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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome

Her Excellency

DR. ANGELA MERKEL

Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

THE WHITE HOUSE

Tuesday, June 7, 2011



THE ARRIVAL CEREMONY

A Brief History

Military arrival ceremonies for visiting foreign dignitaries are as old as the concept of an armed protective force. In today's well-ordered society, it is difficult to understand that visiting dignitaries in the past were not always afforded a unanimously popular welcome. Arrival ceremonies then served a more functional purpose. As late as the 17th century, a guard would be assigned to protect the visiting dignitary. It is likely that this protective force, commonly known as an honor guard, accompanied the dignitary wherever they went to assure their safety. Over the years these honor guards have come to be symbolic of honors accorded a visitor.

The modern arrival ceremony has since evolved. During the Truman administration, the visiting Chiefs of State and Heads of Government would be met at Washington National Airport with a military honor guard. The visitor would review the honor guard and President Truman would give remarks of welcome followed by the visitor's remarks. The President and his guests would then proceed to their vehicles and drive to Washington with a motorcade that would be met with a military escort of marching troops and bands.

For President Eisenhower's administration, the air terminal was changed to Andrews Air Force Base, but the tradition for the parade remained. The ceremony site was the West Grounds of the Washington Monument, and later the Ellipse. President Kennedy's administration brought the arrival ceremony to the South Lawn of the White House. The welcoming ceremony on the South Lawn provides a beautiful site for a warm and dignified welcome for the foreign visitor.



CUSTOMS OBSERVED
DURING HONORS

It is customary for all present to stand when Honors are rendered.
All those in uniform execute a military salute.



During the National Anthem of the Federal Republic of Germany,
Americans not in uniform should stand at attention.

During the National Anthem of the United States, Americans not
in uniform should stand at attention and place their right hand
over their hearts. When a hat is worn by a gentleman, it is removed
and held at the left shoulder, the right hand being over the heart.



At the conclusion of the ceremony, please remain in place on the
South Lawn until The President and Mrs. Obama, Her Excellency
Dr. Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany,
the Official Delegation, the Welcoming Committee, and the
Military Honor Guard have departed.



ARRIVAL CEREMONY

The South Lawn

HONORS:

Ruffles and Flourishes
Hail to the Chief

The President and Mrs. Obama
greet

Her Excellency

Dr. Angela Merkel
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Introductions to the
Official Welcoming Committee

19 Gun Salute

National Anthem of the Federal Republic of Germany

National Anthem of the United States

Review of Troops

Musical Troop in Review

Remarks by

President Obama

Remarks by

Chancellor Merkel

Conclusion of Ceremony

