

Official Visit by His Excellency the Prime Minister of Jamaica,
Mr. Michael Manley.

Speech at the official Government Dinner at
Akershus Castle 1st November 1977.

Dear Mr. Manley,

Firstly, let me repeat my greeting of welcome to you
and your delegation.

This is the first official visit we have from Jamaica.
When I now tell you, Mr. Manley, and your fellow guests
that I felt during our conversations
that the foundation has been laid for future friendly
close relations, this is much more than a phrase in an
official speech.

- 2 -

We are different in history, in geography and in the
natural conditions of climate and resources which have
been given to us. Even if Norway in an European context,
historically was among the less privileged countries, we
realize that today ^{we enjoy} the privilege of very high living
standards a favourable supply of important natural resources
and stable democratic institutions. We realize that the
problems which we are tackling in this country, must be
considered as ripples on the surface compared to the
problems which Jamaica and most of the other developing
countries are facing.

Still, I felt it very strongly yesterday, Mr. Manley, that although our background is different, although our problems are different, we are both trying to develop free democratic societies along the same high standards both in Jamaica and in Norway.

We share the common feature of being small countries living close to big neighbours. You are in your country, as we have traditionally been here, eager to establish a national control over natural resources. We understand and sympathize with your objectives of establishing national control of the main elements in your economic and social development.

I do also respect highly your objectives of delimiting the main differences between social and economic classes in your country. Outsiders think that Norway and other scandinavian countries are more egalitarian than most other countries. Wether this statement is true or not, I feel that you cannot develop a true democracy with even opportunities for everybody without eliminating the great differences between economic and social classes.

In spite of all the problems you have in your own country we appreciate very much that you also have the energy to devote a good deal of

your political and diplomatic capacity to work for international matters. We have in international forums met with representatives of your government in the work for gaining freedom and human dignity in southern Africa. We have been highly impressed by the intense efforts made by your government in the work for a new economic world order. In the United Nations your country is now chairman of the important group of 77, which comprises as a matter of fact many more than 100 countries in the world, that is all the developing countries. It calls for great diplomatic talents and strong political philosophy to undertake such a chairmanship. We realize that among the group of 77 you have differences and internal dis-

agreements. But it is of major importance for the success of the big task of the 77 to act externally as a unit. We have been impressed by the ability of your foreign minister and his staff in carrying out this task.

When my work load permits, I like to take interest in some other matters than Government documents. I take a certain interest in various types of sports. I have alongside with many of my countrymen, deeply enjoyed the extraordinary achievements made by Jamaican competitors, particularly in the running events. I am happy to tell my fellow guests that the ambassador designate to Norway, Mr. Wint, was among the first groups of Jamaicans sprinters who visited Norway in the fifties, and introduced to us this top world class of sportmanship.

Two days are too short for such a visit like yours, Mr. Manley. We should have loved to show you more of the country than the foggy rain areas around Oslo in November. We should have liked to show you more of how people work and live in this country and to discuss more thoroughly with you and your colleagues the many problems we have in common and to learn more of your problems and the ways you intend to solve them. All this may come at one later day, I hope.

I propose a toast to Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica, expressing my best wishes for yourself, your country and the success of your development efforts.