



4 March 1994

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

It is with great pleasure that I take this opportunity to recommend Mr. **Caspar Tristan ten Dam** for future scholarly work.

During the spring term of 1993 Mr. ten Dam studied political science at the University of Aarhus, Denmark, under the Erasmus programme. He, inter alia, followed my seminar '*the Soviet Internal Empire: Establishment, Daily working and Dissolution*' which offered an overview of the political history of the USSR from the point of view of ethnopolitics. I was really impressed to see the energy and skill of Mr. ten Dam during classes. His interventions were often very sophisticated and displayed a firm grasp of the discipline of political science as well as a high level of general knowledge.

In order to pass the exam connected with this seminar he later wrote a paper called '*Separatist versus centrist forces in the USSR 1988-1991: Explaining the collapse of the Soviet Internal Empire by a strategic alliance approach comparing the Baltic and the Transcaucasian Cases: A progress report*'. This paper earned him a mark in the absolutely highest category, namely '11'. This corresponds not only to a 'clear A', but actually something slightly higher.

The reason was that in writing this paper Mr. ten Dam contributed with a *scientific contribution* rather than a student essay. His paper represents a solid and yet innovative work which deserves further encouragement within the confinements of, for instance, a Ph.D. project.

At any rate Mr. ten Dam displays high professionalism, diligence, and analytical skills. Therefore, I should like to recommend him for whatever future occupation he may choose.

Yours faithfully

Mette Skak
Associate Professor of International Politics