

Mr. Vice-President and Mrs. Bush,
Ambassador and Mrs. Austad,
ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the very nice words of welcome which you so kindly addressed to my wife and myself this evening. We fully share your evaluation of the kinship and friendship between our two peoples and of the cordial and close relations between our two countries and governments.

On the day of your arrival to Norway, that
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is, of your second arrival, I had the pleasure to accompany you to the AF-North Head-Quarters outside Oslo, where we met with the officers and men, who at the command post level, and in cooperation with the Norwegian forces, will be responsible for the direction of the defence of the Northern land and sea areas. Your visit, Mr. Vice-President, underlines the importance of the joint Alliance efforts to deter war if possible and to defend us if necessary.

The political talks, which we had this morning, gave us the possibility to cover a wide field of

(subjects, both east-west)

subjects, both east-west and other international questions, as well as bilateral matters. We are, on our side, most satisfied with this exchange of views, and not the least with the opportunity^{thus} provided us to hear the position of the United States as presented by its Vice-President.

We are at the end of your visit and we regret that you will be leaving us already tomorrow morning. You will, I hope, promise us that you will both return to Norway on future visits, official or private, at your own request. We have enjoyed very much having you as our private and official guests, and we have highly valued this
(opportunity to continue)

opportunity to continue and to develop the personal friendship and the contacts already established.