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October 8, 1975

WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE

President's Meeting with King Olav V of Norway  
October 8, 1975

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The President will meet with King Olav V of Norway on Friday, morning, October 10.

The King is in the United States at the invitation of Norwegian-American and civic groups for celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary of organized Norwegian emigration to this country. The President wished to take this occasion to invite the King to the White House to mark the sesquicentennial anniversary and to have an exchange of views on issues of interest to the United States and Norway.

\* \* \* \*

Q: Does the King govern in Norway?

A: He is a constitutional monarch. Responsibility for governing rests with elected officials of the Government of Norway.

Q: When was the King last here?

A: King Olav V was last in the United States in 1971.

Q: Just what is this sesquicentennial celebration?

A: On July 4, 1825, the sloop Restauration left the Norwegian port of Stavanger for the United States with 46 emigrants aboard. This marked the beginning of organized Norwegian emigration to the United States.

Ceremonies commemorating the event have been taking place this year in both Norway and the United States. The highlight of the celebrations in Norway was a ceremony at Stavanger attended by the King, other high officials of the Norwegian government, and members of the U. S. Congress.

Q: What is the King going to do while in the United States?

A: The King has already visited New York, where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. Here in Washington, the evening of October 10 the King will host a dinner at Blair House. Subsequently, the King will visit several other American cities to participate in Norwegian-American activities.

Q: Can you tell us what other cities?

A: I do not have that information, but the Norwegian Embassy presumably could help you. (FYI: The King will be visiting Minneapolis, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Anchorage, as well as Prudhoe Bay. For security reasons, we suggest that his itinerary not be publicized.)

Q: Is this a State visit?

A: No. The King is in the United States on a private visit and the President wished to take the occasion to meet with him.

October 10, 1975

KING OLAV

As you know, the President will be meeting at 11:30 a. m. today with King Olav of Norway. Foreign Minister Frydenlund will also attend the meeting. King Olav is in the United States at the invitation of the Norwegian-American Association and other civic groups for celebrations of the 150th Anniversary of organized Norwegian immigration to the United States, and the President wanted to take this occasion to invite the King to the White House to mark this anniversary, and to talk to the King about issues between the the two countries.

*It will be a formal discussion*  
Among topics likely to be discussed are the Atlantic Alliance, including NATO's northern flank, the significance of CSCE, and Norway's energy program.

At the conclusion of the meeting the King will present the President with a gold medal commemorating the emigration anniversary. We will have a read-out following the meeting.

July 2, 1976

PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH  
CROWN PRINCE HARALD AND PRINCESS SONJA

VOLUNTEER:

The President met this morning at 11:00 am with Norwegian Crown Prince Harald and Princess Sonja. The Crown Prince and Princess are paying a private visit to the United States in connection with the U. S. Bicentennial celebrations. They had asked to pay a call on the President to extend Norway's Bicentennial greetings and to present a letter from Norwegian Prime Minister Nordli describing their Bicentennial gift -- \$200,000 toward the construction of a health-sports center for the handicapped in Minnesota.

The President took the opportunity of the meeting to express our appreciation for Norway's contribution to the U. S. Bicentennial and to state the great importance we attach to our ties of friendship and alliance with Norway.

\* \* \* \*

Q. Who else attended the meeting?

A. Norwegian Ambassador Lommerfeldt and General Scowcroft also attended.

Q. Do you have any details on the royal couple's itinerary?

A. They arrived in New York on June 28, and following visits to Philadelphia and D. C. , will return to New York for that city's July 4 festivities. They will return to Norway on July 5.

Q. Does the Prince have any official role in Norway?

A. His duties are largely ceremonial.

NOTE:

The President met with Crown Prince Harald's father, King Olav V last October, and earlier at the NATO Summit Meeting met with then Prime Minister Bratteli.

With the King's visit, the focus of the sesquicentennial celebrations turns to the United States. The King will be in the United States from October 4-29, 1975. He has already visited New York City where he addressed the United Nations General Assembly. Following his meeting with you, he will visit Minneapolis, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Anchorage. In Minneapolis, Chicago and Seattle the King will be participating in Norwegian-American activities. From Anchorage, the King will fly to Prudhoe Bay where he will tour the oil facilities. He will return to Norway directly from Anchorage.

The King is very pro-American and during his eighteen year reign has visited the United States regularly. He has often called at the White House, most recently in 1968 and 1971.

At the end of your meeting, the King will present you with a gold medal commemorating the sesquicentennial of Norwegian-American emigration. Only two of the medals have been struck by the National Coordinating Committee of the Norwegian-American sesquicentennial. One was presented to the King on October 9 in New York and he will present you with the other. The press will be admitted to observe the presentation. Remarks you may wish to make in accepting the medal are included in your recommended talking points.

Bilateral Relations: Our bilateral relations with Norway are consistently good. Norway is important to the United States from a strategic point of view because of its geographic position astride the USSR's two main sea exits to the Atlantic and bordering the Soviet Union's major military-naval complex on the Kola Peninsula. Norway's developing oil resources add a new dimension to our economic and commercial interest in the country. Finally, Norway's strong democratic traditions and the bonds forged by Norwegian emigration make Norway's friendship and cooperation valuable to us. You touched on these issues during your meeting with Prime Minister Bratteli (BROUGHT-Lee) in Brussels last May.

# Reabout

## RESPONSE TO AFTENPOSTEN'S REQUEST FOR A STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S VIEW OF KING OLAV'S VISIT

40 The President met this morning with King Olav of Norway for  
minutes. Secretary Kissinger and General Scowcroft attended with American  
side and Foreign Minister Frydenlund attended with the King.  
The President warmly welcomes King Olav V to the United States

on the occasion of celebrations commemorating the 150th anniversary  
of organized Norwegian emigration to this country. ~~The President is~~  
~~very pleased that he will have the opportunity to meet with the King at~~  
~~the White House on October 10.~~ King Olav's visit, on this occasion as  
in the past, serves to underscore the continuing close and very cordial  
relations between our two countries.

The sesquicentennial celebration of Norwegian emigration to the  
United States, highlighted by King Olav's visit, is an occasion of deep  
pride for all Americans. As the President said in his message of July 3  
commemorating the anniversary: "This event, which happily coincides  
with the period in which we celebrate two hundred years of national  
independence, stirs in all of us a keener appreciation of the remarkable  
contributions that Americans of Norwegian ancestry have made to our  
country's dynamic growth and development."

The descendants of these sturdy Norwegian emigrants and all Americans  
are honored by King Olav's visit. The President is confident that His  
Majesty's stay in the United States will add greatly to the already strong  
ties that bind our two nations together.