

Statement by the Prime Minister
of Norway, Mr. Trygve Bratteli
at the third stage of the Conference
on Security and Cooperation in
Europe

Helsinki, Finland, 1 August 1975

JNE 021726 AUD

Mr. President,

1975

I too would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Finnish Government for its excellent arrangement of the preparatory talks, the first stage and now the third stage of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. I would also like to express my appreciation to the President of Finland, Mr. Urho Kekkonen, for his personal engagement in the realization of this conference.

X X X

This great undertaking represents an innovation in international relations in our generation. This is the first time in modern history that questions regarding security and cooperation in Europe have been discussed on such a broad basis and with the participation of all the interested European states and representatives of the United States of America and Canada, nations that have in periods of destiny shown that they share in the responsibility for maintaining peace and security in Europe.

My Government has regarded the Conference as an important element in the general development towards extended cooperation, improved contacts and detente which have characterized the development of East/West relations over the last 5 years. The convening of this Conference was made possible by the important improvement in the relations between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, and by the positive development in the relations between East and West in Europe. The Eastern Policy of the Federal Republic of Germany has been an essential contribution to this development. The long period of economic stability and social progress has also caused significant changes in the European situation. This broad development has lead to remarkably improved conditions in Europe compared to the situation only a few years ago.

The great powers have a particularly important role to play and a special responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. For the maintenance of peace and security in Europe it will be of crucial importance that the United States of America and the Soviet Union are able to continue the development of rational and constructive cooperation between themselves. Furthermore, the implementation of

the Four-Power Agreement on Berlin and the agreements between the Federal Republic of Germany and eastern European states will be of continuing importance for developments in Europe.

All states, however, have a vital interest in, and a responsibility for, carrying forward the process of detente and cooperation. This is one of the reasons why my Government considers it important that through the Conference on Security and Cooperation and the negotiations in Vienna on mutual and balanced force reductions and related measures, broad multilateral frameworks have been established for dealing with questions concerning security and cooperation in Europe.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe constitutes a broad forum where all interested states, irrespective of their size, adherence to alliances, or status as neutral or non-aligned, have been able to participate on an equal footing and contribute constructively to the discussion of questions of importance to the future of Europe. The Conference has in fact provided the hitherto most comprehensive mapping out of problems and perspectives for the further development of East-West relations. It has usefully clarified and provided a more realistic

understanding of the basis and the further opportunities for increased security and cooperation in Europe.

On the other hand I believe that it is important to emphasize that the aim of this Conference has not been to carry out any basic reshaping of the security structure in Europe. It is just as much a reality today as it was at the inception of this Conference, that the alliances remain essential elements in the present security system in Europe. They have been a prerequisite for the process of detente. This is not likely to change in the foreseeable future.

We have regarded the Conference as part of a broad process towards extended cooperation, arms control and mutual reduction of armaments. In the longer term this may lead to a situation where political and ideological differences no longer need constitute a barrier and a source of confrontation among nations. For these reasons the Norwegian Government considers it important that the results of the Conference should constitute a basis for a constructive pursuance of the efforts initiated by this Conference.

X X X

We regard the Declaration on principles guiding relations between states as a solemn political and moral obligation to observe certain fundamental principles of international law and of a political nature in their mutual relations. The 10 principles in this document constitute an entity that shall have unrestricted application to all participating states in all aspects of their mutual relations irrespective of political, social and economic systems and regardless of adherence to alliances. This document confirms the importance, also for the development of interstate relations, of the observance of elementary human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

Norway has repeatedly emphasized that the process of detente must also be extended to comprise military aspects of security. A credible and genuine political detente in Europe is dependent on real progress towards control and reduction of the high level of armaments in our part of the world.

Norway is situated in a strategically important and exposed region. She is in alliance with one of the world's two superpowers and a neighbour of the other. Norway has therefore a specific and direct interest in a development

which will reduce tension and contribute to genuine detente. As a small country in the north western corner of Europe, we consider it of great importance that the policy of detente and the concrete results of this policy should not be limited to the relations between the great powers and to the situation in Central Europe. Peace and security in our part of the world must be indivisible. Neither can peace and security in Europe be seen isolated from developments in other geographical regions. It is important that the documents from the Conference underline this broader perspective of detente.

My Government has attached great importance to the discussions of military aspects of security at the Conference and to the fact that the final document expresses agreement on implementing certain confidence-building measures in the military sphere. Although Norway would have wished that the Conference had brought more comprehensive results in this field, we nevertheless regard the agreed confidence-building measures as an important first step.

The American-Soviet negotiations on the limitation of strategic arms will continue to be essential to the continued efforts aiming at arms control and disarmament. The ongoing negotiations in Vienna on mutual and balanced force reductions are of particular significance for Europe. The Norwegian Government hopes that the conclusion of the Security Conference will contribute to the achievement of concrete results in these negotiations. Representing a small country situated in a strategically exposed area of Northern Europe we consider it important that concrete measures in the military field will be fully applied also to the situation in northern Europe.

This Conference has also discussed important questions regarding extended cooperation in the field of economics, of science and technology and of the environment. The development in these fields has over the years led to new conditions of mutual interdependence and raised new questions which require more extensive forms of international cooperation. Norway is to a higher degree than most countries dependant on international division of labour and on participation in economic, scientific and technological cooperation in order to ensure continued economic and social progress. The Norwegian Government attaches great importance to the guidelines and objectives which have been laid down in the document of this Conference. It is not least in the economic, industrial and technical-scientific fields that we may gradually develop mutual relations in support of detente.

In our country we have great expectations with regard to the agreement to develop further cooperation in the field of environment. We are here faced with problems which transcend national or ideological frontiers. These tasks are of essential importance to the possibilities for further development of our societies and to the future living conditions of mankind.

Extended human contacts and wider

dissemination of information has rightly been a major subject at this Conference. The Norwegian Government is particularly satisfied that it was possible to reach results which also form a basis for further development in this field. Increased and freer contacts among individuals, extended exchange of information, ideas and thoughts as well as broad cultural relations must constitute essential elements in the process of detente. The Norwegian Government considers it particularly important that this Conference has produced results which we all expect will facilitate the solution of questions of great humanitarian significance for the people of all participating states.

My Government has emphasized the need to associate the youth of our countries with the efforts to create better understanding and extended cooperation. Contacts, meetings and cooperation among young people within a multilateral framework should be an important element in the broader dialogue across national borders.

X X X

Mr. President, it is the overall assessment of the Norwegian Government that the results of this first Conference are generally satisfactory. The significance of the final document will, however, depend on how the

individual principles, objectives and measures will be put into practice and be observed. Only through the full observance and implementation of the results of the Conference may we hope to carry the process of detente further forward and also make this process credible to our peoples.

My Government has always regarded cooperation in Europe as a step in a wider process. In our opinion the Conference has shown that multilateral discussions of this type may produce results of importance to all the participating states. My Government therefore notes with satisfaction that agreement has been reached to follow-up this work. The continuity of this process must be maintained through new meetings at different levels so that the results achieved at this Conference may form a basis for new progress.

In this connection I would like to express the satisfaction of my Government that Yugoslavia which has so actively supported the Conference, will be the host country for the first of such meetings.

X X X

The main task of this Conference has been to concern itself with questions which primarily

affect the participating states and our part of the world. At the same time we are of course fully aware of the fact that developments in our part of the world must be considered in the context of the overall global development. The international arms race, the population explosion, the relations between rich and poor countries, scarcity of resources and international inflation, pollution and the world food crisis are problems the world has in common and which can only be solved through cooperation among all nations.

There is no contradiction between the work undertaken at this Conference on the one hand and our responsibility with regard to efforts to solve global problems on the other. This Conference is not aimed against any state or continent. Today there is no rational alternative to a patient continuance of the work directed towards promoting greater understanding, cooperation, contacts and detente wherever and whenever this is best feasible. Greater stability and increased security will be a necessary and important contribution to greater stability and security in the world at large.

Mr. President, it is my hope that this meeting will also stand forth as an historical event through the decisions which we adopt and which we have a responsibility to follow up in our countries.