

**Excerpt from Ambassador Philip D. Murphy's speech at the JFK School's 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall Celebration
Berlin, November 12, 2009**

"The Kennedy School was established 49 years ago. It is now an established Berlin institution and remains a highly desired school of first choice - for Americans, Germans and students of a number of other nationalities. Over the past 49 years, the alumni of this school have been exposed to a unique perspective on the history, culture, and language of both the United States and Germany. The U.S. Embassy continues to be committed to a strong institutional partnership to the John F. Kennedy School. The Embassy contributes to a Trust Fund on behalf of families who send their children to JFK, which funds educational materials and costs that help support the uniquely American aspects of the school. A goal of mine during my time here is to work with Berlin city officials to ensure that the JFK School is strongly supported.

Since the Trust Fund was founded in 1997, the Embassy has contributed about 4 million Euros. That money has gone toward the purchase of American books and instructional materials. It has paid for the computer network which now connects all the classrooms. It supports special activities such as the 'Odyssey of the Mind' club and the annual Model UN. The 2009 Model UN takes place next week. It also pays the expenses required to recruit new American teachers and administrators. Their skill and enthusiasm are essential to maintaining the American character of the School. So although Embassy children may only make up a small percentage of the total school population in any given year, the Embassy contributes directly to the overall good of the School. We are proud to do so.

Why? Because this school is a shining example of German-American relations. The special place the JFK School holds in Berlin's post-war history is captured by the school's namesake. President Kennedy's visit to Berlin in June 1963 is history. His words, "Ich bin ein Berliner" symbolized not only America's commitment to Germany, it also symbolized America's commitment to freedom and democracy for all. Less well-known is the fact that on that June day, President Kennedy also visited the Free University. His appeal to the students there, I believe, also apply to the students of the school that bears his name. The President said that schools must not be primarily interested in "turning out merely corporation lawyers or skilled accountants.it must be interested in turning out citizens of the world, who comprehend the difficult, sensitive tasks that lie before us as free men and women, and who are willing to commit their energies to the advancement of a free society."