

**Fornebu Airport**

**Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland**

**Farewell address at the occasion of the departure from Oslo of His Holiness The Pope John Paul II, 2 June 1989.**

Your Holiness,

As you now leave the capital to continue your pastoral visit in Trondheim and Tromsø, I wish to thank you for the memorable day that you have spent with us in Oslo.

In political as well as religious matters, direct contact and honest dialogue are essential conditions if we are to succeed in addressing common challenges. Your visit to Norway has given us the opportunity to strengthen our relations and broaden our contacts.

It is indeed evidence of the importance that you attach to dialogue and open lines of communication that the first visit of the Pope to Norway is taking place under your reign.

Your visit to Norway has confirmed our respect for the way in which you carry out your mission. You came to us as a friend, and your warm and personal approach has only strengthened our ties of friendship.

Your Holiness, on behalf of the Norwegian government, I wish you and your delegation all the best as you continue your visit in our country and the other Nordic countries. I hope you will return home with many memorable impressions of your visit to Norway.