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NEWS RELEASE

from the Desk of SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

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SENATOR HUMPHREY'S SALUTE TO NORWAY

People of Norway have "decisively rejected totalitarian extremism of both the left and the right" and "have made the ideals of democracy a living reality", Senator Hubert H. Humphrey declared today in observance of Norway's Independence Day on May 17th.

In a message to the Syttende Maí observance sponsored in St. Paul today by Synnove lodge, Daughters and Sons of Norway, Senator Humphrey reiterated the tribute he paid to Norway on the Senate floor yesterday, saying:

"All of us can take inspiration today from our friendly Norway. Through 140 years, years of trouble and turmoil in much of the world, the Constitution of Norway has withstood the test of time. Norway today as in the past has a stable, democratic, and respected government. The people of Norway have decisively rejected totalitarian extremism of both the left and the right. They have made the ideals of democracy a living reality.

"It is characteristic of the people of Norway that this rejection of the false gods of their time has not only been by word but also by deed. We shall long remember Norway's courageous stand against Nazi Germany, both in actual combat in April, 1940, and in the tenacious and determined underground struggle in the years that followed. Just as they opposed Nazi Germany, the people of Norway have also defied Communist Russia. Norway is one of the few countries in the NATO alliance which actually has a common boundary with Soviet Russia. In spite of the close proximity of the Red army, all of Russia's efforts to intimidate Norway have failed.

"Not only have they demonstrated courage and bravery in war and in the inherent threats of this cold war period, but equally important they have created an example of democratic government that serves as an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere. The deeds of Norwegian democracy represent a powerful force throughout the world, where millions of people are still uncommitted. It is an example of democratic government and free institutions that stands as a mighty power for the principles of freedom.

"As an American, I am also proud of the contribution which immigrants from Norway have made to our country, and particularly to the State of Minnesota," Senator Humphrey said. "To this I can add an element of personal pride, as my own mother was born in Norway".

Senator Humphrey recalled that his mother, Christine Sannes Humphrey of Huron, South Dakota, was born in Christiansand, Norway, and came to this country as an immigrant child with her parents. Senator Humphrey's grandfather was a captain in the Norwegian merchant marine for 20 years before he homesteaded in this country.

"One of the greatest thrills I ever had was my visit to the native home of my mother in Christiansand, Norway, in November of 1951," Senator Humphrey said in his message to the Daughters and Sons of Norway. On that occasion, Christiansand staged a "Humphrey Day" celebration.

"As Americans, we extend our warmest greetings and good wishes today to our good friends, the people of Norway," Senator Humphrey concluded. "We share deeply with them the common aim of a world of peace and freedom everywhere, a world in which peaceful citizens and peaceful nations need no longer be on guard against aggression and tyranny."



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