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The Honorable
Rudolf Scharping
Minister-President
Rheinland-Pfalz
Mainz, Germany

Dear Mr. Minister-President:

I invite you on behalf of the Atlantic Council to join with us in organizing a US-German Dialogue to bring together German and American experts and social and political leaders over specific issues and problems of mutual concern in our two societies. Inspired in part by discussions during your meetings with us a year ago, and with generous support from The Ford Foundation, we have explored a number of possibilities for such an exchange. We have found strong interest among many institutions in Germany and the United States.

Our idea is to work with Rheinland-Pfalz and one of the new *Bundesländer* of your choice in a triangle of cooperation to include experts on the ground and social and political leaders responsible for the given issues at local, state, and federal levels. In consultation with you and representatives of the eastern *Land* we would identify the most pressing issues for each of us and would together decide upon those most likely to yield mutual benefit. We have in mind working in a small-group format of perhaps 15 to 30, at most, on a side. We might have two or more projects working in parallel. We would plan on a two-stage attention to each, with one session in Germany and a follow-up session in the United States. We have in mind such questions as urban renewal, job creation and job retraining, health care and social welfare, urban and rural environmental questions, business development, labor-management relations, local "enterprise zones," immigration and assimilation of new residents. The list is virtually endless.

As for organization, we know of several possible models to work from, and you may suggest many other possibilities. These details and the

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choice of topics can be worked out in discussion with your staff and eventually with that of the new *Bundesland* which you propose as a cooperation partner. Jack Seymour, Director of our John J. McCloy Program on the Future of the Atlantic Communities, has been developing this project and would be a point of contact here.

We are mindful of financial constraints, and for that reason, as well as to ensure success, it might be well to start modestly and build on success. We thought each side would finance the travel and per diem costs of its own participants and would share equally the conference/workshop costs. We have encouragement of substantial support from The Ford Foundation which we would need to supplement by raising funds from other American sources. We believe several German institutions would be interested in supporting specific aspects of the program and might help finance German participation.

If this project proves successful after a two-year run, we would like to continue it, adjusting the focus as necessary, through the remainder of the decade. This concept of working together on concrete problems offers grand opportunity for developing closer relations between leaders and experts in the rising generations of our two countries. It would further American participation in the drama of consolidating German unification. Finally, each in the triangle of cooperation would doubtless gain much from the others' experiences that would help it address some of its own challenges at home.

We believe it would be possible to organize a first session for late this fall. It could be in the US or Germany, depending on financial and other factors which we should consider together. A follow-up session could be held in the spring of 1994. We would then hold sessions in the fall and spring, alternating countries, for the next year--and beyond, if the project proves successful and viable.

We are excited about the potential for cooperation and mutual benefit which this program offers and look forward to working with you to bring it to fruition.

Sincerely,


Andrew J. Goodpaster