

The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/27/75 - Dinner Toast Aboard M.S. Drachenfels on the Rhine, 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.....

DINNER TOAST

ABOARD M.S. DRACHENFELS

ON THE RHINE, GERMANY

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1975

PRESIDENT SCHEEL (SHALE) AND DISTINGUISHED FRIENDS:

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE SPOKEN ELOQUENTLY. I AM

PLEASED AND HONORED TO RESPOND TO SUCH A GRACIOUS RHINELANDER

ON THIS BEAUTIFUL RIVER WHICH HAS WITNESSED THE GROWTH OF

GERMAN-AMERICAN COOPERATION.

AS WE ARE PASSING MANY SHIPS, BEARING FLAGS OF

DIFFERENT NATIONS, THIS GREAT EUROPEAN RIVER SYMBOLIZES OUR HOPE

FOR EXPANDING THE FLOW OF PEACEFUL COMMERCE AND EXCHANGE

THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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JUST AS MANY SOLID BRIDGES SPAN THE MAJESTIC RHINE,

STRONG LINKS OF FRIENDSHIP UNITE OUR TWO NATIONS.

I EXPERIENCED THIS FRIENDSHIP ANEW TODAY WHEN I MET
WITH YOU, WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, WITH THE OTHER DISTINGUISHED
LEADERS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, AND RECEIVED THE WARM GREETINGS
OF SO MANY CITIZENS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC.

OUR RELATIONSHIP IS BASED UPON A TRADITION THAT IS AS
OLD AS THE UNITED STATES WHICH NOW APPROACHES ITS 200TH YEAR
OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

EVERY AMERICAN SCHOOLCHILD KNOWS HOW GENERAL
VON STEUBEN (FUN STOY-BIN) CAME TO HELP GEORGE WASHINGTON
WIN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION. ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD
OF THE INFUSION OF GERMAN TALENTS, THROUGHOUT THE YEARS,
INTO AMERICA, A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS.

- 7 -

TODAY WE VISITED SOME OF THE FINE SOLDIERS OF OUR TWO

NATIONS AND THEIR FAMILIES. I WAS DELIGHTED TO SEE THIS

COOPERATION AND RAPPORT AND TO KNOW THAT WE ARE DEDICATED TO

CONTINUING THIS PARTNERSHIP IN OUR COMMON DEFENSE.

- 7a -

THIS COMMITMENT AND ENDEAVOR ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO THE SECURITY
OF THE UNITED STATES, TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND BERLIN --
AND TO THE ENTIRE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

I THANK YOU FOR THE WARM WELCOME WHICH THE GERMAN

PEOPLE HAVE EXTENDED NOT ONLY TO ME, TO MRS. FORD, AND TO MY SON,

BUT ALSO TO EVERY AMERICAN STATIONED HERE AND THEIR FAMILIES.

FEW PEOPLES ARE MORE UNITED THAN AMERICANS AND GERMANS IN THEIR

SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, FREEDOM AND

SELF-DETERMINATION.

TODAY WE SPEAK OF BOTH EAST AND WEST WITH NEW EMPHASIS

ON OUR COMMON FUTURE. MUCH EFFORT HAS GONE INTO INCREASING

CONTACTS AND COOPERATION AMONG THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE. WE HAVE

MADE SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES. THE FORTHCOMING MEETING IN HELSINKI

OFFERS HOPE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS.

WE STILL HAVE MUCH TO DO. AMERICANS LOOK FORWARD

TO CONTINUED COOPERATION NOT ONLY WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC

BUT WITH ALL THE NATIONS OF EUROPE.

MR. PRESIDENT, LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH HAS PASSED

SINCE WE SO GREATLY ENJOYED YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON. THE SPIRIT

PREVAILING AMONG US TODAY STRONGLY REAFFIRMS THE GENUINE AND

CONTINUING FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OF OUR PEOPLES.

IF YOU WILL RAISE YOUR GLASS WITH ME, I WOULD LIKE TO
PROPOSE A PARTICULARLY CORDIAL PROSIT (PRO-ZIT) TO PRESIDENT
SCHEEL (SHALE) AND TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND ITS PEOPLE.

END OF TEXT