

ODVAR NORDLIS BORDTALE PÅ MIDDAG FOR DEN SOSIALISTISKE  
INTERNASJONALE 12. JUNI 1980

Mr. Chairman, comrades,

On behalf of the Norwegian Government it is a great pleasure for me to welcome all members of The Socialist International to Norway and to this dinner.

The difficult and dangerous international situation we are confronted with has created a feeling of insecurity and frustration in our countries.

East-west relations have shown a marked worsening over the last few months. There have been signs of a renewal of the cold war. The progress made in the

- 2 -

north-south dialogue has been very disappointing. The unemployment in the industrial countries is higher than at any time since the Second World War. And in many areas of the world there are conflicts which might become a threat to the whole international community.

Against this tense and gloomy background it has been encouraging and inspiring to note the steps taken and the efforts made by the Socialist International. I have in mind the contributions to the north-south dialogue, to the promotion of human rights and arms-control and the initiatives taken in the Middle-East complex and regarding the problems in Iran.

These and other endeavours have proved that our Organisation has an important role to play in international

politics. Through the contacts we have as social democrats in many parts of the world, and the coordination within our International, we have important possibilities for further initiatives and contributions in helping to solve many of the important issues troubling the world.

I know that I have all of you with me when I say that much of the honour for what has been achieved so far is due to Willy Brandt.

Apart from his work within the International, I should like to point to the report from the north-south committee under his leadership. This report will no doubt become a most valuable contribution and impetus to a more constructive north-south development.

Let me end my words of welcome to you by expressing the hope that during your stay here you will find time and

opportunity to look around in our country. Norway has reputation of being a rather cold place. I trust you will find our country to be warm - and not only from the point of view of climate, but also in the way Norwegians receive their guests.

May I ask you to join me in a "skål" to The International and to the success of your meeting. "Skål"!