

Press release

11 October 2001

Contents of suspicious suitcase harmless

At 8.58 this morning, Copenhagen Airports A/S identified a suspicious suitcase which led to an evacuation of parts of the airport. A press conference was held at Copenhagen Airport a short while ago, when it was announced that the contents of the suitcase were completely harmless.

The suspicious suitcase contained a so-called timer – an electronic clock – but was otherwise empty. The suitcase had been checked in by a passenger travelling to the USA who, on an earlier trip to the US, had borrowed a suitcase for his return trip to Denmark. The passenger now wanted to return the suitcase, which is why it was almost empty.

All departing baggage at Copenhagen Airport is X-rayed. It was during this screening procedure – which has been in place since September 1999 – that the suspicious suitcase was identified earlier today. Copenhagen Airports detect some 3-4000 suspicious suitcases each year and confront the owners with these suitcases. The episode today represents the second incident in five years where suspicious contents triggered a call to the police and military bomb experts. The suitcase was broken open at 11.05 this morning, when the electronic timer was found.

Traffic at Copenhagen Airport will be back to normal sometime this afternoon.