



## PRIME MINISTER GRO HARLEM BRUNDTLAND

Speech at the State Dinner hosted by H.E. President Soeharto of the Republic of Indonesia

Jakarta, 18 September 1995

Mr. President, Mrs. Tien Soeharto, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, Mr. President, I would like to express my sincere appreciation of the generous words you have just extended to my country and to me personally.

It is a great honour to be your official guest, and to be able to pay my respects to you and to the people of Indonesia, particularly in connection with the 50th anniversary of the independence of Indonesia.

After 50 years as an independent country, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world, with a vital, expanding economy - one that in the space of a generation has attained middle-income status. It is also a country whose voice carries increasing political weight. Indonesia is today a source of global and regional peace and stability.

We know and value the role your country has played as a founding member of the non-aligned movement since its inception in Bandung, its leading role in the ASEAN and in the foundation of the APEC, and for decades in the United Nations where you now serve us all as a member of the Security Council.

We would like to commend your many important achievements in advancing your nation's potential. Mr. President, you have been distinguished with the United Nations Population Award in 1989 and you received the UNESCO prize in 1993 for advancing education in your country. And in connection with the commemoration of your independence you made a series of forceful statements declaring your ambitions for social and democratic development of your nation.

In a sense I have returned to Indonesia today. I first visited your country ten years ago as the leader of the World Commission on Environment and Development, which held its first meeting outside the UN headquarters here in Jakarta.

That meeting was made possible through the grace of your government and with the help of our distinguished Commission member, the honorable Emil Salim.

I recalled then, in 1985, the words of the great naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace, a contemporary of Darwin's whose findings here in Java helped form the premises for his theory of evolution. Wallace wrote: "Taking it as

a whole, Java is probably the very finest and most interesting tropical island in the world".

The riches of your country, and our common responsibility for safeguarding the natural resource base on which future generations will depend, make it natural for us to work together in the cause of sustainable development. We are now in the process of signing agreements on environmental cooperation that are a continuation of the links established years ago. We are also establishing a Norway-Indonesia Business Council, and I would like to say a few words on why I believe we have much to gain by working together in these fields.

Norway and Indonesia have much in common. Like Indonesia, we are young in terms of sovereignty, but old as a nation. We are both maritime states, dependent on communication by sea. We both base our economic development on rich natural resources.

Like Indonesia, Norway is an oil-producing country. Like Indonesia we have jurisdiction over large expanses of ocean and sea-bed.

During the years of European colonialism in Asia, Norway was absent from the region. Now we wish to establish a more visible Norwegian presence in Asia in general, and in your country in particular, based on equal partnership and mutual benefit.

The companies represented in my delegation, and indeed the Norwegian business community as a whole, have opted for long-term involvement, in close cooperation with Indonesian partners.

They are ready to invest in the people who work with them in Indonesia, providing training and opportunities that will in turn benefit your country. They represent state-of-the-art technology and management principles which are there for your people to share.

Based on his impressions today of what Norwegian companies can offer, State Minister Habibie proposed to arrange a technology seminar to see how great is the potential that could be unleashed through our partnership. I welcome this initiative.

We realize that it is a Herculean task to adjust to the demands of the global economy. We are impressed by your Government's dedication in continuing on the path towards deregulation, and in including foreign companies in the development of Indonesian industry and services. This was made clear at the World Bank's Indonesia Consultative Group Meeting this summer, where Norway took an active part.

Earlier today we witnessed the signing of important contracts between Norwegian and Indonesian partners. My Government wholeheartedly supports the development of a partnership between Indonesia and Norway in the many fields where we can be of assistance to each other.

Indonesia achieved recognition for the archipelago principle during the long years of negotiations leading up to the Law of the Sea Treaty. I am



pleased that a Norwegian company will be helping to develop a digital sea-mapping system in Indonesia, and to chart the sea and seabed of the Indonesian archipelago. The Norwegian Government has made development funds available for this and for other projects, such as the sea water monitoring program known as Seawatch Indonesia.

During my visit the Norwegian Export Council has established formal relations with Kadin, and our Ministers have signed an important Memorandum of Understanding on energy cooperation.

Both our countries will gain from an open dialogue on a broad range of topics. We know that we have a lot to learn from closer contact with Indonesia and the countries of Asia. Asia has given the world several major religions, the wisdom of its philosophical thoughts and the diversity of its age old cultures and civilizations.

A dialogue between Norway and Indonesia should be broadly based. We fully appreciate that your people have fought important battles for the cause of human rights by resisting colonialism, and by paving the way for the advance away from poverty towards economic development, health, education and social rights. And we know about the suffering inflicted upon the people of Indonesia under colonial rule. In the years ahead I believe the process of improvement of human rights will be strengthened.

All countries are now irrevocably exposed to the scrutiny of the world press as well as to international public opinion. There is hardly a government in the world that safely can say that they always take pleasure in what the press has to say about them. But we all thrive on the benefits of a more open world.

You have said, Mr. President, that you are still not satisfied with what has been achieved. My wishes for the people of Indonesia, entering the second half century of independence, is that they will succeed in making the transition - towards sustainable development - and that Indonesia will become a prosperous nation based on human dignity and worth. May the words of Alfred Russel Wallace hold true fifty years from now, and far into the future, by every standard by which human progress is measured.

I would like to propose a toast to President and Mrs. Soeharto, to the people of Indonesia and to the future relations between our two countries.