

Gate and the Reichstag, we see a united Germany that will be a force for peace and prosperity in the next century. Tomorrow, we will commemorate the airlift, the *Luftbrücke*, the bridge we built together almost 50 years ago.

But long before that, the people of Germany helped America to build bridges, too. The Brooklyn Bridge was designed by a German-American, John Roebling. And German-Americans have been building other kinds of bridges since the beginning of our country. After all, Germans helped to create our Nation through revolution, helped to preserve it through civil war, and they are still helping to advance our democracy in the twilight of the 20th century.

One hundred years ago tomorrow, a distinguished American summed up the lessons of the century that was then drawing to a close. Carl Schurz served in the Cabinet of a President, as a United States Senator, and as a general in the Army. He was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln. He was also a German, one of many who came to the United States after the Revolution of 1848. I might say that as a result of that revolution, the State from which I come has towns named Stuttgart and Ulm, where we grow more rice than any other place in the United States. [Laughter] Carl Schurz lived quite a long life. And as he reflected back on it, he was proud to have stood for democracy

on two continents, in two nations. He never forgot the friends he left in Germany or the two goals that animated the younger generation of 1848: representative government and German unity. In his speech to a gathering of old '48ers on May 14, 1898, Carl Schurz swore that he would never stop working to spread liberty around the world.

Mr. President, you have led Germany toward these same goals: liberty, representative government, and unity. In countless ways, you have worked for unity, reaching out to neighboring countries, building consensus, laying the ground work for a new and peaceful Europe. You have made democracy work at home.

Mr. President, you recently wrote, "Even a superpower needs friends." [Laughter] Truer words were never written. [Laughter] And so Mr. President, I thank you for the friendship that unites us personally and for the unbreakable friendship that joins our people.

And ladies and gentlemen, I ask you to join me in raising a glass to President Roman Herzog and to the people of the Federal Republic of Germany.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Hotel Adlon. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Herzog.

## Remarks at the Berlin Airlift Remembrance Ceremony in Berlin May 14, 1998

Chancellor Kohl, members of the German Government, Mr. Mayor, members of the diplomatic corps, the veterans of the *Luftbrücke*, and to the people of Germany: Fifty years ago this airstrip was a pivotal battlefield in a war that had not yet been named. In 1948 the world could not yet speak of another war.

World War II had left Europe devastated and divided. Nowhere was the crisis more acute than here in Berlin. People were hungry and homeless. A hundred years earlier, Karl Marx had declared that a specter is haunting Europe, the specter of communism. In 1948 the specter's shadow fell across half a continent. The edge of that shadow was the runway here at Tempelhof Airport. The last European battlefield of

World War II became the first battlefield of the cold war.

On June 24, 1948, Stalin threw down a gauntlet, refusing to allow supplies to be sent to Berlin. It was war by starvation, with more than 2 million lives hanging in the balance. The blockade stymied the British, the French, the American allies. Some saw no solution and reluctantly advised evacuation.

The fate of free Berlin hung by a thread, the thread of air support. No one really thought it was possible to supply a city by air. A few visionaries, however, were convinced it could be done. They had no precedent, just the simple rules of conscience and ingenuity that determine all our best actions. And they had a President.

On June 28, in a small meeting at the White House, Harry Truman said, "There is no discussion on that point. We stay in Berlin, period."

From the moment the largest airlift in history began, the Western allies became protectors, instead of occupiers, of Germany. There are so many stories from that proud period: the leadership of General Clay and General Tunner; the American, British, and German casualties we must never forget; the countless acts of individual kindness, like Gail Halvorsen, the famous *Rosinenbomber* who dropped tiny parachutes of candy to Berlin's children. She is here with us today, and I'd like to ask her to stand. Thank you very much. [Applause] Thank you, sir. Thank you—he's here. Thank you, sir.

If the Communists could fight with fear, then we would fight back with friendship and faith. Today I salute, along with the Chancellor, all the American veterans who came back to celebrate today. I would like to ask any of them who are here to please stand. [Applause] And I salute the people of Berlin. Thousands of Berliners from doctors to housewives rolled up their sleeves to help Americans expand this airfield, building Tegel Airport from scratch, unloading and maintaining the planes. Your fearless mayor, Ernst Reuter, inspired Americans and Germans alike when he stood before a rally and said, "We cannot be bordered. We cannot be negotiated. We cannot be sold."

And finally, I salute the 75,000 people from all around Europe who helped the airlift in some capacity and made it a triumph for people who love freedom everywhere.

Between June of 1948 and May of 1949, over a quarter million sorties were flown around the clock, day and night, in weather good and bad, roughly a plane every 90 seconds at its height. But the most precious cargo did not come in the well-named CARE packages. It was instead the hope created by the constant roar of the planes overhead. Berliners called this noise a symphony of freedom, reminding you that Berlin was not alone and that freedom was no flight of imagination.

Today, a new generation must relearn the lessons of the airlift and bring them to bear on the challenges of this new era, for the cold war is history, a democratic Russia is our partner, and we have for the first time a chance to build a new Europe, undivided, democratic, and at peace. Yet we know that today's possibili-

ties are not tomorrow's guarantees. For all the promise of our time, we are not free from peril.

That is why I hope both Americans and Germans will always remember the lesson of what happened here 50 years ago. We cannot relinquish the responsibilities of leadership, for the struggle for freedom never ends.

In the heat of the Berlin crisis, General Clay wrote, "I believe the future of democracy requires us to stay." Well, that was the best investment we could have made in Germany's future. It would be difficult to imagine a better friend or ally than modern Germany.

How proud those who participated in the airlift must have been when Germany reunified, when Germany led the effort to unify Europe, and when the modern equivalent of CARE packages were sent to Bosnia, Afghanistan, and other places ravaged by war—when the people of Germany were among the first to send them. It was a good investment in democracy to stay.

Now, we must continue to build bridges between our two peoples. The Fulbright program between Germany and the United States is the largest in the world. This fall the American Academy in Berlin will open, bringing our leading cultural figures here. We will be working hard to expand our support for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange, which has already given more than 10,000 German and American students the chance to visit each other's countries. The next century of our cooperation for freedom has already begun in our classrooms. Let us give our young people the chance to build even stronger bridges for the future.

In his "Song of the Spirits Over the Waters," Gunther wrote, "Man's soul is like the water. From heaven it descends, to heaven it rises and down again to Earth, it returns, ever repeating." To me, these lines express the heroism of the airlift, for more than food and supplies were dropped from the skies. As the planes came and went and came and went again, the airlift became a sharing of the soul, a story that tells people never to give up, never to lose faith. Adversity can be conquered. Prayers can be answered, hopes realized. Freedom is worth standing up for.

My friends, today, and 100 years from today, the citizens of this great city and all friends of freedom everywhere will know that because a few stood up for freedom, now and forever, "*Berlin bleibt noch Berlin*"—"Berlin is still Berlin."

May 14 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1998

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11 a.m. at the Tempelhof Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. Lucius D. Clay, USA (d. 1978), Commander in Chief, European Com-

mand; and Maj. Gen. William H. Tunner, USAF (d. 1983), Commander, Combined Airlift Task Force. The transcript made available by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Chancellor Kohl.

## Remarks in a Roundtable Discussion at the General Motors Opel Plant in Eisenach, Germany May 14, 1998

[*The discussion is joined in progress.*]

### *U.S. Investment in Germany*

Q. Mr. President, do you regard Germany as an attractive country for American investors, and if so, for what main products and services?

*The President.* Well, the short answer to your question is yes. One of the reasons that I was so excited about coming here is that I felt that if the Chancellor and I were to come here together and there would be widespread news coverage of our trip, then back in America, and indeed, in other places, there would be people who say, "Well, maybe we should look at investing there."

Investors are like all other people—you assume they know everything, but no one knows everything. No one has every possible option for activity in his or her head all the time. And so I think that one of the great challenges that Germany faces, obviously, is to bring the eastern *Länder* up to the employment levels and the income levels, generally, of the western part of the country. One of the great challenges Europe faces is to bring all the countries that were part of the Warsaw Pact up to the level of employment and income of the rest of Europe. And the only way this can be done is by people who believe in—your counterparts, who believe in you and your potential, investing their money and putting people to work.

Because of your geographical location, I would imagine that any kind of manufacturing operation would be a good operation here, because there are good transportation networks in and out of here to the rest of Europe and because, frankly, the Continent is not that large. I don't think there is any kind of thing you can't do. I think that—Chancellor Kohl has al-

ready said that you would have a greater advantage probably in the areas where you already have a proven track record. But most manufacturers in America are prepared to go anywhere there is a work force that can be trained, where people will work hard and work in the kind of teamwork spirit that you have demonstrated here at this plant.

So I hope that our coming here will help more of your fellow citizens to get good jobs. And that's one of the reasons we wanted to come.

[*At this point, the discussion continued.*]

### *Administration Accomplishments and Goals*

Q. Mr. President, which domestic or foreign policy problem would you wish to be solved most urgently, and which achievement would you regard as the highlight in your term of office?

*The President.* Well, first let me say, I suppose our most important achievement is turning the American economy around in ways that benefit ordinary Americans so that we not only have high growth and low unemployment, but it's working in a way that most people feel more secure, and they have the freedom to make more good decisions for themselves. There are many other things that I have done, specific things that I am very proud of, but I think, generally, doing that has made a big difference.

And in the world, I hope that putting America in the center of the future after the cold war will be a lasting achievement: future trading relationships with Europe and Latin America and Asia; our future efforts to combat the problems of terrorism and the weapons spread; our future efforts to save the environment of the world; our future efforts to work with countries to help