Tillich: "A visit to the Frauenkirche is a promise to the world!"

Dresden. After the landing of the US President on Thursday evening in Dresden, Saxony’s Minister President Stanislaw Tillich bid welcome to Barack Obama: „With Barack Obama today and tomorrow, it is the first time that a sitting president of the United States of America has visited the Free State Saxony. On behalf of the citizens of Dresden, I wish to extend to the President a most pleasant welcome in the Free State of freedom. We welcome Barack Obama in the historical center of Dresden, a city full of history, full of destiny, and full of passion.

Saxony and Dresden have been rebuilt twice. First, after the Second World War, and again after the Peaceful Revolution in 1989. With an unparalleled effort in the last twenty years, the citizens of Saxony have built their state up to flourish once again. The internationally unique and irreplaceable historic city center of Dresden itself is the best witness to this work. This enormous accomplishment was only made possible through the tremendous solidarity and energy of countless people in Germany and from around the world.

In the twentieth year after the Peaceful Revolution, the visit of the US President is of great historical symbolism. With his visit to Saxony’s state capital, it is the first time in the history of the Free State that a US President has touched the ground, that in 1945 became a tragic symbol for the entire Second World War. With this visit, Barack Obama follows hundreds of thousands of Americans that have visited the Frauenkirche and the Neumarkt in the last twenty years. Unlike hardly any other place in the world, the historical puzzle of the reconstructed Frauenkirche, reconstructed using many of the old, darker stones, is a reminder of the horrors and destruction of World War II. On February 14th and 15th 1945, the sorrow and destruction that Hitler-Germany visited upon the rest of the world, came back to haunt Dresden.

The Frauenkirche in Dresden is one of the most famous European buildings in the world, and was reconstructed with great support and contributions from the American people. Today the Frauenkirche stands in the heart of Dresden and in the hearts of millions of people all over the world. This church is a particular symbol of reconciliation amongst nations. The reconstruction of the church is the result of a great dream, clever planning, unprecedented effort, and a deep conviction of many people in
Dresden and from all corners of the globe. The church is therefore a symbol for the kind of power that can be released through true faith.

It was the love of freedom and the desire for democracy, that drove the people in East Germany to rise up twenty years ago. Political self-awareness, and the power and the will for change were the catalysts for many Saxons, and with them many East Germans, to enter the streets of protest. Like no other nation, the USA embodies the idea of freedom. The people here in Saxony and all of Germany have themselves fought for this freedom. That makes us partners with the USA in a shared value-system.

It is the political style of Barack Obama – the breakthrough, the reliance on one’s own mettle, the openness, the confidence and the passion that is near and dear to us Saxons. In this context, Obama and Saxony are relatives of the heart in the best and most positive sense of the meaning. In the 19th Century, Saxony and the United States shared a close economic relationship, whereby Saxony was even host to an American consulate. Notable Americans from influential business circles worked in Saxony. In addition, Dresden and Leipzig were important centers of education for future American musicians. For the USA, Saxony had a strong and interesting export industry, above all in textiles.”

10 Good Reasons to Know and to Love Saxony:

The strongest man in the world … comes from Saxony. At the recent Olympic games in Peking, Matthias Steiner of the Chemnitz Athletic Club won a gold medal in the Super Heavy Weight Lifting competition with a total of 461 kilograms.

The most exclusive watches in the world … are made in Saxony. The Saxon Watch Manufacturer A. Lange & Sons makes the most exclusive watches in the world. With its unique mechanical timepieces, the traditional Saxon enterprise of A. Lange & Sons has succeeded since 1845 in touching the hearts of collectors and connoisseurs of fine watch making. Ingenuity, the power of innovation, and the passion of the Lange Master watchmaker, makes every Lange Watch a work of mechanical art. Saxons call this: Tradition of the modern kind.

The most famous angels in the world … are found in Saxony. In the Picture Gallery of the State Art Collection Dresden they be admired in Raphael’s “Sistine Madonna,” an icon of art history. In the Art Gallery of the Old Masters. The State Art Collection of Dresden is among the most important museums in the world. All together, eleven museums offer a thematic variety, that are unique from one another and display treasures valued into the millions of Euros. The origin of the museums was build out of the collections of the Saxon Prince Elector and Polish King. August the Strong and his son King August III were important patrons and deeply knowledgeable of art.
The most significant Protestant church structure in the world … is found in Saxony. Together with its outer total appearance and its internal configuration with the central arrangement of pulpit, baptismal font, alter, and organ, the Frauenkirche is a remarkable example of Baroque sacred architecture. The cupola is in many ways quite distinct. Completely constructed out of sandstone, it weighs a total of 2,000 tons, is 24 meters high, and has a width of 26 meters. By the curved formation of the cupola, it gives the impression of being a bell. This unique shape has given rise to its nickname: the Stone Bell. www.frauenkirche-dresden.de; Press Spokesman: Grit Jandura, +49 (0)351 - 656 06 120, e-mail: presse@frauenkirche-dresden.de

The most unique opera house in the world … is found in Dresden. The Saxony State Opera House is a house of world renown with an ensemble of the greatest talent and international guests. Here, the Saxony State Chapel Dresden also, one of the most tradition-rich orchestras in the world, also plays and has been around for over 460 years. Destroyed in the last months of World War II, the Semper Opera House, one of the most beautiful opera houses in Europe, was reopened in 1985. www.semperoper.de; Press Officer: Stephanie Plep, +49 - 351 - 49 11 336; email: stephanie.plep@semperoper.de

The most skilled Porcelain Manufacturer in the world … produces in Saxony. The Manufacturer MEISSEN, one of Germany’s leading luxury exports, has stood for “The Art of Luxury” since its founding in 1710. Along with such classics as the table and plate culture, they offer, in particular, hand-crafted MEISSEN Porcelain art in the area of interior and architectural wall decoration as well as jewellery, watches, and accessories. The luxury product from MEISSEN defines itself through selected material, traditional hand-crafted work, as well as a particular aesthetic, that marks its individuality, sensuousness, and value. www.meissen.de; Press Officer: Cornelia Imhof, +49 -3521 - 468236, e-mail: Cornelia.Imhof@meissen.com

The internationally best researchers in the use of solar energy … are found in Saxony. Whether with thin-film technology or silicon-wafers: Saxony has in the photo-voltaic development Is one step ahead of the rest of the world SolwarWorld, SignetSolar and other producers as well as subcontractors such as Von Ardenne Anlagetechnik, Roth&Rau and renown institutes such as the Frauenhofer-Society have all set a goal in 2013 to achieve net parity. Then Solarstram will cost exactly as much as the “conventionally” produced electricity. Firms and institutes are united in a unique nation-wide cluster: The Solar-Valley Central Germany. www.solarvalley.org; Contact: Dr. Hubert Aulich, Tel: +49 – 345 - 55 89-444, e-mail: spitzencluster@solarvalley.org
The World Champions in negotiations ...are found in Saxony. The Trade University Leipzig (Handelshochschule Leipzig - HHL) educates them. There they work closely with the Harvard Law School. In March of 2009, the ‘Negotiation Challenge’ took place, an international competition of the negotiation leaders, in which 12 teams from top universities such as Yale and Berkeley took part. The former US Ambassador John C. Kornblum remarked: “I could have saved myself a lot of headaches in my life, if I had received this kind of preparation for learning negotiations.”

www.hhl.de, Press Spokesman Volker Stößel, Tel. +49-341-9851-614, e-mail: volker.stoessel@hhl.de

The most demanding Bobsled and Tobogganing track in the world ... located in Saxony. The curve labyrinth is Saxony’s Altenburg is considered by professional athletes as the most technically difficult bobsled and tobogganing track. Its no wonder then that Saxony’s athletes regularly win World Championships and Olympic medals.

www.sport-fuer-sachsen.de, Press Sprokesman Jochen A. Meyer, Tel.: +49 (0)341 2 16 31 14, e-mail: meyer@sport-fuer-sachsen.de

The world-wide best combination of Baroque and Wine ... are found in Saxony. Saxon State Vineyard at Castle Wackerbart offers Baroque castles and gardens with a modern champagne and wine manufacturer. Where earlier counts resided and the court of August the Strong celebrated lively parties, you will find Europe’s first hands-on vineyard. It offers an ideal ambience for lively festivities, wonderful new discoveries and individual/private parties. Would you like to know what 800 years of wine tradition in Saxony consists of, and why the champagne of the oldest Champagne cellar in Saxon should be shaken and not stirred? www.schloss-wackerbarth.de, Press/Marketing Ulrike Schröter; +49-351 - 8955 220, e-mail: schroeter@schloss-wackerbarth.de

As a side note, the most exclusive cars in the world are built in Europe. With factories for Porsche, VW Phaeton, and BMW Saxony is the up-and-coming car-country in Europe. Further information may be found under www.sachsen.de