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(Trips: Economic Summit, Bonn, 05/03/1985-05/04/1985;
Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)
Case file Number(s): 312052-312499
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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WHORM: Subject File

OA/Box:

File Folder: TR123-01 ~~(312000-372299)~~

312052-312499

Archivist: mjd

FOIA ID: F2000-103, Schuldiner

Date: 1/26/2001

DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
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1. forms
(312052)

Re: students Individual Education Program (IEP), 3p

2/-/85

B6

RESTRICTIONS

P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
 P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].

P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
 P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
 P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
 P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
 B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
 B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
 B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
 B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
 B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
 B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
 B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

4610
4612

TR123-01

CO054-02

PRO07

IV085

ED

PR014-01

JV

April 24, 1985

Dear Boys and Girls:

Thank you for your recent letters requesting that the President visit your school during his trip to Germany.

The President always enjoys talking with young people, and we appreciate knowing of your interest in arranging this meeting. Unfortunately, since there are so many official responsibilities he must fulfill while in Europe, we are unable to honor your request. However, the President has asked me to tell you that he deeply appreciates your thoughtfulness in writing and sends his very best wishes to you for the future.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

Bonn American Elementary School
American Embassy, Box 125
APO, New York 09080-0005

FJR:KC:blb (4FJRA)

Barbara R. Rudometkin

A



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
GERMANY REGION
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL
BONN AMERICAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
AMERICAN EMBASSY, BOX 125
APO NY 09080-0005**

GERMANY

27 March 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR President Ronald Reagan

SUBJECT: Presidential Visit to Bonn

Dear Mr. President,

Enclosed are letters from some of our students inviting you to visit our school during your trip to Germany.

We are a relatively small school, 220 students, kindergarten to grade 5. Our students have parents working in our American embassy, and many of the foreign embassies throughout the Bonn area.

The most fascinating aspect of this school is the diversity of nationalities and the high level of acceptance and friendship among the children.

We realize how busy you will be once you arrive, but hope you or one of your party would be able to visit with our children for a few minutes.

Wishing you a happy Easter and a safe trip to Europe.

Barbara R. Rudometkin
BARBARA R. RUDOMETKIN
Principal

Born American School
P.O. Box 125
APO New York 09080
Feb. 28, 1985

Dear President Regan,

I want to invite you for our new building in Born. It is a good room and big too. You can look onto the playground and the buildings too. It's nice and fresh in the building. It has new paint on the walls and it doesn't have glass in the front door.

If you have time, then please come!

Sincerely,
Willem van Lottum

Born American School
PO Box 125
APO NY 09080
Feb. 28, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

I am one of the many students inviting you to come and see our new school. It looks very nice.

Across the street from it is the Rhine River.

By the way, I used to live in Washington D.C. I was born there and lived there all my life until June of 1984. I have seen your house and all the other important buildings. My father also worked in Washington. Now he works in the Embassy.

If you can squeeze some time in your itinerary, please drop by. It would be well worth it.

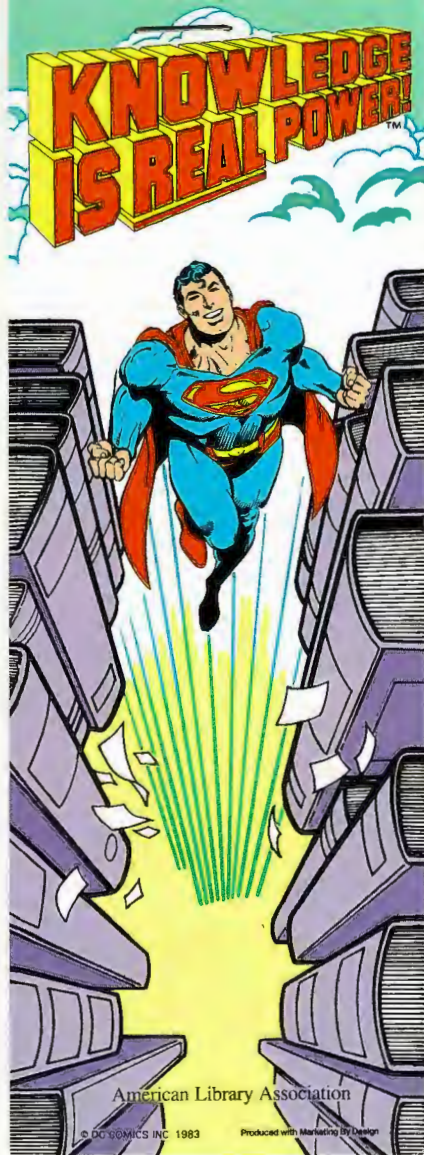
Sincerely,
Mike Mattock

Born American School
P.O. Box 125
APO New York 09080
Feb. 23, 1985

Dear Mr. President,
It would be a joy
to have you come to
our new school, I'm sure
a lot of children would
be honored to see you,
especially non-Americans.
So then it would mean
that you not only care
about Americans, but other
countries too. (I am American.)

If you could fit it into
your busy schedule, we would
really enjoy your visit.

Sincerely,
Melissa Graves



February 27, 1985

Barbara,

These people helped during the move:

Parents:

Kathy Sipple

Kathy Williams

Children:

Lanique Washington

Heather Sipple

Karen Higgenbotham

Thanks for organizing the move so well. I found the movers to be on time, hard working, courteous and flexible. Renata and his team have really been patient and have made efforts to accommodate my requests. It was easier to move all those books than I anticipated - however I hope we don't have to do it again too soon. Thanks for the cookies and coffee - especially the cookies!!!!

Nancy E. Meyer

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 1 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.



Dear P. res. Regan and
Mrs. Regan,

I heard about your visit to
Bonn and would like very much for you
to visit our school. My name is Alice Timmer
I am an American and come to live in
Germany. I love it here in Germany and
you will love it too. We are moving to a
new classroom and our teacher, Mrs. Degen
is glad.

When I grow up I would like to be a
teacher, veterinarian, horse rider, and the president.
I know that's a lot of things but I will
only pick one.

I have only one sister. Her name is Terry
and she is in the 8th grade. I'm only
in the fourth grade. Terry is 13. Her
birthday is July 1. I'm 10 years
old. My birthday is Jan. 31.





I have three pets. They are a cat, dog, and a mouse. The mouse is my sister. She won him for being the fastest rollerskater. His name is Frisky. The cat is mine. I bought him and his name is Samba. The dog is all of ours. Her name is Critter. We also are taking care of some fish

Love Alice



MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

Previous editions usable

TO:

YOU WERE CALLED BY— YOU WERE VISITED BY—
Byerly, Jvon

OF (Organization)

PLEASE PHONE ► FTS AUTOVON

WILL CALL AGAIN IS WAITING TO SEE YOU
 RETURNED YOUR CALL WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

*Trip to Villeroy doch
March 28
Thurs*

RECEIVED BY	DATE	TIME
<i>S. hulin</i>	<i>Feb 26</i>	<i>9:45</i>

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO: _____

FROM: _____

SUBJECT: Call Airport

WILL CALL AGAIN

RETURNED YOUR CALL

WILL CALL AGAIN

RETURNED YOUR CALL

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

INITIALS: _____

REMARKS: _____

Bonn American School
Bonn, West Germany
Feb. 28, 1985

Dear President Reagan

I would think all the unhappy children would like to see you. They are unhappy because they are so far from America. I really would like to see you. I really never saw an important person except an army general. It would be very exciting to see a president. If you can, please come, even though I know that you have a very tight schedule.

Sincerely,
Bernadette A. Hoage, 4th grade Mrs. Harbeck

P.S. I'm very glad to know you won the election.

Dear

President

Reagan

My name is Angela and I am
8 years old. I am writing this
letter to invite you to our school
when you come here to Germany.
I know that you will be working
very hard during your visit
here in Bonn but could you try
to find some time to visit us at
our school so we can meet
you. I think you are doing
a great job as President too!

My father is in the Air Force
and I saw you on
television talking about how
proud you are of my dad
and everyone else that is over
here in Europe. I want you
to know we are very
proud of you too. I hope
to see you soon.

Your friend

Angela Denecha

3rd Grade

Boston American Elementary

Bonn American Elementary School

February, 28, 1985.

Dear President Reagan,

My name is Maya and I come from Israel. I learn at the Bonn American Elementary School, in the 4th grade.

I have heard from my parents that you will be visiting in Germany in May. I hope you will visit our school by chance.

I have heard from my parents about the help Israel received from the United States. By this letter I would like to thank the American people and especially you for your help.

Before I end this letter I would like to wish you a pleasant time here in Germany. Although I can imagine that you are going to be looking desperately for your visit in May.

Sincerely yours,
Maya Hadar.

Ryan McVatt

Dear President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,
I heard about your visit to Bonn
and would like very much
for you to visit our school. If you
came you'd have to write a thou-
sand autographs and shake a thou-
sand hands. We might sing Fifty
Fifty. My dad is the head of Security
for all of Germany except for Frankfurt.
My mom helps the teacher in reading
class. I hope you have a nice visit

Yours truly,
Ryan Patrick McVatt

March 1, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

My name is Geoff Little, And I am in fourth grade at Bonn Elementary School. My teacher, Mrs. Harbeck, told our class about you coming to Bonn. About a week later she made a homework assignment to right a letter to you so here I am typing up this while I could be watching T.V. . So I hope you apriciate what I'm saying and will come visit our annex.

Now I'm here to say a few things about our school that I think maybe you could look into. First of all, since we moved into an annex from the main school, Our new playground is overpopulated with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. This may not sound like much of a problem, but our playground is only 40 by 25 meters, and you can't even run.

Well, it's about time I go, so please visit while your in Bonn.

Your Friend,

Geoff Little

p.s(If you come, can I have your autograph ?)

Bonn Elementary School
Bonn, West Germany
February 28, 1985

Dear President Reagan,

Hi! My name is Karin Lynn
Higginbotham, I'm eight years old, my
brother Todd is twelve, and we're from Virginia.
My brother and I have been to
Washington D.C. to see the White House
and other things.

On Easter, 1982, we were lucky enough to
come to the Easter Egg Hunt, and saw
some of the people who play on television
programs.

Oh! By the way, I hope while you are
here visiting Germany, that you will come
and visit our school.

Well, I have to go now Mr. Reagan!
Yours truly,
Karin Higginbotham

Bonn American School
West Germany
February 28, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

I am sure glad you are coming to visit in Bonn. Maybe you will be able to come to our class during your trip. I hope I can shake your hand if I meet you. I come from California too.

Love,

Angela Kaye Wolfenberger

Sam Markham

Bonn Elementary School

APO 09080

Feb 18, 1985

Dear President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,
I heard about your visit to Bonn and
would like very much for you to visit our
school.

I was born in Vietnam in March 1975
at the end of the Vietnam War. I had to
leave when I was 5 days-old. Since then,
I've lived in 5 countries overseas. My Dad
is a journalist.

Having seen all these countries, I can
only say that I am glad to be an American.
I think you're doing a lot for peace.
Keep up the good work!

Sincerely yours,

Sam Markham

Bonn Elementary School
APO 09080
February 18, 1985

Dear President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,

I heard about your visit to Bonn and I think it would be nice if you have some time, if you come to our school. I've only been in Germany for about a month and a half. Germany is my first place we tour so everything is new.

Before Germany I lived in Billings, Montana. I remember when you came to the Theta. My brother was the Cub Scout you said "Hi" to. I didn't see anything of you except your ear because I was in the bottom stand and the stupid cheerleaders were in front of me shaking pom-poms. I'm staying in Germany for two years.

Sincerely, Yours,
Shari Stutz
Fourth grade

Dear Pres. Reagan,

I am 10 years old and my home country is in Tanzania. I came to Germany in 1983. Apart from Germany I have also been to India. Mr. President, I have been hearing a lot about you. Many people praise your good leadership. Sometimes I happened to see you on TV. I cannot explain how much I admire you.

Mr. President, please give me a chance to meet you face to face and shake hands with you. I shall be very honoured and indeed a matter of great history to me.

I wish you a continued good health and every success in your difficult duties.

Sincerely yours, Asha A.

Bonn Elementary School
APO 090 80
Feb. 18, 1985

Dear Pres. Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,

I heard about your visit to Bonn and would like very much for you to visit our school. I, Rodolfo Cajina, am from Nicaragua but I was born in Germany. I've been in Germany 9 years and I think My family and I are going to stay more years. I hope you are going to come to our school.

Sincerely yours,
Rodolfo

Dear President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,

I heard about your visit to Bonn and would like very much for you to visit our school. I'm from Somalia and I've lived in Bonn for three and a half years. My father is the ambassador of Somalia to the federal republic of Germany. My father had a breakfast with you on the second February 1983, and had the privilege of talking to you. My name is Abdurashman Hassan and I'm in fourth grade of the Bonn American Elementary school. I would like to meet with you in our school during your visit to Bonn.

sincerely yours
Abdurashman Hassan

Bonn Elementary School

A.P.O 09080

Feb. 18, 1985.

Dear Pres. Reagan and Mrs. Reagan,

I heard about your visit to Bonn and would like very much for you to visit our school.

I come from South Africa, a nice warm country with lots of sunshine, but I've started school in an American school in Paris. This provided me with an excellent basis to work on.

Comparing to many other schools I find the American schools just great. Here we have the opportunity to enlarge our knowledge, and prepare us for future studies.

Our teachers and principal are excellent and thus we are glad to be at the same level or better than the kids in the States.

I sincerely hope that you and Mrs. Reagan can find the time to visit our school here in Bonn, Germany. I think that everyone in our school will be proud to see you.

My dream is to shake your hands for everything you did for your

country and its contribution
to a better and free world.

Sincerely yours,
Kecilia Van Der Merwe
Fourth grade.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TR

312285

: | JV

4-23-85

1110
TR123-01

TO: DAVID CHEW

FROM: ANNE HIGGINS

SUBJECT: Phone calls on German Cemetery Visit - memo re
same attached also

CO054-02
PR015
PA001
ND016
FB001

Here's the way the daily tallies on the above issue have run:

	Pro	Con
April 8-12	75	677
" 15	160	432
16	69	314
17	74	321
18	153	670
19	388	682
22	439	693

In the first hour this morning, we received 110 calls, 40 Pro and 70 Con the visit to the German Cemetery. The calls are coming from all geographic areas as best we can tell.

Telegrams/Mailgrams that arrived overnight brought 46 Pro and 570 Con.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

✓
April 23, 1985

Anne Higgins called -- said
the cemetery calls are
falling off:

94 positive

259 negative

s.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 17, 1985

NOTE FOR: DONALD T. REGAN

Comment update on cemetery
flap.

David L. Chew

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received SS
1985 APR 17 AM 11: 27

4-17-85

TO: Pat Buchanan

FROM: Anne Higgins 

Re: German trip

Telegrams and mailgrams on the President's proposed visit to a German military cemetery as of this date number as follows:

<u>Pro</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>Comments</u>
95	1,320	12

I'm attaching a sample of their contents.

The telephone calls since last Friday number:

304	1,423
-----	-------

The calls seem to be coming mainly from Florida, New York and California; those in favor of going to the German cemetery are from the mid-west, although support for this is very weak.

I think the attached telegrams sum up the feelings.

cc: Dave Chew 

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Received SS
1985 APR 22 PM 9 51

4-22-85

TO: DAVID CHEW

FROM: ANNE HIGGINS *Anne*

RE: Public Reaction to Proposed Presidential Visit to German Cemetery

Comment Office Calls for the period April 8 - 22 regarding the above proposed visit number:

1,358	Pro
3,789	Con
<hr/>	
5,147	Total

Telegrams/Mailgrams during the same period number:

335	Pro
2,912	Con
38	Comment
<hr/>	
3,285	Total

Per your request, I'm attaching some sample telegrams.

Also attached is a breakdown of some comparative issues that have brought large telephone volume in the past year.

Comparative issues that have brought large phone volume during this Administration follow:

	<u>Pro</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>December, 1983: Nebraska Religious School Problem</u>	123	3,868	3,991
<u>Marines in Lebanon</u>	234	1,513	1,747
<u>January, 1984: President's State of Union Address</u>	1,760	191	1,951
<u>Ambassador to the Vatican</u>	47	3,320	3,367
<u>February, 1984: U.S. Policy in Lebanon</u>	5,957	1,283	7,240
<u>March, 1984: School Prayer Amendment</u>	2816	751	3,567
<u>November, 1984: U.S.-Central America Policy</u>	2,315	2,679	4,994
<u>Aid to Ethiopia</u>	1,046	7	1,053
<u>December, 1984: Tax on Charitable & Church Contributions</u>	13	4,547	4,560

Going back further, October, 1983 saw 46,700 telephone calls. The Grenada Rescue Mission accounted for:

	<u>Pro</u>	<u>Con</u>	<u>Total</u>
	13,196	3,689	16,885
<u>President's 10/27/83 speech on Grenada & Lebanon</u>	13,407	1,228	14,638

After the shooting down of the KAL airliner in September, 1983 we received 1,900 telephone calls in less than a one day period and 1,800 telegrams.

4-018467S105 04/15/85

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4155269054 POM TDRN KENSINGTON CA 7 04-15 1253P EST 15 P 1:02

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

PLEASE GO TO DACHOU AND NOT BITBURG

RICHARD F AND LISA KIDD

108 YORK AVE

KENSINGTON CA 94708

1252 EST

4-016192S105 04/15/85

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

9133623212 POM TDBN SHAWNEE MISSION KS 20 04-15 1226P EST 82

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

U.S. RATIFIED GENOCIDE TREATY WITHOUT CHANGES. DON'T HONOR DEAD
GERMAN SOLDIERS, VISIT CONCENTRATION CAMPS. DON'T CHANGE FOREIGN AID
TO ISRAEL.

MR AND MRS LOUIS MALLIN 2400 W 69 ST SHAWNEE MISSION KS 66208

2400 W 69 ST

SHAWNEE MISSION KS 66208

1225 EST

4-004051S105 04/15/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

2128890275 POM TDMT NEW YORK NY 26 04-15 0926A: EST 4 9: 25

FMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DO THE ONLY HONORABLE THING AND CHANGE YOUR PLANS. A STATE VISIT TO A
NAZI CEMETERY IS A MARK OF APPROVAL FOR DASTARDLY CRIMES AND
CRIMINALS.

MELVIN DUBINSKY

113 EAST 31 ST

NEW YORK NY 10016

0924 EST

JEROME HAYES
10129 CAMPANA DR
SUN CITY AZ 85351 13AM

(5)



1-0223318103 04/13/85 ICB IPMRNCZ CSP WMSB
6029748840 MGMB TDRN SUN CITY AZ 31 04-13 0618P EST

Per West

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

WE APPLAUD REAGAN'S PLANNED VISIT TO GERMAN CEMETERY. CLARENCE BACON
DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ALL VETERANS,
AMERICAN LEGION POST #101
SUN CITY AZ

18:16 EST

MGMCOMP

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA. 22645
16AM

Western
Union Mailgram



1-017243A106 04/16/85 ICS IPMNXNB WSHA
0017 MGM TI NEW YORK NY 04-16 1145A EST

31

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGEN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20002

AH

"I AM SURVIOR OF UPRISING IN WARSAW GHETTO AND SEVEN CONCENTRATION CAMPS. MY ENTIRE FAMILY WAS SENT TO GAS CHAMBERS. MY MOTHER WAS TORTURED TO DEATH IN FRONT OF ME BY GERMAN SOLDIERS JUST FOR FUN OF IT. THEY KNEW HER SON WAS WATCHING. I WAS FINALLY LIBERATED BY AMERICAN TROOPS IN DACHAU. TODAY I AM DEEPLY SHOCKED AND ASHAMED. MY PRESIDENT IS PLANNING TO VISIT GERMANY MILITARY CEMETERY. HOW CAN YOU ADVUCATE FORGIVING AND FORGETTING BIGGEST MASSIVE CRIME IN HISTORY OF MANKIND?
ALLAN I CHRZMAN, RETIRED DOCUMENTARY FILM EDITOR OF UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT IN NEWYORK

15:12 EST

MGMCOMP

Mailgrams - Telegrams

312285

JV

FR12301

April 24, 1985
9:00 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S PLANNED VISIT TO GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY ON MAY 5, 1985

<u>PRO</u>	<u>CON</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
768	5,218 251 (P)	224

TOTAL: 6,319

Phone Calls -

1,466 3,699

Total - 5,165

Annie

Articles re:

TR

312292

17 upi 04-19-85 01:24 pes

(1grafinsert x x x cemetery ceremony; picksup8thgraf: At the White -
Wiesel's Reagan to spend 45 minutes at concentration camp, only 20 at
cemetery)

By IRA R. ALLEN

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan came face to face today with 9
memories of the Nazi genocide, awarding a congressional gold medal to Elie
Wiesel, literary conscience of the Holocaust, who implored the president to
cancel his visit to a German cemetery containing graves of Hitler's storm
troopers.

In an emotional response to Reagan's call for reconciliation, and full of
praise to the president "for being a friend to the Jewish people," Wiesel
said he must follow Jewish tradition and "speak truth to power."

"I know of your commitment to to humanity, and therefore I am
convinced that you were not aware of the presence of SS graves in
Bitburg Cemetery," Wiesel said after receiving the medal.

"May I, Mr. President, if it is possible, implore you to do something
else to find another way to find another site. That place is not your
place. Your place is with the victims of the SS."

He said all issues relating to Reagan's May 5 and 6 reconciliation state
visit to Germany "transcend politics and diplomacy. The issue here is not
politics -- it is good and evil. We must never confuse them."

Just after the ceremony, the White House and the West German
government announced that Reagan would visit the former concentration
camp at Bergen-Belsen, as a counterbalance to Reagan's cemetery
ceremony.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan will spend 45
minutes at the concentration camp and 20 minutes at the German cemetery.

At the White House, Reagan never took his eyes off the concentration
camp survivor, one of the most famous, who is a novelist, essayist and
history professor. The president, who had already spoken, did not
respond to Wiesel's comments.

In his remarks, Reagan said, "Today there is a spirit of reconciliation
between the peoples of the allied nations and the people of Germany and
even between the soldiers who fought each other on the battlefields of
Europe. That spirit must grow and be strenghtened."

"You seek reconciliation and so do I and so do we." replied Wiesel.
"And I too wish to attain reconciliation with the German people ... and I
believe, Mr. President, we must work to bring peace and understanding to
a tormented world which as you know is still awaiting redemption."

Wiesel, who met with Reagan before the packed Roosevelt Room
ceremony, opened by saying as a result of the session, "a stage of
reconciliation has been set in motion between us but then we were never
on two sides. We were on the same side. We were always on the side of
justice, always on the side of memory, against the SS and against what
they represented."

As he finished his powerful commemoration of the Holocaust, Wiesel
said, "I have seen the SS at work. I have seen the victims. They were
my friends. They were my parents. There was a loneliness and suffering
in the concentration camps that defies imagination. ... Sons watched
helplessly their fathers being beaten to death. Mothers watched their
children die of hunger. And then there was Mengele and the selections.
Terror, fear, isolation, torture, gas chambers, flames, flames rising to the
heavens."

Speaking to news reporters outside the White House following the
ceremony, Wiesel said Reagan gave him no indication that he would cancel
his visit to the cemetery, and said the president "explained why he
cannot change" it.

TR123-01

0005402

PH201

ND016

PK

IRA ALLEN (continued)

Said Wiesel, "He said because it is a state visit, too much involved, there are foreign policy consideration. I understand, but to me, this is a moral issue. The issue is good and evil and there, there can be no compromise."

Wiesel had considered boycotting the ceremony, marking Jewish Heritage Week, in protest of Reagan's decision to visit the cemetery and his labeling Thursday of young German soldiers as "victims of Naziism also, even though they were fighting in the German uniform, drafted into the service to carry out the hateful wishes of the Nazis. "They were victims just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."

"I am in total disagreement with him," Wiesel said before the ceremony in a CBS interview. "Such an analogy is beyond the vocabulary that I have learned."

A spokeswoman said Wiesel, a survivor of the death camp at Auschwitz, said Wiesel, an author on the Holocaust and spokesman for the 6 million dead and thousands of surviving victims, decided to attend the White House ceremony because the medal "isn't actually a gift of the president. The president is acting for Congress. And clearly, Congress is not implicated at all."

Congress voted a year ago to award the gold medal to recognize Wiesel's work in advancing human rights and for his contribution to literature. He heads the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

His council sent a blistering telegram to Reagan late Thursday denouncing the president for his comments earlier in the day "equating the deaths of Nazi soldiers who fought for Hitler with the victims who were murdered by Hitler in concentration camps."

"We were shocked to learn that a president of the United States could utter such a distortion of what took place during the Holocaust," the telegram said.

upi 04-19-85 01:24 pes

3 AP-NY-04-19-85 1250EST

Cemetery Visit Still Planned

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, accepting a Congressional Gold Medal from President Reagan Friday, implored Reagan not to go through with his plan to visit a Germany military cemetery next month where Nazi SS troops are buried.

Minutes after the ceremony, however, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Reagan would still visit the cemetery, but would also visit the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to "honor the victims of Nazism" before flying by helicopter to the cemetery at Bitburg.

Speakes said Reagan, who had spoken by telephone this morning with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and explained his decision to Wiesel during a half-hour private meeting before the ceremony, remained determined to pay tribute to the German dead at Bitburg, whom he has called victims of Nazism "just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."

Wiesel, who was a child prisoner in the Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camps, recalled in vivid detail the horrors he witnessed and the Jews and other Nazi victims suffered.

"One million Jewish children perished. If I spent my entire life reciting their names, I would die before finishing the task. Mr. President, I have seen children, I have seen them being thrown in the flames -- alive! Words, they die on my lips."

Reagan, sitting behind Wiesel after presenting the medal honoring the survivor's work in keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive, listened intently and appeared close to tears.

Wiesel praised Reagan as "a friend of the Jewish people" and told the president he was compelled "to speak truth to power" and did so with respect and admiration.

"I wouldn't be the person I am, and you wouldn't respect me for what I am if I were not to tell you also of the sadness that is in my heart" over Reagan's plan to lay a wreath at the Bitburg military cemetery during a visit to West Germany next month.

Saying he was convinced Reagan didn't know at the time he made the decision to go to Bitburg that members of the SS were buried there, Wiesel said, "May I, Mr. President, implore you to do something else, to find another way, to find another site. That is not your place."

The president, who already had paid tribute to Wiesel without mentioning the storm of controversy swirling about the cemetery issue, did not respond when Wiesel finished, except to stand and shake hands with the honoree.

Reagan said Thursday he would not cave in and change his planned cemetery visit in the face of criticism but would add a stop at a concentration camp to honor the millions of Jews and Eastern Europeans killed by the Nazis.

Wiesel is chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Commission.

AP-NY-04-19-85 1250EST

15 upi 04-19-85 12:46 pes

(complete writethru details of visit)

BONN, West Germany (UPI) -- President Reagan will visit the former Nazi concentration camp Bergen-Belsen as part of a state visit next month that also includes a trip to a German war cemetery, the West German government announced Friday.

The government press office, in a brief message to the media, said the decision to visit Bergen-Belsen on May 5 was taken by Reagan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the basis of consultations between their two governments.

Bergen-Belsen, located in a sparsely populated area north of Hanover and close to the East German border, became a synonym for Nazi cruelty partly through the diaries of Anne Frank, a teenager who died there.

About 60,000 inmates of the camp were liberated by advancing British troops on April 15, 1945, after thousands of others had been killed there. The camp was promptly burned by the British to head off a possible plague caused by rotting corpses and unsanitary conditions inside.

"On the basis of further consultations between the American government and the West German government and after visits to possible sites by a White House delegation led by Michael K. Deaver with the participation of the chancellor's aides, President Reagan and Chancellor Dr. Kohl have decided to take part together in a remembrance ceremony in Bergen-Belsen on May 5," the government statement read.

"The victims of Nazi tyranny will be remembered at the ceremony," it concluded.

Reagan is also scheduled to visit the Nazi war cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany, and lay a wreath. Among those buried there were 47 soldiers who belonged to Hitler's Waffen SS storm troopers.

The West German government's announcement came about the same time Reagan was presenting a gold medal to Elie Wiesel, a writer and concentration camp survivor, in Washington.

Wiesel praised Reagan "for being a friend to the Jewish people" but implored him not to visit the German war cemetery.

"I know of your commitment to to humanity, and therefore I am convinced that you were not aware of the presence of SS graves in Bitburg Cemetery," Wiesel said.

Jewish groups have called on Reagan to call off the visit next month, saying he should not honor those responsible for the Holocaust in which 6 million Jews died.

After the public outcry over the visit, U.S. officials began searching for an appropriate Holocaust memorial for Reagan to tour.

Deaver and his team this week checked out Bergen-Belsen as well as the concentration camps at Dachau, outside Munich and Flossenbuerg, on the Czech border, as possible sites for a Reagan pilgrimage to honor Nazi victims.

The White House delegation returned to Washington on Thursday to make their recommendation to Reagan, who had earlier announced he would visit a concentration camp to balance his planned wreath-laying at a German soldiers's cemetery in Bitburg, southwest of Cologne.

The president had a couple of months ago decided against a visit to Dachau during his state visit to West Germany next month. But vigorous protests by Jews and U.S. veterans against the cemetery wreath-laying apparently persuaded him to change his visit itinerary to include a pilgrimage to a Nazi concentration camp as well.

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AM-REAGAN-CEMETERY 1STLD (SCHEDULED)

REAGAN TO VISIT BERGEN-BELSEN CAMP AND CEMETERY

(Eds.: Adds details.)

WASHINGTON, APRIL 19, REUTER - PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL VISIT BERGEN-BELSEN, A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP, DURING HIS VISIT TO WEST GERMANY, BUT WILL ALSO GO AHEAD WITH A CONTROVERSIAL VISIT TO A CEMETERY FOR GERMAN WAR DEAD, THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED TODAY.

THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE VISIT TO THE MILITARY CEMETERY WOULD TAKE PLACE FOLLOWED AN EMOTIONAL CEREMONY AT THE WHITE HOUSE DURING WHICH AMERICAN JEWISH LEADER ELIE WIESEL PLEADED WITH THE PRESIDENT TO ABANDON THIS PART OF TRIP.

AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS AND WAR VETERANS HAVE JOINED IN CONDEMNATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S PLAN TO HONOR GERMAN SOLDIERS.

BITBURG CEMETERY, NEAR THE LUXEMBOURG BORDER, CONTAINS THE BODIES ALMOST 2,000 GERMAN SOLDIERS, INCLUDING THE GRAVES OF ABOUT 30 SS SOLDIERS, THE NAZI ELITE GUARD IN WORLD WAR II.

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAID REAGAN AND WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL HAD SPOKEN BY TELEPHONE THIS MORNING AND DISCUSSED THE VISIT TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP MEMORIAL AS WELL AS OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATE VISIT AFTER THE BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING MAY 2-4.

"THE PRESIDENT AND CHANCELLOR KOHL HAVE DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE IN A JOINT CEREMONY AT BERGEN-BELSEN ON SUNDAY, MAY 5 TO HONOR THE VICTIMS OF THE NAZIS," HE SAID.

REAGAN WOULD VISIT GRAVESITES, PLACE A WREATH ON A MONUMENT AND TAKE PART IN RELIGIOUS SERVICES, SPEAKES SAID.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BERGEN-BELSEN VISIT, REAGAN PLANNED TO GO BY HELICOPTER TO BITBURG AIR FORCE BASE AND THEN TO THE CEMETERY WHERE HE WOULD LAY A WREATH. THERE WOULD BE NO RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT BITBURG, SPEAKES SAID.

REAGAN TOLD WIESEL OF THE CHANGE IN HIS SCHEDULE PRIOR TO A WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY HONORING THE HOLOCAUST THEOLOGIAN AND AUTHOR, SPEAKES TOLD REPORTERS.

BUT WIESEL, IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS, MADE AN EMOTIONAL AND ELOQUENT APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT TO DROP THE BITBURG STOP.

"MAY I, MR. PRESIDENT, IMPORE YOU TO FIND ANOTHER WAY, ANOTHER PLACE. THAT PLACE IS NOT YOUR PLACE. YOUR PLACE IS WITH THE VICTIMS OF THE SS," WIESEL SAID AT THE CEREMONY WHERE HE WAS AWARDED THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR HIS WORK AS A HOLOCAUST THEOLOGIAN.

"MR. PRESIDENT I WOULDN'T BE THE PERSON I AM AND YOU WOULDN'T RESPECT ME FOR WHAT I AM IF I WERE NOT TO TELL YOU OF THE SADNESS THAT IS IN MY HEART FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST WEEK," WIESEL TOLD REAGAN AND A SMALL GROUP OF GUESTS.

WIESEL SAID HE WAS SURE REAGAN DID NOT KNOW ORIGINALLY THAT THERE WERE SS TROOPERS BURIED AT BITBURG.

"OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T KNOW," HE SAID TO REAGAN. "BUT NOW WE ARE ALL AWARE."

WIESEL SAID HE, LIKE THE PRESIDENT, SOUGHT RECONCILIATION WITH THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND DID NOT BLAME THE SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF NAZI TROOPS FOR THE HOLOCAUST.

"I DO NOT BELIEVE IN COLLECTIVE GUILT; COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY;" HE SAID.

BUT WIESEL SAID; "I HAVE SEEN THE SS AT WORK AND I HAVE SEEN THEIR VICTIMS. THEY WERE MY FRIENDS; THEY WERE MY PARENTS."

THE JEWISH LEADER SAID NEUTRALITY WAS A SIN AND INDIFFERENCE A CRIME WHEN IT CAME TO FIGHTING THE KIND OF INJUSTICE THAT LED TO THE HOLOCAUST.

"THE ISSUE HERE IS NOT POLITICS. IT'S GOOD AND EVIL;" HE SAID.

BEFORE PRESENTING THE AWARD; REAGAN PAID TRIBUTE TO WIESEL AND OTHER SURVIVORS OF THE HOLOCAUST; AND REAFFIRMED AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL.

HE ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONTRAST U.S. SUPPORT FOR JEWS WITH THEIR TREATMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION.

DRAWING HIS ONLY APPLAUSE DURING THE CEREMONY; REAGAN SAID; "IF THE SOVIET UNION TRULY WANTS PEACE; TRULY WANTS FRIENDSHIP; THEN LET THEM RELEASE (DISSIDENT) ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY AND FREE SOVIET JEWRY."

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/24/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Noon, Friday, 4/26/85

SUBJECT: Letter from AIPAC re President's trip to Germany

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input type="checkbox"/> SS	VERSTANDIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRIEDERSDORF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>RYAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>DANIELS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
McFARLANE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please provide appropriate response for President's signature by noon Friday. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW
STAFF SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARSHALL BREGER (b)
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

1985 APR 23 11 12 AM
Received SS

Attached is a letter from AIPAC on the President's trip to Germany, which was noted in the New York Times of Monday, April 22, 1985. The letter was handed to me on the dais of the AIPAC opening session before I spoke. During later remarks both Congressmen Fascell and Kemp associated themselves with the letter and stated that they would send similar letters to the President.

I believe that you may wish to have the President respond to this letter. I am told that the letter was engineered by Republican supporters of the President to head off a demonstration during that part of the program which included Secretary Shultz and my own remarks.

For your information, also is attached is a copy of my remarks to the AIPAC Conference.

Attachments: 2



AIPAC

THE AMERICAN ISRAEL PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

April 21, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

As an organization committed to Jewish dignity and survival, we speak to you as friends to friend, from our hearts to your heart. We seek to convey our message to you, Mr. President, because you have demonstrated through your whole life a commitment to human decency, compassion, and understanding. You are a good friend of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. We know your deep feelings about the Holocaust.

As human beings, as Americans and as Jews, we join millions of our fellow citizens in calling upon you to cancel your visit to the Bitburg military cemetery. We profoundly agree with the statement, "That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS."

It is a sign of strength, not weakness, to correct this injustice. To honor those SS soldiers who spread terror and death under the sign of the skull and crossbones dishonors their victims -- the Jews and the American GIs they slaughtered only 30 miles away at Malmedy, and it dishonors those Germans who are today working to build a democratic and free Germany. To honor those SS murderers could well ignite a resurgence of neo-Naziism in Germany and elsewhere. To visit their graves would be an outrage against human decency which cannot and must not be ignored.

As it has been said, "The issue here is not politics, but good and evil." Mr. President, do not shame the victims of Nazi tyranny.

Robert H. Asher
President

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Dine
Executive Director

444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W. • SUITE 412 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001 • (202) 638-2256

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REMARKS OF
MARSHALL J. BREGER
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

AT THE
AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE
HYATT REGENCY - CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1985

Thank you very much Gordy for your kind remarks. I am especially grateful as I feel somewhat like the warm up act for the lions in the colosseum this afternoon.

And thank you Bob for the letter to President Reagan which you have shared with me.

I understand your agony and share our communal pain. I just returned Wednesday after two weeks with my family in Jerusalem for Pesach the Festival of Freedom. I arrived in time to participate in the Jewish Heritage Week ceremony and the presentation of the of the Congressional Gold Medal to Elie Wiesel. I was profoundly moved by his remarks as, I know -- in both private and public sessions -- was the President. I will make certain that he receives this letter.

It's an honor for me to be here this afternoon. I came to hear George Shultz. I know this is why you're here too, so I will be very brief. But with all that is going on, I couldn't resist the invitation to appear before AIPAC. You are the vanguard of America's pro-Israel community, and the pro-Israel community really is America. AIPAC also has a professional quality and caliber that is very rare. I know, because in my job I have had the opportunity to work closely with Tom, with Bob Asher, and with the other officers and staff. It is a daunting experience, when you realize that you must match the standard of excellence that is represented by this organization and these people. I can tell you this -- even when you beat up on us -- we are impressed by how well you do it.

Before I accepted this job sixteen months ago, some people urged me not to take it on. I had an exciting life as a Senior Fellow in Law at an excellent conservative "think tank", the Heritage Foundation. People told me that the work of the Jewish desk in the White House is frustrating, because the community expectations are so high. Some of those who warned me asserted flatly that this is not a friendly Administration.

I concluded that all these well-intentioned advisers were wrong, and now, from the vantage point of the President's staff, I know they are. An enormous amount can and is being done. This President is the best friend of our community who has ever sat in the White House. He is taking steps that are bolder and more far-reaching than anything that has been dared before.

He is in the process of creating a conceptual revolution in the character of U.S.-Israel relations, that will raise the relationship to a higher plane for decades to come.

To show what can be done, permit me to give a personal example. In June of 1983, I took my boss, Ed Fuelner, President of the Heritage Foundation, to Israel. We also took Pat Buchanan, Assistant to the President, Midge Dector, and other conservative leaders. In one meeting at the Ministry of Trade, some junior civil servants broached in a very tentative way -- they had not really thought it through -- the idea of a free trade area between Israel and the United States. Well, our team was seized by the idea, and we brought it back immediately to Judge Clark, who was then the President's National Security Adviser. He didn't flinch at the sheer chutzpah of the idea, that America's very first free trade relationship would be with the tiny state of Israel. So we wrote the President and then everyone at the Department of Commerce and the Office of the Special Trade Representative, who also saw merit in the idea, knew they had a green light from Judge Clark and the President to go ahead. And now, less than two years later, this historic pact will be signed tomorrow. That is the kind of President and Administration you have, and why it is so exciting to have my position in these times

This is the President who had the bold vision to shift from loans to all-grant aid to Israel, because he knew it is destructive to keep building the mountain of debt. And he did this at a time of fiscal austerity and budget cutting in our own country, because he knows that money to Israel is a sound investment for America.

This is also the President who is committed to building a new basis for defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, because the United States and Israel are allies in the defense of freedom in the Middle East. In the last year, since I've had the privilege to be in this office, what has really moved forward is strategic cooperation. For example, just five days ago the Secretary of the Navy announced that the Navy will build three diesel-powered submarines in Israeli shipyards and has agreed that the United States and Israel will jointly develop a new naval missile. That's strategic cooperation. This is an historical development, and for me it is an honor to be a part of it.

The test of real friendship is how parties handle adversity. The Administration showed its true commitment to Israel when disputes over moving the embassy to Jerusalem were never allowed to impede progress on free trade or strategic cooperation. The ability to withstand the give and take between friends, I believe, is the most basic sign of a healthy relationship -- and a solid alliance.

Well, I will stop now so that we can all hear the Secretary of State. But I thank you for this honor and I wish you great success at this conference.

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1985 APR 26 AM 8 28 WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/24/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: Noon, Friday, 4/26/85

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REMARKS:

Please provide appropriate response for President's signature by noon Friday. Thanks.

Robert H. Fisher Thomas A. Sine

RESPONSE:

→ To D. Chew. Don't think we should do it. AIPAC is a lobby — and largely Democratic. OJB

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 22, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DAVID CHEW
STAFF SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MARSHALL BREGER (b)
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

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Reactive 455

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REMARKS OF
MARSHALL J. BREGER
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

AT THE
AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE
HYATT REGENCY - CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA
SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 1985

Thank you very much Gordy for your kind remarks. I am especially grateful as I feel somewhat like the warm up act for the lions in the colosseum this afternoon.

And thank you Bob for the letter to President Reagan which you have shared with me.

I understand your agony and share our communal pain. I just returned Wednesday after two weeks with my family in Jerusalem for Pesach the Festival of Freedom. I arrived in time to participate in the Jewish Heritage Week ceremony and the presentation of the of the Congressional Gold Medal to Elie Wiesel. I was profoundly moved by his remarks as, I know -- in both private and public sessions -- was the President. I will make certain that he receives this letter.

It's an honor for me to be here this afternoon. I came to hear George Shultz. I know this is why you're here too, so I will be very brief. But with all that is going on, I couldn't resist the invitation to appear before AIPAC. You are the vanguard of America's pro-Israel community, and the pro-Israel community really is America. AIPAC also has a professional quality and caliber that is very rare. I know, because in my job I have had the opportunity to work closely with Tom, with Bob Asher, and with the other officers and staff. It is a daunting experience, when you realize that you must match the standard of excellence that is represented by this organization and these people. I can tell you this -- even when you beat up on us -- we are impressed by how well you do it.

Before I accepted this job sixteen months ago, some people urged me not to take it on. I had an exciting life as a Senior Fellow in Law at an excellent conservative "think tank", the Heritage Foundation. People told me that the work of the Jewish desk in the White House is frustrating, because the community expectations are so high. Some of those who warned me asserted flatly that this is not a friendly Administration.

I concluded that all these well-intentioned advisers were wrong, and now, from the vantage point of the President's staff, I know they are. An enormous amount can and is being done. This President is the best friend of our community who has ever sat in the White House. He is taking steps that are bolder and more far-reaching than anything that has been dared before.

He is in the process of creating a conceptual revolution in the character of U.S.-Israel relations, that will raise the relationship to a higher plane for decades to come.

To show what can be done, permit me to give a personal example. In June of 1983, I took my boss, Ed Fuelner, President of the Heritage Foundation, to Israel. We also took Pat Buchanan, Assistant to the President, Midge Dector, and other conservative leaders. In one meeting at the Ministry of Trade, some junior civil servants broached in a very tentative way -- they had not really thought it through -- the idea of a free trade area between Israel and the United States. Well, our team was seized by the idea, and we brought it back immediately to Judge Clark, who was then the President's National Security Adviser. He didn't flinch at the sheer chutzpah of the idea, that America's very first free trade relationship would be with the tiny state of Israel. So we wrote the President and then everyone at the Department of Commerce and the Office of the Special Trade Representative, who also saw merit in the idea, knew they had a green light from Judge Clark and the President to go ahead. And now, less than two years later, this historic pact will be signed tomorrow. That is the kind of President and Administration you have, and why it is so exciting to have my position in these times

This is the President who had the bold vision to shift from loans to all-grant aid to Israel, because he knew it is destructive to keep building the mountain of debt. And he did this at a time of fiscal austerity and budget cutting in our own country, because he knows that money to Israel is a sound investment for America.

This is also the President who is committed to building a new basis for defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, because the United States and Israel are allies in the defense of freedom in the Middle East. In the last year, since I've had the privilege to be in this office, what has really moved forward is strategic cooperation. For example, just five days ago the Secretary of the Navy announced that the Navy will build three diesel-powered submarines in Israeli shipyards and has agreed that the United States and Israel will jointly develop a new naval missile. That's strategic cooperation. This is an historical development, and for me it is an honor to be a part of it.

The test of real friendship is how parties handle adversity. The Administration showed its true commitment to Israel when disputes over moving the embassy to Jerusalem were never allowed to impede progress on free trade or strategic cooperation. The ability to withstand the give and take between friends, I believe, is the most basic sign of a healthy relationship -- and a solid alliance.

Well, I will stop now so that we can all hear the Secretary of State. But I thank you for this honor and I wish you great success at this conference.