

Statsminister Willochs tale på Akershus  
fredag 15. februar i anledning av H. E. President  
Kenneth Kaundas besøk i Norge.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Your Excellency  
President Kenneth Kaunda, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is great honour and pleasure for the Norwegian Government, to see you, Mr. President, as our guest here tonight during your most welcome visit to our country, which is - as His Majesty mentioned in his speech yesterday evening - the first ever by a Head of State of the Republic of Zambia to Norway. But, in a way, we have known you for a long time, Mr. President. For many years, we have followed your struggle for the liberation and independence of your country, and we have admired your ceaseless striving for freedom and justice far beyond the borders of Zambia.

Last fall Zambia celebrated a threefold jubilee - the 20th anniversary of the nation's independence, the 26th anniversary of the founding of the United National Independence Party and the happy occasion of your own 60th anniversary. The occasion convincingly reaffirmed the constructive stability associated with the Republic of Zambia.

Zambia, like Norway, is an active member of the United Nations and plays an important role in promoting the aims of the U. N. Charter.

Zambia is a founding member of the Organization of African Unity. Your country is also a major participant in the cooperation between the Frontline States, as well as in the Southern African Development Coordination Conference. I would like to pay tribute to your Government's firm, constructive influence within all these bodies.

The southern part of Africa has been a troubled region for many years. The South African apartheid policy and the continued South African occupation of Namibia threaten the peace and stability of the region. Zambia has suffered from these problems at close range, and has opened her doors to the many refugees fleeing the dangers and suppression thus created.

Norway has always condemned apartheid as a violation of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, and we firmly believe that effective pressure must be brought to bear on South Africa in order to eliminate apartheid by peaceful means. Norway has, therefore, advocated that the Security Council adopt mandatory sanctions against South Africa.

However, these proposals have not been accepted. In the absence of binding sanctions, Norway and the other Nordic countries have adopted various unilateral measures

against South Africa, as contained in the Joint Nordic Programme of Action against Apartheid. These measures were reflected in a resolution against apartheid at the last General Assembly. We are now considering new measures in order to focus attention on Apartheid and increase pressure upon South Africa, and expect that other countries are prepared to take similar action.

Mr. President, you yourself have been actively engaged in trying to promote the peaceful solution to the Namibian conflict. The Norwegian Government appreciates your efforts in this regard. We also find it significant that Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1984. It is our firm impression that this award will help to mobilize the attention of the international community on the need for fundamental changes in South Africa before it is too late.

Sub-Sahara African countries have felt the full and relentless impact of the recession in the industrialized North. Adverse shift in the terms of trade, very high real interest rates and dwindling capital flows all contribute to the overall picture. The drought situation is an aggravating and most tragic additional factor. But in these perilous times your Government has set out to fight this situation through sacrifices and stringent measures aimed at arresting further deterioration and eventually promoting stable progress and growth. And, we should not be pessimistic about the future. We know that Africa has an excellent potential for development and that the region to which Zambia belongs has great prospects.

We also consider it a privilege to join in a modest way in your own efforts - which are based on the principle of self-reliance in the future.

This is why it is easy for us to speak of a partnership in development. Our benefit has been not only valuable experience in areas of technology and professional know-how. Equally important is that we are learning from this cooperation in areas of cultural heritage, natural environment and above all, human relations. Bonds of personal contacts and friendship have been established and are kept alive, assisted by the active and good work of The Zambia-Norwegian Friendship Association. Parallel and complementary to bilateral cooperation and multilateral assistance, mainly through the U.N. agencies, Norway strongly supports the development of regional cooperation. Hence, it is our firm intention to continue our support to the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC), in which Zambia plays such an important role. Last December the Nordic countries decided jointly to propose an enlarged and intensified cooperation with the SADCC-countries.

Mr. President, to us - as His Majesty emphasized at the Royal Place yesterday - the voice of Zambia is one of moderation, promise and hope of progress. And we are happy to note that the manifold concept of Zambian humanism is so much linked to your work and the example you set yourself. Your idea of a discrimination in favour of the

weak is not at all foreign to Norwegian thinking - it has, in fact, been an important part of our political culture and social policy for a very long time. Your thoughts - as expressed in your well-known book "Letter to my Children" - about individual fulfillment, about the right to be, to have and to belong, also correspond to our own thinking, as these thoughts are based on the Christian beliefs which play such an important role also in the Norwegian society.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to H. E. the President of the Republic of Zambia, to the people of Zambia and to the continued friendship between the peoples of our two countries.