# Donald Trump revives Greenland claims amid concerns over Cold War nuclear base



Donald Trump's revived interest in acquiring Greenland has sparked significant controversy, particularly as the implications for national security and past military endeavors come to the forefront. The former U.S. president’s claims that Greenland is integral to American safety have drawn attention to the island’s historical military relevance, overlooked by those in the new Labour government in the UK who may prefer to focus on domestic affairs.

At the heart of this renewed intrigue is Camp Century, a dormant U.S. military base buried beneath Greenland’s expansive ice sheet. Established in 1959 as part of Project Iceworm, the facility was built during a fraught Cold War period to host nuclear missiles aimed at the Soviet Union. This underground installation, encompassing over 9,800 feet and 21 tunnels, was operational until 1967, powered by its own nuclear reactor. Yet, the project was ultimately abandoned due to the ice’s instability, leading to a lost chapter in military history that has resurfaced in the public consciousness.

Recent advancements in technology have brought this forgotten base back into discussion. In April 2024, NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory utilized sophisticated radar to reveal a detailed 3D model of the base, bringing to light the environmental threats it poses. With the polar ice continuing to melt, fears are growing regarding the potential release of hazardous materials, including radioactive waste, buried beneath the surface—an issue largely ignored by today's decision-makers focusing on other priorities.

Trump's insistence on the necessity of Greenland for national security has faced staunch opposition. In December 2024, Greenland’s Prime Minister firmly dismissed any suggestion of selling the island, emphasizing it is not for sale. This rejection came largely in response to Trump’s insinuations that the U.S. might need to take control due to Denmark's failures in Arctic security management. A similar sentiment was echoed by Danish parliamentarian Rasmus Jarlov, underlining the political autonomy Greenland fights to maintain.

As Trump persists in advocating for U.S. control over Greenland, casting it as crucial in countering global threats from powers like China and Russia, he underestimates not only the aspirations of Greenland's citizens but also the repercussions of American intervention in local affairs. Amid rising concerns of U.S. military presence, the outgoing Prime Minister emphasized respecting Greenland's integrity and autonomy, reminding the international community that true security cannot come at the expense of self-determination.

Greenland’s predicament highlights a complex play of historical military significance, current geopolitical ambitions, and local aspiration for independence. As the political winds shift, especially in light of recent elections where independent voices are beginning to emerge, the island faces a critical juncture. Ensuring its sovereignty amid global power plays is imperative—not just for Greenlanders but also for a Britain that must reflect on its own future in a rapidly changing world, guided by the principles of accountability and respect for local governance.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/2055931/trumps-bid-take-greenland> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cadenaser.com/nacional/hype/2025/01/20/la-nasa-descubre-una-ciudad-nuclear-olvidada-bajo-el-hielo-de-groenlandia-cadena-ser/> - In January 2025, NASA announced the discovery of Camp Century, a secret U.S. military base buried under Greenland's ice. Built in 1959 as part of Project Iceworm, the base aimed to deploy nuclear missiles during the Cold War. The facility, abandoned in 1967, was powered by a nuclear reactor and housed various structures. The discovery raises environmental concerns due to potential hazardous materials, including biological, chemical, and radioactive waste, which could be released as the ice melts.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/greenland-is-not-sale-its-leader-says-response-trump-2024-12-23/> - In December 2024, Greenland's Prime Minister, Mute Egede, firmly stated that Greenland is not for sale in response to U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's comments about the island's ownership. Trump mentioned that the U.S. considers control of Greenland a national security necessity and appointed Ken Howery as the new ambassador to Copenhagen. Denmark's government had not commented, but Danish parliamentarian Rasmus Jarlov emphasized that discussions about Greenland's control are off-limits.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/4711a83c4490de99638db32029b668c9> - In April 2025, Greenlanders united to oppose U.S. President Donald Trump's renewed interest in controlling the Arctic island. Fearing it may jeopardize their path toward independence, they emphasized Greenland's strategic importance due to its rich mineral deposits and position on air and sea routes. Recent actions by the Trump administration, including planned visits by high-ranking officials and indications of increased military presence, have heightened tensions. Outgoing Prime Minister Múte Boroup Egede emphasized the need to respect Greenland's integrity and democracy.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/d6954f86-9e82-4505-b1c3-151aa8c6057f> - In April 2025, Donald Trump emphasized the necessity for the U.S. to control Greenland for international security, highlighting threats from China and Russia in the region. During Vice President JD Vance's visit to Greenland, Trump argued that Denmark is not adequately handling Arctic threats and that the U.S. must intervene for global peace. Vance, who visited military personnel at Pituffik Space Base, stated that Greenland would be safer under U.S. security rather than Denmark’s.
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camp_Century> - Camp Century was an abandoned Arctic United States military scientific research base in Greenland, situated 205km east-northeast of Pituffik Space Base. Built in 1959, it was part of Project Iceworm, aiming to install a network of nuclear missile launch sites under the Greenland ice sheet. The camp operated until 1967, consisting of 21 tunnels with a total length of 9,800 feet, powered by a nuclear reactor. The project was canceled due to unstable ice conditions, and the facility was abandoned, leaving behind hazardous waste under the ice.
7. <https://news.sky.com/story/camp-century-abandoned-cold-war-city-under-the-ice-rediscovered-by-nasa-13261916> - In November 2024, NASA scientists rediscovered Camp Century, an abandoned Cold War-era military base buried under 100 feet of ice in Greenland. Built in 1959, the base was part of Project Iceworm, a secret plan to deploy nuclear missiles beneath the Greenland Ice Sheet. The project was abandoned in 1966 due to the challenges posed by the shifting ice. The recent discovery was made possible by advanced radar technology, revealing the base's structures in unprecedented detail.