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Meeting with German Youth, Bonn, 5/18/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
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TALKING POINTS: MEETING WITH GERMAN YOUTH
RESIDENCE OF DR. SUESSMUTH
BONN, WEST GERMANY

- 0 THANK YOU, DR. SUESSMUTH ((SOOS-MOOT)) AND GUTEN TAG. (GOOD DAY.) ((GOOT-EN TAHG.))

- 0 I APPRECIATE YOUR KIND INVITATION TO YOUR HOME TODAY, FOR IT REMINDS US THAT HOME AND FAMILY LIE AT THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES, NO MATTER WHAT NATIONALITY WE ARE.

- 2 -

- 0 DR. SUESSMUTH, I HAD HEARD HOW POPULAR YOU WERE WITH GERMAN YOUNG PEOPLE, AND I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHY. I AM IMPRESSED BY HOW CONCERNED YOU ARE FOR THEM, AND BY WHAT YOUR COUNTRY DOES FOR YOUTH.

0 I'M CONCERNED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TOO. THE MOST IMPORTANT EFFORTS OF MY ADMINISTRATION ARE THOSE DIRECTED AT OUR YOUTH -- TO IMPROVE EDUCATION AT ALL LEVELS, TO ERADICATE DRUG USE, TO URGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO USE THEIR ENERGIES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE.

0 GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP IS IMPORTANT, AND THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY WE ENJOY TODAY ARE ITS FRUITS. IT IS YOUTH, MOST OF ALL, WHO CAN CARRY ON THE CONTINUING BUSINESS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

0 I HAVE JUST COME FROM SPEAKING WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL. HE IS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, AND HE IS TAKING IMPORTANT INITIATIVES TO DEVELOP GERMAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH EXCHANGES STILL FURTHER.

0 AND I KNOW, DR. SUESSMUTH, THAT THE BUNDESTAG ((BOON-DES-STAHG)) IS JUST AS CONCERNED. IT HAS PROVED THIS BY MAKING NEW OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG GERMANS TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND BY ITS GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

- 7 -

0 CONTINUING THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES MEANS MORE THAN JUST TALKING ABOUT IT. IT MEANS LISTENING, TOO. SO NOW I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU: ((STILL TENTATIVE: THERE MAY BE SEVERAL YOUNG PEOPLE PRESENT WHO HAVE EMIGRATED FROM EAST GERMANY TO THE WEST. YOU MAY WISH TO ASK THEM ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES.))

- 8 -

AS EXCHANGE STUDENTS, I BELIEVE MOST OF YOU HAVE NOW SPENT TIME IN BOTH GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES. HOW DO YOU VIEW THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS? WHAT WAYS CAN YOU SUGGEST TO STRENGTHEN OUR FRIENDSHIP? ((STRESS THE VALUE OF EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND CULTURAL TIES))

WHAT ISSUES DO YOU THINK ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO BOTH GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES AS ALLIES?

- 9 -

((THEY MAY DISCUSS ARMS REDUCTION AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, SUCH AS HAZARDOUS WASTES, OZONE LAYER/GREENHOUSE, AND CLEAN AIR AND WATER))

IN THE DIFFERENT NATIONS OF THE WORLD, WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK YOUTH CAN PLAY AS WE WORK FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY?

- 10 -

((HIGHLIGHT THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE AS FUTURE DIPLOMATS, JOURNALISTS, AND WORLD LEADERS; CAPACITY OF STUDENTS TO LEAD FORCES FOR CHANGE IN MANY NATIONS))
BEFORE LEAVING THE SESSION: AUFWIEDERSEHEN! (OFF-VEE-
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#

Chris, file

This was hand delivered to DD, we have no idea who from. DD said send to you.

SB

o Thank
(Good

- o I appreciate your kind invitation to your home today, for it reminds us that home and family lie at the center of our lives, no matter what nationality we are.
- o Dr. Suessmuth, I had heard how popular you were with German young people, and I think I understand why. I am impressed by how concerned you are for them, and by what your country does for youth.
- o I'm concerned for young people too. The most important efforts of my Administration are those directed at our youth -- to improve education at all levels, to eradicate drug use, to urge young people to use their energies for community service.
- o German-American friendship is important, and the peace and prosperity we enjoy today are its fruits. It is youth, most of all, who can carry on the continuing business of friendship between our countries.
- o I have just come from speaking with Chancellor Kohl. He is committed to maintaining the friendship between young people in our two countries, and he is taking important initiatives

to develop German-American educational and youth exchanges still further.

- o And I know, Dr. Suessmuth, that the Bundestag ((BOON-des-stahg)) is just as concerned. It has proved this by making new opportunities available for young Germans to study in the United States, and by its generous support of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program.

- o Continuing the friendship between our countries means more than just talking about it. It means listening, too. So now I'd like to hear from you:

((Still tentative: There may be several young people present who have emigrated from East Germany to the West. You may wish to ask them about their experiences.))

As exchange students, I believe most of you have now spent time in both Germany and the United States. How do you view the relations between our nations? What ways can you suggest to strengthen our friendship? ((Stress the value of exchange programs and cultural ties))

What issues do you think are most important to both Germany and the United States as allies?

((They may discuss arms reduction and global environmental concerns, such as hazardous wastes, ozone layer/greenhouse, and clean air and water))

In the different nations of the world, what role do you think youth can play as we work for peace and democracy?

((Highlight the role of young people as future diplomats, journalists, and world leaders; capacity of students to lead forces for change in many nations))

Before leaving the session: Aufwiedersehen! (Off-VEE-der-zane).

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Possible Text of President's Remarks to German Youth

A warm welcome, such as you have given me, deserves an equally warm and friendly feeling from me. Let me say I bring this feeling from the people of the United States to the people of Germany. I do not come here today to talk of the past 40 years as partners in NATO. Although I should, I do not come with overwhelming memories of the Marshall Plan although I could. I come to talk of the future for Germany, Europe, our country The United States, and yes this future very much includes the Soviet Union, The Eastern Bloc countries, and, of course, China, Asia and ultimately our whole beautiful planet Earth.

I've been President of the United States for less than 4 months and have been watching parts of the world go through changes no one, myself included, could have expected even one year ago. In exactly the same way that I spoke to my fellow Americans about wanting to create a kinder and gentler U.S.A., I have as my short, medium and long-term objective to help create a kinder and gentler world where human freedom can develop and grow. It is human nature of men and women to want freedom and to be free; to choose their own religion; to choose their place to live; free to choose their political representatives; and with a system of law that is free from intimidation by the state. I am talking about the inalienable rights of people versus the inalienable right of states!

Today the people of the United States and Western Europe share these values but throughout the less free parts of the world millions of young people and people my age as well are shouting, praying, parading, marching and singing for more freedom.

Here in Germany and in many parts of Europe as well, the United States of America has been stationing many of its Army, Navy and Air Force military personnel and nearly 500,000 of their family members. We have had one purpose in doing this ever since the end of World War II. The purpose, very simply, was to show our commitment to help defend Europe if ever a military threat was made by the Soviet Union. We've seen the dark night of a long cold war; we know it's cost and we know that the Soviet Union knows that cost as well.

Containment has worked. Sustained Western political, military, economic -- and spiritual -- strength have led the Soviet Union to begin to look inward and ask some fundamental questions about why it is falling behind.

We all hear and applaud the words of Chairman Gorbachev because these are Western concepts - words that speak of openness, words that speak of freedom, words that speak of arms cuts. We must, I believe, encourage Soviet leadership -- and help them achieve real, enduring openness and human rights.

Yet we remain troubled by the still-present disparity between words and deeds and the unfulfilled promise of change -- the offers of modest unilateral arms reductions, obscuring the great preponderance of Soviet conventional and short-range nuclear forces in Europe. We -- you and I -- should not forget that NATO has without fanfare reduced great numbers of short-range nuclear weapons. Nor can the its neighbors overlook the sale of aggressive air force bombers to Libya, an international outlaw and still a threat to civilized countries. And we all ought to remain concerned about the fulfillment of the dream of a more open, more democratic Soviet Union, witness the suffering of demonstrators for freedom in Georgia.

When it comes to maintaining the peace in Europe NATO must not therefore be pressured into premature positions or lulled into a false sense of security.

When it comes to planning for the future I pledge to all of America's friends, those who are allies today, as well as those who will be our friends tomorrow, that our aims are your aims, peace today - peace and prosperity tomorrow and freedom for all.

I know quite directly what war is all about and I hate it. I may well be the last American President who has actually known combat duty in World War II, and want somehow for the

legacy of that experience -- abhorrence of war and the ambitions of unchecked dictators that lead to war -- to be passed on to younger generations. My grandchildren and your grandchildren can be spared this plague if we plan for the future, today, by keeping those elements of the past that have worked, modifying these actions that are out of date and building in the new initiatives that fit the future.

There is a new United States at work in the world today. It has a new sound to its voice and a new look to its actions. It is an America that sees a world of partners; it is an America that rejoices in the worldwide surge for freedom and democracy; it is a United States of America made up of all the people of this world - every race and virtually every nationality. There are almost as many German-Americans in the United States as there are West Germans; almost as many Anglo-Americans as live in England; yes, and there are millions of Russian, Polish, Hungarian, Scandanavian Americans as well. We are in large measure the United States of Europe and share with you the love of home and family and friendship. We are not the America featured in sensational television and movies. And the United States is not American history when the liberty of our native Indian population was suppressed.

Chief Joseph the patriarch of the Nez Perce tribe, who was never subdued, said it best for all time. Listen to his words: "All men were made by the same Great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The Earth is the mother of all people and all people should have equal rights upon it. You might as well expect the rivers to run backward as that any man who was born a free man should be contented when penned up and denied liberty to go where he pleases." I hope, however, you will forgive us for everlastingly trying to make our system fairer, stronger and now gentler.