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## L'inauguration du Cimetière Militaire Américain de Hamm près de Luxembourg

Cette année, le 184<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la Fête de l'Indépendance des Etats-Unis d'Amérique a été célébré avec un éclat tout particulier à Luxembourg.

En effet, c'est cette journée qui avait été choisie pour l'inauguration du cimetière militaire américain de Hamm et du Monument érigé dans ce cimetière commémorant le sacrifice des héros de la bataille de la libération.

La cérémonie au cimetière de Hamm avait été organisée par la « American Battle Monuments Commission » qui, au cours de ce mois de juillet, organisera également l'inauguration des cimetières militaires américains qui se trouvent aux

Pays-Bas, en Belgique, en France, en Italie et en Tunisie.

Rappelons ici que le cimetière militaire américain à Luxembourg s'étend sur une superficie de 26 hectares. Après la guerre, il y avait en tout 11.300 tombes. Un certain nombre de corps furent rapatriés au cours des dernières années. Au cimetière de Hamm reposent encore aujourd'hui 5076 soldats américains. Parmi les tombes on compte 44 tombes, où reposent, côte à côte, chaque fois deux frères tombés au champ d'honneur.

La cérémonie de l'Inauguration du Monument commença à 16 heures, lorsque LL. AA. RR.

Madame la Grande-Duchesse et Monseigneur le Prince furent reçus à Leur arrivée par S. Exc. M. Vinton Chapin, Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Luxembourg, et le Général Jacob L. Devers, Président de la « American Battle Monuments Commission ». Tandis que Leurs Altesses Royales furent conduites à la tribune d'honneur, la musique de la Garde grand-ducale exécutait l'hymne de la Maison grand-ducale.

S. Exc. M. Vinton Chapin et le Général Devers présentèrent plusieurs personnalités américaines à Leurs Altesses Royales, notamment le Représentant personnel de M. le Président des Etats-Unis, M. John J. McCloy, l'Amiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, Vice-Président de la « American Battle Monuments Commission », M. Leslie L. Biffle, ancien Secrétaire du Sénat américain, M<sup>me</sup> Wendell L. Willkie, veuve de l'ancien candidat républicain à la présidence des Etats-Unis, M. Charles E. Potter, ancien membre républicain du Sénat américain, le Général Clyde D. Eddleman, Commandant en Chef de l'Armée américaine en Europe, M. Thomas E. Martin, membre républicain du Sénat américain, le Général Carl Spaatz, ancien Chef d'Etat-Major de la Force aérienne américaine, le Brigadier-Général Benjamin O. Davis, ancien adjoint spécial au Secrétariat à la Guerre, le Lieutenant-Colonel George Patton, fils du Général Patton, et plusieurs autres personnalités civiles et militaires américaines.

Du côté luxembourgeois avaient pris place à la tribune d'honneur le Président de la Chambre

des Députés et le Président honoraire, le Ministre d'Etat, Président du Gouvernement, ainsi que plusieurs membres du Gouvernement luxembourgeois, dont le Ministre des Travaux Publics, le Ministre de l'Education Nationale, le Ministre de l'Intérieur, ainsi que le Président du Conseil d'Etat, les représentants des cultes, l'Ambassadeur de Luxembourg à Washington, etc.

Lorsque Leurs Altesses Royales eurent pris place à la tribune d'honneur, des détachements militaires américain et luxembourgeois avec leurs drapeaux s'alignèrent des deux côtés du memorial.

En face du mémorial, les premiers rangs étaient réservés aux membres des familles des soldats américains enterrés au cimetière de Hamm. Derrière eux, de très nombreuses personnalités civiles et militaires luxembourgeoises avaient pris place ainsi qu'un grand nombre de soldats des Forces américaines en Europe avec leurs familles. Un public très dense avait également tenu à assister à cette émouvante cérémonie pour témoigner la reconnaissance de la population à l'égard des milliers de soldats américains tombés au cours des combats de libération de Luxembourg.

Aux nombreuses personnalités s'étaient joints également les représentants des associations de résistance, d'anciens combattants, des prisonniers et déportés politiques, des maquisards et des mutilés et invalides de guerre avec leurs drapeaux.

### L'allocution de S. Exc. M. Vinton Chapin

Après une évocation religieuse, S. Exc. M. Vinton Chapin, Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Luxembourg, prononça une allocution, dont nous reproduisons le texte ci-après :

« Your Royal Highness,  
Members of the American Battle Monuments Commission,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's ceremony marks the formal dedication of this American Cemetery in the heart of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Through the generous cooperation and assistance of the Government of Luxembourg, the United States has been able to provide this dignified and tranquil resting place for the members of its

Armed Forces who fell in the struggle for freedom.

The dedication of this monument and cemetery symbolizes our determination that the sacrifices made by these men will continue to be remembered and honored. For their sacrifices we offer our humble tribute of gratitude since it was they who made possible the freedom we enjoy today.

In fact, we could perhaps reconcile ourselves in better and easier conscience to their collective sacrifice if we knew that they, together with their comrades at rest in many other lands, represented the last victims, for all time, of greed and aggression. Surely the lesson of the futility of personal or institutionalized am-

bition to dominate other peoples must now be clear to all the world. Indeed it is for this end that we and other nations continue to strive.

History has recorded the ultimate destruction of those whose exaggerated vanity has brought about the temporary subjugation of freedom. Freedom endures, but its survival is often achieved only at colossal cost, a fact which we here today cannot fail to recognize. It is our hope that freedom may perhaps even now have gained that measure of vitality which will preclude another catastrophic test between the forces of world order and those whose belligerency springs from a mistaken ideology.

It was with these considerations that, whether they so voiced them or not, the representatives of the new world who now rest in the old were concerned. And it is most assuredly with these aspirations in mind, that we, the representatives of the new world, have watched the process of revitalization of the old world which has been so successfully undertaken.

### L'allocution de M. John J. McCloy

Le Représentant personnel du Président des Etats-Unis, M. McCloy, prononça ensuite une allocution, au cours de laquelle il donna lecture d'un message de M. le Président Eisenhower. Voici le texte de cette allocution:

« Friends and relatives of the deceased,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my privilege to act as a representative of the President of the United States on this occasion. I have a message from the President which he has asked me to deliver. In discussing it with me, he expressed regret that he could not be here himself to salute his late comrades-in-arms. I have the honor, then, to bring you his statement:

"To those who participate in the dedication of the cemetery and memorial at Luxembourg...

On this anniversary of America's Independence Day, I join you in paying tribute to the men who sleep in the Luxembourg cemetery, our comrades-in-arms in the crusade against tyranny. These died that people might live in freedom and peace. Now they rest forever in the soil of the friendly country which so many of them helped to free from the invader.

To them we owe a debt to be paid with grateful remembrance of their sacrifice and with

It is, therefore, with deep appreciation and gratitude that we take this occasion to extend to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and most particularly to Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duchess and the Prince of Luxembourg our recognition for their constant and continuing sympathy and consideration.

We are grateful for their participation in these ceremonies and also welcome all who have found it possible to attend today, including the distinguished members of the American Battle Monuments Commission, in whose name and under whose auspices all these arrangements have been made.

As a final thought may I say that the willingness to sacrifice in a great cause which motivated those who lie here, joined with the understanding and determination of all who honor them today, have made of this terrain a final resting place which is imbued with a spirit of eternal life based upon a concept of universal faith.»

high resolve that the cause for which they died shall live eternally. Let us honor them by holding always aloft the torch of liberty and freedom.

Dwight D. Eisenhower."

Perhaps you will bear with me for one or two additional thoughts in which I know, from my conversation with him, that I express the President's deep-felt sentiments as well as my own.

Throughout history men have gathered to honor those who have died in their defense. We are here today to conform to that custom. Our purpose is not to vie with the stirring odes and great orations that have marked such occasions as this in the past. Our transient words cannot hope to convey sentiments comparable to the serenity of this place and its beautiful monument. Nor can this monument, eloquent as it is, fully express our gratitude or the debt we owe to those whose sacrifice, in our behalf, was absolute.

It is well, however, that we should recall the mission of these, our dead, but, in doing so, we should avoid the tendency to overstate the objective for which they died. When we are faced with the heavy responsibilities still to be borne, we are dispirited because it appears that important tasks were not finished when

their battles were won. Our tasks are not such as could be completed with their arms alone. Their mission was simply to preserve for us the power and opportunity of going forward. Without their intercession and their strength there was no hope of progress, but with these the eternal struggle of man towards freedom and wisdom can go forward from vital ground already gained.

In World War I, the Argonne followed St. Mihiel. In the Italian campaign of World War II the taking of one ridge was only followed by the need of storming another as heart-breaking as the last. As Normandy followed Italy and the Ardennes followed Normandy, so peace follows victory with new demands for further efforts.

It is given to few to die leaving something of themselves to eternity. Few leave behind a heritage to mankind. Men strive for gain and personal contentment, and some find these things, but the true value of a life is tested only by the part it has played in the unfolding

story of human progress. The lives we commemorate today by that test are of the highest value for what they gave and what they still inspire.

We do not measure man's life by its length but by its height. These men were young. Freed from further strain they have their mark in immortality.

It is not in growing like a tree  
In bulk, that make a man better be;  
Or standing long an oak, three hundred years,  
To fall a log at last, dry, bald and sere,  
A lily of a day  
Is fairer far in May,  
Although it fall and die that night  
It was the plant and flower of light,  
In small proportions we just beauties see,  
And in short measures life may perfect be.

These to whom we pay tribute today are worthy of their memorial. The task remains for us to be worthy of their sacrifice.»

#### L'allocution de M. Pierre Werner

Après l'allocution de M. McCloy, M. Pierre Werner, Ministre d'Etat, Président du Gouvernement, prit la parole et s'adressa en ces termes à la nombreuse assistance :

« Your Royal Highness,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Whoever is travelling for the first time in the historical parts of the United States of America is deeply impressed by the numerous shrines and memorials commemorating the two great wars waged on American soil. It appears as if the American people were living in the permanent presence of these basic historical events, which were decisive for the growth and the shape of the nation. These events still inflame the imagination of so many writers and artists. Every schoolboy learns them one by one.

This domestic side of military tradition corresponds to the long period of growing and strengthening of the American people, free and active men for whom the immediate task was to fill the vast stretch of land endowed to them and to make it bear fruit.

Since about fifty years things have changed!

The success of their institutions as well as the wealth of their economy, the ensuing power and weight in foreign affairs, have quite naturally and unavoidably laid the burden of international responsibilities on the United States of America. This heavy burden would however not have been as readily accepted, if the circumstances under which it occurred had not been such that another basic American feeling had been aroused. In the fight of the two world wars, but especially in the last one, principles and ideals were at stake, which are so perfectly formulated in the Declaration of Independence and in the Constitution of the U.S.A. Everybody knows how the American people cherish their democratic institutions and their liberties. Most of them correspond to the permanent and universal aims and thrivings of men of all countries. With the responsibilities the American people accepted also the sacrifice. It is this sacrifice which is proclaimed by the stones of these memorials, which is written on the walls and tombs which were set here amidst solemn and murmuring woods of my country.

And so it happens that the love and care of American hearts stretch today beyond the limits of the United States to a great number of new

shrines, memorials and cemeteries in so many countries, set as signs of remembrance and gratitude but also as eloquent teachers of stern lessons. The language of the dead does not come so easily to the ear, it has to be infused to the reason and to the heart. The risk therefore is that it might not be perceived in the hustle and the bustle of our immediate tasks and interests. But as Maurice Barrès puts it "a famous tomb is a living spirit". And so at least today we ought to be pervaded by the living spirit of remembrance, of gratitude and of a new determination to face the problems of the world.

Remembrance first! The last war was a fierce war. It was waged on all plans. To the physical sufferings was added in most countries great moral distress. It involved not only the soldiers, but also the population, women, old men and children. It was cruel, but, in reaction to this cruelty on the other hand, it brought forth some of the most sublime manifestations of human solidarity and mutual aid. The American nation stepped into this war with the assumption that western civilization was a whole, that it was a structure leaning on two pillars each on one side of the Atlantic Ocean and more simply that a regime of slavery and brutal conquest was not tolerable in the modern world. So the American soldier became the Liberator, the Liberator also of this country. When in September 1944 the first American tanks drove into the city of Luxembourg, the Luxembourgers exulted and hailed their Liberators. In December of the same year, a new and last calamity fell on the country. The Battle of the Ardennes swept over the northern and eastern side, the towns and villages sunk into ruins, the population was in great distress. Again the American soldier stemmed the invasion and liberated our soil. The illustrious General buried here among his men, General Patton, swept over the Moselle to the Rhine.

Therefore, my dear American friends, this memorial and this cemetery are dear to our hearts. The Luxembourg people never can and never will forget the sacrifice of these thousands of dead, who crossed the ocean to fight their oppressor.

With their gratitude the Luxembourg people assure the American people of their everlasting friendship. The Luxembourgers are proud of their institutions and of their democratic liber-

ties. They are proud of their way of life as well as of their economic and social achievements. Whatever be the distance which separates us, whatever be the enormous difference of size and importance of their countries, there is a spiritual kinship between the plain American and the plain Luxembourger: the straightforward, unsophisticated democratic feeling and love of freedom.

Liberty however is a precarious gift. That is stern lesson that we are taught by this monument. It has to be toiled for, it has to be fought for, not only by deadly weapons but also by the exalting principles which Providence laid into the spirit of man.

The balance of power in the present world is a very peculiar one. It is of a special kind. If we say that it is necessary to be prepared for all circumstances, that we can meet the danger which is still looming only by a strong military preparation, by keeping our forces intact, this basic requirement has many more delicate and more complicated aspects that it used to have in the past. The nuclear deterrent very oddly keeps the world at this moment in a balance of fear, which might have the appearance of security and therefore of peace. A mood of relaxation and resignation sometimes befalls parts of our public opinion, which might become deadly to the western world. It would however be foolish to suppose that in the long run the atomic bomb by itself gives security and establishes the reign of justice in this world. The cold war is also a total war. It means that the strength of the communist bloc has to be met by the strength of the allied countries in every respect: to the military, to the economic, we have to add our intellectual and moral strength. Military disarmament as the West considers it, i. e. with control and supervision, is set as the final goal which can only be reached in safety by a generous though realistic approach, with a gradual diminishing of military power in the full strength of our determination to live up to the principles of freedom, of justice, of respect for the values of all nations.

On this road to a consolidated peace, the allied nations, great and small, will have to strengthen their union and concord. This is the most conspicuous lesson which is told by the heroes buried here.

May this memorial stand for ever as a link of friendship between America and Luxembourg.

And allow me to conclude with Emerson's words in the hymn sung at the completion of the Concord Monument:

"Spirit, that made those heroes dare  
To die, or leave their children free,  
Bid Time and Nature gently spare  
The shaft we raise to them and thee."

Mes chers Compatriotes,

Depuis des années déjà nous venons annuellement rendre hommage aux morts d'une grande nation amie, qui dorment leur dernier sommeil dans cette terre luxembourgeoise qu'ils ont libérée. Le cimetière de Hamm est devenu un des hauts lieux de la reconnaissance et de l'amitié des Luxembourgeois pour les Etats-Unis et fera toujours l'objet de leur sollicitude et de leur profond respect. Aujourd'hui, en inaugurant le Monument, nous donnons à l'aménagement de cet enclos sacré son aspect définitif. En un certain sens c'est un achèvement. Le risque n'est-il pas de considérer les faits évoqués par ces pierres comme de l'histoire ancienne, de

l'histoire achevée, comme des événements rangés et oubliés. Telle ne devrait pas être la signification de cette cérémonie. Celle-ci ayant marqué un achèvement, devrait aussi marquer un nouveau départ. L'avenir que nous devons forger, se construira à partir de l'esprit qui a conduit ces hommes au sacrifice suprême et de l'esprit, dans lequel les survivants leur ont érigé ce monument. Cet esprit est fait d'amour de la liberté, de défense des droits fondamentaux, de force d'âme, d'un côté, de gratitude, de concorde et d'union, de l'autre.

Victor Hugo a dit: "Les morts sont les invisibles, mais ne sont pas les absents." Aussi, en la présence des morts de ce cimetière, puiserons-nous les raisons d'action et de défense dans l'intérêt de nos institutions démocratiques, comme aussi d'amitié indéfectible envers les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

En présence de notre auguste Souveraine, nous sommes heureux de réaffirmer aux représentants de Monsieur le Président des Etats-Unis la simple et sincère amitié de notre nation. »

#### L'allocution de M. Clyde D. Eddleman

Le discours inaugural fut ensuite prononcé par le Général Clyde D. Eddleman, Commandant en Chef des Forces Américaines en Europe:

« On this lovely day — the most eventful day in the history of the United States of America — we are gathered here to dedicate this beautiful cemetery which is the last resting place of many gallant American fighting men. These were men who gave their lives for a cause in which they deeply believed — and because of this, we, the living, are enabled to enjoy the rights and privileges of freedom.

It has long been the custom of our people to provide for their fallen heroes a resting place of beauty and dignity — one that is a tribute to their valorous role in life — one which stirs pride amongst the living who mourn for and pay tribute to the fallen. We have before us in this majestic setting a fitting representation of what the American people desire as a final interment for those who died for their country.

Here in this impressive area of Luxembourg they will rest in eternal glory. While far from their homes and loved ones, they remain among friends, among those who fully appreciate the cause for which they fought and the supreme

sacrifice they made. Their presence here is mute but eloquent testimony of the deep and lasting bond of friendship between the people of our two nations.

In vivid contrast to the peace and quiet existing here today, less than 16 years ago, within a few miles of this very spot, two mighty armies grappled in a decisive battle of World War II. In this struggle many valiant men fought and died. More than five thousand of them are buried in this cemetery — just a short distance from where they fell in battle.

It is a fitting tribute that one of the great combat leaders of our history, General George S. Patton, also rests here among the men he led so successfully in battle. This was as he wished it. Just as he was a great leader in life, in final repose he remains in the forefront of his comrades-in-arms.

We cannot call by name all those who sleep in this impressive panorama before us. Many are known only to God. But we can never forget the cause for which they fought — nor can we dim the memories of their heroism in combat. The gratitude of our people will continue into endless time.

Unfortunately I cannot say to you that the victory which these immortal men helped to achieve has brought peace to this troubled world. We have been unable to relax in the freedom which they defended nor to enjoy in full measure the fruits thereof. On the contrary, we find ourselves allied in a cause, extending world-wide in scope, continuing threats to free men. Without the readiness we have been able to achieve in company with our staunch allies, we would already have been engulfed in the same oppression which has been the fate of weaker nations.

Today we, the living, must draw inspiration from those whom we honor here today. We must carry on with the heavy burden of responsibility which has been placed on our shoulders by the tensions of our time — we must accept the challenge made to all free nations and men by the leaders of aggression. If necessary, we must be willing to do as did those heroic dead who rest before us, and make the supreme sacrifice for what we believe to be just and right. A willingness to do less would amount to shirking our responsibilities as free men and forsaking our heritage which was bequeathed to us by the valiance, the courage and the sacrifices of our forebears.

Today, there is no room in the free world for complacency. There is little hope for an easing of tensions in the future. Thus we must not, we dare not lose our sense of urgency. We and our allies, united in a partnership for peace, have no choice but to maintain an adequate guard against the grave dangers which threaten us.

Therefore, let us pledge to the memory of those whom we honor here today that same full measure of devotion to freedom which inspired them. Let us ask God to grant us courage and devotion equal to theirs. Only thus can we insure that these heroic dead will not have died in vain.

And now, in behalf of the American Battle Monuments Commission and in the name of the United States of America, I dedicate this cemetery and this memorial in proud memory of the achievements of her sons and in humble tribute to their sacrifices. »

Après que les prières furent dites par les représentants des trois cultes, des couronnes de

fleurs furent déposées dans la chapelle du mémorial par LL. AA. RR. Madame la Grande-Duchesse et Monseigneur le Prince de Luxembourg, M. McCloy, Représentant personnel du Président Eisenhower, M. Pierre Werner, Ministre d'Etat, Président du Gouvernement, le Général Jacob L. Devers, Président de la « American Battle Monuments Commission », M. Emile Hamilius, Bourgmestre de la Ville de Luxembourg et le Lieutenant-Colonel George Patton, au nom des Forces militaires américaines.

Des gerbes de fleurs avaient également été envoyées au cimetière de Hamm par le Bureau de la Chambre des Députés, le Président et les Membres du Conseil d'Etat, la « National Guard of the United States », la Communauté protestante de Luxembourg, la Communauté israélite de Luxembourg, l'Amicale de Mauthausen, la L. P. P. D., les « Pi-Men », l'« American Legion », l'« American-Luxembourg Society », la population de Hamm et plusieurs personnes privées.

Après la bénédiction du cimetière, des salves d'honneur furent tirées par un détachement militaire américain.

L'exécution des hymnes nationaux luxembourgeois et américain clôturait cette belle et émouvante cérémonie d'inauguration, après laquelle le public put visiter le mémorial.

Ajoutons encore qu'à l'occasion de l'« Independence Day » S. Exc. M. Vinton Chapin, Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis à Luxembourg, avait offert le 4 juillet, en fin de matinée, une réception dans les jardins de l'Ambassade. Les plus hautes personnalités luxembourgeoises et étrangères ainsi que les nombreux amis des Etats-Unis assistèrent à cette réception, au cours de laquelle le nouveau drapeau des Etats-Unis à cinquante étoiles fut hissé.

D'autre part, de nombreux concerts furent donnés à Luxembourg-Ville et dans d'autres localités du pays à l'occasion de la Fête de l'Indépendance des Etats-Unis. L'« American-Luxembourg Society » avait également organisé différentes manifestations à l'occasion de cette journée, notamment un déjeuner à Vianden, auquel prirent part plus de 150 convives. A la table d'honneur on remarquait en particulier S. Exc. M. l'Ambassadeur des Etats-Unis et le Conseiller d'Ambassade et M<sup>me</sup> Richard Friedman.