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Biographical Note

Jens Otto KRAG

Mr. Krag has had a career spanning 30 years in Danish public service and politics. He was born in Randers, Denmark, in 1914. He served in the Danish Directorate of Supply from 1940 to 1945 and was Chairman of the Economic Council of the Labor Movement from 1945 to 1947, when, as a Social-Democrat candidate, he became a member of the Danish Parliament. Subsequently, he became a member of the Danish cabinet as Minister of Commerce, Industry and Shipping until 1950, when he accepted a post in the Danish Embassy in Washington as Economic Counselor.

In 1952, Mr. Krag returned to Danish politics to become Minister of Economy and Labor from 1953 to 1957, Minister of External Economic Affairs from 1957 to 1958, and Foreign Minister from 1958 to 1962. He became Prime Minister in 1962 and served until 1968, acting also as Foreign Minister between 1966 and 1967.

In 1968, Mr. Krag stepped down as head of Government and returned to Parliament as member and as leader of the Social Democratic opposition. In 1971, he again became Prime Minister and served as Denmark's head of Government until October 3, 1972, when he resigned his premiership hours after leading pro-European Danes to victory in a nationwide referendum on Danish membership in the Community.

Mr. Krag has been the President of the North Atlantic Council, Chairman of Denmark's Social Democratic Party, and a lecturer at the University of Aarhus in Denmark. He received the coveted Charlemagne Prize in 1966 and the Schuman Prize in 1973, in recognition of his contribution to European unity efforts.

A strong champion of Denmark's cultural and artistic traditions, he is also the author of several books on Danish and international economic and social problems, and last summer published his personal memoirs in Denmark.

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