

Bristol

Gro Harlem Brundtland

DINNER SPEECH, BRISTOL - WEDNESDAY 8 OCTOBER 1986

My Lord Mayor, President of Wildscreen, Lady Scott, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all I would like to thank you, Lord Mayor, for your generous words of welcome and to thank the Bristol Marketing Board for hosting this dinner. I feel confident that I speak on behalf of all the guests here tonight who have come to Bristol from various parts of the world when I assure you how happy we are to be here. We are enjoying the warm hospitality of a most attractive and welcoming city. On this important occasion, the opening of Wildscreen, Bristol is clearly the focus of attention for millions of people who share our concern and hopes for our common future and the challenges facing us.

As Prime Minister of Norway I take particular pleasure in the links Bristol has forged with my country, and it is a particular pleasure to be here in the United Kingdom such a short time after the successful official visit of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to Norway. This visit provided the opportunity for us to establish a close and very open personal relationship.

I would also like to thank Sir Peter Scott, one of the world's most renowned naturalists and a co-founder of the World Wildlife Fund, and IUCN for giving me the opportunity this afternoon to speak about the environment and the way we relate to it. My thanks go to all those who have supported Wildscreen, the World Wildlife Fund, the BBC, Central Independence Television, Survival Anglia, the Bristol and West Building Society, and in particular to Brian Roberts, the Festival Organizer, and Michael Johnsen, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, who have made

Wildscreen happen. In a remarkably short time, Wildscreen has become a major event, clearly well-organized, obviously enjoyable and with a significance which is global. In the World Commission on Environment and Development, we regard this event as an outstanding chance to present some of the thoughts of the Commission. The Earth is one, but the world of man is not. Mankind shares a common origin and a common future. Short-sighted self-interest has misled the human race to over-exploit this troubled planet. We have been heavily overdrawing the account which nature opened to us. But these unsustainable trends can be rectified. We must adopt new strategies to secure a sustainable and common future.

The Commission recognizes that the showing of the films presented here to a world public will have a tremendous impact in awakening the consciousness of people in respect of the challenges we face. We admire the skills and we applaud the objectives of all the participants.

I offer the thanks of all of us who are concerned with leaving the world in better condition than it was in when we inherited it, to Wildscreen and to those who run it, as I declare the Festival of 1986 open.

Thank you.