

A message from Mr. Johan Nygaardsvold, Prime Minister
of Norway.

I am very glad to have been given this opportunity to send, on behalf of the Norwegian people and the Norwegian Government, a message to the Government and people of China.

At first sight, it may seem rather strange that the struggle and fate of the Chinese people has been followed with such great interest in Norway, in view of the great geographical distance which separates the two countries. The cultural and commercial links, which exist between Norway and China have, however, proved strong enough to overcome the distance. In this connection the Norwegian merchant fleet, which has carried on its peaceful trade into the interior of China on the great Chinese waterways, has played an important part. Further, the Norwegian missionaries who have been working at different localities in China, have not confined themselves to preach the Christian gospel, but have in their activities shown the great interest they have always taken in the general well-being of the Chinese and ⁱⁿ to open ⁱⁿ the eyes of the Norwegian people to the ancient civilization of China. Norwegian businessmen, writers and students have

collaborated in this work. Thus, I feel justified in stating that the Norwegian people possessed a fair knowledge of Chinese civilization and history even before the present international situation arose.

When the Japanese aggression against the Chinese started, the two people were at once brought much nearer to each other. The two people had one thing in common: They wished to live in peace with all the world and had no ambitions or designs against other countries. Consequently, when China was attacked, the Norwegian people at once felt the strongest sympathy with her plight, a sympathy which grew and became mingled with the greatest admiration as they observed the heroic and successful resistance, which the Chinese offered the strong aggressor.

The signing of the Washington declaration of January 2nd has brought the two countries into the same line in their fight against the aggressor nations and I avail myself of this opportunity to say that one of the dearest hopes of the Norwegian Government, is to see the great Chinese people, free from aggression, pursuing their peaceful work to the benefit of all mankind in a not too distant future.