

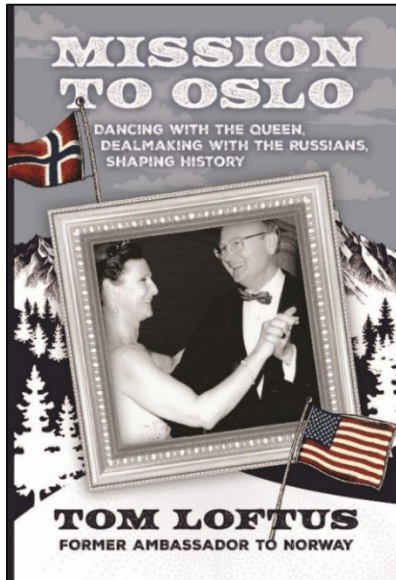


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Ambassador Details the Dancing and Dealmaking of his 'Mission to Oslo'



MINERAL POINT, Wis. — NATO was expanding, Germany was reunifying, Norway was hosting both the Oslo Accords and the Winter Olympics, and former Wisconsin Assembly Speaker Tom Loftus was wining, dining, and most importantly, negotiating his way through it all as President Bill Clinton's ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway.

"Mission to Oslo: Dancing with the Queen, Dealmaking with the Russians, Shaping History" (ISBN: 978-1-955656-78-8) is Loftus's rollicking tale of the true and historic adventures he had as the U.S. ambassador to Norway.

Told with wit and wry humor, the grandson of Norwegian immigrants and the one-time Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate vibrantly brings his international job to life. His memoir covers 1993 through 1997, the momentous four years of the first Clinton administration—a critical time of historic change after the end of the Cold War, with policies adopted that are still debated today, including the

Norwegian-brokered Oslo Accords that laid the hopeful groundwork for a path to peace in the Mideast.

Loftus recounts the Oslo Accords and relates the hugely pivotal work of both building of relations with a fledgling Russian democracy and of taking part in the expansion of NATO to Eastern Europe and the Baltics. He details everything from his travels with The King and Queen to his artful dodging of tanks on a wintry Russian road and from hosting First Lady Hillary Clinton at the Winter Olympics to sharing tea with Nelson Mandela.

Dignitaries and diplomats. Food, wine, entertaining ... and, yes, skiing. It is all here in what former *U.S. News and World Report* journalist Peter Ross Range calls "a wonderfully engaging memoir ... a rollicking good journey and compelling tale of a fascinating career."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Loftus served as U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway from 1993 through 1997. A member of the Wisconsin Legislature from 1977 to 1991, he was the longest-serving Democratic Speaker of the Assembly, from 1983 to 1991. In 1990, he was the Democratic candidate for Wisconsin governor. Tom was special advisor to the director general of the World Health Organization from 1998 to 2005. He was a member of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents from 2005 to 2011, and in 2020 and 2021 was senior policy advisor to the UW System president. Tom is on the board of the Outrider Foundation. A U.S. Army veteran, he is a UW-Whitewater graduate and earned a master's degree from UW-Madison's La Follette School of Public Affairs.

EARLY REVIEWS OF 'MISSION TO OSLO'

"This wonderfully engaging memoir is by a diplomat-politician with an exceptional feel for both callings. Taking us into the room when kings are met, a president is cajoled, and sensitive international diplomatic deals are made, Loftus uses his wry storytelling gift to create a rollicking good journey and compelling tale of a fascinating career."

—**Peter Ross Range**, author and former international affairs journalist, *Time* and *U.S. News & World Report*

"Your wry sense of humor shines throughout. So well written. How things really work on the ground in an embassy. I would assign it in a heartbeat for my diplomacy course at Occidental."

—**Ambassador Derek Shearer**, former ambassador to Finland; professor of diplomacy, Occidental College

"Dear Tom, thank you for sharing with me the Lillehammer Winter Olympics chapter of your memoir: Nice job! I so enjoyed reading and remembering my visit during your time as ambassador."

—**Former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton**

"Tom Loftus pulls back the curtain and shows us the realities involved in the operation of an ambassador's life. From the logistics of Winter Olympics last-minute accommodations to the decisions of who sits where at a formal dinner to negotiating the perilous details of NATO policy, this is a fluid, literate, and revealing account."

—**George Hesselberg**, journalist and writer on Norway

"Protocol in diplomacy, what it is and how it is observed, is brought to life because Tom is a gifted storyteller. The behind-the-scenes work that went in to making the visit of First Lady Hillary Clinton to the Winter Olympics in Norway a success is diplomacy in the real world. An excellent book for students of international relations. It will be a must-read for the staff in U.S. embassies around the world."

—**Fred DuVal**, former deputy chief of protocol, U.S. State Department; current chairman, Arizona Board of Regents

"An extraordinary effort ... the events and the details you recount during your tenure in Oslo are astonishing! This would be a tour de force for that alone. You accomplished a lot in an assignment that easily could have been primarily protocol driven."

—**Ambassador Larry Taylor**, former Ambassador to Estonia

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FIND THE BOOK: "Mission to Oslo" is available for wholesalers through Ingram Content Group and is available through bookstores and libraries everywhere and online retailers, including www.littlecreekpress.com. It is one of many books by Wisconsin authors published by Little Creek Press, Mineral Point, Wis.

MEDIA: For interviews, review copies, and more, contact: Kristin Gilpatrick, KLG Marketing, kristing@littlecreekpress.com
