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**Address by Mayor Dr. Krupp  
at the Africa Association's Beer Evening  
in the *Ratsweinkeller* at 8pm on 9 April 1992**

Dr Harries,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to welcome you here in the historic *Ratsweinkeller* – or City Hall Wine Cellar – on behalf of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

I am grateful for the invitation to attend your traditional annual event.

The general subject of this year's meeting is South Africa.

All of us are pleased at the result of the referendum in South Africa on 17 March, giving President F.W. de Klerk a clear mandate from the white population to proceed with dismantling the apartheid system.

This evening I am particularly glad to welcome His Excellency Mr van Niekerk, the Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa.

Ambassador, on behalf of the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, may I express my sincere congratulations on this promising turnaround in the history of your country.

The Senate wishes President de Klerk every success in the tasks that lie ahead of him, in establishing full democracy in South Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Africa Association has a long tradition. In two years' time, in 1994, it will be able to celebrate the 60th anniversary of its foundation. It is one of the most important associations of countries that we have.

The Africa Association was founded in Hamburg, and has its headquarters here.

And that is no coincidence.

Hamburg has always been open to the world and internationally minded.

Hamburg has an important position in business with Africa.

From Hamburg there are sailings to all major African ports.

The Africa Association has set itself a very important role as an intermediary.

It aims to promote bilateral economic relations between Africa and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Increasingly, the Africa Association has also taken on the task of getting Africa into discussion as a partner for business.

I feel this is very important.

There is a lot of talk about the Single European Market and the opening of markets towards the East, but far too little is said about Africa as a business partner.

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Let me just say a few words about the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations.

In order for trade between Africa and Germany to flourish, it is essential for the basic conditions to be right.

I therefore hope very much that the GATT negotiations which are now in deadlock will lead to a positive result.

Hamburg as a trading city has tremendous interest in the further liberalisation of world trade — and so do the countries of Africa.

Closing off the markets due to a failure in the GATT round would be disastrous — both for the export oriented countries of the third world and for a city like Hamburg, which earns its living from free world trade.

I would like to thank the Africa Association for organising the 1992 Africa Economic Conference, and for all the other activities it pursues that are not so much in the public eye.

These include

- Consultancy services
- Trade promotion
- The establishment of contacts
- PR work for Africa as a business partner.

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In future, I would like to see further growth and intensification of the contacts between Hamburg and Africa, on the basis of the traditionally good relations that we already have.

This applies in particular to contacts with South Africa, which at present account for about a quarter of German trade with Africa.

The prospects for more intensive relations are encouraging.

It is highly probable that the political reform process in South Africa will also stimulate the development of business.

The abolition of racial separation will at last permit a more relaxed relationship with South Africa.

This is a very welcome development after so many years in which — for very good reasons — business relations were reduced to a much lower level.

It is important that, where economic sanctions still exist, they should be lifted as soon as possible.

This opinion has also been expressed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Only then will it be possible to pursue a growth-oriented economic policy in South Africa.

This in turn is essential in order to set in motion a process of re-allocation of resources, to enable those who have so far been disadvantaged to have their share of economic success.

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I hope that those of you who have come to  
Hamburg from further afield have also found  
some time to take look around this beautiful city  
of ours and to enjoy its hospitality.

I wish all of you a very pleasant evening here in  
Hamburg's *Ratsweinkeller*.