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THE BISHOP OF COVENTRY

The Right Reverend Dr Christopher Cocksworth

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Dr Peter Ammon

German Ambassador to the Court of St. James

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Your Excellency

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of Richard von Weizsäcker. I had the honour of meeting the former President on one occasion in Dresden. He spoke very movingly of his visit to Coventry Cathedral in 1990 to take part, with the Queen Mother (whom he liked to call the 'Queen Mum'!), in the 50th Anniversary of the bombing of Coventry, during which he presented the Bell of Peace to the Cathedral.

Richard von Weizsäcker was a remarkable man and I join with others in paying my deep respects to his family and nation at this time and in expressing my thanksgiving for his great gifts of integrity, intellect, and insight, which, in helping to shape modern day Germany, strengthened the peace of Europe and the reconciliation on which it is based.

I thought you might like to see the final page of Paul Oestreicher's chapter in *Reconciling People: Coventry Cathedral's Story* (2011), which recounts the then President's visit to Coventry in 1990.

The Peace Bell has been struck to mark the beginning of services in the Cathedral since his visit. It will continue to sound his memory.

With my condolences to your country

and with my good wishes to you
Yours sincerely
+ Christopher Coventry