

Statsminister
Odvar Nordli

BORDTALE VED "TIDEWATER"-MØTET 7. APRIL 1978,
SOLE TURISTHOTELL

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure for me to wish you heartily welcome to Norway and to Noresund. I hope that this place will prove to be a good setting for your discussions and deliberations over the next two days. If time permits, the countryside around the hotel should also provide you with good opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors.

It is indeed a great honour for us to host this tenth "Tidewater" meeting and to have så many distinguished personalities as our guests. I know that you often see

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each other at formal meeting and conferences. Such occasions provide little room for informal exchanges of views and exploration of ideas. The "Tidewater"-meetings are meant to provide the opportunity for off-the-record discussions of development policies and issues.

I need not comment on the importance of the subjects you will be discussing. All I can do is to express my sincere hope that when you leave you will feel that the meeting has been worth while. Our dinner will hopefully set the tone and provide a good atmosphere not only for this evening but for the entire meeting.

I have heard a story which should have taken place in this district, even if I cannot grant it.

Once upon a time a Finn, a Dane a Swede and a Norwegian were sentenced to be shot here. Each of them were accorded a last wish to be fulfilled before the execution.

The Finn wanted a Sauna,
- and he got one.

The Dane wanted a good meal, with a beer and an aquavit,
- and he got it.

The Norwegian wanted to give a speech.

The Swede wanted to be shot before the Norwegian, so that he did not need to hear that speech.

The best conclusion I can draw from that story is to end now.-

Again I wish you all heartily welcome.