

ADDRESS, COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND OVERSEAS PROGRAM
HEIDELBERG, GERMANY

May 30, 1959

This is a happy event and a delightful experience in my life, it being my first visit to Germany and the first opportunity I have had to make a first-hand observation of this remarkable undertaking of the University of Maryland.

As Governor of Maryland, I have, just as every citizen of the State has, a deep pride in the achievements of our University, and particularly in this vast overseas educational program in which it has pioneered so estimably. It is another and the latest of a long succession of "firsts" to be inscribed upon the record of this institution. It is evidence that the University intends to honor its heritage and continue its role as a leader in the field of higher education. It is a pleasure to me to bring to the faculty, officials and students of this European division of our "university of the world" the cordial good wishes of the people of my State. Warm greetings are extended especially to the 1959 graduates, and may I say that we consider you as Marylanders, regardless of your residence or place of birth, now that you have spent this time with us in our University.

In a community of scholars such as this, a student imparts as much as he acquires in knowledge and wisdom, and therefore we are indebted to you for assisting us in our mission to expand learning and understanding for the betterment of mankind. In ways in which you in your experience would understand better than I, you have been fortunate to be able to carry on this phase of your formal education on foreign soil. It was Francis Bacon, who said that "Travel, in the younger sort, is a part of education," and another author, writing on the philosophy of travel, who said that visits to foreign lands would "soften prejudices, religious or political, and liberalize a man's mind."

To those of us who are sensitive to the drama of history, there is something thrilling and inspiring about an American university holding a commencement exercise for soldier students in a spot like this. All of us, I am sure, are deeply impressed by these surroundings—by these ancient citadels of learning, where men have battled ignorance and sought the light of truth for six centuries. For Heidelberg and the other great seats of learning on this continent, in a very real sense, were the fountainhead of our modern universities in America.

In an essay he did on the development of American universities, Dr.