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PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT RECEPTION FOR CHANCELLOR KOHL
THE GRAIN EXCHANGE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
MAY 23, 1996

Acknowledgments: Chancellor Kohl
Members of the German Delegation
Governor Thompson
Mayor Barrett
[Members of Congress tk]

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Grain Exchange. We’ve had a wonderful time in
Milwaukee -- and we couldn’t have asked for a warmer reception. I want to thank you all for
showing my friend Helmut Kohl that Gemutlichkeit [guh-MOOT-lib-kite] may be a German word,
but it’s also an American reality.

The Chancellor and I have had a good day of work. We’ve also had a chance to reflect on the
ties between our nations -- ties of trade, security and culture. Economics and security affairs
make headlines. But to appreciate the depth of this relationship, you have to know the countless
contacts and relationships between our peoples.

In educational exchanges alone, the record is astonishing: over the years, more than 25,000
Americans and Germans have participated in the Fulbright exchange...almost 10,000 have
benefited from the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange...and more than 100,000 students and
teachers have taken part in the German American Partnership Program. The friendships formed
through these exchanges are the strongest of bonds between our great democracies. And they are a guarantee that the friendship of our nations will only grow in the years ahead.

Standing in this magnificent building, we are also reminded that the ties between our peoples stretch far back into history. The Grain Exchange was built almost in 1879 with German steel of a kind that could not be found in America. At that time, Wisconsin grain -- much of it grown by German-American farmers -- was already being shipped to Liverpool and on to German and other European markets. More than a third of Milwaukee's inhabitants at that time had actually been born in Germany.

Of course, it is not every day that Germany's Chancellor comes to Milwaukee. But the fact is Germans have been coming to Wisconsin and this city for more than 150 years.

One German who settled not far from here was Carl Schurz -- who is well known to Americans and familiar as well to the Chancellor as one of the great figures of the Germany's revolution of 1848. A few years after arriving in America, Schurz followed many other '48ers and came to Wisconsin -- he bought a farm in Watertown in 1856. The next year, he was nominated for lieutenant governor. He lost by a mere 107 votes -- pretty astonishing for someone who had only been speaking English for a few years and wasn't even a citizen yet. Perhaps this is not a story I should tell Chancellor Kohl, who after four successful national elections might be looking for new challenges.
Schurz went on to record one of the most brilliant careers of the 19th century. A friend of President Lincoln, he became America's ambassador to Spain, a major general in the Civil War, a United States Senator, Secretary of the Interior under President Hayes and one of the greatest journalists of the era. Few have matched that level of accomplishment in any era. But his exceptional devotion to his adopted country was typical of his fellow German immigrants.

They helped build strong communities across America, from New York to California and Texas to Wisconsin. You know, Chancellor Kohl is an historian by training. But I wonder if even he knows that the hit of 1859 was a German opera written by Prussian-born composer who settled in Milwaukee. His name was Friedrich Sobolewski, and he was a friend of Schumann and Liszt. His opera, *Mohega, Flower of the Forest*, was about a native American girl and an officer in the Revolutionary War. That was long before Pocahontas was put to music.

Well, *Mohega* has been lost to music. But the tremendous contributions of Germans to America have made the fabric of our nation strong -- just as today, the friendship between the United States and Germany strengthens us all. On behalf of all Americans, I thank Chancellor Kohl and Germany both for the people who so enriched our nation and the friendship that is now one of our great gifts.

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5/21/96 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
PRESS AVAILABILITY WITH CHANCELLOR KOHL OF GERMANY
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
MAY 23, 1996

It is a pleasure to welcome Chancellor Kohl back to the United States. Now in his fourteenth year in office, Chancellor Kohl is the longest serving leader in the West -- and not only Germany but all of the West has been well served by his leadership. He is a friend to whom three American Presidents have turned for support and wise counsel. During his tenure, the relationship between our nations has grown stronger and deeper than ever -- and it has become a powerful force for positive change.

During his time in office, the Chancellor has visited Washington so many times -- 23 to be exact -- that he knows the short cuts through traffic better than most natives. We thought it was high time that the Chancellor saw another part of our country. And what better place than Milwaukee, a city that German immigrants helped build...a city so rich in German heritage and culture that in the 19th century, it was called the Deutsch Athen [DOYTSH ah-TEN], the German Athens.

Today, the partnership between the United States and Germany has taken another important step forward. The two aviation agreements we signed moments ago will strengthen our cooperation in this vital economic sector. Our Aviation Safety Agreement will help us clear the way to better, safer air traffic. Our “Open Skies Agreement” will create the largest fully open bilateral market in the world of aviation. This landmark accord will dramatically increase opportunities for
consumers and flexibility for airlines. The Chancellor and I both believe this agreement heralds a new era of competition in the over-regulated aviation markets of Europe.

These agreements are one example of our common efforts to increase growth and prosperity for our peoples. As the world’s two greatest exporting nations, the United States and Germany have a vital interest -- and together are playing a vital role -- in building the international marketplace of the 21st century. Because we are determined to bring down barriers and open the markets of the future, we helped complete the Uruguay Round, the most ambitious trade agreement of all time -- which has boosted the greatest export surge in our nation’s history. Our cooperation in the G-7 has helped keep the global economy moving forward...for the benefit of people all around the world. Today, I also salute the Chancellor for his bold budget and reform program. Strengthening Germany’s finances will benefit Germany and its many trading partners as well.

Our economic cooperation is making a real difference in the daily lives of our citizens. But it has succeeded only because it has been backed by our partnership in NATO for security and freedom. That partnership has provided vital safety and stability for our nations for almost 50 years.

Today, we reviewed the process of NATO’s enlargement -- and we are both pleased that it is proceeding in a clear and predictable way that will enhance security in Europe. Much as it did after World War II in Western Europe, NATO can provide an important shelter for the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe -- those that share our values and are ready to bear the burdens of our Alliance.
The success of NATO’s participation in the IFOR mission in Bosnia demonstrates how the Alliance is adapting to the needs of our time. And I particularly want to thank the Chancellor for his historic decision to deploy 4,000 German troops to support the Bosnia peace agreement. Germany is shouldering its security responsibilities in the post-Cold War world -- and we are all grateful.

Chancellor Kohl and I also reaffirmed our conviction that, as NATO grows, it must develop a strong and positive relationship with Russia. The seeds for that relationship have already been sown -- in the participation of Russian troops alongside NATO units in Bosnia...and in the Partnership For Peace exercises here in the United States and WHERETK else.

Both Chancellor Kohl and I strongly believe that we have before us an extraordinary chance to create a free and undivided Europe -- and we must continue to seize it. Never since the emergence of the modern nation state, have the prospects been so great for creating a lasting peace in Europe -- a cause so many Americans gave their lives for in this century. We will do everything in our power to see that this vision for Europe is realized.

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5/21/96 2:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE PEOPLE OF MILWAUKEE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
MAY 23, 1996


[Senator Kohl, the people of Wisconsin are so devoted to you that I knew I had to bring Chancellor here so we could assemble the greatest amount of Kohl-generated power ever.]

It's great to be in Milwaukee. When I visited Germany two years ago, Chancellor Kohl opened his home and welcomed Hillary and me with the best of German hospitality. I knew we had to show the Chancellor that the same tradition is alive and well in America's heartland. I knew then that Helmut Kohl had to come to Milwaukee.

[Point to sign for Usinger's Famous Sausage] And I can see that before Chancellor Kohl even signed on to this visit, Milwaukee was ready to serve him a "brat."

I want to thank [student no. 1] for that wonderful introduction. [Student no. 2], my German isn't as good as yours. But I can tell that you did that perfectly -- das war wunderschoen! [DAHSS VAR VUHN-der-shoen] I congratulate the German Immersion School, the only school in the nation where children are taught a complete German curriculum. You're doing a great job -- and you clearly deserve the Blue Ribbon Award that the Department of Education gave you.
[Student no. 2's] excellent German reminds us of a time a century ago, when half a million American children learned German in elementary schools -- and almost half of those schools were public. New York had the second largest German population of any city in the world -- after Berlin -- and Chicago had the eighth largest. And in Milwaukee -- with the highest concentration of Germans in the nation -- one third of the population was German-born and many of the rest were their children and grandchildren.

They had come in one of the largest of all waves of immigration to reach our shores. Germans arrived from a divided nation to practice their religion without fear...to escape from hunger and want...and, above all, to live their lives as free men and women. I am delighted to present to their descendants, my friend Helmut Kohl -- the leader of a free and democratic Germany.

Already in 1859, Abraham Lincoln knew how important the Germans were to America. Just before running for the Presidency, he bought a German newspaper, the Illinois Staats-Anzeiger [SHTAHTZ  ahn-TZIY-ger] -- to reach out to the growing German community. And I am very happy that campaign tactic has fallen by the wayside.

The Germans who came to America ploughed the soil, turning the Midwest into the world’s granary. They founded many of our nation’s businesses including some with names like that made Milwaukee famous -- Pabst, Blatz, Schlitz, and Miller. Most important of all, they built strong families and strong communities.
German-Americans helped build our democracy into what it is today. The story of the Germans in America is one of tremendous success. Now a quarter of all Americans claim German roots -- and nearly half the citizens of the Milwaukee area.

But when most of the immigrants arrived, they faced enormous challenges. Our nation was in the midst of great change, as we moved from an age of agriculture to an age of industry. People moved from country to city. After countless generations of rising with the sun, they awoke instead to a factory whistle. For many, the changes threatened their livelihoods and their values.

Our nation rose to the challenges of that time -- and we have Wisconsin, “the laboratory of democracy” to thank. Progressivism...born here...led by Wisconsin Governor Robert La Follette offered the first answers to the problems of the time. Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and others joined the movement to harness the power of our nation’s government...to extend the benefits of the industrial era to all Americans...to preserve the values of family and community...to round off the rough edges of change.

They built the foundation of this American Century -- in which we overcame the Great Depression, provided new opportunities for women and minorities...a cleaner environment...security and good health for senior citizens...the most prosperous middle class in human history.

I believe that we are living through a period of change as profound as the one that gripped our nation 100 years ago. We -- and Germany and all the nations of the West -- are entering an age of
the greatest possibility. The Information Age offers vast new opportunities. But it also presents us with immense challenges. Like our forbears a century ago, we must rise to these challenges.

I am convinced that for us to succeed, America must enter the 21st century as the greatest force in the world for peace, freedom and democracy.

If the last 50 years have taught us anything, it is that America must lead if we are to realize this goal. We created unparalleled prosperity...an alliance of strong democracies...and prevailed in the Cold War...because America led. The presence today of Chancellor Kohl -- our partner for freedom and prosperity...and the first chancellor of a free and unified Germany -- is a symbol of that success.

Now, because America is leading, peace is taking hold in the Middle East...and Northern Ireland. With Germany and other NATO allies, we are creating an environment for peace in the former Yugoslavia -- so Americans never again fight in Europe.

Because America is leading, democracy has a new chance in Haiti...South Africa...and Central Europe.

Because America is leading, the world has taken a great step back from the nuclear precipice. Russia and the United States are cutting nuclear arsenals, which will be reduced by two-thirds
from their Cold War peaks. For the first time in a generation there are no Russian missiles pointed at our cities or our citizens.

America's leadership in the world is making a difference for the people of Wisconsin every day. We're working to bring down trade barriers from Japan to the Americas...and open the markets of tomorrow. And Wisconsin is showing the nation how to make the most of the global economy.

Exports from Wisconsin have grown tk% over the last three years -- tk% faster than the rest of the country during the greatest export surge in our history. That trade has created good, high-paying jobs -- the kind our economy must have to compete in the global marketplace. It's helped create more than 40,000 new manufacturing jobs. [ck] Unemployment is down to only 3.7%. I'm pleased that foreign investors understand that Wisconsin is a great place to do business -- and that several thousand jobs are supported here by German investment alone. And I'm delighted that Wisconsin companies with names like Harnischfeger and othercoTK are doing business in Germany...bringing their products to the land their founders' left over a century ago.

Wisconsin's success is part of the larger story of preparing America for the future. We have created more than 8.5 million new jobs -- more than 1 million supported by exports. We've cut the deficit. Unemployment and inflation are at their lowest point since 1968.

To meet the challenges of the next century, America must continue to strengthen our economy. But our well-being depends on more than increasing wealth -- there are many other things we must do.
We must continue our fight to keep our streets safe. We are putting 100,000 new police on the street...taking guns out of the hands of criminals...imposing tougher sentences...steering our young people away from gangs and drugs. Our strategy is beginning to work across the country. We will not rest until news of a crime again shocks us as something unusual -- and not ordinary.

We must -- in this new economy -- give every American child the advantage of a good education. That’s why we have expanded Head Start for preschoolers, student loans and college scholarships for deserving students. It’s why we should give every family a deduction of up to $10,000 to pay for college.

We must also continue our effort to end welfare as we know it. Working with states across our country, our Administration has already changed the rules for 75% of the people on welfare. Wisconsin wants to reform welfare on its own, without waiting for Congress to act. Wisconsin says to welfare recipients: No work, no welfare. If you work, we will help you with health and child care. You sent the plan to me for approval. And this past weekend, here is what I said: This is a good plan, a bold plan and I will do everything I can to make it happen.

America is equal to the challenges before us. But like the immigrants who settled this city, this state and this country we cannot expect it to be easy. But with strong allies like Chancellor Kohl and Germany, we can advance the cause of freedom and democracy in the world. And with hard
work and perseverance, we can make the new economy work for us. We can mend the social fabric of our nation. We have risen to great challenges before. We will do it again.

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