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3. Nature of material (*A concise account of the nature of the propaganda material filed*)
Background information on Norway's whaling activities.

4. Title of material, if any <u>Background on Norway, Its Whaling Heritage and the Minke Whale</u>	5. Name of foreign principal on whose behalf this material was transmitted. <u>Government of Norway</u>
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6. Means of transmission <u>Hand delivered</u>	7. Dates of transmission <u>9/21/93 - 10/4/93</u>	8. Total copies transmitted <u>ten (10)</u>
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Date of report <u>9/23/93</u>	Name and title <u>Joel Jankowsky, P.C. Partner with Power of Attorney</u>	Signature 
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September 21, 1993

BACKGROUND ON NORWAY, ITS WHALING HERITAGE AND THE MINKE WHALE

Norway is a mountainous, coastal nation of 4.3 million people located in the western and northern part of the Scandinavian Peninsula and bordering Sweden, Finland, and Russia. Norway has a land area of about 125,100 square miles, exclusive of its overseas territories. It extends 1,100 miles from the North Sea along the Norwegian Sea to more than 300 miles above the Arctic Circle. There are nearly 50,000 islands off the coast, forming a breakfront making a safe coastal shipping channel. Overall, Norway has an oceanfront of more than 12,000 miles.

Norway is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary form of government. The government is led by Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland's Labor Party.

The Norwegian economy is heavily dependent on the sea. Utilization of the ocean's resources is essential for the viability of many communities along the coast. In addition to the fishing industry, offshore oil and gas production and the shipping and shipbuilding industries contribute significantly to the Norwegian economy.

There is a long tradition of strong political, military and economic links between the U.S. and Norway. Over a period of one hundred years, one quarter of the Norwegian population emigrated to the U.S., the largest proportion of any European nation except Ireland.

The U.S. and Norway are partners in NATO. In addition, Norway's geographic location, the offshore petroleum activity and the large Norwegian merchant marine make Norway an important partner for the U.S. in the economic and security policy fields.

I. Norway: An International Leader on the Environment

- Norway has long been active in the conservation of the global environment and the management of its resources. Prime Minister Brundtland is a leading force in the international environmental movement. She has received numerous U.S. awards in recognition of her efforts, and received a Career Environmental Leadership award from the U.S. Environmental Law Institute in October, 1992.
- Norway was a leader at the 1992 United Nations World Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, at which Norway signed all the relevant decisions, including the international agreement to protect the earth's biodiversity.

- The government, and the Prime Minister herself, will continue to give priority to environmental matters, both nationally and internationally. Norway's chief environmental objective is to preserve nature's diversity and manage its resources so that they remain available to future generations. Norway advocates the protection of all species threatened with extinction or serious depletion.

II. Traditional Coastal Whaling: Indigenous to Northern Norwegian Fishing Communities and a Deep-Rooted Component of both Norwegian Culture and the Local Economy

- In Norway, traditional coastal minke whaling is conducted by local fishermen from remote northern fishing villages. For centuries, seasonal whaling has been a part of these societies' cultures. This region of Norway offers few, if any, alternatives to fishing and hunting.
- Traditional coastal whaling is often a family enterprise which independently operates a small fishing vessel. On-shore financial and management activities are also often handled by family members.
- Traditional coastal, or "small-type", minke whaling bears no resemblance to the pelagic whaling in Antarctica carried out from the turn of the century until the mid-sixties. Large-scale industrial whaling has been halted once and for all. Despite this, regularly aired whaling documentaries depict outdated pelagic whaling, which in no way reflects Norwegian whaling of the 1990s.
- Over the last decade, the humaneness of hunting methods has been significantly improved. These methods compare favorably with those used in the hunting of large terrestrial animals, such as elk, moose, and deer.
- Norway has strictly regulated all aspects of its whaling program to ensure compliance with principles endorsed by the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee. Norway has implemented an inspection program which places an inspector, who is a trained veterinarian, on-board all whaling vessels to ensure accurate collection of data to fulfill IWC requirements and compliance with quotas. Proficiency tests are required for whalers engaged in shooting of animals and strict standards have been established with regard to what sea conditions and shooting ranges are permissible for active harvesting. Any serious breach of regulations will lead to a permanent withdrawal of one's license.
- The U.S. has fought to permit Alaskan natives in coastal communities to harvest the bowhead whale, a threatened

species. Overall, the IWC has exempted local communities in Alaska, Greenland, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Siberia from the whaling moratorium due to the subsistence nature of whaling in their communities.

III. The North East Atlantic Minke: A Small Baleen Whale in Plentiful Supply

- Since Norway is dependent on the utilization and harvesting of the living resources of the sea, it is of paramount importance that management and use of living resources be based on a sound scientific and sustainable basis.
- Unfortunately, misconceptions have developed that there is but one species of whale and that all whales are endangered. In fact, there are more than seventy distinct species of whales, and, while stocks of the more well-known species, such as the blue, bowhead, humpback, and sperm whales, are classified as endangered, other species -- such as the minke -- are not threatened. The prevalence of the minke whale in the North Atlantic was unanimously estimated by the IWC Scientific Committee at its 1992 meeting.
- The role of the minke whale in the ecosystem should be taken into account and must be included in a multispecies management scheme.
- Norway regrets the questionable practice of the IWC majority using the Commission contrary to its purpose under the IWC Convention. Such practices only undermine the development of international environmental cooperation.

IV. Conclusion

The whaling issue is a matter of principle to Norway, uniting the country behind the call for national sovereignty in resource management. If whaling is prohibited as a result of pressure from abroad -- in spite of scientific evidence that limited whaling would not represent a threat to the species of whale in question -- this will unite the country behind the quest for sound international cooperation based on sustainable use in international resource management.