

PRIME MINISTER NORDLI'S SPEECH AT THE LUNCHEON IN NARVIK
ON 28 MAY 1980

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Norwegian Government it is a great honour for me to welcome Prime Minister Barre and Madame Barre, the leaders of the veterans' delegations Monsieur Plantier, Mr Speed and Mr Wronski, as well as all the participants in the veteran delegations, to the ceremonies here in Narvik and to this luncheon.

The battle of Narvik during the days in May 1940 led to the first Allied victory during the Second World War. It is for this reason especially that Narvik was of such great significance. It demonstrated that the German war machine was not invincible. The battles here, and the victory which was won, became a symbol and an inspiration for the further war effort and the resistance movement.

The battles at Narvik claimed many victims and the victory was hard-earned. At the cemetery we have been reminded of those Frenchmen, Poles, Britons and Norwegians who gave their lives. It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude and respect that we remember them today.

It was the contribution by the Allied forces which made the victory at Narvik possible.

In Norway we are deeply grateful for the aid we received. The fellowship which came into being at that time brought Norway into the ranks of the Allies and laid the foundation for a resistance struggle lasting five years and for the final victory.

The campaign of 1940 and the ensuing five long years of occupation taught us Norwegians that we cannot safeguard our liberty and security on our own, but only in a binding cooperation with likeminded countries.

But we learnt something else too. If we are to preserve peace and avoid the horrors of a new war, active international

involvement is required of us all, together with constant contact and dialogue across geographical and political dividing lines.

Only through a policy which pays due regard to these two considerations can we hope to keep the peace we won 35 years ago, after such heavy sacrifices had been made by so many.

I would ask you to join me in a toast for peace and cooperation in Europe.