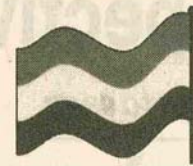


Germany celebrates National Day



The October German - Egyptian Summit

The visit of the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder to Egypt for discussions with President Mubarak at this timing emphasises the strong ties between Germany and Egypt. The visit comes at a time when Germany is celebrating the German Reunification Day on the third of October while Egypt is celebrating its day of victory on the sixth of October.

A significant topic on Schroeder's agenda is to share with President Mubarak the inauguration of the German University in Cairo. This event manifests the long standing scientific and cultural relations between both countries adding to it economic, political and social activities. The new German University in Cairo was founded in participation and cooperation with the University of Ulm, The University of Stuttgart, The German Embassy in Egypt, The German-Arab Chamber for Industry and Commerce, the German Egyptian Academic Exchange Institute as well as the German speaking community. It has been announced that the GUC will be the first German university established outside Germany, which is meant to teach the same academic programme taught in Germany and is liable to similar accreditation.

The visit also comes at a time when the problems of the Middle East are going through a very critical phase with main hot spots being the Israeli-Palestinian escalating violence and the Iraqi status that lacks definition.

Germany has a clear standing regarding these main issues as Chancellor Schroeder has expressed Germany's position quite explicitly. His statements in this respect, show the important international role Germany is now playing in the European Union.

Chancellor Schroeder sums up his country's efforts in the international arena. More than 8000 German soldiers are participating in peacekeeping missions around the world. Germany and its European partners are doing their utmost effort to bring forward the peace process between



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Israelis and Palestinians. **"Our commitment to peace in the Middle East", declares the Chancellor, "based on the security of Israel and the right of the Palestinian people to form a state of their own, is a pillar in our foreign policy"**.

Over Iraq, the German stand is also known. Germany opposed the war in Iraq, and in a recent meeting in Berlin between Chirac, Blair and Schroeder, the latter emphasised his country's and Europe's view. The German Chancellor believes that both the US and Europe should look towards the future and must work together to preserve peace emphasising the fact that the UN must play a central role. The Chancellor stated that **he is willing to provide humanitarian aid, to assist in the civilian and economic reconstruction of Iraq and to train Iraqi Police forces within a UN framework.**

This is quite impressive, considering that, in the words of

Chancellor Schroeder, **"it was exactly 30 years ago that Germany was admitted to the United Nations, a milestone in our postwar history. Back then, Germans were still forced to live under the occupation of four armies in two states, divided by a wall and a dangerous border. Today Germany is united"**.

Not until after the fall of the wall and unification did Germany fully regain its sovereignty. Today Germany can claim to have become a full and active member in the international community. Its role in the world has changed and so has its foreign policy.

In a confident and uncompromising tone, the Chancellor reiterates what he has often said that security in today's world cannot be guaranteed by any unilateral efforts, but it can only be achieved through international cooperation. **"If we want to make our world freer and safer," says the Chancellor, "we must fight the roots of insecurity, oppression, fanaticism and poverty - and we must do it together"**.

No wonder that in his speech in Bundestag in March this year he stood up to call for **"courage for peace and courage for change."** The change came in the form of a programme in economic reform submitted by Schroeder. The programme encompasses a range of proposals aimed at solving the problems of unemployment that support the labour market and reorganise the state health and pension systems.

In a voice full of hope and confidence, Schroeder stood up in the Bundestag to review his reform programme, saying **"we must summon up the courage to enable us and our country to face the changes that are necessary to lead us back to the European fore-front of the economic and social development"**.

*Welcome to Egypt's
great friend
Chancellor Schroeder.*