

**Allierten Museum****August 13, 2002**

Ambassador Coats

Dr. Trotnow,

Dr. Stölzl,

Mr. (military title?) Cates,

Former members of the Berlin Brigade,

"The history of our time is written in the life of Berlin."

Like all visitors to Berlin, President Bush, speaking at the Reichstag last May, could not help but be overwhelmed by significance of the events that have unfolded in this city over the past decades.

Personally, since I arrived in Germany almost a year ago, hardly a day goes by that I am not reminded of the defining moments and hours and days that Berliners - JFK's definition of Berliners - have lived through. For example, the home that Marsha and I are honored to live in was formerly the official residence of the Commanding General of the Berlin Brigade. One of those Commanding Generals was a refugee, a Holocaust survivor from Lithuania. General Schachnow emigrated to the United States in 1950 and enlisted in the Army, working his way up to become Commander of the Berlin Brigade from 1989-1991. The milestones in the history of German-American relations that we come back to on occasions like this - the Marshall Plan, the Berlin Airlift, the tension-filled years of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification - are more than just words in history books for anyone who visits Berlin.

The evening before President Bush addressed the Reichstag, the first American President to do so, on his arrival in Berlin, President Bush together with Chancellor Schroeder crossed the line that traces where the Berlin Wall passed the Brandenburg Gate.

The same Brandenburg Gate where years before President Reagan challenged the Soviet Union to put an end to the division of Europe.

The same Brandenburg Gate where I stood, just days after my arrival in Berlin last September, before 200,000 Berliners to tell them just how grateful we were for the unqualified cooperation, commitment and solidarity of the German government and the German people in the wake of the tragedy of September 11. The community of caring and compassion that stretched across the Atlantic was built on common values and ideals. Next year, we begin construction of a new U.S. Embassy, right beside the Brandenburg Gate. Our new Embassy will be a symbol and a reminder of how much we share.

Throughout the long years of darkness of the Cold War, a time when the area around the Brandenburg Gate was a killing zone, and barbed wire and guard dogs separated East Berliners from their free neighbors in the West, the United States and Germany stood together in defense of freedom and justice. As the Iron Curtain descended around a free Berlin, the last battleground of a World War turned into the first battleground of the Cold War. In no other place on earth was the evidence of our common purpose and our common values -- respect for all human life, ensuring the safety and security of our people, upholding the rule of law, advancing the cause of freedom and democracy -- as obvious as it was here in Berlin.

Working together, we turned many of freedom's darkest days into bright triumphs. The men and women of the Berlin Brigade helped to make those triumphs bright, helped to make it possible for us to walk through the Brandenburg Gate once again. As President Clinton said in 1994 when the Berlin Brigade was officially deactivated, "More than 100,000 American men and women have served in Berlin. More than anyone, they showed the patience it took to win the Cold War. More than anyone, they knew the dangers of a world on edge. They would have been the first casualties in the world's final war, yet they never flinched."

The fall of the Berlin Wall ushered in a new and promising era in which the United States again stood firmly by Germany's side as it worked to overcome the half-century division, not only of its own country, but also of Europe.

Today, we face new challenges. The terrorist attacks of September 11 underscored the reality of the threats that have emerged since the end of the Cold War and the demise of the Soviet Union. The threat is now global and the opportunities are global as well. So must be the transatlantic response to new questions of leadership, mission and strategy that will define the future strategic environment of the transatlantic partnership.

We have proved in the past year that we are prepared to adapt that relationship to the new realities that face us. The time is right for the United States and Europe to evolve from being great partners in Europe to being global partners beyond Europe.

What has struck me most in the year that I have been in Germany is just how closely we work together. No disagreement about details or a particular policy dispute can obscure the heart and spirit of our friendship. We will again, together, overcome obstacles and, together, make this new century one of hope, progress, and benefit for all mankind.