

kl. 1730.

Statsminister Willochs besøk i Spania.  
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Mr. President,  
distinguished Representatives,

I am greatly honoured by this invitation to appear before a select group of representatives of the Spanish Parliament, which has played such a decisive part in the restoration of democracy in Spain.

Like Spain, Norway covers a large and strategically important part of the atlantic coastline of Europe. We joined the Atlantic Alliance as a founding member 36 years ago, and we have enjoyed close cooperation with Spain in the political institutions of NATO for nearly three years now. We are also expanding Norway's cooperation with the European Community in a number of fields, and we regard the Spanish application for EC-membership as a major step towards closer cooperation among the European democracies.

(We consider)

We consider such a step a return to normality - to a situation in which Spain plays a full part in European affairs, in keeping with its great potential and rich historical traditions. It is our view that as Europe develops its relations with other parts of the world, an active role for Spain is indispensable, in view of your country's close cultural and political ties to Latin America and to the Arab World.

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Norwegian foreign policy is of necessity dominated by the relations with, and between, three countries or groups of countries: the United States, the European Community and the Soviet Union.

The United States is our most important ally in security matters. The relationship to the United States is one of the lifelines of Norwegian foreign policy. Traditionally, there have

(been much more)

been much more limited contacts with Russia. Historically, the common border has been a peaceful one. However, with the Soviet Union emerging as a global superpower, the geo-political pressures against the Northern region, and thus the security problems of Norway, have increased considerably.

This does not imply that we in any way think that the build-up next-door of one of the largest military complexes in the world, the Soviet Kola base, is aimed at Norway to any considerable extent. But these forces are in our immediate proximity, and they influence our defence planning and our security policy.

The oil and gas activities on Norway's continental shelf are a new factor affecting our domestic situation as well as our relations with other countries. The prospects of new oil and gas finds under the seabed off Northern Norway and in the Barents Sea, add to the

(significance and of this)

significance and sensitivity of this Northern area.

I would like to point out that the establishment of economic zones along the Norwegian coast and around the Arctic islands of Svalbard and Jan Mayen has granted us jurisdiction over an area of approximately 2 million square kilometers, which is equivalent to the entire area of the present European Community of ten.

What is more, a Norwegian-Soviet border in the Barents Sea - would be many hundreds kilometers long.

I mention this in order to underscore the significance of the Northern areas to Norway. Thus, we think that it is natural and prudent to safeguard our security in close cooperation with other Western democratic nations.

The Atlantic Alliance, with its important task of preserving peace, will always strive to achieve East-West-détente, supported by verifiable arms control

(agreements. Therefore, we)

agreements. Therefore, we consider the outcome of the recent talks in Geneva between Foreign Ministers Schultz and Gromyko to be very encouraging. It is now important to broaden Western contacts with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in order to strengthen the wider political and economic framework within which the decisive arms control negotiations will take place. The decision in Geneva to consider and resolve questions concerning the various categories of arms "in their inter-relationship" is significant. It enhances the possibilities of reaching an overall agreement - though the negotiations will be difficult and time-consuming.

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Turning now to Norway's European policy, I would like to remind you that, since the last war, Norway has played an active part in the development of Europe's regional cooperation. Norway participated from the outset in the Organization of European Economic

(Cooperation (now the OECD)),

Cooperation (now the DECD), the Council of Europe and the European Free Trade Area (EFTA).

Needless to say, Norway's no in the 1972-referendum to full membership in the EC should in no way be interpreted as a rejection of European cooperation. On the contrary, Norway is bent on pursuing an active European policy, both on a bilateral basis with the individual Western European countries and within the framework of our various agreements with the EC, in EFTA, in the Council of Europe and in other fora.

Norway also emphasizes the need for close contact with the foreign policy cooperation between the EC Governments, the EPC. Special arrangements for regular contact have been made with the EPC Presidency at different levels. I am confident that this arrangement can be continued when Spain joins the Community.

(Recently, the idea of)

Recently, the idea of infusing new life into the Western European Union has gained momentum, and Norway is following the development of that organization closely. We agree that there is room for a more visible and coordinated European contribution to the common defense effort and for a larger European role in world affairs. The entire Western community will benefit from a strengthening of the European pillar of NATO through a development of political cohesion and a coordination of military efforts, since a balanced partnership within NATO is the best way to safeguard the all-important Atlantic cooperation and secure its broad public support.

It has been natural for a small and outward-looking country like Norway to take an active part in the work of the United Nations. In recent years, we have submitted proposals aimed at making the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, a more effective

(instrument in the service)

instrument in the service of peace. The relations with our Nordic neighbours are also of great importance to Norway, and a close day-to-day cooperation has developed between all five of the Nordic countries in a number of fields.

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I shall conclude my presentation with some remarks on Norway's economic capabilities and policies.

Like most other small countries, Norway, with her open economy, is of course very sensitive to developments and fluctuations in the world economy. Nearly half of the Norwegian Gross National Product (GNP) is involved in foreign trade, with more than 80 % of our exports going to the EC and EFTA countries.

(In a foreign policy)



In a foreign policy perspective, particularly international attention is focused on Norway's role as a producer of oil and gas. In 1984, Norway supplied nearly 14 % of Western Europe's total gas consumption, and around 45 % of its net import of gas, making it one of the major suppliers together with the Soviet Union. Norway will continue to strengthen its position as a net supplier of oil and gas to Western countries. We feel that we can in this way make an important contribution to Western economic stability.

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Norwegian offshore industries have developed a considerable domestic capacity, but we will continue to be interested in close cooperation with the international oil companies for years to come. The Spanish company

(Hispanoil has been)

Hispanoil has been involved in gas-and-oil exploration in the rough waters of the Arctic Ocean to the north of Northern Norway, while other Spanish firms are making important deliveries to the offshore installations in the North Sea.

Mr. President, distinguished Representatives,  
I would like to thank you for your attention and for the honour and the opportunity to address you this afternoon.