

FOR RELEASE FRIDAY AM's
JULY 16, 1976

Office of the Vice President

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
AT THE
INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE ALBERT EINSTEIN SPACEARIUM
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 15, 1976

This is the second time in which I have had the privilege of sharing in a major public celebration with Chancellor Schmidt this year.

The first occasion was the generous and inspiring observance of America's Bicentennial which the German people celebrated in Frankfurt last May.

The ceremony took place in historic St. Paul's Church -- the shrine of German federal democracy. And on that occasion Chancellor Schmidt delivered one of the most ringing expressions of human freedom that it has ever been my privilege to hear.

Also, he spoke eloquently of -- not only the historical and cultural ties -- but the human ties which exist today between the German and American people. And as evidence, I point out that the Frankfurt celebration was the high point of no less than 4,000 events through which the German people are celebrating America's Bicentennial.

Today, we welcome Chancellor Schmidt to another great occasion, dedicated to the friendship between our peoples, one which will go far to enlarge mankind's understanding of the universe for all other peoples as well.

We are joined here today to inaugurate the Einstein Spacearium of the Air and Space Museum. We Americans are deeply grateful for the generous contribution from the Federal Republic of Germany which has made this Spacearium possible. It represents a unique marriage of German and American technological brilliance.

The Spacearium is equipped with one of the most advanced planetarium instruments in the world. This equipment was made by the renowned German firm of Carl Zeiss, the firm which invented the planetarium as we know it today.

This instrument can project some 8,900 stars. It can go forward and backward through thousands of years of time. And it can simulate the transportation of an observer to any point on earth.

Wedded to this instrument is a complex computer system from a fine American firm, Gyro-systems of Farmingdale, Long Island, in the great State of New York.

This complex project took almost four years of cooperative effort by scores of brilliant German and American scientists -- many of whom we welcome here today.

We also extend our congratulations to Secretary Ripley of the Smithsonian Institution, Dr. Challinor, Mr. Collins and the members of the staff of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum.

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I especially want to express America's gratitude to Dr. Alex Moeller. In his capacity as the special representative of the Federal Republic of Germany for the American Bicentennial, Dr. Moeller's genius, his dedication and hard work have contributed importantly to the creation of this unique project.

And, if you will permit me a personal note, as a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian, I am particularly delighted to see the Smithsonian become the home of the Einstein Spacearium.

Nothing could be more appropriate than to honor Dr. Albert Einstein's memory in this facility.

It was Dr. Einstein who radically changed our concepts and our understanding of the universe.

Etched in the Spacearium's Steuben glass dedication sculpture are his wise words: "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious. It is the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science."

There could be no more fitting tribute to that humane genius, and to the close ties which unite our two countries, than this exciting, new doorway to the mysteries of space.

It is an honor, therefore, to welcome here for the inauguration of the Spacearium a leader and a statesman who has done so much to strengthen the bonds between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States -- His Excellency, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

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