

Statsminister Trygve Brattelis tale ved Regjeringens  
middag på Akershus Slott for delegasjonen fra  
Organisasjonen for Afrikansk Enhet (OAU) ledet av  
Mauritanias president Moktar Ould Daddah, 8. oktober 1971.  
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Mr. President and Chairman of the Organization of African  
Uniy, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Om behalf of the Norwegian Government I have the  
privilege and pleasure to welcome You, Mr. President,  
and the distinguished members of the Delegation accompanying  
You, to Norway and to this old castle tonight. We are  
indeed happy that You have made a special point of wanting  
to visit the Nordic countries during Your tour to capitals  
in North America and Europe. I hope you will all feel that  
you have come to a people that nourishes a warm sympathy  
for the peoples of Africa and has a genuine interest in the  
problems confronting your continent.

Your visit will be short and we do not expect to  
cover all political problems of mutual interest during the  
conversations ahead. But we feel certain that we on our  
side shall benefit from them, and gain deeper understanding  
of the views of African leaders. We hope that the Dele-  
gation will return to Africa with lasting impressions of  
a will on the part of the Norwegian Government and people  
to understand your problems and to cooperate with your  
countries.

The states of Africa present themselves with high  
ambitions. You have assumed the responsibility to raise  
the economic and social well-being of the African peoples.  
The founding in 1963 of the Organization for African Unity  
represented a continuation of the African struggle for

political independence. The leaders of the African states have acknowledged that the process of the full liberation of Africa, and further development in all fields of human activity on their continent, must be based on unity and solidarity.

I think we may now be at the threshold of a new era in inter-European relations. A Europe no longer harassed by wars and disunity should be able to give a larger and more constructive contribution to world-wide cooperation within the framework of the UN.

The United Nations has since its foundation been a cornerstone in the foreign policy of Norway. Within the world organization we have consistently supported the process of decolonisation and the programs for economic and social development. We have welcomed the emergence of the new states of Africa and their participation in international cooperation.

But some hard-core colonial problems remain. The peoples of Southern Africa are still oppressed by colonialism and apartheid. The Portuguese government has still not brought an end to its colonial rule in Africa. The process of liberating Africa must be brought to a successful conclusion.

My Government will provide the peoples of Southern Africa who are struggling for national liberation with humanitarian and other forms of economic assistance. The Norwegian Government will increase its efforts in this respect both through the UN and through direct contacts with national liberation movements in Southern Africa.

I had the good fortune last year to participate in the visit to East-Africa of the Foreign Affaires

Committee of the Norwegian National Assembly. We brought home with us strong impressions of the problems that confront governments and peoples in Africa, but we noted with optimism the firm determination to handle those problems. Your task is of a nature and a size beyond anything we are used to deal with in our part of the world.

In our time, the interdependence of all nations of the world has become evermore clear. We would like to see the OAU strong and embracing all Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to propose a toast to the health of the Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, His Excellency the President of Mauretania, and to the distinguished guests that are accompanying him, to the progress and the strength of the Organization of African Unity, and to the friendship of the peoples of the vast continent of Africa and Norway.