When the Berlin wall came down 25 years ago and the chants in the streets started changing from “Wir sind das Volk” (we are the people) to “Wir sind ein Volk” (we are one people), the United States put their full support behind the process of German unification.

Of course the U.S-German relationship has never been free of misunderstandings, of which the fallout over the 2003 Gulf War and the 2013 NSA affair are but the most recent examples. And yet, today their partnership is needed once again, and perhaps more than ever, as we confront new challenges that neither side can tackle by itself: Russia’s challenge to the European order in Ukraine, the brutality of ISIS’ terrorism, and the task of finding a common global role through TTIP. While mutual misunderstandings will almost certainly be inevitable in tackling these and other issues, the challenge before us is to remain each other’s best partner.

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The talk and discussion will be followed by a reception.