

## DEFENSE OF GREENLAND

*Agreement signed at Washington April 9, 1941; exchange of notes at Washington April 7 and 9, 1941*

*Entered into force April 9, 1941*

*Terminated June 8, 1951, by agreement of April 27, 1951*<sup>1</sup>

55 Stat. 1245; Executive Agreement Series 204

### AGREEMENT RELATING TO THE DEFENSE OF GREENLAND

#### WHEREAS:

ONE. After the invasion and occupation of Denmark on April 9, 1940 by foreign military forces, the United Greenland Councils at their meeting at Godhavn on May 3, 1940 adopted in the name of the people of Greenland a resolution reiterating their oath of allegiance to King Christian X of Denmark and expressing the hope that, for as long as Greenland remains cut off from the mother country, the Government of the United States of America will continue to hold in mind the exposed position of the Danish flag in Greenland, of the native Greenland and Danish population, and of established public order; and

TWO. The Governments of all of the American Republics have agreed that the status of regions in the Western Hemisphere belonging to European powers is a subject of deep concern to the American Nations, and that the course of military events in Europe and the changes resulting from them may create the grave danger that European territorial possessions in America may be converted into strategic centers of aggression against nations of the American Continent; and

THREE. Defense of Greenland against attack by a non-American power is essential to the preservation of the peace and security of the American Continent and is a subject of vital concern to the United States of America and also to the Kingdom of Denmark; and

FOUR. Although the sovereignty of Denmark over Greenland is fully recognized, the present circumstances for the time being prevent the Government in Denmark from exercising its powers in respect of Greenland.

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<sup>1</sup> 2 UST 1485; TIAS 2292.