

TOP SECRET

June 24, 1960

2. Re second question concerning atomic weapons - you may assure Foreign Minister no atomic weapons stored at Keflavik and none carried through Keflavik in transit.

Courtesy:

In our view it is not desirable ^{give} [volunteer] assurances to Icelandic Government that we would seek its prior agreement to storage or transit of nuclear weapons. Before we ^C would authorize you to give such assurances matter would have to be very carefully studied here.

Therefore we hope you could avoid subject. If Foreign Minister should press you and ask whether US would seek prior agreement Icelandic Government, you may ^{S/AE} [note] that since such weapons have not been stored Iceland the question of consultation about future storage has not arisen. The Foreign Minister's inquiry is therefore a hypothetical one and if he requires an answer you would have to seek instructions.

FYI CINCLANT has wartime requirement for nuclear storage at Keflavik and we understand that appropriate facilities are now being constructed there by Navy. However under present plans weapons would not be introduced except in wartime. End FYI

*BNA:
From
whether this
appropriate
in telegram
omitted*

Request you impress on Foreign Minister delicacy of this entire subject and note to him that it is US policy neither to confirm nor deny publicly location of nuclear weapons. ^{It is of greatest importance} We ~~would hope~~ ^{that} the Icelandic Government [would be willing to] follow a similar policy, [if public inquiries are made about storage in or transit through Iceland of nuclear weapons.]

- L - Pender - OK 6/27
- BNA - Brandin OK 6/27
- S/AE - Courtney OK 6/27
- OSD - Chapman
- RA - Terrell OK 6/24/60