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XXIII. Greenland

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The United States has sent no troops to Greenland nor has it established any air or naval bases in that Danish Colony.

The facts are as follows:

In connection with the signature on August 4, 1916 of the convention with Denmark for the cession of the Danish West Indies, a declaration was made by the Secretary of State to the effect that the United States would not object to the extension by Denmark of her political and economic interests to the whole of Greenland. The United States has taken no action in Greenland which would impair the validity of this declaration.

In 1920 the Government of the United States stated that it would not be disposed to recognize the right of a third government to acquire Greenland should the Danish Government desire to dispose of that territory. The occupation of Denmark by German troops in April 1940 carried with it the potentialities of a new situation with respect to Greenland which required consideration by this Government in the light of the position which it assumed in 1920 and which it has continued to maintain. The occupation of Denmark also led to an approach to the Government of the United States by the Greenland authorities who expressed their concern over the effect upon Greenland of the course of events in Denmark by which Greenland

had been deprived of free communication with Copenhagen, of the possibility of obtaining food and other supplies from Denmark, and of facilities for placing Greenland exports on the Danish market.

In response to this approach and other requests made by the Greenland authorities on their own initiative, the Government of the United States with the full agreement of the Greenland authorities has taken the following steps, none of which has operated to the injury of any legitimate interests:

1. An American Consulate was provisionally established at Godthaab to facilitate the handling of the numerous questions which have arisen with respect to the purchase in the United States of food and other supplies for Greenland and of the sale of Greenland products in this country.

2. An American Red Cross representative was sent to Greenland to determine on the spot and in consultation with the Greenland authorities what relief was needed by the inhabitants of Greenland.

3. In view of the heavy demands from many parts of the world for arms and ammunition manufactured in this country, the Government of the United States has facilitated the purchase in the United States by the Greenland authorities of a quantity of arms for the use of the small number of policemen employed by the Greenland authorities to patrol the cryolite mine at Ivigtut, which is Greenland's major economic asset.