

Statsminister Gro Harlem Brundtlands tale under Regjerin-
gens lunsj onsdag 27. mai 1981 på Akershus Slott for
Canadas generalguvernør Edward Schreyer og fru Lily Schreyer.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Your
Excellencies Governor General of Canada
and Mrs. Schreyer, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege and a great pleasure for me to
welcome Your Excellencies here today to this luncheon at
the castle of Akershus.

When, in 1290, our ancestors started constructing
this castle, no ties linked us together - for Europe the
great American continent hardly existed.

However, 300 years earlier, almost a 1000 years

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from today, the Norse explorer, Leiv Erikson, had
discovered Newfoundland and settled there - for how long
we do not know.

The Norwegian immigrants in the 19th and 20th
century made our second discovery of Canada.
Thousands of my fellow countrymen found employment and
a new home in Canadian cities, in the farming areas, in
the forests and in the mountains.

The third discovery was made in 1940, but this
one was of a different nature. It was a discovery of
what friendship and alliance really means. For us, for
the occupied nation, "Little Norway" near Toronto
became the symbol of Canadian aid and support for which
we remain deeply thankful.

Today our nations are linked together by a network
of bilateral contacts and of ^{by} memberships in regional
and global organizations as well as ^{by} common viewpoints on a

number of international questions.

Similarities in geographical location and climatic conditions have given our nations simple and practical reasons for collaboration. Closeness in culture and political outlook has facilitated common endeavours. I am confident that the future offers new and extended possibilities for valuable cooperation between our two nations. I shall mention only two: Protection of wildlife in the Arctic, and exploration and exploitation of oil and gas under arctic conditions. But above all, I want to express our gratitude for Canada's readiness to reinforce the Allied defence of Norway if our freedom is threatened.

The many contacts and the long tradition of

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cooperation between our two countries are not surprising. But we also owe much to individuals, first and foremost to two former foreign ministers, Lester Pearson and Halvard Lange, who did so much to strengthen the ties between Canada and Norway.

Your Excellencies' visit to our country represents a milestone in the direct contact between our nations. I am indeed very glad that you have found time to visit different parts of Norway. You will find that conditions of life vary from region to region.

You will see Stavanger, the centre of petroleum operations in the South, the Bodø region and further north to Troms. There, beyond the Arctic Circle, You will see the traditional way of life based on

fisheries, as well as the beginnings of petroleum activities which we hope will give a new impetus to the economic life of our northern regions.

Normally we warn our visitors about the long distances they have to travel when visiting our different regions. This time I will abstain. Canada is 10 times as wide and twice as long as Norway. We wish You a good journey.

I raise my glass to Her Majesty the Queen, their Excellencies the Governor General and Mrs. Schreyer, as well as to the Canadian people.