



By: TA | AP Brief

Trump's appointment of envoy to Greenland sparks new tension with Denmark



The leaders of Denmark and Greenland insisted that the United States won't take over Greenland and demanded respect for their territorial integrity after President Donald Trump announced the appointment of a **special envoy** to the semi-autonomous territory.

Trump's announcement on Sunday that Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry would be the envoy prompted a new flare-up of tensions over Washington's interest in the vast territory of Denmark, a NATO ally.

Denmark's foreign minister told Danish broadcasters that he would summon the U.S. ambassador to his ministry.

"We have said it before. Now, we say it again. National borders and the sovereignty of states are rooted in international law," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and her Greenlandic counterpart, **Jens-Frederik Nielsen**, said in a joint statement.

"They are fundamental principles. You cannot annex another country. Not even with an argument about international security."

"Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders and the U.S. shall not take over Greenland," they added in the statement emailed by Frederiksen's office. "We expect respect for our joint territorial integrity."

National security

Trump called repeatedly during his presidential transition and the early months of his second term for U.S. jurisdiction over Greenland, and has not ruled out military force to take control of the mineral-rich, strategically located Arctic island.

In March, Vice President JD Vance visited a remote **U.S. military base** in Greenland and accused Denmark of under-investing there.

The issue gradually drifted out of the headlines, but in August, **Danish officials** summoned the top U.S. diplomat in

Copenhagen following a report that at least three people with connections to Trump had carried out covert influence operations in Greenland.

We need Greenland for national security - Donald Trump

"We need Greenland for national security," Trump told reporters on Monday at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, when asked about Landry's appointment. "And if you take a look at Greenland, you look up and down the coast you have Russian and Chinese ships all over the place."

On Sunday, Trump announced Landry's appointment, saying on social media that "Jeff understands how essential Greenland is to our National Security, and will strongly advance our Country's Interests for the Safety, Security, and Survival of our Allies, and indeed, the World."

The U.S. president on Monday said Landry approached him about being appointing as an envoy.

"He's a deal guy. He is a deal-maker type guy," Trump said.

Landry wrote in a post on social media after Trump announced the appointment that "it's an honor to serve you in this volunteer position to make Greenland a part of the U.S." The governor will continue to serve in his elected position in Louisiana.

Greenland has its own democracy

The Trump administration did not offer any warning ahead of the announcement, according to a Danish government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

The official also said Danish officials had expected Trump to signal an aggressive

approach to Greenland and the Arctic in the U.S. administration's new national security strategy and were surprised when the document included no mention of either.

Deputy White House press secretary Anna Kelly said Monday that Trump decided to create the special envoy role because the administration views Greenland as "a strategically important location in the Arctic for maintaining peace through strength."

The U.S. is using its economic power to assert its will and threaten military force against friend and foe alike - Danish Defense Intelligence Service

Danish broadcasters TV2 and DR reported that in comments from the Faroe Islands Monday, Danish Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen said he would summon the U.S. ambassador in Copenhagen, Kenneth Howery, to his ministry.

Greenland's prime minister wrote in a separate statement that Greenland had again woken up to a new announcement from the U.S. president, and that "it may sound significant. But it changes nothing for us here at home."

Nielsen noted that Greenland has its own democracy and said that "we are happy to cooperate with other countries, including the United States, but this must always take place with respect for us and for our values and wishes."

Earlier this month, the **Danish Defense Intelligence Service** said in an annual report that the U.S. is using its economic power to "assert its will" and threaten military force against friend and foe alike.

Denmark is a member of the European Union as well as NATO.

The president of the EU's executive commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said on social media that Arctic security is a "key

priority" for the bloc and one on which it seeks to work with allies and partners.

She also said that "territorial integrity and sovereignty are fundamental principles of international law."

"We stand in full solidarity with Denmark and the people of Greenland," she wrote.