

TALE UNDER MIDDAGEN PÅ AKERSHUS I FORBINDELSE MED PRESIDENT
NYERERES BESØK 28. - 29. MAI 1985.

Your Excellency, President Nyerere and Mrs. Nyerere, Your
Royal Highnesses, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me, on behalf of the
Norwegian Government, to welcome President Julius
Nyerere of Tanzania on this visit to Norway. Our honoured
guest is indeed an old friend of Norway. Many of us will
remember his visits to our northern shores as early as
1963 and 1976. Once again your visit here, Mr. President,
will help us to gain a better understanding of the
complex and interlinked developments which are shaping
the future of Africa.

Ever since the founding of the Tanganyika African
National Union in 1954, Julius Nyerere has been the
unchallenged leader of his people - for the last twenty-
three years as Head of State of an independent Tanzania.

It is no wonder, therefore, that what has transpired
in Tanzania during this long period, although brief in
the history of a nation, is closely associated with the
leadership of Julius Nyerere - with his political convictions,
his teachings and, above all, his dedication to his
country and its people.

The task of building a nation on the foundation existing at the time of independence was, indeed, a formidable one. And major progress has been made in a number of fields, with health services and education as important examples. I have noted that life expectancy in Tanzania is now much higher than the average for the Third World. Illiteracy has declined from 90 per cent in 1960 to only about 30 per cent in the 1980s. We realize, however, that much remains to be done before the just aspirations of the Tanzanian people can be achieved. We also realize that the progress made, particularly in the social sector, is now being threatened from several sides - by prolonged economic recession, a lack of growth and a great increase in population.

For a number of years now - in fact since the mid 1970's, we have witnessed growing problems in the economies of Third World countries - in particular African countries, including Tanzania. The reasons for this serious development are interrelated, complex and manifold. Some of the reasons are international in their nature - such as the cumulative effects of adverse terms of trade, soaring oil prices, inflation, high interest rates and growing debts.

The future of the developing countries will depend first and foremost on themselves and their own efforts to bring about a better future. But the international community has a responsibility as well. Together with other like-minded countries in the North and South, Norway has been actively engaged in the North-South

negotiations, and will continue to be so. In addition, and as a supplement to our North-South policy, we have launched a Nordic initiative for extended economic cooperation between the Nordic countries and the SADCC-countries in Southern Africa.

A particularly distressing aspect of the situation in the sub-Saharan region is the drought and desertification, which lead to famine and mass migration. We are here faced with urgent emergency requirements as well as long-term development needs, both of which must be met. With a growing shortage of food supplies in sub-Saharan Africa, increased emphasis has to be placed on supporting agricultural production. The long-term objective must be to make Africa self-sufficient as regards food. We feel convinced that Tanzania, with its abundant land for agricultural development and excellent human resources, will have an important contribution to make towards this aim.

For the past twenty years, Norway has worked together with Tanzania in development cooperation. Our shared activities have covered a lot of different areas, such as fisheries, water supply, energy, rural roads and coastal transportation. Thousands of Norwegians have lived and worked in Tanzania together with your people. They have brought back to Norway not only the warmest feelings for the people of Tanzania and for the country itself, but also a legacy of understanding and friendship which has been of great value to our own society.

No amount of foreign support can do more than supplement the efforts of the Tanzanians themselves. In the present critical stage of the economy, outside support, both bilateral and from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank group is, however, essential. We are aware of your Government's efforts to try to work out an arrangement with the IMF, and we earnestly hope that you will succeed in this. In your process of renewed efforts in the long, hard struggle to promote your own economic progress, Norway is prepared to continue her cooperation with Tanzania.

Mr. President,

Under your leadership, Tanzania has played a leading role in the fight against white minority rule in Southern Africa, as symbolized in your position as Chairman of the Frontline States. We support the persistent struggle against the inhuman system of apartheid.

In the absence of binding international sanctions, Norway and the other Nordic countries have adopted various unilateral measures against South Africa, as embodied in the Joint Nordic Programme of Action against Apartheid. The Norwegian Government has recently adopted a plan to further reduce our economic relations with South Africa. We have also pledged our willingness to continue helping the Frontline States to reduce their economic dependence upon South Africa.

Mr. President,

We are honoured that you would include Norway in your farewell tour on the eve of your retirement as Head of State of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Your visions and ideas for a better future and your extraordinary services in the Non-aligned movement, the Commonwealth of Nations and the Organization of African Unity are important parts of the history of our turbulent age. And we remain confident that you will continue to play an important role even after your retirement as Head of State, as you continue to serve your people in your capacity as Chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi party.

Allow me to propose a toast to the continued cooperation between our two countries, and to the good health and happiness of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere and Mrs. Nyerere.