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FROM THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



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HOUSE OF LORDS,
LONDON SW1A 0PW

26 June 1986

Tony Galsworthy Esq
Private Secretary to
The Secretary of State for
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Dear Tony,

President Weizsacker's Address to both Houses of Parliament
2 July 1986

I think you will wish to see the text of the speech which the Lord Chancellor proposes to deliver when he welcomes President Weizsacker on the occasion of his forthcoming address to both Houses of Parliament.

I am copying this letter and its attachment to Charles Powell, Bill Beaumont and Gavin Anderson in your own Office.

Yours sincerely,

Richard

Richard Stoate

The President of the Federal Republic of Germany

2 July 1986

Mr Speaker, Herr Bundespräsident, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Today we offer a warm welcome to the Head of State of one of Europe's great democracies, now allied in firm friendship with our own. In him we are also honoured to welcome a friend to this country of long standing.

Mr Speaker: this meeting is long overdue. It is difficult to exaggerate the contribution which each of our two countries has made to our common European civilisation, or the extent to which each has suffered in the course of the terrible events of the twentieth century. Your visit here, Herr Bundespräsident, is doubly welcome, both on its own account, but also because it symbolises the wholehearted determination of

both our peoples to build a new Europe founded on the rule of law, a common love of peace and freedom, and a determination that these three principles shall guide our conduct into the indefinite future. As your poet Goethe said: "Das Gesetz nur kann uns Freiheit geben". Only law can give us freedom. I need hardly add that only a state of peace between peoples can guarantee the enjoyment of liberty under the rule of law. I recall the old Latin tag: "Inter arma silent leges", which might be rendered, somewhat freely: "Peace is a condition of the rule of law".

It is right that today we should dwell for a moment on the contribution by great Germans to our common European heritage, in music the names of all the numerous Bach family, Händel, Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Wagner instantly spring to mind, as do Immanuel Kant and Hegel in philosophy, as do the painters and poets, as do the many social and political architects of

modern liberal democracy. Nor must we forget the scholars, the great hymn writers (Ein Feste Burg ist unser Gott) sung in an English version in all our British churches, the great scientists, and the brave men and women who resisted tyranny and were martyred in the cause of freedom and religion. I forbear to name names among this noble army of martyrs. They are too numerous to be singled out. But they are ever to be had in remembrance for they suffered unto death for the wholeness of humanity, the brotherhood of the entire human race.

But we must talk of the future. The future depends on harmony, common ideals, combined with courage to defend ourselves, willingness to weld together the forces of Parliamentary democracy in a thriving community and mutual understanding of the needs and hopes of the nations we represent.

You, Herr Bundespräsident, have given long and ample proof of your devotion to all these things and your ability to take a wider view of human brotherhood and neighbourliness as exemplified by your understanding of the needs of the needy multitudes outside our own industrialised continent, an understanding you share with your distinguished predecessor in Berlin Herr Willy Brandt. Your presidential address to the German people a year ago had a profound effect here, as it did in Germany, not least because of its earnest appeal to the young never to allow themselves to be forced into enmity with others, whether from East or West, North or South. The hope for true peace begins with a determination on the part of the individual to love and respect his fellow man. When I was in Bonn two months ago, I ventured to quote the wise saying of a Roman statesman who lived and died half a century before the founder of the Christian religion was born who spoke of our natural propensity to love our fellow man, and

added as he did so that this natural propensity was the foundation of the rule of law.

Mr Speaker, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my privilege and pleasure to invite the President of the Federal Republic of Germany to address this assembly, Herr Richard von Weizsäcker