

DEAL REACHED ON GREENLAND

Appears to allow increased U.S. military presence



A woman waves a Greenlandic flag in Nuuk on Jan. 17 as people attend a protest against President Donald Trump's demand that the Arctic island be ceded to the United States. MARKO DJURICA/REUTERS FILE

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REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The United States, Denmark and Greenland have entered into an agreement for the United States to develop a significant military presence in Greenland, while prohibiting U.S. adversaries from building their own bases on the island, President Donald Trump said on Sept. 18.

In a Truth Social post, the U.S. president wrote that no U.S. enemies would be able to make sensitive investments on the island without the approval of the United States and that the agreement had no expiry date.

“At my direction, we worked with representatives of Denmark and Greenland to guarantee that the United States will FOREVER have the complete ability to do what is necessary in Greenland in order to secure and defend the security of Greenland, and the United States of America,” Trump wrote.

Earlier on Sept. 18, Reuters exclusively reported that the United States and Greenland were closing in on a deal that would result in an increased U.S. military presence, but would stop well short of Trump's long-held dream of acquiring the island for the United States.

Trump's Sept. 18 announcement suggests he was nonetheless pleased with the outcome of the negotiations, and



Danish conscripts participate in a military exercise near Kangerlussuaq, Greenland, on Aug. 27.

TIM BARSOE/
REUTERS

**“This is a dream come true
for the United States of
America.”**

President Donald Trump

that he may not revive his territorial claims, at least in the near future. He said, without elaborating, that the United States would soon be rolling out a large military presence on the island, which already hosts one Space Force base in its remote northwest.

“This is a dream come true for the

United States of America,” Trump wrote.

The Danish prime minister's office said on Sept. 18 that the agreement would strengthen North Atlantic and Arctic security.

Much was unclear as of late Sept. 18, including whether any new U.S. bases would be constructed as a result of the agreement. Trump's Truth Social posts about negotiations or agreements often lack context or specifics.

The United States already has nearly total overflight and basing rights in Greenland due to a 1951 treaty.

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Greenland

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It was also unclear how the agreement would be received in Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark. The island's residents aspire to independence and have bristled at U.S. attempts to assert hegemony.

In a separate statement, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that the deal "permanently and completely" addressed Washington's national security concerns with respect to the island.

"Greenland will forever be part of the strategic defense area of North America and exclude any adversary from it and the surrounding area," he wrote.

A State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss specific terms, said the deal prohibits non-NATO countries from building a base in Greenland, and will allow only the United States and its allies to make unspecified "sensitive in-



Nuuk, Greenland, is seen earlier this year. It was unclear how the agreement would be received in Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

MARKO DJURICA/REUTERS FILE

vestments."

The official said the agreement grants the United States permanent ac-

cess, basing and overflight rights, and would continue to apply even if Greenland becomes independent.