

Statsministerens velkomstord ved middagen for general
Rogers i Rusta messe tirsdag 13. mars 1984 kl. 2000.

Dear General,

Gentlemen,

I am happy and privileged to have this opportunity to reciprocate the warm hospitality which I enjoyed at your Headquarters during my visit to SHAPE in November last year. You are most heartily welcome to Northern Norway and to this table. And it is my hope that we will have a pleasant evening together.

This occasion also provides me with an opportunity,

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General, to express some words of honour to you. In your combined capacity as Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Commander-in-Chief of American Forces in Europe, you are carrying a heavy responsibility which you execute with great dedication and sincerity. As an accomplished "soldier-diploma" you are commanding the greatest respect among the allies, not the least in my own country.

To my countrymen, you are a well-known personality from the numerous contacts both in Norway and at SHAPE and NATO Headquarters. Allow me, therefore, to express our appreciation for the active interest which you have always taken as regards the defense problems of the Northern flank and of Norway.

We have both come to Bardufoss on this occasion to be present at the joint and combined Allied exercises "Avalanche Express" and "Team Work". The purpose is to test our forces together under winter conditions and to practice reinforcement plans for Northern Norway. At the same time we wish to express NATO determination and allied Solidarity, and to demonstrate A.M.F. (Allied Mobile Force) capability for rapid deployment in Northern Norway.

In concluding, I would also like to express a warm word of welcome to the other gentlemen around this table. You are all actively engaged, on the military and on the civilian side, in the various aspects of our total defense efforts. You are also very much involved in the present exercises.