Prosperity
Liberty
Security

Translation of Christmas Message
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During the past few weeks and months, the German people have joined in the most important political issue that has arisen in the Federal Republic since its coming into existence. The subject of the controversy was the German-Allied treaty system whose meaning and significance should have become clear by this time to everybody in Germany. All of you have witnessed also the extraordinary passion with which arguments for and against the treaties were brought forth. Some people will have wondered whether or not propriety was kept at all times. But passion can not be separated from politics, and even appears to be justified, if the issue at stake is vital for the existence of the nation.

In view of the irritation and uneasiness in the minds of only too many of us at the present time, I believe that we rarely did need the rest and recollection of the Christmas season as much as we do in this year. The holidays offer an opportunity to see things at a distance and to approach a deeper and clearer understanding of our situation. We have to realize that in as great a controversy as is going on in our country at this time it is unimportant which person wins or loses. That is hardly a proper, and often rather an unworthy, way to look at the outcome and it makes it moreover more difficult to find out what is right and necessary. In the calm of the Christmas season we should lift our view from the turmoils close by and look out to farther and larger horizons.

We should listen to the voice of other nations many of whom have returned to a friendly attitude towards Germany during the past year. They have watched closely what has been going on in our country. Sometimes their position is detached and objective enough for useful suggestions from their part. In everything we hear from our friends in the Free World we can discern above all this point of theirs: we have the same ideals as you do, and our interests are similar to yours. We have to get together if we want to remain free. We want to trust you. Help us by showing clear will and firm determination on your part.

One more thing we ought to think about at the close of this year. It seems as if the severity and bitterness of the controversy, in which the Government and the Coalition fought their cause with such passionate zeal, might awaken in us the feeling that we ought to realize more what we have in common and what ties us together. Perhaps the recent events will result in bringing out once more and still clearer that our basic ideas of unity and right and liberty are the same.

At any rate, our still young state is proving capable to support the load and strain of its present troubles. It must emerge stronger from this trial. If that comes true, we want to go on and consolidate what we have attained, and what world opinion calls the German Miracle. Therefore, our major objective is to bring to a conclusion the work we have started upon: re-establishment of German self-determination and integration of all Germany into the community of the free nations. Our motives are simple and strong: we want prosperity, liberty and security for all Germany, and moreover for Europe and the World. We want that everybody who is of good will may find the Peace of which the Christmas Gospel speaks.