

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE GOVERNMENTS DINNER
AT NAJADEN 11.4.1980 FOR THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING
OF THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY UNION IN OSLO

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, Distinguished
Delegates,

It is a great honour for me to address the
participants of this Meeting of the Interparliamentary
Union.

It is not the first time that Norway hosts such
a meeting. As you will recall, the 50th Anniversary of
the Union - and in fact the very last conference of the
IPU before the outbreak of World War II - was held here
in Oslo in August 1939.

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The changes in the lists of countries participating
in these two meetings reflect major changes in the political
scene of the world. The quest for national freedom has
certainly altered the map of the world.

Your agenda demonstrates the profound changes that
have taken place. You have been discussing the Third
United Nations Development Decade, a topic unheard of
in 1939.

But you have also discussed the strengthening of the
process of détente and the urgent need to arrive at
international agreements in the field of arms control and
disarmament. In this field our generation has to acknowledge,
that although much has been achieved, the problems are

still with us - now aggravated by the risk of even greater destruction.

You have also debated the problem of refugees, and there we have to admit that the world is facing greater problems than ever.

I commend the Interparliamentary Union for having taken up these problems. By exchanging views and ideas on such important issues the Union is making a significant contribution towards advancing international understanding and cooperation. It is only through joint efforts that we will be able to find workable solutions to our problems.

I would like, therefore, to extend to you all my best wishes and my sincere hope that your endeavours here in Oslo - and in the years to come - will meet with success.

Thank you.