

Tokyo, 28 January 1992

Prime Minister  
Gro Harlem Brundtland

#### INTRODUCTION - PRESS CONFERENCE

It is an honour and privilege for me to be the first Norwegian Prime Minister to make an official visit to Japan. I was deeply honoured to be received by Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress. I have had extensive constructive talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa, with the leadership of Keidanren, and with prominent representatives of Japanese public life. Tomorrow, we will visit Kyoto, Osaka and Kobe which will give us an opportunity to learn even more about Japan.

We in Norway take a great interest in the rich Japanese culture and its deep historical roots. We are greatly impressed by what Japan has accomplished in such fields as science, technology and the arts. We are eager to acquire more knowledge of Japanese society. This will help us to understand how the Japanese people have been so successful in creating one of the world's leading industrial nations, while at the same time preserving their national identity and maintaining their traditional heritage.

This visit is taking place at a point in history when Japan is becoming an increasingly important global political factor. For Norway, which always has been a staunch supporter of the United Nations, it is heartening to see Japan taking on more and more responsibility with regard to the the international agenda of the 21st century.

Peace, democracy, human rights, environment and development. These are the core issues of the future. These are not separate issues. They are closely linked.

Norway welcomes the Summit Meeting of the United Nations Security Council to be held in New York on 31 January, in which Japan will participate as member of the Security Council.

Japan deserves a great deal of credit for its generous contributions towards UN peace-making and peace-keeping activities and towards ensuring the economic viability of the world organization. We trust that Japan, as a member of the Security Council, will continue to pursue its active, constructive policies in the sphere of regional conflict. This is much appreciated in Norway, which has long traditions and extensive experience from various peace-keeping operations.

We are all aware of Japan's substantial and increasing development assistance and extensive emergency aid to countries struck by disaster. Moreover, Japan has contributed

greatly to the healthy development of the world economy and played an active part in dealing with the refugee problem and other global issues, such as drug trafficking and terrorism. These issues are also given high priority in my own country.

Moreover, I am aware that Japan attaches great importance to environmental issues, a field with which I myself am deeply concerned.

Japan and Tokyo are very special to me in this context as the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development was adopted here in Tokyo five years ago on 27 February 1987. On that date the Commission, which the Secretary General of the United Nations had asked me to chair, also issued the Tokyo Declaration comprising key conclusions of the Commission.

The UN conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro this June will give all countries an opportunity to demonstrate their willingness to assume the necessary commitments and responsibilities for environment and development. It is essential that our ambitions for the Rio Conference correspond to the nature and magnitude of the problems facing us.

Above all we must be uncompromising in our determination to eradicate poverty. Poverty is both a cause and an effect of the devastating environmental breakdowns in many developing countries which is threatening vital life support systems on which future generations depend.

If we do not succeed in mobilizing new and additional financial resources for global environmental purposes, funding for environmental measures will inevitably be taken from sources currently earmarked for development.

In the current negotiations on a world climate convention, Norway has proposed an approach based on a cost-effective implementation of the targets set to limit global emissions of greenhouse gases. We need global and/or regional targets to curb emissions of such gases.

The parties to the climate convention should be encouraged to implement its provisions individually or in cooperation with others. This would encourage investments in countries where significant reductions could be achieved at lower costs than in high-cost countries. It would tap new sources of capital, encouraging the private sector to take part.

I would like to turn to the economic relations between our countries.

I am pleased to be able to say that the economic relations between Japan and Norway are excellent. However, many opportunities for expansion and development in industrial

cooperation and trade between our countries remain to be explored.

Norwegian consumers comprise a reliable market for Japanese products. Every third new car in Norway is Japanese. Japanese industrial companies are major suppliers to the oil activities on the Norwegian continental shelf. Idemitsu is now actively engaged in exploration and exploitation of oil in Norway.

Since the beginning of the seventies, this sector has grown and become a major part of the Norwegian economy. Norway numbers among the top ten countries with respect to petroleum production and reserves. Sixty per cent of Western Europe's remaining proven oil reserves, and approximately half of remaining proven natural gas reserves, are found on the Norwegian continental shelf.

In 1991 our oil production averaged 1.9 million barrels per day (mbd.). This year it will average 2.0 mbd., and it is expected to increase further to 2.5 mbd. in the mid 1990s.

On the basis of proven reserves, our present level of gas production can be sustained for 100 years.

Our cooperation covers a wide range of fields. As we, like Japan, are one of the world's major fisheries nations, we are proud to serve the quality-minded Japanese market.

12% of our fish exports go to Japan.

These success stories have inspired us to adopt a new approach in our long-term economic relations with Japan. In close cooperation with JETRO, the Norwegian Trade Council has initiated a new project called "Access Japan" aimed at increasing our trade in high-quality products.

Our countries share a history of excellent relations in the maritime sector. Today 31 Norwegian vessels (3.1 mill dwt) are on order at Japanese yards. Last year approximately 3500 ships flying the Norwegian flag called at Japanese ports. Due to their competence and important roles in the maritime sector, Japan and Norway are particularly well suited to cooperate both commercially and politically, in the promotion of safe, reliable and professional shipping services.

In closing, it is my hope that a new chapter in relations between our countries is being opened. Let us encourage mutual investments and cooperation. Let us promote increased contacts between Japan and Norway. Let us visit each other and learn more about each other. You are all heartily welcome to come to Norway.

The Olympic Games in Tokyo and Sapporo in 1964 and 1972 focussed world attention on Japan. In 1994, the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer Norway will draw similar attention to

Norway - the land of winter sports. And if we are lucky, pictures from the forthcoming olympics in Albertville France will show Norwegian slalom ace Finn Christian Jagge doing real well on his Japanese Yamaha skis.