

## Opening of the Permanent Office in Berlin



On March 11, 2008, the German Foreign Ministry marked the opening of the Permanent Office by a ceremony in Berlin which was widely attended by International Task Force (ITF) member states delegates, Ambassadors and experts. Guests were welcomed by Ambassador Haller, German delegate to the ITF. First spoke Professor Andreas Nachama, Director of the prestigious Foundation "Topographie des Terrors"; he welcomed the ITF Office in the premises of this Foundation. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier gave a wide-ranging speech expressing his gratitude to the ITF's choice of Berlin as the seat of the Permanent Office and assured the ITF of his personal support. Czech Vice-minister Jan Kohout looked back at one year of the Czech ITF presidency. Avner Shalev, Chairman of Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, spoke about the importance of remembrance for future generations; and Professor Wladyslaw Bartoszewski - himself a survivor of Auschwitz - gave a vivid personal picture of what it means to build bridges among countries and generations.

Read the speech by Dr Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, at the opening of the Secretariat of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, Berlin, March 11, 2008:

<http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Infoservice/Presse/Rede/2008/080311-HolocaustTaskForceSekretariat.html>