

Statsminister Odvar Nordli.

Hilsningstale ved åpningen av den internasjonale veitransportunions kongress i Oslo 23. mai 1978.

Mr. Chairman,

It is a pleasure and an honour for me, on behalf of the Government of Norway, to address the sixteenth Congress of the International Road Transport Union. I am pleased to see that delegates from thirty countries in all continents of the world have gathered in Oslo to discuss common problems of road transport. But I assume that you have come here not only to discuss problems and pass resolutions. I assume that you have also assembled here to establish and deepen personal contacts across nation

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borders. This is a practical and useful way of extending international understanding.

I do also hope that you will have the opportunity to collect some impressions of our country. I hope that as a bi-product of your participation in the Congress, you will bring with you an image of a society where you felt welcome as a visitor.

I am impressed by the draft resolutions which you are going to discuss here. I think it is very encouraging that professional road transport operators also concentrate on subjects which go far beyond the narrow concept of their own profession. I appreciate that you also pay great attention to subjects as for example road safety, air pollution, traffic noise and the social standard of transport workers.

In this country, as in almost every country in

the world today, the Government is increasingly concerned about the needs to find good solutions to these questions. Until recently we were mostly concerned about increasing the capacity of road traffic. This has been an essential part in the development of a modern society with a balanced development of different regions and of different industries.

But, as development has advanced, the disadvantages, or the social costs, of this vast modern efficient transport machinery have become visible.

Solutions to the basic problems of safety, environment and social standard of transport workers, can not be solved by governments alone. There is an urgent need for a close cooperation with everybody concerned, including the transport operators who daily feel their sides of the pro-

blems.

I wish that you in your deliberations will be aware of the need for a constructive cooperation between road operators and authorities. This cooperation must go beyond the partisan interests of road transport operators as one group opposite to other groups and the Government. Cooperation must develop as a partnership between Government and all relevant sectors of society. This includes of course the road transport operators. But it also includes the school children on their dangerous way to their daily work in school. It includes the road side residents, private car drivers, in brief, it includes all of us.

I wish you good luck with the progress of the Congress. I wish you good luck in your professional delibera-

tions. I wish you will have a happy stay in Norway and I wish you a happy return to your home countries. And last but not least, drive carefully, it is better to arrive ten minutes late at your destination of to-day, than thirty years early at your final destination.