

Statsministerens velkomst.

Regjeringens lunsj i Parkveien 45 fredag 29/6-1984
kl. 1315 i anledning EDU-møtet.

I have the privilege to bid you all heartily welcome to the Government Guest House here in Oslo. The Norwegian Government is most honoured to have the opportunity provided by the 7th Party Leaders Conference of the European Democrat Union to host this luncheon. We are indeed very pleased to see that so many of the party leaders and other guests have found it possible to come to Oslo and to accept our invitation this afternoon. It is my hope that the very friendly and good atmosphere which characterized our dinner yesterday and the working session this morning, will prevail to the benefit also of this luncheon.

The Party Leaders Conferences are important to all of us. They give us an opportunity to exchange information and views on some of the national and international questions which we are faced with in our daily political work. On the basis of our discussions we seek to reach at agreed or coordinated positions. In this process we have the advantage of being guided by the same general political and moral principles. The conclusions we arrive at are

important to our own organizations. But the significance of our deliberations have a wider impact. The decisions and recommendations of the party leaders of what may be termed the World Democratic Union, also becomes an integral and important part of national and international politics and public opinion. The significance of this fact adds to our other responsibilities and will no doubt be reflected in the final document from the Conference.

Our meetings are, of course, important work sessions. But they also give us an opportunity to meet with old and new political friends and colleagues to exchange views on a more private basis, or just to have a good chat. I hope that the Oslo Conference will provide us with all these possibilities.

With these few words it is my pleasure to propose a toast to the 7th Party Leaders Conference of the EDU and express the hope that we will have a fruitful meeting.