

ENCLOSURE B4

Marcus Rubin: "A cold shoulder".

Politiken. August 22, 2019. Excerpts.

For decades, the US has unconditionally been the most important ally for Denmark. The US guarantees our safety, and the relationship has been the all-decisive pivot point for Danish foreign policy. Denmark has been an extremely loyal ally to the US. In 2003, we broke with our EU-partners Germany and France and joined the war in Iraq. We have lost more soldiers in Afghanistan than any other country in terms of population size, and almost wherever and whenever the US has asked for assistance, we have shown up.

In the short run, we must remain calm and neither insult nor come crawling back to Trump. Denmark will reap a great deal of goodwill in both Europe and in the sensible parts of the US after this bizarre impasse, if only we act with dignity and calm. The incident shows that the Arctic arena is a hotspot, a battlefield which Greenland and Denmark have become embroiled in. We must be very serious in dealing with this conflict – and we must tackle it better in the future. What Trump's actions demonstrate is that it is of no use for Denmark to rely so much on the US. The US remains a close and important ally. However, the United States have embarked on an unpredictable course that may continue for much longer than the presidential election of 2020. Partly because Trump might be re-elected, partly because he has acted as a catalyst for forces in the US that have made the superpower more self-centred and less willing to play the role of global stabilizing agent.