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REMARKS AT MEETING WITH GERMAN YOUTH

*This needs to be
cut way back +
made
less condescending*

Thank you Dr. Suessmuth. I appreciate very much your inviting me to your home today. ~~It is just the right place to meet.~~ It reminds us that home and family are at the center of our lives.

Dr. Suessmuth, I had heard how popular you were with German young people, and I think I understand why. It's obvious how concerned you are about young people. I have been very impressed by what your country does for youth -- your vocational education programs, for example.

I'm concerned too. I think the most important efforts of my Administration are those directed at our youth -- to improve education at all levels, to eradicate drug use, to give young people the chance to use their energies for community service.

But we also have to ask what young people are concerned about. That's why I welcome the chance to meet and talk with young Germans and young Americans staying in this country. It's something I do as often as I can in the United States.

People your age always give me a new slant on whatever we discuss. You see the world with a fresh vision; you pose sharp, frank questions. I hope to get some today. You are our future ~~that's literally true, so it can't be a cliché.~~ We count on you to do things that we never thought of; but also hope you will carry on what we have spent our lives trying to accomplish. For both reasons, you have an important part to play in relations between the United States and the Federal Republic.

German-American friendship is important -- and it's real. The peace and prosperity we enjoy today are the fruits of this friendship. When we have differences, they are the differences of friends. However, friendship is something you have to work at -- and it is youth, most of all, who can carry on the continuing business of friendship between our countries. It is also young people who are quickest to recognize that the world is changing -- that if we are to remain friends, we have to devise new ways of working together.

We have had forty productive years of German-American friendship. That friendship was built by a postwar generation who, because of their own experiences, understood the need for

Will it continue?

German-American cooperation. This generation is leaving the stage. We must work to ensure that younger people will remain committed to strong ties between our two countries. It is on young people that we must depend to keep German-American relations relevant to a changing world and to keep our relations a vital force.

To do that, we have to understand each other. That is why exchange programs are so important -- especially programs like those in which you have been or are taking part, managed by such organizations as the American Field Service, Youth for Understanding, and the Experiment in International Living. I wish I had ^{taken} had an opportunity like that at your age. But the opportunity also implies a responsibility.

Some of these programs existed then (AFS)

It is people like yourselves who will become the spokesmen for German-American relations -- the diplomats and professors and journalists who will help us understand and deal with each other. Even those of you who don't take up some career directly related to German-American relations can contribute -- because friendship between our two countries has to be founded on friendship between Germans and Americans in every walk of life. I have said again and again that what counts in American

society is what ordinary people do -- my ~~famous~~ "thousand points of light" -- and the same is true in international relations, especially between countries like ours, whose ties are deep and varied.

Germans and Americans share a great deal -- common values, a common culture. But we are also different and I think we have a lot to learn from each other. We can help each other solve the most pressing questions of our time. ~~We can work to~~ ^{We have a real chance to} ~~close~~ ^{end the Cold War -- whose root cause is} the East-West divide that has torn Germany and Europe and the world in two. We know something new is happening in the East. We see an opportunity, and don't intend to miss it, either by foot-dragging ^{or} by acting hastily and foolishly. Prudence and realism will define our course.

The same goes for arms ^{reduction,} ~~control~~. We're looking for solid achievements that will make both West and East more secure, more confident, which will really help us maintain peace. Believe me, I never met a ~~military~~ weapon I liked -- and I will never hesitate to get rid of one I think is useless. We want the Soviets to do the same, of course. A few weeks ago, our Navy decided to get rid of two different nuclear weapons because they did not have a job to do any longer. NATO over

maintain a stable balance of power in Europe, to

unilaterally

the last ten years has reduced 2,400 nuclear weapons. At the same time, we are determined to have what we need to protect our security and our ~~values~~ ^{freedom}.

The environment is another terribly important issue. We have to sustain and improve the quality of the air we breath and the water we drink and the land the God has entrusted to us. We are determined to ensure environmentally sound disposal of hazardous wastes, to protect the ozone layer, to stop deforestation and to respond sensibly to the greenhouse effect. We want to see the environment preserved so that my generation and yours and future generations can use and enjoy our natural bounty. But here again, we need close German-American cooperation. Many of the problems that we face in the environment are global problems. We have to work together to broaden the worldwide consensus to protect the environment. We must find ways to do this without stifling economic growth. We need both for a better life for people all over the world.

I have just come from speaking with Chancellor Kohl. He is as serious as I am about coming to grips with problems like these. He is also committed to maintaining the friendship between young people in our two countries. He is taking

important initiatives to develop German-American educational and youth exchanges still further. And I know, Dr. Suessmuth, that the Bundestag is just as concerned. It has proved that 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. Believe me, we on the American side intend to work just as hard to base the friendship between our two countries firmly on the future.

But that's enough. I said I wanted to find out more about what concerns you. Give me your questions; I'll do my best to answer them.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

GRANT

MEETING WITH GERMAN AND AMERICAN YOUTH

SETTING

- o The official residence of Dr. Rita Suessmuth, the President of the Bundestag, is located in a primarily residential area of the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesberg. It is a large old mansion set in an attractive garden directly overlooking the Rhein.
- o The President's meeting is planned to be held in the rather small "living room" of the house.
- o Upon arrival, the President will be greeted by President Suessmuth. She will escort him into the residence and to the meeting room, where introductions will be made.
- o The President and Dr. Suessmuth will make brief remarks, and then the President will take questions and participate in discussion.

OBJECTIVES

- o The key U.S. objective is to emphasize that the U.S. and the FRG share a strong common concern for the needs and aspirations of young people.
- o The President also may wish to emphasize the role that the younger generation can and must play in maintaining and strengthening close German-American friendship.
- o The event should also underscore the degree to which German and American young people share common concerns.

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Q & A from him

Dr Seuss math - woman
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Lenny Cherson - site advance.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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