

Editorial

Freedom must be victorious

October 3 is a day for all the world to celebrate. The official reunification of Germany after a 45-year period of occupation, is a cause for all republican opponents of tyranny to celebrate, not only because it redresses past injustices, but because of the hope which the new Germany offers for the rest of us.

We all remember those moving images from Nov. 9, 1989 when people fell into each other's arms and wept tears of joy as the Berlin Wall was opened. As the pictures of people dancing in the street were seen around the world, it was understood everywhere that people in the German Democratic Republic had fought and won a victory for freedom for people the world over.

Less than one year later, on Oct. 3, 1990, German reunification will be completed and will be celebrated with a great popular festival all over Germany. Henceforth, Oct. 3 will be a national holiday for Germans. But it is not just Germans who have reason to rejoice; the whole world should celebrate this day. German reunification symbolizes in a twofold way, the end of an era and the hope-filled beginning of a new one.

On the one hand, the postwar order, characterized by the division of Europe sealed at Yalta, has come to an end; and on the other hand, it marks the end of the period since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 because communism as an ideology has failed. The ideas of national sovereignty and of the sovereignty of the individual have proven to be stronger. West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer spoke correctly when he predicted that the economic power of the West would turn out to be a magnet for the East.

Today, no one need harbor any fear of the strength of the German economy. On the contrary, at a moment when the Soviet Union is in a catastrophic economic crisis, the potential of the German economy for the development of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union represents the major guarantee of peace. The German economy, as the linchpin of a great European economic zone of 500 million people, must become the locomotive for the world economy and thus give the impulse

throughout the world, wherever there is still underdevelopment, to removing poverty and need, above all in the developing nations.

Despite the considerable difficulties in the economic situation in the East, an optimistic attitude of change has gripped many people in Germany, and the best of them are determined that the prospect of developing all of Europe economically be linked with a cultural renaissance and with a revival of the values of Christian Europe. This is one of history's great hours, when we can lay the cornerstone of a new and more human era.

Particularly now, when we face the awful possibility of a Third World War, which may be precipitated by the blundering aggression of a George Bush who has turned the American government into an appendage of the British Foreign Office with his attempt to seize the world's major oil reserves on behalf of Anglo-American interests, it is important to realize that there can be a powerful force for good in the world.

Germans have reason to be happy, but this joy is not their exclusive possession. The potential of a reunified Germany involves the noble responsibility to actively apply the good which has fallen to one's share, for the benefit of mankind as a whole. On this great day, Germany will be unified in freedom, but that also entails the responsibility that the struggle for the freedom of all people on this planet must be carried forward, until everyone can live in full human dignity. As long as there is a single person who remains enslaved, a single person who is not free, then there is no true freedom. "To win reason's freedom, means to establish justice for all peoples; that's true for all eternal time," wrote Friedrich Schiller in his poem fragment, *Deutsche Grösse (German Greatness)*, and that pledge is still valid.

It could not be more appropriate on Oct. 3, than that the celebration of Germany's day of joy become the occasion of international festivals, concerts, speeches, and parades. Mankind does not often have a reason to rejoice, but Oct. 3 is a day when the cause of humanity takes a great stride forward.