

PRIME MINISTER

YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE

This is to be held in the Chancery of the Embassy at 1545 for half an hour. It is expected to be very well attended since some 90 Norwegian journalists have been accredited (you will recall that your brief says Norway is awash with subsidised newspapers).

In view of the wetness of the Norwegians, I would expect this to be a lively session. They will be wanting to score points but they will undoubtedly give you opportunities to make some which win points at home as well as here in Norway.

I think it is also important to note that:

- demonstrations of the orchestrated kind we have seen only underline for the public the international nature of the left and IRA conspiracy; they do not do Norway much good, but they do not do you much harm;
- there is no sympathy in mainland Britain for the Northern Irish and it is at least arguable that your stand on South African sanctions was on balance a political plus;
- in short you are not necessarily batting on a sticky wicket.

As always the British media will be interested in your reaction to events at home - notably in this case the trouble overnight in St. Paul's, Bristol. We are keeping in touch with London, but I see no point in your saying more than you understand that the police carried out an anti-drugs exercise and that the situation is under control and has quietened down.

For the rest, the press conference is predictably in the range of questions:

How you and Mrs. Brundtland got on

The media programmed themselves before the visit to say you wouldn't get on but I think I have eroded this negative impression with my briefing on your talks this morning.

Acid Rain

What you propose to do is too little, too late and would take too long; why don't you do more?

Demonstrations

Do you think they were orchestrated, conceivably by Danny Morrison?

Do you think policing was adequate?

Have you received apologies from the Norwegian Government?

(NB the Norwegian press says the police were unprepared)

Oil

Why won't you cut production?

Is your objection merely doctrinal and what happens in joint fields?

South Africa

Sanctions

Europe

EC/EFTA cooperation

It is possible that the following other points will arise:

Northern Ireland

Here there is a real opportunity to make runs with the Norwegian public;

East/West relations

Will Reagan/Gorbachev have a summit?

When are you going to Moscow?(I have said not before next spring)

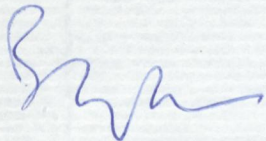
Unemployment/Welfare State

Since Mrs. Brundtland's remarks in Tromso have been seen by some as criticism of your policies; (I have said that we also have a welfare state which looks after everyone - too well to judge from the leaders in some British newspapers represented here).

The attached draft opening remarks are deliberately brief in view of your speeches (including the ad libs which we have fed out) and your remarks with Mrs. Brundtland on the roof.

There will be no interviews after the press conference; there is no time, so when you wish to get over a particular point you might make your remarks with television and radio in mind.

I will preside and select the questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bernard Ingham', written in a cursive style.

BERNARD INGHAM

12 September 1986



FROM: R G SHORT
DATE: 11 SETPEMBER 1986

cc: Mr Ingham

Private Secretary

NORWEGIAN PRESS COMMENT

... 1. I submit a summary of today's press comment on the Prime Minister's visit.

Roger Short

R G Short



NORWEGIAN NATIONAL PRESS: SUMMARY: 11 SEPTEMBER

Most leading papers have a comment today on the Prime Minister's visit. The basic message is that Mrs Thatcher is welcome even though there is disagreement among Norwegians about her politics.

AFTENPOSTEN (leading Norwegian newspaper, similar to The Times)

The second editorial in Aftenposten is entitled "A Welcome Guest" and describes the close relationship between Norway and Britain and their common interests. Mrs Thatcher will be welcomed as a Head of Government and there are many subjects for the two Prime Ministers to discuss including Acid Rain, Oil Policy, Foreign and Security Policy as well as the EC.

MORGENBLADET (Conservative)

In its leading editorial Morgenbladet welcomes Mrs Thatcher to Norway. She is described as representing the modernisation of British society: her successes have been to restore some order to the chaos of British industrial relations, to bring inflation under control and to encourage growth in the economy. These achievements are clouded by unemployment and stagnation in some sectors of British industry. Mrs Thatcher also represents the growing Europeanisation of British economic and security policy. Strong support for NATO does not preclude a constructive relationship with the USSR. Morgenbladet concludes by describing Mrs Thatcher as undoubtedly one of the outstanding leaders in the Western World.

ARBEIDERBLADET (Left Wing)

In their leading article Arbeiderbladet recall the visit of Mr Macmillan. Today more differences exist between Mrs Thatcher and Mrs Brundtland than did between Mr Macmillan and his Labour host. But if Norway were only to receive those with whom she agreed, she would be left with the Swedish Prime Minister alone. Mrs Thatcher is welcome as the Prime Minister of a country which has a long constitutional tradition, and fought two world wars: to defend it.

NORWAY'S TRADE AND MARITIME PAPER (NHST) (Economic)

In a half-page article NHST describes the economic problems facing Mrs Thatcher (quoting figures taken from "The Economist"). Unemployment is rising and growth in GNP will barely reach 2%, well under the average for Western industrialised nations. NHST sounds a note of optimism in its praise for Mrs Thatcher's control of the country's finances and reduction of the balance of payments deficit.



VERDENS GANG (Right Wing)

In their second leader VG welcome Mrs Thatcher to Norway. She is, they say, a controversial politician whose visit will be met with demonstrations both in Oslo and Tromsø. While VG support the right to demonstrate, they cannot support those who refuse to meet her. On subjects on which the Norwegian view is different the points should be made to Mrs Thatcher and her replies listened to. Like it or not Norway, in many respects, is in the same boat as Britain.

Verdens Gang also has an article on the Sinn Fein leader, Danny Morrison, who describes Mrs Thatcher as the worst English leader since Oliver Cromwell.

DAGBLADET (Leftist)

In their leader Dagbladet claim that the visit of Mrs Thatcher would not have taken place if Mrs Brundtland had not inherited the invitation from her predecessor. Mrs Thatcher takes from the poor and gives to the rich and she supports apartheid in South Africa. For these reasons (and because of Acid Rain) she should not have been invited. On the other hand they cite the special relationship with Britain and the fact that she is the democratically elected Prime Minister. They refer to the demonstrations and protests about her visit but conclude: "Although we do not like your politics until your own voters give you the push: Welcome to Norway."

Dagbladet also has a short article on the back page describing how Mr Brundtland will look after Mr Thatcher, visiting with him BP and Norsk Data.

PRESS CONFERENCE - DRAFT OPENING REMARKS

THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO NORWAY AND IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY BLESSED WITH MARVELLOUS WEATHER TO DISPLAY THIS MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY AT ITS BEST.

I THINK IT IS REMARKABLE THAT FOR SUCH CLOSE ALLIES THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND VISIT BY A BRITISH PRIME MINISTER - AND THE FIRST FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS:

IT HAS HOWEVER BEEN A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE VISIT BECAUSE MRS BRUNDTLAND AND I HAVE GOT ON EXTREMELY WELL FROM OUR VERY FIRST MEETING YESTERDAY.

WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF DISCUSSIONS ON OUR TOURS, DURING THE TWO HOUR FLIGHT DOWN FROM TROMSO YESTERDAY AND AGAIN THIS MORNING. OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN A FREE AND OPEN ATMOSPHERE - IN THE KIND OF WAY THAT FRIENDS AND ALLIES CAN AND SHOULD DISCUSS MATTERS TOGETHER.

BEFORE I TELL YOU ABOUT OUR TALKS I WANT TO MAKE THE POINT THAT MY MAIN PURPOSE IN COMING TO NORWAY - APART FROM TO MEET MRS BRUNDTLAND AND SEE SOME OF THE COUNTRY - WAS TO DEMONSTRATE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENCE TO THE NORTH, A MOST IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE NATO SHIELD. THAT IS WHY I WENT TO TROMSO YESTERDAY AND WHY I HAVE BEEN AT AFNORTH TODAY.

I AM SURE THAT THIS DEMONSTRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENCE OF THE NORTH IS MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT.

TURNING NOW TO MY TALKS WITH MRS BRUNDTLAND, THEY HAVE RANGED VERY WIDELY. THERE HAS BEEN A VERY WIDE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US. WE HAVE COVERED

- East West Relations
- International economic situation, including the oil market
- EC/Norwegian/EFTA relations
- terrorism
- GATT and international trade
- the environment
- South Africa

SO FAR AS ACID RAIN IS CONCERNED, MRS BRUNDTLAND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE MOVES WE ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY AND WHICH I REGARD AS A VERY BIG STEP ON OUR PART. OF COURSE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE US TO GO FURTHER BUT I MUST POINT OUT THAT WE ARE NOT THE ONLY SOURCE OF POLLUTION AND THAT SINCE 1970 WE HAVE MADE VERY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF SULPHUR GOING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE.

ON OIL, ~~MRS BRUNDTLAND WENT OUT OF HER WAY TO SAY THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO RESTRICT EXPORTS WAS NOT INTENDED AS A SLAP IN THE FACE FOR BRITAIN, AS SOME BRITISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE SUGGESTED.~~ I TOLD HER I NEVER THOUGHT IT WAS. ^{MRS. BRUNDTLAND THAT} WE BOTH HAVE OUR OWN POLICIES AND WHERE ^{OUR RESPECTIVE} ~~DIFFERING~~ INTERESTS ^{DIFFER} TOUCH WE NEGOTIATE ABOUT THEM.

ON SOUTH AFRICA I EXPLAINED THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TO SANCTIONS AND WHY WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY WOULD WORK: I SET OUT OUR POSITION VERY FULLY INDEED AND I AM SURE THAT MRS BRUNDTLAND NOW FULLY APPRECIATES OUR ARGUMENTS.

WE ARE, I SHOULD SAY, AT ONE IN AGREEING THAT APARTHEID IS UNACCEPTABLE AND MUST COME TO AN END.

WE ARE ALSO AGREED ON THE NEED:

- FOR A SUMMIT BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND MR GORBACHEV THIS YEAR
- TO MAINTAIN THE ABM TREATY, IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS ON SDI
- FOR GREATER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND EFTA INCLUDING THE REDUCTION OF TRADE BARRIERS
- FOR MORE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM
- FOR THE NEED FOR A NEW GATT ROUND WHICH COVERS SERVICES AND AGRICULTURE AS WELL AS TRADE IN GOODS

IT HAS BEEN A TERRIFIC TWO DAYS AND I AM GLAD THAT I HAVE AT LAST GOT TO NORWAY. I AM SURE I SHALL BE BACK TO SEE MORE OF YOUR TRULY MAGNIFICENT COUNTRY: