

ENCLOSURE B1

Per Stig Møller: "The day has dawned, when we can no longer count on the US".

Ræson. July 18, 2018. Excerpts.

Per Stig Møller is a former Conservative Foreign Minister.

Since WWII, the US has been the leader of the free world. From President Truman to President Obama. Though Obama initiated the reorientation from Europe to the Pacific, he did not break ties with either NATO or Europe. We must face that the US under Trump has returned to the classic American foreign policy, which in the age from President Washington to President Monroe was focused on NOT becoming embroiled in European conflicts. Now the day when we can no longer count on the US has dawned. The President of the United States initiates a trade war with the EU and falls upon Germany without mercy. He attempts to destabilize the EU by overtly supporting British EU-opponents, he recommends President Macron that France leaves the EU, and he accuses Germany of being in Russia's pocket, while then joining the very same pocket. He prides himself on getting his NATO-allies to pay more towards the alliance, even though promises of this were given during Obamas presidency.

In relation to Syria, Obama announced plans to intervene, but he did not. Instead, the US supported the Kurds in their fight against ISIS, but now the Kurds should not count on American support for much longer, because Trump wants out. Apparently, the friends of the US should not take American friendship for granted. Where does all this leave us? The EU is taking precautions in this new situation. The Union has signed free trade agreements with Japan and Canada and must continue this course of action. The European Security and Defense dimension severely needs the UK when building and cementing a credible bulwark against Russia. At the same time, we should not write off NATO, but we must strengthen the European axis of the alliance. Europe must prepare itself to face an aggressive Putin on its own and to contain the problems in the Middle East and North Africa, which might affect us, without American support.

Since November 1941, the American president has been the leader of the free world. This is no longer the case. How can someone with such different views on security policy, trade and climate policy lead the free world? President Trump does not speak for us. The US must understand that this is the price for Trump's policies and face the fact that this weakens the US. This is what China has realized and they now offer themselves as the peaceful replacement for the US. China defends global free trade and upholds the Paris Agreement on climate change. The country engages financially in Africa, Latin America and Europe. Greenland has also been offered Chinese investments, something the Greenlandic and Danish governments might not see eye to eye on. This benefits China which has decided to become actively involved in the Arctic region. In due course, the country might face a new conflict with the US, which in turn might find itself in a conflict with – by then – a possibly sovereign Greenland.