

Ambassador Murphy visits High School in Berlin-Weissensee

June 9, 2010. Ambassador Murphy visited the Katholische Theresienschule in Berlin-Weißensee for a talk with approximately 50 students. After a short welcome by the school principal, Mrs. Kirchberg, and an introduction of Ambassador Murphy by one of the students, the Ambassador opened by showing a few photos of some of his personal heroes, including Senator J. William Fulbright, founder of one of the largest international exchange programs, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. and former German Chancellor Willy Brandt. He used these great visionaries and their legacies as examples for explaining to the students the importance of pursuing one's dreams and aspirations and the epochal accomplishments that are possible through just one person's actions. Moving on to current days, Ambassador Murphy described President Barack Obama as another such great visionary, whose plans and initiatives can be of immense benefit for generations to come if he succeeds in realizing them. But he cautioned the students that the U.S. cannot do it all on its own and depends on the support and cooperation of all the other countries to achieve results on global issues such as climate change, the Middle East peace process and nuclear arms control. When the Ambassador opened the floor for questions, the 11th and 12th graders, who were very well informed and prepared, impressed him with very precise and sometimes challenging questions, ranging from the closure of Guantanamo to the situation in Afghanistan to consequences from the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

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