



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 1926 – 2022

Dear Phil,
Dear Robert,

After the horrors of the Second World War, which she experienced at first hand as a young girl, Queen Elizabeth II reached out to the Germans for reconciliation. The deepening of German-British friendship was always close to her heart during her reign of more than 70 years. Her numerous trips, especially her symbolic visit to Dresden, are unforgotten.

The coverage in the media and the remarkable and thoughtful contributions from politics, academics and society bring us closer once again to how the system of democracy works beyond parliamentary aisles and party disputes. And that it is a pattern, a framework supported by the fulfilment of duty, dignity, mutual respect and humility.

What the pictures and reports also show us is splendour and humility. In my view, they go far beyond the pomp and circumstance or the "zeitgeist". And perhaps it was the late Queen's final service to her people and country that she died at Balmoral, beloved by her (and by Queen Victoria) which shows almost metaphysically her intimate connection to Scotland: Elizabeth, Queen of Scots, as the bond of unity of future United Kingdom. History, not us, will have to weigh and judge, but in this sense, perhaps, Queen Elizabeth II will later prove to be "the Great".

People took her to their hearts because of her quiet dignity, her spontaneous warmth and not least her fine sense of humour. Her death, foreseeable only by her age, came as a surprise, as the pictures from Balmoral of the Boris Johnson's say-off and the appointment of Liz Truss as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom two days earlier did not suggest it. As it is so often the case in life, it feels as if all a person's strength and discipline are once again focused on a special event, only to let go. I am sure that we will always honour the memory of this great lady and accept the expression of our deepest sympathy.

Sit ei terra levis!

Ever,

Manfred

Manfred R Eisenbach
DGLI Secretary-General