

ROYAL DANISH LEGATION
WASHINGTON D C.

April 9, 1941.

Sir:

I have received your note of the seventh instant concerning the defense of Greenland together with a draft of a proposed agreement regarding the same subject.

It is with appreciation that I note your renewed assurance that, although the present circumstances prevent the Government in Denmark for the time being from exercising its powers in respect of Greenland, your Government fully recognizes the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark over the island. At the same time I wish to convey to you my feelings of gratitude for the expression of friendly concern of your Government and its earnest hope for the complete and speedy liberation of Denmark.

I share your view that the proposed agreement, arrived at after an open and friendly exchange of views, is, under the singularly unusual circumstances, the best measure to assure both Greenland's present safety and the future of the island under Danish Sovereignty.

Furthermore, I am of the opinion that the terms of the agreement protect, as far as possible, the interests of the native population of Greenland whose welfare traditionally has been the paramount aim of Denmark's policy in Greenland.

I, therefore, shall accept and sign the agreement as proposed, acting on behalf of His Majesty, the King of Denmark, in His capacity of Sovereign over Greenland, whose authorities in Greenland have concurred herein.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary of State, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Henrik Kauffmann.

The Honorable *Cordell Hull*,
Secretary of State,
Department of State, Washington D. C.

KGL. DANSK GESANDTSKAB,
WASHINGTON, D. C.,

9. April 1941.

Sir,

Jeg har modtaget Deres Note af 7. dennes vedrørende Grønlands Forsvar tilligemed et Udkast til en foreslaaet Overenskomst angaaende samme Emne.

Med Tilfredshed har jeg bemærket Deres fornyede Forsikring om, at skønt de nuværende Omstændigheder for Tiden forhindre Regeringen i Danmark i at udøve sine Rettigheder med Hensyn til Grønland, anerkender Deres Regering tilfulde Kongeriget Danmarks Suverænitet over Øen. Samtidig ønsker jeg at bevidne Dem mine Følelser af Taknemlighed for Deres Regerings venligsindede Deltagelse og dens nderlige Haab om Danmarks fuldstændige og snarlige Befrielse.

Jeg deler Deres Opfattelse, at den foreslaaede Overenskomst, som er kommet i Stand efter en aaben og venligsindet Meningsudveksling, under de særdeles usædvanlige Omstændigheder er det bedste Skridt til at sikre baade Grønlands nuværende Sikkerhed og Øens Fremtid under dansk Suverænitet.

Yderligere er jeg af den Opfattelse, at Overenskomstens Vilkaar i videst muligt Omfang beskytter den indfødte grønlandske Befolknings Interesser, hvis Velfærd traditionelt har været den danske Grønlandspolitik's fornemste Maal.

Jeg vil derfor godkende og undertegne den foreslaaede Overenskomst, idet jeg handler paa Hans Majestæt Kongen af Danmarks Vegne i Hans Egenskab af Grønlands Statsoverhoved, hvis Myndigheder i Grønland har samtykket heri.

Jeg benytter denne Lejlighed til overfor Dem, Hr. Statssekretær, at forny Forsikringen om min højeste Agtelse.

Henrik Kauffmann.

The Honorable *Cordell Hull*,
Secretary of State,
Department of State, Washington, D. C.