

STATSMINISTERENS TALE VED MIDDAG PA AKERSHUS SLOTT
27. SEPTEMBER 1978 I ANLEDNING OAPEC-SEMINARET

Shaikh Al-Subah, dear friends,

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome our Arab guests to Scandinavia, to Oslo and to this old historic castle. I do that, not only on behalf of my own government, but on behalf of the Scandinavian governments and the people of this Northern European part of the world.

The Arabs and the Scandinavians are situated in different parts of the world. In many respects our two regions are quite different, but we also find many similarities. Historically we have both been traders and seafarers.

- 2 -

Thereby we have developed extensive contacts with other parts of the world.

While each of us have developed economic and industrial structures suited to our respective regions, the fact that this seminar is being held here, indicates that we have problems and possibilities which are common. We both try to develop our resources in a way which is truly beneficial not only to ourselves, but to a larger society as well.

In doing so, we want to use the best technology available, but without losing control of the development of the society. In a way this is what this seminar is all about.

As far as oil is concerned, the four Nordic countries which take part in this seminar, are not in the same energy situation. But petroleum is not only a question of how

to get it out of the ground, but also how to use it in a way which is most relevant to our needs. This means technology, transportation, know-how, petro-chemicals, to mention just a few key words. And it also means energy conservation, because we have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to use this resource in a sensible way.

From this perspective Norway and our neighbouring countries really face many of the same fundamental problems in relation to this our most important energy source.

For several decades now, you, the Arab countries, have provided the rest of the world with its most important energy source. You did this at a very low price. This price reflected the low production costs.

Today the world is in a different situation. We are gradually running out of oil produced at a cost of 20 cents

a barrel. An increasing part of our oil will have to come from expensive sources. The world must learn to regard oil as a product of higher value, than hitherto.

Oil pricing is only one of the topics of this seminar, which has brought us together here this week. Others are equally important.

I hope that discussions during the formal seminar sessions as well as the many informal meeting and exchanges of view, which undoubtedly will take place within the framework of this seminar will provide a sound foundation for a much more extensive network of co-operation and contacts between our two regions, than what has been the case in past. I think we will both benefit from such a development.

We have a saying in Norwegian - "Kjennskap er vennskap". In case you have not yet learned our language -

I will translate it.

It means that personal knowledge creates friendship. I believe firmly that international understanding is stimulated by personal contacts and personal friendship. The world needs more international understanding. I hope this seminar will contribute to that.

I propose a toast to the future of the co-operation between the Organization of the Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries and the Scandinavian countries.