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Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)  
**Case file Number(s):** 304400-304799  
**Box Number:** 3

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CONVTT. 2

NBA

ID# 304419

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MAJOR GENERAL HAROLD R. STORY (USA, RET.)

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF VISIT TO BITBURG  
CEMETERY

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

CHUCK DONOVAN	ORG	85/05/17	AT	A 85/06/21	AB
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /	
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COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

MI 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	*COMPLTFD = DATE OF	*
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*		* OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

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

June 21, 1985

Dear General Story:

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and your deep concern. I can assure you that the President understands the sense of personal pain you expressed as a combat veteran regarding the President's decision to visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. I regret the delay in this response.

As I am sure you know, the President spoke at Bitburg Air Base on May 5 of his regret that his visit had reopened old wounds in what should be a time of healing. The President made clear, however, that the reconciliation which he sought in no way diminishes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. Nor does it mean forgetting or forgiving either the terrible crime of the Holocaust or the evil deeds of the SS whose crimes, the President said, "must rank among the most heinous in human history."

Because of your concern, I am sending you the enclosed full transcripts of the President's remarks at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp and at Bitburg Air Base.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

MGen Harold R. Story, USA (Ret.)  
SR-13 Algonkian Court  
Kitty Hawk, NC 27949

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:lmf  
ConBB2 (AVHNON)



32  
67  
CAD

304419



SR-13 Algonkian Court  
Kitty Hawk, N.C.27949  
April 29, 1985

President Ronald Reagan  
Commander in Chief  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Reagan,

I urge you to cancel your visit to Bitburg  
Cemetary, on May 5, 1985.

As a young army officer, in 1945, I saw the  
inhuman acts administered by the Waffen SS at  
Dachau and Buchenwald. Their murderous conduct  
can not be honored by our country's flag or the  
flag of the presidency. I can find no justification  
for this site selection and I ask you to reconsider.

The people who elected and honored you to be  
our President for a second time, do not approve of  
this gesture.

Respectfully,

*Harold R. Story*  
Harold R. Story  
MGen. AUS (Ret.)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 20, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT FREEMAN

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT BITBURG MILITARY  
CEMETERY

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

MARSHALL BREGER

ORG 85/05/20

C 85/05/20

REFERRAL NOTE:

COHIGG

A

85/05/20

AB 85/05/20

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS:

Close to Anne Shigley  
Burburg file

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS:

MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

PL MAIL

USER CODES: (A)

(B)

(C)

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MANAGEMENT.



June 24, 1985

Dear Mr. Freeman:

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and your deep concern. I can assure you that the President understands the sense of personal pain you expressed, as a former prisoner of war and a relative of those who perished in the Holocaust, regarding the President's decision to visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. I regret the delay in this response.

As I am sure you know, the President spoke at Bitburg Air Base on May 5 of his regret that his visit had reopened old wounds in what should be a time of healing. The President made clear, however, that the reconciliation which he sought in no way diminishes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. Nor does it mean forgetting or forgiving either the terrible crime of the Holocaust or the evil deeds of the SS whose crimes, the President said, "must rank among the most heinous in human history."

Because of your concern, I am sending you the enclosed full transcripts of the President's remarks at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp and at Bitburg Air Base.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Robert Freeman  
Grand Master  
Brith Abraham-Bnai Zion  
136 East 39th Street  
New York, NY 10016

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:1mp  
ConBB2 (6AVH)

cc: Marshall Breger ✓

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

cc: Marshall Breger

June 14, 1985

Mr. Freeman

Dear VnameV:

former prisoner of war and a relative of those who perished in the Holocaust,

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and your deep concern. I can assure you that the President understands the sense of personal pain you expressed, as a ~~combat veteran~~ regarding the President's decision to visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. I regret the delay in this response.

As I am sure you know, the President spoke at Bitburg Air Base on May 5 of his regret that his visit had reopened old wounds in what should be a time of healing. The President made clear, however, that the reconciliation which he sought in no way diminishes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. Nor does it mean forgetting or forgiving either the terrible crime of the Holocaust or the evil deeds of the SS whose crimes, the President said, "must rank among the most heinous in human history."

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With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

(6/10/85)

Vinside\_addressV

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:  
ConBB2 (AVHNON)





# Brith Abraham—Bnai Zion

AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

136 EAST 39TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

(212) 725-1211



NATIONAL OFFICERS

Robert S. Freeman  
Grand Master  
S. Charles Salzer  
Vice Grand Master  
George O. Arkin  
Grand Secretary  
Ellis J. Meyerson  
Grand Treasurer  
Bernie Orlow  
Grand Trustee  
Joseph M. Levin  
Deputy Grand Secretary  
Ida Brinn  
President, Woman's Council

PAST GRAND MASTERS

Harold O.N. Frankel  
George O. Arkin  
Louis G. Baurer  
Henry H. Tator  
Ellis J. Meyerson  
Albert S. Norman  
Samuel F. Schwag  
Saul Davis  
Herbert E. Fink

DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS

Joseph M. Levin  
New York  
Benjamin Rothstein  
Brooklyn  
Leon Weshnak  
New Jersey  
Herbert Siegal  
Pennsylvania  
Maurice H. Kaufman  
Massachusetts

April 16, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

With all the media coverage, you hardly require additional comment regarding your proposed visit to honor the German dead at Bitburg. Then, to an extermination camp, for 'balance'. You are in a situation in which you can gain nothing, but where you may lose a great deal of support from large segments of Americans, and even from our Allies with considerable war dead.

I have some strong reasons for writing to you. I am the head of a large Jewish organization and that is my first area of concern. A great many of our members are survivors of various death camps and have lost many of their family members in them. Many of our own close family perished at Treblinka and Auschwitz. Most of the camps and much of the trappings of the barbarism used there have been hastily removed after the war, but not before thorough photo and witness documentation by Allied Forces in the liberation.

Secondly, in 1944 I was a B-24 heavy bomber pilot. My aircraft sustained severe flak damage over the target in Germany, then was hit by ME-109's. I descended from bombing altitude with two engines out, to a rocky area just west of Zagreb, and belly-landed. We had two dead, two badly wounded, the rest of my crew of 10 suffering flak injuries in varying degrees. But everyone, including myself, was bleeding. The Germans had followed the smoke trail: waiting for us at the site were two half-tracks and a truck, fully manned, with an SS officer in charge. We were savagely treated and thrown into the truck with a brutality that exacerbated our injuries and murdered my two seriously wounded crewmen. For having detonated my Norden bombsight which I was required to do as lead pilot, and to keep it out of the hands of the enemy, the SS officer knocked out three of my teeth with his luger. Later, I was

(continued on page 2)





# Brith Abraham—Bnai Zion



## AMERICA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

136 EAST 39TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

(212) 725-1211

(President Reagan.. page 2)

### NATIONAL OFFICERS

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Grand Secretary

Ellis J. Meyerson

Grand Treasurer

Bernie Orlow

Grand Trustee

Joseph M. Levin

Deputy Grand Secretary

Ida Brinn

President, Woman's Council

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Samuel F. Schwag

Saul Davis

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New York

Benjamin Rothstein

Brooklyn

Leon Weshnak

New Jersey

Herbert Siegal

Pennsylvania

Maurice H. Kaufman

Massachusetts

separated from my crew, for questioning, and I never saw any of them again.

I would wish that anyone who doubts the brute ferocity of the Germans of that era, should enjoy the experience of interrogation by the SS.

I escaped, met up with a group of Partisans who led me at night through 250 miles of enemy territory to an advanced British position. Back at my base, I could barely wait to get out of the hospital and return to flying status.

There were so many Germans who needed killing.

Mr. President, as one personally involved with German soldiers and German civilians; as a member of the D.A.V.; as the Grand Master of Brith Abraham-Bnai Zion; as a Jew, both directly and generally affected by the holocaust; as one who believes you are good for the country and who wishes you to remain high in world esteem, please do neither the Bitburg memorial nor the death camp visitation. The first lowers the stature of the Presidency; the second, as a 'balance' under pressure, demeans the memory of the victims of a country gone mad. Together, they will blur your image as a strong leader of decision.

Mr. President, our members and our affiliated organizations support you, and have worked for you. But you are making it difficult to explain some things away. For no gesture and no apology by anyone, can speak about the unspeakable, or forgive the unforgiveable, except the victims. It is like forgiving the Inquisition, or the Crusades; or for the tens of millions of Jews who died in campaigns of hate and destruction in the Diaspora - more than in all the wars in history up to WW 2.

Who forgives whom, and for what? The Jews, as a people, never lost faith in the Lord. The ultimate judgment is His, not yours, not the Pope's, not the Germans, not even the Jews.

I do business with Germans. We get along rather well,

(continued on page 3)



# Brith Abraham—Bnai Zion

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Pennsylvania  
Maurice H. Kaufman  
Massachusetts

(President Reagan..page 3)

and we assist each other, cordially, as gentlemen.  
But I have difficulty being close friends, even after  
40 years. To forgive, and to forget, is an anachronism.  
We must do the first. We dare not do the second.

Mr. President, my grandfather left Russia at the time  
of the Kishenev massacre, and made his way with my  
grandmother and my father across Europe, on to America.  
When I prepared for the service in 1941, he offered me  
these words;

"Never dishonor this great country.  
Never dishonor your People, your family,  
your name.  
Never, never, honor the dishonorable".

Mr. President, we should heal the wounds with Germany.  
We should be Allies against the Soviets, and partners in  
commerce. We should share our bounty and exchange our  
technical expertise.

But please, not at Bitburg, not any military posturing,  
not mollification at Dachau or Buchenwald, not with  
dramatic gestures and empty platitudes. Get rid of the  
people of bad judgment who advised you and set you up  
in this embarrassing and dangerous position.

And remember Grandpa. He never lied to me.

Respectfully,

Robert Freeman  
Grand Master  
Brith Abraham-Bnai Zion

RF:fm



NFD

ID# 304601

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 20, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JEFFERSON D. YOHN

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF TRIP TO BITBURG AND  
REQUESTS AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOGRAPH

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

COMMUNICATIONS

ORG 85/05/20  
SUE MATHIS

C 85 97103

REFERRAL NOTE: ATTENTION:

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REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS:

Sent Foto (from Media Relations Office) on July 3, 1985

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

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

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\*ACTION CODES: \*DISPOSITION CODES: \*OUTGOING \*  
\* \* \* \* CORRESPONDENCE: \*  
\*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION \*A-ANSWERED \*TYPE RESP=INITIALS \*  
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MANAGEMENT.



304601

37

**CALIFORNIA**

**ASSOCIATION**

**of HIGHWAY**

**PATROLMEN**



*Sue Mathis*

May 18, 1985

The Honorable **Ronald Reagan**  
President  
The United States of America  
The White House  
Washington, District of Columbia

Dear Mr. President:

I salute you, Sir, for making the trip to Bitburg. It required great courage to demonstrate your innermost feelings. You, President **Reagan**, have inspired millions around this troubled planet to stand foursquare and perpetuate God-given freedoms.

Because of your great patriotism as demonstrated by your daily deeds, there has been a conspicuous return by the American citizenry to a greater love of country, the home and our fundamental belief in Almighty God.

Thank you, too, for visiting the graves at Normandy. Thank you also for commemorating the return of Vietnam's Unknown Warrior.

Enclosed for your perusal is my weekly column that appears in The Elk Grove Citizen. It relates to your journey to Bitburg. May God continue to bless **you, Nancy** and your staff.

I request an autographed (to **Jeff and Martha**) photograph of you on horseback at your ranch.

Respectfully,

Jefferson D. Yohn  
Editor, The APB

2030 V Street, Sacramento, CA 95818  
P.O. Box No. 161209, Sacramento, CA 95816

Phone (916) 452-6751



**JEFFERSON D. YOHN**  
*APB Editor*

**California Association  
of  
Highway Patrolmen**

**2030 V Street  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
Phone (916) 452-6751**

## FANNING THE FLAMES OF HATRED

If I could ascend the highest mountain and speak my mind, I would shout:

"I am most proud to be an American!"

Indeed! I have voiced such pride on countless occasions--but never have I used the adverb "most." Why am I so proud to be an American?

I refer to President Reagan's controversial visit this month to the tiny, flower-bedecked cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany. At this final resting place for a small part of Germany's World War II dead, our Chief Executive placed a wreath. It was a solemn and reverential moment for the President and his host, West Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl. However, that simple act of decency and respect for the dead ignited cruel and bitter condemnation of President Reagan.

Principal inciters of this ultra liberal rhetoric were citizens of Jewish origin in Europe and the United States. Obviously this minority faction has never forgiven its former enemies who perpetrated the terrible holocaust. It continues to fan the dangerous flames of hatred. Certainly no thinking person will ever blot out memories of the atrocities committed by Adolf Hitler's Nazis during the holocaust--a deeply scarred reminder of man's inhumanity to man. But--that Austrian madman is dead, and his sins against the human race are history. Why perpetuate hatred?



This columnist served in the United States Marines in World War II. Because of this wartime service in the Pacific, do I hate the postwar generations of decent citizens of Japanese origin now? Certainly not! If I did, I would be fanning the flames of perpetual hatred.

I must admit, however, I am overly weary each year of being reminded of the alleged mistreatment of American citizens of Japanese origin during their wartime incarceration at Tulelake in Northern California. This is the theme of one of Congressman Robert Matsui's annual oratories. If any injustices occurred during that incarceration, the blame lies with the leaders of that day and time. No representative or senator from the U.S. Congress takes the podium on December 7 to unleash vituperative oratory in condemnation of wartime Japan's infamous attack on Pearl Harbor.

Face the incontrovertible facts! Under Gen. Douglas MacArthur's supervision, the United States completely rebuilt postwar Japan's B-29-bombed industrial plants. Why? Was it because we continued to hate the Japanese citizenry? Definitely not!

Today the peace-loving Japanese are providing the most formidable competition for the American manufacturing complex. This competition is healthy, because each country must continue to strive to improve its products. And, after all, both the United States and Japan are competing in the Free World's marketplace. This is the way it should be between friends and trading partners.

The same holds true in postwar Europe. Under the Marshall Plan, the United States rebuilt the devastated cities in the NATO pact countries. Today postwar Western Germany is a trusted ally and trading partner. Would this reconstruction miracle have been possible if American citizens had perpetuated their hatred of the Axis leaders? Negative again.

President Reagan merits high praise for not kowtowing to the advocates of perpetual hatred. He is an honorable, compassionate and decent Chief Executive. He is a man of strong convictions. Most admirably, he is patriotic and never afraid to show the United States Flag. He is a strong President --and history will judge him as such.

As for his critics, let them heed the admonition of American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, who in his "A Psalm of Life," wrote:

"Let the dead past bury its dead!"

# # #

# Fanning the flames of hatred

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Jefferson D. Yohn

## Through a Glass Darkly

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"Let the dead past bury its dead!"



THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 304652

TR123-01

1985 MAY 29 AM 11:42

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 21, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES ABDNOR

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INFORMATION FOR RUDOLPH LUEDEMANN,  
FLANDREAU, SOUTH DAKOTA REGARDING COST OF  
RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE

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 <i>MA Hicks</i>	ORG	85/05/21	<i>MA</i>	85/05/23 <i>PA</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>R</i>	85/05/28	<i>CH A</i>	85/05/28
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COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1220 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 31, 1985

Dear Senator Abdnor:

M. B. Oglesby, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, asked me to respond to your May 16, 1985 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Rudolph Luedemann of Flandreau, South Dakota. Mr. Luedemann requested information about the cost of the President's recent trip to Germany. The cost of that trip was paid from funds of the State Department, and accordingly, I am unable to provide the information you requested.

Please thank Mr. Luedemann for his interest in the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christopher Hicks".

Christopher Hicks  
Deputy Assistant to the President  
for Administration

The Honorable James Abdnor  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

May 23, 1985

Dear Senator Abdnor:

Thank you for your May 16 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Rudolph Luedemann, regarding the cost of the President's trip to Europe.

Please be assured that this correspondence has been relayed to the appropriate Administration officials in order that your inquiry may receive further attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable James Abdnor  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

MEO:KRJ:MDS:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Chris Hicks  
- for DIRECT response

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING



JAMES ABDNOR  
SOUTH DAKOTA

STANLEY HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-2321

TOLL-FREE 1-800-952-0018

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN—TREASURY, USPS, GEN. GOVT.  
AGRICULTURE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
TRANSPORTATION  
ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
CHAIRMAN—WATER RESOURCES  
TRANSPORTATION  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES-ENV. OVERSIGHT  
JOINT ECONOMIC—VICE CHAIRMAN  
CHAIRMAN—AGRICULTURE AND TRANS.  
TRADE, PRODUCTIVITY, ECON. GROWTH

May 16, 1985

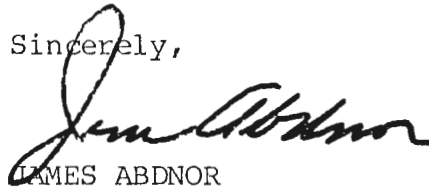
The Honorable Max Friedersdorf  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

Enclosed is a copy of letter from Mr. Rudolph Luedemann of  
Flandreau, South Dakota inquiring about the expense involved with  
the President's recent trip to Europe. Your assistance in  
responding to Mr. Luedemann's inquiry would be most appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



JAMES ABDNOR  
United States Senator

JA/dk  
Enclosure

May 10, 1985

U.S. Senator James Abdnor  
4327 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Sir:

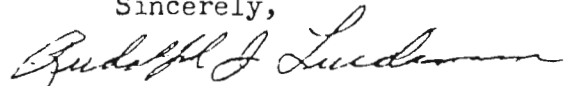
If the figures ever become available it would be most interesting to learn just how many taxpayer's dollars were expended on the President's ceremonial trip to the cemetery in Germany where some Nazis are buried, and to the other spots he visited in Europe.

During all the hue and cry to cut the deficit spending and in view of the fact that social security recipients and civil service retirees and also the military retirees are being asked to shoulder the balance of the budget cuts it would be refreshing if the administration would also accept some responsibility in this matter.

The Congress also could lead the way in budget cutting if they had the will to do so. It is not easy to sit back and watch the congress dilly, dally, and keep on living in the same old way when everyone is supposed to be concerned with cutting the nation's deficit spending.

So I for one would like to know just how many millions of dollars were squandered on this latest junket by the President. I would also like to see the figure placed in the national press and on other media coverage. You know that ordinary citizens do not have access to press coverage as do politicians. We have only one voice, at the ballot box, and I hope that next election time everyone will get interested and make their voice heard.

Sincerely,



Rudolph J. Luedemann  
PO Box 264  
Flandreau, SD 57028

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 21, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES ABDNOR

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INFORMATION FOR RUDOLPH LUEDEMANN,  
FLANDREAU, SOUTH DAKOTA REGARDING COST OF  
RECENT TRIP TO EUROPE

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 85/05/21

*MOA* 85/05/23 *PM*

*MA Hicks* 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  *
*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 RPLY W/COPY *                                     *                                     *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                                     *                                     *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                                     *                                     *
*****

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



May 23, 1985

Dear Senator Abdnor:

Thank you for your May 16 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Rudolph Luedemann, regarding the cost of the President's trip to Europe.

Please be assured that this correspondence has been relayed to the appropriate Administration officials in order that your inquiry may receive further attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable James Abdnor  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Chris Hicks  
- for DIRECT response

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

JAMES ABDNOR  
SOUTH DAKOTA

SH-309 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-2321

TOLL-FREE 1-800-952-0018

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

304652

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS  
CHAIRMAN—TREASURY, USPS, GEN. GOVT.  
AGRICULTURE  
ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT  
HUD-INDEPENDENT AGENCIES  
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ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS  
CHAIRMAN—WATER RESOURCES  
TRANSPORTATION  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES-ENV. OVERSIGHT  
JOINT ECONOMIC—VICE CHAIRMAN  
CHAIRMAN—AGRICULTURE AND TRANS.  
TRADE, PRODUCTIVITY, ECON. GROWTH

May 16, 1985

37  
mo

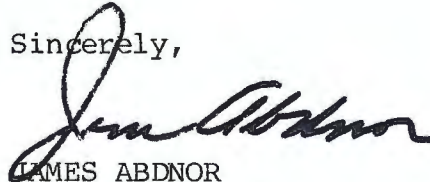
The Honorable Max Friedersdorf  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Max:

Enclosed is a copy of letter from Mr. Rudolph Luedemann of Flandreau, South Dakota inquiring about the expense involved with the President's recent trip to Europe. Your assistance in responding to Mr. Luedemann's inquiry would be most appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



JAMES ABDNOR  
United States Senator

JA/dk  
Enclosure

May 10, 1985

U.S. Senator James Abdnor  
4327 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Sir:

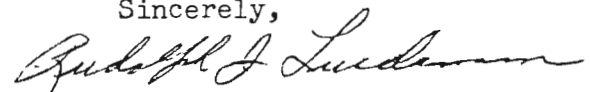
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The Congress also could lead the way in budget cutting if they had the will to do so. It is not easy to sit back and watch the congress dilly, dally, and keep on living in the same old way when everyone is supposed to be concerned with cutting the nation's deficit spending.

So I for one would like to know just how many millions of dollars were squandered on this latest junket by the President. I would also like to see the figure placed in the national press and on other media coverage. You know that ordinary citizens do not have access to press coverage as do politicians. We have only one voice, at the ballot box, and I hope that next election time everyone will get interested and make their voice heard.

Sincerely,



Rudolph J. Luedemann  
PO Box 264  
Flandreau, SD 57028



*Handwritten initials*

ID# 304721

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 22, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MEL LEVINE

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES LETTER FROM ROBERT LEVINE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA OPPOSING VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

M. B. OGLESBY REFERRAL NOTE: ORG 85/05/22 C 85/05/22 <sup>AB</sup>

REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_ / /  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_ / /  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_ / /  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_ / /  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ / / \_\_\_\_\_ / /

COMMENTS: Constituent letter is rude + insulting

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230  
MAIL USER CODES: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*ACTION CODES: \*DISPOSITION CODES: \*OUTGOING \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\*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\* \* \* \* \*  
\*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY \* \* \* \* \*  
\*S-FOR-SIGNATURE \* \* \* \* \*  
\*X-INTERIM REPLY \* \* \* \* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

COMMITTEES:  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

MEL LEVINE  
27TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

304721

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
502 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
TELEPHONE: 202-225-6451

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
5250 WEST CENTURY BOULEVARD  
SUITE 447  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045  
TELEPHONE: 213-215-2035  
213-393-4135 (SANTA MONICA)  
213-737-6393

37  
MO

May 21, 1985

M. B. Oglesby, Jr.  
Assistant to the President  
for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Ogelsby:

Enclosed please find a letter from my  
constituent Mr. Robert Levine. I would  
appreciate your assistance in forwarding it  
to President Reagan.

Sincerely,



Mel Levine

ML:job

5-14-85

Dear Mr. Reagan:

I would like to this opportunity to express my laughter, to go to West Germany to see those Nazi War Criminals graves was so ridiculous; also your administration spent a lot of unneeded tax payer's money to do a mission like this to get attention. If Jehovah god's spirit was here today, your administration wouldnt be seeing daylight again. I feel some of the people you have in Congress our real birdbrains like: George Schultz, Casper Weinberger, and the rest of leaders are very incompetent to make your decisions. How did you feel being in Bitberg, West Germany? Plus I have a joke for you: What worse than being selected to run for a third term in congress? Now my lame ducks run your administration. I hope Mr. Reagan; I have made your day.

Thank you,  
Robert Seume



17/85

ID# 304747

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 23, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE GERALD B. SOLOMON

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES LETTER FROM H.T. O'BRIAN, TROY, NEW YORK SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY AND REQUESTS A REPLY

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

M. B. OGLESBY REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACT CODE 85/05/23 md A 85/05/29 **AB**

REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_  
REFERRAL NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 \_\_\_\_\_

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, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.

May 29, 1985

Dear Jerry:

Thank you for your letter of May 21 enclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. H. T. O'Brien, expressing his support for the President's visit to the Bitburg cemetery.

Your interest in bringing this message to our attention is greatly appreciated. President Reagan was grateful to receive Mr. O'Brien's comments and to know of his expression of support.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Gerald B. Solomon  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

GERALD B. SOLOMON

MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

ROOM 2342 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5614

GASLIGHT SQUARE  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY 12866  
(518) 587-9800

37  
CHAIRMAN,  
HOUSE TASK FORCE ON AMERICAN  
PRISONERS OF WAR AND  
MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

MEMBER  
HOUSE TASK FORCE ON  
NATIONAL DEFENSE

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

304747  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
(RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER)  
ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
COMPENSATION, PENSION AND INSURANCE  
(RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER)  
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

May 21, 1985

MO  
M.B. Olgeby, Jr.  
Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear "B":

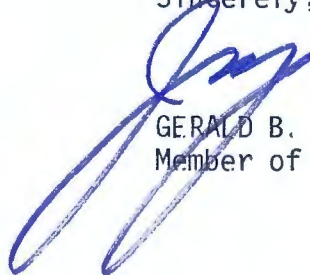
Enclosed is a letter written to the President by my constituent,  
Mr. H.T O'Brien of Troy, New York.

I would appreciate your seeing that a response is mailed to Mr.  
O'Brien. He sent his letter to the editor of several newspapers in my  
district to support the President on his visit to Bitburg.

This letter is worthy of a pleasant response.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,



GERALD B. SOLOMON  
Member of Congress

GBS/ajf  
Enclosure

DISTRICT OFFICES

588 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE  
EAST GREENBUSH, NY 12061  
518-477-2703

14 CENTER STREET  
RHINEBECK, NY 12572  
914-876-2200

419 WARREN STREET  
HUDSON, NY 12534  
518-828-0181

21 BAY STREET  
GLENS FALLS, NY 12801  
518-792-3031



Honorable Gerald Solomon  
Gaslight Square  
Saratoga Springs Ny  
12866

5/7/85

Dear Mr. Solomon

I just called your office to register my regrets that you could not totally support the President's visit to Bitburg. I agreed to share a copy of a letter I have just sent to the Editor of a local newspaper.

The salient measure of the President's gesture was totally distorted by the media's milking veteran and other pressure groups into fabricating an issue entirely outside the significance of the visit.

I implore you to convey my letter to the President's office so he may appreciate the sentiments therein. Perhaps it will partially assuage the vituperative disservice by the media throughout this ordeal.

Respectfully  
H. J. Brien  
P.O. Box 513  
Troy Ny 12181

Editor

5/7/85

Although Bitburg visited was not Gettysburg dedicated, how striking that two Presidents, in the presence of the fallen, should seek to repair the rifts of war by calling upon the living to join in the task of preserving freedom.

In Lincoln's case, the war still raged on and, although no Confederate detractors were present, the media of that day relegated his historic plea to inside pages and devoted front page reports to oratorical trivia by the long since forgotten Edward Everett.

In Reagan's case, the media ignored the symbolic event and the spirit in which it was conceived by capturing and magnifying everything negative about the President's "grave error." Surely the world acknowledges "never again" but the future of mankind's aspirations for freedom in peace cannot be relegated to an obfuscated nullity by the mere chance of what 49 bodies out of over 2,000 stood for when alive.

The world will little note nor long remember the divisive disservice our media did here. Rather, history will judge the true measure of two leaders dedicating the role of we the living and not the dead of two score years ago to unite in mankind's eternal struggle against tyranny by whatever name.

Each individual should recognize that it was the media which created and typed the 'grave error' while President Reagan will be remembered as reaching out to survivors and new generations of a vanquished former enemy to cement freedom in friendship.

H. W. Frier  
P.O. Bx 513  
Troy ny 12181



Van, Heest

NK

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 304752

AA 3817

TR 123-01

JFR. 850607.8

INCOMING

24 MAY 1985

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 23, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: REVERENT CORNELIUS VAN HEEST

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF THE VISIT TO THE  
BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DOUG HOLLADAY	ORG	85/05/23		
COHIGG REFERRAL NOTE: _____ <i>Ann Higgins</i>	A	85/05/28	AH	85/05/28
REFERRAL NOTE: _____ <i>Don</i>		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L 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, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
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MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 12, 1985

Dear Mr. Van Heest:

On behalf of President Reagan, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the resolution adopted by the Synod of Michigan of the Reformed Church in America regarding the President's decision to visit the military cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany.

Your sending of this statement is appreciated, and the views contained in it have been communicated to the appropriate Administration officials. I am taking the liberty of enclosing copies of the President's speeches at Bitburg Air Base and the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp that you may wish to have available for the record.

With the President's best wishes to you and to the members of the Synod of Michigan,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

The Reverend Cornelius Van Heest  
Center Office  
Post Office Box 247  
Grandville, MI 49418

\*LETTER PROCESSING INFORMATION

-----  
Letter.....: JFR.850607.8  
Name.....: The Reverend Cornelius Van Heest  
Letter Type..: WH  
Signature....: AH  
ENV/LBL.....: ENV  
Number Pages.: 1  
Number Copies: 1  
Reviewer.....: MLO  
Review Date..: 850611  
Print Date...: June 12, 1985  
-----

Notes:

--AVH387--

5/5/85 Remarks of the President at Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen  
note2 ..... copy outgoing for files



*Doug Holladay*

May 18, 1985

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



*God's people joined in  
 fellowship and mission*

Dear Mr. President;

During your European trip you visited a German cemetery, an act which was questioned, criticized and demonstrated against. Yet you persevered with your plans, made the symbolic visit, and courageously faced the opposition.

While you were there, the annual assembly of the Synod of Michigan of the Reformed Church in America gathered to conduct its regular business. Recognizing the symbolism of your presence at the cemetery, the church leaders and delegates took special attention of your international display of reconciliation for the 40th anniversary of the conclusion in the European theatre of World War II.

The Synod of Michigan, representing some 200 churches in this region, went on record to affirm and to support you in your steadfast decision to visit the cemetery. We did so because your action illustrated a very central Christian truth, namely reconciliation. Jesus Christ instructed us to "love our enemies," and invited us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we also have forgiven those who trespass against us." He further demonstrated the all-inclusive grace of forgiveness even to those who crucified Him. The capacity of man's forgiveness illustrates the degree of consciousness he has about the depth of forgiveness he himself has experienced. We who know the extent of God's grace to us, work hard to extend our forgiveness to others. We view your commemorative visit within that framework.

To us you are in step with the scriptural instruction, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32). Therefore we affirm and support your action.

Very Respectfully yours,

*Cornelius A Van Heest*

Rev. Cornelius Van Heest  
 Stated Clerk  
 Synod of Michigan, Reformed Church in America

CVH/nkk

*CONE*

ID# 304753

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 23, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE THOMAS F. CATAPANO

SUBJECT: WRITES OPPOSING THE VISIT TO THE BITBURG  
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
CECI COLE-MCINTURFF	ORG	85/05/23		C 85/05/27 <sup>2</sup>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
<i>CO #166</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>15/05/28</i>	<i>NAN</i>	<i>C 85/06/05</i> <sup>AB</sup>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: ALSO SIGNED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE  
ASSEMBLY

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L 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 RSP=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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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE  
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.



*C. Cole - Mc Intyre*

May 1, 1985

## OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN:

Mr. President, on May 5th you will be laying a wreath at the German Military Cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany, to commemorate German soldiers who died in past wars. Such an activity is a time-honored part of international diplomacy, and countless heads-of-state have done exactly the same when they have come to Washington. In your case, you seek to honor 40 years of German-American friendship, and, considering the depth and sincerity of that friendship, we should indeed pay honor to the West Germans.

However, the visit to Bitburg is not an acceptable way for you to honor our friends. For Bitburg, Mr. President, is the gravesite for some 49 former members of Hitler's 2nd Waffen SS Panzer Division "Das Reich" and the 10th Waffen SS Panzer Division "Fruntsberg." It was the 2nd Waffen SS Panzer Division which committed one of the worst massacres of the war at the French town of Oradour-sur-Glane on June 10, 1944. On that day SS troopers from the 2nd Waffen SS Panzer Division shot or burned 642 villagers, including women and children.

When you first announced your visit to Germany, Mr. President, you stated that you wanted to "emphasize the spirit of reconciliation" between America and West Germany. Consequently, you were not going to visit the former concentration camp at Dachau because you feared such a visit would send Germans "the wrong signal."

On April 18th you stated that "I think that there's nothing wrong with visiting that cemetery where those young men are victims of Nazism also, even though they were fighting in the German uniform, drafted into service to carry out the hateful wishes of the Nazis. They were victims, just as surely as the victims of the concentration camps."

It is extraordinary that you, Mr. President, would consider the SS as being "victims of Nazism" for the SS was clearly the central essence of what it was to be a Nazi. It was the SS which planned, organized, and ran the concentration camps where Hitler's FINAL SOLUTION was carried out. It was the SS that murdered the young Anne Frank who, despite the horror of her life and its tragic ending in the death camps, wrote in her diary that "In spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart." And it was Adolf Eichmann and his SS troops who hoped to complete the FINAL SOLUTION in Budapest, Hungary by eliminating the last remaining Jewish community



in Europe in 1944. Fortunately for these people, Honorary American Citizen Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest in the Summer of 1944, and by the end of 1945 he had saved over 100,000 people from certain death at the hands of Hitler's killers - the SS.

In 1956, John Fitzgerald Kennedy noted that: "For without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men ... have lived....A man does what he must -- in spite of personal consequences, in spite of obstacles and dangers and pressures -- and that is the basis of all human morality." In 1981 you, Mr. President, honored Raoul Wallenberg for the exceptional courage and personal morality which he demonstrated in his struggle to save as many human beings as possible from the greatest single threat humanity has known -- the SS and Adolf Hitler. It is indeed an honorable move to pay tribute to those youth of all nations who rose in the defense of their individual countries. But the SS cannot be considered among this group of honored dead. For their basic purpose was to destroy the racially and politically impure of the Third Reich, and they accomplished this task with brutal efficiency.

It has been noted by even your Secretary of Education, Mr. President, that the American youth of today have a poor sense of history. Since the controversy over your visit to Bitburg began, all too many college students at some of the country's best colleges have indicated their approval of what happened in World War II to the victims of the Holocaust. To a certain extent, this controversy has lead to the re-emergence of that hideous form of bigotry -- Anti-Semitism. History since the end of the War has clearly demonstrated the enormous ease with which events can be repeated if we forget the lessons of the past. The thousands of dead in the killing fields of Cambodia bear witness to that fact.

It is a noble cause to honor forty years of West German-American friendship, Mr. President. By going to Bitburg, however, this cause will not be achieved. The SS were the central architects of the Holocaust in which many races (not only Jewish) died. As such, they represent the greatest threat to the worth of the human condition that man has ever known. By laying a wreath at the gravesite of even a few SS, you have only served to revive the nightmares of the past for those lucky enough to survive the Holocaust, and you have unintentionally given new life to one of the most hideous forms of hatred "civilized" man has ever produced. In this respect, your visit to Bitburg represents the saddest point of your entire presidency.

*Neil A. Tevebaugh-Kenwryck*

NEIL A. TEVEBAUGH-KENWRYCK

1128 Western Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203  
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(518) 455-5822 (work)

*John Duane*

JOHN F. DUANE, ESQ.

43-07 Westmoreland Street  
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*Nellie V. Torres*

NELLIE V. TORRES

33 High Street  
Amsterdam, New York 12010

*Thomas F. Catapano*

HONORABLE THOMAS F. CATAPANO

Member of Assembly  
3456 Fulton Street  
Brooklyn, New York 11208

*Joseph A. Glazer*

JOSEPH A. GLAZER

Office of Assemblyman Eliot L. Engel  
Legislative Office Building 734  
Albany, New York 12248

*Robert C. Lawton*

ROBERT LAWTON

Office of Assemblyman Sheldon Silver  
Legislative Office Building 622  
Albany, New York 12248

*Larry Seabrook*

HONORABLE LARRY SEABROOK

Member of Assembly  
3677 White Plains Road  
Bronx, New York 10607

Nancy A. Hanna Nancy A. Hanna  
374 Hamilton Street, Albany, New York 12210

Cynthia Jenkins  
Member of Assembly Cynthia Jenkins, 226-18 Merrick Blvd., Laurelton, N.Y. 11413

Patrick Halpin  
Member of Assembly Patrick Halpin, 101 N. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst,  
New York 11757

Alan G. Hevesi  
Member of Assembly Alan G. Hevesi, 73-15 Yellowstone Blvd., Forest Hills, N.Y.  
11375

Gregory P. Young  
Member of Assembly, Gregory P. Young, 5 E. Prospect Avenue, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10550

Gerdi E. Lipschutz  
Member of Assembly Gerdi E. Lipschutz, 257 Beach 116th St., Rockaway Park, N.Y.  
11694

Anthony S. Seminerio  
Member of Assembly Anthony S. Seminerio, 114-19 Jamaica Ave., Richmond Hill, N.Y.  
11418

Vito Lopez  
Member of Assembly Vito Lopez, 1438 Myrtle Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11237

Nettie Mayersohn  
Member of Assembly Nettie Mayersohn, 80-32 164th Street, Jamaica, N.Y. 11432



Eric Vitaliano

Member of Assembly Eric N. Vitaliano, 1730 Richmond Avenue, State Island, N.Y. 10314

Mary M. McPhillips

Member of Assembly Mary M. McPhillips, 226 E. Main St., Middletown, N.Y. 10940

Julia Harrison

Member of Assembly Julia Harrison, 141-48 33rd. Avenue, Flushing, N.Y. 11354

Pinny Cooke

Member of Assembly Pinny Cooke, 2541 Monroe Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Lawrence E. Bennett

Member of Assembly Lawrence E. Bennett, 122A N. Plank Rd., New York 12550

Marcia Russell Gundlach

Marcia Russell Gundlach, 17 Ferndale Street, Albany, N.Y. 12208

Louise M. Slaughter

Member of Assembly Louise M. Slaughter, 50 Packett Landing, P.O. Box 66002 Fairport, New York 14450

David F. Gantt

Member of Assembly David F. Gantt, 569 Chili Avenue, Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Thomas J. Webster

Thomas J. Webster, 246 Ontario Street, Albany, New York 12203

Eliot L. Engel

Member of Assembly Eliot Engel, 2004 Williamsbridge Road, Bronx, New York 10461

John Brian Murtaugh

Member of Assembly John Brian Murtaugh, 656 West 204th Street, Suite 3,  
New York City, New York 10034

Michael R. McNulty

Member of Assembly Michael R. McNulty, 33 2nd Street, 3rd Floor,  
Troy, New York 12180

*Don -  
In copy NR  
Chair & Counsel*

*BITBURG 5*

*(PLS RETURN TO  
DE FOR CLEARANCE  
& CANCEL)*

ID# 304758

*TR123-01*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 23, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE FRED WICKER

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF THE VISIT TO THE  
BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
CHUCK DONOVAN	ORG	85/05/23	<i>CPAA8510618</i>	
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

**AB**

COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: \_\_\_\_\_

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



June 18, 1985

Dear Judge Wicker:

Thank you very much for your kind message. I am most grateful for your generous words. They mean a great deal to me, especially in view of your own wartime experience.

It seems to me we achieved something most unusual forty years ago. Back through history, wars were settled in such a way they planted the seeds for the next war. The hatreds and rivalries remained. Not this time. Here it is four decades later and our erstwhile enemies are our staunchest friends and allies.

Again, my thanks to you and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

The Honorable Fred Wicker  
Circuit Judge  
Circuit Court  
Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863

RR/DE/CAD/AVH/efr BTBURG  
Bitburg 5

85 620

304758

FRED WICKER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI 38863



COUNTIES:  
ALCORN  
ITAWAMBA  
LEE  
MONROE  
PONTOTOC  
PRENTISS  
TISHOMINGO

37  
~~CAD~~

CIRCUIT COURT  
FIRST DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

May 17, 1985

Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. President:

Having made your visit to the cemetery at Bitburg Germany, you are probably interested in how the general public feels about the matter.

As one who was barely 20 years old when I landed in Normandy and returned to New York City on December 25, 1945, my personal feelings are that it was a very fine act on your part and one that needed to be done. When a nation has been defeated, why should the victor not be magnanimous? What reasonable product of Judeo-Christian Civilization could possibly find fault with the placing of a wreath in a cemetery filled with the war dead of the erstwhile foe. This would be particularly true as to West Germany, now our staunchest ally.

I have not been out of Mississippi since the news media started the furor but have been in several areas of this state. This brought me into contact with a fair cross section of the population and, frankly, the subject was never mentioned until I brought it up out of curiosity about the general attitude and reaction. Invariably the attitude of the others present was the same as mine.

Yours was a noble gesture and when the voices of the small souled critics have died away you will be vindicated in the minds of people of good will everywhere and hailed for it when the history of this time is finally written.

When the Senate and House of Representatives, frightened and excited by the press, were requesting that you change your plans, I was fearful that you would do so. I realize now that I was doing you a disservice in harboring such doubts. "What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken in the wind?" Matthew 11:7

Congratulations for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

*Fred Wicker*

ID # 304758 CU

TR 12301

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1

Name of Correspondent: Dan Engler

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Proposed letters to Judge Ted Wecker and Judge Samuel Rosenstein

#### ROUTE TO:

#### ACTION

#### DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	<u>Witolland</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>8510618</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8510624</u>
	<u>WAT18</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>8510618</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>8510624</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>Jun 24 JGR memo to Dan Engler</u>			
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				
		Referral Note:				

#### ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure
- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

#### DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

#### FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: See ID 304295 cu

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.  
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).  
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.  
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.



## RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

### CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: \_\_\_\_\_ Media: \_\_\_\_\_ Individual Codes: \_\_\_\_\_

Prime Subject Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Subject Codes: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C _____	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP _____	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

**SIGNATURE CODES:**

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

**MEDIA CODES:**

- B - Box/package**
- C - Copy**
- D - Official document**
- G - Message**
- H - Handcarried**
- L - Letter**
- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL J. ENGLER  
STAFF ASSISTANT  
OFFICE OF WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS *JGR*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Letters to Judge Fred Wicker  
and Judge Samuel Rosenstein

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed letters to judges, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. Thank you for submitting them for our clearance.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



June 18, 1985

Memo for: Dianna Holland

From: Dan Engler  
Office of Correspondence  
x7610, Rm. 96

Re: Dated material for clearance  
by your office

Here are copies of two Presidential  
replies to judges, dated June 18,  
which we would like to send by COB  
June 20.

We thought we could save your office  
the trouble of composing a memo of  
reply if we could just mail the replies  
by COB Thursday unless your office  
has any objections.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan", is located below the "Thank you," text.

Dan Engler



1985 JUN 18 PM 4:48

DATE

TIME

FROM

TO

BY

RE

CC

INFO

ATTN

NOTE

FILE

NO:

123

456

789



COPY



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 18, 1985

Dear Judge Wicker:

Thank you very much for your kind message. I am most grateful for your generous words. They mean a great deal to me, especially in view of your own wartime experience.

It seems to me we achieved something most unusual forty years ago. Back through history, wars were settled in such a way they planted the seeds for the next war. The hatreds and rivalries remained. Not this time. Here it is four decades later and our erstwhile enemies are our staunchest friends and allies.

Again, my thanks to you and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Fred Wicker  
Circuit Judge  
Circuit Court  
Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863

304758

FRED WICKER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE  
PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI 38863



COUNTIES:  
ALCORN  
ITAWAMBA  
LEE  
MONROE  
PONTOTOC  
PRENTISS  
TISHOMINGO

37

CAD

CIRCUIT COURT  
FIRST DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

May 17, 1985

Honorable Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20515

COPY

Dear Mr. President:

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I have not been out of Mississippi since the news media started the furor but have been in several areas of this state. This brought me into contact with a fair cross section of the population and, frankly, the subject was never mentioned until I brought it up out of curiosity about the general attitude and reaction. Invariably the attitude of the others present was the same as mine.

Yours was a noble gesture and when the voices of the small souled critics have died away you will be vindicated in the minds of people of good will everywhere and hailed for it when the history of this time is finally written.

When the Senate and House of Representatives, frightened and excited by the press, were requesting that you change your plans, I was fearful that you would do so. I realize now that I was doing you a disservice in harboring such doubts. "What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken in the wind?" Matthew 11:7

Congratulations for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,  
*Fred Wicker*





# Knights of Columbus

SUPREME OFFICE • COLUMBUS PLAZA • NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06507 • (203) 772-2130

304796

TR123-01

37  
VIRGIL C. DECHANT  
SUPREME KNIGHT

May 21, 1985

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

Dear President Reagan:

On Sunday, May 20, I had a visit from the Most Reverend Paul J. Cordes, Vice President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity at the Vatican and consultant to several other major bodies in Rome. Bishop Cordes is also a former Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Paderborn in Germany.

Among our discussions he pointed out how much your visit to Germany meant to the German people and expressed the satisfaction they had concerning all aspects of your visit, including the stop at Bitburg. He said that your reputation as a great statesman was enhanced by this trip.

Given the controversy surrounding the short visit to the cemetery in Bitburg, I thought you would want to know of this positive assessment by a man who not only is highly placed in the Vatican but who also is a citizen of West Germany.

With best wishes and regards, I am,

Respectfully,

Virgil C. Dechant  
Supreme Knight

VCD/cf

DLC:

Anne says that  
Bishop Cordes is  
relatively high up in the  
Vatican hierarchy. She  
just thought because he was  
also German the P might  
be interested to see.

S.

Received 55 THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MAY 26 PM 2:10

Date:

5-24-84

To:

Dave Chew

This is very  
nice; the  
President might  
like to see —

Anne

ANNE HIGGINS  
Special Assistant to the  
President and Director  
of Correspondence  
Room 94, x7610

THE WHITE HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 24, 1985

NAMF OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. VIRGIL C. DECHANT

SUBJECT: FORWARDS SUPPORT OF BISHOP PAUL CORDES FORMER  
AUXILIARY BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF PADERBORN,  
GERMANY FOR THE BITBURG CEMETFRY VISIT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT REILLY	ORG	85/05/24		
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>CO Higg NIGGINS</i>				<i>C85/06/25</i> <b>WS</b>
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>file</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>85/06/25</i>	<i>NAN</i>	<i>C85/09/03</i> <b>AB</b>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES:

PL MAIL USER CODFS: (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, OEOB) EXT. 2590  
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING  
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1985

Dear Virgil:

Many thanks for letting me know about Bishop Paul J. Cordes' support for my trip to Germany, including the stop at Bitburg. It is refreshing to know that such a leader of the Catholic Church saw my trip as an attempt at reconcilliation. Since His Excellency is a citizen of West Germany, I particularly value his opinion on this subject.

Sincerely,

s/ RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Virgil Dechant  
Supreme Knight  
Knights of Columbus  
Columbus Plaza  
New Haven, CT 06507



# Knights of Columbus

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304796

37

VIRGIL C. DECHANT  
SUPREME KNIGHT

May 21, 1985

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

Dear President Reagan:

On Sunday, May 20, I had a visit from the Most Reverend Paul J. Cordes, Vice President of the Pontifical Council for the Laity at the Vatican and consultor to several other major bodies in Rome. Bishop Cordes is also a former Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Paderborn in Germany.

Among our discussions he pointed out how much your visit to Germany meant to the German people and expressed the satisfaction they had concerning all aspects of your visit, including the stop at Bitburg. He said that your reputation as a great statesman was enhanced by this trip.

Given the controversy surrounding the short visit to the cemetery in Bitburg, I thought you would want to know of this positive assessment by a man who not only is highly placed in the Vatican but who also is a citizen of West Germany.

With best wishes and regards, I am,

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Virgil C. Dechant".

Virgil C. Dechant  
Supreme Knight

VCD/cf



# Knights of Columbus

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VIRGIL C. DECHANT  
SUPREME KNIGHT

May 21, 1985

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

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