

Ambassador Timken's Remarks at Press Conference, June 22, 2006

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(Words that could not be identified are marked “???”)

Robert Wood: Oh, welcome everyone, I'm glad you could all be here today. I'd like to introduce first the US Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, William R. Timken, Jr. Mr. Ambassador.
[applause]

Ambassador Timken: Thanks very much, Robert. And it's a great pleasure for my wife Sue and myself to be here today, not only for the event with all the youngsters from all over the world, but of course most importantly for the game this evening and as the number one American citizen in Germany, the number one fan of our team, and I'm looking forward to the victory tonight. We do wanna welcome the youth delegation, the World Cup youth delegation to Nuremberg and to Germany. The purpose of the program of course is the US government's desire to highlight the enthusiasm for the game of soccer that is shared by both the United States and up and coming participants in this global sport. Are thirty youngsters from all over the world, comes from 13 different countries. And we're very pleased to see how much harmony and friendships have come to be in between all of them. They love soccer, they're great fans, love it where they come from. We saw 'em this morning on the football field, with German kids and we could see how they could handle the ball as well, so they have gone to the United States they participated there, they met the President of the United States, they met the Secretary of State I think. They've played with other American kids there, and now they're out here for one of the greatest events our world knows, the World Cup, hosted so superbly by Germany and by the way and in passing, congratulations to the German team for their great performance. They are able to see this great game as the result of their combined efforts of State department and US soccer and the people who believe in the youth. We're quite sure that somewhere in the future perhaps one of them will be standing on that world stage as one of the contestants themselves, so tonight they're gonna get a preview of what it's gonna look like. This time I'd like to turn over the podium to Karen Hughes, who's the Undersecretary of State for Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy, who's program originated this program has accompanied the kids at a number of areas and came here all the way from the United States today to be with them and to route the US team on the road to victors. Secretary?