

MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN

PLEIN 23 – 'S-GRAVENHAGE – TEL. 614941

Zijner Excellentie  
de Minister-President

Plein 1813 no 4

's-GRAVENHAGE

Verzonden

1 feb. 1972

Departementsonderdeel: Directie Integratie Europa

Datum: 2 februari 1972

Onderwerp: Schrijven aan Minister-President  
Bratelli

Kenmerk: DIE-24610

Mijn Noorse ambtgenoot heeft tegenover onze ambassadeur in Oslo de wens te kennen gegeven dat de Noorse Regering bij de binnenlandse campagne ter voorbereiding van het referendum over de toetreding de beschikking zou hebben over verklaringen van met name de regeringen van de Benelux-landen, waarin in algemene termen een positief oordeel over het EEG-lidmaatschap zou worden gegeven. Vooral het feit dat "de kleine landen" hun nationale identiteit niet hebben behoeven prijs te geven zou daarbij vermelding verdienen.

Het komt mij voor dat wij de Noorse Regering deze dienst zouden behoren te verlenen. Zij zal een dergelijke ruggesteun goed kunnen gebruiken. Ik zal het derhalve zeer op prijs stellen indien U een brief, waarvan ik de ontwerptekst bijvoeg, zoudt willen richten aan de Noorse Minister-President.

Mijn ministerie zal uiteraard voor nadere adresverlening zorgdragen en tevens de ambassadeur te Oslo instrueren dat hij de Noorse Regering machtigt om van de brief het publicitaire gebruik te maken dat haar goeddunkt.

DE MINISTER VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN,

*Malmelem*

VERZOEK BIJ BEANTWOORDING DATUM, KENMERK EN ONDERWERP TE VERMELDEN

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

Recalling the pleasant conversation we had during your visit to the Hague on January 8, I want to congratulate you on the successful outcome of the negotiations for Norway's entry into the European communities. I could find no earlier opportunity to do so, since I have only recently returned from a visit to Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles.

It has given my colleagues and myself considerable satisfaction to know that your country will henceforth take part in the construction of a united Europe.

I do not hesitate to say that without your country a united Europe would remain signally incomplete. I am also convinced that you must derive deep satisfaction from the knowledge that your personal visits to the governments of the memberstates helped to remove the last obstacles in the negotiations.

I particularly welcome your country's accession to membership, because Norway and the Netherlands have so many values and interests in common. Our experience with Community practice and policy over the past decade has, without any doubt, been positive and beneficial.

Our identity as a nation has, I am sure, not suffered; on the contrary, it has found new ways to express and assert itself as the contacts with the other member states have grown in intensity and scope. Not only have the Communities provided us with the means to attain <sup>more</sup> rapid economic and social progress for ourselves, but they have also given us the opportunity for a dedicated and purposeful application of national energies to a wider range of interests, both on a European and on a worldwide scale.

As I see it, there is no alternative for Europe but to unite and integrate if we want to preserve our freedom and prosperity, and help others to preserve and promote theirs, and I think that it is only right that countries such as yours and mine should help shape and direct this great effort. I am convinced that in the future Norway and the Netherlands will have many opportunities to work together in close harmony toward this goal.

MIN. VAN BUITENL. ZAKEN / DGES	
DIR. <i>DCA</i>	VISIE
INGEK.	9 FEB. 1972 <i>29600</i>
Fotonr.	No.
DOSSIER	996 0 829 <i>Norwegen</i>

201501

The Hague, February 7th 1972

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*original  
van Utrecht  
bijgevoegd  
P.A.*

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AFGESCHREVEN

Mr. T. Bratelli,  
Prime minister of Norway,  
Oslo.

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(B.W. Biesheuvel)