

W A L T E R     S C H E E L

Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr. Walter Scheel was born in Solingen on July 8, 1919. He graduated from high school in 1938 and trained in the banking field, before being drafted for military service in World War II until 1945.

After the war, Mr. Scheel became a partner in two market-research firms and headed a number of business associations, while at the same time actively pursuing his political interests.

A member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP) since 1946, he has served as a legislator at every level of government. He was elected to the Duesseldorf City Council in 1948, entered the State Parliament of North Rhine Westphalia in 1950, and became a member of the Bundestag in 1953. Mr. Scheel also served in the European Parliament since 1955, where he was named Chairman of its Committee for Cooperation with Developing Countries in 1958.

In 1961, Mr. Scheel was appointed Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation in a Coalition Government formed by the CDU/CSU (Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union) and the FDP. He served in this post until 1966, when his party went into the Opposition.

Mr. Scheel was elected National Chairman of the FDP in 1968 and led his party as Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister into the present Coalition Government with the SPD (Social Democratic Party) following the 1969 Federal elections. Mr. Scheel was reappointed Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor after the coalition's victory in parliamentary elections on November 19, 1972.

Mr. Scheel is married to the former Mildred Wirtz. They have four children.