

## STATSMINISTER WILLOCHS BESØK I CHINA

TALE UNDER VELKOMSTBANKETTEN I BEIJING 18. NOVEMBER 1984

Mr. Prime Minister,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the warm words of welcome you have addressed to my wife and myself and to my delegation. Your kind words testify to the long tradition of hospitality so prominent in Chinese history and culture.

I have indeed been looking forward with great anticipation to visiting your country. I was in China 10 years ago, and I am aware that much has happened in the meantime. Although I have tried to follow the developments in your country from afar, I am very conscious of the truth of the Chinese proverb "seeing is believing". Therefore my wife and I very much appreciate this opportunity to see for ourselves the progress you have made over these years.

Recently, China celebrated the 35th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic. The results you have achieved, particularly during recent years, are indeed impressive. You have already implemented far-reaching reforms which have substantially increased your agricultural production. I have also learned that at the recent Third Plenary Session of the 12th Central Committee you decided to undertake new far-reaching reforms. The meetings you have arranged and the places we shall visit

will certainly give us a broader basis for understanding and appreciating both what you have already achieved and what you intend to achieve.

We have noted with great interest your decision to engage in closer economic and technical cooperation with other countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. For her part, Norway has over the years enjoyed positive results of such a policy. This brings me to one of the main purposes of my visit: to contribute to the further expansion of the economic relations between our two countries, be it trade in goods and services, or industrial cooperation.

Today, we have a number of opportunities for such increased economic relations. Although Norway is a small country, our industry is capable of providing goods and services conducive to economic development. Over the years Norwegian industry has developed special expertise and technology in several fields, such as offshore petroleum exploration, shipping and ships' equipment, hydro-electric power, energy-intensive products, data technology and fisheries. We know that competition is strong in China, but we have proved to be competitive in other markets when quality, transfer of technology, training and maintenance are taken into account.

Trade between our two countries is now on the increase. Machinery and equipment constitute a greater part of the total than before. Norwegian companies are

also interested in establishing joint ventures and other forms of economic cooperation with Chinese organizations.

In addition to the economic cooperation between our two countries, I also feel that more attention should be given to cultural exchange. China's rich cultural heritage, as well as her interest in impulses from the outside - music, literature, theatre, paintings, sports - should encourage us to increase our cultural cooperation and person-to-person contact. At the same time it is encouraging that important cultural events are taking place, and we look forward with great expectations to the exhibition in Oslo of the terracotta figures of warriors and horses of the Qin Dynasty.

Norwegians share the desire of the Chinese people for peace and security in freedom. This is not only a question of our own national security, but also of safeguarding world peace.

Our discussions during your memorable visit to Norway last June, Mr. Prime Minister, showed that we have common views on many international issues and I feel confident that our talks tomorrow will confirm that impression. I readily concur with your view - as stated on a recent occasion - that peace and development are the two major concerns of the peoples of all countries today. These two concepts are inter-related. There can be no lasting peace without development, and no development without peace. A serious impediment to the attainment of

both objectives is the present arms race. Large amounts of money are being spent on armaments, but it does not make the world a safer place to live. Every effort should be made to halt the arms race and to get negotiations started again. We welcome the increasingly active role and participation of China, as a great power, in the area of disarmament and arms control.

One of the greatest challenges facing mankind is the increasingly dire plight of millions of people in the poorest countries. These countries are extremely vulnerable to international economic fluctuations, while at the same time lacking the basic pre-conditions for more rapid economic development. We have noticed with great respect the constructive role played by China in the relations between developing nations and in North - South dialogue.

Norway is, quite naturally, paying great attention to developments in Europe and in the Atlantic community, which are so instrumental to the maintenance of peace and security in our part of the world. But, in spite of our distant location we have become more and more aware of the great and rapidly growing importance to the whole world of the Pacific and Southeast Asian basin, where China quite naturally plays such a fundamental role. This makes familiarity with all aspects of Chinese policies and development so necessary for us.

Mr. Prime Minister, I consider my visit to your country to be a further confirmation of the already extensive, but steadily growing cooperation between our two countries, and also as an affirmation of the excellent personal relations established by your visit to Norway.

In concluding, Mr. Prime Minister, permit me to express my gratitude for your very kind invitation to visit your great country and to thank you again for your most generous words of welcome. I would then ask everybody present to join me in a toast to you, Mr. Prime Minister, to your good health and wellbeing and to the continued, prosperous development of the good and friendly relations between China and Norway.