

Ceremonial closure

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Dr. Ing. F. Todt,

Generalinspektor für das deutsche Straßenwesen, Berlin
Präsident des Deutschen Organisationsausschusses.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The 2nd International Congress for Bridge and Structural Engineering has come to an end with Prof. *Dr. A. Rohn's* speech.

Experts from all parts of the world have exchanged experiences and furthered practical knowledge of bridge building during these days of intensive work. After completion of our task we had some social intercourse and were thus able to get into closer personal touch with one another in pleasant hours of relaxation.

On the occasion of the opening of the Rügen Dam you saw the manner in which the new Germany is making use of the results of her work. At the "Deutschlandhalle" you had the experience of seeing the Führer of our people communicating with his fellow-countrymen and calling upon the united people for a united effort. It was a very great pleasure for us Germans to observe the interest with which you followed these German events.

Having interrupted your journey at Dresden and Munich, you were most probably impressed by the numerous and varied ways in which German culture also expresses itself outside the metropolis of the Reich.

The Reich Motor Roads may have given you an idea of the firm determination with which the German people tackle and carry out the tasks set them by their great Führer. I wish to thank you once more for the unflagging attention which you devoted to everything that the new Germany had to show you. I thank you, too, for the words spoken on every occasion in praise and recognition of the work done in connection with the organisation of the Congress — sentiments most sincerely expressed in Prof. *Rohn's* speech just delivered.

If Germany endeavoured to organise the 2nd International Congress for Bridge and Structural Engineering in a worthy manner, there were two good reasons for this. The first was the example given by the work of the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering at Zurich. With this example the International Association set the German Organisation Executive a standard which did not allow it to remain behind the Association's eager and tireless work, its dignified and purposeful bearing.

We recognized immediately, during the first days of our meeting with Prof. *Rohn*, the high standard which would be required for the Congress of this International Association in particular, and so, after all, we did nothing more than find a form of expression for the work done, above all by our esteemed President, Prof. *Rohn*, and his Secretaries General, Prof. *Karner* and Prof. *Ritter*, together with the other gentlemen of the International Association, in never ceasing labour and by quiet but nevertheless harassing efforts, to ensure for the Congress the

complete success which has now been attained. The excellence of the intellectual standard is entirely due to their efforts — our task was simply to provide a form.

Our second reason for organising this Congress in an adequate way was the high esteem in which Engineering in general is again held in the new Germany — in contrast to former times. Germany has recourse to engineering in all its branches for her reconstructional work. When one of the most important International Engineering Associations does us the honour of holding its congress in Germany, when engineering experts from all parts of the world come to Germany, then it must be our aim to testify to the importance the new Germany attaches to engineering itself, the men connected with it and their work.

This high esteem has also been expressed in very eloquent fashion by the telegram received from the Führer.

That is all I have to say. I am in honour bound to thank all persons and institutions which by their collaboration and hospitality have helped to make this Congress a success. It has ended as successfully as it began. I have heard from a large number of representatives that this Congress will always remain a pleasant memory and now that we are about to part, these words encourage me to hope that we shall meet again in due course in another country, with more work and new tasks before us.

I close this Congress with my best wishes to yourselves and the countries you represent.

A pleasant journey home and "Auf Wiedersehen" at the 3rd Congress.