

Utkast til statsminister Willochs tale ved banketten i
Shenzhen 23. november 1984.

Mr. Mayor

This visit to Shenzhen economic zone has been a most interesting experience for all Norwegian participants.

Let me first tell you how impressed I am by the economic results China has achieved in the past four-five years. The role the economic zones have played in this process is certainly important. The economic zones seem to operate as catalysts for economic growth and development. The results achieved since my last visit to China 10 years ago are indeed striking.

China and Norway have long-standing diplomatic and economic relations. My visit to China constitutes a further consolidation of these relations.

In the bilateral economic field there is, however, room for a considerable enlargement of our contacts. Good examples of the opportunities are shipping and ships' gear, offshore activities, hydro-electric power, fisheries and electronics.

Despite the cooperation which already exists I have during my visit come to the conclusion that there are still ample room for extended economic cooperation. Our endeavours in this respect must therefore be continued and intensified.

With regard to the activities of Norwegian companies in Shenzhen, I would especially like to mention that Norsk Hydro has built and operates a bagging terminal for fertilizers. This is in practical terms an eloquent expression of Norwegian/Chinese cooperation.

It is my firm belief that Shenzhen will play an important role in China's economic development in the years to come. Shenzhen will undoubtedly be the origin of many constructive ideas for growth and development. Therefore I hope that Norwegian companies to a larger extent will consider the opportunities which Shenzhen may offer, to the mutual benefit of our two countries.

By way of conclusion let me propose a toast to the friendly relations and the future good cooperation between Norway and China and to the success of Shenzhen special economic zone.