

Talen ved lunsjen i Kuching, Malaysia 15. januar 1986

Honourable Chief Minister

First of all I would like, on behalf of my wife, the delegation accompanying me, and myself, to thank you, Mr. Chief Minister, for inviting us to this splendid luncheon, whereby we also have the opportunity to get acquainted with leading personalities in Sarawak.

We certainly appreciate the thoughtful preparations made for our stay in your state - from the reception at Kuching Airport late last night, and the meeting this morning with his excellency the Governor - to our stay at your new holiday resort in Damai, which we are very much looking forward to.

Secondly, I must confess that the idea of visiting Sarawak was our own, partly because the names Sarawak and Borneo have a particular ring of fascination, for visitors like us, and partly because we wanted to see for ourselves what opportunities there may be for trade and investments. We know that this is a state in which the Government has high ambitions for its people, and where the land is rich in resources. The question is: What can we do in Sarawak, and is there room for us?

At present Norway and Norwegian industry are still relatively little known in Sarawak. It is, therefore, probably not generally known that apart from fjords, snow-covered mountains, fishermen and sailors, Norway also has a long history of industrial activity. Based on our own experience, on what we have learned from other countries, and on our own costly research, Norwegian industry steadily ventures into new fields of production. The Malaysian Government has recognized that Norway is today a highly industrialized nation with advanced technology, which we want to share with you in joint ventures or in other forms which may initially be more convenient.

This is my first visit to Malaysia, but from what I have heard and seen so far, it strikes me that our main efforts should be within the field of hydropower technology, offshore, oil and gas telecommunications and shipping, but also perhaps within deep-sea fisheries, aquaculture and wood processing.

Sarawak is a tropical state with an equatorial climate, Norway is quite the opposite. But Norwegian firms nevertheless have experience from comparable conditions in several countries in various parts of the world where they have managed important projects with success.

It is the wish of our delegation and myself that the relations between us will be strengthened in the years to come. Sarawak's export to Norway at present consists mainly of timber and pepper. As your state and industry

develops there should be new possibilities for increased export to our small, but reliable market.

May I invite all of you present here to join me in a toast to the good health of our host, the Chief Minister of Sarawak.