

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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REMARKS BY MR. TRYGVE LIE, FIRST SECRETARY GENERAL OF UN,
AT OPENING OF ABBY ALDRICH ROCKEFELLER SCULPTURE GARDEN

It is a great privilege for me to take part in the dedication of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden. I think it is very appropriate that today, when I am making one of my last public appearances in the United States before returning to Norway, it is to pay tribute to a great American lady, whose foresight for the need of international understanding has been so clearly reflected in her family.

Seven years ago, we of the United Nations had particular reasons to be grateful for the vision and generosity of both Mrs. Rockefeller and her husband. For it was their gift that made possible the new home of the United Nations.

When the Museum of Modern Art was founded in 1929, Mrs. Rockefeller and the other trustees agreed that the approach of the Museum to the visual arts of our time should be international. The exhibition in this Sculpture Garden representing as it does the work of artists of many countries is a worthy monument to that ideal.

In the United Nations this same spiritual ideal is the hope of the world for peace and understanding amongst nations. We have tried to find means of communicating just as universal as the language of art and I have personal faith that such will be the case in time, and I am happy to have been part of this noble effort.

In leaving the United Nations and the associates and friends I have made in the United States, I am proud to be here this afternoon and hope that such an inspired life as Mrs. Rockefeller's will influence others. The pioneering work done by her in this building and her faith in the future should be an example to us all.