

**COMMENTS TO NEW CITIZENS  
OCTOBER 3, 1990**

**Good morning. It is my pleasure and my privilege to be a part of this special assembly this morning as we welcome you as new citizens to our nation and our community. As you know, today is also historic because it represents the first day of the unification of a new Germany<sup>a Germany</sup> committed to world peace.**

**Not only is this an ideological and political event, it is also an exchange of heart-to-heart. It has always been humanity that binds us, and it will continue to be the bonds of friendship, understanding and ultimately trust that will enable us to achieve the goals of the free world--a nuclear free, non-violent, environmentally and economically secure and compassionate world.**

**As new citizens, never doubt your capacity for profound impact on your government. The events and drama of the last six months have shown more clearly than ever that one person, whether it be Walesa, Mandela, or Gorbachev, has the capacity to capture the imagination of others of good will to make a profound impact on human history.**

**The point I hope I am making is that--so do you. You and your sons and daughters are the leaders of our country.**

**You need to know that as citizens of the United States, the world community is growing smaller. Last year we had the privilege of welcoming 10 students from the Soviet Union. At an assembly welcoming them, I read the following words of Mikhail Gorbachev:**

**"We are all students, and our teacher is life and time. I believe that more and more people will come to realize that through RESTRUCTURING in the broad sense of the word, the integrity of the world will be enhanced. Having earned good marks from our main teacher--life--we shall enter the twenty-first century well prepared and sure that there will be further progress.**

**"We want freedom to reign supreme in the coming century everywhere in the world. We want peaceful competition between different social systems to develop unimpeded, to encourage mutually advantageous cooperation rather than confrontation and an arms race. We want people of every country to enjoy prosperity, welfare and happiness. The road to this lies through proceeding to a nuclear-free, non-violent world.**

**"It is not easy to change the approaches on which East-West relations have been built for fifty years. But the new is knocking at every door and window."**

**You have this opportunity, to become part of the tapestry of  
democracy in our world. Congratulations on your citizenship.**