

DER PRÄSIDENT
DER FREIEN UNIVERSITÄT BERLIN

FU

BERLIN

Freie Universität Berlin, Kaiserswerther Straße 16 - 18, 14195 Berlin

Ms. Hillary Clinton
White House
200 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C.

Ihr Zeichen	Ihre Nachricht vom	Unser Zeichen	Telefon/Durchwahl:	(+49 30) 838-73400	Datum
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Dear Ms Clinton:

Founded in 1948 after students decided to break away from the communist controlled Berlin University, now Humboldt University, and create a new university based on democratic ideas Freie Universität Berlin will celebrate its 50th anniversary next year. With strong American support from American citizens including Lucius D. Clay, Henry Ford, Eleanor Roosevelt, John and Robert Kennedy, the Freie Universität Berlin became one of the major research universities in Germany, Europe and the world. Initially enrolling only 200 students, we nowadays educate more than 45,000. Internationally well connected, we pride ourselves on our long-term relations with over 30 universities in the United States.

During our anniversary year, we would like to stress our important and crucial links to the United States that we have maintained for the last five decades. For example, John F. Kennedy received an honorary citizenship in 1963 and Robert Kennedy was conferred an honorary doctorate in 1964. In continuation of this tradition, I today have the honor of inviting you to receive an honorary doctorate in the field of Political Sciences. This degree is meant as an acknowledgment of your important contributions to the political arena, especially your engagement to reform the American health system as well as your activities concerning equal opportunities for women. Since the awarding of an honorary degree is not connected with a commencement ceremony, you could suggest the date of your visit to the Freie Universität Berlin. Most convenient for us would be a date during the semester (we are on break from mid-February to March and from mid-July to September).

At our university, a women's study week concentrating on issues of women in academia, is organized annually. We would be deeply honored if you would give the keynote speech on a women's topic such as women in politics, equal rights, affirmative action, etc. Some of the other events in that week will correspond to this keynote's topic. The honorary degree shall be conferred to you on this occasion. We would set the time frame for the „Women's Week 1998“ according to your schedule.

Please find enclosed some material on the Freie Universität including a publication dealing with the history of the university written by the American historian James Tent.

We would be very pleased if you agree to participate in „Women's Week 1998“ and if we had the chance to award you an honorary doctorate at this point. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you once again for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Johann W. Gerlach
President