHIPS BECAUSE OF  
CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS IN THE ADRIATIC SEA. REMOVAL OF  
THIS FORCE ELIMINATED THE POSSIBILITY OF PLANNED  
AMPHIBIOUS EXERCISES DURING EXERCISE BATTLE GRIFFIN.  
THE UK ALSO REDUCED ITS AIR FORCE TORNADO SQUADRON  
PARTICIPATION BY HALF DUE TO ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS.  
3. (U) NETHERLANDS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED ITS MARINE  
PARTICIPATION DUE TO ITS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS IN  
SUPPORT OF UN FORCES IN CAMBODIA. THE DUTCH ALSO  
WITHDREW THEIR F-16 SQUADRON FROM THE EXERCISE ON  
ECONOMIC GROUNDS.

4. (U) SOURCE RELATES THAT THE NORWEGIAN COMMANDER IN  
NORTH NORWAY SEES THIS AS A PREVIEW OF THINGS TO COME  
WITH FEWER EXERCISES IN THE AREA AND FEWER ALLIES TO

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PARTICIPATE. IN ADDITION, SOURCE RELATES CHIEF OF DEFENSE, ADMIRAL TOROLF ((REIN'S)) THOUGHTS ON THE SITUATION - HE SEES THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION AS CHANGING. FROM NORWAY BEING A KEY POINT IN THE SUPERPOWER'S INTERESTS TO BEING A MARGINAL ALLY ON THE STRATEGIC FRINGES. REIN ALREADY SEES A DECLINE OF INTEREST IN THE KOLA AREA AND ITS NORTHERN FLEET. HE NOTES THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENTS STRONGER RELIANCE ON ALLIED INTERVENTION TO REINFORCE NORWAY DURING A CRISIS (THE GOVERNMENT USES THIS ARGUMENT IN SOME OF ITS BUDGET CUTTING ACTIVITIES) MAY NEED REVIEW.

COMMENTS: ~~(CONF)~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424 THERE IS A GENERAL UNEASINESS IN THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY ABOUT THE LEVEL OF SUPPORT WHICH MAY BE FORTHCOMING IN A CONTINGENCY. THEY SEE EVERY NATION (INCLUDING NORWAY) MAKING DEEP CUTS IN DEFENSE. IN ADDITION, THE LOSS OF THE FOCAL POINT SUPPLIED BY THE COLD WAR, HAS LEFT NORWAY ON THE STRATEGIC FRINGES. WHILE THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY DOES NOT SEE THE RUSSIANS AS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT, THEY ARE STILL UNEASY ABOUT THE LARGEST SINGLE CONCENTRATION OF FORMER SOVIET (NOW **RUSSIAN**) **MILITARY** POWER SITTING AT THEIR DOOR STEPS ON THE **KOLA PENINSULA**. THIS CAPABILITY, COUPLED TO CHANGES WHICH COULD GROW OUT OF THE APPARENT INSTABILITY IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT, LEAVES THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY CONCERNED. WITH NO COORDINATION BETWEEN NATIONS ON DEFENSE DRAWDOWNS, THE NORWEGIAN MILITARY PROBABLY SEES ITS GOVERNMENT CUTTING NORWEGIAN DEFENSE FORCES TO TOO LOW A LEVEL AND RELYING ON ALLIED SUPPORT WHICH MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE.

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//COMSOBJ:

**ADMIN**

PROJ: (U).

INSTR: (U)

PREP: (U)

ACQ: (U)

DISSEM: (U)

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