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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : U. S. MISSION BERLIN STATINTL
TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington Despatch # 50
REF : July 18, 1958



ACM
WIK
PWA

ACTION
IRCP-17 / N
F RM/R-1, IRC-8

Sent as attachment
to PROCIA-A-3

SUBJECT: PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT IN SCANDINAVIA

The PPO visited Denmark, Norway and Sweden from June 5 to June 27. A number of bookstores were visited in Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm and consultations were held with Embassy officials.

In all three countries publications were picked up which fall in the purview of standing requirements. Since this was the first regional procurement trip to Scandinavia, some older reference works were purchased which may have been missed in the past.

The outstanding feature in all three countries is the high price of books, probably a result of small editions. Yearbooks are often published bi-annually only and reference works three to four years old are considered quite up-to-date. In none of the countries does anyone store stock all titles in which we are interested and service is slower than in Berlin.

Copenhagen

The PPO arrived on June 5, a Danish national holiday; the Embassy and stores were closed. Next day she was informed that the Embassy had appointed a new part-time PPO who visited several bookstores with her. At a meeting with Embassy officials the PPO explained that the full and part-time publications procurement program does not duplicate the CERP program.

who?

The funds allotted to the Embassy by SP and WF were used in addition to Berlin selection funds.

We saw a few of the gratis serial publications which the Embassy has been sending to ICD/FP and believe Teleteknik and Electrotekniker to be of interest to WF and Ingenioeren, the organ of the Danish engineer's organization, to AMS and WF.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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While in Copenhagen, WF's order # 8/58 of May 29 came in and we omitted a number of publications which we had intended to buy for WF. The PPO also visited the publications outlet of the Danish communist paper and bought a few propaganda pamphlets and some Russian titles of which very few were in stock.

OSLO

Arrival June 12, departure June 19. The part-time PPO had a bookstore prepare lists on the basis of the WF requirement guide which proved extremely helpful. This was a small bookstore and the owner had a good idea of the publications in which we are interested; unfortunately very few were in stock to be looked over. However, he got them together for us during the week. The PPO also purchased at a second store which the WF representatives had visited in Oslo.

While in Oslo, the AMS allotment of \$200.00 came in; the previous balance of obligation 1404 had been spent in Copenhagen. The SP and WF funds, allotted to Oslo, were obligated in addition to Berlin selection funds.

Stockholm.

The PPO arrived late in the evening Thursday, the 19th; the Embassy and the stores closed as of noon June 20 for Swedish Midsummer weekend. On June 23, the reporting officer consulted with the Stockholm PPO and was accompanied by a local employee to the largest bookstore in Stockholm where the Embassy places its orders. We believe that prices for publications are still higher in Stockholm than in the two other capitals. Orders were also placed at a second bookstore. None of the stores appeared to have more than one copy of reference works in stock but most of the publications came in before the PPO departed. The Embassy had spent approximately \$75.00 of the WF allotment prior to the arrival of the PPO, the balance as well as the SP allotment were obligated during the week. The Stockholm PPO informed us that he had sent samples of serial publications which he believes to be of interest to Washington agencies. The PPO left Stockholm June 27; the Embassy had gone to great trouble to get all obligating documents to Washington before the FY 58 deadline.

After Stockholm the PPO spent a few days leave in Helsinki; she discussed publications procurement with the ad hoc PPO. She also visited the Academy bookstore in Helsinki which has an amazing number of Russian books, including dictionaries, in stock. Some of the publications date back to 1946. It is possible that some Russian titles which may have been missed in the past could be found in Helsinki.

Summary.

Summary. We believe that one trip a year by the regional PPO will suffice to supplement the local publications procurement program. It is suggested that the Department send copies of its orders to Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm to Berlin to avoid duplications.

The assistance of the Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm Embassies is gratefully acknowledged.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF MISSION:

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