

Vance slams Denmark, promises security, prosperity to Greenland

The Vice President, who is visiting the island, says Denmark underinvested in the people of Greenland; he encouraged a push in the territory for independence, and said the U.S. has no choice but to take a greater role to ensure its security

Associated Press

NUUK

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance said on Friday that Denmark has “underinvested” in Greenland’s security and demanded that Denmark change its approach as President Donald Trump pushes to take over the Danish territory.

The pointed remarks came as Mr. Vance visited U.S. troops on Pituffik Space Base on the mineral-rich, strategically critical island alongside his wife and other senior U.S. officials for a trip that was ultimately scaled back after an uproar among Greenlanders and Danes who were



J.D. Vance and Second Lady Usha Vance eat a meal with soldiers at the U.S. military's Pituffik Space Base in Greenland on Friday. AFP

not consulted about the original itinerary.

“Our message to Denmark is very simple: You have not done a good job by the people of Greenland,” Mr. Vance said. “You

have underinvested in the people of Greenland, and you have underinvested in the security architecture of this incredible, beautiful landmass filled with incredible people. That has

to change.”

Mr. Vance said the U.S. has “no option” but to take a significant position to ensure the security of Greenland as he encouraged a push in Greenland for independence from Denmark.

“I think that they ultimately will partner with the United States,” Mr. Vance said. “We could make them much more secure. We could do a lot more protection. And I think they’d fare a lot better economically as well.”

Meanwhile, the Danish Foreign Minister scolded the Trump administration for its “tone” in criticising Denmark and Greenland, saying his country is already

investing more into Arctic security and remains open to more cooperation with the U.S.

Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen made the remarks in a video posted to social media after U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance’s visit to the strategic island.

“Many accusations and many allegations have been made. And of course we are open to criticism,” Mr. Rasmussen said. “But let me be completely honest: we do not appreciate the tone in which it is being delivered. This is not how you speak to your close allies. And I still consider Denmark and the United States to be close allies.”