

Address given by John F. Dulles (Vienna, 15 May 1955)

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[John Foster Dulles] By these signatures, which we have here affixed at this ceremonial occasion, it is today, decided, that Austria will resume its place and live free and independently.

It is possible, in this sense, to say, that this freedom and independence are being conferred. It is however far more accurate to say, that the freedom and independence of Austria have been won by the Austrian people themselves.

Seventeen years ago, the independence of Austria was lost to what then seemed to be overwhelming odds. But in this case and, indeed, as is always the case, military power succumbs to the moral power of an ideal. The Austrian people have never lost the vision of a free and independent Austria and their words and their deeds have consistently reflected a solemn resolve that that vision should become a reality.

So today, the Austrian people can rejoice, not because of what has been given them, but what they have won for themselves. Today, as the Austrian people rejoice, the people of America rejoice with them. That is not only because the American people have known and long admired the Austrian people, but because today that admiration takes on a new scope and a greater depth, because today we feel indebted to the Austrian people because, through patient endurance, they have brought to Europe an application of what the United Nations Charter refers to as respect, where the principle of equal rights and self-determination are fixed.