

Tale ved den offisielle middag i Budapest.

-----

Mr. Prime Minister, Madam Lazar, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, for your kind invitation to my wife and myself to visit Hungary, and for the most pleasant welcome we have enjoyed here in Budapest.

This is my first visit to your country, and to this beautiful city which is so rich in culture and tradition, and I am most grateful for the interesting programme you have arranged for us.

I regard your invitation and my visit here as a positive expression of the good and friendly relations which have developed between our two countries. It is true that Hungary and Norway have different historical traditions and are geographically apart, but this has not prevented the development of broad contacts between us. These contacts have found expression in a frequent exchange of political visits at various levels, which we consider useful and necessary for furthering mutually advantageous cooperation and understanding between our two nations. I therefore hope, Mr. Prime Minister, that you and your wife will find an opportunity to pay a visit to Norway before long.

The volume of our bilateral trade is rather small, but I am convinced that the new long-term trade agreement which was signed in Oslo last month will prove to be an important instrument for the expansion of our trade relations.

My Government supports strongly a further development of the far too modest Norwegian-Hungarian economic relations, though - as you know - the final decisions in Norway are made by the individual firms. All projects must be commercially viable. With a total foreign trade in goods and services of yearly close to 45 billion US dollars Norway does not aim at a balanced trade with each individual country. We do hope that the further development of the Hungarian and Norwegian economies, and the closer contact that has developed between business circles in our two countries, will result in a substantial increase in our economic relations.

The cultural cooperation between Norway and Hungary seems adequate and efficient, and represents an important contribution to the relations between our two countries. In September we will even have an anniversary in this field: the formal cultural agreement between Hungary and Norway will then have been operative for 10 years. Hungarian culture is highly regarded in my country, particularly in the field of music, where names like Liszt, Bartok and Kodaly bear witness to the importance of Hungarian music and to its universality. What is more, Hungarian music teaching institutions and methods have an international reputation.

Our two countries belong to different alliances. We are, however, both of us European nations with a common interest in stable East/West-relations and in increased contacts across the dividing lines in our part of the world. We are, each in our own way, part of the great European cultural and political pattern, which displays exceptional diversity and rich historical traditions, and which embraces the peoples from North Cape to Sicily, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Urals.

Mr. Prime Minister,

Over the last years East/West relations have been characterized by distrust and lack of dialogue. In Norway, therefore, we regard the results of last week's meeting between the Soviet and American Foreign Ministers as encouraging, because they open up the prospect of talks on all the important elements in the American/Soviet military balance, and of taking a comprehensive view of these elements and their interrelationship.

We are perhaps on the threshold of a more constructive phase in East/West-relations. We must, however, take into account the possibility that the negotiations on nuclear arms might progress slowly, and that we might experience disappointments and setbacks.

We are therefore meeting here in Budapest at a time and in circumstances which - based on a realistic assessment of the interests of each individual nation - impose a special obligation even on the small- and



medium-sized European countries to contribute actively to the normalization of the situation in Europe. In our part of the world, normalization means a gradual and patient movement towards the extensive and mutually fruitful exchange of goods, ideas and people which has been the characteristic landmark of European society throughout the centuries.

The European sense of common identity can and should be strengthened, not least in the very year that marks the fortieth anniversary of the end of World War Two. On this anniversary, we should look to the future, and emphasize those aims and aspirations that are common to the peoples of East and West.

Norway's particular situation, as an ally of the United States of America and a neighbour of the Soviet Union, enhances our concrete interest in stable relations between the superpowers and in a reduction of military tension.

Norway has therefore, independent of the general political climate, continued to work for a stable military balance in Europe, which we consider to be a necessary precondition for realistic détente and long-term cooperation between East and West.

We attach particular importance to the work done at the CDE-conference in Stockholm. In order to contribute to progress at the conference, we have agreed to confirm

the principle of "non-use of force", combined with concrete confidence-building measures that are binding and verifiable and include all of Europe.

But at the same time it is our opinion that a dialogue between the larger and smaller countries in our part of the world must not be narrowed down to military questions. We need much broader contacts and a greater volume of contacts between East and West. The experience of the last 10 - 15 years has, in my view, demonstrated that neither a downgrading of the importance of military development programmes nor a one-sided concentration on the military questions contributes to the balanced and stable political solutions we are searching for. The individual problems achieve their proper proportions only when we incorporate them into a far broader pattern, that is, into co-operation across the dividing lines in Europe on political, military, economic and cultural questions, and on matters concerning the rights of the individual. These rights are important to us, and we find that they are best secured through pragmatic attitudes, where the practical results for the people concerned are the real moral standard.

In the economic field we see opportunities for an increase in the exchange between East and West. The Final Act of the CSCE-conference points out several tasks related to economic co-operation that still await their solution. It is important that such solutions are of mutual benefit, that they are in harmony with the actual

international market situation, and that they contribute to the standard of living in the respective countries.

In addition to the development of economic relations, we consider strengthened cultural co-operation between East and West to be a natural and necessary supplement to political contacts which should take place regularly and at all levels. Such talks serve the cause of political communication, which should be strengthened and not weakened if the political climate should once again deteriorate. Through broader and more regular contacts the smaller countries of East and West may contribute to improving the political climate, which is of such vital importance to the attempts of the Great Powers to reach concrete, treaty-based solutions - and a general "code of conduct" that would be observed.

Mr. Prime Minister, my government attaches considerable importance to the CSCE Cultural Forum, which is to be held right here in Budapest in October. At the Forum leading cultural personalities from all 35 of the CSCE countries will meet to exchange views on interrelated problems concerning creative work, dissemination and co-operation in the various fields of culture. We appreciate the important contribution Hungary has made to the successful preparation of the Forum, Both in its capacity of host country and through the constructive efforts of the Hungarian delegation.



Finally, I should like to recall the fact that on August 1, 1985, ten years will have elapsed since the signing of the CSCE Final Act. The anniversary will be duly commemorated, as well it should be.

That governments and nations in Europe maintain contact is of intrinsic value. A realistic dialogue can prevent misunderstandings, contribute to the identification of areas of common interest and give support to and broaden East/West-relations in general. In this context, our meeting here in Budapest has an importance that transcends our bilateral relations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to propose a toast to you, Mr. Prime Minister, to Mrs. Lazar, and to the further co-operation between Hungary and Norway.