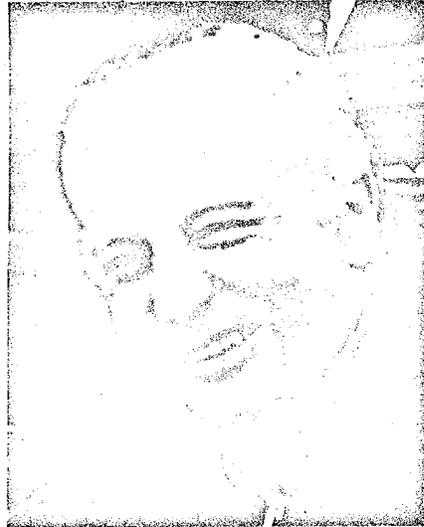


Walter SCHEEL FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
(Phonetic: SHALE)

Minister of Foreign
Affairs; Vice Chancellor

Addressed as:
Mr. Minister



In his post since October 1969, Walter Scheel, 53, is a leading proponent of further accommodation with Eastern Europe, especially East Germany. He also supports unity with the West and feels that the greater Western cohesion becomes, the more it will be possible to pursue détente with the East. As chairman of the Free Democratic Party, Scheel set the stage for détente when he led his party into coalition with Willy Brandt's Social Democrats in 1969. The success of the coalition and of Brandt's *Ostpolitik* are at least partly due to Scheel's close personal and working relationship with the Chancellor.

Considered a diplomatic lightweight when he took office, Scheel has emerged as a top-ranking international personality. He is known for his ability to smooth ruffled ministerial feathers, especially within the European Communities. In 1970 Scheel played a leading role in establishing an Allied stance on possible MBFR negotiations. He traveled to the USSR in 1970 and 1971 and to the People's Republic of China in October 1972.

Scheel, a former Aid Minister, is interested in the developing nations. An accomplished speaker and debater, he is witty and intelligent. He is well informed on US domestic politics and expects US officials to be equally well informed on German domestic affairs. He speaks English but prefers German in official talks. A widower, he remarried in 1969.

20 April 1973

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