



Bridge from New York to Berlin
Berlin/Kanzleramt, July 9
Ambassador Daniel R. Coats

Start

Chancellor Schröder, thank you for your hospitality.

Minister Schmidt, Vice-President Kleinert, Mr. Raizner, Dr. Eick, good to see you.

Chancellor Schröder, I am particularly pleased to thank you, and the many representatives of German companies, and all the individuals and organizations whose support you have enlisted in your initiative to build a "Bridge from New York to Berlin".

This initiative provided these young American school children from New York City the wonderful opportunity to meet firsthand some of our European friends and neighbors. For many, this was the first exposure to a country outside of the United States. It has undoubtedly brought a host of new impressions, new ideas and new friendships; and I am confident that these friendships will continue to deepen over the years.

The scores of people who are working behind the scenes to bring this ambitious project to life can rightly be proud of their efforts. I am particularly grateful to DaimlerChrysler for taking the lead in underwriting and organizing this project. The generosity and organizational skill have laid an impressive foundation for the "Bridge", which is a true demonstration of steadfast solidarity, strong support, and German-American friendship.

The "Bridge from New York to Berlin" is people-to-people diplomacy. It is precisely the kind of long-term investment that will provide the basis for the kind of strategic partnerships that have served us well in the past and that will serve us well in the years ahead.

I thank you for your support and your kindness.