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For Hillary:
From: Sid
CC: Lissa
Re: Berlin speeches

Below are my notes for speeches in Berlin. The themes I stress are these: the importance of Berlin and the Brandenburg Gate as symbols of freedom; the weight of history (always felt by Germans); the contribution of the US and the salience of the Western alliance; the meaning of 1989 to today and especially the continuity of the Western alliance; and segue from past to future.

What I have not done here but might be added are references to Angela Merkel (a courageous woman from the east who embodies the highest values of the West); and specific policies. Those can be fitted in.

So, some ideas and language:

Twenty years ago the wall fell. Here, in Berlin, the moment when tens of thousands of citizens tore it down with hammers and picks and bare hands is called "Die Wende," a phrase that means more than simply a change but a turning point in history. It was not only a turning point for Germany and Europe but also for the United States because the wall—the reason for its construction and the reason for its destruction—is central to our common history—and to our common future.

Richard von Weizsaecker said, "As long as the Brandenburg Gate is closed, the German question will remain open." Today I can say with finality, the German question is closed, because the Brandenburg Gate is wide open! The gate is open, Europe is open, and our future together is open.

In the forty years from the Berlin airlift to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Atlantic partnership proved itself the most successful alliance for freedom in history. That alliance was, is and shall be the crowning achievement of American foreign policy. And the German – American relationship has always served as its foundation. Our alliance represents the reconciliation of

The revolution of 1989 did not mark the end of history. Having made history together, we are summoned to secure freedom for future generations. As vital at the beginning of the 21st century as it was in the last half of the 20th, the Western alliance is called to new tasks. The dreams of 1989 reached far—and have farther to reach. Old hatreds and conflicts—in the Balkans, the Caucasus, in the Middle East, East Asia, and Africa—still simmer. We have much to demonstrate what we have learned from the last century. Without freedom, without the rule of law, without the opportunity for people to support themselves and their families – without basic human rights-- anger, aggression and violence will prevail.

Today we are faced with difficult and often dangerous conflicts arising not from conflicts between nations but within them, conflicts exploited by zealots who make the false claim that violence will purify the world and open the gates of heaven. Once zealots tried to use this Gate to symbolize that message. But through the courage and determination of the people of Berlin and their stalwart allies, this Gate now stands for a true revolution of the spirit. The long twilight struggle to tear down this wall to make Europe whole and free inspires us, in this new century, to help other peoples gain the same measure of security, respect and progress.

We need Berlin more than ever today. We need your courage, your fortitude, your commitment to the rights of men—and women—we need your example. We are hardly at the end of the history of the West. Standing here, where a wall once stood but is no more, in the light from the Gate, we have learned from history's deepest lessons. Our alliance, linked by shared struggle, dedicated to the ideals of freedom and democracy, strong from the world we have built, now faces a new world of challenges. And we are ready to meet and conquer them. We know it has been done before. We are free men—and women—and proud to say, We are all Berliners.