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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Bonn, Germany)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING
WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
PALAIS SCHAUMBURG

Mr. Chancellor, Mrs. Schmidt, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for today's warm welcome. Mrs. Ford and I are particularly happy to begin our trip to Europe with a visit to our very close friends and allies in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mr. Chancellor, our meetings in Washington, as well as our talks in Brussels, and the meetings of this visit reaffirm the close cooperation between our two governments.

They reflect the need for partners to consult frequently on the challenges we face today. Of equal importance, our meetings serve to underline the fundamental friendship between the German and American peoples -- a friendship which dates back to the origin of the United States. We recall the contribution that Americans of German descent have made to the building of our Country as we celebrate our Bicentennial and we deeply appreciate the generous gift from your people announced by President Scheel.

Mr. Chancellor, in a few days we will both be traveling to Helsinki. We will meet with other heads of government to bring to a conclusion the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It is our sincere hope that the documents we will sign in Helsinki will benefit all of Europe and the entire world.

I am especially hopeful that the humanitarian contents of the Helsinki documents relating to increased contact among peoples will have a special meaning for all the German people -- East and West -- including our friends in Berlin. The significant improvement in East-West relations which took place in the last few years would not have been possible without the Atlantic Alliance and our common defense, to which your country makes so notable a contribution.

We look forward to maintaining our continued identity of purpose -- indeed to the strengthening of our common endeavors as we work together to lessen international tensions and to increase stability.

Mr. Chancellor, our Nations face great challenges today in the economic field. First and foremost are the issues of energy and inflation. The Federal Republic will make crucial contributions to the solutions required in this area.

I am confident that we will meet these challenges successfully. The Federal Republic and the United States have been, are, and will continue to be partners, with the strongest of ties between our two governments and peoples.

Thank you.

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