

GALA LUNCH : BONN : 18 NOVEMBER 1981

Mr. Chancellor, your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

*W. W.*  
I warmly agree with what you have just said, Mr. Chancellor,

about our common interests. This is a birthday

party. As such it is an occasion to celebrate.

It is one of which it is fitting to look with

purpose to the future as well as with satisfaction

to the past.

I think it is right to begin with a reference to the

past because I fear that the passage of events

in the 20th century has often blinded people to

the deeper truths about politics and about

nations.

[Values inherited from the past.

① Changing and unchanging elements.

Their contemporary meaning.

② Open societies and closed societies.

The UK, the Federal Republic, the United States  
as examples of open societies.

③ The need to preserve economic freedom if we are  
to preserve political freedom.

④ A willingness to defend both.

Life is more than mere survival.

How do we get this across to a generation which  
has known nothing else?

Need to find means of transmitting our values  
to them.

The role of the European Community, <sup>and</sup> /within the  
European Community, of cooperation between Britain  
and the Federal Republic.]

History of events in the 20th century  
has sometimes blurred us to the degree  
Political limits by what we live

Cooperation extends beyond politics and Government.

German music is as much a part of our cultural  
tradition as, I hope and believe, English literature  
is part of yours.

I am glad to see the British Director of the Cologne  
Opera, and the British conductor of the Bamberger  
Sinfonia in the audience.

Henry Moore's statue, which I saw again this morning  
outside the Chancellery, is, I believe a familiar  
landmark in Bonn.

I am delighted that so many aspects of our relationship  
are represented here today.

There is Dame Lilo Milchsack, the initiator and  
guiding spirit of the unique Koenigswinter  
Conferences.

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She is said to be retiring shortly, but I  
am not sure that anyone believes this.

There is Sir Frank Roberts, her British collaborator and  
President of the Anglo/German Association.

There is Mrs Doris Krug who has played such an  
important role in bringing together the young  
people of our two countries and laying the basis  
for new lifetimes of friendship and trust.

I am pleased too that Herr Hans Buchler and  
~~Sir Bernard Braine~~, the Chairmen of the British/  
German Parliamentary Group are with us.

The Group has played a key part in developing  
our bilateral links.

Britain and Germany also stand side by side in NATO.

That link is symbolised here by the presence of the  
Commanders in Chief of the British Army of the Rhine  
and of the Royal Air Force, Germany.

It is right also that the American and French  
Ambassadors should be with us, symbolising the  
Allied responsibility towards Berlin.

Lord Carrington confirmed Britain's<sup>u</sup> commitment

~~which we reaffirm for them in the position~~  
to Berlin when he visited the city a few weeks

ago.

*A friend.*

Finally, Mr. Chancellor, I should like to pay tribute to all that you have done in and out of office to strengthen the friendship between our two countries. Your knowledge of our language, your understanding of our ways have made you a potent force for good in Anglo/German relations.

In particular, you always believed in British membership of the Community.

You were not alone in that - in Germany and elsewhere - but you were steadfast in it and in supporting it through thick and thin.

Let us today reaffirm the strength of Anglo/German

friendship and our shared conviction of the need  
of the friendship both to our European  
enterprise and to our partnership with the United  
States.

Mr. Chancellor, at this celebration of the 10th  
of our regular meetings, let us drink to the  
best of friendships - that between the Federal  
Republic and Britain.