

USA :

Mr. Chairman / Mr. Mayor / Mr. Governor, etc.

Ladies and Gentlemen! *Los Angeles 19/11 54*
San Francisco 22/11 54

I am very happy to have this opportunity of conveying the greetings of the Norwegian people and the Norwegian Government to friends and kinsmen in America. It is a great pleasure to meet such a large gathering of American men and women of Scandinavian descent during a journey which is, also, a Scandinavian undertaking. This journey marks a new and important mile-stone in modern air-travel, the first regular commercial flight across the North Pole itself. We are proud that this achievement should be a Scandinavian one.

The Scandinavian *Avi*lines System is a common organization of the three countries, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It was established because farsighted airmen and the Governments and Parliaments of the three countries realised that it needed a combined effort to be able to compete successfully in international air travel. Each country alone would have been too small and economically weak to manage it on its own. This is a lesson in international cooperation which our three countries have been learning on an increasing scale during these last years.

Shortly before I came to this country I took part, together with the Danish and Swedish Prime Ministers, in a conference where we discussed the problems of economic cooperation in Scandinavia.

I think I can say that we found during our discussions that there does, in fact, exist a basis for closer economic ties between our countries.

We believe that many tasks that aim at the continued building out of our small countries and which are difficult to solve for each country alone, can be solved if we tackle them together.

Simple logic can also tell us that a common market of 14 to 15 million people in itself gives better possibilities of a rational and sound production and business than each of the national markets separately. But, while recognizing this evident truth, it is fair to say that none of us were blind to the difficulties that have to be overcome in creating such a common market. By common consent we decided to proceed very carefully and step by step. And the final decisions rest, of course, with the three Parliaments.

But there is one aspect of the problem which needs to be stressed. Scandinavia can, economically speaking, never be a self-contained unit. Taken separately and as a whole our economies are, so to speak, facing outward, towards the rest of the world. ~~To~~ ^{To} a very large degree ^{we} depend on international trade.

Our merchant fleets roam the seven seas and the whole world is our market. Therefore, we are vitally interested in the free flow of goods and capital between all countries. With Norway's large natural resources in waterpower, minerals, fish etc., as yet only partially exploited, there is room for a great expansion, and you will find in Norway a well educated, skilled labour force and stable political conditions, including stable and sound labour relations.

I presume that you Americans will say that there is little difference between the three Scandinavian countries. In many respects that is correct. But the differences are there at the same time. They spring from differences in natural environment, history, tradition and strategic situation. And it reflects itself in their national character, in their outlook towards the world and world problems and, consequently, in their foreign policy.

Norway is, like Denmark, a member of the Atlantic *Treaty Organisation* whereas Sweden has retained her old policy of neutrality - out of considerations, I should like to say, which we in Norway fully understand and respect, even if we do not share them.

Norway's place in the world orchestra is - of course - a humble one and we are fully aware what terrible consequences a new world war would have for a small country like ours. Norway lies in an exposed and dangerous position on the crosslines between East and West. We don't believe that small countries can escape if a new world war should break out. The desire for freedom and independence is deeply rooted in the people of Norway. We have therefore chosen to join the Atlantic *Treaty*, in which the democratic countries stand together in solidarity in defence of the West. The Atlantic *Treaty* is a defensive pact which threatens no one who does not threaten us. As a member of the Atlantic Pact we are glad to be able to cooperate with our European partners and with the two great democracies across the sea, The United States and Canada. We in Norway are well aware that without the

generous and intelligent help which we, as so many other countries, have received from the United States, first under the Marshall Plan and, now, under the Mutual Defence Assistance Program, we should never have stood where we stand to-day. We live in a dangerous world. The forces of aggression are still active. Only if the free peoples, in all parts of the world, stand together, shall we survive. If we fall apart, we shall perish. In our alliance the mighty power of the United States is indispensable. The greatest disaster which could befall Europe, would be if your country, and the people of your country, ceased to take an interest in and concern itself with the fate of The Old World. We know that the great responsibilities with regard to world affairs, which, for natural reasons, have fallen to the United States, will be handled with wisdom and moderation. And we see in our common alliance, in the Atlantic ^{Treaty} far more than an organisation for military security. As a regional pact, established in conformity with the United Nations Charter, we see in it an association of likeminded peoples for closer cooperation also in the economic, social and cultural field, what is sometimes called "the Atlantic Community". And we hope that this community, as well as the Scandinavian community and other regional associations elsewhere in the world, may one day, in the light of history, be deemed to have been stepping-stones towards that all-inclusive, universal community which is the underlying idea of the United Nations. It is a

long way towards that goal. But we shall reach it sooner if we walk the way together. Yes, we Norwegians believe that it is the only way which can lead mankind forward and safeguard peace and freedom for the peoples!

Thank you.