

Utkast til statsministeren Willochs tale under banketten i Shanghai 21. november 1984.

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(Mr. Mayor)

I have been looking forward to visiting this important industrial city of Shanghai and to seeing more of the urban and industrial modernization of China. I have during the first few days of my stay in China already seen many impressive indications of the improvements which have taken place in China during recent years.

I believe that Norwegian industry can offer goods, technology and services relevant to your programme for economic development. There is ample room for expansion of existing contacts and for the establishment of new economic links between our two countries.

Norway and China may be geographically separated, but we have many things in common. We have both long coastlines and consequently we have both well developed maritime traditions and activities. In this context Shanghai has a special place. The city is well known to numerous Norwegians, especially to members of our merchant navy and our shipping people. Norwegian ships are now increasingly being built by Shanghai shipyards. Norwegian ships' gear is produced under license in this town. A

point worth particular mention is the existing cooperation in the field of maritime training, a sector which contributes to further improvement of the professional ability of the Chinese merchant fleet.

Good commercial and industrial contacts have also been established in other fields. Our industry is interested in further cooperation in offshore activities, petrochemical industry, hydro power development, energy intensive products, electronics and data technology and fisheries. The Norwegian built fishing research vessel "Bei Dou" which we have visited today, is an example of the high technology of Norwegian industry.

Shanghai is a very active and internationally oriented industrial center. This has been noted with great interest by the industry in my country. Our cooperation may take many forms, but it should be based on the well-known Chinese principle of equality and mutual benefit.

In wishing you all luck and progress in your future endeavours, let me (Mr. Mayor) propose a toast to the friendly relations between our two countries and to your personal good health.