



**Hamburg-America-Center
Introduction Remarks
Hamburg, January 27, 2005
Ambassador Daniel R. Coats**

Dear Dr. Krog,
Dear Senator Dr. Freytag,

Thank you so much for inviting me to this introduction to the future Hamburg-America-Center. It is a great pleasure for my wife Marsha and me to be back in Hamburg, a city we both have enjoyed visiting very much and a city where we found many friends. Back at the beginning of January, we already said our official good-byes and were very moved by the heartfelt remarks Mayor von Beust gave at my farewell speech in your magnificent City Hall. We are back now, drawn to this event by the promise this project holds for the Hamburg Amerikazentrum's future.

I would like to congratulate everybody involved, especially of course Drees and Sommer as well as the City of Hamburg, for the initiative, resolve and entrepreneurial spirit to build an America Center. I am very impressed with your plans and the design of the building. Most of all, I am very pleased that the Hamburg-America-Center will provide a new home for the Amerikazentrum to help it become the focal point for German-American cultural programs in Hamburg.

Hamburg is an ideal place for such an innovative institution for the advancement of German-American relations as it can build on a long history of friendly relations with the U.S. I am very glad that Senator Dr. Freytag is here today, who is such an avid supporter of strong German-American relations and particularly of strong Hamburg-Chicago relations.

We share the belief that excellent German-American relations are imperative to the well-being of our two nations and that these relations are in the end not determined by governments but by the people. Thus, we hope that the Hamburg-America-Center will be an exemplary platform to promote a fruitful cultural, political and economic exchange between our citizens.

Thank you.