

Prime Minister
Gro Harlem Brundtland

Greeting upon the arrival in New York of the Viking Fleet,
25 September 1991

Congratulations Ragnar Thorseth. We take great pride in your outstanding achievement. By retracing Leif Eiriksson's voyage in such graceful and superbly sea-worthy Viking ship you have reminded us of the tremendous courage of our ancestors.

This journey has shown us that the people of North America, Norway and Iceland are not separated by the Atlantic Ocean. On the contrary, we are united by the Atlantic and so we shall remain unseparable in the future as well.

The age of discovery and exploration is not over. Humanity must penetrate new frontier land if we are to secure the energy, the food, the air and the water that we shall need for a doubled world population some time in the 21st century. It is our responsibility to protect and develop the resources on Planet Earth so that future generations will be able to pursue sustainable development.

We must pursue our needs today without compromising the ability of future generations to fulfill their needs and aspirations.

These great new challenges face us in the years to come. We will have to make new courageous explorations into uncharted domains. We need innovation, courage, and foresight. We need political will and political change.

Our shrinking world holds no human sanctuaries. There are no shelters that insulate anyone. We owe a duty of care to all the world's people who are our neighbours now.

Let us be inspired by the people of unusual courage and qualities. By the Leifs of yesterday and the Ragnar Thorseths of today.