

FOR RELEASE APRIL 6, 1967  
Thursday PM's

REMARKS VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY

BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
BERLIN, GERMANY  
APRIL 6, 1967

Governing Mayor Albertz, distinguished Senators, and Members of the House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen: I am honored to speak to you on the occasion of this special session of the Berlin House of Representatives. I am honored, too, to bring to the members of this House this personal message from the President of the United States:

"It is a special pleasure to send you, through Vice President Humphrey, my own good wishes and those of the American people as you assume your new responsibilities.

"More than five years ago I had the privilege of being with the people of Berlin during a time of crisis. Their courage, which won the admiration and support of free men everywhere, met the challenge of those dark days. Their strength and fortitude since then have kept Berlin a free and thriving city. All Americans look forward to the time when the tragic division of Berlin is ended, and Germany is once again a united country.

"My countrymen join me in the hope and expectation that the future will bring you peace and prosperity."

My remarks today will be brief. I mean them to be direct and to the point. You will remember when President Johnson spoke to this House. It was a time, for Berlin, of deep crisis.

President Johnson spoke then of the need for confidence, for poise, and for faith. And he pledged our commitment to the people of Berlin.

You have shown confidence, poise, and faith. And I renew now his pledge.

Berliners, more than anyone else, know the value of commitments that are kept.

Just as Berliners -- with the help of allies -- have maintained the integrity of their city, so are the people of South Vietnam -- with the help of allies -- struggling today to maintain the integrity of their country.

And I know that the people of Berlin know, as all free peoples know, that our commitment to freedom in one place is no less than our commitment to freedom in another.

Today Berlin stands stronger than ever before.

(more)

Berlin is strong because her citizens have an indestructible spirit.

Berlin is strong because her men and women stand not only together but in solidarity with free men and women all over the world.

Berlin is strong because her people look not to the past, but always to the future.

This city owes much to one of your members, the former Governing Mayor of this city, and my friend, Willy Brandt.

Today he has joined hands with Chancellor Kiesinger to help the new government of the Federal Republic meet new opportunities.

We in America are impressed by the great strides which this German government has made toward reconciliation with the countries of Eastern Europe. And we welcome the initiatives now being taken by your country so that yesterday's Iron Curtain may become tomorrow's Open Door.

We welcome the movement of people, of goods, and of ideas which is today permeating societies formerly closed to the outside world.

Berlin has the chance to play a large role in making the Open Door a reality. And I know, in a spirit of confidence and hope, that you will.

For, as your Chancellor said only last night, Berlin can be a bridge -- an open bridge on the path to peace.

In the center of free Berlin there stands today a stark ruin -- the skeleton of a church, preserved to symbolize eternally the depravity of war.

It is our hope that the Iron Curtain may one day, too, lie in ruins -- its remnants a symbol of a time that mercifully ended.

A great act in the human drama lies at hand: Through peaceful engagement in Europe we have the chance to shape a commonwealth of progress dedicated not to war but to peace . . . not to doctrinal conflict but to constructive reconciliation.

We have the chance, as President Johnson has expressed it "to help the people of Europe to achieve together:

--a continent in which the peoples of Eastern and Western Europe work shoulder to shoulder for the common good;

--a continent in which alliances do not confront each other in bitter hostility, but instead provide a framework in which West and East can act together in order to assure the security of all."

Berlin is a city that is alive.

Berlin is a city moving forward.

Berlin will always be a great city.

And -- if we stand together -- one day Berlin will once more be the capital of a reunited Germany in a safe and peaceful world.

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~~Heinrich Lübke~~  
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