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Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)
Case file Number(s): 302030-302099
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NSH

ID# 302030

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI MORRIS S. FRIEDMAN

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST GERMANY

file

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/04/26		
<i>✓ C04199</i> REFERRAL NOTE:				<i>C85104/29</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<i>85/04/29</i>		<i>C85706/11</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: T INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

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

50 ✓

302030

M. Buzer

1-0503415115 04/25/85

ICS IPMNTZZ CSP

2128798415 POM TDMT NEW YORK NY 87 04-25 05415 DST P 6:12
15 APR 25

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

THE NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIES, THE LARGEST REPRESENTATIVE RABBINIC
BODY IN THE WORLD, ADDS ITS VOICE TO THOSE WHO IMPLORE YOU TO
RECONSIDER VISITING THE BITBURG CEMETERY ON YOUR TRIP TO WEST
GERMANY. A PLACE CONTAINING THE REMAINS OF WAR CRIMINALS IS AN
INAPPROPRIATE SETTING FOR A HIGHLY SYMBOLIC CEREMONY OF
RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND GERMAN PEOPLES

AS LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD AND A PROVEN FRIEND OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE
WE HOPE AND PRAY YOU WILL FIND A WAY OUT OF YOUR TERRIBLE DILEMMA

RABBI MORRIS S FRIEDMAN PRESIDENT

RABBI PAUL L HAIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
10 EAST 73 ST
NEW YORK NY 10021

1742 EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302031

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. BOHDAN FEDORAK

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST GERMANY

b

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/04/26		
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>CO HIGG</i>				<i>85106128</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>Ran</i>				<i>85107102 AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

50 ✓
BOHDAN FEDORAK, PRES OF COUNCIL
26601 RYAN RD
WARREN MI 48091 25AM

Western Union Mailgram®



P. mit Herman Amatory

1-045112S115 04/25/85 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WHSB
3131126611 MGMB TDBN WARREN MI 166 04-25 0405P EST

302031

Linas Kojala

RONALD REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

UKRANIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN WARREN MI WHICH HAD THE HONOR TO HOST YOU MR PRESIDENT, EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR YOUR DECISION TO VISIT THE CONCENTRATION CAMP OF NAZIS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS FROM DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES INCLUDING UKRANIAN NATIONALIST FIGHTERS ON TWO FRONT WAR AGAINST NAZISM AND BOLSHEVISM AS WELL AS FOR THE SAKE OF THE RECONCILIATION WITH THE DEFEATED IN WORLD WAR II IN VIEW OF THE COMMON STRUGGLE (TOGETHER WITH THE SUBJUGATED BY BOLSHEVISM NATIONS) AGAINST GENOCIDAL TOTALLY TOTALITARIANISM AND RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM YOUR DECISION TO VISIT THE CEMETERY OF THE SOLDIERS FALLEN DURING THE WAR, IN YOUR POLICY OF LIBERATION, YOU, MR PRESIDENT, CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF UKRANIANS AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS UNITED IN THE AFABN WHO DECISIVELY SUPPORTED YOU IN THE LAST ELECTION.

BOHDAN FEDORAK, PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ANTI BOLSHEVIC BLOCK OF NATIONS, PRESIDENT OF UKRANIAN CULTURAL CENTER 26601 RYAN RD, WARREN MI 48091

16137 EST

MGMCOMP

5241 (R 7/82)

Western Union

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540

TELETYPE UNIT OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES
- TELETYPE UNIT OPERATING IN THE UNITED STATES

RONALD REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN KAREN MI WHICH HAS THE HONOR TO HOST YOU
MR. PRESIDENT, EXPRESSES FULL SUPPORT FOR YOUR DECISION TO VISIT THE
NATIONALITIES INCLUDING UKRAINIAN NATIONALIST FIGHTERS OF THE FRONT
WAR AGAINST NAZI AND SOVIET AS WELL AS FOR THE SAKE OF THE
RECONCILIATION WITH THE PEOPLE WHO IN VIEW OF THE
COMMON STRUGGLE TOGETHER WITH THE SUGGESTED BY BOLSHEVIST NATIONALS
AGAINST ENEMY OF LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM
YOUR DECISION TO VISIT THE TOMBS OF THE SOLDIERS FALLEN DURING THE
WAR, IN YOUR POLICY OF LIBERATION YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, CAN ALWAYS
COUNT ON THE SUPPORT OF UKRAINIANS AS WELL AS OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS
UNITED IN THE STRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM YOU IN THE LAST
ELECTION.

RONALD REAGAN, PRESIDENT OF NATIONALITIES OF AMERICAN
FRIENDS OF ANTI-SOVIETIC BLOCK OF NATIONS, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINIAN
CULTURAL CENTER 3801 GRAN RD, KAREN MI 48001

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX I..... 6161 FROM TELEX II (TWX)..... 910-420-1222

MEMOR

NSA

ID# 302035

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND EDWARD A. WHITE

SUBJECT: URGES CANCELLING OF PLANS TO VISIT GERMAN
MILITARY CEMETERY

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

MARSHALL BREGER ORG 85/04/26 C850929

Co Higg

REFERRAL NOTE: A 850429 MAN C 85106105 AB

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

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REFERRAL NOTE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION CODES: *OUTGOING *
* * * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
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*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

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MANAGEMENT.

302035

April 26, 1985

37



Interfaith Conference
of Metropolitan Washington

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

Dear Mr. President:

We appeal to you to cancel your plans to visit the German military cemetery at Bitburg. We are of the opinion that if you, the president of the United States, visit this cemetery which contains the graves of 47 Nazi SS troops, you will commit a morally outrageous offense against American veterans and against Jews of every nation. By paying tribute to SS troops as if they were normal military casualties of a normal war, you will serve those forces seeking to rewrite the history of the Nazi regime, a regime which systematically exterminated 6 million Jews and many millions of others.

Jews in the United States and elsewhere are rightfully offended by your apparent belief that German conscripts and the inmates of Nazi concentration camps are somehow equal victims of Hitler's regime. We join our Jewish brethren in outrage over this distortion. We urge you to re-examine your position on the Holocaust.

Perhaps some foreign policy gains may be made by visiting Bitburg. They would be offset many times over by the cost to civilization of weakening our memory of the atrocities humanity is capable of inflicting on our brother and sister. There is still time to find another site in which all can share as a point of reconciliation. Please do so, Mr. President.

Sincere good wishes,

The Rev. Edward A. White
President

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- The Most Rev. James A. Hickey
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- The Most Rev. Eugene A. Marino
- The Rev. William H. Montgomery
- Dr. Sidney Schwarz

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- Rabbi Eugene J. Lipman
- The Most Rev. Eugene A. Marino
- The Rt. Rev. John T. Walker

EAW/nuk

Attached are signatures of persons attending a news conference of Christians April 25th at Luther Place Memorial Church at which this letter was read.

1419 V Street, N.W., • Washington, D.C. 20009 • (202) 234-6300

Bringing together the leaders of its member faith communities—Islamic, Jewish, Protestant and Roman Catholic—in interfaith dialogue and united work on critical issues facing our metropolitan area.

FOR

WE JOIN THE INTERFAITH CONFERENCE IN URGING PRESIDENT REAGAN

NOT TO VISIT THE BITBURG CEMETERY

Barry G. Rabe

Barry G. Rabe

Dana Runestad

Dana Runestad

Norman C. Theiss

Norman C. Theiss

Rev. Charles Brown

Community Family Life Services

Rev. Eugene Boake

Catholic Chaplain at Lorton Prison

Rev. Harold G. Deal

Luther Place Church

Rev. Thomas J. Knell

First Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pastor Dean L. Moe

Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Wash., D.C.

Rev. Victor A. Roberts

Our Redeemer Luth

Paul L. Hunchman

Wash D.C.
Pastor, First Trinity Lutheran
Church

Terrence Lynch

Director, Downtown Cluster of Congregations

Rev. Ken Eno

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN
Silver Spring, MD.

Rev. John Steinbrink

Luther Place Church, D.C.

Ann E. Miller FN

Interfaith Conference of Metro. Washington

Karen L. Paer

Interfaith Conference of
Metro Washington

Stanley Dr. Knight

Temple Church of God in Christ

N/A

ID# 302040

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. STEPHEN L. CHERNOF

SUBJECT: URGES CHANGE OF PLANS REGARDING VISIT TO
GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C D
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/04/26		
<i>CO Higg</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____			<i>CBS/04/29</i>	
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>85/04/29</i>	<i>NAN</i>	<i>C 85/06/05</i> AB
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
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REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION CODES:	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	* CORRESPONDENCE:	*
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*S-FOR-SIGNATURE			*
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
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MANAGEMENT.



**Milwaukee
Jewish
Council**

Helpaer Community Services Building
1360 North Prospect Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Phone 414-276-7920

302040

April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

Throughout the past week, the Milwaukee Jewish Council has received many calls regarding your plan to visit Bitburg Cemetery. Some were angry, some even outraged. One woman, a survivor, simply called needing comfort, someone to whom she could cry, feeling once again the familiarity of abandonment.

It happened to them - and therefore to all of us. Once before: a people abandoned, betrayed, forgotten, forlorned, deceived. In one symbolic gesture, a visit to the gravesite of international criminals, all comes back. Forty years after the liberation, after forty years of brutal struggle to come to terms, in some small way, with the inexplicable, your ill-conceived plan renders those years a failure.

Like you, we believe in reconciliation. But in that spirit we should recall those Germans who had the courage to stand up to Nazism, even though it cost them their freedom and, in many cases, their lives. There is no place in that spirit of reconciliation for understanding those who took part in the perpetration of the Nazi terror.

We urge you to change your plans. We understand the commitment made between friends, as you and Chancellor Kohl are, but surely a friendship would not require your involvement in what can only be described as an obscene gesture.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Chernof
Stephen L. Chernof
President

SLC/hw

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation

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CONSTITUENT ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MILWAUKEE JEWISH COUNCIL

American Jewish Committee
American Jewish Congress
B'nai B'rith Men's Council
B'nai B'rith Women – Milwaukee Council
Hadassah
Jewish Community Center
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish War Veterans
Milwaukee Synagogue Council
National Council of Jewish Women
Pioneer Women
Wisconsin Council of Rabbis
Women's American ORT
Zionist Organization of America – Milwaukee District

Constituent Agency of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation



NTP

ID# 302043

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

file

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

APR 29 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DIANNE FEINSTEIN

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS VISIT TO GRAVE OF KONRAD ADENAUER
AS ALTEPNAIVE TO BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/26		<i>C85/05/01</i> ¹²
<i>McHigg</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>YFA</i>	<i>85/05/02</i>		<i>C8506/11</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2400 _____

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

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION CODES:	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	* CORRESPONDENCE:	*
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MANAGEMENT.

302043

37E
Ron Alvarado

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SAN FRANCISCO



DIANNE FEINSTEIN

April 25 1985

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

Dear President Reagan:

I wish to take this opportunity to indicate my official and personal concern about your announced visit to Bitburg Cemetery. Such a visit will, I believe, have major and stark repercussions throughout the Jewish community of this country and the world.

The American people do not want to see their President associated in a symbolic gesture which gives acceptance to acts of atrocity. It is fair to say that the visit to Bitburg is not viewed as an act of healing -- but as one which would commemorate the genocide that was the foundation of the Nazi philosophy, and which Nazi soldiers carried out. It will be a lightning rod to dissent and divisiveness.

Most respectfully, may I suggest you consider as an alternative to Bitburg Cemetery a visit to the grave of Konrad Adenauer, the chancellor who did so much to develop democracy in West Germany's post-war years and to bring about the reconciliation you seek.

Mr. President, the respect you have earned among the world's Jews will be jeopardized by the cemetery visit. Such a gesture could haunt all your future relationships with the Jewish community.

I attach a resolution on the issue passed this week by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors of San Francisco.

I strongly urge that you cancel any plan to visit a place whose very name has become infamous to Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Dianne Feinstein in cursive script.
DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Mayor of San Francisco

[President Reagan]

1 URGING PRESIDENT REAGAN TO CANCEL HIS PLAN TO VISIT THE GERMAN
2 MILITARY CEMETERY AT BITBURG, WEST GERMANY.

3
4 WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan has announced plans to lay a
5 wreath at the German Military Cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Many members of the infamous SS and the Gestapo are
8 buried at Bitburg Military Cemetery, and

9
10 WHEREAS, April, 1985 is the fortieth anniversary of the
11 liberation of the notorious death camps; and

12
13 WHEREAS, Bitburg is near the site where eighty-four American
14 soldiers surrendered and were immediately executed; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Laying a wreath at the graves of Nazi soldiers helps to
17 legitimize what many consider to have been the most barbaric regime
18 in history; now, therefore, be it

19
20 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County
21 of San Francisco respectfully memorializes the President of the
22 United States that it considers this to be an inappropriate decision
23 and therefore urges him to cancel his planned visit to the German
24 Military Cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany; and, be it

25
26 FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon receiving this resolution signed by
27 her Honor, the Mayor, the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit
28 a certified copy of this resolution to President Ronald Reagan.

29
30 Supervisors Hongisto, Kopp, Molinari, Renne, Silver

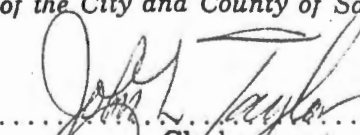
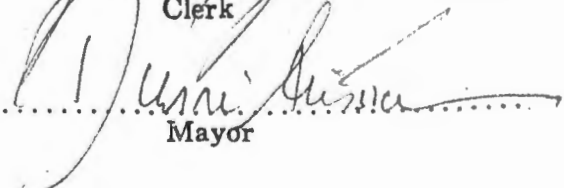
Adopted on date of introduction — Board of Supervisors, San Francisco, April 22, 1985

Ayes: Supervisors ~~Eric~~ Hongisto, Kennedy, Kopp, ~~Maher~~, Molinari, Nelder, Renne, Silver, Walker, Ward

~~Noes: Supervisor~~

Absent: Supervisors Britt Maher Ward

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.


Clerk

Mayor

271-85-1
File No.

4-25-85
Approved

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302048

TR12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 27, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN J. DUNCAN

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT MRS. HARRIANNE THOMPSON, 1321
OHIO AVENUE, ETOWAH, TENNESSEE, OPPOSES THE
VISIT TO THE GERMAN CEMETARY AT BITBURG

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/04/29	<i>MD</i>	<i>AB 85/05/08</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

AB

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING                *
*                       *                       * CORRESPONDENCE:       *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS    *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED              *           CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF   *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****
    
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1985

Dear John:

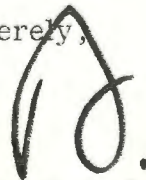
Thank you for sharing with us your constituent's views concerning the President's State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. We fully understand the depth of your constituent's concerns and assure you the President's feelings about the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Nazi regime are no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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

The Honorable John J. Duncan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

9
M.B. Oglasky

JOHN J. DUNCAN
2ND DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

#302048

WAYS AND MEANS
COMMITTEE

2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
PHONE: (AREA CODE 202) 225-5435

Ranking Minority Member

COUNTIES:
BLOUNT
KNOX
LOUDON
McMINN
MONROE
POLK

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

JOINT COMMITTEE
ON TAXATION


April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

A constituent of mine, Mrs. Harrienne Thompson, 1321 Ohio Ave., Etowah, Tennessee, has asked me to convey to you that she opposes your upcoming visit to a German gravesite in Bitburg.

Sincerely,



JOHN J. DUNCAN
Member of Congress

JJD/rh

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROMEO CASCAES

APR 29 1985

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO VISIT
GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		<u>C 85/05/08</u> ^{YZ}
<u>Conigg</u> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<u>A</u>	<u>85/05/08</u>	<u>NAID</u>	<u>C 85/06/05</u> ^{AB}
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2600 _____
IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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

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

#302073



MAYOR
Clare M. Farragher
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
Dorothy H. Avallone, Deputy Mayor
Arthur R. Kondrup
James M. Mayor
David P. Segal

TOWNSHIP OF **FREEHOLD** NEW JERSEY

MUNICIPAL PLAZA • SCHANCK ROAD, FREEHOLD, N.J. 07728-3099 • (201) 462-7900

ROMEO CASCAES
TOWNSHIP CLERK

R. Cascaes

April 23, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

With all due respect, I would like to say that the decision to honor German war dead, at a cemetery in which members of the SS are buried, is ill-advised.

The crimes were too horrible - the wounds still bleed.

Did not President Mitterand honor the fallen soldiers of Germany at a World War One memorial? I believe a similar action by the President of the United States would be in order.

I urge you to reconsider.

Very truly yours,

Romeo Cascaes

Romeo Cascaes
Township Clerk (Elected)

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

APR 29 1985

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN J. FOLEY

SUBJECT: OBJECTS TO BITBERG VISIT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		C 85/05/108 ^{YZ}
<i>Kohigg</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	^{YH}	85/05/08	NAN	C 85/06/05 ^{AB}
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2300 _____

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

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

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

30

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR K NELSON
31 OAK ST
PATCHOGUE NY 11772 26AM

C. Witt Sherman

Western Union Mailgram



1-0478486116 04/26/85 ICS 1PMMTZZ CSP WWSB
5164755800 MGMB TDMT PATCHOGUE NY 23 04-26 0525P EST

#302075

R. Alvarado

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

IMPORTANT CALL OFF BITBERG VISIT.

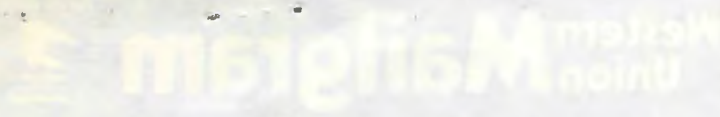
SINCERELY

JOHN J FOLEY SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR

17:25 EST

MGMCOMP

5241 (R 7/82)



WESTERN UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
TELEPHONE NY 1-773-5544

WESTERN UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036
TELEPHONE NY 1-773-5544

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, PHONE WESTERN UNION 1-800-325-6000

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES
OF YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL-FREE) 800-325-6000

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302076

TR 123-01

APR 29 1985

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JOHN MEDEIROS

SUBJECT: ~~OBJECTS TO~~ ^{PRO-} BITBERG CEMETERY VISIT

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		<u>085105/21</u>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
<i>Cohigg</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	A	850522	TC	<u>P2A8510618</u>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2600 _____

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

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

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

June 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Medeiros:

Thank you very much for your message. You were more than kind to write and you warmed my heart by telling of your extra effort in support of my recent visit to West Germany. I'm truly grateful.

Nancy and I were sorry to learn that you were ill and we trust that you are feeling much better now.

My purpose was never to suggest we forgive and forget, and I found that today's Germans do not suggest such a thing. They have preserved the camps with evidence of all the horror of the Holocaust, and they say along with us, "Never again."

From the bottom of my heart, thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,

HOWARD READMAN A

Mr. John Medeiros
273 Peckham Street
Fall River, Massachusetts 02724

RR:AVH:DE:pps

cc: Ron Alvarado ✓

85 618

50
JOHN MEDEIROS ADVERTISING
273 PECKHAM ST
FALL RIVER MA 02724 26AM

P - Simon Trip

Western
Union Mailgram



1-0538558116 04/26/85 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WH8B
6176768752 MGMB TDMT FALL RIVER MA 95 04-26 0650P EST

302076

R. Alvarado

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I GOT OUT OF A SICK BED TUESDAY NIGHT TO ATTEND A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AT WHICH I CAST THE LONE DISSENTING VOTE AGAINST A RESOLUTION INTENDED TO URGE YOU NOT TO ATTEND CEREMONIES AT THE CEMETERY IN BITBERG. MY VOICE WAS HARDLY AUDIBLE BUT I SIMPLY HAD TO ATTEND AND SHOW THAT I STOOD WITH YOU ON THIS ISSUE. PLEASE STICK TO YOUR GUNS. MAKE MY DAY AND DON'T CAVE IN.

SINCERELY
CITY COUNCILLOR JOHN MEDEIROS
273 PECKHAM ST
FALL RIVER MA 02724

18150 EST

MGMCOMP

5241 (R 7/82)

Western Union Mailgram

JOHN HEDGECOCK ADVERTISING
573 PECKHAM ST
FALL RIVER MA 02734

WESTERN UNION TELETYPE UNIT
FALL RIVER MA 02734

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

I GOT YOUR MAILGRAM AND WAS PLEASED TO HEAR FROM YOU. I
WAS AT THE MEETING AT WHICH I CAST THE LOSE DISSENTING VOTE AGAINST A RESOLUTION
INTENDED TO URGES YOU NOT TO ATTEND THE MEMORIAL AT THE CEMETERY IN
OTHERS, MY VOICE WAS HARDLY HEARD BUT I SIMPLY HAD TO ATTEND AND
SHOW THAT I STOOD WITH YOU ON THIS ISSUE. PLEASE STICK TO YOUR GUNS,
MAKE MY DAY AND DON'T LET ME DOWN.

Sincerely,
JOHN HEDGECOCK
CITY COUNSELLOR
573 PECKHAM ST
FALL RIVER MA 02734
DIAL (TOLL-FREE) 800-325-8000

10:20 EST

9803000

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302077

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ELSBETH M. SEEWALD

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS RENEWED DECISION TO VISIT THE
SOLDIERS CEMETERY AT BIRBURG, GERMANY

f

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/04/29		
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
COMING				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

85106128 TR
85107108 TR
85107102 AB

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                               *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED              *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL    *                   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED           *                   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED           *                   *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                               *                   *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                               *                   *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                               *                   *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                               *                   *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

50

MAILGRAM SERVICE CENTER
MIDDLETOWN, VA, 22645
26AM

Western Union Mailgram



P. visit German Cemetery

1-0436868116 04/26/85 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP WHSB
4146584800 MGMS TDBN KENOSHA WI 319 04-26 0443P EST

#302077

L. Kojalis

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN,

THE GERMAN AMERICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS APPLAUDS YOUR COURAGE AND CERTAINLY SUPPORTS YOUR RENEWED DECISION TO VISIT THE SOLDIERS CEMETERY AT BITBURG, GERMANY, IN RECOGNITION OF THE NECESSITY TO HONOR GERMANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY. SURELY, NO HIGHER PRICE CAN BE PAID BY ANY HUMAN BEING THAN TO GIVE A SOLDIER'S LIFE.

WE ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR ASTUTENESS IN MAKING IT KNOWN TO EVERYBODY THAT IT IS YOUR DUTY AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD TO ATTEND TO THE RIGHTS OF ALL RACES AND NATIONS, WHICH COMPRISE THE HUMAN COMMUNITY. ERRORS AND PAST DEEDS MUST NOT BE USED AS A REASON TO OBSCURE A PATH INTO A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

THE DARK PAST MUST BE OVERCOME, FOR SURE, NO AMOUNT OF ATONEMENT, SORROW OR SECRET DESIRE CAN EVER CHANGE THE PAST, GERMANS ABOVE ALL KNOW THIS, BUT NEITHER WILL KINDLING OF RENEWED HATRED OR MAKING GERMANY AND GERMANS POLITICAL OUTCASTS BE ASSURANCE OF FUTURE WORLD SAFETY AND SUCCESS.

IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF JEWISH PEOPLE ARE ATTEMPTING PSYCHOLOGICAL MURDER OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE AND THE GERMAN NATION IN ORDER TO AVENGE. IS THIS ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE PHYSICAL MURDER DURING WORLD WAR II? ONE METHOD IS AS DEADLY AND UNSAVORY AS THE OTHER, AND TAKES AWAY NEEDED TIME AND ENERGY FROM THE ENORMOUS TASK OF WORKING ON A BETTER AND BRIGHTER FUTURE.

LET US HONOR OUR DEAD, LET US REMEMBER THEM, AND LET THEIR SACRIFICE AND DEATH BE THE MONUMENT WHICH IS THE BEACON TO A BETTER FUTURE.

GERMAN AMERICANS SUPPORT YOUR WORK FOR PEACE AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR FORTITUDE. HISTORY WILL SHOW THAT YOU, AS THE LEADER OF THE WESTERN WORLD, ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR DUTY, YOU RECOGNIZED GERMANY AS A VALUED PARTNER WITHIN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, AND RESPECTED THESE FEELINGS OF ITS PEOPLE.

OUR SALUTE TO A GREAT LEADER,
ELSBETH M. SEEWALD, NATIONAL PRESIDENT
GERMAN AMERICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

5241 (R 7/82)

SECRET

RECEIVED
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON 25 0900
WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

DEAR PRESIDENT:

THE FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION I WANT TO ASK YOU IS WHETHER YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO VISIT THE SOVIET UNION AT THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN COMMUNITY. HONORABLE AND WISE AS IT IS, I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD GO TO GIVE A MESSAGE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION.

WE ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR STATING IN MAKING IT KNOWN TO EVERYBODY THAT IT IS YOUR DUTY AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD TO ATTEND TO THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE AND TO PROMOTE THE HUMAN COMMUNITY. YOUR GOALS AND VISIONS MUST NOT BE LEFT AS A REASON TO DELIVER US INTO A DARKER FUTURE.

THE DARK FUTURE MUST BE OVERTHROWN, FOR SURE, BY YOUR LEADERSHIP. YOUR GOALS AND VISIONS MUST NOT BE LEFT AS A REASON TO DELIVER US INTO A DARKER FUTURE. YOUR GOALS AND VISIONS MUST NOT BE LEFT AS A REASON TO DELIVER US INTO A DARKER FUTURE.

IT ALMOST SEEMS AS IF SOMEONE WERE TRYING TO PREVENT YOU FROM GOING TO THE SOVIET UNION. BUT YOU KNOW YOUR DUTY AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. YOU KNOW YOUR DUTY AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD. YOU KNOW YOUR DUTY AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD.

LET US HONOR OUR DEAD, LET US REMEMBER THEM, AND LET THEIR SACRIFICE AND BLOOD BE THE REASON FOR A BETTER FUTURE.

YOUR AMERICAN SUPPORT YOUR WORK FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. YOUR AMERICAN SUPPORT YOUR WORK FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP. YOUR AMERICAN SUPPORT YOUR WORK FOR PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503



16144 EST

MGMCOMP

5241 (R 7/82)



mailgram Western Union



1818 8118

980028

TO REPLY BY MAILGRAM MESSAGE, PHONE WESTERN UNION ANYTIME, DAY OR NIGHT:

FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES

OF YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

OR

DIAL (TOLL-FREE) 800-325-6000

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

FROM TELEX I 6181 FROM TELEX II (TWX) 910-420-1212

CON BIT. 3

NBA

ID# 302078

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. WILLIAM J. LOWENBERG

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO VISIT
GERMAN CEMETERY IN BITBURG

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ALFRED KINGON	ORG	85/04/29		
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>Anne Higgins</u>				<u>C85104130</u> TR
REFERRAL NOTE:				<u>A 8510501</u> TRAH A 85106121 AB
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: Please have your office handle this

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: _____ MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
MI MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

June 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Lowenberg:

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and your deep concern. Although this response has been delayed, I can assure you that the President understands the personal sense of pain you expressed as a survivor of the Holocaust.

The President has asked me to send you the enclosed transcripts of his remarks at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp and at Bitburg Air Base. He hopes that they will help you understand his conviction, asserted anew following his visit to Bergen-Belsen, "We will never forget, and we say with the victims of that Holocaust: Never again."

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. William J. Lowenberg
44 Montgomery Street
San Francisco, CA 94104

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:lmf
ConBB3 (AVHNON)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 4/29

To: _____

The attached is for your:

- Information
- Appropriate Action
- Review and Return:
- With Comments

Anne Higgins is holding
Bitburg letters for response if
you want to refer them to
our office for handling.
Linda

LINDA FRICK
Correspondence, Staff Assistant
Room 96, x7610

30 ✓
A. Kingon

survivor -- C
Critical

302078

1-051700S116 04/26/85

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4153924500 POM TDRN SAN FRANCISCO CA 212 042200Z APR 85 1816 EST 54

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT,

I AM A SURVIVOR OF EIGHT NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS INCLUDING AUSCHWITZ AND DACHAU. ON BEHALF OF THE HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA, WE HAVE NOTED WITH SHOCK AND DISMAY, MR PRESIDENT, YOUR PLANS TO VISIT A GERMAN CEMETERY WHERE MURDERERS OF OUR PARENTS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE BURIED. WE ARE SADDENED AND BEWILDERED BY YOUR PLANS. WE TAKE STRONG EXCEPTION TO YOUR ILL-ADVISED JOURNEY. ARE YOU AWARE, MR PRESIDENT, THAT WHILE YOU ARE VISITING THE GRAVES OF THE SS ON MAY 5TH THAT VERY DAY 1000 FORMER

SS MEN WILL GATHER IN MESSELWANG TO CELEBRATE THEIR INFAMOUS AND MURDEROUS PACTS. I WONDER IF YOU KNOW, MR PRESIDENT, THAT SS SERGEANT OTTO VON BENGAL, BORN OCTOBER 4, 1922, DECORATED BY HITLER WITH GOLD LEAF CLUSTERS FOR HAVING KILLED 10 AMERICANS IS BURIED AT BITBERG. MR PRESIDENT, YOU DO NOT BELONG IN BITBERG. AS A VETERAN OF THE KOREAN WAR, I URGE YOU NOT TO DESECRATE THE MEMORY OF ALL OUR AMERICAN WAR HEROES AND INFLECT MORE PAIN ON THEIR FAMILIES. IN THE NAME OF ALL HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS AND VETERANS OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WE STRONGLY URGE YOU NOT ONLY TO RECONSIDER YOUR PLANS BUT TO STAY AWAY FROM NAZI SS GRAVES IN BITBERG.

WILLIAM J LOWENBERG, MEMBER US HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL
44 MONTGOMERY ST
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94104

1816 EST

Neon

ID# 302079

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

APR 30 1985

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JEROME X. O'DONOVAN

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CANCEL SCHEDULED
VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		<u>85/05/08</u> ^{VI}
<i>✓ Cohigg</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>A</i>	<u>85/06/08</u>	<u>NAN</u>	<u>C 85/06/08</u> ^{AB}
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2600 _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                               * CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED             *           CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                               *           OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                               *                               *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                               *                               *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                               *                               *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) PXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

#308079

JEROME X. O'DONOVAN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 35TH DISTRICT
STATEN ISLAND AND BROOKLYN

DISTRICT OFFICES
36 RICHMOND TERRACE
ROOM 303
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y. 10301
727-9730

2340 86TH STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11214
266-8778

COMMITTEES:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
GENERAL WELFARE
HOUSING AND BUILDINGS

25 April 1985

Honorable Ronald Regan
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Please accept this correspondence as my plea to you to cancel your scheduled visit to the Bitburg Cemetery on May 5th.

As one of your former United States Marine Corps Captains and a member of an "elite" fighting force, I can appreciate you paying homage to fighting men drafted to do battle for their country--even a former adversary. However, Mr. President, the SS troopers buried at Bitberg were not fighting men per-se, they were murderers.

Death on a battlefield is to be expected, soldiers facing soldiers. However, killing for the pleasure of it by recruits that were at best criminals warrants no homage--killing people because of religion, race or color warrants no homage--killing children and women warrants no homage and finally killing for just to kill warrants no homage!

Mr. President, I believe you to be a fine, honest and sincere man doing the best he can for his country. If you step through those gates at Bitberg, Heinrich Himmler and Reinhard Heydrich and 50 SS troopers will rise up and "Heil",--and millions of Jews and Christians will turn over in their graves--don't go.

Sincerely,

Jerome X. O'Donovan

JJO/ldk

Handwritten initials

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302080

TR 123-01

APR 30 1985

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE THEODORF D. MANN

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF VISIT TO BITBURG
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		<i>CBS 105/08</i>
<i>Voliggy</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>YSA</i>	<i>85/05/08</i>	<i>NAN C</i>	<i>85/06/05 AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2600

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

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

#307080



THEODORE D. MANN
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Incorporated 1873
CITY HALL
COMMONWEALTH AVENUE AND WALNUT STREET
NEWTON CENTRE 02159

25 April 1985

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

I take the liberty of requesting that the itinerary for your upcoming trip to West Germany be reconsidered, with an eye toward excluding the visit to Bitburg Cemetery.

As a "grass roots" person, I have rarely witnessed such a uniformity of opinion, reflecting the community's single-mindedness of purpose, on any subject.

Surely, recognizing the highly emotionally charged reactions of the survivors of concentration camps and the families of the twenty million victims of the Nazi regime, the political hierarchy of West Germany should not subject our country's leader to the continuing onslaught.

A gesture of true reconciliation might be, perhaps, a visit to a West German school, wherein the students represent both the present reality and the hopes for the future of our ally, West Germany.

Every good wish.

Respectfully,

Theodore D. Mann
Mayor

/eth

NBH

ID# 302081

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MARTY MARKOWITZ

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO VISIT
MILITARY CEMETERY IN BIRBURG

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/29		<u>485105103</u>
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>NO FILE</i>		<u>A 850506</u>	<u>NANC</u>	<u>85/06/05</u>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

AB

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
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*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED              *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL    *           OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED           *           CODE = A    *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED            *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
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*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
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302081

15
R. Gleason



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

MARTY MARKOWITZ
SENATOR 21ST DISTRICT
527 OCEAN AVE. (AT CHURCH AVE.)
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11226
(212) 284-4700

ROOM 406
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2431

April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

As a member of the New York State Senate, and a man of conscience and conviction, I respectfully request that you reconsider your recent decision to visit the military cemetery in Bitberg, West Germany.

I am, of course, both sympathetic and supportive of your efforts to enhance our friendly political relations with the Republic of West Germany. Furthermore, I share your feeling that the time is propitious for a spiritual reconciliation between the American and German peoples.

Nevertheless, I am firmly convinced that the mere existence at Bitberg of thousands of graves and markers of Adolf Hitler's elite S.S. members, presents a frightful and grizzly image to the world. It serves as a stark reminder to us all of the unspeakable atrocities, and the systematic torture and extermination that was perpetrated against millions of innocent Jews, Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, Germans and American soldiers by this congregation of the Devil.

I think it would be useful at this time in our history, for those of us who seek to promote peace, understanding, tolerance and justice, to remind ourselves that these precious virtues are not hereditary. Clearly, the souls of millions of victims of Nazi atrocities cry out for justice. Moreover, millions who look to you as a symbol of peace and reconciliation regard your proposed visit to the cemetery at Bitberg as more fit to fracture and divide than to heal and reconcile. I share the belief that a visit by you to the cemetery at Bitberg, regardless of your good intentions, would be viewed as symbolically sanctioning the unconscionable abominations of these merchants of death and inhumanity.

In that light, I would hope you would reconsider your decision to visit the cemetery at Bitberg and, instead, focus your attention on a more appropriate site.

Respectfully,

Marty Markowitz

dh

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE REVEREND ISAAC C. ROTTENBERG

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT VISIT TO
THE MILITARY CEMETRY IN BITBURG, GERMANY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARSHALL BRFGER	ORG	85/04/29		<u>C85/04/30</u> AB
REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS: Ande Huggins Germany Visit

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
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*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED           *           CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED            *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING *
*P-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOP-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
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#302084

NATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE
FOR
ISRAEL

M. Breger

April 18, 1985

134 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016
(212) 679-4822

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

PRESIDENT
Dr. David Lewis

VICE-PRESIDENTS
Sister Rose Thering
Dr. Arnold T. Olson
James H. Doherty

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Rev. William H. Harter

Dear Mr. President:

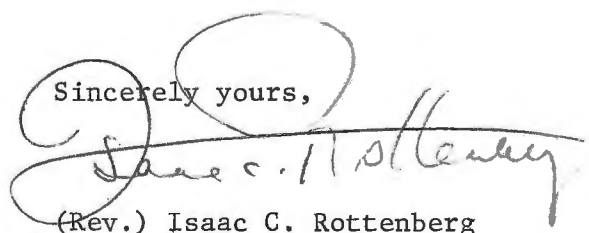
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Mary Rose Ryan
Dr. Hilton Sutton
Mary Ann Travers

I am writing you as a Christian pastor, as the Executive Director of the National Christian Leadership Conference for Israel, and as the son of a Dutch minister who resisted the Nazis, was imprisoned in Buchenwald and later died in the concentration camp Mauthausen. Let me assure you, Mr. President, that many of us in the Christian community support you in your desire to use the 40th anniversary of the liberation of Europe to promote reconciliation and friendship between the United States and Germany. However, we are troubled and deeply saddened by the way you propose to do this and by some of the rationales advanced to support these plans.

Mr. President, there were many German victims of Hitler's madness, among them young men and women who were sacrificed on the altar of the Nazi dream of world conquest. But I think especially of those persons, both among the civilians and the military, who at the risk of their own lives resisted Hitler's diabolical schemes. Their courage and their integrity stand as a beacon of hope in a world so full of oppression and they are the people who deserve to be remembered and honored.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Rev. Isaac C. Rottenberg

Sincerely yours,



(Rev.) Isaac C. Rottenberg
Executive Director, NCLCI



THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

85 MAY 6 5:25

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE RICHARD A. LICHT

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO FIND A SUITABLE
ALTERNATIVE TO VISITING THE BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ANDREW CARD	ORG	85/04/29		C 85/05/02
<i>WSC</i> <i>MCFA</i>			<i>R</i>	<i>85/05/02</i> <i>7</i> <i>C</i> <i>85/05/07</i> <i>AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
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COMMENTS: *State*

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

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

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

302085



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Providence

02903

RICHARD A. LIGHT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

TELEPHONE
(401) 277-2371

April 19, 1985

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Mr. President:

I support your efforts to strengthen the bonds between the American and German democracies, however, I am writing to strongly urge you to find a suitable alternative to visiting the Bitburg cemetery.

As you have recently become aware, the Bitburg cemetery contains the graves of forty-seven Nazi SS soldiers, soldiers who represented Hitler's elite corps, soldiers who defended to the utmost a regime built upon, and dedicated to, all that is abhorrent to a free people.

To honor Nazi war dead by such a visit is to bring dishonor to the hundreds of thousands of brave American and Allied soldiers who fought and died in order to halt the Nazi nightmare. To visit Bitburg cemetery is to acknowledge that America is prepared to set aside the memory of more than eleven million Holocaust victims for the sake of diplomatic expediency.

We cannot, and we should not, expect the new generation of Germans to carry the responsibility for what happened under the Nazis. Yet these new generations do have the responsibility to remember what happened, and what can happen again, if we allow such events to be lost in time.

Mr. President, I implore you to find another way.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Licht
Lieutenant Governor

RAL/jn/ct

BITBURG Co
DE
cc: Robert Gleason

ID# 302086

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE EDWARD P. KIRBY

SUBJECT: WRITES CONCERNING UPCOMING TRIP TO GERMANY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/29		L 05/05/85
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>NO Nicks</i>				
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200

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

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

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MANAGEMENT.

June 11, 1985

Dear Senator Kirby:

Thank you very much for your kind message and generous words. I am truly grateful and particularly so for your approval of my recent visit to West Germany. I felt from the start that I was doing the morally right thing, and feel that even more so now that the trip is over. Your message strengthens my conviction.

Sincerely,

ROBERT REAGAN A

The Honorable Edward P. Kirby
Senator of the
State of Massachusetts
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

RR/DE/CAD/AVH/efr
Bitburg 6

cc: Robert Gleason ✓

NR 811



302056

THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS
State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM 413-H, STATE HOUSE
BOSTON 02133
TELEPHONE (617) 722-1330

SENATOR EDWARD P. KIRBY
SECOND PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES ON:
TRANSPORTATION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
PUBLIC SERVICE

April 23, 1985

President Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Mr. President:

The debate about your planned trip to Germany has failed to concentrate a focus on narrower and narrower issues, to come to the point. You have said some of the German soldiers of World War II buried in military cemeteries there, were themselves victims of the Nazis. The networks reply, 'some of them are SS troopers,' but do not discuss whether the time is at hand to think of forgiving those who were not SS. Obviously, you Mr. President, are not going to Bitburg to honor the SS. You are going there as a gesture for Germans who may have been as innocent as our leaders, who could have done more to prevent the Holocaust.

Who is to say which dead soldier was a guilty Nazi and which was an innocent soldier? What military cemetery in Germany does not contain dead SS troopers and which one does not contain innocent patriots? How can anyone make such judgment forty years later?

The German people cannot be expected to wear sack-cloth and ashes for all time. As a young German exchange student once said at my home, "When will the German people be rid of the guilt? I would not have done the things the Nazis did to the Jews."

I offer to you, Mr. President, my support in the trying time before you. I recommend to you the hope that you can in your trip perform a great act of conciliation, to help in healing the souls of the German people; while also consoling the bereaved Jews of the world; while also teaching the American people from your pulpit - the Presidency - to be just and right thinkers who rightly guide the world to peace, German and Jew, Easterner and Westerner, Capitalist and Socialist. Indeed, Christian, Jew, Moslem and all.

A Prussian victory parade in Paris in 1879 led to an excessively vengeful treaty at Versaille after the World war, and that led in turn to the viciousness of World War II, and Hitler exacted a humiliation in the railroad car at Compeigne.

In contrast, American treatment of beaten enemies after World War II was free of vengeful motivation, and the benefits have been abundant.

Has vengeance in the Middle East led to greater and stronger peace there? Have your own promises to avenge the deaths of American Marines in Lebanon led to any good thing for anyone?

The Jewish people suffered horribly at the hands of German leaders in the time of our memory. The entire German nation must bear responsibility for it. The Holocaust of Jews and other victims should never be forgotten. But that does not mean it should not be forgiven.

When should that forgiveness come? When can it come? Can it be given at any single time? Can it ever be given entirely? Is it possible for some Jews to forgive some Germans? Is it possible for some other victims or their families to forgive any Germans? Can the descendants of any of the innocent or any of the guilty be forgiven?

Some of these questions can be answered now - with beginnings. Others may never be answered with finality. But that should not stop beginnings.

No one can decree forgiveness. But a great moral leader can show the way to its beginnings, and perhaps lead further on the way.

It has been said that the only infinite act that man can perform is one of infinite evil: that is, the rejection of the infinite good of God. And it has also been said that man alone is never capable of any act of infinite reparation for that evil, so that it was necessary for God's son to become man and to perform that act of infinite reparation in man's name, to restore man to forgiveness and friendship with God.

No mortal man can do that. But a mortal man who has the courage, and has the attention of the world, can perform his own finite act of reparation, and show the way to forgiveness and friendship between men.

Otherwise, how can any of the sins of men against men ever be reconciled?

Must the villagers of My Lai hate Americans forever? Must Vietnamese hate each other and hate us forever? Must the blacks whose grandfathers and grandmothers were made slaves be forever embittered and filled with hatred? Must Americans forever hate Japanese who did atrocious things for Imperialism? Must the Armenians forever hate the Turks? The examples are too numerous.

Obviously these hatreds should all be quelled, while none of the crimes that caused them should ever be forgotten lessons in the never-ending search for wisdom and justice that should be made by mankind.

The world becomes smaller and smaller. We travel more and more quickly. We learn of each other more and more quickly and surely. We should understand and befriend one another more fully.

We as a nation are not without enemies, and we must not allow an easy enthusiasm for reconciliation to become our surrender to those who continue seeking to victimize us. But we are not without friends either, and our friends can befriend each other. Reconciliation could become a trend.

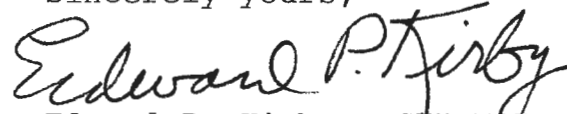
It is most unfortunate that at the fortieth anniversary of liberation of the death camps, when emotions were understandably high, inadequate recognition of that fact allowed your plans to be incompletely prepared. Yet the high emotions of this controversy may focus the attention of the world on what you say.

The challenge of what to say at Bitburg is as great as what faced Lincoln at Gettysburg and in his second inaugural address.

I am not a theologian or a historian, but I am sure that in traditional Jewish writings there are expressions concerning the need among men and women for reconciliation and forgiveness, words which may move all your listeners toward peace if you speak them in Germany.

I hope, Mr. President, that you will find the faith, the truth and therefore the words to lead all Americans, our former allies and our former enemies and indeed those who were the victims of Naziism, the Jews, the peoples of Europe and Russia, all the peoples and nations of the world to a greater reconciliation than the world has ever experienced.

Sincerely yours,



Edward P. Kirby - SENATOR
SECOND PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

EPK/b

NS

ID# 302090

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MICHAEL C. GRUITZA

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION TO VISIT
THE BITBURG MILITARY CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/29		<u>C85T05T03</u>
<u>✓ CO HIGG</u> REFERRAL NOTE: _____		<u>A 850506</u>	<u>N/A N = 85/06/05</u>	<u>AB</u>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___	___	___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___	___	___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___	___	___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___	___	___/___/___

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

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

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

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
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MANAGEMENT.

5
MICHAEL C. GRUITZA, MEMBER
POST OFFICE BOX 652
487 SOUTH DOCK STREET
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA 16146
PHONE: (412) 981-4655

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 94
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120
PHONE: (717) 787-1354



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

302090
COMMITTEES

GAME & FISHERIES,
VICE CHAIRMAN
TRANSPORTATION
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY

April 24, 1985

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

Mr. President:

Your decision to visit the Bitburg Military Cemetery is beyond belief. There are many ways that you can, and have, symbolized our alliance with the Republic of West Germany without visiting Bitburg. Those who participated in the heinous crimes against the Jewish people, and others, should never be recognized by this Country as anything but criminals.

Some things simply can never be forgotten, nor forgiven.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Gruitza".

Michael C. Gruitza
State Legislator
District 7

MCG:ds

132101

ID# 302093

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE AL GUTMAN

SUBJECT: OBJECTS TO PLANNED VISIT TO MILITARY CEMETERY
IN BITBURG, GERMANY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/29		C 85/05/03 <i>AB</i>
<i>1207166</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>850503</i>	<i>NAV</i>	<i>C 85/06/05</i> <i>AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

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

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



Florida House of Representatives

Tallahassee

Alberto (Al) Gutman
Representative, 105th District

Committees

Education, K-12
Ethics & Elections
Regulatory Reform

Reply to:

- 324A Southwest 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33130
(305) 541-9090
- 14 House Office Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 488-9930

April 23, 1985

President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20002

Honorable Ronald Reagan:

This letter is to convey my dissatisfaction and objection on your planned visit to the cemetery in which a few Nazi SS soldiers are buried.

The soldiers in those graves are the reason millions died and equal amounts fled from Europe leaving all behind, and this includes my family.

It is difficult for me to understand how you can condemn such acts as Nazism and then pay tribute to those who participated. I have been supportive of many of your policies and decisions but this one is personally offensive and against all of what America stands for.

The soldiers buried there might have well been the soldiers that murdered many of our relatives.

Sincerely yours,

Al Gutman

AG/if

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

APR 30 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE STEVEN ENGLEBRIGHT

SUBJECT: OBJECTS TO DECISION TO VISIT THE BITBURG
CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/29		<u>085/05/08</u> ⁷²
<i>Conroy</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>85/05/08</i>	<i>NAN</i>	<i>085/06/05</i> <i>AR</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2300 _____

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

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

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
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MANAGEMENT.

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

302094



COUNTY LEGISLATURE

STEVEN C. ENGLEBRIGHT
LEGISLATOR, 5TH DISTRICT

149 MAIN STREET
E. SETAUKET, NEW YORK 11733
(516) 689-8500

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES:
EDUCATION & YOUTH COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENERGY, & PLANNING COMMITTEE

April 23, 1985

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

Dear President Reagan,

Many residents of Suffolk County are deeply disturbed by your decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery when you visit Germany next month.

I have circulated the attached letter among my colleagues in the Suffolk County Legislature, urging you to reconsider this decision. Virtually all of my fellow legislators share the opinion that it would be inappropriate for you to visit Bitburg.

The atrocities of the Nazi regime are among the worst violations of human and civil rights in history. Your participation in a ceremony where Nazi troops are buried would pay homage to the perpetrators of the Holocaust instead of its survivors and victims. Please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Steven Englebright
County Legislator
5th District

SE:lc
Enclosure

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



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

April 23, 1985

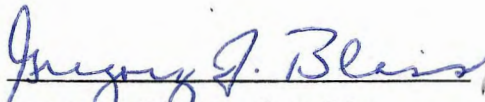
Dear President Reagan,

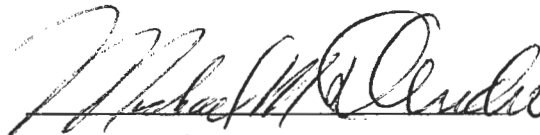
We, the undersigned members of the Suffolk County Legislature, respectfully urge you to reconsider your decision to visit the Bitburg cemetery when you visit West Germany next month.

As you know, Nazi SS troops are buried at Bitburg. To participate in any ceremony where Nazi troops are buried would be most inappropriate. Doing so would pay homage to the perpetrators of the Holocaust instead of its survivors and victims.

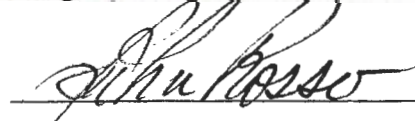
The atrocities of the Nazi regime are among the worst violations of civil and human rights in history. As the elected representatives of nearly 1.5 million citizens, we must deplore any action which would give credibility to such horrors. Please reconsider your decision.

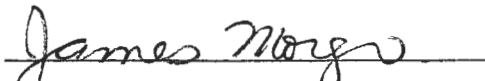
Sincerely,

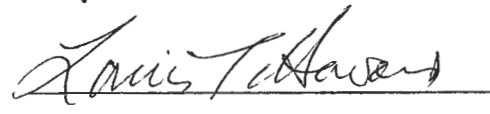

Gregory Blass, 1st Dist.

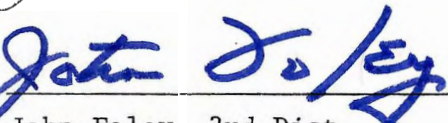

Michael D'Andre, 7th Dist.


Gerard Glass, 17th Dist.

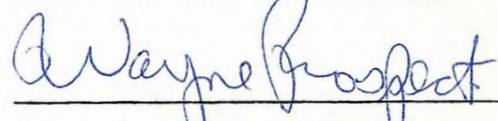

John Rosso, 2nd Dist.


James Morgo, 8th Dist.

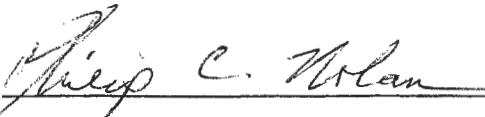

Louis T. Howard, 14th Dist.

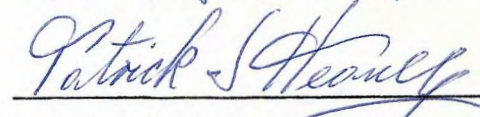

John Foley, 3rd Dist.

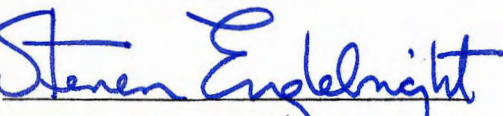
Joseph Rizzo, 9th Dist.

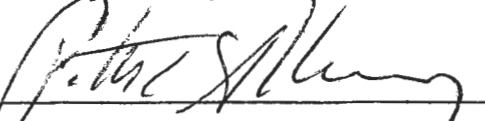

Wayne Prospect, 15th Dist.

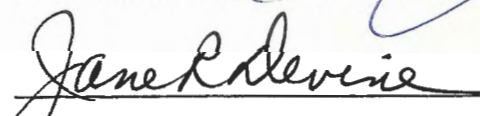
Rose Caracappa, 4th Dist.

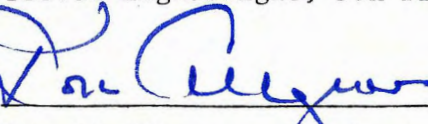

Philip Nolan, 10th Dist.

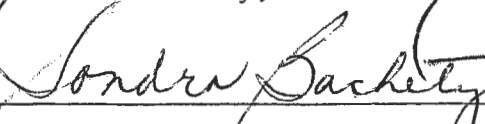

Patrick Heaney, 16th Dist.

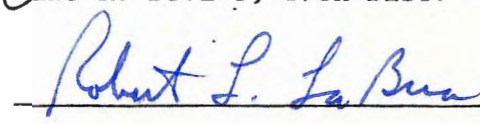

Steven Englebright, 5th Dist.


Patrick Mahoney, 11th Dist.


Jane R. Devine, 17th Dist.


Donald Allgrove, 6th Dist.


Sondra Bachety, 12th Dist.


Robert LaBua, 18th Dist.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LAWRENCE E. BENNETT

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CANCEL VISIT TO
BITBURGH CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
ROBERT GLEASON	ORG	85/04/29		
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>10 H166</u>				<u>C 85105/03</u>
REFERRAL NOTE:				<u>A 85105/06 NAN C 85106/05</u>
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COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MF DIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2200 _____

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

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING                *
*                       *                       * CORRESPONDENCE:        *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED                *TYPE RESP=INITIALS     *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL      *           OF SIGNER   *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE     *C-COMPLETED             *           CODE = A     *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED              *COMPLETED = DATE OF   *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                       *           OUTGOING    *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *                       *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
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4-23-85

MR. PRESIDENT: #302099
ALSO FOUGHT AS AN INFANTRYMAN
AGAINST THE WAFEN S.S. AND I
PLEAD WITH YOU TO CANCEL YOUR
VISIT TO THE BIT BURCH CEMETARY.



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

LAWRENCE E. BENNETT
96th Assembly District

*I thought that the enclosed might be of
interest to you.*

Cordially,

RESPECTFULLY

Lawrence E. Bennett

4-19-85

I cannot



Hillard Gordon

We can appreciate that wish and cruise missiles will be placed on German soil to defend enemy attack.

But Reagan could have chosen a better or friendly feelings toward democracy and good Germans since the demise of Hitler. He may visit the gravesite of Konrad Adenauer, chancellor who guided his nation out of the ashes into a new following World War II.

During the current unrest about his visit to E

Let a wreath-bearing German war dead? to a cemetery which includes the graves of SS men whose units participated in the Battle of the Bulge and massacred American troops at Malmedy, a short distance away.

Human would not have done it. Neither would Eisenhower, Johnson, Nixon, Ford nor Carter.

Kennedy did go to West Germany. At the Soviet-built wall dividing East and West, he delivered an inspirational, pro-human rights speech which featured the ringing phrase: *Ich bin ein Berliner*.

Met President Reagan, as of this writing, is set on visiting the Birburg military cemetery which contains about 2,000 German war dead, including the aforementioned members of SS death squads.

No wonder U.S. veterans have vigorously questioned Reagan's itinerary. No wonder Jewish and other groups are protesting. The SS corps, in case anyone has forgotten its history, played a bloody role in the murder of some 12 million European civilians, including 6 million Jews.

Reagan says he wants to show friendship toward West Germany, a staunch U.S. ally. He wants to "bury the hatchet" and end any lingering animosities towards the German people today 40 years after the end of World War II.

Opinion

pacify critics. He added a German concentration camp during his May visit for an allied economy totally missed the point. Again.

Forget the concentration camp, Mr. President, another if you put in an appearance at one of them, initially rejecting this option the symbolic gesture.

The disturbing issue focuses on the German people, a deeply felt one. It is a terrible mistake for premier democracy to pay homage to an ally who participated in a military machine bent on domination, the murderous storm troopers among them.

Their surviving leaders, as everyone knows, are war criminals. They either paid with their lives or in prison. Are these Nazi leaders also worthy of respect?

As a former serviceman involved in battles, including an elite SS panzer unit, I am

I cannot forget the Holocaust

appreciate that wish and endorse it, especially since it is all placed on German soil to defend the West from a possible attack. Reagan could have chosen a better way to express America's feelings toward democracy and freedom as practiced by West since the demise of Hitler. He might have spoken a few words at the site of Konrad Adenauer, chancellor of West Germany who was thrown out of the ashes into a respected democratic state after World War II.

The current uproar about his visit to Bitburg, Reagan sought to

unnecessary, insensitive and cruel act that my president is about to commit. Reagan appears determined to make a mockery of the memory of GIs who died during World War II to subdue the Nazi war machine, as well as the memory of millions of concentration camp victims who were shot or gassed and burned.

I can never forget the tearful day when my cousin's remains were returned from overseas for reburial in the family plot. His plane had been shot down by German anti-aircraft fire. It took several people to restrain my aunt who tried to pry open the sealed casket to see if the remains really were those of her old son.

Opinion

He added a German concentration camp among his official agenda for his May visit for an allied economic summit meeting — and issued the point. Again, the concentration camp. Mr. President, I don't care one way or the other if you put in an appearance at one of the notorious death camps. By rejecting this option, the symbolic gesture has lost its meaning. The stumbling issue focuses on the German military cemetery — and it is a terrible mistake for the leader of the world's democracy to pay homage or in any way honor those who died in a military machine bent on conquering the world, not to the murderous storm troopers among them. The surviving leaders, as everyone knows, were arrested and tried as criminals. They either paid with their lives by hanging or spent years in prison. Are these Nazi leaders also worthy of ceremonial honors? I am a former serviceman involved in battles against German troops, and an elite SS panzer unit. I am extremely upset about the

I feel so bitter about Reagan laying that wreath. I almost wish that I could withdraw my vote cast for him last November. I believe in forgiveness. But at the same time, I cannot forget the Holocaust or who was to blame.

We can forgive the overwhelming majority of today's West Germans for crimes against humanity committed 40-50 years ago. Most were not alive then or were small children unaware of what was going on.

That today's German leaders denounce the Hitler era and hold out their hands in friendship to the United States is no small thing.

However, in appearing at the Bitburg military cemetery, Reagan is dead wrong.

It is still not too late for him to admit he made a mistake and alter his schedule.

Doesn't he have advisers who are wise and sensitive enough — as Kennedy's were — to visit Germany and inspire Americans, West Germans and the entire Free World with meaningful statements about liberty, justice, democracy and building unity of purpose against those who would enslave mankind?