

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

WHORM Subject File Code: TR123-01

(Trips: Economic Summit, Bonn, 05/03/1985-05/04/1985;
Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)

Case file Number(s): 303900-304059

Box Number: 3

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

MSA

ID# 303903

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 08, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. STANLEY GARCZYNSKI

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING VISIT TO 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
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/05/08		
<i>✓</i> <i>CO #166</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>85/05/23</i>	<i>085/05/14</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>file</i>			<i>NAN</i>	<i>85/09/03 AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

```

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

```

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

303903

OFFICE
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10175
(212) 757-3638

CENTER
24 School Street
Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542
(516) 671-3032

Slavic American

Cultural Assn., Inc.

PROF. VERA VON WIREN-GARCZYNSKI, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

April 18, 1985

TO: Ronald Reagan, President of USA
FROM: Stanley Garczynski,
AUSZWITZ Inmate No. 3740
RE: Your visit to a cemetary in W.Germany

Dear President Reagan:

In 1939, as an officer of the Polish Army, I fought against the Nazi and Soviet invasion. In 1939, my parents and my 10 year old sister were killed near Warsaw by the Nazis. In 1939 I joined the Polish underground. In February 1940, I was arrested by the GESTAPO thrown in prison, tried, and found guilty of conspiracy against the Third Reich and German nation. I was sentenced to a concentration camp, and in April 1940, arrived with the first "Polish prisoners" transport in AUSZWITZ. I remained there until the end -1945. In 1942, my younger brother arrived in the camp and remained there with me until the end. After the liberation I re joined my Polish forces, but after the Communist take over of Poland I joined the US Army Polish detachment. In 1950, I arrived in US as a refugee. I would like to add, that my son, volunteered for the US Army and was a distinguished Honor graduate, 1980, AIR BORN RANGER. He is presently in the US Army Reserve Special Forces.

As a man who lost his family, his country, his wealth, a career and a social position as a reslut of the NAZI invasion, I belive I have right for a rather strong feelings against Nazi Germany and its people. As an officer of the allied forces, I believe, I also have the right to have strong feelings against my enemy. However, I do see your point of view and understand your motivation to visit a German cemetary. Perhaps, in order to be understood, you should make it clear to the public and media that your intentions to visit the German cemetary and Germany are as follows:

1. You will honor all the Concentration camp victims and pay tribute to the ones who have perished by visiting a concentration camp.
2. You will honor all the soldier of the allied and US forces who were killed in action by visitng their cemetary.
3. By visitng a German cemetary (in Germany it is hard to avoid not to have German soldiers of World War II not being barried in any German cemetary), you will remind the Germans tht they too, became victims of their own dictatorship, and their fanatic leader Hitler. You are not honoring soldiers who fought against the allied forces you are merely reminding them of the atrocities of a war. A German drafted by Hitler had no choice: either he would join the Whermacht or tried as a traitor. You, as the President of the US are for PEACE! One pays a high price for a war. The cemetary is a proof.

OFFICE
521 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10175
(212) 757-3638

CENTER
24 School Street
Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542
(516) 671-3032



Slavic American
Cultural Assn., Inc.

PROF. VERA VON WIREN-GARCZYNSKI, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

President Reagan

p.2

April 18, 1985

Presently I am retired, I live on Social Security. World War II, and Nazi invasion deprived me of everything I had, family, estates, career and a feeling of pride for my country. Now, it is taken over by the Communists. I feel often quite bitter. However, I am also proud of my new home and the country of my children. I love my second homeland, I love United States of America. And I do understand your motivation to visit a cemetery in Germany. I believe, we both like to say our daily prayer: "and forgive our daily trespassings, as we....", and we would like to continue saying them. Thus I believe in my heart what you are doing is right.

Follow your heart, and God bless you.

Sincerely yours,



Stanley Garczynski, Chairman
SACA, HOLOCAUST COMMITTEE

SG:af

Encl.

xc: Linas Kojelis
Board members
Other Holocaust Committees



LISH

AMERICA

world

"There Is Nothing So Powerful As Truth,"

Garczynski Recalls Auschwitz



Above are (l to r) Stanislaw Garczynski, Prof. Vera Garczynski, John Cardinal Krol. (From back)-Francis Mleczo.

Holding the Slavic American newsletter with the photograph of St. Maksymilian Kolbe on the front page and articles dedicated to the Neglected Holocaust: Recollections of a Pole, Cardinal Krol met with the survivors of Nazi camps at St. Patrick's Cathedral after the Mass in honor of St. Maksymilian Kolbe.

Two dozen survivors of the Auschwitz death camp, where Father Kolbe died, took part in the Mass. Stanislaw Garczynski, who spent five years in Auschwitz, knew Fr. Kolbe well. Garczynski exemplifies Polish suffering. In 1939 as a Lieutenant in the Polish Army, he fought against Nazi and Soviet invasions. He escaped the Nazis but was arrested in February 1940 and sent to Auschwitz. His parents and sister were killed in September of 1939 by Nazis and his younger brother Andrzej joined him in Auschwitz in 1942. "The Nazis deprived me of my family, my home, my country and my freedom," said Garczynski. "We Poles have suffered beyond one's imagination, and it is about time we told this to the world." With this in mind he wrote an introductory article in The Slavic American Newsletter, "Recollections of a Pole" describing the "Polish Holocaust" and the Polish ordeal of the World War II Nazi atrocities.

Ex-Polish Officer Reports On Escape From Katyn & Five Years in Nazi Concentration Camps As Prisoner

by VERA GARCZYNSKA

There is no doubt that Poles have suffered as a nation more than any other country in Europe. The geographical situation was such that it lent itself to constant invasion and eventually partition by Prussians, Russians and Austrians. Devotion of the Polish people to the Catholic Church and Christianity prompted military decisions which proved to be fatal for the country. However, the fighting spirit, the obstinate belief in one's righteousness, made the Polish people survive the ordeals of occupations, imprisonment and persecution. Looking in retrospect, one can see the validity of such literary works as the "Ksiegi Narodu i Pierlzymstwa Polskiego (The Books of the Polish Nation and Pilgrimage), in which the great Polish poet Mickiewicz presented his fellow emigres with a spiritual guidebook on how they were to interpret the Polish past and at the same time to conduct themselves in the period of their emigration. In short, the Poles were on a pilgrimage for they were indeed on a spiritual mission. The mission was nothing less than the re-Christianization of a Christian Europe that had become so derelict in its faith that it could permit and even participate in the dismemberment of a sister Christian nation such as Poland. The partitions of Poland were viewed by Mickiewicz as political crucifixion which ultimately would bring about the redemption of Europe just as in Christian thought, Christ's martyrdom as necessary for the redemption of man. Mickiewicz's romantic messianism has a great basis in history, past and present.

In the past, in the 17th century wars against the Ottoman Turks, the Poles saw themselves as an instrument of divine will by serving as a bulwark against the infidel engulfment of European Christendom. Their sizable contribution to the lifting of the siege of Vienna in 1683, which ended for all time the Turkish threat to Central and Western Europe, easily lent itself to interpretation in messianic terms. Poland was chosen by God for this exalted role and can be attributed to the Pole's unswerving fidelity to the Roman Catholic faith. During World War II, Poland was the only (or one of the very few) nation that never collaborated with the German Wehrmacht -- or the Nazi regime -- it did not have a Pavelich (Croatian), Vlasov (Russian), the Nightingale Brigade (Ukrainian) or a "free Slovakia", a puppet government from 1939-45 of the Nazi regime. Poland fought with all its strength against the Nazi regime and next to the Jews had the largest number of victims in the concentration camps in Nazi Germany.

The story of Stanislaw Garczynski is symbolic of Polish suffering but it also symbolizes the Polish fighting spirit and faith. The young cadet, Stanislaw Garczynski, had everything to be grateful for. On his mother's side he was related to the Mayor of the city of Warsaw, Starzynski and on his father's side he was nephew to Prince Uruski. His father, a prominent architect, had influential friends and the young cadet looked forward to a promising military career. However, everything crumbled in the month of September 1939, and from a prominent position in Polish society and life, the 19-year-old Cadet Garczynski was left without a home, parents and sister, and without a country. The Nazis deprived him of his homeland and family and he narrowly escaped the Soviet massacre in Katyn. Stanislaw Garczynski recalls:

"When Nazi Germany declared war on Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, our class of 1940 (Cadets of Komorowo) assumed the function of young officers in defense of our country. Poland was attacked from the southeast and we concentrated our efforts on this part. On Sept. 15, Col. Czajkowski and Col. Kot were planning a new formation for the attack against the Nazi troops. However, the Soviets treacherously attacked us from the northwest and we had to throw our troops to the north. On Sept. 20, I was captured by the Soviets. I was in Katyn on the 22nd with two comrades; I took the risk and we escaped. On Sept. 23 the Soviets demanded an unconditional surrender by the Polish Army, and when the Poles refused they butchered and massacred them. The slaughter at Katyn took the best of the Polish fighting men - the elite of Poland. I survived -- it was a miracle!

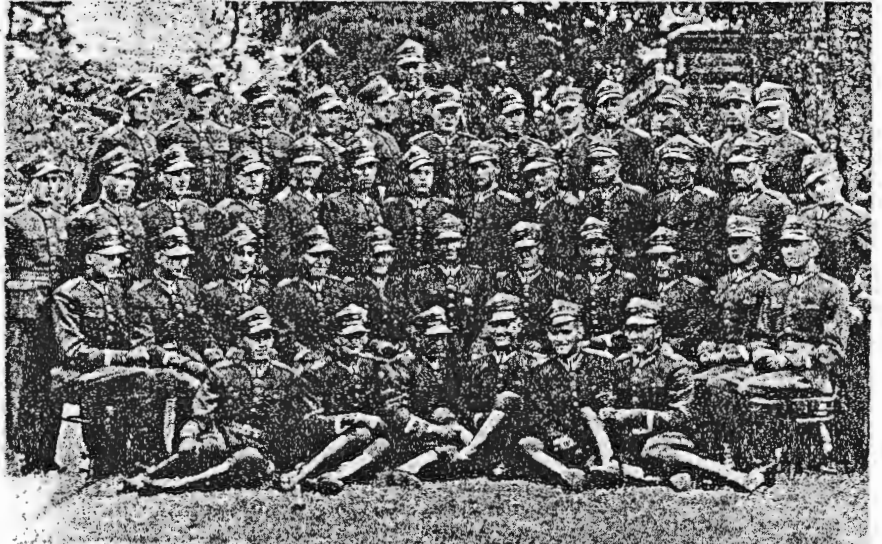
"Upon my return to Warsaw, I learned that my parents and my sister were killed on Sept. 7 -- I joined the underground. Responding to the appeal of the Polish military forces in France to join the Polish Army in Exile (Polish Legion), I made my way to France via the Carpathian Mountain to Hungary from where I hoped to join my comrades in arms. However, in March I was captured in the Tatra Mountains near Sanok by local Ukrainian militia men under the Nazi German jurisdiction and handed over by them to the local SS.

"I was thrown first in jail in Sanok and on April 12, 1940 to the prison in Tarnow. Tried by the Nazis and found guilty of conspiracy against the Third Reich, I was deported to the concentration camp in Auschwitz, where I arrived at the beginning of August 1940. At that time there were only a few prisoners, mostly priests, and a few German Jews. My transport was one of the first; we were all Polish and I was given the number 3470 -- I still have it on my arm.

"In the summer of 1943 I was sentenced to death - to be shot - I was number 22 in the line. But the lunch break interrupted our execution on number 19 - I was miraculously saved. There are many other incidents I will recall later - I have a feeling that I live on borrowed time - and when I was liberated in May 1945 - I immediately joined the Polish Legion to fight for a Free Poland. I still believe in a free Poland, if not in my time, I hope my children will see it. I would like to leave for them a detailed account of the pre-war Poland and my life in the Cadet School in Komorowo, as well as an account of my life in Auschwitz. Since I survived, there must after all be a purpose; maybe that is what I was meant for and that is what I plan to do. Long live free Poland - may the fighting spirit of the Polish nation never die!"



January 1938, young Cadet Garczynski is blowing his bugle. He had all the reason to smile - at that time he had a bright future: ready to serve his country and a promising military career.



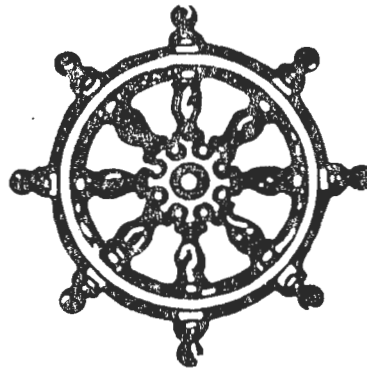
June 1938, Komorow, near Warsaw. Cadets of the elite Polish Academy, Komorowo "West Point of Poland." These cadets would have been the graduating class of the young officers in 1940, had Nazi Germany not invaded Poland. Most of the cadets in the picture perished either in Katyn, or in AK, or in concentration camps or as prisoners of war. Cadet Stanislaw Garczynski is in the group in the center of the photo, standing in the middle, the seventh cadet from either side.



August 1939 Komorowo, Polish cadets standing as Honor Guards in front of Marshal Pilsudski statue. On the right, Cadet Garczynski.



Former inmate P 3470, Auschwitz, 1940-45. In May 1945, Lt. Stanislaw Garczynski, after two weeks of liberation from the concentration camp, joined the Polish Army in exile to fight for Free Poland.



Glen Cove Record-Pilot, Glen Cove, N.Y., Thursday, April 21, 1983 • 2

People

...
Vera Von Wiren Garczynski of Glen Cove recently returned from Europe, where she spent Passover in Vienna with friends, Polish survivors of Nazi Germany. On Easter Sunday she visited the infamous concentration camp in Dachau.

She recalls, "Dachau, is a suburb of Munich, a lovely hilly town with shops and gardens. On the top of the hills there is a beautiful cafe where you can have apfelstrudel, wine, ice cream and a chocolate torte. The town below looks peaceful and picturesque, and one can hardly suspect that

exactly 50 years ago a horror chamber was built at the foot of this hill — the Death camp of Dachau."

Garczynski, who was herself interned in a work camp when she was a child, is doing research on a work that will publish accounts of former prisoners of Nazi camps documented with official records.

"I would like to set the record straight because the horrors and atrocities committed in the Nazi camps became a subject of numerous articles, books, stage and screen plays. Unfortunately, in many cases the commercial sensation obscured the truth and in pursuit of a 'best seller', facts were distorted. But who was to stop it? Is Anne Frank alive? Very few of us survived the ordeals of the Nazi camps. And those who did, preferred to keep silent. The

wounds were too deep and too fresh. We tried to bury the memory of the nightmare we lived through. We tried to forget that it happened to us.

"However, history must be written and for the sake of the truth a faithful accurate account must be done before the suffering of millions of victims of Nazi camps becomes a statistic, a record, a research project, thesis, or a mere footnote to history, void of personal insight," she said.

Garczynski is a professor of Slavic studies at City College of New York.

...



VERA VON WIREN GARCZYNSKI visited Dachau Museum, site of the former Nazi concentration camp, on Easter Sunday. She is working on a research project documenting this and other camps and their victims.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 09, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WEBB FRANKLIN

SUBJECT: FORWARDS COPY OF LETTER FROM HUGH H. RATHER,
HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI REGARDING GERMAN
CEMETERY VISIT AND WREATH ON LEE'S GRAVE

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

M. B. OGLESBY

ORG 85/05/09

MW A 85105714 ^{YE}

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

Sp STEVENS

^{13A} 85105715 E.H. A 85105716 ^{AB}

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

REFERRAL NOTE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____

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

```

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

```

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

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 16, 1985

Dear Congressman Franklin:

I am responding to your letter to M. B. Oglesby concerning the ceremony in Statuary Hall at the U.S. Capitol commemorating the birth of General Robert E. Lee. I appreciate this opportunity to correct the inaccurate stories which have circulated since then and trust you will agree, after reading this, that no slur to the memory of General Lee was intended, or committed.

First, I would like to set the record straight by saying that a Presidential wreath has never been provided on this occasion, claims to the contrary notwithstanding. Our "wreath" files go back to 1933 and, after thoroughly reviewing them, I assure you that there is no reference whatsoever to this event therein, until last year when the issue was first raised. Thus, statements that the President, or I -- or anyone at the White House, suddenly curtailed something that has been "traditional" since 1928 are without basis in fact and completely false.

Second, although a wreath is a costly item, expense ("economy") was not a factor in the decision. Rather, it was based on the historical and long-standing policy of many administrations; one which has been continued by President Reagan.

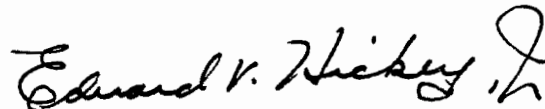
With the sole exception of Benjamin Franklin, the only individuals honored with commemorative Presidential wreaths are deceased former presidents. Otherwise, such wreaths are provided only on six special occasions of national significance at various sites in Arlington National Cemetery. One of them is the Confederate Monument. That monument was dedicated by President Woodrow Wilson; and, according to our records, every president since that time has had a wreath placed on Confederate Memorial Day as a gesture befitting a reunited Nation. (Those ceremonies, incidentally, are sponsored by the national office of the same organization whose D.C. chapter hosts the ceremony for General Lee at the Capitol.) Similarly, another wreath is placed at the Tomb of the Unknown (Union) Soldier from the Civil War on Memorial Day. Together these two wreaths represent the President's tribute on behalf of all Americans to all the war dead of the Civil War.

This Nation has been blessed in the numbers of its sons and daughters who lived, fought -- and often died -- for the ideals which have made it great. History rightfully calls many of them "patriots" and "heroes," and no one disputes that General

Lee ranks among the greatest of these Americans. Nevertheless, just as it is impossible to honor them all, it would be inappropriate to single out one, or several, for a unique tribute not rendered to all.

Proliferation of any item connected with the Office of the Presidency rapidly dilutes its purpose and special significance. Hence, wreaths bearing the name "Presidential" must be reserved exclusively for those occasions where such usage is most meaningful to the entire nation.

Sincerely,



EDWARD V. HICKEY, JR.
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Webb Franklin
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

see: M.D. Calkins

May 14, 1985

Dear Webb:

Thank you for your May 7 letter on behalf of Mr. Hugh H. Rather, who is concerned that President Reagan did not place a wreath on the grave of Robert E. Lee on his birthday this year.

Your interest in bringing this Mr. Rather's comments to our attention is appreciated, and please be assured that his letter has been brought to the attention of the appropriate Administration officials.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Webb Franklin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Joni Stevens - for DIRECT response
WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

WEBB FRANKLIN

7th DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES

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

May 7, 1985

305752
124 CANNON
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202 225-8876

DISTRICT OFFICES

219 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREENWOOD, MS 38930
(601) 453-0126

226-A FEDERAL BUILDING
GREENVILLE, MS 38701
(601) 334-1437

334 FEDERAL BUILDING
CLARKSDALE, MS 38614
(601) 224-4456

1720 CLAY STREET

SUITE 7

VICKSBURG, MS 39180
(601) 638-4428

CALL TOLL-FREE IN MISSISSIPPI

1-800-621-4873

37
1970
Mr. M. B. Oglesby
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. ^BOglesby:

Enclosed you will find a copy of correspondence pertaining to the placing of a wreath on General Robert E. Lee's grave.

Your attention and reply to this matter would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,

WEBB FRANKLIN
Member of Congress

WF/jdk

HUGH H. RATHER, A.I.A.
ARCHITECT
35 ALDERSON STREET
HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI
38635

April 30, 1985

Congressman Webb Franklin
House of Representatives Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Franklin:

I think it is perfectly O. K. for President Reagan to go to the German Army Cemetery. Germany is in a strategic location in Europe for defense against Soviet aggression. We need to have West Germany on our side. Besides, there are more U.S. citizens of German descent living in this country than of Jewish parentage.

I saw in the "Southern Partisan" magazine that President Reagan did not have a wreath placed on General Robt. E. Lee's grave on his birthday this year. This breaks a tradition that has been done by former presidents through the years. Do you understand this?

Sincerely,
Hugh H. Rather

[Handwritten signature]

ID# 303952

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 09, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE WEBB FRANKLIN

SUBJECT: FOPWARDS COPY OF LETTER FROM HUGH H. RATHER,
HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI REGARDING GERMAN
CEMETERY VISIT AND WPEATH ON LEE'S GRAVE

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGPNY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPF RFSF	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/05/09	<i>MM</i>	<i>A 85105714¹²</i>
<i>SP STEVENS</i> REFERRAL NOTE:	<i>1A</i>	<i>85105715</i>		<i>1 1</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:		<i>1 1</i>		<i>1 1</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:		<i>1 1</i>		<i>1 1</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:		<i>1 1</i>		<i>1 1</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:		<i>1 1</i>		<i>1 1</i>

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL COPRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

```

*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION CODES:      *OUTGOING          *
*                       *                                     *CORRESPONDENCE:  *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED              *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RFCOM       *R-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 *
*P-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                                     *                                     *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                                     *                                     *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                                     *                                     *
*****

```

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

May 14, 1985

Dear Webb:

Thank you for your May 7 letter on behalf of Mr. Hugh H. Rather, who is concerned that President Reagan did not place a wreath on the grave of Robert E. Lee on his birthday this year.

Your interest in bringing this Mr. Rather's comments to our attention is appreciated, and please be assured that his letter has been brought to the attention of the appropriate Administration officials.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Webb Franklin
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Joni Stevens - for DIRECT response
WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

WEBB FRANKLIN
2D DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT
MARINE AND FISHERIES

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

May 7, 1985

303950
124 CANNON
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5876

DISTRICT OFFICES:

219 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREENWOOD, MS 38930
(601) 453-0126

228-A FEDERAL BUILDING
GREENVILLE, MS 38701
(601) 334-1437

334 FEDERAL BUILDING
CLARKSDALE, MS 38614
(601) 624-4455

1720 CLAY STREET
SUITE 7

VICKSBURG, MS 39180
(601) 638-5429

CALL TOLL-FREE IN MISSISSIPPI
1-800-621-4873

37
MO
Mr. M. B. Oglesby
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. B Oglesby:

Enclosed you will find a copy of correspondence pertaining to the placing of a wreath on General Robert E. Lee's grave.

Your attention and reply to this matter would be appreciated.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,



WEBB FRANKLIN
Member of Congress

WF/jdk

HUGH H. RATHER, A.I.A.
 ARCHITECT
 35 ALDERSON STREET
 HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI
 38635

April 30, 1985

Congressman Webb Franklin
 House of Representatives Office Building
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Franklin:

I think it is perfectly O. K. for President Reagan to go to the German Army Cemetery, Germany is in a strategic location in Europe for defense against Soviet aggression. We need to have West Germany on our side. Besides, there are more U.S. citizens of German descent living in this country than of Jewish parentage.

I saw in the "Southern Partisan" magazine that President Reagan did not have a wreath placed on General Robt. E. Lee's grave on his birthday this year. This breaks a tradition that has been done by former presidents through the years. Do you understand this?

Sincerely,
 Hugh H. Rather

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 09, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. DAVID LEBENBOM

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT 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
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/05/09		<u>@ 85/05/10</u>
<i>COHIGG</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>85/05/10</i>	<i>NAN</i>	<i>@ 85/06/85</i> AB
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		___/___/___		___/___/___

COMMENTS: *Aune Higgins*

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

303961

37

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT

163 MADISON AVENUE

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226

(313) 962-1880

Behold how good and how pleasant it is for people to dwell together in harmony

April 26, 1985

m. Lebenbom
David Lebenbom
PRESIDENT

Leon S. Cohan
David L. Denn
Mrs. Herbert Fealk
VICE PRESIDENTS

Oscar Hertz
SECRETARY

Dr. Richard C. Hertz
TREASURER

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Peter Alter
- Mrs. Howard B. Appelman
- Leonard Baron
- David L. Bittker
- Alexander Blumenberg
- Jack J. Bodzin
- Paul D. Borman
- Rabbi Ernst J. Conrad
- Laurence B. Deltch
- Johanna Eisenberg
- Franklin J. Elias
- Mrs. Arnold E. Frank
- Alvin Friedman
- Joel D. Gershenson
- Earl G. Grant
- David M. Gubow
- Phillip Handleman
- Martin Hollander
- Mrs. Seymour Israel
- Miles Jaffe
- Jerome W. Kelman
- Esther Klein
- Mrs. Abraham Kutlov
- Ellen Labes
- Susan Moiseev
- John Nemon
- Mrs. Harold Noveck
- Dr. Irving Panush
- Hon. Lawrence Pernick
- Mrs. Eli Robinson
- Warren Robinson
- Rabbi Stanley M. Rosenbaum
- Mrs. Albert Rosenblum
- Mrs. Esther K. Rosenblum
- Mrs. Norman Rosenfeld
- Louis Rosenzweig
- David I. Rosin
- Hon. Douglas Ross
- Matilda Rubin
- Hon. John H. Shepherd
- Isadore L. Shrodeck
- Kenneth D. Sidlow
- Shelby Tauber
- Leonard Trunsky
- Sherwin Tukel
- Frederick R. Winkelman
- David H. Wolock
- Andrew Zack

HONORARY MEMBER:
Mrs. Aaron B. Shifman

Alvin L. Kushner
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Allan Gale
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit, representing over 300 religious, philanthropic, fraternal and community relations organizations in this area, I would like to convey to you the deep sense of outrage and disappointment our community has expressed concerning your visit to the Bitburg military cemetery. By now, it has become abundantly clear that you have no intention of cancelling your visit to Bitburg. However, we must take this opportunity to explain why this event has caused such a tidal wave of criticism, from the Jewish community and others.

Your deep and sincere feelings about the Holocaust have long been a matter of public record. In addition, Jews in America and Israel have known and acknowledged with gratitude that they have a friend in Ronald Reagan. However, your statement seeming to imply that the members of the Waffen SS buried at Bitburg could possibly have been "victims" of the Holocaust in the same sense as those who perished in the concentration camps shocked the sensibilities of right-thinking Americans, whether Jewish or Gentile, young or old, veterans or not.

We respect your wish to achieve a reconciliation with modern-day Germany. In addition, we agree that the concept of "collective guilt" is counter-productive to cordial relations with a very important ally. However, the choice of Bitburg as a symbolic site for that reconciliation was a most unhappy one, as you must by now realize.

Throughout the course of your administration, your communication abilities have made you one of the best-liked Presidents of this century. How sad that you are not receptive to the heartfelt attempts of your fellow Americans to communicate their feelings to you.

Sincerely,

David Lebenbom
David Lebenbom
President

DL:sk

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

- Aesculapian Pharmaceutical Association
 Aesculapian Ladies Auxiliary
 Akiva Hebrew Day School
 Akiva Hebrew Day School PTA
 Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity
 Detroit Alumni Chapter
 Detroit Auxiliary of Alpha Omega International
 Dental Fraternity
 American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science
 American Friends of the Hebrew University, Michigan Chapter
 American Jewish Committee, Detroit Chapter
 American Jewish Congress
 Michigan Council
 General Division
 American Physicians Fellowship, Inc.
 for Medicine in Israel
 American Red Magen David for Israel, Michigan Region
 American Technion Society, Detroit Chapter
 Americans for Progressive Israel-Hashomer Hatzair
 Association of Hebrew Teachers of Metropolitan Detroit
 B'nai B'rith
 Metropolitan Detroit Council
 Women's Council of Metropolitan Detroit
 Accountants Unit No. 5156
 Barristers Unit No. 5124
 B & P Chapter No. 698
 I.S. Bloch-Israel Lodge No. 1677
 Ivan S. Bloch Chapter No. 626
 Louis D. Brandeis-Sports Lodge No. 1583
 Louis D. Brandeis Chapter No. 498
 Brotherhood-Eddie Jacobson Lodge No. 2053
 Centennial Lodge No. 2166
 Centennial Chapter No. 1012
 Detroit Lodge No. 1374
 Detroit Chapter No. 436
 Detroit Louis Marshall Suburban Lodge No. 1203
 Downtown-Fox Lodge No. 1641
 Downtown-Fox Chapter No. 572
 Albert Einstein Lodge No. 2070
 Albert Einstein Chapter No. 925
 Gallilee Chapter No. 1078
 Philip Handler Chapter No. 668
 Huntington Woods Chapter
 Israel Chapter No. 696
 Harry B. Keldan Lodge No. 1560
 Louis Marshall Chapter No. 390
 Henry Morgenthau-L'Chayim Lodge No. 1678
 Henry Morgenthau Chapter No. 573
 Oakland Century Lodge No. 2692
 Ptsgh Lodge No. 34
 Ptsgh Chapter No. 122
 Frances Solovitch Chapter No. 1360
 Tikvah Lodge No. 1704
 Tikvah Chapter No. 599
 Albert D. Tucker-Grant Lodge No. 2200
 Tzedakah Chapter
 Rabbi Mandel M. Zager-Louis Stone Lodge No. 1614
 Rabbi Mandel M. Zager Chapter No. 542
 Maurice C. Zeiger Lodge No. 1925
 Maurice C. Zeiger Chapter No. 815
 B'nai B'rith Youth Organization
 AZA Council
 BBG Council
 Brandeis University National Women's Committee,
 Detroit Chapter
 Camp Gan Israel
 C.H.A.I.M.-Children of Holocaust-Survivors
 Association in Michigan
 City of Hope
 Greater Detroit Chapter
 Helen Rosenberg Cancer Fighters Auxiliary No. 213
 Committee of Jewish Veterans of WWII from USSR
 in the Detroit Metro Area
 Congregations:
 Adat Shalom Synagogue
 Adat Shalom Men's Club
 Adat Shalom Sisterhood
 Birmingham Temple
 Congregation Beth Abraham Hillel-Moses
 Men's Club of Congregation Beth Abraham
 Hillel-Moses
 Sisterhood of Congregation Beth Abraham
 Hillel-Moses
 Congregation Beth Achim
 Beth Achim Men's Club
 Beth Achim Sisterhood
 Congregation Beth Isaac
 Congregation Beth Jacob-Mogain Abraham
 Congregation Beth Shalom
 Beth Shalom Sisterhood
 Congregation Beth Tefillo Emanuel Tikvah
 Congregation B'nai David
 B'nai David Men's Club
 B'nai David Sisterhood
 Congregation B'nai Israel
 Sisterhood of Congregation B'nai Israel
 Congregation B'nai Israel-Beth Yehudah
 Congregation B'nai Moshe
 B'nai Moshe Men's Club
 B'nai Moshe Sisterhood
 Congregation Mishkan Israel Nusach
 H'ari-Lubavitcher Center
 Congregation Shaarey Zedek
 Men's Club of Congregation Shaarey Zedek
 Shaarey Zedek Sisterhood
 Congregation T'Chiyah
 Downtown Synagogue
 Livonia Jewish Congregation
 Temple Beth El
 Brotherhood of Temple Beth El
 Temple Beth El Sisterhood
 Temple Beth El Married Group
 Temple Beth Jacob-Pontiac
 Temple Emanu-El
 Brotherhood of Temple Emanu-El
 Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El
 Temple Israel
 Temple Israel Brotherhood
 Temple Israel Sisterhood
 Couples Club of Temple Israel
 Temple Kol Ami
 Young Israel of Oak Woods
 Sisterhood of Young Israel
 Young Israel of Greenfield
 Young Israel of Southfield
 Council of Orthodox Rabbis of Detroit
 Council of Synagogue Executive Directors of
 Metropolitan Detroit
 Criterion Club
 Detroit Alumni Club of the Sigma
 Alpha Mu Fraternity
 Detroit Area Retail Kasher Meat Dealers Association
 Detroit League "CARIH"-N.J.H./N.A.C.
 Detroit Service Group
 Detroit Zionist Federation
 Fresh Air Society
 Friends of Israel Cancer Society
 Hadassah, Greater Detroit Chapter
 Aviv Group
 B & P Group
 Bloomfield Hills Group
 Deborah Group
 Evergreen Group
 Masada Group
 Golda Meir Group
 Novi-Northville Group
 Eleanor Roosevelt Group
 Shalom Group
 Sharon Group
 Hebrew Free Loan Association
 Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit
 House of Shelter
 Infants Service Group
 Israel Numismatic Society of Michigan, Inc.
 The Jabotinsky Society of Herut-Zionists of America
 Jewish Association For Retarded Citizens
 Jewish Community Center
 Jewish Community Center, Culture Club
 Jewish Community Center, Mothers Club
 Jewish Community Center, Senior Adult Council
 Jewish Educators Council
 Jewish Family Service
 Resettlement Service
 Jewish Heritage
 Jewish Historical Society of Michigan
 Jewish Home for the Aged
 Jewish Home for the Aged Auxiliary
 Jewish Labor Committee
 Jewish Marriage Encounter of Michigan, Inc.
 Jewish National Fund Council
 Women of Jewish National Fund
 Young Women of Jewish National Fund
 Jewish Parents Institute
 Jewish Students Organization of Oakland University
 Jewish Vocational Service and Community Workshop
 Jewish War Veterans of U.S.A.
 Department of Michigan
 Department of Michigan Ladies Auxiliary
 Memorial Home Association
 PFC Joseph L. Bale Post No. 474
 Bloch-Rose Post No. 420
 Bloch-Rose Auxiliary No. 420
 Lt. Roy F. Green Post No. 529
 Lt. Roy F. Green Auxiliary No. 529
 Lawrence H. Jones Auxiliary No. 190
 Lipshaw-Hoberman Post No. 230
 Lipshaw-Hoberman Auxiliary No. 230
 Oak Park Post No. 716
 Oak Park Auxiliary No. 716
 PFC Robert Rafelson Post No. 431
 PFC Robert Rafelson Auxiliary No. 431
 Charles Shapiro Post No. 510
 Charles Shapiro Auxiliary No. 510
 Sgt. Morton A. Silverman - Detroit Post No. 135
 Sgt. Morton A. Silverman - Detroit Ladies Auxiliary
 No. 135
 Sol Yetz-Morris Cohen Post No. 530
 Sol Yetz-Morris Cohen Auxiliary No. 530
 Lt. Raymond Zussman Post No. 333
 Lt. Raymond Zussman Auxiliary No. 333
 Jewish Welfare Federation
 Judea Social Club
 Knights of Pythias Detroit Lodge No. 55
 Knollwood Country Club
 Labor Zionist Alliance Council of Metropolitan Detroit
 Branch No. 4
 Branch No. 6
 Branch No. 7
 Branch No. 11
 Branch No. 137
 Branch No. 593
 Labor Zionist Alliance, Youth Commission (Habonim)
 Landsmanshaften:
 David Horodaker, Young Women's Organization
 Gombiner Society
 Lutsker Voliner Society
 Pinsker Progressive Aid Society
 Radomer Aid Society
 Yiddish Folsk Ferein of Detroit
 Young Women's Bicur Cholem
 League of Jewish Women's Organizations
 Maimonides Medical Society
 Maimonides Medical Society, Women's Auxiliary
 Metropolitan Detroit Federation of Reform Synagogues
 Michigan Branch, Women's League for
 Conservative Judaism
 Michigan Coalition of Secular and Humanistic Jews
 Michigan State Temple Youth (MSTY)
 Michigan Region United Synagogue of America
 Mizrahi-Hopool Hamizrachi of Detroit
 Mizrahi Women, Balya Chapter
 Mizrahi Women, Fannie Gluck Chapter
 Sisters of Zion Mizrahi
 Music Study Club of Metropolitan Detroit
 National Committee for Labor Israel
 National Council of Jewish Women,
 Greater Detroit Section
 National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, District 11,
 Michigan Federation of Temple Sisterhoods
 New Jewish Agenda, Metropolitan Detroit Chapter
 New World Club
 Northwest Child Rescue Women
 Northwest Child Rescue Women, Junior League
 Pioneer Women/Na'Amat, Greater Detroit Council
 Avodah-Chai-Brandeis Chapter
 Chana Czenesh Chapter
 Club 1
 Club 2
 Degania Chapter
 Dimona Chapter
 Hanita Chapter
 Israel Chapter
 Massada Chapter
 Golda Meir Chapter
 Negbah-Shalom-Chai Chapter
 Sharona Chapter
 Shoshanim Chapter
 Primrose Benevolent Club of Detroit
 Probus Club of Detroit
 Purity Chapter No. 359, Order of Eastern Star
 Sephardic Community of Greater Detroit
 Shaarit Haplaytath
 Rose Sherer Socialites
 Sholem Aleichem Institute
 Synagogue Council of Greater Detroit
 Tau Epsilon Rho Legal Fraternity, Detroit Chapter
 United Hebrew Schools
 United Hebrew Schools, Women's Auxiliary
 United Jewish Charities
 United Jewish Social Club
 United Order True Sisters, Inc., No. 41
 Women's American ORT, Michigan Region
 Balmoral Chapter
 Business and Professional Chapter
 Glennwood Chapter
 Northeast Chapter
 Oakfield Chapter
 Oakland Hills Chapter
 Parkwood Chapter
 Silverbrooke Chapter
 South Acres Chapter
 Southwoods Chapter
 Sunnyside Woods Chapter
 Women's Orthodox League
 Workmen's Circle Michigan District Committee
 Branch No. 227
 Branch No. 460
 Yeshivath Beth Yehudah
 Ladies of Yeshivath Beth Yehudah-
 Women's Sabbath League
 Zedakah Club
 Zionist Organization of America, Detroit District

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI TOBIAS ROTHENBERG

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT BITBURG MILITARY
CEMETERY

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/05/10	C	85/05/10	YI
COHIGG REFERRAL NOTE:	YSA	85/05/13	NAN	C 85/06/05	AB
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS: Ann Higgins: Germany Tr

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDJA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

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

**LONG ISLAND
BOARD OF
RABBIS**



Rabbi Tobias Rothenberg, *President*

Huntington Jewish Center • 510 Park Avenue • Huntington, NY 11743 • (516) 427-1089

April 25, 1985

President Ronald Regan
White House
Washington, D. C.

Mr. President:

The Long Island Board of Rabbis representing the more than 600,000 Jewish people on Long Island are deeply distressed by your proposal to visit the Bitberg Cemetary in Germany where S.S. officers are entombed.

Reconciliation after 40 years can be better furthered by your visiting the grave of Konrad Adenauer or other heroes of the reborn Democratic Institution of the German state.

Knowing your abiding humanitarian concern and respecting your heartfelt desires to fashion a better world for all of us to live in, I urge upon you to reconsider the visit to Bitberg.

Respectfully yours,

Rabbi T. Rothenberg
Rabbi Tobias Rothenberg
President

OFFICERS: *Vice Presidents:* Rabbi Lawrence Kotok, Glen Cove, N.Y., Rabbi Gabriel Maza, Deer Park, N.Y., Rabbi Esor Ben-Sorek, Great Neck, N.Y. • *Treasurer:* Rabbi Phillip Bentley, Jericho, N.Y. • *Recording Secretary:* Rabbi Bennett M. Herman, East Meadow, N.Y. • *Financial Secretary:* Rabbi Israel Nobel, East Meadow, N.Y.

Board of Governors: Rabbi Gary Creditor, Rabbi Daniel Fogel, Rabbi Stewart Geller, Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg, Rabbi Morton Green, Rabbi Paul Kushner, Rabbi Meyer Miller, Rabbi Barton Shallat, Rabbi Donald Weber, Rabbi Martin Edelman, Rabbi Ezra Finkelstein, Rabbi Alvin M. Poplack, Rabbi Barry D. Schwartz, Rabbi Nathan Steinberg, Rabbi Theodore Steinberg.

Past Presidents: Ario S. Hyams, Melvin Kieffer, Bernard Kligfeld, Philip Krohn, Julius Goldberg, Norman Kahan, Samuel Z. Glaser, Louis Stein, Simon Resnikoff, Morton L. Gordon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE RICHARD D. HUTTNER

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING DECISION TO VISIT BITBURG
MILITARY CEMETERY

HH

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED YY/MM/DD
FRED FIELDING	ORG	85/05/10		C 85/05/15 PY
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>WHAT 20</u>				D 85/05/14 TR C 85/05/15 TR PY
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>CUFIEL</u>		5-15-85	AW MEMO TO FIELDING	R 85/05/15 PF A 85/05/15 EX!
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

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

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

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

1985 MAY 10 PM 3:06

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1985

Dear Judge Huttner:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan of May 6, 1985. It was a thoughtful reflection on a controversy that has seen too much heat and not enough light. The discussion of the Bitburg portion of the President's recent trip will no doubt continue for many months and perhaps even years. I only hope that those who choose to consider it at length do so in the same spirit of understanding that so clearly marks your letter.

Sincerely,

Orig. signed by FFF

Fred F. Fielding
Counsel to the President

The Honorable Richard D. Huttner
Administrative Judge
Family Court, City of New York
Judges Chambers
60 Lafayette Street
New York, New York 10013

FFF:HH:ph 5/15/85
cc: FFFielding ✓
HHewitt
Subject
Chron.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 15, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: HUGH HEWITT *HH*

SUBJECT: Response to Letter from Judge Huttner
Family Court of New York City

Attached for your review and signature is a response to Judge Huttner of New York City's Family Court who wrote the President saluting his courage in visiting Bitburg cemetery.

Attachment

Family Court
of the
State of New York



HON. RICHARD D. HUTTNER
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE
FAMILY COURT
CITY OF NEW YORK
PERSONAL AND UNOFFICIAL

JUDGES CHAMBERS
60 LAFAYETTE STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10013
(212) 374-3711

Fred Fielding

May 6, 1985

Dear President Reagan,

I write you as an American Jew. I saw you on T.V. at Birburg & Bergen-Belsen. I saw the obvious anguish in both yourself & your wife, Nancy. It is seeing the deep emotions in both of you that prompted this letter.

There is no doubt in my mind that had you been informed as to the facts of Birburg you would have not agreed to participate in a ceremony there. Regrettably however, this was not the case. Once comm. Had you been faced with the understandable distress of the Jewish people vis-a-vis what you perceived as injuring West German-American relations. I salute you in acting in accordance with your oath of office & doing what you felt was in America's best interest. I assure you the enlightened Jewish community understands you are a very decent human being. I for one admire your decision to do what you thought best for our country despite your patent compassion for the holocaust victims. Your decision to go to Birburg was not only a tough decision it was a courageous one.

cordially
Al Jaffe

copy

ID# 303983

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. S. ANDREW CHEN

SUBJECT: OPPOSES 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
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/05/10		
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>99 DOS</i>				<i>TR</i>
REFERRAL NOTF:				<i>@ 85/05/13</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				<i>R 85/05/15</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				<i>A 85/05/23</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				<i>AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION CODES:	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	* CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*R-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.

S/S # 8514796
DATE MAY 29 1985

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. Robert C. McFarlane
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: President Reagan FROM: Mr. S. Andrew Chen
DATE: April 24, 1985 SUBJECT: President's trip
to Germany


WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: May 15, 1985 NSC # 303983

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- A draft reply is attached
 A draft reply will be forwarded
 A translation is attached
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached
 We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below
 Other

REMARKS:


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

85 MAY 29 P11: 28

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 23, 1985

Mr. S. Andrew Chen
National President
Organization of Chinese Americans
107 Mohawk Drive
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001

Dear Mr. Chen:

I am replying to your April 24 letter to President Reagan regarding his trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his visit, the President made absolutely clear the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors committed in the name of the German state before and during World War II, and our determination not to forget them. His itinerary included a ceremony at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to pay homage to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the April 21 anniversary of the liberation of that camp and again during his own visit, "There can and should be no absolution."

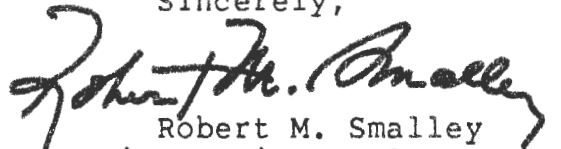
President Reagan strongly believes, as part of our efforts to learn from the experiences of this dark era, we must not reject opportunities for reconciliation. In this spirit, he was asked by Chancellor Kohl, and accepted the invitation, to visit a German military cemetery in Bitburg.

For four decades, the Federal Republic of Germany has faced up to the guilt and responsibilities of its Nazi past. It has demonstrated concretely in countless ways its commitment to democratic ideals and human rights, including standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the Alliance in defense of freedom. The President's trip to Bitburg included a visit to the large Bitburg Air Base, which houses members of both the U.S. and German Air Forces.

It is important to demonstrate, particularly to the younger generation in Germany, that although we continue to hold the nation responsible for its past, we do not consider them to bear individual responsibility for the crimes of Nazism. The President did not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent an act of forgiveness for those crimes. Rather, it was an acknowledgment of the democratic society the German people have built. He considered this to be a positive gesture which in no way detracted 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,


Robert M. Smalley
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

8514796

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

MAY 15, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 303983

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 24, 1985

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: DR. S. ANDREW CHEN
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS,
INC.
SUITE 926
2025 EYE STREET, NW
WASHINGTON DC 20006

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS® , INC.

EMBRACING THE HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS OF CHINESE IN THE UNITED STATES
2025 EYE STREET, N.W. • SUITE 928 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 • (202) 223-5500



303983

PRESIDENT

Andrew Chen

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Wu

Public Affairs

William Cheng

Economic Affairs

Austin Tao

Finance

Yvonne Tso

Education and

Culture Affairs

William Shek

Chapter Development

James Lee

Administration

David Liu

Membership Services

and Systems

TREASURER

Ruth Sing Wong

SECRETARY

Laura Lum

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Henry K. Mui

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Robin Zee

Baltimore, Maryland

Robert Mar

Boulder, Colorado

Mildred Yang

Central Virginia

Winston Liang

Chicago, Illinois

Phil Chen

Cerritos, California

Cynthia Yang

Dayton, Ohio

Willis Yap

Denver, Colorado

Frank Chen

Detroit, Michigan

Fang C. Chen

East Tennessee

Frank Chen

Alfred Yin

Georgia

Roberto Yang

Houston, Texas

Rose Lee Tso

Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania

Jeff Kung

Long Island, New York

William Chang

Los Angeles, California

Yu-Chi Ho

New England

Charles Lee

New Jersey

Virginia Tong

New York City, New York

James Tso

Northern Virginia

C.Y. Liu

Northeastern Ohio

Tony Soong

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bi Cheng Wang

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

Howard Young

St. Louis, Missouri

Lawrence Ng

Southern Alameda County, California

Patrick Sung

Washington, D.C.

Howei Chan

Westchester, New York

Alfonso L. Tiu

Wisconsin

Richard Koo

Central L.A.

OCAW

Lily Lai

April 24, 1985

8514796

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

Dear Mr. President Reagan:

On April 20th, 1985, the executive council of the Organization of Chinese Americans met in Rockville, Maryland and passed a resolution to voice its support of the objection of the Jewish community to your scheduled visit to Bitburg Cemetery where many Nazi SS soliders are buried. As our leader, sir, what do you expect to accomplish by your visit to the burial grounds of those Nazi soliders who systematically murdered 6 million human beings? Although forty years seems to be a long time, the tragic memories of the desperate cries and the bloody scars are very much alive among many living fellow Americans today.

More than 10 million Chinese were senselessly massacred during World War II by Japanese soliders. As one of these survivors, I firmly believe that all efforts must be made to stop the repetition of this type of holocaust. Your visit, sir, inadvertently reinforces and dignifies the opposite!

Mr. President, the eyes of the world are focused on what steps you will take. Your paying homage to a collection of individuals who were responsible for the atrocities of genocide is offensive to me and to all Americans. In my judgement, you will make a humanistic and enlightened gesture by reversing your decision to visit this cemetery during your trip to West Germany.

Thank you for your attention.

Very truly yours,

S. Andrew Chen
National President
Organization of Chinese Americans

107 Mohawk Drive
Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
Tel. 412-287-2093

cc: Associated Press
United Press International
Mr. Gary Rubin, American Jewish Committee
Members, Executive Council

EIGHTH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION • JULY 10-13, 1986, NEW YORK, N.Y.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE CHALMERS P. WYLIE

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF DECISION TO VISIT
BITBURG CEMETERY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/05/10	<u>NO. A</u>	<u>85/05/10</u>
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE:		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____
MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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

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

May 10, 1985

Dear Chalmers:

President Reagan asked me to thank you for your letter in support of his decision to go to Bitburg, honoring Chancellor Kohl's request that he pay a visit to a German military cemetery. The President fully understands the depth of concern that was raised and his feelings about the crimes perpetrated against humanity by the Nazi regime are no less deeply felt.

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.

The President does not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent an act of forgiveness for those crimes, but rather one of acknowledgement 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, and he appreciates your support for him in this regard.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Chalmers P. Wylie
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: w/copy of inc to Will Ball, Cong Affrs, State - FYI
MBO:STATE:NSC:KRJ:hlb

CHALMERS P. WYLIE
15TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2310 RAYBURN HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2015

DISTRICT OFFICE:
FEDERAL BUILDING
200 NORTH HIGH STREET
COLUMBUS, OH 43215
TELEPHONE: (614) 469-5614

37
m0
WALLER C. BLOOM
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE

303986
COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN
AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUPERVISION,
REGULATION AND INSURANCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
COMPENSATION, PENSION, AND INSURANCE
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
JOINT ECONOMIC

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

May 7, 1985

The Honorable Ronald W. Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I thought you might be interested to know that I was one of the speakers at a testimonial dinner in commemoration of the 35th Anniversary of the ordination of the Reverend Anthony Sarris to the Holy Priesthood. Father Sarris is the religious leader of the Greek Orthodox Church in Columbus, Ohio.


During his remarks, Father Sarris said: "I was glad to read in the paper that my good friend and our Representative to Congress, Chalmers P. Wylie, supported the President on his visit to Bitburg;" whereupon there was spontaneous and enthusiastic applause. Enclosed is a copy of the article to which Father Sarris referred.

May I say, Mr. President, I applaud your decision not to reverse yourself. Beyond that, my first impulse when the visit was announced was favorable. This comes from a person who was in World War II and was a part of a small group of soldiers who came across the bodies of the American soldiers who had been murdered at Malmedy by SS troupes. I cannot recall a scene more abhorrent to me. Yet I thought your visit to Bitburg should be taken as an indication to the German people living today that we do not believe the sins of some of their countrymen 40 years ago should be visited on them; that we do not hold them accountable for crimes for which they had no part. There are many German-Americans who have had the feeling that somehow they were associated by race with crimes committed by one of the most evil men who ever walked the earth. So, I voted against the Sense-of-Congress resolution for two reasons. But more especially I was proud that you stood your ground.

I watched the television as you laid the wreath and heard your speech afterwards. I was glad I voted the way I did on the Resolution.

I think you are doing a great job, Mr. President.

Sincerely,


CHALMERS P. WYLIE
Representative to Congress

CPW:A

Enclosure

The Columbus Dispatch

OHIO'S GREATEST HOME NEWSPAPER

HOME
FINAL

Wednesday, May 1, 1985

25 ce

Kasich, Wylie split on vote

Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Columbus area's two Republican congressmen Tuesday split on a vote that called on President Reagan to reconsider his plans to visit the Bitburg Cemetery in West Germany.

Rep. John R. Kasich, R-Westerville, joined the majority of House members in approving, 390-26, a resolution opposing the visit. Rep. Chalmers P. Wylie, R-Columbus, Rep. Clarence E. Miller, R-Lancaster, and Rep. Thomas N. Kindness, R-Hamilton, opposed the resolution.

Three other Ohio Republicans, Reps. Mike DeWine of Cedarville, Delbert L. Latta of Bowling Green and Michael G. Oxley of Findlay voted "present."

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

MSH

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. GEORGE J. BEICHL

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT 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
LINAS KOJELIS	ORG	85/05/10		C 85105114 <i>MS</i>
<i>CO HIGG</i> <i>file</i>	REFERRAL NOTF:	R-851051 ²³		C 8510823 <i>MS</i>
	REFERRAL NOTE:			
	REFERRAL NOTE:			
	REFERRAL NOTE:			
	REFERRAL NOTE:			
	REFERRAL NOTE:			

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

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  German Society of Pennsylvania
Founded in Philadelphia on December 26, 1764, for the Purpose of "Contributing to the Relief of Distressed Germans in Pennsylvania"
611 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19123

Handwritten note:
Linn Lippie

April 26, 1985

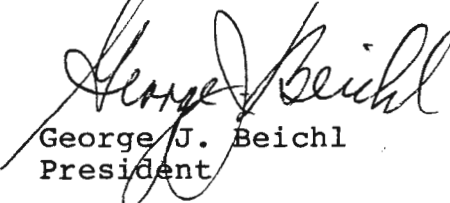
The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

My dear Mr. President:

You are being subjected to unwarranted attacks because of your belief in reconciliation between former enemies.

Please remain firm in your resolve to visit the cemetery at Bitburg as stated in the enclosed. If statesmen would only lay wreaths at cemeteries where lie interred soldiers who have not committed atrocities there would never be one wreath laid. To appease the strident voices, who from ignorance or hatred, urge you not to visit Bitburg would be an insult to a people who are our strongest allies and who, by supporting us, expose themselves to destruction from the East.

Respectfully yours,


George J. Beichl
President

GJB:sab
Encl.
cc: Senator John Heinz
Senator Arlen Specter
Congressman Thomas Foglietta

The Philadelphia Inquirer Op-ed Page

Friday, April 26, 1985

17-A ♦

PRESERVATION COPY

The German side should be told . . .

By George J. Beichl

Headlines emblazoned on the front page of *The Inquirer* announced for several days the President's intention to visit a "Nazi" cemetery. Leaders of the Jewish community have besieged the White House asking him to desist from this visit. Columnist after columnist joins them in expressing their chagrin that a President would be so insensitive to the horrors of the Holocaust that he would lay a wreath to honor the Nazi dead, the perpetrators of that Holocaust. Yet not one word is printed that presents an opposing view, least of all from a member of the German-American community, one of the largest, if not the largest, ethnic groups in our country.

To call the German military cemetery a "Nazi" cemetery is in keeping with media usage of equating Germans with Nazis that has been absorbed into the consciousness of many, if not most, Americans. I once overheard a high school student who had come upon a Mennonite family in Center City, conversing in the Pennsylvania German dialect, tell her companion, "They're talking Nazi."

You knew that she meant "German" but you also knew how she and/or her teachers felt about Germans just as you would know how people feel about Catholics if they were to label a Catholic cemetery, a "Papist" cemetery.

It is customary for visiting dignitaries to lay wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers, even though those soldiers had fought against the country of the wreath-layer. It emphasizes not only a reconciliation — we are not enemies for all eternity — but also a recognition that those who died in combat were serving their country and were, for the most part, draftees.

The modern state, even a democracy such as ours, could never survive if it could not depend on the blind loyalty of its citizens, even if they disagreed with the foreign policies of their country.

But, the rejoinder is made, the cemetery at Bitburg contains graves of the Waffen SS who were notorious for their ruthlessness. The SS, which started out as an elite group of volunteers, eventually had to have its ranks filled by draftees.

These were obtained from the air force and navy when these services were no longer operative. Even within the ranks of the regular SS were individuals, who, at great risk to themselves, tried to help the victims they were commanded to brutalize. At least one SS man is memorialized in the Yad Vashem, the institution in Israel dedicated to the Holocaust.

The President should visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. In doing this he would be giving public recognition to a government that from its inception in the ruins of World War

II has seen to it that restitution for the crimes of the National Socialists was implemented.

How many Americans know that the German government has paid more than 50 billion marks to victims of the Nazi Holocaust in addition to more than three billion marks paid to Israel directly, in recognition of the fact that Israel had assumed a tremendous financial burden in accepting so many victims of Nazi oppression?

The President should visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. It would be a tribute to the many Germans who fought the Nazi regime and whose exploits are known to only a minuscule minority. How many know that the Lutheran theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, executed in 1945, could have saved his life by staying in the United States in the summer of 1939 but opted to return to Germany because he felt that he could not be in a position to participate in the reconstruction of Germany after the war if he did not share the hardship of this period with his people?

How many know that over 1,000 religious died or were executed at Dachau for resisting the regime? Among these was Father Bernhard Lichtenberg, provost of St. Hedwig's Cathedral in Berlin, whose treasonous act consisted in asking the congregation to pray for the Jews during a service in 1941. How many know that a German industrialist, Oskar Schindler, saved more than 1,000

Jews from Auschwitz in 1944 by moving his entire "labor camp" from Poland to Czechoslovakia, or that another German industrialist, Eduard Schulte, at the risk of death for himself and his family informed Jewish leaders in Switzerland in 1942 of the reality of the "final solution" imploring them to publicize this to Roosevelt and Churchill?

Why are the Germans judged guilty for failing to overthrow a dictatorship that brought death to so many millions when no one upbraids the Soviets for not overthrowing the Stalin dictatorship that killed more than 25 million? Where are the voices accusing the Poles, the Soviets, the Czechs, the Hungarians, the Iranians and many more of cowardice for not overthrowing the dictatorships imposed on them today?

America is strong because its diverse ethnic groups have been able to incorporate the positive aspects of their traditions into our own and to ignore the hatreds that prevailed among the groups in their homelands. If we allow this hatred of Germans to continue, we not only will weaken the bonds to our strongest ally in Europe but we will weaken the bonds between all Americans and sow the seeds of discord here in America which can only benefit one group of people — those who want to see America destroyed.

(George J. Beichl is president of the German Society of Pennsylvania.)

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 304030

TR12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BEN BLAZ

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF TRIP TO 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. OGLFSBY	ORG	85/05/10	NAN	85/05/21
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____
REFERRAL NOTE: _____	_____	____/____/____	_____	____/____/____

AB

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____

MAIL USER CODES: (A) PRES (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-SIGNATUPE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****
    
```

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

304030

7
MD



*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Ben Blaz
Suam*

May 7, 1985

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

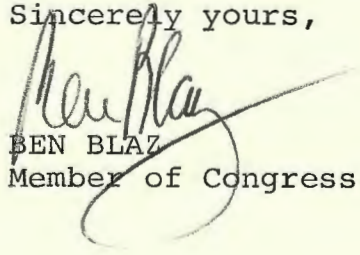
Dear Mr. President:

I would like to personally extend my congratulations to you for the superb and diplomatic manner in which you handled your recent trip to Bitburg. I must admit that upon learning of the presence of former SS troops interred at the cemetery, I was among the many members of Congress who urged you to find an alternate means of paying your respects to the German people.

I now understand how your trip was designed to solidify long-term relations with our allies in West Germany and I believe you have successfully fulfilled that goal. At the risk of sounding Churchillian, I believe the address you made at Bitburg was your finest hour in international diplomacy.

You continue to provide this country leadership that it had been sorely lacking before you took office. For what it's worth, I urge you to hold course and continue to fight for what you know is right. I remain one of your staunchest supporters and am looking forward to helping you and the Administration whenever and wherever I can.

Sincerely yours,


BEN BLAZ
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MIKE SYNAR

SUBJECT: WRITES REGARDING REPORTS THAT SECRET SERVICE
ORDERED 35 FRENCH JEWS REMOVED FROM
BERGEN-BELSEN

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/05/10	MO	85/05/21
REFERRAL NOTE: <i>AD HENIKEL</i>		<i>R 85/05/21</i>		
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230
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, OFOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMPS AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

May 21, 1985

Dear Mike:

Thank you for your letter of May 9 regarding reports that individuals were removed from the area of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp before the President's arrival.

Please know that your correspondence has been brought to the attention of the appropriate White House officials in order that your concerns may be addressed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Mike Synar
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Bill Henkel - for DIRECT response
WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

MIKE SYNAR
2D DISTRICT, OKLAHOMA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

JUDICIARY

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON AGING

304034

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2441 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2701

DISTRICT OFFICE:
2B22 FEDERAL BUILDING
125 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MUSKOGEE, OK 74401
(918) 687-2533

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

May 9, 1985

The President
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

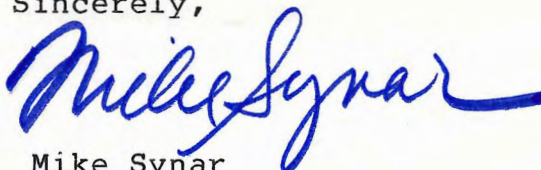
Dear President Reagan:

I am both saddened and outraged over news reports that the Secret Service ordered that thirty-five French Jews and a dozen others be forcibly removed from Bergen-Belsen concentration camp before you arrived.

The inexpressible horror of the attempted slaughter of an entire people stays with us as a stark, ghastly stain on our history. We will not and cannot forget. Generations from now, the towers and fences of Bergen-Belsen, Buchenwald, Dachau and others will hold the memory alive of the millions who died.

To evict a group of Jews from a concentration camp memorial under the guise of security (I assume you do not seriously contend they posed a threat to you) and, I suspect, merely to preserve an uninterrupted smoothness to your visit, mocks the need to preserve the memory of those who perished. It also mocks the principles of freedom for which this Republic stands and for which our troops fought who liberated Bergen-Belsen forty years ago.

Sincerely,



Mike Synar
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 10, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RIGHT REVEREND C. BRINKLEY MORTON

SUBJECT: WRITES COMMENDING THE VISIT TO THE BITBURG
CEMETERY AND APPLAUDS WORDS SPOKEN AT THE
CEMETERY _____

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
DOUG HOLLADAY	ORG	85/05/10		C 85/05/13 ^{TR}
<i>Ann Higgins</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	A	85/05/14	CP2AA	85/06/24 ^{TR}
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: _____ MEDJA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____
PL MAIL USER CODES: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

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

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

June 21, 1985

Dear Bishop Morton:

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

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

Again, my thanks to you and very best wishes.

God bless you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

A

The Right Reverend C. Brinkley Morton
Episcopal Bishop of San Diego
2728 Sixth Avenue
San Diego, California 92103

cc: Doug Holladay, 171 OEOB ✓
RR/DE/AVH/jfc BTBURG
Bitburg 5var.

85 621

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1985

Ann:

I think that the President
should see this. Can you
expedite this request?

Thanks.

Doug Holladay
ext. 6510/171 OEOB

304052

THE RIGHT REVEREND C. BRINKLEY MORTON

BISHOP

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

2728 SIXTH AVENUE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

May 7, 1985

Delivered

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

Dear Mr. President:

I wish to commend you upon visiting the cemetery at Bitburg on your recent trip to Germany. Your presence there and the words you spoke will be recorded in history as magnanimous gestures of reconciliation. The Christian imperative to forgive and to be reconciled with our neighbor surmounts whatever criticism there may have been.

I write this as an infantry veteran of World War II, a holder of the Purple Heart and other decorations, and one who experienced the fierce resistance of the German army. I have long ago made my peace with that former enemy and with God, for I did my duty as a soldier.

Your actions are assuredly reminiscent of the words of President Lincoln, who spoke "of malice toward none and with charity for all".

Thank you for the inspiring leadership you give to this Nation. Please know that I keep you in my prayers.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

+ C. Brinkley Morton

The Rt. Rev. C. Brinkley Morton
Episcopal Bishop of San Diego