

The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/27/75 - Meeting with Chancellor Schmidt, Germany” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

MR CHANCELLOR, MRS. SCHMIDT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR TODAY'S WARM WELCOME. MRS. FORD

AND I ARE PARTICULARLY HAPPY TO BEGIN OUR TRIP TO EUROPE
WITH A VISIT TO OUR VERY CLOSE FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

MR. CHANCELLOR, OUR MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON,
AS WELL AS OUR TALKS IN BRUSSELS, AND THE MEETINGS OF THIS
VISIT REAFFIRM THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO
GOVERNMENTS.

THEY REFLECT THE NEED FOR PARTNERS TO CONSULT FREQUENTLY
ON THE CHALLENGES WE FACE TODAY. OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE,
OUR MEETINGS SERVE TO UNDERLINE THE FUNDAMENTAL FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND AMERICAN PEOPLES -- A FRIENDSHIP
WHICH DATES BACK TO THE ORIGIN OF THE UNITED STATES.

WE RECALL THE CONTRIBUTION THAT AMERICANS OF GERMAN DESCENT
HAVE MADE TO THE BUILDING OF OUR COUNTRY AS WE CELEBRATE
OUR BICENTENNIAL AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE GENEROUS GIFT
FROM YOUR PEOPLE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT SCHEEL (SHALE) .

MR. CHANCELLOR, IN A FEW DAYS WE WILL BOTH BE TRAVELING TO HELSINKI. WE WILL MEET WITH OTHER HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO BRING TO A CONCLUSION THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. IT IS OUR SINCERE HOPE THAT THE DOCUMENTS WE WILL SIGN IN HELSINKI WILL BENEFIT ALL OF EUROPE AND THE ENTIRE WORLD.

I AM ESPECIALLY HOPEFUL THAT THE HUMANITARIAN
CONTENTS OF THE HELSINKI DOCUMENTS RELATING TO INCREASED
CONTACT AMONG PEOPLES WILL HAVE A SPECIAL MEANING FOR ALL
THE GERMAN PEOPLE -- EAST AND WEST -- INCLUDING OUR FRIENDS
IN BERLIN.

THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN THE LAST FEW YEARS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND OUR COMMON DEFENSE, TO WHICH YOUR COUNTRY MAKES SO NOTABLE A CONTRIBUTION.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MAINTAINING OUR CONTINUED IDENTITY OF
PURPOSE -- INDEED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF OUR COMMON
ENDEAVORS AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO LESSEN INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS
AND TO INCREASE STABILITY.

MR. CHANCELLOR, OUR NATIONS FACE GREAT CHALLENGES

TODAY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. FIRST AND FOREMOST ARE THE
ISSUES OF ENERGY AND INFLATION. THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL
MAKE CRUCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOLUTIONS REQUIRED IN THIS
AREA.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL MEET THESE CHALLENGES SUCCESSFULLY.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN, ARE, AND

WILL CONTINUE TO BE PARTNERS, WITH THE STRONGEST OF TIES

BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

THANK YOU.

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