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Myth

311021

ID # _____

TR123-01

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85104118

Name of Correspondent: Howard M. Metzgerbaum + others

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Expresses deep concern about the President's plan to visit the Bitburg military cemetery

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>LA Ogles</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>85 04 19</u>	<u>WLD</u>	<u>#850508</u>	<u>AB</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	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

AB
Comments: acknowledgement sent to all
Diagrams

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
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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
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- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

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

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- H - Handcarried**
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- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

31051

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1985

Dear Mark:

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 Mark Andrews
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

cc: Will Ball, Cong. Affrs.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

April 15, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

We wish to express to you our deep concern about your plan to visit the Bitburg military cemetery during your forthcoming German trip, while foregoing a visit to the site of the Dachau concentration camp.


As you know, the German soldiers interred at Bitburg fell during the 1944 Battle of the Bulge, a German offensive that cost 81,000 U.S. casualties of whom 19,000 were killed in action. The lead German element in that massive attack was the Sixth Panzer Army of the notorious Waffen S.S., under the command of S.S. General Joseph "Sepp" Dietrich. General Dietrich was subsequently convicted of war crimes, including responsibility for the massacre by S.S. troops of American prisoners-of-war at Malmedy, a town approximately thirty miles from Bitburg. According to published reports, at least thirty members of the Waffen S.S. are buried in the Bitburg cemetery.

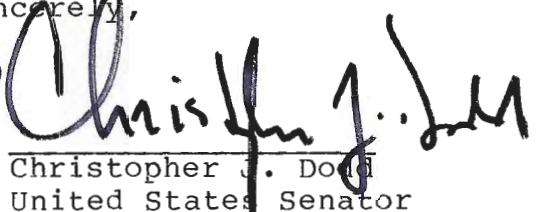
Given the bitterness of the Battle of the Bulge, the atrocities it entailed, and the massive participation of the S.S., we believe that a visit to Bitburg by an American President would be most unfortunate. We suggest that a more appropriate gesture of reconciliation be found.

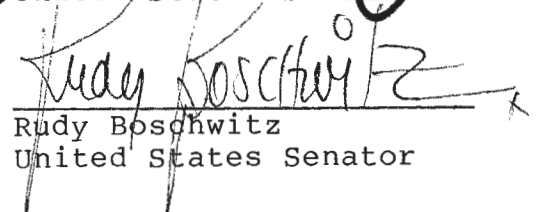
In addition, we believe that congratulating our German friends on their great accomplishments of the past forty years does not preclude your memorializing the millions of innocent victims of the Nazi regime who died in the Holocaust. The monstrous crimes of the Nazis are a reality that cannot be forgotten, diminished or denied.

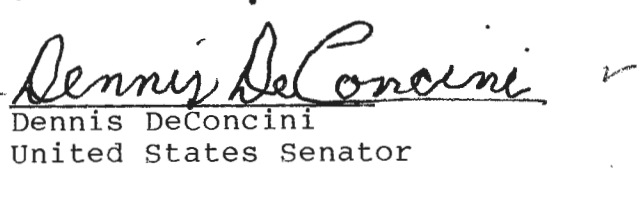
We strongly urge you, therefore, to alter your published itinerary so as to omit the Bitburg visit and to include in your schedule an event commemorating the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

*OM IT
see 302532*

Howard M. Metzenbaum
United States Senator


Christopher J. Dodd
United States Senator


Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senator


Dennis DeConcini
United States Senator

✓ Jim Sasser ✕
Jim Sasser
United States Senator

✓ J. Bennett Johnston ✕
J. Bennett Johnston
United States Senator

✓ John D. Rockefeller IV ✕
John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator

✓ Bill Bradley ✕
Bill Bradley
United States Senator

omit
see
02965

✓ Paul S. Sarbanes ✕
Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator

✓ Joe Biden ✕
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator

✓ Charles E. Grassley ✕
Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

✓ William S. Cohen ✕
William S. Cohen
United States Senator

✓ John C. Danforth ✕
John C. Danforth
United States Senator

✓ Mark Andrews ✕
Mark Andrews
United States Senator

✓ Paul Simon ✕
Paul Simon
United States Senator

✓ Alan J. Dixon ✕
Alan J. Dixon
United States Senator

✓ Alan Cranston ✕
Alan Cranston
United States Senator

✓ Daniel Patrick Moynihan ✕
Daniel Patrick Moynihan
United States Senator

✓ John C. Stennis ✕
John C. Stennis
United States Senator

✓ William Proxmire ✕
William Proxmire
United States Senator

✓ Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. ✕
Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.
United States Senator

omit
see 311040

✓ Arlen Specter ✕
Arlen Specter
United States Senator

✓ Robert C. Byrd ✕
Robert C. Byrd
United States Senator

✓ Spark M. Matsunaga ✕
Spark M. Matsunaga
United States Senator

✓ Tom Harkin +
Tom Harkin
United States Senator

+ Patrick Leahy ✓
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

✓ Donald W. Riegle, Jr. +
Donald W. Riegle, Jr.
United States Senator

+ Carl Levin ✓
Carl Levin
United States Senator

✓ Frank R. Lautenberg +
Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

+ Ernest F. Hollings ✓
Ernest F. Hollings
United States Senator

✓ Max Baucus +
Max Baucus
United States Senator

+ Wendell H. Ford ✓
Wendell H. Ford
United States Senator

OM IT
See
302657

✓ Gary Hart +
Gary Hart
United States Senator

+ Lawton Chiles ✓
Lawton Chiles
United States Senator

✓ David Pryor +
David Pryor
United States Senator

+ George J. Mitchell ✓
George J. Mitchell
United States Senator

✓ John F. Kerry +
John F. Kerry
United States Senator

+ Albert Gore, Jr. ✓
Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senator

✓ John Glenn +
John Glenn
United States Senator

+ Lloyd Bentsen ✓
Lloyd Bentsen
United States Senator

✓ Quentin N. Burdick +
Quentin N. Burdick
United States Senator

+ Howell Heflin ✓
Howell Heflin
United States Senator

✓ John Melcher +
John Melcher
United States Senator

+ Daniel K. Inouye ✓
Daniel K. Inouye
United States Senator

✓ Edward M. Kennedy +
Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator

+ David L. Boren ✓
David L. Boren
United States Senator

✓ Dave Durenberger
Dave Durenberger
United States Senator

Larry Pressler
Larry Pressler
United States Senator

OMIT
see
301714

✓ Mark O. Hatfield
Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senator

✓ J. James Exon
J. James Exon
United States Senator

✓ Claiborne Pell
Claiborne Pell
United States Senator

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR12301

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 104 1 18

Name of Correspondent: Alex Specter

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Commends President's recent decision to visit a death camp, urges President to reconsider the reported plan to visit Bitterung

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>LA Oyle</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>850419</u>	<u>MD</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>851030</u>
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				
	Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

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- D - Draft Response
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Comments: _____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 1220

Prime Subject Code: TR 123-01 Secondary Subject Codes: CO 05412
HU 030

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**
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 O - Memo
 P - Photo
 R - Report
 S - Sealed
 T - Telegram
 V - Telephone
 X - Miscellaneous
 Y - Study

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1985

Dear Arlen:

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 Arlen Specter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO/STATE/NSC/KRJ/ech-MB08
cc: Will Ball, Cong. Affrs. ✓

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 18, 1985

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

311040

Dear Mr. President:

I write to commend your recent decision to visit a death camp to pay tribute to millions of Jews and other innocent victims slaughtered by the Nazi regime during World War II. But I urge you to reconsider the reported plan to visit the German military cemetery in Bitburg because of the burial there of S.S. storm troopers who participated in the Holocaust. Visiting that cemetery would be an affront, not only to Jews, but also to all American veterans.

I am personally well aware of your own feelings about the horrors of the Holocaust from hearing you talk about the film you made following World War II on the liberation by allied armies of the death camps. I also know from hearings I have recently held in my Judiciary Subcommittee of the diligent and aggressive efforts of the Justice Department, under your administration, to find and prosecute Nazi war criminals, particularly Dr. Josef Mengele, the notorious "angel of death" who was responsible for torture and barbaric medical experiments on children and others, and, finally, for countless murders.

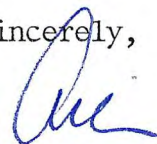
While a visit to a different military cemetery in Germany might advance reconciliation between our two countries, Bitburg is inappropriate. Surely a cemetery can be located that contains the remains of German soldiers but not S.S. storm troopers.

Bitburg is also inappropriate because it is the burial site of S.S. troops who massacred U.S. soldiers during the Battle of the Bulge. For an American President to honor these German war dead would derogate memories of their American victims. How can the millions of American families whose members were killed or injured during World War II accept their own President's honoring of those guilty of unspeakable atrocities? As one whose father was injured fighting German soldiers in World War I, I can strongly empathize with the feelings of such American families.

Accordingly, I urge you to forego visiting Bitburg and any other German cemetery containing S.S. soldiers and, if necessary, any cemetery at all.

I would appreciate your careful consideration of these observations which I believe involve our most basic moral values as Americans.

Sincerely,



Arlen Specter

AS:pmb

*My own strong recommendation is that
you NOT visit any German military cemetery.*

COV BIT. 5

ID # 311062

TR123-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD)

85104119

Name of Correspondent: Ruth S. Biddison

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Pres' trip to Germany - visiting
Nazi cemetery

ROUTE TO: Office/Agency (Staff Name)	ACTION Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION	
			Type of Response	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CM BUCH</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>85104119</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>85104119</u>
<u>CO HIGG</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>85104119</u>	<u>HH</u>	<u>A 8510626 AB</u>
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
_____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____

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No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: _____ Individual Codes: _____

Prime Subject Code: TR 12301 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

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O - Memo
P - Photo
R - Report
S - Sealed
T - Telegram
V - Telephone
X - Miscellaneous
Y - Study

June 26, 1985

Dear Miss Biddison:

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and the deep concern that led you to discuss his decision to visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. I can assure you that the President understands the sense of personal pain you expressed as the relative of a veteran.

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 celebrated does not mean forgetting or forgiving either the terrible crime of the Holocaust or the evil deeds of the SS whose crimes, he 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

Miss Ruth S. Biddison
1467 Braddock Lane
Penn Wynne, PA 19151

~~Enclosures~~

AVH:CAD:AVH:sewf3
ConBB5 (AVHNON)

1467 Braddock Lane
Penn Wynne, PA 19151

April 14, 1985

311062

The Hon. Ronald Regan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Regan:

I am writing to you because I am very much disturbed by your reported plans to visit a Nazi cemetery but not a concentration camp when you go to Germany next month.

As a daughter of a veteran who fought in World War II, even while of German heritage myself, I believe the wounds of that war are too fresh to honor the dead who killed so many of our husbands and fathers, not to mention countless others while in the service of a madman. I understand the spirit of reconciliation which prompted the idea, but please understand how painful it will be to so many.

It seems to me that, rather than merely rubbing at old German wounds by visiting a concentration camp, it would be an excellent opportunity to honor those thousands of Jews, "good Germans" and so many of others of different nationalities and creeds who lost their lives in the pursuit of freedom. It is also a good chance for America to remind the world that the concentration camp as an institution for political torture and intimidation is no historical relic. It is alive in the Gulags of the Soviet Union, in the Southeast Asian "reeducation camps," and in numerous South American prisons.

In order to stress our reconciliation with the Germans, many of whom were very young during the war, we really cannot pass over the dark spot in their history, nor would it make any sense to do so. For a defeated nation to rise from its ashes and become a sane, stable member of the European community is no small feat; neither is the fact that they have attempted to rise above their shame.

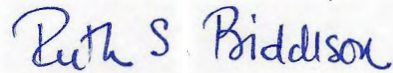
Every nation, it seems, has a dark stain on its history. Ours is our treatment of our native Americans, the Indians, and, of course, slavery. None of us were around to perpetrate these horrible deeds, yet our nation would be

the poorer for it were we not to acknowledge our past dishonors, and work toward righting internal injustices. So it is for our allies as well: to know how far they have come as nations, we must know from where they came.

The Germans themselves are prisoners of a new age. The dividing of Berlin separates loved ones and countrymen, all at the bidding of the new "victors." The history of atrocities does not end with Auchwitz and the others; it is perpetuated in the greed of nations to take over the hearts and minds and resources of other sovereign peoples. This should be America's message at a German concentration camp: this camp is history; its sufferings engraved on the hearts of decent people everywhere. We mourn the dead and the unspeakable deeds that were done here. We celebrate the courage of those who suffered and died here; of those who refused to cooperate, or were themselves imprisoned for helping to liberate the Jews (Raoul Wallenberg will be in the minds of many). But America says to all who suffer today for religious and political freedom: we remember you, too. We are on a quest, from where we have come, from where Germany has come, to promote the virtues of freedom throughout the world.

I thank you for your time, and hope that you will give this your earnest consideration.

Sincerely,



Ruth S. Biddison

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

Dg

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

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

Name of Correspondent: Nante B. Farrell

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Writes to urge you to include a visit to Dachau or another former Nazi concentration camp.

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>LAOGLE</u>		<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>8504/19</u>	<u>TRW</u>	<u>A83P578</u>	<u>AB</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
		Referral Note:	<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>

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Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
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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

May 8, 1985

Dear Dante:

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 Dante B. Fascell
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

311121

DANTE B. FASCELL, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN

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Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 1985

JOHN J. BRADY, JR.
CHIEF OF STAFF

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


Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to urge you to include in the itinerary for your upcoming European trip a visit to Dachau or another former Nazi concentration camp site. I strongly urge you to reconsider your decision not to visit a Nazi concentration camp and the symbolic message that this decision conveys.

As this week we observe the fortieth anniversary of the end of the Holocaust and the liberation of the Nazi death camps, it would be most appropriate for you to announce now your intention to honor all victims of the war, including the six million Jews who perished, by visiting one of the camp sites next month. Such an announcement during the week in which "Days of Remembrance" ceremonies are taking place would impart added significance to the commemoration and be most timely. I hope that you will demonstrate our nation's commitment to ensuring that such tragic atrocities as the Holocaust never again occur by committing yourself to visiting one of the sites of this tragedy.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,


Dante B. Fascell
Chairman

DBF:MDdmh

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TR123-01

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 17, 1985

JUD85
C0054-02
PPD. 01

Dear Kim:

RAMSTEIN JUNIOR HIGH

Thank you so much for writing to me and
inviting me to visit your school in Germany.

Nothing would make me happier than to visit your school while I am overseas to talk with students about the dangers of drug use. Unfortunately, a busy official schedule while in Germany is making it necessary for me to say no to invitations I would very much like to accept. I regret that I won't be able to visit, but want you to know that hearing from you meant a great deal to me.

The President joins me in sending you our warmest good wishes. We hope you will always stay free from drugs.

Sincerely,
NANCY REAGAN

Miss Kim Schaefer
Box 4299
APO 09305

Schedule

Box 4299
APO 09305
2-10-85

Mrs. Reagan
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Schedule ^{OK}
Full
for Germany

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

My name is Kim Schaefer. I live in
Waldmohr, Germany due to my father's duty
assignment here with the United States Air
Force.

Recently, there have been two topics of
interest to me in the newspapers and other
news media. One is about your campaign against
drug abuse. The other is about an upcoming
presidential trip here to Europe.

I would like to take this opportunity
to invite you to my school, Ramstein Junior
High. I realize that among other things
drug abuse is a problem in my school.
I feel that a lecture by you on the

effects of drugs could possibly influence many students.

Furthermore, I would like to invite you to Waldmohr. There are several places of interest here. These interest points range from the old German-French border checkpoint to many homes that were rebuilt after the war from old American ammunition crates.

I would greatly appreciate your consideration of this invitation and await your reply.

Thank - you

Kim Schaefer

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TR123-01

IUD85

CD054-02

PP005-01

THE WHITE HOUSE

April 17, 1985

Dear Students:

Thank you so much for writing to me and
inviting me to visit your school in Germany.

Nothing would make me happier than to visit your school while I am overseas to talk with students about the dangers of drug use. Unfortunately, a busy official schedule while in Germany is making it necessary for me to say no to invitations I would very much like to accept. I regret that I won't be able to visit, but want you to know that hearing from you meant a great deal to me.

The President joins me in sending you our warmest good wishes. We hope you will always stay free from drugs.

Sincerely,

NANCY REAGAN

Students at Mannheim Elementary
School

Schedulz

22

NR-34A
OK

Mannheim Elementary
APO New York 09086
March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs and Mr. Peagon, ^{name}
I'm a girl in the 5th grade and my name is Chinetha La'Shay Walker. I am half Black, Chinese, and Indian. My mother is a SSG in the army and my father is a E8 in the army. I am very excited at the idea of writing you. All of my aunts except for one are teachers. I've been in gymnastics for four years. I have also made straight A's for three years.

I hope you can come to our school it would be so nice. If you don't I will still like you. I think there are very nice places that you would like to see. I would give almost anything if you could come to my house and meet my family but I doubt if you really could come to my house.

I really think that dope, drugs, and alcohol are stupid and I would never try to take or drink any. I tried smoking once but I hated it so I stopped.

Yours truly,
Chinetha J. Walker

P.S. I'm really glad your husband is the president. I hope you ^{come} to my house. I live in B.F.V Mannheim, Lincoln St. Building 199 70E.

Mannheim elementary school
APO New York
09086 Mar. 23, 1985

Dear Mrs, Reagan,

I am ten years old, I'm pretty good at Breakdancing. I like like fat dice strings called New Yorkers. My name is Jeremy Smelser.

Welcome to Germany. There are lots of nice things to do in Germany. There are nice things to buy here. I hope you can come to see our school in Mannheim Germany. Our class wants you to come.

I think you are nice to come to Germany and see the schools. I think drugs are wrong and why should they have even made them. I will never take drugs or be a drug abuser.

your friend,
Jeremy Smelser

Mannheim Elementary School

Apo New York 09086

March 25, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I am Kelly Sullivan and I am 11 years old.

I go to school in Germany. The school is called Mannheim Elementary School. My hobbies are Art and collecting stickers. I have lots of friends here and their names are Shelly Berg, Kathleen Manning, Lami Vasquez, Michelle Hanson, and Kim Guy.

I would like to invite you to Mannheim Elem. School.

We discuss about drinking and smoking in our class room. I would like you to come to our class room because, so I can learn about what you think about drinking and smoking.

I think alcohol is not good because once you get addicted to alcohol usually you can't stop. If a woman or man has a child to take care of or love on the. The parent may get drunk and hit the child in a serious way. I hope I never grow up to be this way.

Sincerely,

Kelly Sullivan

Kelly Sullivan

Manghem Elementary
A.P.O. New York, 09086
March 22, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan

I am Dawn Reese. I am ten years old. I love school. My favorite subject is math. My favorite color is purple. My favorite sport is basketball.

We would like to know if you would come to our school. Our school is big. It is green. I hope you can come to our school.

I think drugs, smoking, and drinking are stupid. Who ever made those things must of liked them a lot. I've never taken a drug, a drink and I have never smoked. I don't like them because they will harm my body. I'm glad I don't drink or smoke or take drugs. My mother or father don't drink or smoke or take drugs. I hope you can get though to people. And tell them how wrong it is.

Sincerely
Dawn Reese

P.S. Tell Mr. Reagan
he is doing a good
job of being the president.

Manheim Elementary School
A. P. O. New York 09086
March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

Hi! My name is Joel Snyder. I am ten years old and in the 5th grade. I'm about 4 feet 9 inches tall. I weigh about 73 pounds.

We as a class would like you to come to our school. We hope you have a nice time in Germany.

I think that alcohol abuse is stupid because it harms your mind and body. I feel sorry for all the people who drink because when something goes wrong they always say "I gotta have a drink."

Sincerely,
Joel Snyder

Hi!

Mannheim Ele. School
Apo New York 09096
March 22, 85.

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I am Kimberly Guy. I am in the fifth-5th grade.
And I am eleven-11 years old and 4ft. 8in. I have blue eyes, brownish-blond hair and weigh 60 lbs. I have lots of talent. And I am very, very, very smart.

Welcome to Germany. I hope it is possible, that if you could come to our classroom to visit. If you can come to our school or classroom we are all waiting for you to come. Hope you have fun here.

I think some people chose to smoke because they want to be like friends who do smoke. They think smoking makes them look older.

They want to see what smoking is like.

They think smoking will be lots of fun.

And they think it is a very smart thing to do.

I think smoking should not be done because I think smoking is messy.

I think smoking is costly.


I think smoking will cause them to play poorly in sports.

I believe smoking is wrong, it could cause a fire.

I think smoking may harm them, (emphysema).

And they can get emphysema, that is a disease in the lungs.

Have a nice time in Germany.

P.S.-Mr. Reagan is a
Good President. 

Sincerely,
Kim
Guy.

Mannheim Elementary School
APO New York 09086

March 23, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

My name is Mario Williams I am 4' 10". My hobby is building things. My favorite sports are basket/ball and football. I have a brother and sister whom I am older than. My favorite colors are black, blue and orange.

In Germany its pretty in the summer. I go lots of places here. I've gone to Garmisch Germany where its very pretty. In Garmisch Germany you can see mountains and big hills. There's one big mountain called the Zugspitz and lots of snow is always on there even in the summer time.

My mother and father are in the military, but when I grow up I don't want to be in the military, that is why I am trying to make good grades now so it won't effect me when I grow up, and maybe I will get out of college early.

Sincerely Yours,

Mario Williams

Mannheim Elementary School
AFC New York 09036
March 22, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I am Anna C. Wilkins. I like school sometimes. I am good in math and Spelling. I am in the top reading class. It's name is banners. I like to roller skate and ice skate. I am 4 foot 3. I like hamburgers, french fries and schmitzel.

Welcome when you come to Germany. I wish you could come to the Mannheim Elementary School to talk to the kids here about alcohol and drugs.

I think drugs and alcohol are stupid. I don't know why they even sell it. Sure doctors need it, but why can't they just give it to them?

Sincerely,

Anna C. Wilkins

Anna C. Wilkins
Mrs. Capron's 5th grade class

Mannheim El. School

Apo N.Y. 09086

March 22, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I am Will Jacobs, I'm in the 5th Grade. I have black curly hair, I am nice; I am smart.

Welcome to Germany. I was so excited when I heard you were coming to Germany. Germany is a nice place to be. It is warm over here. You will like the movies here too. I think you are a lucky woman to live in the White House.

I think drugs are very, very bad for young people. I think that Alcohol is hazardous to your health, ^{be}cause you might drink too much and pass out. People should never take not even one drop out of Alcohol or drugs.

Sincerely,
Will Jacobs

Dear Mrs. Regan,

I am Wendy Davis and I'm 10 year old. I'm in 5th grade. I was born in Elkhart, Indiana and I grew up there. My mom and I lived with my Grandma Miller when my mom divorced my dad.

Welcome to Germany I hope you like it here. It has been hot and nice here for awhile. Well, I hope you enjoy it here.

This is what I think about drinking. I think drinking is bad. Because over 1000 thousand people get killed every year. Because of drinking and driving. Well I'm glad I don't drink.

Sincerely
Wendy Davis

Manureheim Elm School
APO New York 09086
March 22, 1985

Dear Mrs Peggam,

Hi Mrs Peggam,

I am eleven years old. I
know how to break dance.
I like to collect things, I
collect rocks, shells and coins.
Do you like to collect things?

Welcome to Germany.

It is nice here in the west.
I hope you enjoy your stay
here. What is it like in the
White House?

I think drugs, alcohol and
smoking are bad for your health.
We are studying about smoking,
drinking and drugs. What do you
think of these things?

Sincerely,

Brian Willett

CATHERINE SCIACCA
26 E LINCOLN ST
BEV, MANHATTAN NY.

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

How are you? I am fine.
My name is Catherine Sciacca
I am ten years old. I have brown
hair, and brown eyes. I like
to play sports like: tennis, racket-
ball, basket ball and bad mittern.

Mrs. Reagan I was wondering
since you are going to come
to Germany can you visit
my school and also visit
my class. If you decide to
come here is the address.

Manheim Elementary School
209-Adis the class Go to main office
and she will tell you everything
else.

Mrs. Reagan, I feel that drugs and alcohol is very bad for everyone's health. I really don't think people should take drugs when they don't need it. But why do they take it when shouldn't take it.

Sincerely yours,
Catherine Sciacca
Catherine Sciacca

Mannheim Elementary School
APO New York 09086
March 22, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reason

My name is Riccardo Ard. The army is discharging my father from the army, for medical reasons. He has been in the service for sixteen years. He was seriously injured in Vietnam. I feel upset because of what they're doing.

I hope you will come to Mannheim and enjoy your tour in Europe because it's a beautiful country to live in.

I think that drug and cigarettes are bad for your health because it can cause heart disease and damage your lungs. Also they cause people to play poorly in sports.

Sincerely
Riccardo

P.S. Is Mr. Reagan coming with you?

Mannheim Elementary School
APO New York 09008
March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

Hi! I'm Mary Mobero. I am nice to all my friends. I try to work hard in school. I play the guitar, but my brother broke one of the strings. I am good in some of my subjects.

Welcome to Germany. I hope you enjoy yourself here, in Germany. There are a lot of beautiful stuff here you can buy for yourself. I hope you come to our school.

I think you want to come to this country to talk about alcohol and drug abuse. You can come and see one of my dad's meetings about drinking which we call it A.A. You

can see how he helps people
with a drinking problem.

Yours truly
Mary M. Pero

Mannheim Elem. School
APO New York 09086
March 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

My name is Kathleen Manning.
I am 10 years old. I was born
in N.C. I enjoy collecting stickers.
My favorite subject is English.
I have a new baby sister. Her
name is Theresa. I also have
another sister. She is 13. Her name
is Michele.

Welcome to Germany! I
hope you like it here. There's a
lot of nice clothing stores here.
If you ever need a shopping buddy,
I'll always be here. Maybe you
can come visit our school when
you're here.

I think people who take
drugs are just wasting their time.
I don't want to waste my life
and future just to impress my
friends. I think that those kind
of friends are not cool at all.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Manning

Mannheim Elem.
APO New York 09086

Dear Mrs. Reagan

My name is Lauri Vasquez. I am ten years old. My interests are dancing, singing, band, and shopping. I hope you like the same interests that I like.

Welcome to Germany you'll really like it here. If you've been here before you know it's beautiful. If you like skiing and ice skating Germany is the place to come. I've never seen so many castles before. I hope you'll be able to come to our class.

I really don't think it's cool to use drugs. Some kids think you're not cool if you don't use drugs. I'd rather be called a turkey than to do drugs. I really don't go for drug abusers. That's why none of my friends are drug abusers.

Sincerely yours,
Lauri
Vasquez

Mannheim Elem. School
Apo New York 09056

March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I'm 10½ years old I have a pacemaker, and I'm a very smart boy..... I think so at least. My mom works in Heidelberg she is a Ph.D. she has her P.H.D. in psychology, she works with Drug and alcohol abuse center. I have a brother he is 12 years old.

I'm happy to hear that you are interested in drug & alcohol abuse. I wish that so many people did not take drugs and drink alcohol. I think that alcohol & cigarette should be against the law.

A long time ago I wrote to your husband. He sent me a book about the White House, tell him I really appreciated it. My dad is a major in the army. I hope you come to my school.

Sincerely,
Matthew Smith

P.S. I like to break dance.

Dear Mrs Regan

I am twelve years old I'm
in fifth grade now and
next year I will be in
sixth grade. My birthday is
in March the 13, 1986. My grand
mother sent me a birthday
card and ~~some~~ bracelet and
a dollar for my birthday

Love Michelle

R.S We hope you visit
our classroom when you
come

Mannheim, School
APs, New York 0906
March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs. Regan,

I have a girl,
I am 11 year old.
I am 5 feet and 13 pounds -
I saw the migration on TV.

I would ^{like} you to come to Germany -
I hope you have a nice time over here -
I hope you come to our school -

Some think alcohol is good -
I think it is bad -
It over work your lung

Sincerely
Terecha Delaney

P.S. hope you come to our class - 209A
Mrs. Capron

Mannheim Elementary School

APO NEW YORK 09086

March 26, 1985

Dear Mrs Reagan

I am Max Davis. I am brownish and tall 4 foot and eleven inches. I can run fast and I'm very talented and gentle. I can break dance. I'm in fifth grade at Mannheim Elementary school.

Your friend

Max Davis

Welcome to Germany. Germany is a nice foren land. There is many exciting places to go in Germany. I hope you like your trip over here in Germany.

I think smoking is a bad thing to do it can damage lots of parts of your body. I wouldn't smoke if I were anybody. Smoking can give you lung cancer.

Your friend

Max Davis

Mannheim American Elementary School
March 25, 1985
A.P.O. New York 09028

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

I am Raymond Craft and I like you very much. My mother and father says that you wear red too much, but I think that you look very pretty with your red on. As you already know my name is Raymond. I am tall, dark, handsome, and like the following: food, treats, jellies, roller skating, ice skating and girls. I sing for the school choir and I can draw pretty good. As you can partly figure it out I am a very handsome and intelligent fellow to know.

Well welcome to Israel. I hope you don't Mr. Reagan have a good stay here. My class is really counting on you to be coming to our wonderful school and see lots of other classes.

Yours truly,

Raymond Craft

P. S.

I know I hardly know you or anything but, when you get back to the states could you send me some fat shoe-laces they're called: Crazy Laces, Fat Laces, or New Yorkers.

Mannheim, Elementary, School
APO New York 09086
3/22/85

Dear, Mrs. Reagan

I am Chris M. Meyers. I come from Fabens, Texas. The nearest town is El Paso, Texas. Now I live in Mannheim, Germany. I do not take drugs. I like fat shoe strings. They are called New Yorkers.

Welcome to Germany. You will like it. It is very very nice here. It also snows a lot here. The Grass is green and the flowers are nice.

I feel that drugs are bad. They can get you in trouble. They can lead to accidents.

your truthly

Chris M. Meyers

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

VI 311128

1160

TR 123-01

IY 085

CO 054

PP 005-01

April 17, 1985

Dear General Eckelbarger:

On behalf of Mrs. Reagan, I wish to thank you for your kind invitation to visit Augsburg while she and the President are in Germany.

Unfortunately, her schedule is such that she is unable to fit a trip to Augsburg into her schedule which is already full. However, we certainly appreciate your writing and informing us of the activities against drug abuse in your community.

The First Lady sends her best wishes.

Sincerely,

Kenneth L. Barun
Director of Projects
Office of the First Lady

Donald E. Eckelbarger
Brigadier General, USA
Community Commander
Department of the Army
U.S. Military Community Activity
in Augsburg
APO New York 09178



Schedule

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US MILITARY COMMUNITY ACTIVITY AUGSBURG
APO NEW YORK 09178

March 19, 1985

*Schedule
file
OK*

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington DC. 20500

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

The Augsburg Military Community would like to extend an invitation for you to visit our city during your upcoming trip to Europe and participate in our Youth Awareness Week program.

Augsburg's Community Counseling Center is a front runner in USAREUR. Its innovative, proactive programs target the community's youth with weekly participation in the American High School Peer Counseling Program. This forum provides an excellent opportunity for a trained military specialist to work with high school students on a regular basis. In October 1984, a parent initiated education program was presented to the community to increase drug and alcohol abuse awareness. This community meeting, Drug Free Youth, was one of the most successful community meetings of its kind in VII Corps. A follow-on program titled, Drug and Alcohol Education for Adults and Parents, was presented in November 1984.

One of our key goals is to develop outreach programs and services for civilians, family members and youth. This includes interface with our local German counterparts in an effort to share educative resources.

A special Youth Awareness Week in Augsburg is programed for early May 1985. A listing of key events for this week is attached. Your participation in this program would indeed make it special.

Attachment

Donald E. Eckelbarger
Donald E. Eckelbarger
Brigadier General, USA
Community Commander

YOUTH AWARENESS WEEK

May 1985

1. CCC Mini-workshops in the High School
2. Information and bulletin board displays on drug and alcohol awareness during the week at the High School.
3. Awarding and recognizing winner of High School art poster contest best depicting alcohol/drug prevention and awareness.
4. Formal recognition of High School Peer Counseling Program.
5. Covenant Players performing at school-wide assembly.
6. Covenant Players performing in 5th and 6th grades at Elementary School.
7. Puppet show on alcohol education and prevention for selected Elementary School classes.
8. PALS (Positive Approach to Life Stresses) program for 6th graders.
9. Joint faculty, Augsburg High School and FUGGER Gymnasium proposed presentation by Nancy Reagan.

May 1985

Open House/Seminar for Local German Drug/Alcohol Service Providers

1. Host open house in CCC for local national Augsburg area drug and alcohol personnel.
2. Present a forum for exchange of information on current trends and approaches concerning alcohol/drug prevention and treatment.
3. Invite Nancy Reagan to address the Germans on the Chemical People Program.

19

ID # 311177 CU

TR 123-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

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

JR - direct

Name of Correspondent: Bullie Joan Bronson

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Letter to JGR re: President's decision to go to Seminary at Bitburg

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>WH Holland</u>	ORIGINATOR <u>DDJ</u> <u>8510418</u>	<u>C</u> <u>8510718</u> W/S
<u>WAT18</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u> <u>DDJ</u> <u>8510419</u>	<u>JR</u> <u>A</u> <u>8510718</u> W/S
	Referral Note: _____	_____
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	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: _____

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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

July 18, 1985

Dear Mrs. Bronson:

This is written in response to your letter concerning the President's visit to the cemetery at Bitburg. Please excuse my delay in responding.

I think the President's own words explain the reasons behind the Bitburg visit best, and accordingly I have enclosed for your information a copy of the President's remarks.

Sincerely,



John G. Roberts
Associate Counsel to the President

Mrs. I. Bronson
10139 Woodley Avenue, #234
Sepulveda, CA 91343

Bergen-Belsen. For more than 2 years Anne Frank and her family had hidden from the Nazis in a confined annex in Holland where she kept a remarkably profound diary. Betrayed by an informant, Anne and her family were sent by freight car first to Auschwitz and finally here to Bergen-Belsen.

Just 3 weeks before her capture, young Anne wrote these words: "It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them because in spite of everything I still believe that people are good at heart. I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death. I see the world gradually being turned into a wilderness. I hear the ever approaching thunder which will destroy us too; I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I looked up into the heavens I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end and that peace and tranquility will return again." Eight months later, this sparkling young life ended here at Bergen-Belsen. Somewhere here lies Anne Frank.

Everywhere here are memories—pulling us, touching us, making us understand that they can never be erased. Such memories take us where God intended His children to go—toward learning, toward healing, and, above all, toward redemption. They beckon us through the endless stretches of our heart to the knowing commitment that the life of each individual can change the world and make it better.

We're all witnesses; we share the glistening hope that rests in every human soul. Hope leads us, if we're prepared to trust it, toward what our President Lincoln called the better angels of our nature. And then, rising above all this cruelty, out of this tragic and nightmarish time, beyond the anguish, the pain and the suffering for all time, we can and must pledge: Never again.

Note: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. after laying a wreath at a camp memorial. Following his remarks, the President and Chancellor Kohl traveled to Bitburg.

Bitburg Air Base, Federal Republic of Germany

Remarks at a Joint German-American Military Ceremony. May 5, 1985

Thank you very much. I have just come from the cemetery where German war dead lay at rest. No one could visit there without deep and conflicting emotions. I felt great sadness that history could be filled with such waste, destruction, and evil, but my heart was also lifted by the knowledge that from the ashes has come hope and that from the terrors of the past we have built 40 years of peace, freedom, and reconciliation among our nations.

This visit has stirred many emotions in the American and German people, too. I've received many letters since first deciding to come to Bitburg cemetery; some supportive, others deeply concerned and questioning, and others opposed. Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much because this should be a time of healing.

To the veterans and families of American servicemen who still carry the scars and feel the painful losses of that war, our gesture of reconciliation with the German people today in no way minimizes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. They gave their lives to rescue freedom in its darkest hour. The alliance of democratic nations that guards the freedom of millions in Europe and America today stands as living testimony that their noble sacrifice was not in vain.

No, their sacrifice was not in vain. I have to tell you that nothing will ever fill me with greater hope than the sight of two former war heroes who met today at the Bitburg ceremony; each among the bravest of the brave; each an enemy of the other 40 years ago; each a witness to the horrors of war. But today they came together, American and German, General Matthew B. Ridgway and General Johanner Steinhoff, reconciled and united for freedom. They reached over the graves to one another like brothers and grasped their hands in peace.

To the survivors of the Holocaust: Your terrible suffering has made you ever vigilant against evil. Many of your are worried

that reconciliation means forgetting. Well, I promise you, we will never forget. I have just come this morning from Bergen-Belsen, where the horror of that terrible crime, the Holocaust, was forever burned upon my memory. No, we will never forget, and we say with the victims of that Holocaust: Never again.

The war against one man's totalitarian dictatorship was not like other wars. The evil war of Nazism turned all values upside down. Nevertheless, we can mourn the German war dead today as human beings crushed by a vicious ideology.

There are over 2,000 buried in Bitburg cemetery. Among them are 48 members of the SS—the crimes of the SS must rank among the most heinous in human history—but others buried there were simply soldiers in the German Army. How many were fanatical followers of a dictator and willfully carried out his cruel orders? And how many were conscripts, forced into service during the death throes of the Nazi war machine? We do not know. Many, however, we know from the dates on their tombstones, were only teenagers at the time. There is one boy buried there who died a week before his 16th birthday.

There were thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt. Only God can look into the human heart, and all these men have now met their supreme judge, and they have been judged by Him as we shall all be judged.

Our duty today is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism, and today in Bitburg cemetery we commemorated the potential good in humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago. Perhaps if that 15-year-old soldier had lived, he would have joined his fellow countrymen in building this new democratic Federal Republic of Germany, devoted to human dignity and the defense of freedom that we celebrate today. Or perhaps his children or his grandchildren might be among you here today at the Bitburg Air Base, where new generations of Germans and Americans join together in friendship and common cause, dedicating their lives to preserving peace and guarding the security of the free world.

Too often in the past each war only planted the seeds of the next. We celebrate today the reconciliation between our two nations that has liberated us from that cycle of destruction. Look at what together we've accomplished. We who were enemies are now friends; we who were bitter adversaries are now the strongest of allies.

In the place of fear we've sown trust, and out of the ruins of war has blossomed an enduring peace. Tens of thousands of Americans have served in this town over the years. As the mayor of Bitburg has said, in that time there have been some 6,000 marriages between Germans and Americans, and many thousands of children have come from these unions. This is the real symbol of our future together, a future to be filled with hope, friendship, and freedom.

The hope that we see now could sometimes even be glimpsed in the darkest days of the war. I'm thinking of one special story—that of a mother and her young son living alone in a modest cottage in the middle of the woods. And one night as the Battle of the Bulge exploded not far away, and around them, three young American soldiers arrived at their door—they were standing there in the snow, lost behind enemy lines. All were frostbitten; one was badly wounded. Even though sheltering the enemy was punishable by death, she took them in and made them a supper with some of her last food. Then, they heard another knock at the door. And this time four German soldiers stood there. The woman was afraid, but she quickly said with a firm voice, "There will be no shooting here." She made all the soldiers lay down their weapons, and they all joined in the makeshift meal. Heinz and Willi, it turned out, were only 16; the corporal was the oldest at 23. Their natural suspicion dissolved in the warmth and the comfort of the cottage. One of the Germans, a former medical student, tended the wounded American.

But now, listen to the rest of the story through the eyes of one who was there, now a grown man, but that young lad that had been her son. He said: "The Mother said grace. I noticed that there were tears in her eyes as she said the old, familiar words, 'Komm, Herr Jesus. Be our guest.'

And as I looked around the table, I saw tears, too, in the eyes of the battle-weary soldiers, boys again, some from America, some from Germany, all far from home."

That night—as the storm of war tossed the world—they had their own private armistice. And the next morning, the German corporal showed the Americans how to get back behind their own lines. And they all shook hands and went their separate ways. That happened to be Christmas Day, 40 years ago.

Those boys reconciled briefly in the midst of war. Surely we allies in peacetime should honor the reconciliation of the last 40 years.

To the people of Bitburg, our hosts and the hosts of our servicemen, like that generous woman 40 years ago, you make us feel very welcome. *Vielen dank*. [Many thanks.]

And to the men and women of Bitburg Air Base, I just want to say that we know that even with such wonderful hosts, your job is not an easy one. You serve around the clock far from home, always ready to defend freedom. We're grateful, and we're very proud of you.

Four decades ago we waged a great war to lift the darkness of evil from the world, to let men and women in this country and in every country live in the sunshine of liberty. Our victory was great, and the Federal Republic, Italy, and Japan are now in the community of free nations. But the struggle for freedom is not complete, for today much of the world is still cast in totalitarian darkness.

Twenty-two years ago President John F. Kennedy went to the Berlin Wall and proclaimed that he, too, was a Berliner. Well, today freedom-loving people around the world must say: I am a Berliner, I am a Jew in a world still threatened by anti-Semitism, I am an Afghan, and I am a prisoner of the Gulag, I am a refugee in a crowded boat foundering off the coast of Vietnam, I am a Laotian, a Cambodian, a Cuban, and a Misquito Indian in Nicaragua. I, too, am a potential victim of totalitarianism.

The one lesson of World War II, the one lesson of Nazism, is that freedom must always be stronger than totalitarianism and that good must always be stronger than evil. The moral measure of our two nations will be found in the resolve we show to

preserve liberty, to protect life, and to honor and cherish all God's children.

That is why the free, democratic Federal Republic of Germany is such a profound and hopeful testament to the human spirit. We cannot undo the crimes and wars of yesterday nor call back the millions back to life, but we can give meaning to the past by learning its lessons and making a better future. We can let our pain drive us to greater efforts to heal humanity's suffering.

Today I've traveled 220 miles from Bergen-Belsen, and, I feel, 40 years in time. With the lessons of the past firmly in our minds, we've turned a new, brighter page in history.

One of the many who wrote me about this visit was a young woman who had recently been Bat Mitzvah. She urged me to lay the wreath at Bitburg cemetery in honor of the future of Germany. And that is what we've done.

On this 40th anniversary of World War II, we mark the day when the hate, the evil, and the obscenities ended, and we commemorate the rekindling of the democratic spirit in Germany.

There's much to make us hopeful on this historic anniversary. One of the symbols of that hate—that could have been that hope, a little while ago, when we heard a German band playing the American National Anthem and an American band playing the German National Anthem. While much of the world still huddles in the darkness of oppression, we can see a new dawn of freedom sweeping the globe. And we can see in the new democracies of Latin America, in the new economic freedoms and prosperity in Asia, in the slow movement toward peace in the Middle East, and in the strengthening alliance of democratic nations in Europe and America that the light from that dawn is growing stronger.

Together, let us gather in that light and walk out of the shadow. Let us live in peace.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. after laying a wreath in a nearby military cemetery in Bitburg. He was accompanied by Chancellor Kohl.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/18/85

TO: *Miss Holland*

FROM: John G. Roberts, Jr.
Associate Counsel
to the President

- FYI
- COMMENT
- ACTION

For staffing.

311177 CU

Billie and Irv Bronson

4/12/85

Dear Mr Roberts -

Thank you for your letter of April 8th. I appreciate your taking time and effort to reply.

Now that I know you do read letters from everyday citizens, please clarify our president's decision to lay a wreath at the German cemetery. He might as well add a plaque reading - "raro"

"Sleep well noble German soldiers
you slaughtered SIX MILLION
men, women, children & infants"
their crimes! They worship God
You worship His Son,

We are all brothers and sisters.

Sincerely

Billie and Irv Bronson