

STATSMINISTERENS TALE I ANLEDNING REGJERINGENS MIDDAG FOR
TIDLIGERE PRESIDENT OG FRU CARTER PÅ HOLMENKOLLEN HOTELL
MANDAG 3. MAI 1982.

I have the great pleasure and privilege, on behalf of the Norwegian Government, to bid heartily welcome to this dinner, the 38th President of The United States of America and Mrs. Carter. I take it that in addition to the principal function - to address the seminar on Wednesday, you will also be treated to the new Norwegian dish for prominent foreign visitors to this country - a helicopter visit to one of the oil installations in the North Sea.

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Given the nature of such an excursion it would, perhaps, be a little unrealistic to wish that your trip there will be comfortable or pleasant. But interesting it will certainly be, and impressive, we think. Oil, our newest source of wealth - and economic irresponsibility and headache, is at the same time a major example of fruitful industrial cooperation between our two countries.

Before moving on with these words of welcome, I would like to thank you for the very frank conversation which we had just before this party, and which I found most interesting and stimulating. During that conversation, it was only natural for me to note that last week we were once again reminded of one of the significant initiatives to achieve regional and world peace during your White House

years. I am, of course, referring to the Camp David accords - "the framework for peace in the Middle East" - which were initiated, negotiated and concluded under your direction and leadership - and gentle pressure.

I expect that this important issue will come up in the panel's response and in the general debate following your lecture on Wednesday. A presidential perspective on "The Changing Role of the United States in the World" surely will command a very special interest.

This matter certainly is of paramount importance to Norway - a small Alliance member in a complex strategic position who relies on NATO solidarity and United States security guarantee to support her own defence efforts.

Even the relationship between the USA and Western Europe has to be adapted to major changes in the world as a whole. But the basic need for cooperation and unity between the democracies on both sides of the Atlantic, to protect and develop common values and interests, remain unchanged.

In Europe, the members of the European Community are strengthening the ties between themselves through ever closer cooperation on foreign policy matters in addition to their economic endeavours. Norway, although not a member of the EC, seeks the closest possible contact with this European political cooperation. But we do hope and believe that this will never face us with a choice between the U.S.

and Europe. At any rate, we will endeavour to avoid circumstances which could create such a situation.

In this connection, it is of great importance that the NATO-alliance should continue to promote both of its two main objectives - security and detente. On the basis of balanced and adequate strength, we must go on to strive to obtain a better understanding and more comprehensive cooperation between East and West.

Mr. President and Mrs. Carter, you are a most welcome couple in Norway. You have arrived at spring-time - a time of hope and expectations. You are among good friends. I might even say that in a way you are among old friends, in

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spite of the fact that most of us have not had the honour to meet you before.

In concluding, Mr. President and Mrs. Carter, I wish you most welcome to Norway, and all personal success in the future.