

Statsminister
Odvar Nordli

UNCTAD-ENCOUNTER
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Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour and indeed also a pleasure for me - on behalf of my Government - to wish you all most sincerely welcome to this UNCTAD-encounter. I would like to extend a special welcome to our distinguished foreign guests for having taken of their valuable time to come here and let us share in their views and their insight in the many and serious problems concerning the economic relationships between the rich and the poor countries.

I wish to compliment the organizers of this seminar

- 2 -

with their initiative.

I take it that news media, and interested private and official organisations will follow and discuss UNCTAD *with interest* once it has started. I understand that the purpose of this seminar is to prepare the public opinion - and the opinion-builders - for UNCTAD and the problems it will raise. This is an interesting and valuable initiative. I think that all of us - politicians, officials, journalists and interested individuals - will have a greater chance to communicate the UNCTAD discussions to the people if we are well prepared. As far as I know this is the first occasion that an international conference has been prepared in this manner.

Many of you present here will be aware that the Norwegian Parliament only last Tuesday debated Norway's economic relations with the developing countries and the policies of the Government in these matters. The Parliament confirmed that Norway in the years to come intends further to increase its official aid to the developing countries to reach 1 % of the Gross National Product by 1978. For comparison, I may add that the figures for 1975, just made available, show our development aid that year to be 0.66 %. The grants for the years to come will thus have to be increased quite considerably to reach the 1 % target by 1978. We are, however, determined to achieve this.

All official aid given within the target figure of 1 % of the Gross National Product should consist of free

grants only and in principle not be tied to procurement of goods and equipment manufactured in Norway. On this point, however, I would like to state that we do hope and intend to increase our trade with the developing countries. We also feel ensured that our various industries are able to compete in the international markets for orders under the aid programme.

I would further briefly want to state that Norway do not intend to stop its aid at the 1 % target level. Although no new target has been set for the years after 1978, there is a general agreement that aid should be further increased.

This Encounter, however, has not been called to discuss conventional aid, but the changes that have to be made in

the overall relationship between the industrial and the developing nations, i.e. the introduction of a new international economic order.

UNCTAD IV will represent a serious challenge to the Governments of the rich countries of the world, to pass from the level of talk to the level of action.

We have now realised that development aid is not sufficient to bring about a change in the fundamental imbalance between poor and rich. We have also realised that technical changes in trade policies are not sufficient. What is needed is a new international economic order.

As a principle this is easy to accept. But when it comes to concrete policy measures, it is not yet clear what can be done, and what should be done within each country

to bring life to the idea of a new international order.

It is the great task of UNCTAD IV to bring this problem one important step forward. If this seminar can contribute to a more effective Norwegian participation at the conference, and if our public opinion can be better informed about the coming conference, its objective has been well achieved.

I wish you the best of luck in this important task.

Thank you.