

Heinz L. Krekeler

German Ambassador to the United States

Heinz L. Krekeler, German Ambassador to the United States, has since 1950 played a major role in the restoration of friendly relations between the two governments and the American and German peoples. Throughout these years he has been an ardent supporter of European integration and has repeatedly emphasized the urgent necessity for closer cooperation between the nations of the free world and especially for the economic and political unification of Western Europe.

In addition to his broad European outlook he brings to his new assignment valuable technical training. A chemical engineer by profession, Ambassador Krekeler studied physical chemistry at the Universities of Freiburg, Munich, Goettingen and Berlin. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Berlin in 1930. For several years he worked as an industrial chemist with a Berlin oil refinery; and from 1934 until the end of the war he was associated with the Badische Anilin- & Soda Fabrik of Ludwigshafen engaged in research, production and administration.

The intimate knowledge of the United States which he has acquired during his service here will be particularly valuable in his new post. He is expected to guide the development of Euratom along lines which will be understood, appreciated and supported by the United States in the peaceful utilization of atomic energy by the countries of Western Europe.

Ambassador Krekeler began the delicate task of reestablishing old ties between the United States and Germany in New York City in June, 1950, with his arrival as the first German Consul General following World War II. A year later he was transferred to Washington as Charge d'Affaires of his

government. His presentation of credentials to the Secretary of State marked the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Following the final ratification of the Paris Treaties the German Diplomatic Mission became an embassy; and on May 6, 1955, Ambassador Krekeler presented his credentials to President Eisenhower.

In addition to his normal diplomatic duties, Ambassador Krekeler has during the course of the past seven years traveled more than 300,000 miles by air in this country; addressed thousands of Americans in their home cities, and appeared on nationwide radio and television programs.

His objective in establishing and maintaining a wide range of personal contacts has been two-fold: first, to keep the American people informed of the continuous progress of representative government in Germany and of the strides which his country has made towards resuming full partnership in the community of Western nations; and, secondly, to direct attention to the importance of a strong, healthy Western Europe to the security of the free world.

Ambassador Krekeler was born on July 20, 1906, in Bottrop, Westphalia. Following his years as a student and later as a chemist, he entered politics for the first time after the war. In 1946, he was appointed as a delegate to the state parliament of Lippe and in 1947, he was elected to the parliament of the state of Northrhine-Westphalia. He also served in 1949 as a member of the Federal Assembly which elected the first President of the Federal Republic.

As a result of his labors for the revival of Germany's democratic traditions, Ambassador Krekeler while holding elective office was invited to join the foreign service as a career officer. On June 30, 1953, he was accorded the rank of Ambassador. The Ambassador will be on leave of absence during his tenure of office with Euratom, retaining his present rank. On January 31, 1954, in recognition of his achievements Federal President Theodor Heuss awarded him the Knight Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit.

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