

2 February 2010

Mr Hans G. Gnodtke  
Consulate-General of the Federal Republic of Germany  
PO Box 204  
Woollahra NSW 2025

Dear Mr Gnodtke

**Re: Speech delivered by Federal President of Germany Horst Köhler in the presence of Mr Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel on 26 January 2010**

I write to thank you for providing a copy of the above speech to Mr Robin Margo SC, President of the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, which is one of the State constituent bodies of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, the peak national body of Australian Jewry. Mr Margo has kindly forwarded a copy of the speech to me.

Please convey to your President and to the German federal government the sincere appreciation of the Australian Jewish community for the moving sentiments expressed in the speech. In a world in which there has been an unfortunate recrudescence of anti-Semitism, usually in the guise of demonising and delegitimizing Israel, it was refreshing to read your President's perceptive and sensitive analysis of Israel's right to exist and defend its citizens against those who seek ultimately to repeat the horrors of the past.

It is indeed appropriate that warnings about the potential consequences of unrestrained hatred should come from a German head of State. His comments will be welcomed by Jewish communities, and indeed all fair-minded people, throughout the world.

Yours sincerely

**Robert Goot AM SC  
President**