Willy Brandt remained active in foreign policy beyond his resignation as Chancellor in 1974. Among his objectives as elder statesman were his attempts to turn Social Democracy and the European continent into serious global players. Brandt did not wish to leave peace and security to the superpowers. For this endeavor he was keen on finding new partners in the “Third World”, in particular in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brandt’s efforts frequently led to conflicts with the U.S. administration. After all, for the first time in its history the Socialist International (SI) began to support the armed fight of liberation movements and opposed Washington’s view that all conflicts in Latin America were due to the Cold War between the superpowers. These disputes and controversies soon caused problems for West German foreign policy.

New global challenges occurred in the course of the events of 1989–1991. This time Brandt largely agreed with Washington’s policy and support for the unfolding process of German unification. He was less enamored by the Bush administration’s insistence to resolve the Kuwait crisis of 1991 by military means. This first Gulf War strengthened Willy Brandt’s endeavors to influence the debate about a new world order that for him included an enhanced role for the United Nations.

The conference is organized by the Bundeskanzler-Willy-Brandt-Stiftung, Berlin, and is supported by the German Historical Institute Washington DC, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Berliner Kolleg Kalter Krieg | Berlin Center for Cold War Studies.

Conference venue:
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Haus 2, Hiroshimastr. 28, 10785 Berlin, Germany

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The conference is supported by:
Friday, June 10, 2016

9:00–9:30 AM
Opening, Introduction

9:30–12:00 AM
Judith Michel (Berlin):
Our Security Stands and Falls with the USA – Willy Brandt's Relations with the United States of America 1933–1974

Scott Krause (Chapel Hill/USA):

Matthias Haueßler (Cambridge/Great Britain):
Two very Different Atlanticists? Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt, 1974–1992

Discussion

Lunch Break

1:30–3:00 PM
Christian Salm (Brussels/Belgium):
Willy Brandt, the European Union and the Emerging Mercosur, 1976–1992

Harold Mock (Charlottesville/USA):
A Post-National Europe: Brandt’s Vision for the EC between the Superpowers

Discussion

Coffee Break

3:30–6:00 PM
Nikolas Dörr (Berlin):
How to Deal with Eurocommunism? A Case Study of Dissonance between Willy Brandt and the US Governments of Nixon, Ford and Carter

Jan Hansen (Berlin):
Say Farewell to the Cold War? Brandt, the USA, and the Euromissiles Question

Oliver Bange (Potsdam):
Arms Control, Reunification and Troop Withdrawal, 1987–1994

Konrad Sziedat (Munich):
Social Democrats on a “Third Way”: 1989 as a Year of Metamorphosis?

Discussion

Saturday, June 11, 2016

9:00–11:30 AM
Fernando Pedrosa (Buenos Aires/Argentina):
“Elastic Cooperation”. Willy Brandt and the Socialist International in Latin America

Mónica Fonseca (Lisbon/Portugal):
Brandt’s SI Offensive towards Latin America: The View from Washington

Bernd Rother (Berlin):
The Intruder in the Backyard – The Socialist International and the U.S. in Central America

Wolfgang Schmidt (Berlin):
Willy Brandt’s North-South Commission and the Reactions in the U.S.

Discussion

Coffee Break

11:45 AM–1:15 PM
Discussion among and with contemporary witnesses („Zeitzeugen“):

Dieter Dettke (Washington DC/USA),
John Kornblum (Berlin),
Pierre Schori (Stockholm/Sweden),
Reimund Seidelmann (Gießen)

Conclusion