

Statsminister

Kåre Willoch

Middagstale 2. juli 1982 i Paris' rådhus.

Monsieur le Maire, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Au nom des participants à la cinquième réunion des chefs de partis de l'Union Démocratique Européenne et de tous ceux qui sont vos hôtes à cette réunion, j'ai l'honneur de vous exprimer, Monsieur le Maire, la gratitude des invités pour l'excellent accueil que vous nous avez réservé et pour votre chaleureuse hospitalité.

Nous sommes tous très heureux d'avoir cette occasion de visiter votre belle cité et de participer à cette réunion et à ce dîner dans votre Hôtel de Ville.

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Nous nous trouvons dans un milieu impressionnant dans une atmosphère saturée de riches traditions. L'effort personnel que vous avez fourni et les grands honneurs que vous avez mérités à cette occasion, sont bien connus et respectés par tous.

I should also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our chairman, Dr Alois Mock, on his re-election as the leader of the EDU and to thank him and his colleagues in the EDU leadership for their skilful direction of our organization. We are grateful to know that Dr Mock and Dr Khol are taking on a new period of office.

The privilege has been given to me to address an audience comprising so many distinguished personalities, including several future prime ministers of Western Europe. In the four short years since its inception, the European Democratic Union, has, in my view and I think the records confirm this, succeeded in achieving significant results. In this way, our organization has justified its existence. It has also showed that the EDU is here to stay. Our union of democratic parties must be reckoned with as a political fact and factor in our part of the world.

The Conservative and Christian Democratic parties in Western Europe have acquired a form of cooperation, which is well adjusted to our common ambitions and attitudes. The collaboration will, of course, reveal certain differences as regards our approach to the tasks and challenges facing us. At the same time, the cooperation will indeed emphasize the greater similarities between us. In both ways, we benefit greatly from the interesting information and experienced considerations which other party colleagues are willingly sharing with us. Our reunions also give us an ample opportunity to present our position on important issues to leading political representatives, in and outside government. On this basis we work out and formulate our joint views and positions on international questions of common concern, taking an due

regard national considerations. Through this dialogue and exchanges of views, our cooperation therefore takes on international significance.

In the carrying out our daily work we are all dedicated to the respect for the rights of the individual, the strengthening of the rule of law and the right of private ownership. We must make the necessary adjustments and give the right impetus to the economy to get it going again. Competition must replace restrictions^{and} bureaucracy. Growth inhibiting laws and regulations must be abolished.

In foreign affairs, one of our main objectives 6. is to safeguard national security. This necessitates a position of consistent attitudes in east-west relations. It also calls for a sufficiently credible national defence effort, combined with a commitment to negotiate for arms control and disarmament. But above all, it requires of us that we stand firmly together. Consequently, in the ongoing negotiations in Geneva we must make it abundantly clear and convincing to the other side that both parts of the Alliance double track decision from December 1979 will be fully implemented if they do not dismantle their SS 20. This is the only way in which a real reduction in such arms can^{now} be achieved. This is also the only way which can lead to a lasting peace.

7.

Monsieur le Maire, nous sommes heureux de constater la confiance accordée à vous-même comme à votre parti, confiance qui vous a permis d'assurer et de diriger le développement de votre belle ville. A nouveau je tiens à vous remercier de votre généreux accueil ce soir et pendant toute la durée de la réunion, et je vous souhaite le plus grand succès dans l'accomplissement de votre tâche.