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Danes Refuse to Grant Asylum To Two U.S. Army Deserters

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Nov. 11. (AP) — The Danish Government refused today to grant political asylum to two United States Army deserters but offered one a conditional temporary residence permit and the other a chance to go to Sweden.

After a month's deliberations, Justice Minister Knud Thøstrup announced that Cpl. Ted Price, 20 years old, of Cleveland, could remain in Denmark temporarily if France would not let him return there. Corporal Price deserted the Army in West Germany, came to Denmark, then went to France when the Danes at first would not admit him.

In the case of Pvt. Reginald Alderton, 22, of Elgin, Ill., who also came from West Germany, by way of France, the Government decided on an outright rejection of his request for asylum. A police spokesman said Private Alderton would be given a few days to make up his mind whether he wants to go to Sweden, which harbors some 400 United States deserters.

The alternative, the spokesman said, would be extradition by United States authorities.

The Justice Minister said Private Alderton had been barred from France for a three-year period after he was sentenced to a four-month prison term for possession of narcotics. Private Alderton never served the term.

Corporal Price and Private Alderton arrived from Paris Oct. 12 accompanied by Mark Lane, an American lawyer, in what appeared to be an attempt to open up Denmark as a new haven for United States deserters.

Both soldiers told Danish authorities they had deserted for fear of being sent to Vietnam.

There was no official explanation of the difference in treatment given the two deserters, but it was assumed Private Alderton's narcotics conviction was the reason.

Joergen Jacobsen, the deserters' Danish lawyer, immediately appealed the Government's decision to Parliament's ombudsman but there was no immediate indication what effect this would have.

The Cabinet approved Justice Minister Thøstrup's recommendation at a meeting today.