

## Speech by William P. Rogers (3 septembre 1971)

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## Statement by Secretary of State Rogers Upon the Signing of the Quadripartite Agreement on Berlin, September 3, 1971

Today in Berlin the United States joined with France, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom in signing the vital element of a Berlin agreement.

This act marks a step forward and is pursuant to President Nixon's desire for reconciliation between East and West. It embraces not only the promise of a better way of life for Berliners but enhances the prospects for greater peace and security in Europe.

The signing brings to a successful close the first phase of a difficult but diligent Allied effort by many dedicated hands. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the American officials in Germany and in Washington who played a role in these negotiations. It is the product of considered and responsible diplomatic give-and-take.

The Western objective was to bring about practical improvements in and around the city without altering the status of Berlin or diminishing our rights and responsibilities there. That objective has been achieved. Among other things — according to the agreement — traffic between Berlin and West Germany by persons and goods on road, rail, and waterways will move unimpeded, West Berliners will be able again to visit East Berlin and East Germany, and ties between the Western sectors of Berlin and the Federal Republic will be maintained and developed.

To be meaningful this first step must be followed by a successful round of inner-German talks. This second step need not be long delayed, given good faith on the part of all the parties.

The third step, the signing of a four-power protocol, will bring the entire Berlin understanding into effect.

Looking beyond Berlin, there are a variety of prospects to be pursued in the search of a more stable and profitable relationship in Europe. The NATO governments, guided by a desire first expressed at their 1968 Reykjavik meeting, are well along in their preparations for intensive diplomatic consultations on mutual balanced force reductions with the Soviet Union and its allies. To that end the NATO deputy foreign ministers will meet in Brussels early next month to discuss the next moves to be made in this critical area.

That is one prospect. Our hope would be that with successful Berlin accord other efforts toward reconciliation and cooperation can be set in train in Europe.

As President Nixon said in February:

“For 25 years Europe has been divided by opposing national interests and contrary philosophies, which clash over specific issues ...

“These issues will not be quickly resolved. To relax tensions means a patient and persistent effort to deal with specific sources and not only with their manifestations.”

In my judgment, this first stage of a Berlin accord represents the fruit of just such a “patient and persistent effort.”