

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

JULY 27, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Bonn, Germany)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
ABCARD M. S. DRACHENFELS
ON THE RHINE, GERMANY

President Scheel and distinguished friends: I am pleased and honored to respond to such a gracious Rhinelanders 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. 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 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.

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. 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 toast to President Scheel and to the Federal Republic and its people.

#