

kzczc osl 047  
osl nm nyc nm  
. was nm nm  
amb washington 30.5.78

Fordelt:

- Gj. p. nr. 1 Utenriksministeren
- « « 2 Utenriksråden
- « « 3 Statssekretæren
- « « 4 Statssekretæren *Per* avd.
- « « 5 Presseleiemannene
- « « 6 Rapportkontoret
- « « 7 Pressen

ud med nr 307  
fn u nr

00525 UD

1978

HILSKN. TIL UD		
30 MAI 1978		
33	2	577

na t o's toppmøete, washington d c 30-31 mai 1978.

statement by the prime minister of norway, mr odvar nordli.

Like speakers before me i would like to thank president carter for inviting us all to washington.

We are meeting today to consider how the alliance should respond to the many challenges confronting us in the 1980'ies.

the task of this meeting must be to strengthen the defence of the alliance and to give new vitality to the process of detente.

the north atlantic alliance is of fundamental importance for maintaining the security of our countries and for securing peace and stability in the world. the alliance is an association of democratic states. it has no aggressive intentions. the protection of human rights must weigh heavily in the foreign policies of our democracies. for my own country there is no realistic alternative to the security guaranteed by the alliance.

we are confronted with the military build-up of the warsaw pact. against this background we are adopting the long term defence programme. adequate defence is a precondition for the pursuit of detente efforts with confidence. therefore, there is no conflict between our defence efforts and our work to achieve real progress in disarmament.

east/west relations have lost some of the momentum which marked to

the early seventies. the belgrade meeting, the salt ii and the vienna negotiations on force reductions have not led to any breakthrough in east/west relations. however, the fact that this comprehensive negotiating process is continuing, is a positive element.

*as allies, we are cooperating for collective defence.*  
military defence alone will not, however, be sufficient to safeguard our democratic societies. we must also safeguard economic and social conditions of our people. this task represents a particular challenge at a time when there are somewhere between 15 and 20 million unemployed in our countries.

mass unemployment should not be tolerated in our democratic societies. prolonged unemployment undermines social stability and causes social unrest and may even become a danger to our democratic system.

many countries are affected by strong inflation. the lack of efficient international economic cooperation makes it difficult to exploit fully the potential of our countries.

these are problems which require our urgent attention and cooperation. this is a particular challenge to all the countries present here today.

conditions of peace and stability in our area are also determined by developments in the world at large. in this context our relations with the developing countries are of decisive importance. there is of course a close interrelationship between the economic situation in our own countries and our ability to further

further economic development in the poor countries. there is no contradiction between these two aims. increased efforts in favour of the developing countries may stimulate economic activity also in our own countries. thus, efforts to establish a new economic world order should be seen as an effort to solve common problems. this is a peace-building effort in the true sense of the word.

concurrent with our meeting here in washington a special session of the united nations' general assembly is focusing international attention on disarmament. it is important that we, both at this meeting and in new york, are making it clear that we are prepared to play our part in the achievement of realistic measures for arms control and disarmament.

nuclear weapons represent a specially awesome problem. on the one hand they contribute to the deterrence on which our security depends. on the other hand nuclear weapons by their sheer existence, represent in themselves a threat to humanity. the nuclear weapons states have a special responsibility for showing restraint and exploiting all possibilities to halt further development and deployment of nuclear weapons. in this connection i want to emphasize the importance of president carter's decision to postpone the decision of production of the neutron warhead. it is now up to the soviet union whether this decision will be the beginning to a novel and positive development.

arms control and disarmament are integral parts of our security policy. it is a decisive precondition for achieving reductions of weapons both in the conventional and nuclear fields, that the necessary mutual confidence is created through political detente.