

7 April 1990

It is still unclear how many lives have been lost in the tragic fire on board Scandinavian Star. But we do know that we are faced with one of the most serious accidents which have ever taken place in Norwegian waters.

Our thoughts go to the bereaved - to all those who now feel profound sorrow, hopelessness and uncertainty.

Tragedies of this kind affect individuals and families. But they also affect the entire nation. Therefore our flag will be at half mast - today and tomorrow - as a visible sign of the loss we all feel. We share the sorrow of those who have lost their relatives and friends, and we join them in their grief.