

The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/27/75 - President's Remarks to U.S. and F.R.G. Troop Picnic, Kirchgoens, Federal Republic of Germany” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, COLONEL WAGNER

MINISTER LEBER (PHONETIC: LEE-BER)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

GENERAL HAIG

MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND FAMILIES

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO U. S. AND F. R. G. TROOP PICNIC

KIRCHGOENS, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

JULY 27, 1975

BEFORE I BEGIN I HAVE TWO QUESTIONS.

THE FIRST QUESTION IS:

IS IT TRUE THAT THE TENT OVER THERE IS FILLED

WITH GOOD, COLD GERMAN BEER? (PAUSE)

THEN, THE SECOND QUESTION IS:

WHAT ARE WE DOING OUT HERE? (PAUSE)

I ASKED ONE SOLDIER IF HE DRANK A LOT
OF BEER. AND HE SAID, "OF COURSE NOT, SIR."

THE ONLY TROUBLE IS -- THEN HE TRIED TO
BLOW THE FOAM OFF HIS SAUERKRAUT. | (PAUSE)

BUT EVERY ONE OF YOU IS ENTITLED TO ALL
THE BEER, SAUERKRAUT, AND ANYTHING ELSE PROVIDED
TODAY AFTER YOUR TWO HARD MONTHS OF INTENSIVE FIELD
TRAINING AT GRAFENWOEHR (GRAFEN-WEER). YOU DESERVE
THIS PICNIC.

AS YOUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, I AM NOW ISSUING ORDERS
THAT TOMORROW, MONDAY, ALL MEMBERS OF THIS BRIGADE
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE MANEUVERS WILL BE GIVEN AN EXTRA
DAY OFF.

I AM PROUD TO BE HERE WITH THE TANKERS,
INFANTRY, AND ARTILLERY OF ONE OF THE LARGEST AND
MOST POWERFUL COMBAT BRIGADES IN EUROPE. AND
I AM ALSO DELIGHTED TO MEET YOUR FAMILIES.

LET ME SAY A SPECIAL WORD OF COMMENDATION

TO OUR GERMAN PARTNERSHIP UNITS. I THANK YOU FOR

THE COOPERATION YOU ARE EXTENDING TO THE UNITED STATES

FORCES. TOGETHER, YOU HAVE DEVELOPED OUTSTANDING

SKILLS AND QUALITIES THAT MAKE FIRST-RATE FIGHTING MEN.

I AM PLEASED THAT YOU ARE LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER.

AND I AM ALSO VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOUR CHARMING WIVES.

I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE HIGH STANDARDS OF
PERFORMANCE AND MORALE OF THE NATO FORCES AS REPRESENTED
BY THE GERMANS AND AMERICANS HERE TODAY.

I THANK THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND THE STATE OF HESSE

FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO ME AND TO ALL AMERICANS

STATIONED HERE.

THERE IS A DEEP SATISFACTION FOR ME IN THIS MEETING.

IT IS REWARDING TO SEE AT FIRST HAND THIS EVIDENCE OF OUR

TWO COUNTRIES COOPERATING WITHIN NATO FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE.

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IT IS YOU, TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER FORCES OF THE ALLIANCE,
WHO ARE MAKING OUR COLLECTIVE SECURITY A REALITY.

AS WE PURSUE PEACE, I AM AWARE THAT NOT ALL THE
PROBLEMS IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD HAVE BEEN SOLVED. AND
I AM CONVINCED THAT UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES, THE BEST
GUARANTEE FOR PEACE IS A STRONG DEFENSE.

AS PRESIDENT, SPEAKING HERE IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR
ALLIES, I AFFIRM TODAY THAT I WILL NOT ALLOW OUR ARMED
FORCES TO BE WEAKENED. YOU DESERVE THE BEST EQUIPMENT.
AND YOU DESERVE THE STRONGEST SUPPORT OF THE CITIZENS YOU
DEFEND. |

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND I WILL TRAVEL TO HELSINKI

IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY

AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE. IT IS NOT BY ACCIDENT THAT I

STOP HERE FIRST TO CONSULT WITH OUR ALLIES -- NOR THAT I NOW

AFFIRM ANEW OUR COMMITMENT TO BERLIN. |

I ASSURE THE PEOPLE OF BERLIN FROM THIS MILITARY
BASE WHICH THE SOLDIERS CALL "THE ROCK" THAT I STAND SOLID
AS A ROCK BEHIND OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FREEDOM OF BERLIN.

SECRETARY KISSINGER SPOKE FOR ME WHEN HE AFFIRMED OUR
POLICY ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO BERLIN. AND OUR NATIONAL
UNITY AND DETERMINATION IN THIS REGARD WERE VOICED THERE
EARLIER THIS YEAR BY SENATOR HUMPHREY AND SENATOR SCOTT.

SOLDIERS, DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE IMPORTANCE OF
YOUR MISSION AND ITS MEANING FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD. YOU
ARE THE DEFENDERS OF PEACE. YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT AND MY
RESPECT. YOU ARE DOING A GREAT JOB. YOU HAVE
BOOSTED MY MORALE.

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME.

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