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## Must exploit arctic areas sensibly

During her recent Faroe visit, the American ambassador to Denmark, Mrs. Laurie Fulton, touched upon the arctic region. The Faroe PM has appointed a specialist committee to draft a Faroe strategic policy for the Faroes and arctic areas. The Parliament Foreign Committee met with the ambassador and presented various questions to her. Oljan.fo also met her after the above meeting and asked some questions. Q - Both the Faroes and the USA are interested in the arctic areas and wish to be part of a development there. We see that the USA has granted for example Shell permission to drill for hydrocarbons north of Alaska, although the environmental fraternity are protesting. What is your opinion on this issue? A - Since the Macondo disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, we in the USA have been very careful and looked closely at the technical options and challenges in connection with oil industry activities in deep waters in particular, including the monitoring controlling aspect. This is high on the Obama agenda. At the same time, the USA is trying to become less dependent upon foreign energy supplies and this demands that new hydrocarbon reserves are discovered. I think it is ok to go after untapped hydrocarbon reserves, also in the arctic, so long as this is conducted correctly, sensibly and with the correct control procedures in place. Greenland Greenland is part of the arctic and the American ambassador says she has held talks with the Greenland PM, Mr Kuubik Kleist, regarding the future hydrocarbon- and mineral outlook for Greenland. She is confident that Greenland is capable of tailoring oil industry activities to conform to the rules and regulation control procedures necessary for such activities in arctic areas - -All the nations of the world have declared the Antarctic should be an asset for all mankind, and not to be used for industrial purposes such as oil exploration. Q - There are those who believe this stance

ought to be extended to also cover the arctic area? A - -We have seen the arctic countries presenting demands for economic zones extending from their coastal areas and today there are eight arctic countries having access to these areas. I do not believe this will change in our lifetime. China Q - We are seeing China investing heavily in, for example Africa, in order to kick-start the oil and gas industry there. We are now hearing that the Chinese are interested in investing in Greenland also, in order to access raw minerals there? A;China has a vast population, which is growing and China therefore has the requirement to figure out how it can feed all the people in the various areas. We all know that China is trying to access natural resources all over the world and there is of course nothing wrong with that. But I hope that the countries permitting others to access their natural resources are in a position to properly manage and control such a development. Q - An American institution said recently, that Greenland would become independent within a few years time and will thereafter be drawn towards America? A - Greenland is one of our closest neighbours. We are looking forward to expanding our cooperation with Greenland, irrespective if oil or gas is discovered or if the country gains full independence. Photo - Laurie Fulton, US Ambassador together with the minister of Trade and Industry, Johan Dahl.