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312577
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TR123-01
ED
PR00502

April 29, 1985

Dear Mr. Carowitz:

I hope you won't mind my answering your letter to Nancy. She is most grateful for your generous words about her activities. She passed your letter on to me because of the concerns you'd expressed about my coming visit to the cemetery in West Germany.

I, too, am an admirer of the late Scoop Jackson and endorse everything he said to you in his letter. While I will be making my first visit to a camp, Bergen-Belsen, I had early exposure to the horror of those places. In World War II I was adjutant of an Air Corps post directly under Air Corps Intelligence. One of our tasks was putting a film report together for the General Staff in the Pentagon. We received the first film taken by combat crews when our forces overran a number of the camps, Auschwitz, etc. None of us who worked on that report will ever forget the horrors we saw -- the living and the dead.

I say with all my heart -- this must never be forgotten and it must never happen again. Chancellor Kohl of Germany asked me to join him on this 40th observance of the war's end not to honor the dead in the cemetery but to point up that we erstwhile enemies -- now close allies, who have lived in peace for 40 years, are united in our determination that the Holocaust will never be repeated. It seems to me this is a worthwhile and morally right thing to do.

Thank you for giving me a chance to explain.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Michael Carowitz
Post Office Box 4073
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

HANDWRITING FILE

85 429

To Mr. Michael Carowitz P.O. Box 4073 Ann Arbor

Dear Mr. Carowitz

Mich. 48106

I hope you wont mind my answering your letter to Nancy. She is most grateful for your generous words about her activities. She passed your letter on to me because of the concerns you'd expressed about my coming visit to the cemetery in W. Germany.

I too am an admirer of the late Scoop Jackson and endorse everything he said to you in his letter. While I will be making my first visit to a camp - Bager Belsen I had early exposure to the horrors of those places. In W.W.II. I was adjutant of an Air Corps post directly under air corps intelligence. One of our tasks was putting a film report together for the General Staff in the Pentagon. We received the first film taken by combat crews when our forces over ran a number of the camps, Auschwitz etc.

None of us who worked on that report will ever forget the horrors we saw - the living & the dead.

I say with ~~with~~ all my heart - This must never be forgotten and it must never happen again. Chancellor Kohl of Germany asked me to join him on this 40th observance of the wars ~~and~~ ^{and} not to honor the dead in the ~~cemetery~~ ^{cemetery} but to point up that we erstwhile enemies - now close allies who have lived in peace for 40 years are united in our determination that the Holocaust will never be repeated. It seems to me this is a worthwhile & morally right thing to do. Thank you for giving me a chance to explain.

Michael Carowitz

April 24, 1985

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

As a student at the University of Michigan and a former intern at the Republican National Committee, I have followed the news of the President's plans to visit the Bitburg Cemetery in West Germany.

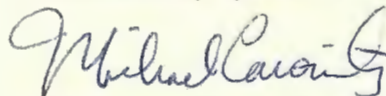
I am aware that your husband has expressed much admiration for the late Senator Henry Jackson. Enclosed is a copy of a letter that I received from Senator Jackson several years ago. It speaks of the horror and disbelief he felt when he visited a Nazi concentration camp shortly after the end of World War II.

If Senator Jackson were here today, I am sure that he would respectfully advise the President not to visit the cemetery. The Nazi genocide is a tragic event in history that is offensive to all Americans, particularly--but not only--the Jews. A presidential visit to the graves of SS troops will only reopen this nation's wounds and involve the President in an ongoing controversy.

I have long been a supporter and an admirer of President Reagan, and I write this letter as a friend, not as an opponent. Please take Senator Jackson's words to heart and urge your husband to find an alternative to a cemetery visit.

You have achieved remarkable things through your crusade against drug abuse and countless other activities. Your work has helped to make your husband's tenure the great success that it is. Please continue to look out for both the President's interests and the interests of this country.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Carowitz

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PAUL LAXALT, NEV.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 25, 1978

GRENVILLE GARSIDE, STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL
DANIEL A. DREYFUS, DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR FOR LEGISLATION
D. MICHAEL HARVEY, CHIEF COUNSEL
W. O. CRAFT, JR. MINORITY COUNSEL

Mr. Michael Carowitz
2260 Rolling Hill Drive Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan
49506

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your recent letter asking me to respond to my impressions of what I saw at Buchenwald. It would take some time for me to adequately describe what I saw at this death camp in the closing days of World War II.

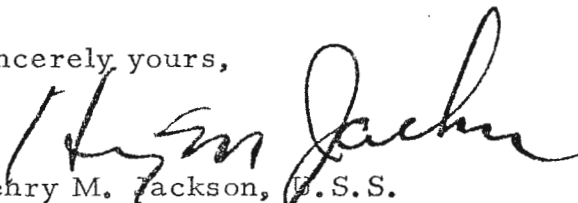
I can only say that I could not believe my eyes as to what I saw in terms of what had happened there. This is the camp where the lady who was the wife of the Commander, Elsa Koch, who had made lamp shades out of human skin. Bodies were stacked up like cord wood. The ones who were not sent to the death chamber were left to die in their bunks in row upon row in the barracks.

Suffice it to say, I could not believe it until I saw it that a country as advanced as Germany could engage in such genocide. I made a commitment then and there to do everything in my power to see, in particular, the Jews who had been refugees and who had survived the death camp, to have the opportunity to live in their own land. That is why I became a staunch supporter of Israel.

I hope this will help you some.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Henry M. Jackson, U.S.S.

HMJ:d

312578
3500
TR12301
C0074
PR00502

April 29, 1985

Dear Dr. Jacob:

My heartfelt thanks to you for your letter. You were more than kind to write as you did and I'm truly grateful.

This whole situation with regard to my coming visit has been most distressing, especially so since I feel and have felt for 40 years that the Holocaust must never be forgotten and such a thing must never happen again. I hope that when I am at Bergen-Belsen, I'll be able to say something that will explain my reason for going there and correct the press distortions so widespread at the moment.

Again, my thanks to you.

Sincerely,

ERWIN T. JACOB

Dr. Erwin T. Jacob
Chief, Department of Surgery
Sheba Medical Center
University of Tel Aviv
Tel Aviv
Israel

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

85 429

HANDWRITING FILE

To Dr. Erwin T. Jacob - Chief Dept. of Surgery
Sheba Medical Center - U. of Tel Aviv
Tel Aviv - Israel

Dear Dr. Jacob

My heart goes thanks to you for your letter. You were more than kind to write as you did & I'm truly grateful.

This whole situation with regard to my coming visit has been most distressing, especially so since I feel & have felt for 40 years that the Holocaust must never be forgotten and such a thing must never happen again. I hope when I am at Berger-Baldin I'll be able to say something that will explain my

reason for going there and ~~clarify~~^{correct} the false distortions so ~~far~~ widespread at the moment.

Again my thanks to you.

Sincerely RR

UNCLASSIFIED

Bitburg

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 6177
SIT755 AN006860

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TOR: 113/1355Z

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UNCLAS TEL AVIV 06177

E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, IS

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT FROM DR. ERWIN JACOB,
- BITBURG VISIT

1. ONE OF ISRAEL'S LEADING SURGEONS. PROFESSOR ERWIN T. JACOB ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY PASS ON THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE OF SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT REAGAN'S DECISION TO VISIT A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY.

2. BEING TEXT:

MISTER PRESIDENT:

FROM 1944 TO THE END OF THE WAR AT THE AGE OF 16, I WAS A VICTIM OF THE DANTESQUE HELL OF THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP UNIVERSE.

WITHIN THE HORROR OF THAT WORLD, MY LIFE WAS SAVED ON THREE OCCASIONS BY ONE SS OBERSCHARFFUHRER AND TWO OTHER SS MEN WHO WERE AND REMAINED ANONYMOUS TO ME. THESE ACTS WERE, INDEED, THE EXCEPTION AND NOT THE RULE OF BEHAVIOR OF THESE UNITS OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES. NEVERTHELESS, SHOULD I KNOW WHERE THESE MEN ARE BURIED, I WOULD HAVE NO HESITATION WHATSOEVER TO LAY A WREATH ON THEIR TOMB.

--
BY ACTING AS YOU ARE, MR. PRESIDENT, YOU MAY BE PAYING RESPECT TO THE FEW SS SOLDIERS OR OFFICERS, WHO IN THAT INDESCRIBABLE TURMOIL OF HISTORY, HAVE PRESERVED THEIR HUMAN DIGNITY AND HELPED, COURAGEOUSLY, SOME OF US TO SURVIVE.

NOTWITHSTANDING, I SHALL PURSUE EVERY ENDEAVOR THAT MIGHT HELP PREVENT THE EVENTUAL RECURRENCE OF SUCH A MONSTROSITY AS THE NAZI REGIME. I ALSO REMAIN IN FAVOR OF PROSECUTING THE NAZI WAR CRIMINALS STILL ALIVE.

I FORWARD TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THIS SHORT PERSONAL TESTIMONIAL IN ORDER TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT OF YOUR DECISION TO VISIT BOTH A NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP AND A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

/S/

PROF. ERWIN T. JACOB, M. D.
CHIEF DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
SHEBA MEDICAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF TEL AVIV

UNCLASSIFIED

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THE WHITE HOUSE DC

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SYDNEY-TELEX 411/401 15 1425 PART 1

PRESIDENT R REAGAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONDC

TR12301
C005402
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PA002
RM032
C0009

TR

ON BEHALF OF THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY I WISH TO EXPRESS OUR
DISTRESS AND ANGUISH AT THE PROSPECT THAT YOU MAY VISIT A GERMAN WAR
CEMETERY DURING YOUR EUROPEAN TOUR NEXT MONTH STP MANY IN OUR
COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA ARE SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST AND THEIR
FAMILIES AND WE HAVE REACTED WITH SHOCK AND DISBELIEF AT THE REPORTS
OF THE PROPOSED VISIT STP AS THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH WE ARE CONVINCED
TRANSCENDS BORDERS I HAVE, WITH RESPECT, TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF
ADDRESSING YOU DIRECTLY ON IT STP WE BELIEVE SUCH A VISIT WOULD
DISHONOUR THOSE WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR 2 WHETHER AS THE VICTIMS OF
NAZI BRUTALITY OR AS ALLIED SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN, MANY VALIANT

AMERICANS AND AUSTRALIANS AMONGST THEM, WHO PAID THE SUPREME SACRIFICE FIGHTING FOR THE NOBLEST OF CAUSES STP IT WOULD CAUSE PAIN AND OFFENSE TO THE LIVING WHO SURVIVED THE HOLOCAUST AND THE FAMILIES WHO CHERISH THE MEMORIES OF THEIR LOVED ONES WHO FELL IN BATTLE STP AND, IT WOULD NEEDLESSLY BLEMISH YOUR UNQUESTIONED PERSONAL RECORD OF DEEP AND PRIDEFUL COMMITMENT TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE WHO PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST, A COMMITMENT FOR WHICH JEWISH COMMUNITIES, WHEREVER THEY MAY BE, ARE PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL STP INDEED, YOUR OWN REPORTED DECLARATION THAT, QTE WE MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE WITH A FIRM RESOLVE THAT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN UNQTE LEADS US TO ASK YOU, WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS, TO RECONSIDER AND ABANDON YOUR PLANS AS ANNOUNCED STP WE FEEL OBLIGED TO EMPHASISE THAT UNLIKE PREVIOUS WARS THE STRUGGLE AGAINST NAZISM WAS NOT MERELY A CONFLICT BETWEEN NATIONS STP IT WAS A BATTLE AGAINST AN EVIL REGIME WHICH THREATENED WESTERN CIVILISATION ITSELF STP WE BELIEVE THAT TO VISIT THE GERMAN WAR

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTONDC

CEMETERY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR 2 WOULD SEND THE WRONG MESSAGE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES' VIEW OF THAT WAR AND ITS LESSONS TO ALL THOSE OF THE FREE WORLD WHO ARE COMMITTED TO A JUST PEACE, TO ENSURING THAT THERE IS NO REPETITION OF THOSE DARK DAYS, AND WHO LOOK TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR INSPIRED LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE WORLD IN THAT QUEST STP

ISI J LEIBLER, C.B.E. PRESIDENT EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN JEWRY (THE COORDINATING BODY REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN JEWRY) GPO BOX 5402 CC MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, 3001, AUSTRALIA. PH: (03) 6060335

1-000346A105 04/15/85

ICS IPMPTUB PTL

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THE WHITE HOUSE DC

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SYDNEY-TELEX 411/401 15 1425 PART 2

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PRESIDENT R REAGAN

JV

Post

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1-016647C108 04/18/85
ICS IPMNAWA WSH
10035 NFWASHINGTON DC 200 04-18 428P EST
PMS THE PRESIDENT
WHITE HOUSE DC

I COMMEND YOUR DECISION TO VISIT ONE OF THE WORST NIGHTMARISH SIGHTS OF MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN. I COMMEND YOU FOR HAVING CHOSEN ON THIS VISIT TO A FREE GERMANY TO EMPHASIZE THE THEME OF 40 YEARS OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE. I UNDERSTAND, SIR, THAT YOUR VISIT TO THE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY AT BITBURG, WHERE TWO THOUSAND SOLDIERS ARE BURIED, WAS UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF CHANCELLOR KOHL, TO HELP PUT BEHIND OUR TWO PEOPLES THE HATRED AND ENMITY THAT EXISTED BETWEEN OUR NATION'S DURING THE WAR. I COMMEND THAT PURPOSE OF RECONCILIATION.

I ALSO COMMEND YOU, SIR, FOR YOUR RECOGNITION, ON THIS COMING VISIT, THAT VICTORY OVER WAR CAN BEST BE ASSURED BY STRENGTHENING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN FREE NATIONS. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT FREE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WILL DRAW, FROM THE EVILS OF THE PAST, THE LESSONS THAT ALONE CAN PREVENT THEIR RECCURANCE.

IT IS OUR FUTHER HOPE, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, YOU WILL REEMPHASIZE THESE MESSAGES AT APPROPRIATE MEMORIAL AND VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCES, HONORING THE WARD DEAD OF OUR OWN COUNTRY, AS YOU HAVE SO OFTEN IN THE PAST.

BILLY RAY CAMERON
NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.
200 MARYLAND AVENUE N
WASHINGTON DC 20002

1-016647C108 04/18/85

ICS IPMNAWA WSH

10035 NFWASHINGTON DC 200 04-1B 428P EST

PMS THE PRESIDENT

WHITE HOUSE DC

I COMMEND YOUR DECISION TO VISIT ONE OF THE WORST NIGHTMARISH SIGHTS OF MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN. I COMMEND YOU FOR HAVING CHOSEN ON THIS VISIT TO A FREE GERMANY TO EMPHASIZE THE THEME OF 40 YEARS OF PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE. I UNDERSTAND, SIR, THAT YOUR VISIT TO THE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY AT BITBURG, WHERE TWO THOUSAND SOLDIERS ARE BURIED, WAS UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF CHANCELLOR KOHL, TO HELP PUT BEHIND OUR TWO PEOPLES THE HATRED AND ENMITY THAT EXISTED BETWEEN OUR NATION'S DURING THE WAR. I COMMEND THAT PURPOSE OF RECONCILIATION.

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BILLY RAY CAMERON

NATIONAL COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S.

200 MARYLAND AVENUE N

WASHINGTON DC 20002

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

comment
April 19, 1985 *memo*

To: Max Friedersdorf
M. B. Oglesby, Jr.

Attached are two letters for the President that were given to Don Regan at last night's reception. If you feel they merit the President's immediate attention, please let me know.

from David L. Chew *attached*



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

Received SS

1985 APR 18 PM 10:35

312592

1230

TR 123-01

PA001

CO054-02

PA002

ND016

HU030

PETE WILSON
CALIFORNIA

April 18, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

Your own revulsion and moral outrage at the Holocaust and your sympathy and grief for its victims and survivors have long been clear to anyone with knowledge of your record on the issue.

The deserved respect accorded you by people like Elie Wiesel is based on that record.

Regrettably, however, your proposed visit to Bitburg cemetery threatens to undo your heretofore record and at the very least to confuse that record.

Your purpose in making such a visit, I assume, is to pay a deserved tribute to the present generation of our staunch West German allies and to focus upon our present alliance and shared future.

I respectfully suggest that this commendable purpose can be much better achieved by some more appropriate observance, and that indeed Bitburg quite understandably is a symbol of a past we cannot commend nor forget, and that therefore a visit there would be wholly inappropriate to your purpose.

Let us say forthrightly that while we cannot in conscience visit the sins of the fathers upon their children whom we embrace and value as allies, neither can we in conscience ever forget the Holocaust or allow such a nightmare to be threatened ever again.

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
April 18, 1985
Page Two

The two views are in no way inconsistent. To the contrary both views are held and expressed by today's West Germany leadership. It is entirely appropriate to observe the significance of the Holocaust by a visit to one of the death camps. Such a visit could not legitimately offend anyone. It in no way condemns present day West Germany. Rather the occasion could provide the opportunity not only to properly observe the Holocaust but to contrast the freedom and democracy of today's Federal Republic of Germany with the nightmare of Nazism, and to praise the character and courage of those Germans who can be proud of the change they have wrought.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

PETE WILSON

JV - *[Handwritten initials]*

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

TR/23-01

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 104 126

Name of Correspondent: Edward Kennedy

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

Subject: Forward article from LA Times, concerning the bombing of Bitburg in 1944

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 Ogle</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>850429</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>85,05,15</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>/ /</u>		<u>/ /</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>/ /</u>		<u>/ /</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>/ /</u>		<u>/ /</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>/ /</u>		<u>/ /</u>

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: ^{AB} Per Nancy Kennedy, Cathy Osborne is taking care of

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

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ND016 PK
PA001 _____

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

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- 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

13905

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1985

TO: LINDA

FROM: KATHY RATTE JAFFKE
Office of Legislative Affairs

Pam recommended that the Kennedy letter I told you about go in to the President.

I am attaching the original in the event that that is the final decision. I wasn't sure if the memo should be from Max or B, but I've also attached a suggested memo to accompany the letter.

Let me know if I can do anything else.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1985

TO: PAM

FROM: KATHY RATTÉ JAFFKE
Office of Legislative Affairs

Do you think we should send the original over to the West Wing for Max/B to send in to the President?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF

SUBJECT: Senator Ted Kennedy's Personal Note
About your Planned Visit to Bitburg

You received the attached letter today from Senator Kennedy.

The Senator writes a very thoughtful note suggesting that you consider laying a wreath at a civilian cemetery near Bitburg in order for your visit to be "equally successful and free of controversy."

I thought you should see Senator Kennedy's letter.

Edward M. Kennedy
Massachusetts



United States Senate

April 26, 1985

Personal

The President and Mrs. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

312602

Dear President and Mrs. Reagan:

I know how concerned you both must be about the unfortunate controversy over the plan to visit the German military cemetery in Bitburg. I remember how proud my brother Jack was of his visit to Germany in 1963, and I am hopeful that a way can be found for your visit to be equally successful and free of controversy.

Earlier this week, the enclosed article from the Los Angeles Times of April 20 happened to catch my eye. As you will see, the town of Bitburg was totally destroyed by American bombers during an air-raid on Christmas Eve 1944.

It occurred to me that, if a civilian cemetery with German victims of that raid exists, an appropriate gesture of both reconciliation and remembrance would be to lay a wreath there, rather than at the military cemetery.

My staff checked briefly with the Senate Air Force Liaison yesterday, and it appears that there are a number of civilian cemeteries in and around Bitburg -- whether they were in existence in 1944 or contain graves of victims of the raid, I do not yet know.

Perhaps nothing will come of this possibility
-- but I wanted to pass it along to you
privately, for whatever value it may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Kennedy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name below it.

Edward M. Kennedy

'Leave the Dead in Peace,' German Mayor Says

LAT 4/20

Bitburg Confused Over Cemetery Furor

By TYLER MARSHALL, *Times Staff Writer*

BITBURG, West Germany—When Mayor Theo Hallet first learned of President Reagan's plan to lay a wreath at the local war cemetery, he saw it as a great opportunity to put his town on the map.

Now he's not so sure.

The 12,000 or so citizens of this sleepy garrison town, tucked into a rural backwater near the Luxembourg border, have been left dumbfounded and more than a little resentful by the intensity of the controversy in the United States over Reagan's plans.

It is not difficult to understand why Bitburgers are confused.

After all, every Memorial Day since 1959, they have seen the commander of the U.S. Air Force's 36th Tactical Fighter Wing, which is based nearby, join the mayor in laying a wreath at the same spot where Reagan plans to place one

on May 5. In recent years, the commander of a French army contingent has also taken part.

Some members of the Waffen SS, the elite World War II German combat force that was a part of the much larger SS organization that among other functions supervised

Nazi concentration camps, are buried at Bitburg. A U.S. official said the presence of the SS graves was commonly known.

"The thinking was that we are all allies now and we're working together," explained Victoria Bills, an American civil servant in charge of publicity at the Air Force base.

"On this day, we remember those of all nations who died in the war," Mayor Hallet said.

But the intensity of the protest in the United States has shaken the faith of many citizens here, people who are openly proud of the hospitality they offer servicemen from a country they believed was their closest ally.

As emotions rise, what worries Bitburgers is no longer whether Reagan will actually make the visit or what the SS soldiers buried in

Please see BITBURG, Page 20

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Continued from Page 1.
 their cemetery did 40 years ago, but whether relations between the town and the base can survive the controversy intact.

"People are angry," Hallet said in an interview. "They are saying, 'Leave the dead in peace.'"

"I have a real fear that there could be a chauvinistic reaction, and people will start asking questions about what the Americans did here during the war."

American bombers destroyed Bitburg in a Christmas Eve, 1944, raid so thorough that the town was described in subsequent German army dispatches as administratively dead. Bitburg's official history notes that when the U.S. forces occupied the town two months later, only 60 survivors remained amid the rubble.

In 1952, the U.S. Air Force cleared the debris from a former tank staging area used by the German army during the Battle of the Bulge, made it a major base and helped bring new life to the town.

Along with its Bitburger Pils beer, the town lives mainly off of the 11,000 Air Force personnel and their dependents stationed at the base.

Strong U.S.-German Ties

Virtually all agree that ties between Americans and Germans here are strong.

Air Force volunteer groups help support an old-age home and orphanage in the town. And, each week, Hallet invites newly arrived American servicemen to the Town Hall for a get-acquainted chat.

"No mayor in the world takes time out every week to do that," said Lydie Hengen, the base's community relations adviser.

Just two weeks ago, after learning that outsiders planned to greet Reagan with anti-American protests, a group of prominent town citizens formed an action committee to publicize U.S.-German friendship.

But now, the worried mayor said, "The wind is changing. Our people don't understand the world anymore."

'I'm Too Angry'

Hengen said some members of the action committee failed to turn up for Thursday night's meeting and she voiced concern about its future. One no-show told her, "Today, I'm too angry to attend."

Her job "will be much more difficult now," Hengen acknowledged. "After the last word is said, we will have to work very hard."



Los Angeles Times



Associated Press

Graves of Waffen SS members at Bitburg military cemetery.

Herbert Kranz, who runs the local Volvo automobile dealership and relies on business with Americans to such an extent that his sticker prices are expressed in dollars, not in German marks, was more mystified than angry.

Like many in the town, he endorsed Reagan's decision to visit a concentration camp. But he also believes the President should lay the wreath at Bitburg.

"I can't see why this is all such a sensation," he said. "We should be looking forward, not backward."

A Picture of Tranquility

In contrast to the controversy that surrounds it, the war cemetery remains a picture of tranquility. Only the occasional television team, here to film the SS gravestones, breaks the quiet.

The cemetery sits on the crest of a hill overlooking a small valley, its 1,887 grave stones so flat against the earth that most are obscured by grass only a few inches high. The graves of the SS members—Hallet says there are 47 of them—are scattered among the other dead.

Most of those here died in fierce fighting around Bitburg during the Battle of the Bulge in late 1944 and early 1945. They were initially buried where they fell but were brought to the cemetery in Bitburg in the late 1950s.

The gravestones surround a memorial tower, erected in the 1930s, to Germany's World War I dead. The cemetery also contains the graves of 1,000 German soldiers who were killed in that war.

Symbol of Terror, Atrocity

A majority of the men buried at Bitburg were under 25 when they died. Many were teen-agers.

Part of the confusion about the controversy is that Bitburgers have always thought of the SS soldiers buried there as draftees, sent to the front much like any

German soldier. Like many Germans, they do not comprehend the power of the term "SS" as a symbol of terror and atrocity.

Rumors that some of those buried in the cemetery could have taken part in a massacre of American soldiers near the Belgian town of Malmedy in December, 1944, have added to the consternation.

"Why do the Americans want to try to research this now, 40 years later," Hallet asked in anguish and confusion. "What does it prove? This pencha for spotlighting and dissecting (the issue) must one day stop."

Only when conversation turned to the details of Reagan's visit did the mayor's worried frown gradually fade. He talked of the search for a gift for the President and proudly displayed the city's "Golden Book," in which Reagan and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will enter their names as guests of the town.

With the rumble of American F-15 jets audible outside, Hallet briefly pondered the town's mood. "If Mr. Reagan does visit, he will have the sympathy of our people," he said.

JV ↓:

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

312 972
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April 26, 1985

11 p.m., and I hope
you're impressed.

PA001
PR003
PR016

MEMORANDUM FOR PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

FROM: PEGGY NOONAN *pn*



Pat, here's a thought that may yield something helpful on the Bitburg problem. Remember way back when, when Mayor Curley was jailed for illegally taking some civil service test for a croney of his? The Irish of Boston forgave him because, "He did it for a friend." It's a sort of wry old political joke to say that phrase, but in a funny way it still resonates. People appreciate and respect personal loyalty. They get it.

My parents, old FDR-JFK Democrats who do not like Ronald Reagan, astonished me the other day by calling and saying: You know, your guy is right. That Kohl is putting in the missiles for us, and the war was 40 years ago. And give the German people a break, they made their mistake and they paid. Give 'em a break.

My parents live in New Jersey; New Jersey is America. If my parents think this a lot of people think it. And my parents were especially strong in their perception that Ronald Reagan is taking a fall for a friend of America. They feel for Reagan. And they're mad at the people who are making him suffer.

I think there's something to be tapped here. We all watch too much T.V. in this White House and think America thinks what T.V. thinks. But America's got its own mind and I think millions are out there feeling really sympathetic to our guy, and no one's calling and interviewing them or getting soundbites from them. It's ever thus as you know but we ought to remember: A lot of people are on our side.

We can turn this story into: Ronald Reagan is putting himself through personal anguish and exposing himself to political danger for only one reason: to protect a strong and valued ally. Ambassador Burns's comments on how the German government could fall are helpful here.

I think we must continue to try hard to get this line across to the press. And I think (I've mentioned this to Ben and to Josh Gilder, who's doing the remarks) that at the Bitburg Air Force Base we have to face the whole issue head on by saying: I just honored some innocents, folks, and I want you to know what I didn't honor, I didn't honor the SS and I didn't forgive them. That's God's job, not mine. But I honor the German victims of Hitler today, and that's the right thing to do, and now let's move on.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1985

JV

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: Larry Speakes

312974

1110

TR123'01

PR016'03

FI001'01

WH009'01

BE003'04

FC006'01

The White House Transportation Office today informed UPI that we would not be able to accommodate them on the President's trip to Europe without a certified check payment in advance.

UPI has been considerably in debt to the White House press plane charter fund, which is comprised of money provided by the news organizations on a pro-rata basis for lease of press charter aircraft. They currently owe \$22,000 after a tedious collection over the past several months. They have manifested six people for the European trip at an estimated cost of \$6,000 per person, for a total of \$36,000.

Since UPI may go into bankruptcy over the weekend and also can not honor its paychecks issued on Thursday, we feel that our assuming an increased obligation which would then total \$58,000 would be unwise. It is our responsibility to administer the White House press charter fund in a responsible manner since the monies are contributed by press organizations.

JV



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

April 29, 1985

MEMORANDUM FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

FOR: DON REGAN

SUBJECT: Phone Call from Jim Schlesinger
April 29, 1985 - 2:05 p.m. re:

Jim Schlesinger, former Secretary of Defense, called today. He believes that it would be possible for us to get the support of "the establishment".

He suggests that the Council on Foreign Relations in New York be the starting point -- Winston Lord and David Rockefeller. He feels that the Atlantic Council, under Ken Rush, would join in a statement. He also suggests the Trilateral Commission.

His thesis: All who have experience in foreign policy issues should urge the visit not be cancelled since we have gone this far; or, now that the President is about to leave, we should send him off with our clear and unequivocal support.

Jim also suggests that Jake Javits, Abe Ribicoff, and Sol Linowitz might be helpful.

He feels that the regional Foreign Affairs Councils would be supportive.

He suggests major advertisements by these groups on the day of the visit to the cemetery.

I think his suggestions have merit, and I thanked him for the call. I will now get out of the loop.

G.B.
GEORGE BUSH

cc: Mike Deaver

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PK

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 29, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN

FROM: Peter Roussel *PR*

For your information, this column by Nick Thimmesch. It appears he was trying to help.

re: Bitburg

*Pete
Lynn
Best
M*

THE NICK THIMMESCH COLUMN

For release Sunday, April 21, 1985

THE RUCKUS OVER REAGAN AND THE HOLOCAUST

By Nick Thimmesch

(c) 1985, Los Angeles Times Syndicate

WASHINGTON -- At first look, it seems that President Reagan's staff committed a colossal blunder in scheduling a visit to a German military cemetery in that country early next month. All manner of dead cats have been thrown at the White House in protest of the president's initial decision not to visit a Nazi concentration camp, and then to approve the cemetery visit. But this political blunder belongs more to Reagan, for his good intentions, than it does his staff.

Reagan has great political instincts about what will work and what won't. In this situation he ignored those instincts, and thus incurred the wrath of Jewish and veterans' organizations, whose members were understandably furious that their president avoided a camp but was going to the cemetery.

Now Reagan tries to quiet the furor by announcing that he will, indeed, visit one of the camps, places he has called "a great moral obscenity." Officials of Jewish organizations do not doubt that Reagan has deep feelings of sorrow over the horrors suffered by victims in those camps.

Still, Reagan's original thinking about the trip was that it would be offensive to the Germans -- two-thirds of whom were born after World War II -- to lay another guilt trip on them. Reagan felt that the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II should be a time for reconciliation.

Since the French and Germans reconciled last summer at a cemetery where soldiers from both nations were buried, Reagan saw no problem in visiting the German cemetery at Bitburg, though no Americans are buried there. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was pleased with the president's decision, but also suggested that he visit a concentration camp site as well.

Well, what to say about all of this? Actually,

visiting a German military cemetery where ordinary draftees are buried is an entirely different matter from visiting a camp where Nazi race theories were carried out in the most hideous and vicious manner.

Anyone visiting the military cemeteries in Luxembourg where the dead from the Battle of the Bulge are buried comes away with a profound sorrow over war. The American cemetery is a splendor of marbled Latin crosses and stars of David in a beautifully landscaped setting. Young men from many states are buried here, and it gets to you.

The German cemetery at nearby Sandweiler is quite different. It is simple, a bit foreboding and without tableaux of victory. Many of the small markers are for boys from 16 to 20, others for older men in their 60s. Hitler scraped the bottom of the barrel at the end. The ages of the dead evoke a feeling of sadness.

A concentration camp is quite another experience, a ghastly one, and doesn't equal a military cemetery. Its victims didn't die for their country as German

and American soldiers did. Its No. 1 target, the Jews, were exterminated just for being Jews. Many other millions were killed for what the Nazis charged them with, race or religion being a second cause. Altogether, the brutal killing of these people is called the Holocaust.

Dr. Bohdan Wytwycky's remarkable monograph, "The Other Holocaust," recounts how 9 million non-Jews were put to death by the Nazis in concentration camps and elsewhere. Some 400,000 gypsies were exterminated. Nearly 3 million Poles and an equal number of Ukrainians perished. Many thousands of Catholic priests and nuns were executed.

The Nazi elite regarded gypsies, homosexuals and Slavs as subhuman and deserving death. Millions of political prisoners, resisters and clergy were killed because they dared to defy the Nazi regime. There were thousands of Germans also killed in the camp.

There are no TV programs about this 9 million, no memorials, or cries to remember. And yet Jews

and non-Jews suffered this together. Auschwitz's inmates represented 30 nationalities. As Rabbi Seymour Siegel, director of the Holocaust Memorial Council, wrote of Dr. Wycwycky's book, "there is a brotherhood of suffering."

It is unfortunate that the word, "Holocaust," makes most people think of only the Jewish victims of Naziism. Hitler's fierce racism and madness caused the deaths of many millions of people. Germans have been reminded of this for 40 years, as well they should be.

Still, laying excessive guilt on anybody or an entire nation isn't very healthy. Two-thirds of today's Germans were born after Hitler. Europeans old enough to remember the Nazi period know that it inflicted suffering on all Jews and many millions of others whose agony was just as genuine.

So, when Ronald Reagan, in a rare display of political naivete, decided that after 40 years of living as good citizens, the Germans didn't need another guilt load in 1985, his good intentions got

him into big trouble. When the Rev. Billy Graham visited him recently, and they talked of the Jewish protests over his visit to Bitburg cemetery, tears came to Reagan's eyes.

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sg

312999

ID # _____ CU

TR123-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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

HH

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

Name of Correspondent: Derald Held

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

Subject: Bitburg 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>CUHOLL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>85104130</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>85105114 PY</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>CUAT 20</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>85105101</u>		<u>C</u>	<u>85105114 PY</u>
	Referral Note:	<u>5-1-85 HH MEMO TO Fielding</u>			
<u>CUFIEL</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>85105114</u>	<u>FF</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>85105114 PY</u>
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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: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
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Prime Subject Code: TR 123-01 Secondary Subject Codes: _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

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

SIGNATURE CODES:

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

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

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

MEDIA CODES:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 14, 1985

Dear Justice Held:

Thank you for your letter of April 24, 1985 to the President. Its brevity underscored its obvious sincerity.

The President did reconsider his visit to the Bitburg Cemetery -- many times in fact. He resolved that he should go. I trust that his remarks during the trip explained his resolve, and I sincerely hope that you and the many other Americans who counseled against the visit understand not only these reasons, but also the depth of the President's commitment to neither forget the Holocaust nor to allow a similar pattern in history to take shape again.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Gerald S. Held
Justice
The Supreme Court of the
State of New York
Brooklyn, New York 11201

FFF:HH:ph 5/2/85
cc: FFFielding ✓
HHewitt
Subject
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 1, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: HUGH HEWITT *HLH-H*
SUBJECT: Letter to the President from
Justice Gerald Held, N.Y.

Attached for your review and signature is a draft response to Justice Gerald Hall of New York who wrote the President urging him to reconsider the Bitburg visit.

Attachment

212999 CA

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
JUSTICES' CHAMBERS
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201



GERALD S. HELD
JUSTICE

PERSONAL & UNOFFICIAL

April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

Please reconsider your decision to go to Bitburg Cemetery. The hurt that is felt by American Jews, by veteran's organizations and by our citizenry in general is immeasurable.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Gerald S. Held

1985 APR 30 PM 4: 55

TR 123-01

FO006-08

PR 016

CO054-02

JV

QUESTIONS --ECONOMIC SUMMIT - PRINT INTERVIEW

1. How does the Reagan Administration plan to maintain its economic momentum and upswing, and how can other countries stay apace of the fast-moving American locomotive if they at the same time increase their imports of American products?
2. Secretary Baker said at the OECD meeting in Paris that America might be willing to join in and possibly host a new monetary conference. Can you explain in greater detail?
3. How do you expect free trade to flourish in an atmosphere of trade conflict such as that between the United States and Japan or the United States and Europe?
4. What are you prepared to give to get a new trade round? Should a new round begin, what would happen to the ongoing bilateral trade negotiations you have undertaken with Canada and other countries on the grounds that you could not wait for resolution of these bilateral issues?
5. Should there be a meeting in the near future between yourself and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, what proposals would you make to him and why?
6. The Strategic Defense Initiative, as outlined by you, has undermined the whole defensive philosophy of your Western Allies and triggered major fears that they may be made more vulnerable in the end to superior Soviet conventional forces? What guarantees can you give on this score to the Europeans that their security will not be lessened by SDI or that it will not actually speed up, rather than diminish the arms race.
7. Do you expect the current round of arms control talks to ease your fears or will NATO require further strengthening?
8. Italy soon will be holding a new series of elections which could bring a new resurgence of influence by the Italian Communist Party. What does the United States expect or want from these coming elections?
9. Your budget deficits and high interest rates are viewed as a major destabilizing feature on the world economic scene, pushing the dollar to unrealistically high levels and siphoning away capital to America that foreign countries badly need at home. What actions do you intend to take to ease this situation?

10. What steps is the United States going to make to alleviate the world debt situation and, in general, to help the economies of Third World nations and thus close the North-South gap?
11. How do you explain the fact that after so long a time you still have not convinced the people and governments of many other nominally friendly countries that your concerns and actions in Central America are correct and worthy of support?
12. Not too long ago you said that world economic ills were not the fault of U.S. policies but of the economic weaknesses and structural rigidities of your European and other trading partners. Do you still believe that to be the case and if so, what do you recommend that other nations should do about it?
13. Since you are about to set off on a State visit to West Germany as well as the Economic Summit in Bonn, what message do you have, on virtually the eve of your departure for the German people?
14. Does your Administration foresee a stronger or weaker role in the future for international financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund? Will the U.S. increase monetary contribution to such organizations, or accept the creation of a new organization to deal with exchange rates?
15. Do you favor attempts to create more political unity and a common European currency and other such things that would further economic and political unification there?
16. Why did you decide to go to Bitburg and are you still planning to go?

313042

DATE: 4-26-85

TO: Don Regan

FROM: Max Friedland

SUBJECT: Bitburg

1110
TR12301
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H11030

THE ATTACHED IS FOR YOUR:

Information

Action

Letter response _____

File _____

OTHER This is the Senate

Resolution for our

discussion - passed this afternoon

Invitation:

Accept _____ Decline _____

JV

99 CONGRESS
1st SESSION

S. RES.

(NOTE.—Fill in all blank lines except those provided for the date, number, and reference of resolution.)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. _____

submitted the following resolution; which was _____

RESOLUTION

re: Urging Reassessment of the President's West German trip itinerary

Resolved,

It is the sense of the Senate that--

(1) the United States Government should pay honor to the memories of the millions of innocent civilians and hundreds of thousands of American and Allied soldiers who suffered and died at the hands of the Nazis;

(2) on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War it is fitting and appropriate for the President, in a gesture of reconciliation, to visit the Federal Republic of Germany, a country which has taken its place among the community of democratic nations and which is now a friend and ally of the United States;

(3) the President should recognize the importance of the relationship between our Nation and the Federal Republic of Germany by paying tribute to appropriate symbols of the nation's current democracy; and

(4) the President should reassess his planned itinerary during his forthcoming trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

*{ voice }
vote}*

*Paula + 2:30 P.M.
at Damato
Dabbin 2:40 P.M.*

Printed at the Government Printing Office
Washington, D. C. 20540

S. RES.

CONGRESS 99
1st Session

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. _____

submitted the following resolution; which was

RESOLUTION

During Reassessment of the President's West German Trip Itinerary

Resolved,

It is the sense of the Senate that--

(1) the United States Government should pay honor to the memories of the millions of innocent civilians and hundreds of thousands of American and Allied soldiers who suffered and died at the hands of the Nazis;

(2) on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War it is fitting and appropriate for the President, in a gesture of reconciliation, to visit the Federal Republic of Germany, a country which has taken its place among the community of democratic nations and which is now a friend and ally of the United States;

(3) the President should recognize the importance of the relationship between our Nation and the Federal Republic of Germany by paying tribute to appropriate symbols of the nation's current democracy; and

(4) the President should reassess his planned itinerary during his forthcoming trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

Brook - see Repd

Vote

Vote 2:10 P.M.
Vote 2:10 P.M.

JV

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22 upi 04-29-85 04:05 ped release re: President's
xxx decision.

TR123-01

C0054-02

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PRO16

The president said that "private polls" conducted by the White House indicated that the opposition to his decision to go to Bitburg was not "that great."

A Gallup survey published by Newsweek Sunday found 55 percent of Americans questioned opposed Reagan's visiting Bitburg -- where a few dozen members of Hitler's elite "Schutzstaffel" are buried -- while 36 percent supported the plan.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said there were "no change in plans" for laying a wreath Sunday at the cemetery, where 47 members of the elite Nazi SS Waffen corps are buried, spending about 15 minutes on the grounds.

In West Germany, the Bild Zeitung newspaper said the wreath had already been ordered for Reagan's visit and it will be decorated in the red, white and blue of the American flag.

Reagan is clearly annoyed that the 10-day trip, during which he plans to give four major speeches, is being overshadowed by the brief ceremony planned at the cemetery.

Reagan blamed the media for "some of the distortions" surrounding the trip, and said that he had misunderstood the invitation from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to also visit a concentration camp, thinking he would be accused of "going off on my own."

Before going to Bitburg, the president will tour the Bergen-Belsen death camp -- a stop added after the public uproar over his decision to visit Bitburg -- and will speak briefly.

"I understand how some people feel," he said in the foreign television interview, but he added that he wanted his visit to be a gesture of reconciliation to recognize that 40 years after the war Germany was a democratic nation and an allied partner.

"We want to make it plain that it should never have happened and there must never be anything like the Holocaust again. This is a time for reconciliation after years and years," he said.

"Yes, I know all the bad things that happened in that war ... I was in uniform myself for four years," said Reagan, who never saw combat during World War II while serving in the first motion picture unit of the Army Air Corps.

"But as I said to my friends all of those who are buried in that cemetery have long since met the supreme judgment of right and wrong. Whatever punishment or justice is needed has been rendered by one who is above us all."

Reagan said he did not believe the nearly month-long controversy over the Bitburg visit will mar his European journey that begins Tuesday night when he flies to Bonn, West Germany. He will attend the European Economic Summit and make a state visit to West Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Asked whether Nixon urged him to stand firm on his decision that has evoked widespread criticism in the House and Senate, and among Jewish and veterans groups, Reagan answered, "No, he approved of it."

Earlier, Speakes confirmed that Nixon and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger privately urged Reagan not to back down from plans to visit the cemetery.

Nixon was reported to have told White House aides that the visit had caused "substantial domestic political damage" but Reagan should not bow to pressure to cancel.

21 upi 04-29-85 03:44 ped

urgent

Reagan determined to visit Bitburg

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan said Monday he is determined to visit a West German military cemetery where Nazi SS troopers are buried despite a worldwide outcry because it is "morally right to do so."

On the eve of his 10-day European trip, Reagan also told a group of foreign correspondents in an interview televised live in Europe that those buried in the Bitburg cemetery have "long in a sense met the supreme judgment of right and wrong."

"The final word has been said as far as I'm concerned," Reagan said when asked about the "trauma" of his decision on survivors of the Holocaust and others who were affected by World War II.

"I think I'm morally right to do so and I'm not going to change my mind," he declared.

Reagan earlier told White House reporters that former President Richard Nixon approved of his decision.

more

upi 04-29-85 03:44 ped

23 upi 04-29-85 04:11 ped

(combining takes)

Reagan determined to visit Bitburg

By HELEN THOMAS

UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- President Reagan said Monday he is determined to visit a West German military cemetery where Nazi SS troopers are buried despite a worldwide outcry because it is "morally right to do so."

On the eve of his 10-day European trip, Reagan also told a group of foreign correspondents in an interview televised live in Europe that those buried in the Bitburg cemetery have "long in a sense met the supreme judgment of right and wrong."

"The final word has been said as far as I'm concerned," Reagan said when asked about the "trauma" of his decision on survivors of the Holocaust and others who were affected by World War II.

"I think I'm morally right to do so and I'm not going to change my mind," he declared.

Reagan earlier told White House reporters that former President Richard Nixon approved of his decision.

The president said that "private polls" conducted by the White House indicated that the opposition to his decision to go to Bitburg was not "that great."

A Gallup survey published by Newsweek Sunday found 55 percent of Americans questioned opposed Reagan's visiting Bitburg -- where a few dozen members of Hitler's elite "Schutzstaffel" are buried -- while 36 percent supported the plan.

White House spokesman Larry Speakes said there were "no change in plans" for laying a wreath Sunday at the cemetery, where 47 members of the elite Nazi SS Waffen corps are buried, spending about 15 minutes on the grounds.

In West Germany, the Bild Zeitung newspaper said the wreath had already been ordered for Reagan's visit and it will be decorated in the red, white and blue of the American flag.

Reagan is clearly annoyed that attention being paid to the 10-day trip, during which he plans to give four major speeches, is focusing on the brief ceremony planned at the cemetery.

Reagan blamed the media for "some of the distortions" surrounding the trip, and said that he had misunderstood the invitation from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to also visit a concentration camp, thinking he would be accused of "going off on my own."

Before going to Bitburg, the president will tour the Bergen-Belsen death camp -- a stop added after the public uproar over his decision to visit Bitburg -- and will speak briefly.

"I understand how some people feel," he said in the foreign television interview, but he added that he wanted his visit to be a gesture of reconciliation to recognize that 40 years after the war Germany was a democratic nation and an allied partner.

"We want to make it plain that it should never have happened and there must never be anything like the Holocaust again. This is a time for reconciliation after years and years," he said.

-more-

UPI (continued)

"Yes, I know all the bad things that happened in that war ... I was in uniform myself for four years," said Reagan, who never saw combat during World War II while serving in the first motion picture unit of the Army Air Corps.

"But as I said to my friends all of those who are buried in that cemetery have long since met the supreme judgment of right and wrong. Whatever punishment or justice is needed has been rendered by one who is above us all."

Reagan said he did not believe the nearly month-long controversy over the Bitburg visit will mar his European journey that begins Tuesday night when he flies to Bonn, West Germany. He will attend the European Economic Summit and make a state visit to West Germany, Spain and Portugal.

Asked whether Nixon urged him to stand firm on his decision that has evoked widespread criticism in the House and Senate, and among Jewish and veterans groups, Reagan answered, "No, he approved of it."

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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April 30, 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR WHITE HOUSE AND EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT STAFF

FROM: Christopher Hicks *CH*

SUBJECT: The President and Mrs. Reagan's Departure
for the President's Trip to Europe

You are invited to bring your family and friends to attend the departure of President and Mrs. Reagan this evening from the South Lawn of the White House for the President's trip to Europe.

Entrance to the South Lawn will be through the East Wing and West Wing. Please be in place by 9:00 p.m.

The West Wing will be open to tours beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Residence will be closed all evening.

Thank you.

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TR123-01

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SUBJECT THE TRIP OF MRS. REAGAN TO EUROPE, PART I,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND ROME, ITALY,
APR 30 - MAY 4 85
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R0601 * END OF DOCUMENTS IN LIST - ENTER RETURN OR ANOTHER COMMAND.

Large Booklet of schedule charged
to D. Balfour 11-30-87



Nathan Perlmutter
National Director
823 United Nations Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 490-2525

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4500

TR123-01

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April 10, 1985

Mr. Marshall Breger
Special Assistant to the
President for Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

* GREENLAND, LEO

* HIEY, MARVIN RABBI

* PERLMUTTER, NATHAN

Dear Marshall:

I thought I would share with you the enclosed unsolicited copy of a letter from one of our officers to the President. Leo Greenland is the head of one of the major advertising agencies in the city and as he points out a supporter of the President.

Given the reaction, even if the President does not go to Dachau, I think it would be useful for him, while in Germany, to speak to the subject in one of his public appearances.

Cordially,

* SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER

Naac

NP:cep
Enclosure

cc: David Brody

Unacknowledged Correspondence Re:
The President's trip to Germany

LEO GREENLAND, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 9, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

As a person whom I admire and for whom I voted, one of your recent decisions has me a little puzzled.

When I was in Munich last Fall with the Chief Executives Organization, one of the activities on the program was a visit to Dachau. We were encouraged by our German hosts to visit this former concentration and death camp. It seemed to me that the current leaders of Germany, with whom we met, and the local Munich officials wanted the American visitors to see in detail what went on in their country. They were ashamed that it happened there, and there was no doubt that they felt the way to prevent genocide happening in any country was to be sure that people never forget. There are Neo-Nazis in Germany as well as in our great country, who would like to have people forget.

I do not mean to be presumptuous, Mr. President, but you are currently playing into the hands of the Neo-Nazis. As far as the general U.S. public is concerned, you just have to check the ratings of Holocaust mini-series to understand their great interest in this subject, especially the most recent series on Raoul Wallenberg. On its first night in the New York area alone, the series on NBC had a rating of 23, as compared to 11 for ABC and 14 for CBS.

A visit to Dachau, commemorating all the victims which include thinking people from every ethnic group, would prove to be extremely sensitive and beneficial to you personally. If you do not visit Dachau, it would be great opportunity lost in the name of humanity and decency.

.../...

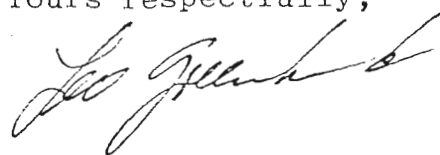
President Ronald Reagan -2-

4/9/85

I respectfully suggest you reconsider your position.

With admiration, I am

Yours respectfully,



LG/gr

cc: Santa Barbara, California

bc: Daniel Mariaschin, ADL ✓
Nathan Perlmutter, ADL ✓
Rita Greenland

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PMS OFFICE OF MARSHALL BREGER

ATTENTION: ZEV LEWIS RPT DLY MGM, MUST DLR TONIGHT--URGENT--, DLR
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

IT IS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT THE PRESIDENT WHO DECIDED NOT TO VISIT A
CONCENTRATION CAMP SITE DURING 40TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIONS HAS
NOW DECIDED TO VISIT A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETARY IN BILBURG. IT IS

SIMPLY INCONCEIVABLE THAT THERE CAN BE ANY COMMEMORATION OF THE
DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY WITHOUT FOCUSING ON THE MAIN AGENDA OF NAZISM:
THE "FINAL SOLUTION" OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AND MURDER OF MANY OTHER
INNOCENT VICTIMS. IF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CAN VISIT A
GERMAN CEMETARY, HE CERTAINLY CAN VISIT DACHAU OR BERGEN-BELSEN.

RABBI MARVIN HIER, DEAN
SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER
9760 WEST PICO BLVD
LOS ANGELES CA 90035-4792

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1729 EST