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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: President Ford
Crown Prince Harald of Norway
Princess Sonja
Brent Scowcroft, Assistant to the
President for National Security Affairs
Amb. Soren Christian Sommerfelt,
Ambassador of Norway

DATE AND TIME: Friday, July 2, 1976
11:00 - 11:36 a.m.

PLACE: The Oval Office

Harald: I bring you the best greetings from my father.

The President: Please give him my warm regards. It is nice to have you here and we greatly appreciate the very appropriate bicentennial gift. It is most generous and a fitting gift.

Harald: We are pleased to be able to do it.

The President: Are you enjoying your trip?

Harald: Very much.

Sonja: But it is very short. We will have to come when we can spend more time.

The President: You should bring the children.

Sonja: We will have to wait for that. They are only 5 and 3.

The President: We have something in common. I am a real amateur, but I enjoy skiing. [Long discussion about skiing]

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The President: We have a ceremony in the East Garden. Ordinarily it would be in the Rose Garden but for the Queen's visit.

Again, please convey my greetings to your father, and my appreciation and that of the American people for sending you and your touching bicentennial gift.

I believe we are now supposed to go out to the ceremony.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
Presidential Libraries Withdrawal Sheet

WITHDRAWAL ID 018439

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Prince Harald and Princess Sonja
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Sanitized 12/6/04

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE HARALD
AND PRINCESS SONJA OF NORWAY

Friday, July 2, 1976
11:00 a.m. (15 minutes)
The Oval Office

From: Brent Scowcroft *BS*

I. PURPOSE

Crown Prince Harald and Princess Sonja
 are paying a private visit to the United States in connection with the U.S. Bicentennial celebrations. They have asked to pay this call on you to extend Norway's Bicentennial greetings and to present a letter from Norwegian Prime Minister Nordli to you describing Norway's Bicentennial gift -- \$200,000 toward the construction of a health sports center for the handicapped in Minnesota.

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Your purpose in the Oval Office meeting will be to:

- express America's appreciation for Norway's contributions to the U.S. Bicentennial,
- recall with pleasure your meeting with the Crown Prince's father, King Olav V, during his visit last October on the occasion of the 150th anniversary celebration of Norwegian emigration to the United States,
- state the very great importance the United States attaches to its ties of friendship and alliance with Norway.

Immediately following the Oval Office meeting, the Prime Minister's letter to you (text at Tab B) will be formally presented in a ceremony in the East Garden which will include John Warner and some 80 participants of the July 2 White House seminar, "Health Sports for the Handicapped," being conducted by Ted Marrs. Suggested remarks for this ceremony will be provided separately (Copy at Tab A).

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AUTHORITY RAC Review 12/6/04; State visit 3/13/04
BY ll NLF, DATE 4/19/07

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II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Background: The trip of the Crown Prince and Princess has been planned with a view to their participation in Operation Sail as a tribute from Norway to the Bicentennial. Norway's windjammer, the Christian Radich, will participate in the Operation Sail events in New York before going on a private tour to several American cities. The 676-ton, 238-foot vessel, is operated by a private foundation with subsidies from the Norwegian Government. The ship trains sailors for Norway's merchant fleet, the world's fourth largest. The Christian Radich visited the United States last year as part of the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of organized Norwegian immigration into the United States. The Norwegian Navy will be represented by the Norwegian Navy frigate Trondheim in Operation Sail's Naval Review in New York on July 4. The Trondheim is ordinarily assigned to a NATO task force.

The Crown Prince and his wife arrived in New York on June 28, leaving immediately for the Rhode Island area. On June 30 they visited Philadelphia and came to Washington on July 1. They will return to New York on July 3, participate in the July 4 festivities in that city, and return to Norway on the 5th of July.

The Crown Prince is no stranger to the United States. From 1940 to 1945 he lived in exile in this country in Bethesda. He has returned officially on visits in 1960, 1963 (representing Norway at the funeral of President Kennedy), 1964 and 1965. The Crown Prince, like his father, is an accomplished sailor and skier. There is no indication that he shares the King's deep interest in world affairs; his interests tend to lie in the direction of sports and music.

- B. Participants: Crown Prince Harald, Princess Sonja, Norwegian Ambassador Sommerfeldt and Brent Scowcroft.
- C. Press Arrangements: The meeting will be announced, and there will be press photo coverage of the Bicentennial ceremony.

III. TALKING POINTS

(The Crown Prince and Princess are addressed as Your Highness)

1. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the United States and to Washington.

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2. Speaking for all Americans, we are most appreciative of Norway's generous participation in our Bicentennial celebration. The gift you are announcing today is particularly thoughtful.
3. I was pleased to learn that Norway has an entry -- the Christian Radich -- in the tall ships race. I am delighted to know that you will be joining us on the carrier Forrestal this Sunday for the ships review in New York.
4. The Bicentennial is being celebrated across the United States in thousands of different events. It is a truly meaningful occasion marking not only our 200th birthday but also providing the occasion for the reaffirmation of American principles, ideals and goals as we enter our third century. We do so with great confidence and high hopes.
5. Looking to the future, we attach the greatest importance to our ties of friendship and alliance with Norway, and I am sure these ties will grow in the years ahead.

Visit of King Olav and meeting with Former Prime Minister Bratteli

1. I recall with pleasure my meeting in the Oval Office with your father His Majesty King Olav last October when he was in the United States to honor the 150th anniversary of Norwegian emigration to the United States.
2. Much of our conversation then focussed not on tall ships but on Norway's new off-shore oil rigs and your oil production from the North Sea.
3. Earlier in 1975, at the NATO summit meeting I had the pleasure of meeting with your former Prime Minister Bratteli (BROUGHT-ly)
4. Norwegian Americans have made and continue to make a most important contribution to this country, and we honor that contribution as part of our celebration this year.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
PRESENTATION OF NORWEGIAN BICENTENNIAL GIFT
East Garden
July 2, 1976

Welcoming Remarks

- 1) It is a great honor and pleasure to welcome to Washington today their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Harald and Princess Sonja of Norway.
- 2) The Crown Prince is an old friend of the United States, and we have just had a very welcome and cordial conversation.
- 3) We are delighted that the Crown Prince and the Princess can share these very special Bicentennial moments with us. We also welcome Ambassador and Mrs. Sommerfeldt and all of our guests to the East Garden today.

Closing Remarks

- 1) Your Highness, this gift which the Government and people of Norway have sent to us today to honor our 200th anniversary as a nation not only captures the true spirit of our celebration but also establishes a legacy that will be ours for years to come.
- 2) A country is measured by its concern for the welfare and well-being of all its citizens. This concern is being expressed today by a group gathered here at the White House under Dr. Marr's direction to study ways to improve the condition for millions of Americans who face, with courage, lives of great challenge and lives of great opportunity.

3) It is reflected in your gift and in our shared ideals as nations.

4) The center which will be established through gifts such as the one announced today by Crown Prince Harald will help ensure that the future of our handicapped citizens will hold the same opportunities for fulfillment as it does for all our citizens.

5) On behalf of the people of the United States, we express our great appreciation for this generous gift.

6) We send our best wishes through you, Your Royal Highness, to His Majesty, King Olav, to Prime Minister Nordli (NORD-lee) and to the people of Norway for their continued happiness and prosperity.

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Letter from Norwegian Prime Minister Nordli

Dear Mr. President,

I have the great honor and pleasure to inform you that the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) on May 28 of this year resolved to grant an appropriation of an amount corresponding to U.S. \$200,000 as a national gift from Norway to the United States of America on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the American Revolution.

In making this decision the Storting found it most appropriate and natural that a donation be given by the Norwegian people to the American people on this occasion, thus expressing the close friendship between them. The Declaration of Independence because a source of inspiration for liberation and an expression of the ideals of liberty on which our societies are built.

Furthermore, the settlement in the United States of some 800,000 Norwegian immigrants between 1825 and the 1920's has been followed by developments which have brought the United States and Norway into constructive cooperation, politically, economically and culturally.

The Storting has stipulated that Norway's national gift to the United States should consist of a contribution of lasting value to a Health Sports Center for handicapped persons being planned in the state of Minnesota, where so many Norwegian immigrants found new homes.

Norway has herself gained valuable experience in developing sports and other recreational facilities aimed at bringing increased enjoyment of life, strengthened health and improved possibilities for physical training and medical rehabilitation to handicapped persons, especially through the activities at the Beitostolen Helsesportssenter (Health Sports Center). Some of the encouraging results achieved at the Beitostolen Center were demonstrated to the American public through the arrangements during the winters of 1975 and 1976 of a "Race for Light" (cross country skiing races for blind and other handicapped persons) in the State of Colorado and the State of Minnesota respectively.

It is our hope that we through a contribution to a Health Sports Center for the handicapped on American soil may be able to share our experiences in this important field with the United States of America.

The exact form of Norway's contribution to a Health Sports Center in the State of Minnesota, to be called Vinland National Center, will be decided upon at a later time in consultation with the organizers of the Center.

Yours very sincerely, (Odvar Nordli)

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
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P/Prince Harold
2 July 79

10:00 - 11:36

H Best greetings from my father

P Please give him my warm regards. It is nice to hear from you here & we greatly appreciate the very apprec. present gift. It is most generous & a very fitting gift

H We are pleased to have it

V You enjoying your trip

H Very much

So. But it is very short. We would love to come when we can spend more time.

P You should bring a children.

So. We will have to wait for that. They are only 5 & 3.

P We have something in Warsaw. I am a real amateur, but enjoying playing.

Cheng also discuss about playing

P We have a cemetery in a E Garden. Obviously it would be R. Garden but for a Queen's visit.

Again please convey my greetings to your father, my appreciation & that of a few people for sending you and your touching present gifts.

I believe we are now supposed to go out to the cemetery.

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BY ML, NARA, DATE 7/27/04

