

TALE AV STATSMINISTER KÅRE WILLOCH UNDER MIDDAG FOR  
TANZANIAS STATSMINISTER C.D. MSUYA, PÅ AKERSHUS SLOTT,  
TIRSDAG DEN 16. NOVEMBER 1982

Mr. Prime Minister - Distinguished Guests:

It is my great honour and pleasure on behalf of the Norwegian government to wish you all welcome to Akershus Castle tonight.

A special warm welcome goes to you, Prime Minister Msuya, our Guest of Honour tonight, and to the other members of your delegation.

I do know that you have visited our country before. I, therefore, feel confident that you have already experienced that Tanzania enjoys a high measure of goodwill among Norwegians.

The foundation of the close and friendly relationship between our two countries was laid by the first visit to Norway by your highly respected President, Julius Nyerere, in 1963. Since then we have seen several official visits both ways. In 1981 Their Royal Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess were welcomed in Tanzania.

I am happy to be able to state that the relationship between our two countries is not merely an official relationship, but also a people-to-people

relationship, the latter being by far the most important.

Under our programmes for development co-operation a large number of Norwegians have over the years lived and worked in your country and among your people.

Quite a few Tanzanians have also visited Norway, some of them being young people, who have come here for studies at our universities or for more practical training in various fields.

In the course of this process, personal friendships have developed and a good basis has been created for a deeper understanding and further co-operation between our two countries.

Tanzania is today the most important bilateral partner for Norway, when it comes to development co-operation. We are aware of the serious economic problems facing your country. As part of our commitment to continue the bilateral development co-operation, we are ready to discuss with you how to put the assistance to its most proper and effective use.

From our engagement in development co-operation there has emerged among Norwegians a deeper interest in African affairs in general. We are aware of the manifold problems on the African continent. And through the development co-operation, which we have gradually extended to a number of African countries and to such

regional groupings as the Southern Africa Development Co-ordination Conference, we are trying to make our contribution to their solution.

You will also find in Norway a genuine concern about the grave and unhappy situation in Southern Africa, where the plights of so many African countries and peoples, including your own, are involved.

In 1980 Zimbabwe finally attained independence in peace at the conference table, after many years of struggle and suffering. At Lancaster House statesmanship prevailed. We noted the constructive role played on that occasion by your distinguished President in his capacity as the Chairman of the African Front Line States.

It is our most earnest hope that wisdom and statesmanship will guide the parties to a peaceful solution to the Namibia-conflict as well.

The spirit in which progress has been made possible so far, must prevail, so that the final obstacles can be overcome. We all sincerely hope for the attainment of independence in peace by Namibia, which will represent a triumph for Africa as well as for the entire international community.

In the interdependent world of ours, wellbeing and peace for all can be brought about only through joint efforts by all of us.

The co-operation between Norway and Tanzania, is a small contribution to a global process, the final outcome of which must be a new and more equitable world order.

In concluding, I want you all to join with me in a toast to our distinguished guest of honour here tonight, to Prime Minister Msuya and to the continued friendship and close co-operation between our two countries and peoples.