

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): 301976-302029
Box Number: 2

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/>

CON BIT.
4

NON

ID# 301976

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. NORMAN GATI

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST GERMANY

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

85/04/27

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

REFERRAL NOTE:

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:M INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

```

*****
*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       *                               *                               *
*****

```

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 25, 1985

Dear Mr. Gati and Mr. Parkas:

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 relative of those who perished in 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. Norman Gati
Mr. Ervin Parkas
World Federation of
Hungarian Jews
136 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016

✓ Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:sewf3
ConBB4 (AVHNON)

WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS
136 E 39 ST
NEW YORK NY 10016 25AM

Western Union Mailgram®



1-022918A115 04/25/85 ICS IPMNXNB WSHA
0067 MGM TI NEWYORK NY 100 04-25 313P EST

301976

PRESIDENT REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20005

N. Berger

LT THE WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS REPRESENTING SURVIVORS OF
THE HOLOCAUST IN HUNGARY APPROACH YOU IN GRATITUDE FOR
YOUR STEADFAST OPPOSITION TO ANTI-SEMITISM AND
CONSISTANT SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL
BUT ALSO IN SORROW FOR YOUR DECISION TO VIST
THE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY IN
BITBURG STOP WE RESPECTUFLLY BESEECH YOU TO FIND ANOTHER
SITE, FREE OF SS GRAVS, TO ADVANCE THE
CAUSE OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE GRMAN PEOPLE

WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS
NORMAN GATI PRESIDENT
ERVIN PARKAS EXEC VP
WORLD FED OF HUNGARIAN JEWS
136 E 39 ST
NEW YORK NY 10016

18:31 EST

MGMCOMP

Western Union
Malignant

WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN
124 E 32 ST
NEW YORK NY 10017

30155

1-800-828-6000 (TOLL FREE)
NEW YORK NY 10017

WASHINGTON DC 20002
WHITE HOUSE
PRESIDENT READER

IF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS REPRESENTING SURVIVORS OF
THE THIRTEEN MONTHS OF CONCENTRATION CAMP LIFE IN THE STATE OF
YOUR STATE TO THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND
CONSISTENT SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK
FOR YOUR LOCAL NUMBER, SEE THE WHITE PAGES
BUT ALSO IN SEARCH FOR YOUR DECISION TO VISIT
THE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY IN
DE YOUR LOCAL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY
BUT ALSO IN SEARCH FOR YOUR DECISION TO VISIT
SITE FREE OF CHARGE TO ADVANCE THE
CAUSE OF RECONCILIATION WITH THE ISRAELI PEOPLE

WORLD FEDERATION OF HUNGARIAN JEWS
NORMAN GATI PRESIDENT
EVAN PARKS EXEC VP
WORLD FED OF HUNGARIAN JEWS
124 E 32 ST
NEW YORK NY 10017

OR DIAL WESTERN UNION'S COMPUTER DIRECTLY:

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

NBA

ID# 301978

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01
needs AH reply
to return orig. ltr

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. FELIX LASKY

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY IN WEST
GERMANY AND REQUESTS A MEETING WITH
CHANCELLOR KOHL OF WEST GERMANY

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		<u>85108129</u>
<i>COHiggs</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____				<u>A 85108129</u> <u>AH A 85108129</u> <u>AB</u>
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-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       *                               *                               *
*****

```

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.

August 22, 1985

Dear Mr. Lasky:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want 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."

I am also returning to you the original letter that you enclosed. Again, I truly regret the delay in this reply.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Felix Lasky
General Secretary
Jewish Nazi Victims Organization
of America, Inc.
251 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024

Enclosures: ROTP 5/5/85 Bergen-Belsen
5/5/85 Bitburg
Return writer's enclosure *by registered mail*

AVH:CAD:AVH:ech - 8AVH
ConBB3 var.

Mailroom:

Pls send by
registered
mail.

Thanks

Dan Engler
x7610

var:

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1985

Mr. Lasky

Dear ~~VnameV~~:

On behalf of

President Reagan, ~~has asked me~~ ^{I want} 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."

FF With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

(6/10/85)

FF I am also returning to you the original letter that you enclosed. Again, I truly regret the delay in this reply.

Vinside_addressV

Enclosures : ROTP 5-5-85 Bergen-Belsen
5-5-85 Bitburg
AVH:CAD:AVH: Return writer's enclosure. (by registered mail)
ConBB3 (AVHNON)

The Federal Republic of Germany
The Federal Chancellor

April 25, 1983

Jewish Nazi Victims
Organization of America Inc.
c/o Mr. Felix Laski
251 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024

My Dear Mr. Laski:

Thank you very much for your letter of January 6, 1983
and your congratulations.

German-Jewish relations are especially dear to me as
as the successor of Konrad Adenauer, the first
Chancellor of Germany.

As you may know, I had at my first visit to the United
States in November of last year an extensive exchange
of opinions with representatives of different Jewish
organizations. This important dialogue I would like
to continue in the future.

We will continue to work to ameliorate the terrible
consequences of the national socialist empire, espec-
ially for the Jewish population as far as it is possible.

You will always find with us an open ear for your
requests.

With kindest regards,

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
DER BUNDESKANZLER

Bonn, den 25. April 1983

Jewish Nazi Victims
Organization of America, Inc.
z.Hd. Herrn Felix Laski
251 W. 87th St.
New York, New York 10024
USA

COPY
(original returned)

Sehr geehrter Herr Laski,

für Ihren Brief vom 6. Januar 1983 und für Ihre Glückwünsche danke ich Ihnen herzlich.

Die deutsch-jüdischen Beziehungen liegen mir als Nachfolger des ersten Bundeskanzlers der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Konrad Adenauer, besonders am Herzen. Ich habe, wie Sie wissen, bei meinem ersten Besuch in den Vereinigten Staaten im November letzten Jahres in New York einen intensiven Meinungs austausch mit Vertretern verschiedener jüdischer Organisationen geführt. Diesen wichtigen Dialog möchte ich auch in Zukunft fortsetzen. Wir werden uns auch weiterhin bemühen, die schrecklichen Folgen der nationalsozialistischen Herrschaft gerade für die jüdische Bevölkerung zu lindern, soweit dies überhaupt möglich ist.

Für Ihre Anliegen werden Sie bei uns immer ein offenes Ohr finden.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

W. Schmidt

301978

ארגון נאצי יודישע פון יודישע נאצי געליטענע אין אמעריקא, אי.אן.
Jewish Nazi Victims Organization of America, Inc.

37
M. Berger

OFFICERS

- Rabbi O. Besser, *President*
- Henry Moskovitz, *Chairman of Board*
- Dr. [Name obscured]
- Felix Lasky, *General Secretary*
- Usher Hechtkopf, *Treasurer*
- Lew Shulgasser, *Corresponding Secretary*
- Judge Morris Aarons, *Legal Advisor*



251 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024
(212) 362-6680

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Theodore Braun
- Dr. Leonard Friedman
- Moses Granatstein, *Munich*
- Alfred W. Kach
- Simon Robbins
- Rabbi Dr. Michael L. Munk
- Samuel Siegelman
- Moses Tarko
- Ely Zborowski
- Naftali Lau, *Tel-Aviv*
- Rabbi David Telsner, *Jerusalem*

*The Bush Was Burning in Fire
But Was Not Consumed (Exodus 3:2.)*

April 14, 1985

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Moses Keller
- Rubin Lichtman
- Jeno Pollack
- Wolfgang Silberberg
- Abraham Zaydman, *Paris*

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

Dear Mr. President:

The Jewish Nazi Victims Organization of America was the first organization of survivors in the United States. Its members have always been deeply proud of being citizens of this country. If we do not add the word happy, I hope you will understand that is because we will never be happy as long as we live. But we take much satisfaction in the knowledge that our children and our grandchildren are growing into happy, educated and successful adults.

We are writing this letter not as critics, but as supporters. Let us say that we respect you highly, Mr. President. We have particularly appreciated your personal attention to our sisters and brothers in Israel.

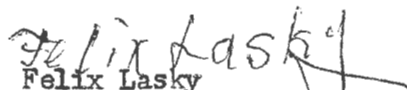
We are writing this letter for two reasons. We want to ask you, Mr. President, to reconsider your plans to lay a wreath at the graves of Nazi soldiers in Germany while bypassing memorials to the Jewish and other victims of the Nazis. There was no greater tragedy in history than the methodical slaughter of 6 million people, including a million and a half children. I think you can understand why we would be disturbed by seeing a wreath lain on the graves of those who took part in those deaths.

(Continued)

The second reason we are writing is to ask if, when you see Chancellor Kohl, you could add your voice to our request for a meeting with the Chancellor. Chancellor Kohl indicated to us in a very positive letter two years ago that he always kept an open ear to our problems and would welcome a dialoggue. However, we have not been able to obtain such a meeting. Let me point out that we were able to see Chancellor Adenauer three times. I am enclosing copies of the correspondence with Chancellor Kohl and translations.'

Thank you for your time and consideration.'

Sincerely yours,


Felix Lasky
General Secretary

CON BT. 3
NON

ID# 301983

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JACK P. EISNER

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST GERMANY

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		C 85/04/29
<i>Co Higgy</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____			A 85/04/29	AH A 85/06/21 AB
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.

June 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Eisner:

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. Jack Eisner
President and Founder
Holocaust Survivors Memorial Foundation
Suite 3508
350 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10118

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:lmf
ConBB3 (AVHNON)

M. Sugar

Holocaust Survivors Memorial Foundation/350 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3508
New York, New York 10118/212 594-8765



President and Founder
JACK P. EISNER

Executive Board
STELLA ADLER
Stella Adler Conservatory
of Acting

PROF. HARRY J. CARGAS
Webster College

JACK P. EISNER
Author, Producer

VALERIE FURTH
Artist

BEATE KLARSFELD
Paris, France

JERZY KOSINSKI
Author

PROF. ROBERT LIFTON, M.D.
Yale University

PROF. FRANKLIN H. LITTELL
Temple University, National
Institute on the Holocaust

MIRIAM NOVITCH
Ghetto Fighters House, Israel

DR. HAROLD M. PROSHANSKY
President, Graduate School
and University Center of the
City University of New York

DR. ARTHUR SCHNEIER
Sr. Rabbi, Park East Synagogue
Chairman, World Jewish Congress
American Section

DOROTHEA STRAUS
Author

IZABELLA TEKULSKY
Artist, Arts Advisory Committee

Director
SHIRLEY EISNER GIBSON

Assistant Director
ANITA PERKIEL SARNA

To the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

April 17-85

Dear Mr. President!

Your planned 'visit to' a German
Soldier's Cemetery and to pay tribute
to those who murdered ten's of millions
of people, to those who fought for
Nazi world domination is an
insult to American Fighting Men!
It is a mockery of human decency!

Your Equatation, comparison of Nazi soldiers
with the One million children-victims of
Nazi Gas Chambers is obscene!
I voted for you, please listen, do not honor
them with your visit!!!

Jack Eisner
Warsaw Ghetto Survivor!

N/A

Zlotowitz

JFR.850607.1

ID# 301984

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

AWA-387
TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI BERNARD M. ZLOTOWITZ

SUBJECT: FORWARDS RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE VISIT TO
THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN WEST GERMANY

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RFSP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG	85/04/26		
<i>CoHigs</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____			<i>C850429</i>	
REFERRAL NOTE: _____			<i>A 8510429 AH A8510613 AB</i>	
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.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 13, 1985

Dear Rabbi Zlotowitz:

On behalf of President Reagan, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the resolution adopted by the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues of The Union Of American Hebrew Congregations regarding the President's decision to visit the military cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany.

Your sending of this statement is appreciated, and the views contained in it have been communicated to the appropriate Administration officials. I am taking the liberty of enclosing copies of the President's speeches at Bitburg Air Base and the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp that you may wish to have available for the record.

With the President's best wishes to you and to the members of your Federation,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz
Union of American Hebrew Congregations
838 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

*LETTER PROCESSING INFORMATION

Letter.....: JFR.850607.1
Name.....: Rabbi Bernard Zlotowitz
Letter Type..: WH
Signature....: AH
ENV/LBL.....: ENV
Number Pages.: 1
Number Copies: 1
Reviewer.....: MLO
Review Date..: 850611
Print Date...: June 13, 1985

Notes:

enclosures: Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen remarks

--AVH387--

5/5/85 Remarks of the President at Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen
note2 copy outgoing for files

301984

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

PATRON OF HEBREW UNION COLLEGE—JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
838 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10021 (212) 249-0100 CABLES. UNIONUAHC

NEW YORK FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES

31



Rabbi Bernard M. Zlotowitz
Director

April 23, 1985

Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Granatoor
Assistant Director

M. Berger

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

Dear Mr. President:

At the annual convention of the New York Federation of Reform Synagogues of The Union of American Hebrew Congregations representing 104 congregations in the Metropolitan New York area, with a membership of 150,000 people, the delegates unanimously passed the enclosed Resolution urging that you reconsider your decision to visit any German military cemetery. The horrors that the Nazis perpetrated stand alone in infamy!

With deepest respect,

Sincerely,

Bernard M. Zlotowitz
Rabbi Bernard M. Zlotowitz
Director

BMZ:jmc

Enclosure

- OFFICERS
- President*
Leonard H. Spring
- Program Vice Presidents*
Harold Bobroff
David W. Sampliner
Phyllis Silber
Gerry Voit
- Regional Vice Presidents*
Robert Bashe
Ernest Grunebaum
Martin Hertz
Charles Levey
Leo Meyer
- Treasurer*
Leroy Fadem
- Associate Treasurer*
Alvin Burrows
- Secretary*
Mortimer Goodman
- Associate Secretary*
Lois C. Braun

RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
of the
NEW YORK FEDERATION OF REFORM SYNAGOGUES
of
THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
APRIL 21, 1985

*

WHEREAS THE REALITY OF THE HOLOCAUST CANNOT BE
DISPUTED, AND THE MEMORY NEVER ERASED FROM THE PSYCHE
OF ANY JEW, OR INDEED ANY HUMAN BEING,

and

WHEREAS ANY GESTURE THAT SEEMINGLY HONORS THE MEMORY
OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PERPETRATED THE HORROR OF THE
HOLOCAUST IS REPUGNANT TO EVERY JEW, AND SHOULD BE FOR
ANY HUMAN BEING,

and

WHEREAS WISDOM OFTEN CONSISTS OF THE ABILITY TO REVIEW
ANY DECISION AND, IF PROPER, CHANGE ONE'S MIND

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT THIS 1985 ASSEMBLY OF
DELEGATES WISHES TO CONVEY TO PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
ITS SINCERE REQUEST THAT HE CHANGE HIS MIND, AND NOT
VISIT ANY CEMETERY WHERE PERPETRATORS OF THE HOLOCAUST
ARE BURIED.

WHSN

ID# 301986

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

APR 29 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE HARVEY E. FRIEDMAN

SUBJECT: OPPOSES THE VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN _____
WEST GERMANY _____

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODF	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
RONALD ALVARADO	ORG	85/04/26		285/05/01 <i>KE</i>
<i>✓ Cohigg</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>A</i>	<i>85/05/03</i>	<i>NATO C</i>	<i>85/06/05 AB</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2500 _____

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
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

301986

37 Harvey Friedman

MAYOR
CITY OF BEACHWOOD
2700 Richmond Road
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
(216) 464-1070

Rm Alvarado

April 23, 1985

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

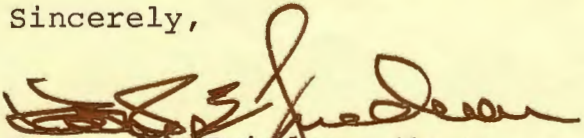
Dear Mr. President:

I want to express my deepest concern for your recent indications that on your trip to Europe you shall visit the cemetery that houses the bodies of former Waffen-SS German Troops. As a soldier in World War II, I find that this would be highly offensive to me. I would ask you to please reconsider the possibility that you would visit the Bitburg Cemetery. Perhaps, instead, you might visit the grave of Konrad Adenauer, or someone of his stature who represented the future of Germany, not the past, who objected to the SS and who objected to Adolph Hitler. Certainly there are a host of people who could be honored that would express the intent of the "new Germany", not the "old".

I can well understand the position of the West German government wherein they would call for recognition of an important ally of the United States government. As an American, and as a Jew, I would be offended on both counts if we were to allow our window to look to the past rather than to the future. Please Mr. President, don't allow this bit of symbolism to be misconstrued by the world. Let the world know that the United States recognizes democratic new allies but that it has no regard for those who ever advocated genocide or who would, in the future.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,


Harvey E. Friedman, Mayor
City of Beachwood

HEF:kk

MSB

ID# 301990

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. BOGDAN BEREZNICKI

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY
IN WEST GERMANY

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		C 85105106
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>199 DOS</u>	R	85105106		a 85105123 AB
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	*
*	*	* CORPESPONDENCE:	*
*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.

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

S/S # 8514375
DATE MAY 28 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. Bogdan Bereznicki
DATE: April 24, 1985 SUBJECT: President's Trip
to Germany

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: 5/9/85 NSC # 301990

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
 XX 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

UNCLASSIFIED
(CLASSIFICATION)

85 MAY 29 A 2: 35

WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

May 23, 1985

Mr. Bogdan Bereznicki, President
Association of the Veterans of
the 2nd Polish Corps
17748 Francavilla Drive
Livonia, Michigan 48152

Dear Mr. Bereznicki:

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."

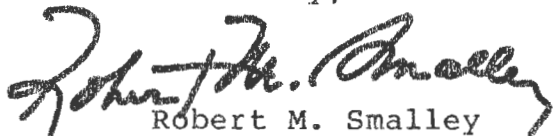
President Reagan strongly believes, as part of our efforts to learn from the experiences of this dark era, we must not reject opportunities for reconciliation. In this spirit, he was asked by Chancellor Kohl, and accepted the invitation, to visit a German military cemetery in Bitburg.

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

8514375

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

REFERRAL

MAY 9, 1985

TO: DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION REQUESTED:
DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 301990
MEDIA: LETTER, DATED APRIL 24, 1985
TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN
FROM: MR. BOGDAN BEREZNICKI
PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATION OF THE VETERANS
OF THE 2ND POLISH CORPS
17748 FRANCAVILLA DRIVE
LIVONIA MI 48152

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY
IN WEST GERMANY

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

37

301990

8514375



Association of the Veterans
of the 2nd Polish Corps

KOŁO B. ŻOŁNIERZY 2 KORPUSU
IM. GEN. W. ANDERSA
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

April 24, 1985

The President of the United States of America,
The White House
Washington, D.C.,

Dear Mr., President,

As former soldiers of the Polish Army 2nd Corps, that side - by - side with the American Conrades - in - Arms fought on the slopes of Monte Cassino and in the battlefields of whole Italian campaign 1943 - 1945 for freedom of Poland and for cause to free the subjugated nations of Europe from the German - Nazi terror, we implore you Mr. President - do not visit Bitburg.

As in the past we do support your policies for domestic as well as foreign programs however the schedule to visit a German cemetery on the 40th Anniversary of the End of World War II cannot be accepted.

Very sincerely yours, for the Association
of Veterans of the Polish Army 2nd Corps

Bogdan Bereznicki
Bogdan Bereznicki, President

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE MICKEY LELAND

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT GERMAN MILITARY
CEMETERY

ACTION DISPOSITION

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

M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/04/26	WD		4 25 78 AB
---------------	-----	----------	----	--	------------

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, 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 Mickey:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Mickey Leland
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

302003

Congressional Black Caucus

H2-344 House Annex #2
Washington, D.C. 20515

202 — 226-7790



37
MO

Mickey Leland, Tex., Chairman
Edolphus Towns, N.Y., Vice-Chairman
Alan Wheat, Mo., Secretary
Cardiss Collins, Ill., Treasurer

Augustus F. Hawkins, Calif.
John Conyers, Jr., Mich.
William L. Clay, Mo.
Louis Stokes, Ohio
Ronald V. Dellums, Calif.
Parren J. Mitchell, Md.
Charles B. Rangel, N.Y.
Walter E. Fauntroy, D.C.
Harold E. Ford, Tenn.
Julian C. Dixon, Calif.
William H. Gray, III, Pa.
George W. Crockett, Jr., Mich.
Mervyn M. Dymally, Calif.
Gus Savage, Ill.
Major R. Owens, N.Y.
Charles A. Hayes, Ill.

April 25, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing in regards to your upcoming trip to Germany, specifically the planned visit to the Bitburg cemetery.

As chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I would like to add my voice to the many who have raised their voices in bewilderment and then outrage over your decision to visit the cemetery in Bitburg. Over 47 members of the Third Reich's notorious Waffen SS troops are buried in that cemetery!

I do not question the fact, Mr. President, that you were unaware that SS officers were buried in Bitburg when you planned your itinerary. Once aware of the fact, however, I find it unconscionable that you allowed the cemetery visit to remain on your schedule.

I, as most Americans, support the idea of reconciliation. Reconciliation, however, does not mean the denial of the remembrance and honor due to those who were brutally killed by the Nazis. Your visit to the Bitburg cemetery would hinder and denigrate the very idea of reconciliation.

I urge you, Mr. President, to be sensitive to the concerns expressed by my like-minded fellow Americans. To pay tribute to those directly responsible for the brutal deaths of countless innocent people, including children, is a betrayal of human conscience.

I implore you to immediately cancel your visit to the Bitburg cemetery.

Sincerely,

Mickey Leland
Chairman, CBC

ML:DR

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE J. ALEX MCMILLAN

SUBJECT: SUGGESTS WITHDRAWING FROM 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
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG	85/04/26	<i>AKO</i>	<i>A8505/08</i>
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

AB

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240
MAIL USER CODFS: (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 8, 1985

Dear Alex:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable J. Alex McMillan
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

302008

JAM McMILLAN
T. NORTH CAROLINA

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

37
MO

April 25, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

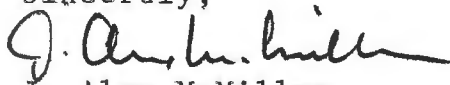
I know that these have been trying times for you concerning the controversy over your upcoming visit to West Germany. What originally was intended to commemorate the end of World War II 40 years ago and the success of our alliance with democratic West Germany has turned into an unfortunate political and diplomatic affair. I strongly believe in continuing to strengthen our relations with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and the West German government. However, Mr. President, I believe you must withdraw from visiting the Bitburg cemetery as a matter of national honor and moral dignity.

Mr. President, you have always been a man of principle and a leader who has the courage to stand up for what is right. I have long admired that quality in you, and I now have the honor of working with you as a member of Congress. I do believe the American people would appreciate and applaud a decision on your part to not participate in a ceremony at Bitburg given the revelation that Nazi SS soldiers are buried there. There is no dishonor in admitting that a mistake has been made and you have taken steps to correct it.

The memory of the Holocaust strikes a deep wound not only in the hearts of the Jewish community but in the conscience of every citizen of this country, many of whom gave or risked their lives to fight Nazi tyranny. We are working today to end totalitarian regimes in Central America, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia and Africa and we must not in any way honor the totalitarian reign of terror under Adolf Hitler. I urge you, Mr. President, to act on your own natural instinct of morality and sense of history to respectfully withdraw from going to Bitburg cemetery. It may be offensive to some Germans but respecting the honorable sensitivity of our own is more important.

I truly believe it will be an act of courage that will be long remembered.

With warmest personal regards,

Sincerely,

J. Alex McMillan
Member of Congress

JAM/pkh

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LAWTON CHILES

SUBJECT: FORWARDS REQUEST OF JACK MERRITT, LAKELAND,
FLORIDA AS TO THE COST OF THE PRESIDENT'S
TRIP TO WEST GERMANY

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	85/04/26		
<i>MA Chiles</i>	<i>R</i>	<i>85/05/11</i>	<i>MO #85P5109</i>	<i>PY</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 _____

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.

May 9, 1985

Dear Senator Chiles:

Thank you for your April 23 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Jack Merritt, regarding the cost of the President's trip to Germany.

Please be assured that this correspondence has been relayed to the appropriate Administration officials in order that your inquiry may receive further attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Chris Hicks
- for DIRECT response

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

United States Senate

April 23, 1985

37
MO

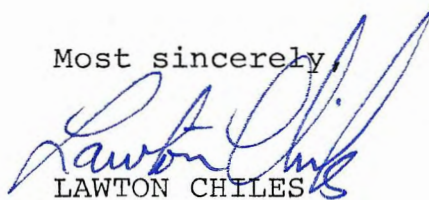
Mr. M. B. Oglesby
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Oglesby:

Recently, Mr. Jack Merritt, of 1425 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland, Florida 33803, called my Lakeland, Florida office and requested information as to the cost for the President regarding his trip to Germany. I would appreciate it if you would respond in detail to Mr. Merritt directly.

With kind regards, I am

Most sincerely,



LAWTON CHILES

LC/jce

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302016

TR 12301

1985 MAY 14 AM 7:48

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE LAWTON CHILES

SUBJECT: FORWARDS REQUEST OF JACK MERRITT, LAKE LAND,
FLORIDA AS TO THE COST OF THE PRESIDENT'S
TRIP TO WEST GERMANY

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	85/04/26		
<i>M.A. Hicks</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	<i>R</i>	<i>85/05/11</i>	<i>MO 8505109</i>	<i>PY</i>
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210 _____
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 17, 1985

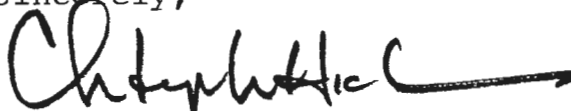
Dear Senator Chiles:

M. B. Oglesby, Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs, asked me to respond to your April 23, 1985, letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Jack Merritt of Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. Merritt requested information about the cost of the President's recent trip to Germany. The cost of that trip was paid from funds of the State Department, and accordingly, I am unable to provide the information you requested.

Please thank Mr. Merritt for his interest in the President.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Hicks", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Hicks
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Administration

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

May 9, 1985

Dear Senator Chiles:

Thank you for your April 23 letter on behalf of your constituent, Mr. Jack Merritt, regarding the cost of the President's trip to Germany.

Please be assured that this correspondence has been relayed to the appropriate Administration officials in order that your inquiry may receive further attention.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Lawton Chiles
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

cc: w/copy of inc to Chris Hicks
- for DIRECT response

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

LAWTON CHILES
FLORIDA

002076
COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BUDGET
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

United States Senate

April 23, 1985

37
1770

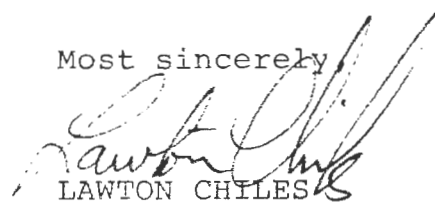
Mr. M. B. Oglesby
Special Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Oglesby:

Recently, Mr. Jack Merritt, of 1425 E. Edgewood Drive, Lakeland, Florida 33803, called my Lakeland, Florida office and requested information as to the cost for the President regarding his trip to Germany. I would appreciate it if you would respond in detail to Mr. Merritt directly.

With kind regards, I am

Most sincerely,


LAWTON CHILES

LC/jce

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE EDWARD MADIGAN

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURES COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM
CONSTITUENTS OF BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS WHO
OPPOSE THE WREATH LAYING AT 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	85/04/26	<u>WLO</u>	<u>185P 5/08</u> AB
---------------	-----	----------	------------	----------------------------

REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL COPRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: I. 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 8, 1985

Dear Ed:

Thank you for sharing with us your constituents' views concerning the President's State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. We fully understand the depth of your constituents' 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 constituents agree that, as part of our efforts to learn from the experiences of this dark era, we must not reject opportunities for reconciliation. The President was asked by Chancellor Kohl to pay a visit to a German military cemetery in Bitburg, and he has honored that request.

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

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

Sincerely,

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

MBO/STATE/NSC/KRJ/ech-MBQ8
cc: Will Ball, Cong. Affrs.

EDWARD R. MADIGAN
ILLINOIS

302020

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

April 24, 1985

37
mo

M. B. Oglesby, Assistant To The President
For Legislative Affairs
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear B:

I am enclosing a copy of the communications I have received from constituents in Bloomington, Illinois, who are opposed to the President's plans to lay a wreath at the Bitburg Cemetery in West Germany.

I would appreciate your consideration and comment.

Sincerely,



Edward Madigan
Representative in Congress

EM:ejd
enclosure

April 23, 1985

To: Washington

From: Bloomington

Mr. Jerry Cantlon
5 Riser
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

He would like for the Congressman to advise the President that the laying of the wreath at the cemetery in Germany is very wrong. He served in WW II and is a retired faculty member of ISU. If the President was knowledgeable on the history of WW II he would not do this. It is an embarrassment to the American people and probably to the German people also.

Mr. Joe Barth
316 N. Madison
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Mr. Barth called re the President laying a wreath at the cemetery of the SS German people. He does not think the American citizens want this done and the Congressman should tell the President this.

NBA

ID# 302027

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. JULIUS BELSO

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST 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	85/04/26		08510628
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>COHIGG</u>				
REFERRAL NOTE: <u>nm</u>				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

AB

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: T 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 SIGNFR *
*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.

50 ✓

pro: visit German Cemetery

302027

Linas Kojelis

1-047328S115 04/25/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

2015456065 POM TDMT NEW BRUNSWICK NJ 20 04-25 0502P EST

35 APR 25 03

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

WE AGREE THAT THE USA MUST ACHIEVE REHABILITATION WITH GERMANY AND
THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH THIS VISIT TO BITHBURG

JULIUS BELSO PRESIDENT AMERICAN HUNGARIAN REPUBLICAN FEDERATION
12 COTTER DR

NEW BRUNSWICK NJ 08901

1702 EST

NAD

ID# 302028

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. STEPHEN M. VAJTAY

SUBJECT: SUPPORTS VISIT TO THE BIRBURG CEMETERY IN
WEST 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	85/04/26		C 85106128 <i>TR</i>
<i>COHIGG</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____	R	85104108		C 850702 <i>AB</i>
<i>Bar</i> REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /
REFERRAL NOTE: _____		/ /		/ /

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: _____ MEDIA:T 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.

37

Luis Kojeli

302028

1-046742S115 04/25/85

ICS IFMMTZZ CSP

2014697500 POM TDMT SOMERSET NJ 21 04-25 0435P ~~35~~ APR 25 P4:59

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

WE AGREE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST ACHIEVE REHABILITATION WITH
GERMANY AND THE PRESIDENT SHOULD PROCEED WITH HIS VISIT TO BITBURG

STEPHEN M VAJTAY CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN HUNGARIAN REPUBLICAN
FEDERATION OF NEW JERSEY

215 DAVIDSON AVE

SOMERSET NJ 08873

1655 EST

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 26, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI REUBEN KATZ

SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO THE BIRBURG 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		C 85/04/29
Co Higg REFERRAL NOTE:	A	85/04/29		C 85/06/11
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				
REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:T 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.

50 ✓ URWN CO URDB 060

Con: visit German Cemetery

NEWYORKNY 60/58 25 1347

302029

IA
M. Buger

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

35 APR 25 P 9: 50

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTONDC

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL I URGE YOU TO
OMIT YOUR PLANNED VISIT TO BITBURG FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR PERSONAL
IMAGE AS WELL AS THE IMAGE OF AMERICA. PLEASE HEED THE DEMANDING
VOICE OF CONSCIENCE THERE IS STILL TIME RESPECTFULLY

RABBI REUBEN KATZ

PRESIDENT

New York, NY 10021