



A local man uses a sledgehammer to enlarge a hole in the Berlin Wall.

One Day in November

Diplomacy Center commemorates fall of Berlin Wall // By Priscilla Linn

On Nov. 9, 1989, the Berlin Wall, erected by East Germany in 1961 to divide the city, fell without a single shot fired, signaling the end of the Cold War. This month, the U.S. Diplomacy Center launches its celebration of the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Wall by showing diplomats' involvement with the Wall, from its first barbed wire coils to its demise.

The centerpiece of the commemoration is a state-of-the-art exhibition on the center's Web site that uses oral histories from foreign and U.S. diplomats, provided by the Associa-

tion for Diplomatic Studies and Training, to tell the Wall's story. It weaves these histories together with artifacts and memorable images, demonstrating diplomats' behind-the-scenes work during this challenging time.

Other components of the commemoration include a half-day forum this month for students, educators and representatives of nongovernmental organizations at the Department's George C. Marshall Conference Center. The forum's speakers include German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth.

A speakers series will also be held

during the next several months. It will let participants learn firsthand about diplomacy through discussions with diplomats who worked at embassies and consulates in former Soviet Bloc countries.

Details—and eventually videos—of the forum and speakers series, plus a self-guided tour of the exhibition, are on the U.S. Diplomacy Center Web site, <http://diplomacy.state.gov>. ■

The author is senior curator at the U.S. Diplomacy Center.

Timeline: The Berlin Wall

05.1945

Germany surrenders; shortly after, Berlin is divided into American, British, French and Soviet sectors.

05.26.1952

Soviets close border between East and West Germany.

08.13.1961

Wall's construction begins; all crossing points closed for West Berliners.

06.26.1963

President John F. Kennedy says "Ich bin ein Berliner."



06.12.1987

President Ronald Reagan urges Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down Wall.

09.10.1989

Hungarian government opens border for East Germans.



11.09.1989
Berlin Wall is opened.

Source: Dailysoft.com, Cold War Museum