2006-04-19

Transatlantic relations in the 21st century

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http://hdl.handle.net/2144/20168

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VOLKER RÜHE

is the former Defense Minister of Germany and former Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the German Bundestag. He joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1963 and was elected to the Bundestag for his home city of Hamburg in 1976. Shortly after his election, he took over the chairmanship of the Foreign and Domestic Policy Committee of his parliamentary group. He held the position of secretary general of his party from 1989 until he assumed office as Minister of Defense under Helmut Kohl in April 1992. Rühe was the first Minister of Defense to send German troops on peace-keeping operations outside the NATO area. When the Kohl government lost the election in 1998, Rühe was elected deputy chairman of the CDU. He took over again his position as spokesman for the foreign, security, domestic and development aid policy in the Bundestag.

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