



Erlendar blaðaúrklippur, vegna fráfalls
Bjarna, Sigríðar og Benedikts,
10. júlí 1970, seinni hluti

Bjarni Benediktsson – Sigríður Björnsdóttir – Benedikt Vilmondarson – Fjölskyldan – Erlendar
blaðaúrklippur

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

Einkaskjalasafn nr. 360
Fjölskyldan
Askja 3-12, Örk 3

©Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

MORT TRAGIQUE DU PREMIER MINISTRE D'ISLANDE DE Mme BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON ET DE LEUR PETIT-FILS

Ils ont péri dans l'incendie de leur résidence d'été — une maison de bois — près de Reykjavik

Reykjavik, 10 juillet (Reuter, A.F.P., U.P.I.).

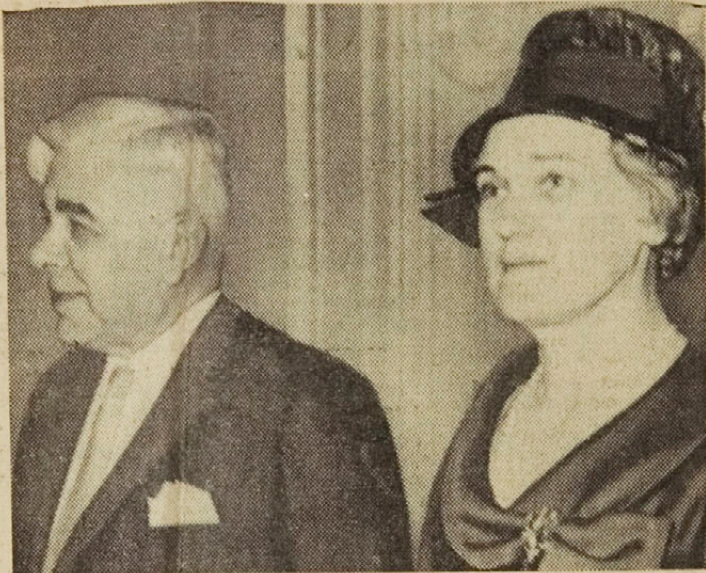
Le premier ministre islandais, Mme Bjarni Benediktsson et leur petit-fils, âgé de quatre ans, ont péri hier soir dans l'incendie qui a détruit la maison de campagne où ils passaient la nuit.

La maison de bois était située à Thingvalla, près de la capitale, Reykjavik. Elle a été complètement détruite par l'incendie. Un voisin s'aperçut que la demeure était la proie des flammes et donna l'alarme, mais lorsque les pompiers arrivèrent sur les lieux il était déjà trop tard.

Selon la police, l'incendie a pu être provoqué par le chauffage central au mazout. Les trois corps carbonisés ont été trouvés dans les lits, ce qui laisse supposer que les trois victimes ont succombé à l'intoxication avant d'être la proie des flammes.

Le chef du gouvernement islandais, Mme Benediktsson et leur petit-fils s'étaient rendus dans leur résidence d'été pour une nuit. M. Benediktsson devait repartir aujourd'hui pour participer à une réunion politique.

M. Benediktsson, âgé de 62 ans, était le chef du parti de l'indépendance. Il était une des figures les plus marquantes de la République islandaise. Il gagna une réputation internationale sur



Le premier ministre d'Islande, que l'on voit ici accompagné de Mme Bjarni Benediktsson, était devenu en 1963 chef d'un cabinet de coalition formé par son parti, le parti de l'Indépendance, et le parti social-démocrate.

tout depuis 1947, date à laquelle il devint ministre des Affaires étrangères.

Bjarni — en Islande, on utilise seulement le prénom — tout jeune, il n'avait pas 22 ans, s'était déjà fait remarquer comme un des meilleurs porte-parole du parti de l'indépendance. En 1932, il devint professeur de droit, puis de premier pédagogie, et dura que huit ans.

Le président de la République

islandaise, M. Eldjarn, à la suite de la mort tragique de Bjarni Benediktsson, a demandé au ministre de la Justice, M. Johann Hafstein, qui est également vice-président du parti de l'indépendance, d'assumer les fonctions de premier ministre et de constituer un nouveau gouvernement.

Le gouvernement que présidait Bjarni était au pouvoir depuis 1963. Il comprenait des membres du parti de l'indépendance et du parti social-démocrate.

PARIS-JOUR
37, rue du Louvre
75 - Paris-2^e

11 JUIL. 1970

**MORT D'UN 79
PREMIER MINISTRE**

**LE PREMIER MINISTRE
D'ISLANDE, BJARNI
BENEDIKTSSON, SA
FEMME ET SA FILLE
SONT MORTS DANS
L'INCENDIE QUI A DE-
TRUIT LA MAISON
D'ETE QUE LE GOU-
VERNEMENT METTAIT
A LEUR DISPOSITION.**

Selon la police, l'incendie, qui a éclaté en pleine nuit, a dû être provoqué par le fonctionnement défectueux du chauffage au mazout. Aussitôt après l'annonce de la mort du Premier ministre, tous les drapeaux de la capitale islandaise, Reykjavik, ont été mis en berne.

LE MONDE

5, rue des Italiens
75 - Paris-9^e

14 JUIL. 1970

79 ● *Après la mort accidentelle du premier ministre d'Islande et de Mme Bjarni Benediktsson, un registre sera ouvert à l'ambassade, 43, avenue Foch, Paris, les mercredi 15 et jeudi 16, de 10 à 12 heures et de 15 à 17 heures.*

PARIS-PRESSE
100, rue Réaumur

11 JUL. 1970

PARIS 2e

Le premier ministre d'Islande meurt dans un incendie

Le premier ministre islandais, M. Bjarni Benediktsson, 60 ans, son épouse et leur petite fille âgée de 2 ans, ont péri hier soir dans l'incendie qui a détruit la maison de campagne où ils séjournaient, près de Reykjavik.

La vieille maison en bois appartenait à l'Etat et était utilisée par les membres du gouvernement lorsqu'ils étaient en vacances.

On ignore encore les causes de l'incendie.

ISLANDE

79 Après la mort du premier ministre**M. Johann Hafstein, ministre de la justice dirige le cabinet par intérim**

Après la disparition tragique du premier ministre d'Islande, M. Bjarni Benediktsson, mort dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi, dans l'incendie d'un chalet de bois où il était venu passer vingt-quatre heures de détente avec sa femme et l'un de ses petits-fils (« le Monde » du 11 juillet), le président de la République d'Islande a confié les fonctions intérimaires de chef de gouvernement à M. Johann Hafstein, ministre de la justice depuis 1963 et vice-président du parti de l'indépendance que dirigeait le disparu, et l'a chargé de former un nouveau gouvernement.

M. Benediktsson, un partisan convaincu de la coopération avec l'OTAN

De notre correspondante particulière

La mort tragique de M. Bjarni Benediktsson a semé la consternation non seulement parmi ses compatriotes, mais aussi dans les pays scandinaves, où il avait de très nombreux amis.

Si M. Bjarni Benediktsson s'était, dès son adolescence, rangé sans équivoque du côté de ceux qui souhaitaient l'indépendance complète de l'Islande, c'est-à-dire la rupture totale des liens juridiques avec le Danemark, acquise en 1944 ; il était en même temps profondément convaincu que l'avenir de l'île des Sagas ne pouvait être véritablement assuré et connaître un développement harmonieux que par une coopération étroite avec l'ancienne métropole et ses trois autres voisins.

Le nom de Bjarni Benediktsson restera inséparable de l'histoire du premier quart de siècle de l'existence de la jeune République d'Islande. Né en 1908, ce fils de parlementaire était venu très tôt à la politique ; en 1940, il est élu bourgmestre de Reykjavik sous l'étiquette du parti de l'indépendance. Il ne quittera ce poste que pour le portefeuille des affaires étrangères en 1947, après être devenu député en 1942. A partir de ce moment, Bjarni Benediktsson fera partie à des titres divers (justice, culte, éducation nationale, etc.) de toutes les coalitions gouvernementales qui se succéderont au pouvoir. En 1961, il est porté à la présidence du parti de l'indépendance et, en 1963, il devient premier ministre, après la démission de M. Olafur Thors.

Sur le plan de la politique extérieure, M. Bjarni Benediktsson se montra un partisan très ferme de l'alliance atlantique. C'est lui qui signa le traité d'adhésion de

l'Islande à l'OTAN en 1949, après en avoir lui-même discuté le contenu. Il avait cependant à cœur de garantir son pays contre une emprise américaine qui pouvait devenir dangereuse, surtout sur le plan culturel, ce qui explique qu'il ait entretenu d'excellents rapports avec les dirigeants soviétiques, sans leur céder rien d'important pour autant.

A l'intérieur, M. Bjarni Benediktsson n'eut pas la partie facile ces dernières années. Quand il avait accédé à la présidence en 1963, l'Islande était en pleine euphorie économique, mais la situation financière devait se dégrader très gravement entre 1966 et 1969. Le déséquilibre croissant de la balance des paiements et l'inflation galopante suscitérent des vagues de mécontentement qui se traduisirent, jusqu'à une date récente, par toute une série de grèves dont les résultats furent désastreux.

Le premier ministre avait fort à faire pour essayer de calmer tout le monde et tenter de redresser la situation. Il est mort au moment où l'horizon semblait s'éclaircir grâce notamment aux perspectives d'entrée de l'Islande dans l'Association européenne de libre-échange qu'il avait imposées énergiquement en dépit des vives protestations de l'opposition de la gauche.

Travailleur infatigable, cet homme d'Etat énergique joignait des activités très diverses à ses fonctions politiques. Il était l'auteur de plusieurs ouvrages de droit et entre 1956 et 1959 il s'était retiré du gouvernement pour diriger le plus grand quotidien de l'île, le Morgunbladit.

CAMILLE OLSEN.

31 JUIL. 1975

M. BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON
premier ministre d'Islande
MEURT DANS UN INCENDIE

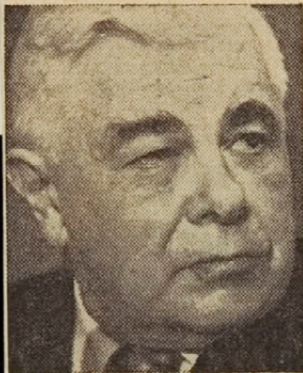
Reykjavik. — Le premier ministre islandais, M. Bjarni Benediktsson, sa femme et leur petit-fils, âgé de deux ans, sont morts dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi dans l'incendie de leur résidence d'été à Thingvallasoen, à une soixantaine de kilomètres de la capitale. On ignore les causes de l'incendie qui a détruit cette vieille maison de bois, qui appartient à l'Etat et était utilisée par les membres du gouvernement pour y passer leurs vacances.

..

M. Benediktsson, qui disparaît à l'âge de soixante-deux ans, était une des figures les plus marquantes de la jeune République islandaise. Son dynamisme et son caractère liant lui avaient valu de nombreuses sympathies tout au long de sa carrière politique. Né à Reykjavik, le 30 avril 1908, il fit de solides études de droit, puis il enseigna pendant huit ans à l'université. Après son entrée dans le « parti de l'indépendance » (conservateur), il devint, en 1940, maire de Reykjavik. Sept ans plus tard, il entra au gouvernement en tant que ministre des affaires étrangères, puis de la justice. En 1963, il présidait déjà depuis deux ans le « parti de l'indépendance » quand le premier ministre du gouvernement de coalition, M. Thors, tomba malade. M. Benediktsson fut alors désigné pour le remplacer. Il était un partisan convaincu de l'appartenance de l'Islande à l'OTAN.

11 JUIL. 1970

● ISLANDE :
Le président
du Conseil ⁷⁸
meurt brûlé vif



Le président du Conseil, Bjarni Benediktsson, son épouse et son petit-fils, âgé de quatre ans, ont péri, la nuit dernière, dans l'incendie de leur résidence d'été de Tingvellir, à une soixantaine de kilomètres de la capitale, Reykjavik.

La maison (en bois) paraît avoir brûlé à la suite d'une explosion. La police a ouvert une enquête pour déterminer les causes du sinistre,

L'intérim du Premier ministre a été immédiatement assuré par le ministre de la Justice et de l'Industrie, M. Johann Hastein, qui paraît d'ailleurs devoir prendre la succession de Bjarni Benediktsson.

Agé de 62 ans, ancien professeur d'Université, le président Benediktsson était entré en 1947 dans la carrière politique ; devenu ministre des Affaires étrangères, il devait signer, pour son pays, en 1949, le traité de l'Atlantique Nord. Ayant occupé successivement divers postes ministériels, il devait devenir président du Conseil en 1963. Il appartenait au parti de l'Indépendance de tendance modérée.

EAST ANGLIAN
DAILY TIMES

Daily

(Circ. 33,778)

11 JUL 1970

Iceland Premier dies in blaze

N1007/5

JUSTICE Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strong-man of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson, 62, and Premier since 1963, died in the fire along with his wife, Sigridur, 51, and their four-year-old grandson.

The three were alone in his official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

The timber building was

destroyed in little more than 15 minutes. By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police believed that both the Premier and his wife woke up and tried to escape, but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames. The cause of the fire was unknown.

After meeting members of the cabinet yesterday, President Kristjan Eldjarn asked Mr. Hafstein, who is also vice-chairman of the Independence Party, to take over the premiership and form a new government.

**SOUTHEND
EVENING ECHO**

Daily

10 JUL 1970

N100/M

Iceland premier dies in blaze

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was killed with his wife and a grandson in a fire.

The tragedy occurred late last night when his official summer residence burned down.

The Premier, his wife, Sigríður Björnsdóttir, and his two-year-old grandson, Benedikt Wilmundarsson, had gone to the house at Thínvalla, near Reykjavík, to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when a neighbour raised the alarm, but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

The fire engines had to come all the way from the capital, some 31 miles away.

Mr. Benediktsson led a coalition government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

He was appointed Prime Minister in 1963.

Lawyer

His career started as a lawyer and later he became professor of law at the University of Reykjavík.

The bodies of the Prime Minister, his wife and their grandson were taken to a chapel in Reykjavík.

Flags flew at half mast in Reykjavík and other Icelandic communities. Radio Iceland changed its programmes and played solemn music.

In the broadcast announcing his death, the spokesman said in a shaky voice: "This is an immense tragedy for our country."

And he added: "The shock is so severe that many of us cannot believe it is true."

SHEFFIELD STAR

Daily

(Circ. 197,982)

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland PM dies in blaze

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death today along with his wife and grandso as a blaze swept a summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife, Sigridur Bjornsdottir, and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson were spending the night there.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was reduced to ashes. A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

EASTERN DAILY PRESS

Daily

(Circ. 71,725)

11 JUL 1970

210071K

Takes over in Iceland

Justice Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after the Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, strong man of Icelandic politics, died in his blazing summer house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson, 62, died in the fire along with his wife Sigridur, 51, and their four-year-old grandson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla. The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes.

**GLASGOW
DAILY RECORD**

Daily

Circ. 526,570

11 JUL 1970

W10071K
**Iceland's PM dies
in mystery blaze**

THE Prime Minister of Iceland and two members of his family have died in a mystery fire.

His official summer home burned down during Thursday night.

Premier Bjarne Benediktsson, 62, his wife and one of their grandchildren, a girl of five, were found by firemen in the morning.

Investigators said they thought the cause of the fire would never be known. But police suspect an electrical fault started the blaze.

GLASGOW HERALD

Daily

(Circ. 84,392)

11 JUL 1970

2/1007/14

MINISTER TAKES OVER IN ICELAND

REYKJAVIK, Friday.

Mr Johann Hafstein, Minister of Justice took over to-night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson died in a blazing summer house early to-day.

Mr Benediktsson, aged 62, died in the fire along with his wife Sigridur, aged 51, and a four-year-old grandson.

The timber house at Thingvalla, the Premier's official summer residence, was destroyed in 15 minutes. — Reuter.

11 JUL 1970

N1007/H

Premier and wife die in house blaze

REYKJAVIK, Friday.

Justice Minister Johann Hafstein took over tonight as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house early today.

Mr Benediktsson, aged 62, died in the fire with his wife Sigrídur, 51, and their four-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

This afternoon, after meeting members of the cabinet, President Kristjan Eldjarn asked Mr Hafstein, to take over the premiership and form a new government.

Mr Benediktsson had headed a coalition government of his Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

Ex-Premier missing

In Binic, France, a rescue plane and a helicopter today searched off the Brittany coast for former Prime Minister Felix Gaillard, missing aboard his yacht since last night.

M a d a m e Gaillard told reporters that her husband left yesterday for Jersey aboard his yacht and was due to return in the evening. He radioed his arrival in Jersey and set off for the return trip but nothing more was heard from him and she raised the alarm when he had not returned by midnight. — Reuter.

11 JUL 1970

Icelandic Premier dies in fire

N 1007 / H

THE Minister of Justice, Mr Johann Hafstein, took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after the death early yesterday in a blazing summer house of Mr Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics.

Mr Benediktsson (62), died in the fire along with his wife Sigridur (51) and their four-year-old grandson, Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, when fire broke out early yesterday. The timber structure, built in 1907 to house the Danish king during visits to Iceland, then part of the Danish kingdom, was reduced to ashes in little more than 15 minutes, with the Premier and his family trapped inside.

By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police said that from the

position of the charred bodies recovered from the smoking ruins, it appeared that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape but had got only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

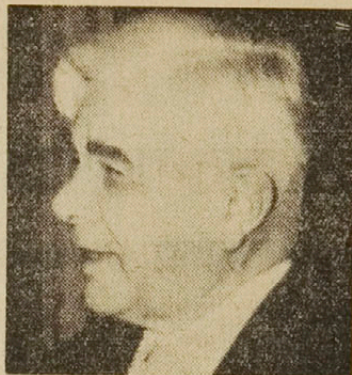
An oil tank exploded in the house during the fire, apparently contributing to the fierceness of the blaze.

The nation was shocked by the tragedy and went into a state of mourning. Flags flew at half-mast, the radio played solemn music, and people walked the streets shaking their heads in disbelief.

Mr Benediktsson, Premier since 1963, had influenced his country's political decisions over the past 30 years. As post-war Foreign Minister, he took Iceland into Nato, and last spring he pushed Iceland into the European Free Trade Association.

Police said they had no clue to the cause of the blaze.

According to officials, Mr Benediktsson and his wife



Mr Benediktsson

arrived unannounced on Thursday night with their daughter's young son to spend a few quiet hours before the Premier was off to a political meeting in Western Iceland.

It was a cold night with a strong northerly wind bringing down snow and sleet from the mountain peaks around Thingvalla when the fire broke out at about 1 a.m.

The first people to notice the fire were some Dutch campers whose tents were blown down by the wind. They thought it was a camper's fire, then realised that what they had taken to be an empty house was ablaze.—Reuter.

NEWSWEEK

Weekly

20 JUL 1970

^{21007/2}
Died: BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON, 62, Prime Minister of Iceland since 1963, a former law professor who helped win his country's independence from Denmark in 1944 and chalked up a record of social and economic progress as Premier; in Thingvellir, Iceland, July 10. He and his wife and a 4-year-old grandson died in a fire that swept their cottage.

11 JUL 1970

Iceland gets new Prime Minister

JUSTICE Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson (62), died in the fire along with his wife Sigrídur (51) and their four-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes. By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape, but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

EXPLOSION

An oil tank exploded in the house during the fire, apparently contributing to the fierceness of the blaze.

Yesterday afternoon, after meeting members of the Cabinet, President Kristján Eldjárn asked Mr. Hafstein, who is also vice-chairman of the Independence Party, to take over the Premiership and form a new Government.

Mr. Benediktsson had headed a coalition Government of his

Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

Police probing the burned out ruins said they had no clue to the cause of the blaze. It was a favourite haunt of the Prime Minister's where he liked to get away from official duties and relax with his family.

Officials said the Prime Minister and his wife arrived unannounced last night with their daughter's young son to spend a few quiet hours before the Premier attended a political meeting in Western Iceland yesterday.

ALARM RAISED

The first to notice the fire were some Dutch campers. They raised the alarm at a nearby hotel, but by the time the first help arrived the building was well alight. A policeman tried to force his way into the house but was driven back by the flames.

Mr. Hafstein (54) came up through the ranks of the party organisation and has been Justice and Industrial Developments Minister since the last Government was formed in 1963.

He is married to the sister of former Premier Ólafur Thors. They have three children in their 20s.

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland Premier, wife, die in blaze

Reykjavik, Friday. — Iceland's 62-years-old Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was burned to death early to-day along with his wife and a grandson.

The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a Summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigrídur Björnsdóttir and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson, had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes. A neighbour raised the alarm

when he saw the house in flames

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the Minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after World War Two.

This island nation just below the Arctic circle went into a state of mourning to-

day as news of the tragedy was circulated.

Flags flew at half mast and the radio played solemn music.

The fire occurred, 38 miles from the capital. The Prime Minister's family arrived there yesterday to spend a few days at the Summer house, which is owned by the state.

In the early hours of this morning, a neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm. But the wooden building burned fiercely and by the time the fire brigade arrived it had been reduced to ashes.

Mr. Benediktsson was a distinguished lawyer with a long record of public service.

EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

Daily

(Circ. 157,720)

10 JUL 1970

W10071K

ICELAND'S PREMIER DIES IN FIRE

Iceland's 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death early today along with his wife and grandson.

The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house near Thingvalla near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife and his two-year-old grandson, had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

Mr Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after the Second World War. —
Reuter

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Premier, wife and grandson die in fire

Iceland's 62-year-old Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was burned to death early today along with his wife and a grandson.

The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summerhouse at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The prime minister, his wife Sigridur Bjornsdottir and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's prime minister since 1963 and was the minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after the last war.

The island nation went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated.

Mr. Benediktsson was a distinguished lawyer with a long record of public service.

**EVENING
ADVERTISER
(Swindon)**

Daily

(Circ. 35,008)

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland's premier dies in blaze

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and one of their grand-children died when a fire gutted the Prime Minister's official summer residence, late last night.

Radio Iceland reported that the 62-year-old Prime Minister, his wife and one of their grand-children, a boy aged two, died in the blaze. A government spokesman said nothing had been announced about the cause of the fire.

Mr Benediktsson led a coalition government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

He was appointed prime minister in 1963.

Mr Benediktsson began his career as a lawyer and later served as professor at law at the University of Reykjavik.

He entered the government in 1947 as Foreign and Justice minister and stayed in that post until 1953.

He was minister of justice and education until 1956, when he left the government and became editor of Iceland's most influential newspaper, Morgubladid.

Mr Benediktsson re-entered the government in 1959 as minister of justice and industry working primarily with fishery problems. He took over as prime minister on November 14, 1963 from Mr Olavaur Thors.

Holiday

Mr Benediktsson was married to the former Sigrid Tormods-dottir in 1943 and had three daughters and one son.

The prime minister and his family arrived yesterday to start their holiday in the summer residence which was built in 1907 for the visit of King Frederik VIII of Denmark.

Witnesses said the fire was first seen from the Hotel Valhal nearby, but before the fire brigade arrived the house was burning like a torch.

DUNDEE COURIER & ADVERTISER

Daily

(Circ. 121,399)

11 JUL 1970

W1007/K

Premier and wife burned to death

Iceland's 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death early yesterday, along with his wife and a grandson.

The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife and two-year-old grandson had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised, but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes. A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape, but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

10 JUL 1970

Iceland Premier dies in fire

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife, and a grandson died in a blaze at a summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, early today.

They had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

Mr Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the Minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty organization after the second world war.

STATE OF MOURNING

The island nation just below the Arctic Circle went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated. Flags flew at half mast and the radio played solemn music.

The Prime Minister's family arrived at Thingvalla yesterday to spend a few days at the summer house, which is owned by the state. In the early hours of this morning, a neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm.

PETERBOROUGH EVENING TELEGRAPH

Daily

(Circ. 21,093)

10 JUL 1970

N/007/M

Iceland Premier dies in fire

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a two-year-old grandson died when a summer house in which they were staying at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, burned down last night.

Mr Benediktsson was in his early sixties and had been Premier since November, 1963.

The Premier, his wife Sigridur and grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone to the summer house for one night before the Prime Minister was due to go away at the weekend to attend a political meeting.

10 JUL 1970

Fire horror death of Iceland Premier

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was burned to death today with his wife and a grandson. The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigrídur and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone there to spend the night.

A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames. Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the

wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

The Rev. Erikur Erikson, who lives nearby said he discovered the fire 40 minutes after midnight and sounded the alarm.

But the fire engines had to come all the way from the capital Reykjavik and before they arrived the house was razed.

The bodies of the Prime Minister, his wife and their grandson were taken to a chapel in Reykjavik.

Officials said Mr Benediktsson had only planned to spend one night in the wooden house. He was to speak in a small town north of the capital today.

The island nation just below the Arctic Circle went

into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated. Flags flew at half mast and the radio played solemn music.

The fire occurred at Thingvalla, 38 miles from the capital. The Prime Minister's family arrived there yesterday to spend a few days at the summer house, which is owned by the State.



Iceland's Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson and his wife Sigrídur who were burnt to death in their summer flat near Reykjavik, today.

WEST LANCASHIRE
EVENING GAZETTE

Daily

Circ. 75,165

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland PM and wife die in fire

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and a two-year-old grandson died when a summerhouse in which they were staying at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, burned down last night.

They had gone to the summer house for the night.

A neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm. But, by the time firemen arrived, the wooden house was in ashes.

Mr Benediktsson was in his early 60s and had been Premier since November, 1963.

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland P.M., wife, grandson, die in summer house blaze

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and two-year-old grandson died when a summer house in which they were staying, at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, burned down early today.

They had gone to the summer house for the night. A neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm. But by the time firemen arrived the wooden summer house was in ashes.

Mr. Benediktsson was 62 and had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963. He was the minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after World War Two.

This island nation just below the Arctic Circle went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated. Flags flew at half mast and the radio played solemn music.

Thingvalla is 38 miles from the capital. The Prime Minister's family arrived there yesterday to spend a few days at the summer house, which is owned by the state.

In the early hours of this morning, a neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm.

NATO

The Prime Minister was to attend a political meeting in Reykjavik during the weekend.

Mr. Benediktsson, born in 1908, made his mark in politics as post-war Foreign Minister, when he was responsible for taking Iceland in the NATO alliance.

Before going into politics in 1940 as Reykjavik's Mayor, he was professor of Jurisprudence at Reykjavik University.

He became Prime Minister in November, 1963, heading a coalition government of his own Independent Party and the Social Democrats.

Iceland has been an independent republic, with an elected president, since it severed its links with the Danish crown in 1944.

Lawyer

Mr. Benediktsson was a distinguished lawyer with a long record of public service.

Educated at the Universities of Iceland and Berlin, he became a law professor in 1932, but moved into politics and in 1940 was elected Mayor of Reykjavik.

He was chosen as his country's delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1946, and became Foreign Affairs and Justice Minister the following year.

He remained prominent in government life, apart from the period 1956 to 1959 when he was chief editor of the daily newspaper Morgunbladid.

After a spell as President of the Althing (Icelandic Parliament) in 1959, he became Minister of Justice and Industries, in November 1963 was Prime Minister.

DORSET EVENING ECHO

Daily

(Circ. 22,172)

10 JUL 1970

NT1007/M

Iceland's Premier dies in fire

ICELAND'S 62 - year - old
Prime Minister, Bjarni
Benediktsson, was burned
to death early today along
with his wife and a two-
year-old grandson.

The tragedy occurred in
a blaze at a summer house
at Thingvalla, near Rey-
kjavik. A neighbour raised
the alarm.

10 JUL 1970



N1007/M

Mr. Benediktsson and his wife.

ICELAND'S PM, WIFE AND A CHILD DIE IN BLAZING HOUSE

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarne Benediktsson, aged 62, his wife, aged 60, and one of their grandchildren have died in a fire which destroyed the Prime Minister's official Summer Residence. The child was a boy aged two.

The house, called Thingvellir, which burned down late last night, is 31 miles from Reykjavik, the capital.

Cabinet Members took their holidays there on a rota, and the Prime Minister and his family arrived yesterday to start their holiday.

The house was built in 1907 for the visit of King Frederik VIII of Denmark

'Like a torch'

Witnesses said the fire was first seen from a nearby hotel, but before the fire brigade arrived the house was burning like a torch and was destroyed in less than an hour.

A Government spokesman said: "This is an immense tragedy for our country," he said. "Many of us cannot believe it is true."

Mr. Benediktsson led a Coalition Government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democrats. He was appointed Prime Minister in 1963.

He began his career as a lawyer, and later was professor of law at the University of Reykjavik. He entered the Government in 1947 as Foreign and Justice Minister, and stayed in that post until 1953. During his time as Foreign Minister, Iceland joined NATO.

In 1956 he left the Government and became editor of Iceland's most influential newspaper, Morgubladid, but he re-entered the Government in 1959 as Minister of Justice and Industry, working primarily on fishery problems.

Mr. Benediktsson was married to the former Sigrid Tormodisdottir. They were married in 1943 and had three daughters and one son.

**YORKSHIRE
EVENING POST**

Daily

(Circ. 269,609)

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland Premier dies in blaze

REYKJAVIK, Friday. — Iceland's Prime Minister Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and one of their grandchildren died when a fire destroyed the Prime Minister's official summer residence, a government spokesman announced today.

Radio Iceland reported that the 62-year-old Prime Minister, his wife and one of their grandchildren, a boy aged two, died when the summer residence, Thingvellir, burned down late last night.

The residence is 31 miles from Reykjavik. The spokesman said nothing had been announced about the cause of the fire.

COALITION

Benediktsson led a coalition government of his own Independence Party and the Social Democrats. He was appointed Prime Minister in 1963.

He entered the Government in 1947 as Foreign and Justice Minister and stayed in that post until 1953. During this time as Foreign Minister, Iceland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M

Iceland P.M. dies in blaze

REYKJAVIK, Friday.

ICELAND'S Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarne Benediktsson, his wife and one of their grandchildren died when a fire gutted the prime minister's official summer residence, 30 miles from the capital.

Radio Iceland reported that the 62-year-old prime minister, his wife, aged 60, and their grandchild, a boy aged two, arrived at the residence at Thingvalla only last night.

A government spokesman said nothing had been announced about the cause of the fire.

Witnesses said the fire was discovered from Hotel Valhal nearby. But before firemen could get to the scene the house was burning like a torch. It was razed in less than an hour.—United Press International.

PRESS & JOURNAL
(Aberdeen)

Daily (Circ. 105,229)

11 JUL 1970

N 1007/M

ICELAND'S PRIME MINISTER DIES IN BLAZE

JUSTICE Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer-house.

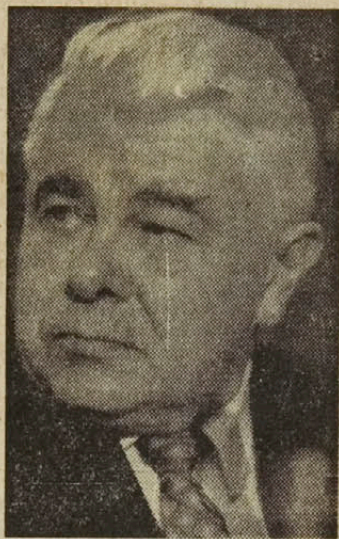
Mr Benediktsson (62), died in the fire with his wife and their four-year-old grandson.

The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes. By the time firemen arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

© Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavíkur

11 JUL 1970

MINISTER SUCCEEDS ICELAND'S PREMIER



The Prime Minister of Iceland, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, who died in a fire in his summer home yesterday.

THE JUSTICE Minister, Mr. Johann Hafstein, took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after the Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer-house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson, aged 62, died in the fire along with his wife, Sigridur, aged 51, and their four-year-old grandson, Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thinkvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes. By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, the fire was over.

Police said the position of the bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape, but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

An oil tank exploded in the house during the fire, apparently contributing to the fierceness of the blaze.

Yesterday afternoon, after meeting members of the Cabinet, President Kristjan Eldjarn asked Mr. Hafstein, who is also vice-chairman of the Independence Party, to take over the premiership and form a new Government.

Mr. Benediktsson had headed a coalition Government of his Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

Police probing the burnt-out ruins said they had no clue to the cause of the blaze. It was a favourite haunt of the Prime Minister's, where he liked to get away from official duties and relax with his family.

Officials said the Prime Minister and his wife arrived unannounced on Thursday night with their daughter's young son to spend a few quiet hours before a political meeting in western Iceland yesterday.

The first to notice the fire were some Dutch campers: they raised the alarm at a nearby hotel, but by the time the first help arrived the building was well alight. A policeman tried to force his way into the house, but was driven back by the flames.

Mr. Hafstein, aged 54, came up through the ranks of the party organisation and has been Justice and Industrial Developments Minister since the last Government was formed in 1963.

Mr. Benediktsson, born in 1908, made his mark in politics as post-war Foreign Minister, when he was responsible for taking Iceland into the NATO alliance.

Before going into politics in 1940 as Reykjavik's mayor, he was Professor of Jurisprudence at Reykjavik University. He is survived by a son and a daughter. (Reuter.)

**WESTERN
DAILY PRESS**

Daily

(Circ. 59,915)

11 JUL 1970

Blaze kills
N1007/B
a premier

Icelandic Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson died in a blazing summer house yesterday along with his 51-year-old wife Sigridur and four-year-old grandson Benedikt.

Justice Minister Johann Hafstein has taken over as Premier.

DUBLIN
EVENING PRESS

Daily

(Circ. 150,470)

11 JUL 1970

Minister
203 THE TITANIC... N1007/A
takes over

Iceland's Justice Minister, Johann Hafstein, took over last night as the country's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strong-man of Icelandic politics, died in his blazing summer home early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson, 62, died in the fire along with his wife, Sigridur, 51, and their four-year-old grandson, Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out. By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

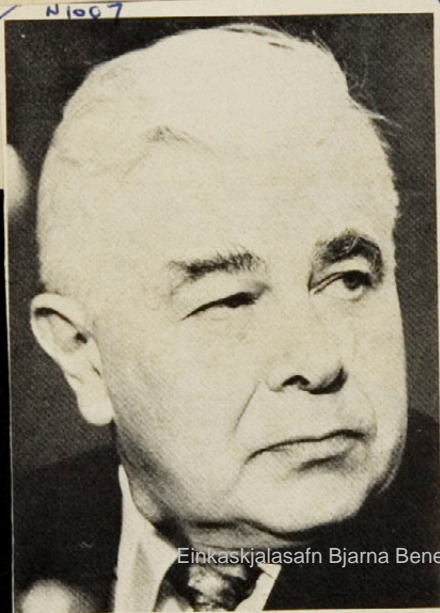
ILLUSTRATED
LONDON NEWS

Weekly

Circ. 62,758

18 JUL 1970

N1007



Premier's tragic fate: Prime Minister of Iceland Bjarni Benediktsson (left), his wife, and a grandson were killed on July 9 in a fire that destroyed the Premier's summer residence.

EXPRESS AND STAR
(Wolverhampton)

Daily

Circ. 274,568

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M
**P.M. and
wife die
in fire**

COPENHAGEN, Friday.

Iceland's Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife, and a two-year-old grandson died when a summer house in which they were staying at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, burned down last night.

They had gone to the summer house for the night.

A neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm. But by the time firemen arrived the wooden summer house was in ashes.

Mr. Benediktsson was in his early 60s and had been premier since November, 1963.—Reuter.

WESTERN MORNING NEWS

Daily

(Circ. 70,345)

11 JUL 1970

N100713 Fire tragedy in Iceland

JUSTICE Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strong man of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house earlier in the day.

Mr. Benediktsson, 62, died in the fire along with his wife Sigridur (51), and their four-year-old grandson. The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes. By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape.

The police said they had no clue to the cause of the blaze. It was a favourite haunt of the Prime Minister, where he liked to get away from official duties and relax with his family.

IPSWICH EVENING
STAR

Daily

(Circ. 46,891)

10 JUL 1970

N1007/M
**Fire
kills a
Premier**

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death today along with his wife and grandson. The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigridur Bjornsdottir and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes. A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after the 1939-45 War.

The island nation just below the arctic circle went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated.

The Prime Minister's family arrived at Thingvalla yesterday to spend a few days at the summer house, which is owned by the State.

CORK EXAMINER

Daily

(Circ. 57,329)

11 JUL 1970

NEW PREMIER IN ICELAND

210071A

Justice Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson (62) died in the fire along with his wife Sigridur (51) and their four-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla former seat of parliament, when the fire broke out. The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes.

By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

BELFAST NEWSLETTER

Daily

(Circ. 71,924)

11 JUL 1970

N1007/M

New Premier

Justice Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benedikts-son (62), strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house yesterday.

10 JUL 1970

Wooden building reduced to ashes

REYKJAVIK

REYKJAVIK, Friday.

Iceland's 62-years-old Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson was burned to death early to-day along with his wife and grandson.

The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a Summer house at Thingvalla near Reykjavic.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigridur Bjornsdottir and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

SOLEMN MUSIC

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the Minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after World War Two.

This island nation just below the Arctic Circle went into a state of mourning to-day as news of the tragedy was circulated.

Flags flew at half mast and the radio played solemn music.

The fire occurred at Thingvalla 38 miles from the capital. The Prime Minister's family arrived there yesterday to spend a few days at the Summer house, which is owned by the state.

In the early hours of this morning, a neighbour saw the house in

flames and raised the alarm. But the wooden building burned fiercely and by the time the fire brigade arrived it had been reduced to ashes

Daily

10 JUL 1970

Premier, Wife And Child Die In Fire

N1007/M

ICELAND'S 62 years old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death last night along with his wife and grandson. The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house at Thingvalla near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigridur Bjornsdottir, and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson, had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised, but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

A neighbour raised the alarm when he saw the house in flames.

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963, and was the Minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after World War II.

This island nation, just below the Arctic Circle, went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated.

Flags flew at half-mast and the radio played solemn music.

DISTINGUISHED RECORD.

Mr. Benediktsson was a distinguished lawyer, with a long record of public service.

Educated at the universities of Iceland and Berlin, he became a law professor in 1932, but moved into politics, and in 1940 was elected Mayor of Reykjavik, the Icelandic capital.

He was chosen as his country's delegate to the United Nations General Assembly in 1946, and became Foreign Affairs and Justice Minister the following year.

He remained prominent in Government life, apart from the period 1956 to 1959, when he was chief editor of the daily newspaper, "Morgunbladid."

After a spell as President of the Althing (Icelandic Parliament) in 1959, he became Minister of Justice and Industries, and in November 1963 was chosen as Prime Minister.—(Rtr.).

**EASTERN
EVENING NEWS
(Norwich)**

Daily

(Circ. 70,424)

10 JUL 1970

N1007JK

ICELAND'S P.M.

DIES IN BLAZE

ICELAND'S 62-year-old Prime Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, was burned to death early today together with his wife and a grandson. The tragedy occurred in a blaze at a summer house at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik.

The Prime Minister, his wife Sigridur Bjornsdottir and his two-year-old grandson Benedikt Wilmundarsson had gone there to spend the night.

Firemen rushed to the scene when the alarm was raised, but the wooden building was soon reduced to ashes.

Mr. Benediktsson had been Iceland's Prime Minister since 1963 and was the Minister responsible for taking his country into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation after the last war.

This island nation just below the Arctic Circle went into a state of mourning today as news of the tragedy was circulated.

Flags flew at half-mast and the radio played solemn music.

Made mark

The fire occurred at Thingvalla, 38 miles from the capital. The Prime Minister's family arrived at the summer house yesterday.

In the early hours of this morning a neighbour saw the house in flames and raised the alarm.

The Prime Minister was to attend a political meeting in Reykjavik during the week-end.

Mr. Benediktsson, born in 1908, made his mark in politics as post-war Foreign Minister.

Before going into politics in

1940 as Reykjavik's Mayor he was Professor of Jurisprudence at Reykjavik University. He became Prime Minister in November, 1963, heading a Coalition Government of his own Independent Party and the Social Democrats.

Iceland has been an Independent Republic, with an elected President, since it severed its links with the Danish Crown in 1944.

Police recovered the charred bodies from the smoking ruin today and said their position indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape, but got only a few steps before being overtaken by the flames.

NOTTINGHAM
GUARDIAN JOURNAL

Daily

11 JUL 1970

Iceland ^{W1007/N}
Premier and
wife die
in fire

JUSTICE MINISTER Johann Hafstein (54) took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house early yesterday.

Mr. Benediktsson (62) died in the fire with his wife, Sigridur (51) and their four-year-old grandson, Benedikt Wilmundarson.

The three were alone in the premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out. The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes.

By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape but got only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

An oil tank exploded in the house during the fire, apparently contributing to the fierceness of the blaze.

GRIMSBY
EVENING TELEGRAPH

Daily

(Circ. 73,000)

10 JUL 1970

~~N1007/M~~

Premier and wife die in blaze

Iceland's Prime Minister, Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson, his wife and two-year-old grandson died when a summer house in which they were staying at Thingvalla, near Reykjavik, burned down last night, the Danish news agency Ritzaus Bureau reported.

11 JUL 1970

Iceland's premier, wife and grandson die in fire

N1007/5

JUSTICE Minister Johann Hafstein took over last night as Iceland's new Premier after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson, strongman of Icelandic politics, died in a blazing summer house earlier yesterday.

Mr Benediktsson, 62, died in the fire with his wife Sigridur, 51, and their four-year-old grandson Benedikt.

The three were alone in the Premier's official summer residence at Thingvalla, former seat of Parliament, when the fire broke out.

The timber building was destroyed in little more than 15 minutes.

By the time the nearest fire brigade arrived from Reykjavik, 35 miles away, it was all over.

Police said the position of the charred bodies indicated that both the Premier and his wife had awakened and tried to escape but made only a few steps from their bed before being overtaken by the flames.

An oil tank exploded in the house during the fire, apparently contributing to the fierceness of the blaze.

Yesterday, after meeting members of the Cabinet, President Kristjan Eldjarn asked Mr Hafstein, who is also vice-chairman of the Independence Party, to take over the premiership and form a new government.

Favourite spot

Mr Benediktsson had headed a Coalition Government of his Independence Party and the Social Democrats.

Police probing the burned out ruins said they had no clue to the cause of the blaze. It was a favourite haunt of the Prime Minister's where he liked to get away from official duties and relax with his family.

Officials said the Prime Minister and his wife arrived unannounced on Thursday night with their daughter's young son to spend a few quiet hours before the Premier attended a political meeting in Western Iceland.

The first to notice the fire were some Dutch campers. They raised the alarm at a nearby hotel, but by the time the first help arrived the building was well alight. A policeman tried to force his way into the house, but was driven back by the flames.

He is married to the sister of former Premier Olafur Thors.

IJslandse premier in brand omgekomen

De IJslandse eersteminister Bjarni Benediktsson, zijn vrouw Sigridur en zijn kleinzoon zijn in de nacht van donderdag op vrijdag bij een brand omgekomen.

Het drama gebeurde in een houten zomerhuis te Thingvallasoen op 60 km. van Reykjavik. Het oude huis was staatseigendom en werd door leden van de regering gebruikt als vakantiehuis.

Eersteminister Benediktsson was 62 jaar en een van de opmerkelijkste figuren van de jonge IJslandse republiek. Hij verwierf internationale faam, vooral tijdens de periode dat hij minister van Buitenlandse Zaken was. (IJsland trad toen toe tot de NATO). Hij werd eersteminister

in 1963 als opvolger van Olafur Thors.

De 200.000 IJslanders vernamen het nieuws met verstomming.

De regeringswoordvoerder sprak met bevende stem en duidelijk ontroerd: «Dit is een geweldige tragedie voor ons land. De schok is zo erg dat velen van ons niet kunnen geloven dat het waar is.»

De eersteminister was donderdagnamiddag met zijn echtgenote en de kleine Benedikt in zijn zomerresidentie aangekomen, uitsluitend met de bedoeling er de nacht door te brengen. In de loop van het weekeinde zou hij het woord voeren op een politieke bijeenkomst in een stadje ten noorden van Reykjavik. Omwonenden die de brand bemerkten, wisten niet dat het huis toen bewoond was. Toen de brandweer uit Reykjavik aankwam, was er geen blussen meer aan.

Volgens de politie kan de brand veroorzaakt zijn door de centrale olieverwarming. De lijken van de drie slachtoffers werden gevonden in hun bed, wat laat veronderstellen, dat zij eerst zijn gestikt alvorens een prooi van de vlammen te worden.

Het getroffen huis werd gewoonlijk «het koninklijk huis» genoemd omdat koning Christiaan van Denemarken er in 1930 de nacht doorbracht tijdens de feestelijkheden ter herdenking van het duizendjarig bestaan van de Alting, het IJslandse parlement.

De opvolger van Benediktsson is nog niet gekend, maar algemeen wordt verwacht dat het de huidige minister van Justitie Johann Hastein, zal zijn. Hastein is lid van dezelfde partij als de overleden eersteminister en er werd trouwens reeds een helikopter uitgezonden naar zijn zomerverblijf op 100 km. ten noorden van Reykjavik.

FPE

IJSLANDS PREMIER LEVEND VERBRAND

Reykjavik, 10 juli (AF-P/UPD). — In de IJslandse hoofdstad Reykjavik werd vrijdag gerouwd om het overlijden van premier Benediktsson die in de nacht van donderdag op vrijdag omkwam toen het zomerhuis waarin hij zich bevond afbrandde. Ook mevrouw Benediktsson en kleinzoon Benedikt kwamen in de vlammen om. Over de oorzaak van de brand was nog niets bekend.

De 62-jarige premier bracht één nacht in de begin deze eeuw gebouwde zomerresidentie door en zou vrijdag in Reykjavik een toespraak houden. Volgens een ooggetuige zag men kort na middernacht vanuit een naburig hotel dat het huis in brand

stond. Voordat de brandweer, die uit het 50 km. verderop gelegen Reykjavik moest komen, ter plaatse was, waren er van de residentie alleen nog smeulende resten over.

Het vrijdagochtend door een duidelijk ontroerde nieuwslezer bekendgemaakte nieuws verwekte in het land grote verslagenheid. Overal in Reykjavik hingen de vlaggen halfstok en de muziek zond de hele dag rouwmuziek uit.

Bjarni Benediktsson ging in de politiek na eerst een advocatenpraktijk te hebben gehad en rechten te hebben gedoceerd aan de universiteit van Reykjavik. In 1947 werd hij voor het eerst opgenomen in een IJslandse regering en in 1963 werd hij eerste-minister, een functie die hij zeven jaar onafgebroken vervulde. Hij stond aan het hoofd van een coalitie-regering waarvan zijn eigen Onaf-

hankelijke partij en de sociaal-demokraten deel uitmaakten.

Aangenomen wordt dat Benediktsson zal worden opgevolgd door minister van justitie Hastein, die eveneens lid is van de Onafhankelijke partij.



Een archieffoto die twee jaar geleden werd gemaakt van premier Benediktsson en diens echtgenote, die vrijdagochtend omkwamen toen hun zomerresidentie afbrandde. — (AP)

Extrait de :
Geknipt uit :
Date :
Datum :

LANOWAGHT, Genl

12. 7. 1970

IJSLANDS PREMIER LEVEND VERBRAND

Reykjavik, 10 juli (AF-P/UPD). — In de IJslandse hoofdstad Reykjavik werd vrijdag gerouwd om het overlijden van premier Benediktsson die in de nacht van donderdag op vrijdag omkwam toen het zomerhuis waarin hij zich bevond afbrandde. Ook mevrouw Benediktsson en kleinzoon Benedikt kwamen in de vlammen om. Over de oorzaak van de brand was nog niets bekend.

De 62-jarige premier bracht één nacht in de begin deze eeuw gebouwde zomerresidentie door en zou vrijdag in Reykjavik een toespraak houden. Volgens een ooggetuige zag men kort na middernacht vanuit een naburig hotel dat het huis in brand

stond. Voordat de brandweer, die uit het 50 km. verderop gelegen Reykjavik moest komen, ter plaatse was, waren er van de residentie alleen nog smeulende resten over.

Het vrijdagochtend door een duidelijk ontroerde nieuwslezer bekendgemaakte nieuws verwekte in het land grote verslagenheid. Overal in Reykjavik hingen de vlaggen halfstok en de muziek zond de hele dag rouwmuziek uit.

Bjarni Benediktsson ging in de politiek na eerst een advocatenpraktijk te hebben gehad en rechten te hebben gedoceerd aan de universiteit van Reykjavik. In 1947 werd hij voor het eerst opgenomen in een IJslandse regering en in 1963 werd hij eerste-minister, een functie die hij zeven jaar onafgebroken vervulde. Hij stond aan het hoofd van een coalitie-regering, waarvan zijn eigen Onaf-

hankelijke partij en de sociaal-demokraten deel uitmaakten.

Aangenomen wordt dat Benediktsson zal worden opgevolgd door minister van justitie Hastein, die eveneens lid is van de Onafhankelijke partij.



Een archieffoto die twee jaar geleden werd gemaakt van premier Benediktsson en zijn echtgenote, die vrijdagochtend omkwamen toen hun zomerresidentie afbrandde. — (AP)

GROEP
SEGHERS
D i-es i-ræ, di-es il-la,
VITALITEIT
Obsédé par la mort, vivre est une passion.

rpe

IJSLANDS PREMIER LEVEND VERBRAND

Reykjavik, 10 juli (AFP/UPI). — In de IJslandse hoofdstad Reykjavik werd vrijdag gerouwd om het overlijden van premier Benediktsson die in de nacht van donderdag op vrijdag omkwam toen het zomerhuis waarin hij zich bevond afbrandde. Ook mevrouw Benediktsson en kleinzoon Benedikt kwamen in de vlammen om. Over de oorzaak van de brand was nog niets bekend.

De 62-jarige premier bracht één nacht in de begin deze eeuw gebouwde zomerresidentie door en zou vrijdag in Reykjavik een toespraak houden. Volgens een ooggetuige zag men kort na middernacht vanuit een naburig hotel dat het huis in brand

stond. Voordat de brandweer, die uit het 50 km. verderop gelegen Reykjavik moest komen, ter plaatse was, waren er van de residentie alleen nog smeulende resten over.

Het vrijdagochtend door een duidelijk ontroerde nieuwslezer bekendgemaakte nieuwsverwekte in het land grote verslagenheid. Overal in Reykjavik hingen de vlaggen halfstok en de muziek zond de hele dag rouwmuziek uit.

Bjarni Benediktsson ging in de politiek na eerst een advocatenpraktijk te hebben gehad en rechten te hebben gedoceerd aan de universiteit van Reykjavik. In 1947 werd hij voor het eerst opgenomen in een IJslandse regering en in 1963 werd hij eerste-minister, een functie die hij zeven jaar onafgebroken vervulde. Hij stond aan het hoofd van een coalitie-regering van zijn eigen Onaf-

hankelijke partij en de sociaal-demokraten deel uitmaakten.

Aangenomen wordt dat Benediktsson zal worden opgevolgd door minister van justitie Hastein, die eveneens lid is van de Onafhankelijke partij.



GROEP
SEGHERS
D i - es i - ræ , di - es il - la,
VITALITEIT
Obsédé par la mort, vivre est une passion.



Een archieffoto die twee jaar geleden werd gemaakt van premier Benediktsson en diens echtgenote, die vrijdagochtend omkwamen toen hun zomerresidentie afbrandde.

Uitgeverij : De Standaard
Uitgeverij : Brussel
Date :
Datum : 12. 7. 1970

IJslands premier ^{pe}levend verbrand

Reykjavik, 10 juli (AF-P/UPD). — In de IJslandse hoofdstad Reykjavik werd vrijdag gerouwd om het overlijden van premier Benediktsson die in de nacht van donderdag op vrijdag omkwam toen het zomerhuis waarin hij zich bevond afbrandde. Ook mevrouw Benediktsson en kleinzoon Benedikt kwamen in de nacht

om. Over de oorzaak van de brand was nog niets bekend.

De 62-jarige premier bracht één nacht in de begin deze eeuw gebouwde zomerresidentie door en zou vrijdag in Reykjavik een toespraak houden. Volgens een ooggetuige zag men kort na middernacht vanuit een naburig hotel dat het huis in brand stond. Voordat de brandweer, die uit het 50 km. verderop gelegen Reykjavik moest komen, ter

plaatsse, was, waren er van de residentie alleen nog smeulende resten over.

Het vrijdagochtend door een duidelijk ontroerde nieuwslezer bekendgemaakte nieuws verwekte in het land grote verslagenheid. Overal in Reykjavik hingen de vlaggen halfstok en de muziek zond de hele dag rouwmuziek uit.

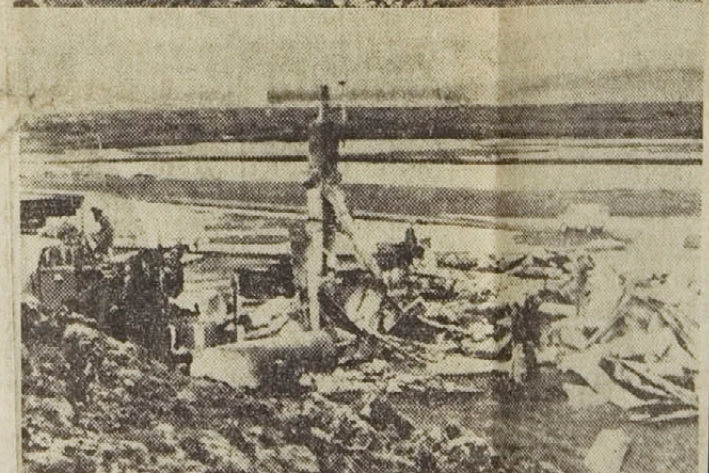
Bjarni Benediktsson ging in de politiek na eerst een advocatenpraktijk te hebben gehad en rechten te hebben gedoceerd aan de universiteit van Reykjavik. In 1947 werd hij voor het eerst opgenomen in een IJslandse regering en in 1963 werd hij eerste-minister, een functie die hij zeven jaar onafgebroken vervulde. Hij stond aan het hoofd van een koalitie-regering waarvan zijn eigen Onafhankelijke partij en de sociaal-demokraten deel uitmaakten.

Aangenomen wordt dat Benediktsson zal worden opgevolgd door minister van justitie Hastein, die eveneens lid is van de Onafhankelijke partij.

* BEIROET. — De Arabisch-Amerikaanse oliemaatschappij (ARAMCO) stelde opnieuw een bedrag beschikbaar voor de hulp aan Palestijnse vluchtelingen. Het gaat hier om de som van 52 miljoen Bfr.



Een archieffoto die twee jaar geleden werd gemaakt van premier Benediktsson en diens echtgenote, die vrijdagochtend omkwamen toen hun zomerresidentie afbrandde. — (AP)



Boven een foto van de zomerresidentie van de IJslandse regering zoals die er uitzag toen de Deense koning Kristiaan X daar in 1930 verbleef. Op de onderste foto wat er van dat huis overbleef na de brand die vrijdag het leven kostte aan premier Benediktsson van IJsland, diens echtgenote en een kleinzoon. — (UPI)

Extrait de : De Nieuwe Gazet

Geknipt uit : Antwerpen

Date :

Datum : 12. 7. 1970

IJslands premier in nachtelijke brand omgekomen

De premier van IJsland, Bjarn Benediktsson, zijn echtgenote en één van hun kleinkinderen, zijn omgekomen bij een brand, die het ministerieel zomerverblijf, Thingvellir, in as legde. De zomerresidentie ligt ongeveer 50 kilometer van de hoofdstad Reykjavik. De premier en zijn familie waren pas op Thingvellir aangekomen om er een vakantie te beginnen. Het buitenverblijf dateert van 1907 en wordt door alle leden van het IJslandse kabinet als zomerresidentie gebruikt. Ze brengen er om beurt hun vakantie door.

Dominee Eirikur Eriksson, die nabij de regeringsresidentie woont, zei dat hij de brand 40 minuten na middernacht opmerkte en alarm gaf. De brandweer moest echter van de hoofdstad komen en toen ze arriveerde was het huis reeds volledig afgebrand.

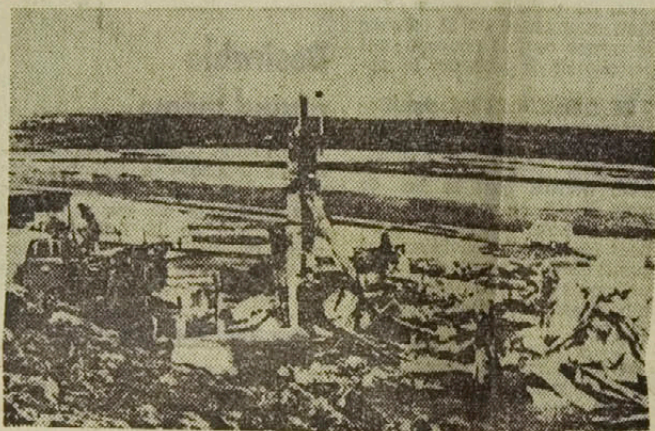
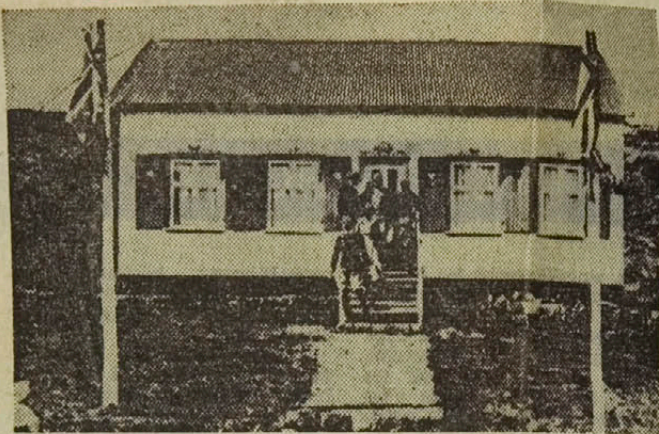
De lichamen van de eerste-minister, zijn vrouw en hun kleinkind, een meisje van vier jaar, werden naar een kapel in Reykjavik overgebracht. In de hoofdstad hingen alle vlaggen halfstok en de radio zond nog slechts ernstige muziek uit. Benediktsson, die gisteren in een kleine stad ten noorden van Reykjavik het woord moest voeren, was van plan geweest zelf slechts één nacht in het zomerverblijf door te brengen.

PETROLEUMSTEL

Een groep Nederlandse studenten, die op weg was naar een hotel, in de buurt, bemerkten de brand. Zij zagen vlammen uit de vensters slaan, renden naar het huis en sloegen op ramen en deuren. Ze zegden dat ze echter niemand in het brandende huis hadden bemerkt.

Toen was er binnen een kleine ontploffing en de Nederlanders renden naar hun hotel en sloegen alarm.

De juiste oorzaak van de brand is nog steeds niet bekend. Ambtenaren achten het echter niet uitgesloten dat hij zou ontstaan zijn door een petroleumstel dat er werd gebruikt. Thingvellir was slechts een klein huis met vier kamers.



La maison de bois avant et après l'incendie.

Le Premier ministre d'Islande sa femme et leur petit-fils, âgé de deux ans, meurent dans l'incendie de leur maison en bois

Le Premier ministre d'Islande, M. Benediktsson (62 ans), sa femme Sigríð (60 ans), et leur petit-fils Benedkt (2 ans), sont morts dans l'incendie qui a ravagé la résidence d'été du Gouvernement islandais.

C'est dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi que la résidence Thingvellir, construite en bois, a brûlé.

M. Benediktsson et sa famille y étaient arrivés jeudi après midi pour y passer la nuit.

C'est vers 1 h. 40 qu'un facteur, qui habite à proximité, a vu la maison en flammes, et a donné l'alerte.

Quand les pompiers de la capitale, située à 60 km, sont arrivés, il n'y avait plus que des décombres.

Les corps carbonisés du Premier ministre, de sa femme et de leur petit-fils ont été trouvés dans leurs lits.

● Selon les premiers éléments de l'enquête, l'incendie aurait été provoqué par le chauffage central au mazout.

Dès que le drame a été connu, les drapeaux ont été mis en berne dans le pays.

M. Benediktsson, juriste et professeur de droit, était entré au gouvernement en 1947 comme ministre des Affaires étrangères et de la Justice, poste qu'il avait occupé jusqu'en 1953. Il était devenu en 1963 chef d'un cabi-

net de coalition formé par son parti (le parti de l'indépendance) et le parti social-démocrate.

Ce sera probablement l'actuel ministre de la Justice, M. Jóhann Hafstein, qui deviendra Premier ministre. Dès que la mort de M. Benediktsson a été connue, un hélicoptère est allé chercher M. Hafstein à sa maison d'été, à 100 km de la capitale.

● La résidence Thingvellir était appelée la « maison royale » parce que le roi Christian X de Danemark y avait passé la nuit en 1930, à l'occasion des festivités commémorant le millénaire du Parlement islandais.

Extrait de : **La Dernière Heure**
Geknipt uit : **Bruxelles**

Date :

11. 7. 1970

Datum :

RC
**Le Premier ministre
d'Islande, sa femme
et son petit-fils,
périssent
dans un incendie**

Reykjavik (Islande) 10 juillet.

Le Premier ministre islandais Bjarni Benediktsson, son épouse et son petit-fils, ont succombé dans un incendie, au cours de la nuit de jeudi à vendredi. — A.P.P.

skjalasafn Reykjavíkur

Extrait de : La Métropole
Geknipt uit : Anvers

Date :

Datum : 12. 7. 1970

Mort du Premier ministre islandais, de sa femme et de son petit-fils dans l'incendie de leur maison

La population islandaise est bouleversée par la disparition soudaine de M. Bjarni Benediktsson, Premier ministre, qui a péri aux premières heures du jour, hier, dans l'incendie de sa résidence d'été, à Tingvellir, à une soixantaine de kilomètres de la capitale.

Sa femme, Sirgrídur, 50 ans, et son petit-fils Benedikt, âgé de quatre ans, ont également péri dans la catastrophe. En plus de l'incendie, il y a apparemment eu une explosion.

La police a immédiatement ouvert une enquête pour essayer de trouver les causes du sinistre qui a ravagé la demeure construite en bois.

C'est un groupe de touristes danois, qui le premier a vu le feu et qui a donné l'alerte. Le temps que les touristes arrivent sur les lieux, la demeure était un véritable brasier et ils ne purent rien faire. Le feu était attisé par un vent violent.

Le ministre de la Justice et de l'Industrie, M. Johann Hastein, a pris la succession par intérim de M. Benediktsson qui était âgé de 62 ans.

D'après les premières informations, le Premier ministre s'était rendu à Tingvellir, jeudi, pour y passer la journée et la nuit.

Il devait parler, vendredi, à une réunion de son parti de l'indépendance (conservateur),

dont il était président depuis des années.

D'après les touristes danois, quelques minutes après le début de l'incendie, une violente explosion a soulevé le toit de la demeure. Quand les pompiers de Reykjavik sont arrivés, une heure plus tard, il ne restait plus rien de la construction.

Les corps des victimes étaient brûlés au point qu'elles étaient difficilement identifiables.

Au moment de la catastrophe, la mère du petit Benedikt, qui est hôtesse des lignes aériennes islandaises, effectuait un vol en direction de New York.

Bien qu'aucun deuil officiel n'ait été décrété, tous les drapeaux étaient en berne, vendredi matin, à Reykjavik. Le radio d'Etat ne diffusait que de la musique classique, et les gens dans tout le pays ne cachaient pas leur peine.

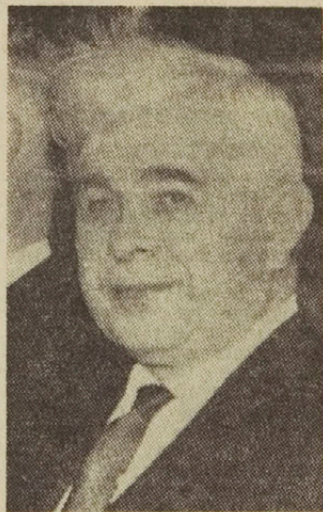
M. Benediktsson était Premier ministre depuis 1963. Il était né le 30 avril 1908, à Reykjavik, il avait étudié le droit dans son pays, puis à Berlin, et à Copenhague.

Professeur d'université jusqu'en 1940, il devint à 32 ans, le plus jeune maire de la capitale. En 1947, il entra dans la politique et devint ministre de la Justice et des Affaires étrangères. C'est en cette qualité qu'il signa le traité de l'indépen-

dance Nord, à Washington, en 1949.

Rédacteur en chef du « Morgunblaðið », il occupa diverses fonctions ministérielles avant d'accéder à son dernier poste.

La résidence d'été du Premier ministre avait été construite sur le site du premier Parlement islandais, en 1930, à l'occasion du millénaire de cette institution.



Le Premier ministre Benediktsson.

Extrait de : **LA PROVINCE**
Geknipt uit **MONS**
Date :
Datum : 11. 7. 1970

Les corps du Premier ministre islandais, de sa femme et de son petit-fils ont été retrouvés dans les cendres

Reykjavik. — L'incendie dans lequel le Premier ministre islandais, M. Bjarni Benediktsson, sa femme et son petit-fils âgé de 2 ans, ont trouvé la mort a été découvert la nuit dernière à 1 h. 40 locales par le pasteur Erikur Eriksson qui demeure près de la résidence d'été du Premier ministre.

Bien que l'alerte ait été donnée immédiatement de l'hôtel proche « Valhal », les pompiers de Reykjavik, à 60 kilomètres de Thinvallason, n'ont trouvé que des cendres à leur arrivée sur les lieux de la catastrophe. Après quelques recherches, les trois cadavres ont été découverts et transférés à la chapelle de Reykjavik.

Selon la police, l'incendie a pu être provoqué par le chauffage central au mazout. Les trois corps carbonisés ont été trouvés dans les lits, ce qui laisse supposer que les trois victimes ont succombé à l'intoxication avant d'être la proie des flammes.

POUR UNE NUIT

Le Premier ministre était arrivé jeudi après-midi avec sa femme et le petit Benedikt à leur maison d'été pour y passer seulement la nuit.

Au cours du week-end, M. Benediktsson devait prendre la parole à une réunion politique dans une petite ville au nord de Reykjavik.

Après l'annonce de la nouvelle tragique, la radio islandaise a diffusé hier matin de la musique funèbre, tandis que les habitants de Reykjavik circulaient silencieusement et que les drapeaux étaient mis en berne.

La maison sinistrée était appelée communément « la maison royale » parce que le roi Christian X de Danemark y passa la nuit en 1930 pendant les festivités commémorant le millénaire de l'Althing, parlement islandais.

On ignore encore qui prendra la succession de M. Benediktsson, mais on suppose que ce sera l'actuel ministre de la Justice, M. Johann Hafstein, du même

parti de l'Indépendance que le Premier ministre défunt. En effet, un hélicoptère serait allé chercher MK Hafstein à sa maison d'été, à 100 kms au nord de Reykjavik.

UNE FIGURE MARQUANTE

Le Premier ministre, M. Bjarni Benediktsson, qui avait 62 ans, était une des figures les plus marquantes de la jeune république islandaise. Il gagna une réputation internationale surtout durant la période pendant laquelle il fut ministre des Affaires étrangères. Il devint Premier ministre en 1963, en remplacement de M. Olafur Thors.

Extrait de : La Cité

Geknipt uit : 12 Bruxelles 7. 1970

Date :

Datum :



Un incendie a coûté, dans la nuit de jeudi à vendredi, la vie au Premier ministre islandais Njarni Benediktsson (voir détails en page 5).

Le Premier ministre islandais, son épouse et son petit-fils morts dans un incendie

Njarni Benediktsson, son épouse et son petit-fils morts dans un incendie.

quantas de la jeune République islandaise. Il gagna une réputation internationale surtout pendant la période pendant laquelle il fut ministre des Affaires étrangères. Il devint Premier ministre en 1963, en remplacement de L. Olafur Thors.

Alerte à l'incendie a été donnée à 1 h 40 du matin, par le fils du Premier ministre, Erikur Eriksson, qui demeure près de la résidence d'été du Premier ministre, mais les lieux de la catastrophe. Les corps des victimes ont été découverts transférés à la chapelle de Reykjavik.

Selon la police, l'incendie a pu être provoqué par le chauffage central au mazout. Les trois corps carbonisés ont été trouvés dans les lits, ce qui laisse supposer que les trois victimes ont succombé à l'intoxication avant d'être la proie des flammes.

Le Premier ministre était arrivé jeudi après midi avec sa femme et le petit Benedikt à leur maison d'été pour y passer seulement la nuit.

Au cours du week-end, M. Benediktsson devait prendre la parole à une réunion politique dans une petite ville au nord de Reykjavik.

Après l'annonce de la nouvelle tragique, la radio islandaise a diffusé hier matin de la musique funèbre, tandis que les habitants de Reykjavik circulaient silencieusement et que tous les drapeaux étaient mis en berne.

La maison sinistrée était appelée communément « la maison royale », parce que le roi Christian X du Danemark y passa la nuit en 1930 pendant les festivités commémorant le millénaire de l'Alting, parlement islandais.

On ignore encore qui prendra la succession de M. Benediktsson, mais on suppose que ce sera l'actuel ministre de la Justice, M. Johann Hafstein, du même parti de l'indépendance que le Premier ministre défunt. En effet, un hélicoptère serait allé chercher M. Hafstein à sa maison d'été, à 100 km au nord de Reykjavik.

Extrait de : **Le Peuple**
Geknipt uit : **Bruxelles**

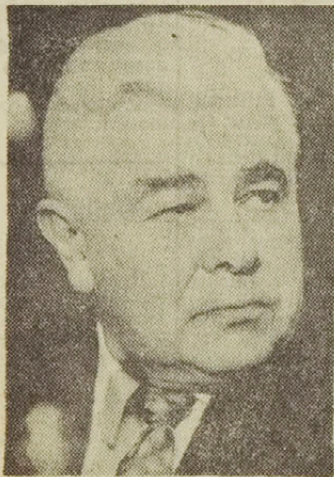
Date :

Datum :

12. 7. 1970

L'ISLANDE EN ÉMOI : Le Premier ministre, sa femme et son petit-fils (4 ans) périssent dans un incendie

Reykjavik, 10. — La population islandaise a appris la disparition soudaine de M. Bjarni Benediktsson, le Premier ministre qui a péri, aux premières heures du jour, dans l'incendie de sa résidence d'été, une maison en bois, à Ting



vellir, à une soixantaine de kilomètres de la capitale.

Sa femme, Sirgridur, cinquante ans et son petit-fils Benedikf, âgé de quatre ans, ont également péri dans la catastrophe. En plus de l'incendie, il y a apparemment eu une explosion.

La police a immédiatement ouvert une enquête pour essayer de trouver les causes du sinistre qui a ravagé la demeure construite en bois. Il pourrait avoir été provoqué par le chauffage central au mazout.

C'est un groupe de touristes danois qui, le premier, a vu le feu et qui a donné l'alerte. Le temps que les touristes arrivent sur les

lieu, la demeure était un véritable brasier et ils ne purent rien faire. Le feu était attisé par un vent violent.

SUITE PAGE 4

Cette double photo nous montre la résidence du Premier ministre islandais avant et après l'incendie, ce qui nous permet de déceler l'importance de ce dramatique sinistre.

(Photo U.P.I.)

