

Tromsø

Med forbehold om endringer
SPERRET

Gro Harlem Brundtland

STATSMINISTERENS TALE VED FORBUNDSPRESIDENT VON WEIZSÄCKERS
PRIVATE BESØK I TROMSØ 28. SEPTEMBER 1986

Mr. President,
Madame von Weizsäcker,
Excellencies,
Dear guests,

On this last day of your visit to Norway, let me express how much we have appreciated having you as our most welcome guests. I am convinced that your visit has contributed to strengthening the deep feeling of close ties existing today between our two countries in virtually all areas.

In recent years, the production of Norwegian oil and gas on the continental shelf in the North Sea has led to even closer physical ties between Norway and our traditionally close partners bordering on the North Sea. But also the need to strengthen and further develop european cooperation politically and economically are concerns that we share. Your visit will be remembered as a confirmation of and a new stimulus to the broad community of interests which today marks the relations between our two countries, both bilaterally and as regards our conduct in a wider international context.

In your speech at the Akershus Castle on Thursday you also referred to the broader global aspects and challenges as well as to the geo-strategic positions of both Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany. In NATO we share fundamental common interests which lie at the basis of solidarity between Western Europe and North America. At the same time you rightly referred

to the exposed positions of both our countries which call for special efforts on our parts and which makes it necessary for our policies to encompass a wide range of considerations both inside and outside the Alliance.

For Norway it is essential that our policy for security and defence is credible and that it can contribute to stability in the Nordic Area as well as underpin a realistic policy of correct and good neighbourship with the Soviet Union.

We have noted, and highly appreciate your positive assessment of Norwegian policy and efforts to these ends.

Like the Federal Republic of Germany we will continue our active role within the CSCE-process which we see as an important instrument for both stability and peaceful change in Europe. We will work towards balanced results in all main areas of the Helsinki document - in the political, security-political, economic, cultural, as well as in the humanitarian and human rights areas.

Not least the humanitarian and the human rights aspects give a moral force to the CSCE-process which is important.

It is our belief that the CSCE-process over time will bring more contacts, confidence and cooperation in Europe. We know that you share these aims.

Norway and The Federal Republic of Germany will both continue to work actively in this direction. Like The Federal Republic we have welcomed the outcome of the Stockholm Conference as a positive step and as a signal of political will in both East and West to reach concrete results.

Mr. President, I am pleased that your last impression of Norway is of Tromsø and North Norway. We are proud to be able to show you this part of Europe, which is an example of the considerable development our country has undergone during the last generation. You have also been given an idea of the

traditions of coastal Norway, which are being carried further in new economic activities.

This "top of Europe" is not the part of it where "Citronen blühen". And nevertheless, it is a region with great possibilities for the future. Knut Hamsun, whom you mentioned in Trondheim, depicted the region and its people. Bishop Berggrav wrote a book about it called "Land der Spannung".

Tromsø was the point of departure for a number of Arctic expeditions, and it maintained its very own direct connections with Central European capitals. We all have a responsibility for this region. You have demonstrated your recognition of this through your visit here today, and I feel confident that you have perceived the profound sympathy that you have been met with in this, and all other parts of Norway that you have honoured by your visit.

At this moment when your visit to Norway is approaching its end, let me once again stress that our bilateral relations are excellent and free from problems - as they should be among close friends. In fields such as culture, trade, industry, energy and defence we have achieved a lot in a short time. Still there will always be room for growth and improvement. I am convinced, Mr. President, that your visit to Norway will give new impetus to our relations, and, as I said at Akershus, that the friends of the Federal Republic of Germany in Norway will be even more numerous after your visit.

I propose a toast for the Federal President and Mrs. von Weizsäcker, and for continued and strengthened cooperation and friendship between our countries.