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Last Updated: 03/14/2023

ID# 302171

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

85 MAY 6 P5: 25

DATE RECEIVED: APPIL 30, 1985

MANAGEMENT.

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE SEYMOUR SIMON

SUBJECT: CONCERNING VISIT TO BITBURG

	ACTION DISPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE TYPE C COMPI CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM	
ANDREW CARD REFERRAL NOTE:	ORG 85/04/30 C 85/05	Tes
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COMMENTS:	late	
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	ON CODES: *OUTGOING * CORRESPONDENCE:	*
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*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLET *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPEND	ED *COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC *R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *	* OUTGOING	*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE	* ************	*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

#302171

1-006977A119 04/29/85
ICS IPMWGWD WSH
01941 04-29 1158A EST
PMS WHITE HOUSE DC 20500
4-012802S119 04/29/85

APR 29 PI2: 11

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

3127935480 TDBN CHICAGO IL 100 04-29 1050A EST

PMS THE HONORABLE RONALD REAGAN

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC 20500

I AM JEWISH BUT I FETITION YOU AS AN AMERICAN WHO SERVED IN THE NAVY DURING WORLD WAR II AND WAS AWARDED THE LEGION OF MERIT. I ALONG WITH MILLIONS OF AMERICANS RESENT EXCEEDINGLY THAT THOSE WHO WERE OUR ENEMIES IN THAT WAR ARE CAUSING ANGUISH TO YOU AND OUR ENTIRE NATION

BY THEIR STUBBORN IMPOSITION ON YOUR DECENCY IN FEELING YOU SHOULD NOT VIOLATE THE PROMISE YOU MADE TO VISIT BITBURG. IF OUR FORMER ENEMIES WISH NOW TO BE OUR FRIENDS LET THEM SHOW IT BY DEMONSTRATING SENSITIVITY TO THE STRESSFUL POSITION IN WHICH THEY HAVE PLACED OUR PRESIDENT.

SEYMOUR SIMON JUSTICE ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT /

1107 EST

9 NOT

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302172

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ROBERT L. HESS

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESDIENT TO CANCEL TRIP TO BITBURG

	A	CTION D	ISPOSITION
ROUTE TO:	ACT	DATE TYPE	C COMPLETED
OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAM	E) CODE	YY/MM/DD RESP	D YY/MM/DD
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*X-INTERIM REPLY *		*	*
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Dougladada

4-0055198119 04/29/85

ICS IFMMTZZ CSP

7187805671 POM TDMT BROOKLYN NY 46 04-29 0902A EST APR 29 A/1:54

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

ON BEHALF OF THE 15,000 STUDENTS AND 100,000 ALUMNI OF BROOKLYN COLLEGE, I URGE YOU TO CANCEL YOUR TRIP TO BITBURG. SIMPLE HUMAN JUSTICE REQUIRES COMPASSION FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST AND THE YOUNG AMERICANS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT THE HANDS OF THE NAZIS.

ROBERT L HESS PRESIDENT BROOKLYN COLLEGE DEDFORD AVE AND AVE H
BROOKLYN NY 11210

1016 EST

M

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302173
TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE NICHOLAS R. FELICE

SUBJECT: URGES THF PRESIDENT TO RECONSIDER PROPOSED

VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY

		A	CTION	DI	SPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF	NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD			
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*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *X-INTERIM REPLY	*		*			*
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KFEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Can

o f. Slesen

4-0078175119 04/29/85

ICS IFMMTZZ CSF

2017963636 POM TDMT FAIR LAWN NJ 62 04-29 0939A ESAPR 29 All: 35 PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

DEAR PRESIDENT REAGAN WE ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER YOUR PROPOSED VISIT TO BITBERG CEMETERY AS AN ARMY VETERAN OF WORLD WAR II AND ONE WHO REMEMBERS THE DARK MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY WHEN MILLIONS OF MEN WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE KILLED IN THE HOLOCAUST YOUR VISIT WOULD BRING MUCH ANGUISH AND SORROW TO THE FAMILIES OF THESE VICTIMS AND OUR AMERICAN VETERANS

NICHOLAS R FELICE NJ ASSEMBLYMANV 16-05 FAIR LAWN AVE FAIR LAWN NJ 07410

New

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302174

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

*P-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *

*S-FOR-SIGNATURF *X-INTERIM REPLY

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. GUS TYLER

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO REVERSE DECISION TO

VISIT BITBURG CEMETERY

		ACTION	DISPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF			TYPE C COMPL RESP D YY/MM	
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*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC	*	*	OUTGOING	*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

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X4-0061135119 04/29/85

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

2022934890 FOM TOMT WASHINGTON DC 27 04-29 APR229 ESTI : 23

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

PRESIDENT REAGAN.

THE AMERICAN VETERAN'S COMMITTEE URGES YOU TO REVERSE YOUR DECISION TO VISIT BITBURG CEMETERY AND CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE SITE TO CEMENT POST WAR AMERICAN GERMAN TIES.

GUS TYLER NATIONAL CHAIRMAN AVC -1346 CONNECTICUT AVE SUITE 930 WASHINGTON DC 20036

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302175

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI JOSEPH RUDAVSKY

SUBJECT: OBJECTS TO THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE

BITBURG CEMETERY

		A	CTION	DI	SPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF	NAME)				C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
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REFER OUFSTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590

KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

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on Bregger

4-0140535118 04/29/85

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

9148349385 FOM TOBN LARCHMONT NY 74 04-28 1128PR 29T A 9: 54

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF REFORMED RABBIS EXPRESSES ITS PROFOUND OBJECTION TO YOUR INTENDED VISIT TO THE BITBERG CEMETARY IN GERMANY.

FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF S.S.

OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHOSE UNIT MURDERED COUNTLESS INNOCENT

CIVILIANS AND UNARMED AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR IS A DISGRACEFUL ACT.

WE RESPECTFULLY AND STRONGLY URGE YOU TO ASSERT YOUR PRESIDENTIAL

HONOR AND INTEGRITY BY UTILIZING A MORE APPROPRIATE GESTURE OF

RECONCILIATION

RABBI JOSEPH RUDAVSKY PRESIDENT RABBI LEONARD POLLER EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT RABBI JAY ROSENBAUM SECRETARY

75 LARCHMONT AVE LARCHMONT NY 10538

0850 EST

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302177 | R/230/

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. BENJAMIN COHEN

SUBJECT: UPGES RECONSIDERATION OF DECISION NOT TO

VISIT DACHAU

		A	CTION	DI	SPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF			DATE YY/MM/DD			
MARSHALL BREGER REFERRAL NO	OTE:	ORG	85/04/30		C85/25	OLAB
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*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	DDAT	*TYPE R			*
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*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED				DATE OF	*
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEO			*		OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY			*			*
*S-FOP-SIGNATURE	*		*			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY	* *******	****	*	*****	*****	*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

515 Park Avenue

New York, NY 10022

(212) 371-7750



302/7

Benjamin Cohen President

Rabbi Israel Miller Raymond M. Patt Rabbi Joseph P. Sternstein Honorary Presidents

> Shragai Cohen Chairman Executive Committee

Carmela Kalmanson Judge Alfred H. Kleiman Harry S. Taubenfeld Associate Chairmen Executive Committee

> Samuel Perelson Treasurer

Simon Schwartz Associate Treasurer

> Mark Gold Secretary

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Karen J. Rubinstein **Executive Director**

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American Zionist Youth Council American Jewish League Americans for Progressive Israel Amit Women Association of Reform Zionists of America Bnai Zion Emunah Hadassah Herut Zionists of America Labor Zionist Alliance Mercaz North American Altyah Movement Ploneer Women/Na'amat Religious Zionists of America Zionist Organization of America Zionist Student Movement

Affiliated Organizations American Sephardi Federation Association of Parents of American Israelis Women's League for Israel Related Agencies

American Zionist Youth Foundation Jewish National Fund March 27, 1985

President Ronald W. Reagan The White House Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you to express our appreciation for the New York Times report on March 24, which indicated that the U.S., at the request of Israel, undertook a major humanitarian operation airlifting 800 Ethiopian Jews from Sudanese refugee camps to Israel. We commend both you, for approving and expediting this heroic effort, and Vice President George Bush, for his instrumental and timely role in planning the airlift in his meeting with Sudan's President Nimeiry this month. Jewish tradition states that he who saves one life, saves an entire world. In this light, the impact of this airlift is a powerful and important one long to be remembered in the annals of Jewish history.

We do however wish to voice our great disappointment in the remarks regarding the Nazi Holocaust made at your March 21 news conference. Your decision and reason not to visit Dachau during your trip in May to Germany commemorating V-E Day raises concern. To state that at this time it is preferable to forget this tragic event is even more troubling. Our tradition stipulates that he who destroys one life, destroys an entire world. believe that the six million worlds destroyed 40 years ago must be recalled and commemorated at every opportunity, especially as the world commemorates V-E Day.

We respectfully request that you reconsider your decision and visit Dachau as a firm example of America's

... Continued

President Ronald W. Reagan March 27, 1985 Page Two

commitment to the eternal memory of those who perished in the Holocaust.

With wishes to you and your administration for continued strength to pursue humanitarian efforts and to uphold the American ideals of justice,

Sincerely,

Benjamin Cohen

President

BC:bl

CONBIT.

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302178

TR12301

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MRS. ERIC KNIGHT

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT NOT TO VISIT THE

CEMETERY IN BITBURG

		AC	CTION	DISPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NA	ME)		DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE C COMPLERESP D YY/MM	
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE (ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS MANAGEMENT.

Dear Mrs. Knight:

President Reagan has asked me to acknowledge your message and the deep concern that led you to discuss his decision to visit the German cemetery at Bitburg. I can assure you that the President understands the sense of personal pain you expressed as the relative of one who made the supreme sacrifice in the cause of liberty.

As I am sure you know, the President spoke at Bitburg Air Base on May 5 of his regret that his visit had reopened old wounds in what should be a time of healing. The President made clear, however, that the reconciliation which he sought in no way diminishes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. Nor does it mean forgetting or forgiving either the terrible crime of the Holocaust or the evil deeds of the SS whose crimes, the President said, "must rank among the most heinous in human history."

Because of your concern, I am sending you the enclosed full transcripts of the President's remarks at the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp and at Bitburg Air Base.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the President
and Director of Correspondence

Mrs. Eric Knight Box 76, Star Route Quakertown, PA 18951

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:lmpf1 ConBB1 (AVHNON) elatine -- C #302178

AH

1-0002215117 04/27/85
ICS IPMBNGZ CSP
2153467527 POM TDBN QUAKERTOWN PA 32 04-295 APR 27 EST 9:48
PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

AS THE WIDOW OF THE AUTHOR OF LASSIE COME HOME, MAJOR ERIC KNIGHT, KILLED AT AGE 45 IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NAZIISM, I IMPLORE YOU NOT TO HONOR THOSE WHO KILLED HIM.

MRS ERIC KNIGHT
SPRINGHOUSE LN
BOX 76 STAR ROUTE
QUAKERTOWN PA 18951

SPRINGHOUSE LN BOX 76 STAR ROUTE QUAKERTOWN PA 18951

0947 EST

ID# 302184

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 198	DATE	RECEIVED:	APRIL	30.	198
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MANAGEMENT.

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. REINHOLD W. SMYCZEK

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING VISIT TO WEST GERMANY

			AC	CTION	DISPOSITIO	, M
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENO	CY (STAFF	NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE C COMPI RESP D YY/MM	ETED //DD
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ADDITIONAL O	USER CODES	: (A)	_ (B)	*****	(C)	**
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POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESS NEW JERSEY DIVISION

STATE OFFICE:

318 ELM STREET

PERTH AMBOY, N. J. 08861

Phone: (201) 826-0808

The voice of a Million Americans of Polish Heritage in the Garden State.

April 24, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

Observing the recent developments in connection with your European trip and visit to West Germany, we are disturbed.

We are disturbed by the arrogant opposition of the Jewish ethnic group to the places you are about to visit.

We are disturbed by the power this ethnic group has shown in trying to dictate the details of the American foreign policy.

We are disturbed by hearing and reading the ungrateful statements and untrue, imaginary accusations made by the group which since 1948 has received from our Government nothing but understanding and favorable treatment. We have to remeber: there are some other victims of Holocaust.

We think, we have the right to speak on that topic as much as our Jewish friends. The Polish people were first to fight and resist the Hitler's aggression and suffered enormous losses during the World War II. Over 6 million Polish Christians died from the hands of Hitler and Stalin during the occupation of 1939-45.

If you would ask us we would probably choose also different cemetary during your visit and instead of Bergen-Belsen we would choose the Dachau concentration camp where hundreds of Polish priests were tortured to death. But we are not dictating to you, Sir and you can depend on the Polish Americans.

It is impossible to satisfy everybody because no matter what direction you'll take there will always be the opposition. We wish you all the success and God bless you, Mr. President.

Keinhold W. Smyczek, Pres.



RWS/az

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR/23-0/

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: RABBI MOSHE FEINSTEIN

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GERMANY

	ACTION	DISPOSITIO	N
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M. Bre ge w

אגורת הרכנים רארצות הכרית וקנדה THE UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

235 EAST BROADWAY NEW YORK, N. Y. 10002

> 964-6337 964-6338

> > April 22, 1985

Hon. Ronald Reagan President of U.S.A. The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Reagan:

Agudas Harabonim is the first orthodox rabbinic organization established in America 83 years ago. To it belong the greatest and most renowned talmudic scholars in the world, its memberahip includes the Torah authorities and personalities whose words are finally decisive and is carried out by hundreds - thousands of Jews who listen to its decision and opinions with affection and devotion. Naturally the Agudas Harabonim is purely a religious organization and it avoids as far as possible any daily political events. However, today we must make an exception and we cannot be silent and we are forced with anguish in our heart to write to you Mr. President, to one whom we respect for his many good moral deeds and social accomplishments. The fact that you. Mr. President, will on your forthcoming visit to Germany also honor with your presence the cemetery where lie buried the murderers of millions of human beings causes us unusual pain and anguish which does not give us a moment of rest day and night. was always and is also today the symbol of justice and ethics, the humanitarian morality dictates its deeds and decisions. Therefore, how can you, Mr. President, go in person to visit a place which has become a symbol of the lowest anti-morality.

THE UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA
295 EAST BROADWAY
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10002

964-6337 964-6338

a system which has degenerated to the most bloody murder and brutality which is even difficult to imagine in ones fantasy. Our holy Torah has strictly prohibited the humiliation of any human being and has in the same time warned us very strictly not to degrade a human being even after he is dead. desecration of the dead occupies a significant place in our religious law. The Jewish religious law and special Jewish mysticism is strongly critical of any one who disgraces the dead and warns with the sharpest warning to seek to avoid the slightest degregation of a human being who is no longer alive. With your visit to the cemetery, Mr. President, where lie buried the murderers of millions of people is a horrible insult both against Jews in America, Jews in the whole world, and also at the same time against all those who together with us fought and paid with blood in our battle against the savage beast Hitler.

To give honor to these murderers is pure obscenity for the victims and martyrs of various countries. Therefore we turn to you, Mr. President, with all those to whom America is highly valued and for whose welfare we pray in all endeavours, with a fervent prayer to change your position on this issue, to display your deep feeling and sympathy with the greatest disaster of human history. We hope that our words which come from the depth of our broken hearts will find a response in your heart, and America the great and celebrated America will in this way demonstrate the high esteem it places upon the honor of a human being created by G'd, and America will continue to be the land of ethics and morality, justice and compassion.

אגורת הרכנים רארצות הכרית וקנדה THE UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

235 EAST BROADWAY NEW YORK, N. Y. 10002

> 964-6337 964-6338

Being confident in your wise understanding we are hereby conveying to you our blessings to succeed in all your undertakings in every endeavour and America should remain the land, the model to which all nations will learn how high and how idealistic a country should be, and how high it should be the dignity of man.

Respectfully,

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein

President

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR/23-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DANIEL FRISA

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

		. AC	CTION	DIS	POSITION	
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DANIEL FRISA Assemblyman 15th A.D.

Room 827, Legislative Office Building Albany, New York 12248 (518) 455-4684

> DISTRICT OFFICE 1000 Gloucester Court Westbury, New York 11590 (516) 334-3456

DAN FRISA HOTLINE (516) 338-4660 THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

COMMITTEES
Aging
Commerce, Industry & Economic
Development
Corporations, Authorities &
Commissions

MINORITY TASK FORCE ON MISSING CHILDREN

April 24, 1985

Dear Mr. President,

I write as a member of the New York State Assembly, asking that you reconsider your decision to visit the military cemetery in Bitberg, Germany.

I am aware of your desire to strengthen political relations between the United States and West Germany. I am also aware of your personal feeling that a reconciliation of spirit between Americans and Germans is timely and desirable, and this too, I support.

I believe, however, that these goals can be reached in both real and symbolic terms, without visiting this military cemetery. The existence at Bitberg of graves and markers of SS members is profoundly disturbing. The souls of the millions of Jews, Poles, Slavs, Gypsies, Germans, American soldiers, and others systematically exterminated by the SS cry out in opposition to any gesture towards these murderers. The unspeakable and unnameable horrors of the death camps and the death squads should not be veiled by the necessities of a current political strategy.

Mr. President, that place is not your place, nor is it the place for any of us who love justice and peace. As a public official, I understand your dilemma in wishing to keep a personal commitment to the head of the West German Government. But, sometimes, the historic importance of gestures and symbols must be acknowledged. In the name of so many dead, whose souls look to you for justice, and in the name of so many living who look to you as a symbol of strength and decency, do not do this thing.

My thoughts are with you as you struggle with this decision.

Sincerely

DANIEL FRISA

Member of Assembly

DF:sbs President Ronald W. Reagan The White House Washington, D.C. May .

THE WHITE HOUSE CORPESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APR	(TT)	3U, 1	1985
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NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BARBARA R. CANTRILL

MAY 01 1985

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING VISIT TO THE CEMETERY IN BITBURG, GERMANY

		A	CTION	DI	SPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF	NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD			
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april 23, 1985

MARY McGRORY

Decline and Send No Regrets

President Reagan cannot go to Bitburg. It is out of the question for the leader of the western world to lay a wreath in a war cemetery where Nazi storm troopers are buried. As Elie Wiesel, the most eloquent voice among Holocaust survivors, told him at the White House: "That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS."

It is no longer important if Reagan "offends" the German people or "insults" his host, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany.

Kohl of West Germany.

The issue, Wiesel said, is not politics, but good and evil.

The reason that Reagan must not go was put, in powerful terms, by Gideon Hausner, prosecutor of Adolf Eichmann, the fiend who presided, enthusiastically, over the extermination of millions of European Jews. The visit, Hausner said, "will be a victory for Adolf Hitler from beyond the grave."

No apology is needed. Explanations would be superfluous. Reagan should simply say he has cancelled the visit because it is wrong.

It is wrong, because as Menachen Z. Rosensaft of New York, chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, stated: "The visit will be exploited by revisionist historians, neo-Nazis and their sympathizers."

Reagan says his purpose is "reconciliation." He has been persuaded by his partner in the blunder, Kohl, that Germans feel left out. Apparently the two had an emotional Oval Office meeting last November, in which Kohl tearfully begged Reagan to visit a German war cemetery.

Reconciliation has been the official policy of the U.S. government for 40 years. Through the Marshall Plan, we lifted a prostrate nation from its knees, sheltered, clothed and fed it, restarted its industrial engines. For 15 months, from June 1948 to September 1949, the Berlin airlift gave daily, thundering reassurance of the U.S. commitment to reconciliation with our former enemy.

Kohl found it wounding to be excluded from the Allied observances at Normandy last year.

Reagan, who is sentimental and much moved by a hard-luck story from an individual, decided to meet Kohl's needs. He looks at Germany and does not see the country that started two world wars, the second of which brought western civilization to the brink of extinction, but a valiant, industrious, God-fearing nation, which stands as a bastion against the communist hordes

across its borders and which accepts missiles and praises "Star Wars."

Reagan's initial decision not to visit a Nazi death camp was in character. He likes pleasant settings, upbeat events. Dachau is a downer. And as is often the case when he adopts a point of view, he was carried away into fantasy and misstatement.

*And I felt since the German people—and very few alive that remember even the war and certainly none of them who were adults and participating in any way they have a feeling and a guilt feeling that's been imposed upon them, and I just think it's unecessary," he said in March.

Reagan's wrong. Twelve million
Nazi-era Germans are alive. He cannot
transform all of them into "good"
Germans.

Those appalled by the cemetery visit—and they include U.S. war veterans who remember Bitburg as the staging area for the Battle of the Bulge—do not want to relive the past or endlessly punish the Germans. But they think it is "necessary" to remember anti-Semitism. Tolerated, it means ugliness. As a national policy, it

leads to the gas chambers and ovens.

110,

Reagan forever disqualified himself as someone who grasped what World War II was about when he said most of the German troops buried in Bitburg were teen-age draftees and equated them with the millions of Jews and others who perished in the Holocaust—"victims just as surely as the victims in the concentration camp," he gratingly called the soldiers.

Kohl is equally inept with analogy. He exhorted a group of down-in-the-mouth German bankers to emulate Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis. Equating interest rates with eternity reveals a brotherly obtuseness.

Reagan's rejection of Wiesel's plea indicates a deafness to moral suasion. He might instead think about the visual "negatives." The protesters have promised that death camp survivors, their children and U.S. war veterans will be at the cemetery gates to greet him, thus setting up the most gruesome photo opportunity of his presidency.

The stated purpose, reconciliation, is being drowned in a rising flood of long-buried passions from the death camp survivors, who feel as betrayed and abandoned as they did 40 years ago. The add-on trip to Bergen-Belsen is to them a monstrous sop, a try at "even-handedness" as outrageous as what they see as the first step in rehabilitating their tormentors.

TOWNSHIP OF PRINCETON

VALLEY ROAD BUILDING 369 WITHERSPOON STREET PRINCETON, NJ 08540-3496

OFFICE OF COMMITTEEWOMAN
BARBARA R. CANTRILL
(H) 609-924-7294

April 26, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

The enclosed article represents my views on the proposed visit to a cemetary which houses SS Troops. My late father, Leo F. Russell, of Boston, volunteered at 30 (with three children) to serve his country - he did it because he was outraged about the threat to our country from barbarians!

I spoke with his widow, my mother, and asked her about your visit - (she voted for you) - she quietly told me last night - "we must never forget!!"

Mr. President, this country has given <u>much</u> to Germany to rebuild itself after a war <u>they</u> waged and our <u>own</u> veterans returned to areas of high unemployment and lost seniority on their jobs.

My late father came back severely disabled from years in the Pacific - as did numerous other relatives.

As a child, I pledged to myself - never to remain silent on this issue. As an elected official - I honor that pledge.

Sincerely,

Sarbara F. Cantrill

P.S. There is a line from Yeats - " best of frelant have nee come - fanatries at aus methers breasts.". Thank God for The friend - and I have been abacut justice and Lave long memories!



THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302203

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECFIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DAVID M. HAGINO

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO CANCEL TRIP TO BITBURG, GERMANY

		A	CTION	DI	SPOSITIO	N
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#500000

HENRY HAALILIO PETERS Vice Speaker MARSHALL K. IGE RICHARD A. KAWAKAMI Majority Floor Leader TOM OKAMURA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THE THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

STATE OF HAWAII STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 26, 1985



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3rd — WAYNE METCALF

4th - DWIGHT Y. TAKAMINE

5th — VIRGINIA ISBELL

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40th - DONNA MERCADO KIM

41st — TOM OKAMURA

42nd — CLARICE Y. HASHIMOTO

43rd — ARNOLD MORGADO, JR.

44th - ELOISE YAMASHITA TUNGPALAN

45th - MITSUO "MITS" SHITO

46th — PAUL T. OSHIRO

47th - MIKE CROZIER

48th — HENRY HAALILIO PETERS

49th - PETER K. APO

50th - ALFRED C. LARDIZABAL.

51st — RICHARD A. KAWAKAMI

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States of America The White House

Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear President Reagan,

On April 21, Hawaii joined the rest of the world in observing a Day of Rememberance for the victims and survivors of the Holocaust, the Nazi slaughter of 6 million Jews. Many non Jewish denominations were represented in the ceremony.

As you prepare for your official visit to Germany, we urgently request that you cancel the wreath laying at Bitburg. where 47 Nazi storm troopers are buried. As head of State, such a gesture would imply the tacit approval and forgiveness of Nazi crimes by the American people. This would be presumptuous and inaccurate.

We suggest, as an alternative that you honor the German patriots who were tortured and killed in Berlin following their attempt to assassinate Adolf Hitler in 1944. A visit to this monument would be a very positive gesture, which would help to counter today's Neo-Nazi and extremist movements which desire to finish what Hitler started. Sadly we see a resurgence of this even in our own country.

The issue is not rooted in politics, but about the good and evil in this world. The holocaust was not just a horror movie but a horrid chapter of modern history that must be clearly remembered as a time when hatred was allowed to triumph over love. Due to the indifference of the men in the S. S., Hitler's evil orders were efficiently enforced.

It may be that you were provided poor advice by an unknowing staff, but a positive aspect of leadership is to acknowlege and correct such mistakes. President Reagan, in response to our citizens, we respectfully ask you to alter your plans in order to honor the memory of the best of Germany's citizens.

CC:

George P Schultz, Secretary

of State

Members of the Press

Hawaii Congressional Delegation

With Aloha,

†Minority Leader

*†Minority Floor Leader

ID# 302209

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

MANAGEMENT.

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE SAM NUNN

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO GERMANY

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE-(ROOM 75,0EOB) EXT. 2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 8, 1985

Dear Sam:

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 Sam Nunn United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

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

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JAMES F. McGOVERN, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL ARNOLD L. PUNARO, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY

·#302209

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 23, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my deep concern about your forthcoming visit to Germany.

As you know, I am a firm supporter of the NATO Alliance and believe that the Federal Republic of Germany plays a very constructive role in the Alliance. They are among the leaders in developing and maintaining a strong mutual defense and a solid political alliance. We should all be proud of the strides that the Federal Republic has made since the war in economic, social and political development. I am pleased that the West Germans are among our closest allies. That is as it should be.

However, we also have an obligation never to forget the atrocities of the Nazi era. This generation has a responsibility to all future generations to remind them of the horrors that occurred so that they will never happen again. Accordingly, I was pleased to learn that you reversed your decision not to visit Bergen-Belsen. However, I am distressed that you are still planning to visit the cemetery at Bitburg in which SS soldiers are buried. As I am sure you know, the SS was responsible for many atrocities, including concentration camps and murder of Jews and American prisoners. I do not believe it would be appropriate for you to visit a cemetery in which SS soldiers are buried.

I urge that you personally communicate confidentially with Chancellor Kohl at the earliest opportunity to resolve this matter. The recent wave of press stories and leaks from both Bonn and Washington may cause serious damage to U.S.-West German ties. I suggest that working with Chancellor Kohl you find some other appropriate way to remember the American and allied war dead, as well as the German war dead. Chancellor Kohl is a courageous, brave and honest man, as demonstrated by his recent denunciation of the Nazis and acceptance of responsibility for the Nazi era. I believe he will understand. It is critical that you quickly resolve this matter so that there will be an appropriate remembrance of the concentration camps, a recognition of those killed in the fighting, while maintaining the close U.S.-West German ties which are crucial to the future of the NATO Alliance.

Sincerely,

Sam Nunn

Su chart.

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302226

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

MAY 01 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JEROME J. WEINSTEIN

SUBJECT: URGES RECONSIDERATION OF PLANNED VISIT TO CEMETERY IN BITBURG

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PRESIDENT REAGAN
THE WHITE HOUSE
PENNSYLVANIA AVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

AS A SUPPORTER OF YOU AND YOUR PARTY TO VISIT BITBERG

AND PAY THE S.S. HOMAGE, IS TO EXHALT WICKEDNESS.

WE RESPECTFULLY URGE YOU SIR TO CHANGE YOUR MIND.

TO PAY HOMAGE TO HONEST COUNTRYMEN IS ONE THING, BUT TO

INADVERTENTLY HONOR THE NAZI WAA MACHINE IS IN MY

OPINION WRONG. PLEASE RECONSIDER.

JEROME J. WEINSTEIN, COUNCILMAN, TOWN OF NORTH HEMPSTEAD

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THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 302228

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 30, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. VACLAV HYVNAR

SUBJECT: SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT PLANNED VISIT TO WEST GERMANY



		AC	CTION	DIS	SPOSITIO	N
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*#302228

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PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON DC'

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

WE ARE FULLY SUPPORTING YOUR PLANNED VISIT TO WEST GERMANY. WE HAVE TO PUT THE OLD WOUNDS BEHIND US IN ORDER TO FACE A PRESENT DANGER TO OUR DEMOCRACY AND ON ENTIRE WESTERN CIVILIZATION. GOD BE WITH YOU ON YOUR MISSION.

VACLAV HYVNAR, PRESIDENT NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF CZECH CATHOLICS 3614 FARLAND RD CLEVELAND OH 44118

0905 EST

1034 EST