

**Ansprache anlässlich der Abschlusspräsentation des SCI-
Workcamps am 24.08.2012 in Zeithain durch Dr. Klaus-Dieter Müller
(stellv. Geschäftsführer Stiftung Sächsische Gedenkstätten)**

Dear Mr. Mayor of Zeithain, dear members of the local parliaments of Riesa, Zeithain
an other cities, dear Mrs. Schulz,

but especially, dear participants of this camp, coming from many countries. It is a
great honour for me to welcome you in Saxony, and especially in our memorial
complex in Zeithain.

Since you agreed that the English language is the lingua franca during your stay
here, I suggest to do my speech in English.

It is the third time for me to welcome you on this occasion to the 10th SCI-camp in
Zeithain. Since many years, our memorial complex and the association Ehrenhain
Zeithain carry out these important working on the area of the former stalag and
hospital complex in Zeithain.

In doing this, you do a huge amount of work to develop our memorial complex for a
broader public, for many visitors.

Why is this, although many decades have gone since the end of World War II, an
important duty, even today? I think, I am convinced, this has a lot to do with the past,
the terrible past that happened here.

We literally, not only here, stand on the bones of some tenthousands of former
prisoners of war. In Zeithain we now know that approximately 30.000 persons died
during the war, and from this huge amount of victims, more than 25.000 had been
soldiers from the former Soviet Union.

Zeithain is, in this sense, the biggest cemetery of Soviet POW in Germany. The
tragedy of this group, the second largest group of the victims of the Nazi regime, has
up to now not reached the public in Germany, at least not enough. So your work is a
contribution to overcome this situation, a contribution to the truth about Nazi crimes in
Germany. What we can do as a memorial complex in our duty is to find out and
identify the names of the victims and present them to the public, in form of
commemorial books, of commemorial complexes and cemeteries.

What we can do is to give the dependents information about the fate of the beloved
family members, about the grave he may have found. We try hard to do this, here in

Zeithain, but even in Eastern Europe in public ceremonies. You may have seen some of our books here about these efforts, sponsored by and on behalf of our Federal Government.

What we cannot achieve alone is the finding out of traces of the past in the area. But we need these traces to understand, to realize what happened here, what human beings like you and me did to other human beings, during the terrible Nazi regime.

We need this knowledge to grasp which crime occurred here and what is our duty today, our responsibility today.

That's fore the SCI-Camp is so important for us, in Zeithain, in Saxony, in some way also for you and your countries.

But the past is not only a dividing fact for us today, but a part of a uniting development. Please tell about your stay in Germany, please speak about your feelings to work on these killing fields. Please transport the message of a new German society that had torn the lessons out of her past. In doing this, your are part of a big movement of peace in Europe, a movement which emerged out of crime, war and violence and which has torn the right conclusion out of this, the movement in direction of a uniting Europe in which war and violence should have no possibility of emerge.

I thank you very much that you spent your leisure time here in Zeithain. I must also thank the officials of our memorial complex for their contribution for the success of the camp, and last not least I am very appreciated that also this year our old partners and friends Mrs. Schulz and Mr. Drieschner administrated and supervised the camp, as they did since many years before. My special thank for this.

But in the centre of our attention are the participants. So I like to thank you very much.

To do this officially I have the great pleasure to give over to you certificates for your work in Zeithain. Let's begin with ...

Now you all received your certificate. I can only wish you a good journey home. I hope you only made good experiences here, and if it is possible I invite you to come back to the next campaign.