

TALE VED MOTTAKELSE PÅ AKERSHUS SLOTT 1. JUNI 1985 I  
FORBINDELSE MED EUROPAMESTERSKAPET I TURN FOR HERRER

Mr. President,

Honoured guests,

On behalf of the Norwegian Government it is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you prominent sportsmen who are taking part in the European Championships in Gymnastics for Men. We are very pleased that you have found Oslo a suitable venue for your competitions, and it is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome this distinguished gathering to Akershus Castle.

This Castle has a long and proud history. Akershus has, however, like our country as a whole, also experienced difficult times. As a kind of historical background to today's events, I would like to read to you from a letter written in October 1372 by Queen Margrete who lived here at Akershus, to her husband, King Haakon VI, who was out on the battlefield, warring against the Swedes:

"To my most dearly beloved Lord, the most heartfelt greetings from your Margaret. Know that I am well; God grant that I may hear the same of you. Know also, my dear Lord, that I and my servants are in great want of vittles and drink, so that niether I nor they have sufficient for our needs. I therefore entreat you, my dear Lord, to find some remedy lest

those who are with me part from me for hunger's sake."

I do hope you will agree with me that conditions here are better now.

Sports as a whole includes many different fields, they all have something in common. In all of them, athletes are called upon to concentrate on making supreme efforts. Sports as a whole includes many different fields, they all have something in common. In all of them, athletes are called upon to concentrate on making supreme efforts. Sports is exciting, giving pleasure through style and elegance, and last, but not least, sports gives a perspective beyond the competition itself.

I would particularly like to emphasize the esthetic and ethic aspect of gymnastics which gives it an outstanding position among sports as a cultural movement incorporating some of the best parts of classical european tradition.

Some years ago Norway was fortunate to host the European Gymnastics Championship for women. I find it both natural and appropriate that the men now complete the picture, and I am confident that the event will inspire the development of this laudable sport in Norway as the ladies championship did in 1975.

May I use this opportunity to bring a special greeting to all our guests from abroad and to express the

hope that gymnastics, as well as sports as a whole, will bring people from all over the world together in friendly competitions and contribute greatly to brotherhood among Nations. I bid you all welcome!