

STATSMINISTERENS TALE UNDER LUNSJ I IFAD 8. DESEMBER 1980

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a pleasure for me, coming for the first time to Italy, to be received by you, Mr. President, and your collaborators in such a friendly way. It has been a most interesting experience to visit the headquarters of IFAD, an organization which my Government and myself have followed with keen interest and admiration for the good results achieved in a short period.

I will not repeat what I said this morning, but I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words about your personal role in the succesful establishment of IFAD, Mr. President. It is the view of the Norwegian

- 2 -

government that your endeavours both in the negociation phase and during your years as president of the organization have been a major brick in the solid wall IFAD will be expanding on. I therefore take great pleasure in wishing you and IFAD the best of luck and prosperity for the years to come.

Permit me also, Mr. President, since the first period of Norwegian membership on the Executive Board is about to end, to say that we are very pleased to have been given the possibility of following closely the work of IFAD in the initial phase. I have the feeling that Norway in this way also has contributed to the good results, and much of this has to be credited to professor Odvar Aresvik, who has been our representative on the

Executive Board. Professor Aresvik will now be retiring, and I am sure that I have you all with me in expressing our thanks to him.

Finally, Mr. President, I cannot leave this table without thanking you, which is a good Norwegian habit, for the excellent luncheon you have offered today. I have enjoyed your hospitality and I feel honoured on behalf of my country for being entrusted the task of opening this very important 4th session of the Governing Council.