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THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. Z. W. SOBOL

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/04/24		C 85/05/06
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>✓ 99 DOS</u>	R	85/05/09		A 85/05/21
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
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REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION CODES:	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	* CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	* OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	* CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		* OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OFOB) EXT. 2590
KFEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

S/S # 8514374

DATE MAY 30 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Dr. Z.W. Sobol
DATE: April 23, 1985 SUBJECT: President's trip to Germany

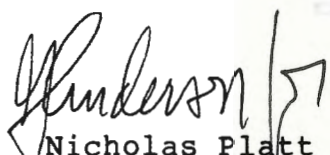
WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: May 9, 1985 NSC # 301801

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached
 A draft reply will be forwarded
 A translation is attached
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below
 Other

REMARKS:


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

85 MAY 30 P11:01

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 21, 1985

Dr. Z.W. Sobol, Director
Polish American Congress
211 North Eddy Street
South Bend, Indiana 46614

Dear Dr. Sobol:

I am replying to your April 23 mailgram to President Reagan regarding his trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his visit, the President made absolutely clear the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors committed in the name of the German state before and during World War II, and our determination not to forget them. His itinerary included a ceremony at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to pay homage to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the April 21 anniversary of the liberation of that camp and again during his own visit, "There can and should be no absolution."

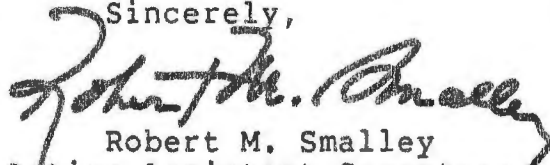
President Reagan strongly believes, as part of our efforts to learn from the experiences of this dark era, we must not reject opportunities for reconciliation. In this spirit, he was asked by Chancellor Kohl, and accepted the invitation, to visit a German military cemetery in Bitburg.

For four decades, the Federal Republic of Germany has faced up to the guilt and responsibilities of its Nazi past. It has demonstrated concretely in countless ways its commitment to democratic ideals and human rights, including standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the Alliance in defense of freedom. The President's trip to Bitburg included a visit to the large Bitburg Air Base, which houses members of both the U.S. and German Air Forces.

It is important to demonstrate, particularly to the younger generation in Germany, that although we continue to hold the nation responsible for its past, we do not consider them to bear individual responsibility for the crimes of Nazism. The President did not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent an act of forgiveness for those crimes. Rather, it was an acknowledgment of the democratic society the German people have built. He considered this to be a positive gesture which in no way detracted from his full and

heartfelt commitment to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust and the American soldiers who gave their lives to defeat the Nazi regime and its crimes.

Sincerely,


Robert M. Smalley
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8514374

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

MAY 9, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 301801

MEDIA: MAILGRAM, DATED APRIL 23, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: DR. Z. W. SOBOL
DIRECTOR
POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
211 NORTH EDDY STREET
SOUTH BEND IN 46614

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

50
DR Z W SOBOL DIRECTOR POLISH AME
211 NORTH EDDY ST
SOUTH BEND IN 46614 23AM

Western Union Mailgram®



Com: Pres. weil German

Cemetery
1-0246678113 04/23/85 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WHSB
2191114111 MGMS TDBN MISHAWAKA IN 54 04-23 0115P CST

30/801

8514374

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Linas Kojetic

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

YOUR PROPOSED BITBURG CEMETERY VISIT WILL UPSET NOT ONLY THE JEWS,
BUT MILLIONS OF POLES, FRENCH AND ALL EUROPEANS WHO EXPERIENCED AND
KNOW OF SS TROOP BRUTALITY. IT WILL PROVIDE A PROPAGANDA WINDFALL TO
THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS. PLEASE DO NOT UNDERMINE YOUR GREAT
RECORD BY THE GRAVE ERROR.

RESPECTFULLY,

DR Z W SOBOL DIRECTOR POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN

14:28 EST

MGMCOMP

OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
14158 EBT
WASHINGTON DC 20004

108102

WESTERN UNION TELETYPE SERVICE
14158 EBT

WESTERN

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

Handwritten signature

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

YOUR RECENT VISIT TO THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. YOU MET WITH MILLIONS OF POLISH AMERICANS WHO ARE EXPERIENCED AND KNOW OF THE BRUTALITY OF THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN POLAND. PLEASE DO NOT UNDERMINE YOUR GREAT RECORD BY THE GRAVE ERROR OF YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY.

OF YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

RESPECTFULLY,

OR

DR J. W. BORD, DIRECTOR POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS
008-622-608 (TOLL-FREE)

14158 EBT

MONROE

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX I 6161 FROM TELEX II (TWX®) 910-420-1212

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE STEVEN SANDERS

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF PLAN TO VISIT
GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/24		C 850503
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>✓ KO H166</u>			A 850506	NAN C 850605
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REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

AB

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING                *
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*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS     *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED             *           CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF   *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
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MANAGEMENT.

301806

37



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRMAN
Committee on Oversight,
Analysis and Investigation

STEVEN SANDERS
63rd District

Room 519
Legislative Office Bldg.
Albany, New York 12248
(518) 455-5506

201 East 16th Street
New York, New York 10003
(212) 673-3266

April 22, 1985

Richard M. ...
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I am writing to appeal to you to reconsider your planned visit to Bitberg cemetery.

The agony and torment your plans to visit the site containing graves of Waffen SS troops has brought is unnecessary and no doubt unintended.

Reconciliation with Germany should never include paying tribute to SS murderers, some of whom, as you know, tortured defenseless American prisoners of war as well as their committing the most widely known atrocities in the history of the world, against the Jewish people and millions of others.

Mr. President, your place in world history will be forever blackened by this imprudent action. Great leadership demands the willingness to be wrong, to shift a course. Please spare Jews, veterans, and all Americans from this pain, and keep the great symbols of our nation and your place in history untarnished by the shadow of Nazi butchers.

Sincerely,

Steven Sanders
Steven Sanders

SS/es

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

APR 25 1985

f

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE THOMAS M. WHALEN III

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
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RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/24			C 85/05/01 ^{v2}
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<i>Coligay</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>85/05/03</i>			<i>C 85/06/20</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____					
REFERRAL NOTE: _____					
REFERRAL NOTE: _____					
REFERRAL NOTE: _____					

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2500 _____

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION CODES:	*OUTGOING	*
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*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMNT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	* OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	* CODE = A	*
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I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		* OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

This may be closed out -
- no answer needed.

Tom Engle

Rm 96

x7610

37

301807



CITY OF ALBANY
STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
12207

THOMAS M. WHALEN, III
MAYOR
WILLIAM L. KEEFE
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

518-434-5100

Rm Alvarado

CAD -
wld you suggest
to answer at this
point, or a cap
~~301807~~
Thanks Dan

April 16, 1985

Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the members and friends of Capital District Children of Holocaust Survivors are outraged at your decision to visit a German military cemetery and not visit a concentration camp. Your message that it is time to put the holocaust behind us is deeply offensive to us. Not only is this episode an affront to the memory of all those who perished in Hitler's campus, but it is an insult to the American soldiers who died fighting the Nazis.

Very truly yours,

TMW
Thomas M. Whalen

Thomas M. Whalen, III

TMW:TD

Stephen Fikorian *Joseph M. Green* *Sharon Fleem*
Ken L. Futo *Abraham Lacheta*
Louis Singer *Miriam Isaac*
Sharon L. Berko *Dr. Stefanie Isser*
John F. Schone *Fred B. Lohs* *Sol Mogilemoby*
Monty Kuba *Allen*
Herman R. Green

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

NSK

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JOHN PAVLIK

SUBJECT: WRITES WITH SUGGESTION FOR CHANGE IN
ITINERARY FOR TRIP TO GERMANY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DOUG RIGGS	ORG	85/04/24		
<i>file</i> CO HIGG				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
	A	85/04/26	MAN	C 85/09/03
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REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ / AB
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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| *C-COMMNT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY * | | | * |
- *****

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MANAGEMENT.

301809

37
Doug Riggs

**VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I
OF THE U.S.A., INC.**



**JOHN PAVLIK
NATIONAL COMMANDER**

(703) 836-3060

**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
801 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 207
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**

April 17, 1985

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Veterans of World War I of the U.S.A., Inc., wish to go on record stating that we are pleased with the change in your itinerary for your upcoming trip to Germany. However, we would like to see one other change.

Mr. President, on the morning of November 11, 1921, the 3rd anniversary of the Armistice that ended World War I, the American Unknown Soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Four cemeteries near the major Fronts on which American Troops had fought, (Belleau Wood, the Somme, St. Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne), randomly chose a coffin of a soldier who had been buried among the unidentified dead in France.

The final selection was made by the dropping of roses on one of the earth-stained coffins. After the trek across the Atlantic on the Cruiser U.S.S. Olympia, the unknown warrior lay in state as a grateful nation paid homage. President Harding headed a cavalcade escorting the casket across the river to the Arlington National Cemetery.

The Veterans of World War I, who now are an average age of 89, would consider it an HONOR to have our President visit a cemetery where many of our American Buddies still sleep beneath the battlefields of France.

We appreciate you giving this suggestion consideration and wish you much success on this timely visit.

Sincerely in Buddyship,


John Pavlik
National Commander

Answer do you want to hold
or send as Doug

Cry to: ~~—~~ pig up. newsted

- Gen. Caulfield LTK
- Bill Hendle 4/26
- Pat Buchanan

37

Doug [unclear]

LAF - pls see me TH9

301809

VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I
OF THE U.S.A., INC.



JOHN PAVLIK
NATIONAL COMMANDER

(703) 836-3060

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
801 NORTH FAIRFAX STREET
SUITE 207
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

April 17, 1985

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The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

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We appreciate you giving this suggestion consideration and wish you much success on this timely visit.

Sincerely in Buddyship,

John Pavlik
John Pavlik
National Commander

*Doug -
Please read
any CTRKs such
as this one back
to AV Higgins -
I'll quit
sending
to you!
Linda
7.*

*Aut
[unclear]
424*

X7610

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI DAVID E. STRAUS

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/04/24		C 85/04/26 PL
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		__/__/__		__/__/__
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		__/__/__		__/__/__
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: _____ MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION CODES: | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | * CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
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| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | | | * |
- *****

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301810

37



WASHINGTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

MACOMB STREET AT MASSACHUSETTS AVE., N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016-3799

David E. Straus
Associate Rabbi

23 April 1985

M. Buger

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am now writing you to express to you in the strongest possible way my shock and sadness that you have added to your itinerary a visit to the Bitburg Cemetery where you will lay a wreath in memory of those buried at Bitburg. Due to the atrocities which occurred at the Battle of the Bulge and the massive participation of the German SS, I believe that a visit to Bitburg by an American president is unwarranted and would be most unfortunate. I see such an act as dishonoring our living and dead veterans of World War II and their families and reducing in significance the magnitude and devastation of the holocaust and the millions who died brutally and mercilessly by German hands. There is no valid or responsible reason why you, the President of the United States should honor the dead of the Third Reich who were responsible for atrocities beyond the human imagination. There are some events of such horror and magnitude that they cannot and should not be forgotten, regardless of the passage of time. The holocaust is certainly such an event, when, as you know, over 11 million people, including six million Jewish men, women and children were brutally murdered by the Nazis. I strongly urge you, Mr. President, to restructure your itinerary so as to omit the Bitburg visit.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration, Mr. President.

B'Shalom,
David Straus
Rabbi David E. Straus

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 301817

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 24, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. SIGMUND (ZIGGY) GORSON

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/04/24		C 85/04/26 PY.
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
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REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

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PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
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301817

ZIGGY GORSON

International TV Variety Show

1101 SOUTH BROOM STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19805
(302) 429-9410



37
begu

Saturday, April 20, 1985

PERSONAL ATTENTION
Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

It is with a painful heart and many scars on my body which I received during the Horrendous six years while being enslaved in Auschwitz, then transferred to Bergen-Belsen death camp during the harsh winter of 1944, being finally liberated from this unprintable Hell on Earth, by the heroic British troops on April 15, 1945.

I have lost my entire family of 58 members including my beloved parents and 3 adorable young sisters in the infamous extermination camp of Treblinka, being the only survivor of this once lovely and innocent family.

After my liberation, I became a special agent in the American Zone of West Germany, with the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence serving under General Lucius D. Clay, coming to this blessed country with my late wife and two infant sons on December 2, 1949 and becoming a citizen of the greatest democracy in the entire recorded history of mankind, on March 21, 1955.

Mr. President: In the name of decency, in the name of justice, you must not visit and lay a wreath at the German cemetery at Bitburg, where evil members of the Nazi SS are buried, history will not forgive your obvious insensitivity to the Holocaust catastrophe, you owe Germany nothing, you owe the American people everything, you are hurting and betraying the survivors and all those who perished and the tens of thousands of American Fathers and Mothers who lost their precious sons to the Nazi bullets.

The eyes and the ears of the entire world are focused on you and on our beloved Nation, you still have the time to reverse your ill advised visit to this Nazi cemetery, if you must visit a cemetery in West Germany, why not visit the grave site of a great German contemporary leader, Dr. Konrad Adenauer, or the cemetery of the American heroes who were slaughtered by the Nazis in the Malmedy Massacre, or even the graves of the brave Anti-Nazi German Officers who were murdered by order of Hitler.

The ugly ramifications of this horrifying visit to Bitburg will damage your great credibility as a compassionate leader and as the Chief Representative of the greatest people on earth; the American people. Please I beg of you, do not visit Bitburg.

Sincerely yours,

Sigmund (Ziggy) Gorson

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 301822

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 25, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ELIOT L. ENGEL

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/25		<u>685/05/03</u>
<i>NO HIGG</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING                *
*                      *                      * CORRESPONDENCE;       *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS    *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER  *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE     *C-COMPLETED             *           CODE = A    *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF  *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *           OUTGOING   *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
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MI

R. Gleason

Con: Pres. visit German Cemetery

301822

1-014522A113 04/23/85
ICS IPMWGWC WSH
01451 04-23 0112P EST
PMS WHITE HOUSE DC 20500
4-016335S113 04/23/85
ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

5 APR 23 P 2:30

5184555296 TDMT ALBANY NY 277 04-23 1225P EST
PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE NW
WASHINGTON DC 20500

I BELIEVE YOU ARE APPROACHING A DARK HOUR IN AMERICAN POLICY. PLEASE
CANCEL YOUR VISIT TO THE GERMAN SOLDIER CEMETERY IN BITBURG WEST
GERMANY WHICH INCLUDES GRAVES OF SS OFFICERS. SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE
AN AFFRONT TO THE 6 MILLION JEWS WHO DIED AT THE HAND OF NATZI
MURDERERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE DEATH CAMP. IT

WOULD ALSO BE AN AFFRONT TO OUR FAMILIES AND FATHERS WHO FOUGHT TO
SAVE US FROM THE NATZI THREAT IN WWII.

I AM SHOCKED AND APPALLED AT THE CALLOUSNESS OF YOUR REMARKS EQUATING
THE NATZI WAR DEAD AT BITBURG WITH THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST.
INDICATING THAT SOMEHOW BOTH ARE EQUAL VICTIMS OF NATZI TERROR IS
BLASPHEMOUS.

I WISH TO QUOTE ELIE WEISEL CHAIRMAN OF THE UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL COUNCIL. "HAVE OUR POLICY PLANNERS FORGOTTEN WHAT SS STANDS
FOR. THEY WERE THE KILLERS OF JEWS PRIMARILY, BUT NOT ONLY OF JEWS.
THEY BUTCHERED POLS AND CZECHS, FRENCH AND DUTCH, NORWEGIANS AND
DANES, YUGOSLAVS, UKRANIANS, GREEKS, GYPSIES AND GAYS".

WHILE AMERICAN POLICY MAY FIND IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE AND

STRENGTHEN OUR ALLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IT MUST NOT BE DONE BY SHUTTING OUR EYES TO THE PAST, OR AT THE EXPENSE OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED AND DIED IN AUSHWITZ, DACHAU AND OTHER CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

WHILE IT IS COMMENDABLE THAT YOU HAVE FINALLY AGREED TO RECOGNIZE AND MEMORIALIZE THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF THE VICTIMS BY VISITING THE BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP, THAT DOES NOT OFFSET WHAT YOU WILL BE DOING BY PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GRAVES OF NATZI SS MURDERERS. PLEASE RECENT YOUR DECISION; THE AGONY AND GRIEF OF SO MANY REST UPON IT.

ASSEMBLYMAN ELIOT L ENGEL CHAIRMAN NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY OFFICE
OF STATE-FEDERAL RELATIONS
ROOM 734 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG
ALBANY NY 12248

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 25, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JOHN MOORE

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED GERMAN CEMETERY VISIT

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD

MARY JO JACOBI	ORG	85/04/25		C	85/05/07	PY
REFERRAL NOTE:						
<i>OPL: BREG</i>	R	85/05/13		C	85/05/19	AB
REFERRAL NOTE:						
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COMMENTS: ALSO WRITES ON BEHALF OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED STATES STEEL FUTURES EXCHANGE
*June Higgins
Bibb Cemetery*

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: T INDIVIDUAL CODES:

PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION CODES: | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | * CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *P-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY | | | * |
- *****

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P. Pres. visit - German Cemetery

301823

Mary Jo Jacobi

0418625113 04/23/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

2127360638 POM TDMT NEW YORK NY 29 04-23 0639P EST 5 APR 23 P 7:20

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN RPT DLY MGM

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

MR PRESIDENT, WE HEAR ONLY THE GOODWILL AND ENCOURAGE FROM THE MASSES REGARDING YOUR PROPOSED GERMAN GRAVEYARD VISIT. PLEASE GO REMEMBERING IT IS FOR THE BETTERMENT OF AMERICAS DESTINY.

JOHN MOORE, PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS

NEW YORK GOLD AND SILVER EXCHANGE

42 WEST 35 ST

NEW YORK NY 10001

1839 EST

50
P. trip
4-040590S113 04/23/85

ICS IPMNTZZ CSP

2127360638 POM TDMT NEW YORK NY 32 04-23 0611 APR 23 P 7:17

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

MR PRESIDENT, WE HEAR ONLY GOODWILL AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MASSES REGARDING YOUR PROPOSED GERMAN GRAVEYARD VISIT. PLEASE GO IN SUCCESS AND WITH OUR BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY JOURNEY.

THE PRESIDENT JOHN MOORE AND MEMBERSHIP UNITED STATES STEEL FUTURES EXCHANGE

42 WEST 35 ST

NEW YORK NY 10001

1812 EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

APR 26 1985

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 25, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE RAYMOND L. FLYNN

file

SUBJECT: URGES NOT ATTENDING THE BITBURG CEMETERY
DURING UPCOMING TRIP TO WEST GERMANY

ACTION DISPOSITION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D	COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
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RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/25			C 85/05/01 ¹²
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REFERRAL NOTE: <i>Cohigg</i>	<i>A</i>	85/05/03			C 85/06/11
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2400

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION CODES: | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | * CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
| *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET | *S-SUSPENDED | *COMPLETED = DATE OF | * |
| *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC* | | * OUTGOING | * |
| *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * | | | * |
| *S-FOR-SIGNATURE * | | | * |
| *X-INTERIM REPLY * | | | * |
- *****

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Ron Almarado



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
RAYMOND L. FLYNN

April 22, 1985

Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you in a non-partisan effort as a Mayor of one of the leading cities in the American tradition of justice and respect for human dignity to urge you sincerely not to attend the Bitburg Cemetery during your upcoming visit to West Germany.

The question is not of political expediency but one of choosing between good and evil. The only purpose that would be served by your visit to the Bitburg Cemetery is to diminish our country in the eyes of the families of its GI's who fought against the Nazis, in the eyes of the survivors of the Holocaust, and in the eyes of history.

I recognize fully the difficulty a prior commitment places you in in making this decision. But the overriding interest of our country and our image at home and abroad demands that you decide against visiting this site.

Sincerely,

Raymond L. Flynn

Raymond L. Flynn
Mayor of Boston

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 25, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MITCH MCCONNEL L

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETRY AND URGES CHANGE IN ITINERARY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD

M. B. OGLESBY

ORG 85/04/25

Handwritten initials and date
AB

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1220 _____

MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
*                        *                        *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *           OF SIGNER *
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*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                        *           OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                        *                        *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                        *                        *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                        *                        *
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MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1985

Dear Mitch:

Thank you for sharing with us your views concerning the President's State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. We fully understand the depth of your concerns and assure you the President's feelings about the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Nazi regime are no less deeply felt. President Reagan has attempted to make absolutely clear during his visit the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors which were committed in the name of the German state and our determination not to forget them. As you know, his itinerary included a ceremony at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in order to pay homage to all those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the anniversary of the liberation of that camp April 21, there can and should be no absolution.

President Reagan is certain you agree that, as part of our efforts to learn from the experiences of this dark era, we must not reject opportunities for reconciliation. The President was asked by Chancellor Kohl to pay a visit to a German military cemetery in Bitburg, and he has honored that request.

For four decades, the Federal Republic of Germany has faced up to the guilt and responsibilities of its Nazi past and has, in countless ways, demonstrated concretely its commitment to democratic ideals and human rights, including standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the Alliance in defense of freedom. With particular regard to the younger generation in Germany, it is important to demonstrate that, while we continue to hold the nation responsible for its past, we do not consider them to bear individual responsibility for the crimes of Nazism.

Let me make clear that the President does not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent an act of forgiveness for those crimes, but rather one of acknowledgment of the democratic society the German people have built. He considers this to be a positive gesture which in no way detracts from his full and heartfelt commitment to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust and the American soldiers who gave their lives to defeat the Nazi regime and its crimes.

Sincerely,

M. B. Oglesby, Jr.
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO/STATE/NSC/KRJ/ech-MBO8
cc: Will Ball, Cong. Affrs.

301836

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DAVID L. BOREN, OKLAHOMA

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

ROBERT DOLE, KANSAS, EX OFFICIO
ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, EX OFFICIO

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April 22, 1985

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As with many of your initiatives, I believe your plans to visit Germany reflect a forward-looking optimism intended to strengthen ties which bind Americans with Germans. Your foreign policy has been characterized by building upon understandings between nations and people, not by forcing America's way into world view by antagonizing or inflaming political and moral sensitivities.

I have witnessed and deeply appreciated the benefits of your consensus building and was all the more disappointed to learn of your decision to pay tribute to German soldiers buried in a cemetery which includes members of the notorious SS. I can only imagine the depth of grief and anger this decision must evoke in victims (and their families) who survived but continue to be haunted by memories of concentration camps where lives may have been held in the balance by one SS soldier. No one knows nor can track the involvement of every person who served in the SS. It is possible that soldiers buried at Bitburg were responsible for unspeakable atrocities against Jewish fellow Germans.

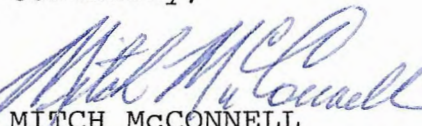
While I believe in the value of reconciliation of historical tensions, it is imperative this not be done at any cost. Those who survived have suffered enough. To pay homage to those buried in a military cemetery with SS soldiers is not balanced or made even by a visit to Bergen-Belsen.

There are neither Germans nor Americans asking you to pay respect to the SS or those buried at Bitburg. In a recent column in Die Zeit, the political editor, Christoph Bertram, said, "World War II was not just another European war. It was the darkest

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
April 22, 1985
Page 2

hour of European civilization. Its end brought an end to the world's most atrocious regime and the world's hitherto most deadly conflict". I would urge you to change your itinerary and visit a memorial which honors the end of World War II. I believe all Americans and Germans would find such a tribute appropriate and the basis for a new beginning of consensus building.

Cordially,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/rcs