

MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS

THE FOLLOWING IS THE COMMUNIQUE RELEASED FOLLOWING THE MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS IN REYKJAVIK, SEPTEMBER 4 TO 5, 1984:

THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN THEIR REGULAR AUTUMN SESSION IN REYKJAVIK SEPTEMBER 4-5, 1984, CONFIRMED THE NORDIC COUNTRIES' WILLINGNESS TO CONTRIBUTE TO ALL CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE TENSIONS AND INSECURITY WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS TO REACH PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO THE NUMEROUS REGIONAL CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD WHICH REMAIN UNRESOLVED, SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN, SOUTH EAST ASIA AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE NORDIC COUNTRIES' STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED NATIONS. THEY UNDERLINED THE UNITED NATIONS' ESSENTIAL ROLE IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION'S EFFECTIVENESS IN CONFLICTS AND CRISIS SITUATIONS. RESPECT FOR THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, AS LAID DOWN IN THE UN CHARTER, MUST BE THE GUIDELINE FOR THE CONDUCT OF ALL STATES. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING THE UNIVERSAL CHARACTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE MINISTERS RECALLED THE REPORT ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TRANSMITTED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UN ON JUNE 10, 1983 AND STRESSED THE DESIRABILITY OF WORKING ACTIVELY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED IN THE REPORT.

THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR GOVERNMENTS' COMMITMENT TO THE PROCESS WHICH STARTED WITH THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE). THIS PROCESS PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PARTICIPATING STATES TO CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING SECURITY AND PROMOTING COOPERATION IN EUROPE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PARTICIPATING STATES ABIDE SCRUPULOUSLY BY THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. PROGRESS IN ALL FIELDS COVERED BY THE FINAL ACT IS ESSENTIAL FOR IMPROVED SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. THE SERIES OF EXPERT MEETINGS IN PURSUANCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IN MADRID DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUITY AND VITALITY OF THE CSCE PROCESS.

THE MINISTERS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONFERENCE ON CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES AND DISARMAMENT IN EUROPE CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN STOCKHOLM. THE CONFERENCE HAS GIVEN THE CSCE PROCESS AN IMPORTANT NEW DIMENSION. THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE WILL WITHOUT DELAY INITIATE SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE MINISTERS WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT EFFORTS TO THIS END.

A.2

THE MINISTERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE MAJOR POWERS IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT AND AVERT THE DANGER OF WAR, IN PARTICULAR NUCLEAR WAR.

THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED IT TO BE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE THAT THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BE RESUMED, AND THEY DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITIES THEREOF. THEY CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS RESULT IN A HALT TO THE BUILDUP OF ARMAMANTS AND IN SIZEABLE REDUCTIONS IN THE NUCLEAR ARMAMANTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

THE MINISTERS CALLED FOR INTENSIFIED EFFORTS AT THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN GENEVA TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND THE PROHIBITION AND DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

THE MINISTERS RECALLED THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH AN ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE AND FOUND IT ESSENTIAL THAT MEASURES BE ADOPTED WITHOUT DELAY TO PREVENT SUCH A DEVELOPMENT.

THE MINISTERS CONTINUED THEIR EXCHANGE OF VIEW ON A NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE NORDIC AREA AND AGREED TO REMAIN IN CONTACT ON THIS QUESTION. THE MINISTERS ALSO EXCHANGED VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF A CORRIDOR FREE OF BATTLEFIELD NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE.

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS TO PREVENT PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO MORE COUNTRIES AND EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SCRUPULOUS OBSERVANCE OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. THEY FOUND IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT PRIOR TO THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 1985 THAT ALL PARTIES TO THE TREATY FULFIL THEIR COMMITMENTS UNDER THE TREATY.

THE MINISTERS REITERATED THEIR COUNTRIES' FULL SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A COMPREHENSIVE, JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY REAFFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON SUCH A PEACE SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES LAID DOWN IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 (1967) AND 338 (1973). IN THIS CONTEXT THE MINISTERS UNDERLINED THE PRINCIPLES OF SECURITY FOR ALL STATES IN THE AREA, INCLUDING ISRAEL, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLES, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THEY REEMPHASIZED THE NEED TO REALISE THE PALESTINIANS' LEGITIMATE NATIONAL RIGHTS THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION, INCLUDING THEIR RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON THEIR OWN FUTURE.

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE LONG STALE-MATE IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS WOULD NOW BE REPLACED BY SERIOUS EFFORTS AT NEGOTIATIONS. THEY DENOUNCED ANY ACTIONS WHICH COULD IMPEDE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NECESSARY CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THE USE OF FORCE AND ANY OTHER ACTIONS CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW SUCH AS ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENTS POLICY.

THE MINISTERS WELCOMED THE SECURITY PLAN ADOPTED BY THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT SOON BE EXTENDED TO THE WHOLE OF LEBANON. IN THIS CONTEXT THEY REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF A SPEEDY RESTORATION OF RESPECT FOR LEBANON'S INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WHICH REQUIRES THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES. THE MINISTERS REITERATED THEIR APPEAL TO ALL LEBANESE, IRRESPECTIVE OF RELIGIOUS OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION, TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DURABLE POLITICAL SYSTEM IN LEBANON.

A.3

THE MINISTERS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AND IN THIS RESPECT STRESSED THE COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEMBER STATES WITH REGARD TO THE FINANCING OF THESE OPERATIONS. THE MINISTERS WERE IN AGREEMENT THAT UNIFIL WAS AN IMPORTANT STABILIZING AND MODERATING ELEMENT IN THE ONGOING POLITICAL PROCESS IN LEBANON. THEY POINTED TO THE NEED TO BRING ABOUT CONDITIONS FOR A MORE EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF UNIFIL'S PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES.

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN AT THE CONTINUING WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ WHICH HAS CAUSED ENORMOUS HUMAN SUFFERING AND INCREASED TENSIONS IN THE AREA. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFLICT COULD BE BROUGHT TO AN EARLY AND PEACEFUL END. THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH A VIEW TO BRINGING THE BOMBING OF CIVILIAN TARGETS AND THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS TO AN END. AT THE SAME TIME THEY EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN AT THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE WAR ON WHIPPING IN THE GULF REGION.

THE MINISTERS ONCE AGAIN CONDEMNED THE POLICY OF APARTHEID OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. THIS POLICY DEPRIVES THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF THEIR FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE OPINION OF THE MINISTERS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AS LONG AS THE POLICY OF APARTHEID IS MAINTAINED. THEY FOUND THAT THIS POLICY HAD NOT UNDERGONE ANY SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES. AS DETERMINED BY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 554 (1984), THE RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS MUST RATHER BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO CONSOLIDATE THE BASIC FEATURES OF THE POLICY OF APARTHEID. THIS IS CLEARLY CONFIRMED BY THE DETENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT.

THE MINISTERS FOUND THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS NEIGHBOURING STATES ARE INEVITABLE FOR GEOGRAPHIC REASONS AND BECAUSE OF THE LATTER'S ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA. SUCH CONTACTS SHOULD HOWEVER NOT BE USED AS A PRETEXT FOR LEGITIMIZING THE APARTHEID SYSTEM.

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE MEETING IN STOCKHOLM ON JUNE 20-21, 1984, BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FRONT-LINE STATES AND THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND EXPRESSED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FRONT-LINE STATES IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID AND THEIR EFFORTS TO REDUCE THEIR DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

THE MINISTERS REITERATED THEIR CONVICTION THAT THE UNITED NATIONS MUST INCREASE ITS PRESSURE TO BRING THE POLICY OF APARTHEID TO A PEACEFUL END. IN THIS CONTEXT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD ADOPT BINDING ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. THE UNITED NATIONS' ARMS EMBARGO SHOULD BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED. THE NORDIC COUNTRIES ARE EXAMINING WAYS AND MEANS TO MAKE THE EMBARGO MORE EFFECTIVE.

THE MINISTERS CONDEMNED SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTINUED ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA AND STRESSED THAT THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA MUST WITHOUT DELAY BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE THROUGH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 435 (1978). THE MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE NORDIC COUNTRIES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A FUTURE FREE NAMIBIA.

A.4

THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR DEEP CONCERN THAT GRAVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONTINUE TO TAKE PLACE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. THEY AGREED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THEY UNDERSCORED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTING COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS IN EFFORT TO ATTAIN SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE APPLICATION OF UNIVERSALLY AGREED STANDARDS IN THIS FIELD.

THE MINISTERS ALSO UNDERLINED THE SIGNIFICANT WORK OF INDIVIDUALS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS IN SECURING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY DENOUNCED THE OPPRESSION IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES OF PERSONS WHO ACTIVELY SEEK TO EXPOSE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND TO REDRESS INJUSTICE. THE MINISTERS RECALLED THE IMPORTANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF OBSERVANCE AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THE MINISTERS NOTED THAT SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE DRAFT CONVENTION ON TORTURE HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE MINISTERS UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION MACHINERY OF THE CONVENTION AND CALLED FOR ITS EARLY ADOPTION.

THE MINISTERS FURTHER EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK DONE BY THE UNITED NATIONS TO PREVENT SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS AND TO LIMIT AND ULTIMATELY ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY. THEY ALSO STRESSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CURRENT EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

THE MINISTERS NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME RECOVERY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY DURING THE YEAR, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THEY EMPHASISED THE NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF THE ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO ENSURE SUSTAINED GROWTH AND TO REDUCE THE VERY HIGH RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

THE MINISTERS ALSO NOTED THAT THE RECOVERY WOULD NOT AUTOMATICALLY SPREAD TO ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE FACED WITH GREAT DIFFICULTIES. THE MINISTERS POINTED IN PARTICULAR TO THE CRITICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION IN AFRICA. IT IS THEREFORE NECESSARY TO ADOPT CONCRETE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONNECTION THE MINISTERS STRESSED THE ONGOING REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS STRATEGY FOR THE THIRD DEVELOPMENT DECADE.

THE EFFORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES TO SOLVE THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS MUST BE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THROUGH BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AID AS WELL AS THROUGH INCREASED COORDINATION OF THE ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REACH THE UNITED NATIONS' GOALS FOR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, IN GENERAL AS WELL AS FOR THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

THE MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE MEMBER STATES WOULD SHOW GREATER WILLINGNESS TO USE THE ORGANIZATION AS A FORUM FOR CONSIDERATION OF IMPORTANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

A.5

THE MINISTERS CONFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR DENMARK'S CANDIDATURE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD 1985-86. THEY FURTHER REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CANDIDATURE OF AMBASSADOR JENS EVENSEN TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE.

THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY DENMARK'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MR UFFE ELLEMANN-JENSEN, FINLAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MR PAAVO VAVRYNEN, ICELAND'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MR CEIR HALLGRIMSSON, NORWAY'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MR SVENN STRAY, AND SWEDEN'S FOREIGN MINISTER, MR LENNART BODSTROM.

AT THE INVITATION OF THE FINNISH GOVERNMENT, THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NORDIC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL TAKE PLACE IN HELSINKI ON MARCH 28-29, 1985.
