

PUERTO RICO SUMMIT, JUNE 27-28, 1976

Federal Republic of Germany

Helmut Schmidt - Chancellor

Helmut Schmidt was born in Hamburg on December 23, 1918. After graduating from high school in 1937, he was drafted into the armed forces and served until the end of World War II.

Returning home in 1946, Mr. Schmidt joined the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and served as Federal Chairman of the German Socialist Student Federation from 1947 to 1948 while studying law, economics and political science at the University of Hamburg. In 1949, he received an advanced degree in economics.

Mr. Schmidt began his career in the Hamburg civil service. In 1953, however, he went into full-time politics as a member of the German Bundestag.

In 1962, he entered the executive branch of government in Hamburg which is both a city and a state, as Senator of the Interior.

Returning to national politics in 1965, he was re-elected to the Bundestag and served as SPD Deputy Bundestag Floorleader in 1967 and 1968.

A member of his party's Federal Executive Committee since 1958, he was named Deputy National Chairman in 1969.

When the SPD formed a coalition government with the FDP in 1969, Mr. Schmidt was appointed Federal Minister of Defence. On July 7, 1972, Chancellor Willy Brandt called upon him to succeed resigning Minister of Economics and Finance Karl Schiller. Under a new coalition agreement with the FDP in 1972, he retained the responsibility for the Finance Ministry.