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OPENING CEREMONY
Center for German and European Studies

President David P. Gardner
University of California

Berkeley
September 12, 1991

Mr. Chancellor, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am delighted to join Chancellor Tien in welcoming you to the University of California and to this very special event.

It is an appropriate occasion, it seems to me, to remind ourselves of the great debt the American university owes to the German university. American educators of the nineteenth century looked to Germany for models of what a genuine university should be, to the idea of students and scholars working not just to conserve but to advance learning, and to the concepts that helped shape and form our own views of academic freedom. These ideas and concepts transformed the American university of the nineteenth century and helped define the contemporary American university as we have known it in this century.

The Center for German and European Studies, whose opening we celebrate today, is a current instance of German generosity in an American setting. It could not have come at a more appropriate time. The winds of change are blowing hard

throughout the world, and they need to be understood and their meaning comprehended.

More than a century ago Germany gave the United States a model for what have become our country's leading universities, and thereby helped to usher in a new era in American learning. May this promising new Center for German and European Studies help us usher in a new era as well, an era rich in cooperation, scholarly accomplishment, and the advancement of knowledge.

I wish to thank the German government, and especially the Federal Chancellor, whose vision and generosity gave life to this Center. We are greatly honored that Chancellor Kohl joins us today for this special occasion. Mr. Chancellor, you are warmly welcomed, and will always be welcome, at the University of California.