

SCANDINAVIA AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION :
THE RESPONSE TO THE INSTITUTIONS

UACES Conference held at the University of Aberdeen,
25th - 27th March 1973

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This was the second conference on Scandinavia and European Integration to be held at the University of Aberdeen in recent years. The first one, held in March 1971, dealt with the attitudes of the Scandinavians towards the pending enlargement of the European Communities. This year's conference covered the more general topic of the Nordic countries behaviour towards international institutions - especially those of Western Europe and NATO.

The first speaker was Dr. Wilhelm Paues, International Director of the Federation of Swedish Industries, who dealt with Scandinavia's experience within EFTA. He pointed out the beneficial effect on the creation of a Nordic market that EFTA membership had had. But as EFTA had not managed to bring about a wider West European market, Swedish trade had become unusually orientated towards Scandinavia and Britain. Dr. Paues mentioned some of the difficulties experienced by EFTA, such as its short life

expectation, and answered questions on Sweden's relationship to the Communities.

Mr. Dan Nielsen of the European Commission staff gave a Brussels viewpoint of Scandinavia, supplemented by his own national experience as a Danish professor of economics. He pointed out that each of the Nordic states had a slightly different relationship with the E.C. than that of the other four. Whilst Denmark was the only Nordic country to hold full membership, the effect of this on its relations with other Scandinavian states should not be exaggerated as many elements of Danos-Scandinavian relations were consistent with the Treaty of Rome.

Mr. Søren Voss, First Secretary of the Danish Embassy in London, discussed the role of the institutions in joining the Nordic and Community markets. He stressed that institutions could only do as much as the participating governments allowed. It was hard to compare the Communities and the Nordic Council, but one factor to remember about Nordic co-operation was that it was outward-looking and did not exclude co-operation within other institutions by member states. Indeed, since 1972 Nordic activity had become more intense, especially with the establishment of a political secretariat

for the Nordic Council in Oslo.

On the second day of the conference, three case studies were examined. An opposition member of the Icelandic Parliament, Mr. Benedikt Gröndal, examined Iceland's policy towards NATO and the E.E.C. Iceland had currently to deal with three main issues in her foreign affairs. The first was the question of United States bases in Iceland and her membership of NATO. A solution to the problems arising here seemed to have been postponed until the fisheries dispute had been resolved. Next, there was Iceland's relations with the E.E.C. Because of the common fisheries policy, all Icelandic parties had ruled out full membership of the E.C. and Iceland had negotiated a trade agreement. However, this was only to become active once they had settled their dispute over fishing limits with West Germany and Britain. Thus good relations with the E.E.C., NATO and Britain were blocked by one major issue - Iceland's desire to extend her fishing limits to fifty miles. Mr. Gröndal outlined the Icelandic case on this point and said that he hoped that the U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea would bring about a change in international law.

Mr. Kjell Rasmussen, Minister-Counsellor of the Norwegian Embassy in London, dealt with the

position of Norway since the enlargement of the European Communities. The main interest was to negotiate a suitable trade agreement and the question of full membership seems to have been shelved for the next four or five years. In economic matters it would still be possible to negotiate with the Communities in such institutions as IMF, OECD, GATT as well as the new joint Norwegian-E.E.C. committee. Norway's decision not to seek full membership of the Communities in no way affected her commitment to NATO. Mr. Rasmussen suggested that Nordic co-operation was on a different level than that between E.C. countries. He called for closer relationships between the Communities and the 'Rest-EFTA' states.

The final case study was a paper on Finland and European Integration, presented by Mr. Harto Hakovirta of the University of Tampere. Mr. Hakovirta's paper reviewed post-war Finnish policy and analysed the element of neutrality. As the Soviet Union seemed to be hostile to Finnish participation in the different institutions of Western integration and Finnish policy was aimed at not alienating the Soviet Union, then there has been a constant dilemma for Finnish decision-makers. Finland has tried to participate in certain West European institutions by

maintaining a common interest in peaceful relations with the U.S.S.R., by basing her relations with the Soviets on mutual trust and by increasing her co-operative relations with Eastern Europe. The paper then discussed the relevance of the so-called 'Finnish model' to modern Europe.

As well as the talks outlined above, the conference was addressed by Mr. Bo Andersson, deputy head of the research team on Internationalism and Nordic Integration in the Department of History at the University of Gothenburg. Mr. Andersson outlined the group's work on non-governmental organisations and co-operation in the Nordic area. Finally, there was a panel session at which the speakers answered questions and discussed issues with the audience.

A REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS AT BISHOP'S CASTLE, SCRABSTER, 1973

Eric Talbot

Excavations at the above-mentioned site in 1970 left many questions unanswered and so a second season, carried out on behalf of the Department of the Environment, was undertaken. Work took place from August 6th to the 24th, 1973.