

Trump to 'control Greenland's security'

US president says he will 'immediately' develop a larger military presence on the Danish territory

By Iona Cleave

DONALD TRUMP claimed to have signed a deal with Denmark to take over "permanent control" of Greenland's security after months of threatening to take it by force.

In an unexpected announcement, the US president claimed that his administration would "immediately" develop a larger military presence on the mineral-rich Danish territory.

The reported deal "gives the United States permanent control over security, and all other needs, in Greenland, completely addressing ALL of our many

U.S. concerns," he wrote on his Truth Social platform.

Since returning to the White House, Mr Trump has repeatedly demanded that Denmark, a Nato ally, hand over control of the semi-autonomous Arctic island to protect US national security.

His threats to take it by force if necessary triggered a major crisis within Nato. The president eventually softened his rhetoric after a deal was promised that would hand the US more control of Greenland.

Denmark has not immediately commented on the alleged deal, but has engaged in a long-running diplomatic dispute with the Trump administration over the future of the island.

Mr Trump is believed to be eyeing the mineral-rich island in order to provide the US with a strategic supply of the materials needed to build weapons, should it go to war with China.



Donald Trump has repeatedly demanded that Denmark hand over control of the Arctic island

Danish officials attempted to placate Mr Trump by allowing America to bolster its military presence on the island through an existing Cold War-era defence agreement.

Nato also launched a special mission

in the Arctic aimed at countering the threats posed by Russia and China in the region.

In July, *The Telegraph* reported that Mr Trump had taken a hardliner in talks over Greenland and was pushing to

purchase the island. Copenhagen has repeatedly stated the island is not for sale. Mette Frederiksen, the Danish prime minister, did not confirm the deal was finalised, but said that she was "pleased there is a prospect of a good agreement". Ms Frederiksen said it would be signed on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

A US state department official clarified that the deal guarantees the US has "complete ability to do what it deems is necessary". The official told AFP: "This agreement guarantees that China and Russia cannot have a base in Greenland, they cannot send troops to Greenland, and the necessary mechanisms are in place to prevent investment in sensitive sectors."

Meanwhile, Sensitive F-35 fighter jet technology was unexpectedly diverted to Hong Kong over the summer, prompting fears the highly classified

weapon components could be in the hands of China. A shipment of the weapon's parts heading to the US from Australia was rerouted in the Pacific Ocean, three sources told Politico.

The Pentagon confirmed some of the components, which an intermediary had been transporting on behalf of manufacturer Lockheed Martin, had turned up in Hong Kong, although it was unclear why they were rerouted and who now had them.

US politicians on Capitol Hill have launched an inquiry.

It comes as the US signed a deal to sell 48 advanced F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, despite reports that China could steal the warplane's technology.

The deal, valued at \$24.3bn (£18.2bn), was agreed last November when

Donald Trump met Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's crown prince and de facto leader, in the White House.