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## 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):** 304290-304399 **Box Number:** 3

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Last Updated: 03/08/2023

ID# 304292

R12301

### THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 15, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. TORRICELLI

SUBJECT: ENCLOSES THE MILITARY DECORATIONS OF DR. VICTOR BORDEN IN PROTEST OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE CEMETFRY AT BITBURG

	ACTION DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY REFERRAL NOTE:	ORG 85/05/15 MQ ASTOSIZZ AL
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COMMENTS :	
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:	
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2.18

May 22, 1985

#### Dear Mr. Torricelli:

This is in response to your May 9 letter enclosing the military decorations of Dr. Victor Borden, who feels he must return these medals in response to the President's visit to the cemetery at Bitburg.

We fully understand the depth of these concerns and assure you that the President's feelings about the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Nazi regime are no less deeply felt. The President, however, considers his appearance at Bitburg 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.

We deeply regret that Dr. Borden feels this way on this matter. We must, however, return his service decorations to him, as they represent the appreciation and gratitude of the Nation which he served with loyalty and dedication.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

2.4

The Honorable Robert G. Torricelli House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Baclosure

MBO: KRJ: MDB

ROBERT G. FORRICELLI 9TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

> COMMITTEES: FOREIGN AFFAIRS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



WASHINGTON OFFICE: 317 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 202-225-5061 DISTRICT OFFICE: COURT PLAZA 25 MAIN STREET HACKENSACK, NJ 07601 201-646-1111

1 30 . 22 .

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

May 9, 1985

The President The White House Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

It is with great regret that I write to return to you the military decorations of Dr. Victor Borden. Dr. Borden, who volunteered to serve his country during the Vietnam War and served in the Air Force medical corps for two years, felt it inappropriate to keep these mementos of service after your recent visit to the cemetery at Bitburg. Dr. Borden lost four grandparents and many relatives in the ovens of the Holocaust.

Dr. Borden's family is typical of many who fled the horror of prewar Germany. They sought refuge in a nation renowned for its commitment to the freedom of its people regardless of race, religion, or culture. America represented an island of sanity in a world gone mad. Grateful for the freedoms he knew were precious, Dr. Borden did not think twice when his nation asked for his service. He served capably and honorably.

It is a sad day when a man so appreciative of this nation can no longer muster the pride he once had. Dr. Borden feels no animosity, only grief. I share his sadness and pray, that in the future, ill-conceived symbols of reconciliation do not in the process pay homage to deeds repugnant to the American dream.

relv.

ROBERT G. TORRICELLI Member of Congress

- - -

RGT:msb

ID# 304295

R123-01

Des Alfred Kingon Leturn to Des the Coursel CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RFCEIVED: MAY 15, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE SAMUEL M. POSENSTEIN

SUBJECT: SUPPORT AND VIEWS REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BIRBURG

BITEURG 4

	AC	CTION	DIS	SPOSITION	4
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- 14

June 18, 1985

### Dear Judge Rosenstein:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your message of May 7. I appreciate more than I can say your kind and generous words.

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

You were kind to write as you did and your message means a great deal to me.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Samuel M. Rosenstein Senior Judge United States Court

85 620

of International Trade Suite 403, Federal Building 299 East Broward Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

RR/DE/CAD/AVH/efr BTBURG Bitburg 4 /

cc: Alfred Kingon

# 2 3 0/225

UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FEDERAL BUILDING—U.S. COURTHOUSE SUITE 403 299 EAST BROWARD BLVD. FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301

CHAMBERS OF SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN SENIOR JUDGE

1 Kinder

Personal - Not Official May 7, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I strongly feel that the continued criticism of your May 5 visit to the Bitburg cemetery is unfair and unjust.

From what I have read and heard, when the invitation was extended you had no way of knowing who was buried in that cemetery and what it symbolized.

As a man of integrity you felt that having accepted the invitation, the good relationship you had established with Germany would be adversely affected if you cancelled the appointment.

I have no doubt that had you been advised of the entire situation in advance, you unquestionably would not have accepted the invitation. You did all that you reasonably could under the circumstances and your address at the airport was a masterpiece.

As usual, Mrs. Reagan proved herself to be a most worthy helpmate both in Germany and Italy. Both of you continue to enjoy the respect, confidence, and admiration of thinking, fair-minded people.

Definitely, if you are able to accomplish a reconciliation with Russia and retain the support of Germany, you will have given a legacy to future generations of Americans which they have never before had.

With expressions of my respect and high regard for your and Mrs. Reagan

Cordially,

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Janual M. Recenterin

Samuel M. Rosenstein Senior Judge

SMR/11

ID # <u>304395 cu</u> TR123.01

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

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### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 24, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL J. ENGLER STAFF ASSISTANT OFFICE OF WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT: Proposed Letters to Judge Fred Wicker and Judge Samuel Rosenstein

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced proposed letters to judges, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. Thank you for submitting them for our clearance.

### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

June 18, 1985

Memo for: Dianna Holland

From: Dan Engler Office of Correspondence x7610, Rm. 96

Re: Dated material for clearance by your office

Here are copies of two Presidential replies to judges, dated June 18, which we would like to send by COB June 20.

We thought we could save your office the trouble of composing a memo of reply if we could just mail the replies by COB Thursday unless your office has any objections.

AN CONST

Thank you,

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Dan Engler

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### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 18, 1985



Dear Judge Rosenstein:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your message of May 7. I appreciate more than I can say your kind and generous words.

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

You were kind to write as you did and your message means a great deal to me.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Samuel M. Rosenstein Senior Judge United States Court of International Trade Suite 403, Federal Building 299 East Broward Boulevard Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

#304295

#### UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

FEDERAL BUILDING-U.S. COURTHOUSE SUITE 403 299 EAST BROWARD BLVD. FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301

CHAMBERS OF SAMUEL M. ROSENSTEIN SENIOR JUDGE

Personal - Not Official May 7, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

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Definitely, if you are able to accomplish a reconciliation with Russia and retain the support of Germany, you will have given a legacy to future generations of Americans which they have never before had.

With expressions of my respect and high regard for your and Mrs. Reagan

Cordially,

Samuel M. Rosenstein Senior Judge

SMR/11

ID# 304300

R123-01

### THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

### INCOMING

DATE PECEIVED: MAY 15, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: DR. ROBERT L. MADDOX

SUBJECT: VIEWS REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE CEMETERY AT BITBURG

	ACT	ION	DI	SPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		DATE Y/MM/DD			
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING (ROOM 75,OFOB) EXT. 2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED LETTFR AT ALL TIMES AND SEND MANAGEMENT.	TO THE ORI	GINAL IN	COMING		



May 8, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I regret your trip to the Nazi Cemetery but I applaud your motives in going. After the furor arose, you did right by not changing your mind. Fortunately, our great country or your efforts at governing do not rise or fall on one possible misstep by the President or his staff.

You should know that many of your views on issues, impacting church/state separation cause us great concern. We find ourselves compelled to oppose you on these issues.

You should also know that as our President, you have our prayers and every best wish. You and your staff can call on us anytime we can be of service.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert L. Maddox/ Executive Director

cc: Doug Holladay Patrick Buchannan

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET ID# 304339

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 16, 1985

NAME OF CORPESPONDENT: RABBI ALEXANDER M. SHAPIRO

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION NOT TO VISIT DACHAU

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### THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY בנסת הרבנים

3080 BROADWAY NEW YORK, N.Y. 10027 (212) 678-8060

Cable Address: RABBISEM, New York

\* RABBI ALEXANDER M. SHAPIRO President

FREENICAL ASSEMBLY DIT

VUilly

RABBI KASSEL ABELSON Vice-President

RABBI ALBERT L. LEWIS Treasurer

RABBI IRWIN GRONER Secretary

**RABBI WOLFE KELMAN** Executive Vice-President

**RABBI GILBERT M. EPSTEIN** Director of Community Services

RABBI JULES HARLOW Director of Publications

RABBI AKIBA LUBOW Director of Programming March 22, 1985

The President The White House

Mr. President,

I was privileged this week to have the opportunity to visit with you in the Oval Office with six of my colleagues in order to transmit to you our concern for our Soviet brothers and sisters. All of us were gratified by your understanding and your sensitivity to the problem and we all left with our faith strengthened of continued commitment of your administration to the cause of Soviet Jewry and to human rights within the Soviet Union.

I am writing to you today out of deep disappointment at one of the statements made at your press conference last night. I am fully aware of your commitment not only to the cause of Soviet Jewry but to the need within America to provide for the teaching of the lessons of the Holocaust at all levels of our society. I am aware of your appearance in support of the Holocaust memorial in Washington and of your continued concern with the painful memories of the Jewish people both in America and abroad. It is therefore with great consternation that I noted your comment yesterday at your press conference indicating that you will not visit Dachau during the course of your projected trip to West Germany this spring. It seems to me, Mr. President, that in so doing you are sending a terrible message both to my fellow Americans as well as to the world.

The notion that forty years afterwards we can simply move on to new issues and to new problems without reminding ourselves of the horrors of Nazism is in my view a terrible threat to all we have stood for as a nation for so long a time. The truth is that there are many people still alive both within Germany and outside of it who remember with great bitterness what took place during those terrible years. Across the length and breadth of this land there are many churches as well as synagogues who commemorate periodically in the springtime of the year those who died, both Christian and Jews alike in sanctification of God's name, in the terrible Hell on earth created by Nazism. Your deliberate sidesteping of the issue of such a poignant reminder of the Holocaust at the very moment when we are commemorating together the ending of the Second World War can only bring the most terrible disappointment to those who look to you as the representative of the great moral leadership of the United States and the world as a whole. This is a time to do exactly the opposite,

1.4

March 22, 1985

2.

The President The White House

namely, to remind the world what Nazism was and to rededicate ourselves to a world without the bestiality that Nazism represented. That lesson must be brought home not only to the German people but indeed to all people of the world.

On behalf of all twelve hundred rabbis who I am honored to represent, I appeal to you to reconsider your decision so that in stepping on German soil you may not only represent this great democracy but you also may give expression to those hopes and prayers of so many who martyred themselves for the sake of the ideals of liberty and justice absolutely fundamental to the life of this land.

Once more, my thanks for your hospitality and for the openness of your spirit.

...

Respectfully yours,

Nh 2 Hh ALEXANDER M. SHAPIRO

rml

\*Oheb Shalom Congregation 170 Scotland Road South Orange, New Jersey 07079 (201) 762-7067

AVH-388	
THE WHI CORRESPONDENCE TRA	TE HOUSE CKING WORKSHEET TR123
INCOMING	CKING WORKSHEET MAY 161985
DATE RECEIVED: MAY 16, 1985	110.
NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE	STMON T WIKLER M D
SUPPORTS!!	
SUBJECT: OPPOSES VISIT TO BITBURG MI	LITARY CEMETERY
	ACTION DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: DFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE TYPE C COMPLETED CODE YY/MM/DD RESP D YY/MM/DD
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305 - 534-2121

304341

4/30/85

Dr. Simon J. Wikler PODIATRIST - FOOT SPECIALIST 541 LINCOLN RD almand Dear hu President: MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 93139 your visit to bue Blitbeurg. Cemetary and The Bergin Belgin camp is the appropriate thing to fr do a print the speary Visit. and I am glad you did no yield to the criticisms. 1 an fewish. I am a lemocrat. moreoner M bawe been a Vice mayor & City Commissioner in This city primarily inhabited by feisch people. and I think There are more here who share my vience rather than those of your citics. Stay in Sood bearth. I am a few months yonger than you. and an inspired by you virile conduct of your office to mysel run for mayor of our city this caring Gaill. hits me best urshes. Succerely Sind Wikes

# IN THE NEXT ELECTION, LET'S MAKE ... A CLEAN SWEEP OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH'S COMMISSION !!!

I, Dr. Simon Wikler announce my earlier candidacy for Mayor of Miami Beach to urge other candidates to come forward. We need at least four selfless votes to reverse a plundered Miami Beach's decline.

At first hand, I saw for twenty years councilmen and commissioners doing favors for themselves and their friends with the city's resources. The constant drain impoverished our city; caused businesses and 50,000 residents to leave in disgust.

How to change this? Simple. Require commissioners to post a bond to make full disclosures of all personal incomes. Triple present salaries. Thus secure selfless commissioners who could not have worked for only \$6,000. a year.

When elected, we work only to restore our city. No witch hunts or dwellings on the past. But, we must investigate the following:

1. Why this small city pays over 500 million dollars to Metro and gets so little in return?

2. Why the city's elections conducted by Metro are so irregular?

3. Why Miami Beach's Trade Mart and Center was 'savaged' and then the Knight-Ridder and Miami Trade Mart surfaced? If this was a conspiracy I estimate our city's loss at \$250 Million Dollars.

4. Why businessmen, lawyers, commissioners, make huge financial deals for the city and we don't know exactly how it reflects itself on their incomes?

Once rich Miami Beach's real estate values have plummeted. To revive. First. We restore excellent municipal services, and for enough money, we get true value for every dollar we spend.

So please, resourceful candidates who want to rehabilitate Miami Beach, come forward (and I hope you are non-lawyers). With a new selfless administration there would be fewer rich ex-Miami Beach politicians, but the wonderful magic of Miami Beach would thrive again.

Winning won't be easy. Special interests now completely control Miami Beach's valuable real estate and 90 million dollars a year revenue . . . and they'll fight fiercely to retain it. Secretly, they pooled transportation for all their candidates on election day, distributed illegal uniform slates, monies, strong accommodations of the press, endorsements from prominent beneficiaries, calculated election day irregularities.

Thus they brought in all seven of their candidates in the last two elections.

However, the public is sick of this ugly cabal that rules our city. They want a sweeping change. We have the votes. With this election democracy in Miami Beach will prevail . . . with your help.

# FOR MAYOR ... DR. SIMON WIKLER

ID# 304347

23-01

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 16, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE HOWARD COBLE

SUBJECT: FORWARDS COPY OF LETTER FROM STEPHEN HEIDENHAIN OF WEST GERMANY REGARDING VISIT TO GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY

		A	CTION	DIS	POSITION
ROUTF TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF	NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
M. B. OGLESBY REFERRAL N	OTE :	ORG	85/05/16/	her	4 85 p5 72 0x
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ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDE	NTS: MEDIA	L IND	IVIDUAL CO	DES: 12	240
MAIL . USER CODES	: (A)	(B)	(	C)	
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*ACTION CODES: * *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *C-COMMENT/RECOM *D-DRAFT RESPONSE *F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NE *P-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *S-FOR-SIGNATURE *X-INTERIM REPLY ************************************	*B-NON-SPEC-REI *C-COMPLETED *S-SUSPENDED C* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	THE OI	*COMPLE * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	SPONDEN FSP=INJ OF ODE = A TED = I C ******** REFFREN COMING	TTIALS * SIGNER * A * DATF OF * DUTGOING * * * *
MANAGEMENT.					

### May 20, 1985

Dear Howard:

President Reagan has asked me to thank you for your letter of May 14 enclosing a copy of a letter from Stephan Heidenhain, expressing his support for the President's visit to West Germany.

Your interest in bringing this message to our attention is greatly appreciated. President Reagan was grateful to receive Stephan's comments and to know of his expression of support.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

### N. B. Oglesby, Jr. Assistant to the President

The Honorable Howard Coble House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

- - #

HOWARD COBLE 6TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

513 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-3065

> COMMITTEES: JUDICIARY SMALL BUSINESS

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

May 14, 1985

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DISTRICT OFFICES: P.O. Box 299 324 WEST MARKET STREET GREENSBORO, NC 27402 (919) 378–5005

510 FERNDALE BOULEVARD HIGH POINT, NC 27260 (919) 886-5106

P.O. Box 814 124 West ELM Street GRAHAM, NC 27253 (919) 229-0159

P.O. Box 1813 116A West Second Street Lexington, NC 27293 (704) 249-7011, Ext. 385

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

Dear Mr. President,

I thought you would enjoy reading the letter which I have enclosed for you. It was sent to me by Mr. & Mrs. Samuel D. Hummel of Greensboro, North Carolina. The letter was sent to them by their godson, 16-year-old Stephan Heidenhain of West Germany. I was impressed with the thoughts expressed by Stephan about your visit to his country, and especially your visit to Bitburg.

Mr. & Mrs. Hummel tell me that Stephan's own grandfather was killed on the Eastern Front during the war. Stephan felt that you should visit the cemetery at Bitburg. I thought you would appreciate receiving one young German's opinion about your trip.

If there is anything else you need from our office, please do not hesitate to contact us. With best wishes I am

Sincerely,

Lonand

HOWARD COBLE Member of Congress

JHC/mac enclosure

cc: Mr. & Mrs. Samuel D. Hummel 201 North Elm Street Greensboro, North Carolina 27402

....

Ehlhalten, den 30. April 1985

Dear Anne and Sam,

Maybe you are a little bit amezed, holding this letter in your hands, maybe very amazed about the theme I'm writing about.

The theme is the planned visit of President Reagan in Germany 8th of May, the VE Day and there especially the planned visit of a cementery in Bitburg/Eifel. In our newspapers was to read, that in America is a big argument caused by this cementery-visit and that many Americans are in opposition to it. For example I tell you the resolution of the Kongress against it, then the opinion of Elie Wiesel, maybe speaking for the most Jews in the USA: "That place, Mr. President, is not your place. Your place is with the victims of the SS."

Now I would like to tell you my opinion. My opinion is, that Reagan should visit the cementery in Bitburg and the concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen.

As the most important argument against the visit of the cementery seems to be said, that there are "50-SS-Graves" (Newsweek). But it is not said in this article, that on this cementery in Bitburg are in addition buried 23 soldiers, fallen in the World-War I, and 1946 soldiers, fallen in the World-War II. But in my opinion these 50-SS-graves (only less than 2.5% of all graves) aren't a valid reason for nonvisiting the cementery. Are we allowed to decide, this was a good soldier, this was a bad one, there are 50 bad, that is why we shouldn't visit this cementery, souldn't remember all soldiers? What is to do with the other 1969 soldiers? Is this the right argument? It is the argument, used by some groups in this discussion, isn't it? Is don't think, that this is the right one. Can we then explain young soldiers to do military service for 18 months or more on the one hand, when we're disputing, whether 18-year-old soldiers died 40 years ago to visit or not, on the other hand? I don't think so. In myopinion the visit is a symbolic act. A symbolic act for remembering all the soldiers and all the civilians of all nations, who died in World-War II. And this especially in Bitburg, as there are living 12.000 Germans and 11.000 Americans together in peace. This act should show the world, what changed between Germany and America last 40 years. 40 years ago America and Germany were enemies, today they are friends.

You could compare this act with the ceremony at Verdun last year, where Mitterand and Kohl remembered at a cementery the died soldiers and the friendship between France and Germany, at a cementery, where French soldiers and German soldiers are buried, but in Germany there aren't any cementeries, where American and German soldiers are buried.

And by this symbolic act should be remembered Germany's liberation EAST from the Nazi-dictatorship, but on e Germany turned into a new dictatorshop, the other into a democratic freestate, rumuning the prenhul bigat The visit of Bergen - Belsen is clear, and about this part of Reagan's Germany-trip wasn't argued. There is "Mr. PresidentS place with **bb**e victims of the SS!"(Elie Wiesel). There should be remembered the victims, murdered under the barbarity of Nazi-dictatorship, the most brutal gouvernment, that had ever been.

That's my opinion to the visit of President Reagan in Germany. I simply wanted to tell you this problem, seen by a young German. I don't know your opinion, if it was the same, this letter could be a completion, if not maybe an impulse. I hope I haven't used too many words changing the sense or provoking. I wrote this letter alone, sometimes using a dictionary.

Hoping this letter reachs you before the 8th of may

Stephon Love

PS: We hope that our rough brickwork of our new house is finished Whitsuntide, so that we are able to move in autumn.

Eleane neud the stamps back!

ID# 304351

23-01

B

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RFCEIVED: MAY 16, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE DANIEL E. LUNGREN

SUBJECT: FORWARDS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM REVEREND RICHARD ANDERSEN, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA REGARDING GERMAN TRIP

	ACTION	DISPOSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGFNCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/DD	
M. B. OGLESBY	ORG 85/05/16	MO A85105,17
REFERRAL NOTE:	# 85/05/20	CP2AA 85106117
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COMMENTS:		
MAIL USER CODES: (A)		
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*I-INFO COPY/MO ACT NEC*	*	OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *	*	*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * *X-INTERIM REPLY *	*	*
**************************************	*****	*****
REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING U	JPDATES TO CENTRAL	REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590 KEEP THIS WORKSHEFT ATTACHED	TO THE ORIGINAL T	NCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND MANAGEMENT.		

- - - -

### June 17, 1985

Ä

Dear Dr. Andersen:

Congressman Dan Lungren has passed along your letter. I can't tell you how much it meant to me. You were more than kind to write as you did and I'm most grateful for your generous words.

What struck me in this whole episode was the determination of today's Germans that they were not going to forget or ask forgiveness. I learned that, in addition to preserving the death camps with all the evidence of the evil done there, they bring their schoolchildren each year to these camps, so they will grow up determined it must never happen again.

Looking back through history, we see how wars in the past planted the seeds of the next war. When peace came, the rivalries and hatrods remained. Forty years ago we did something different. Now, forty years later, erstwhile enemies are friends and allies. It was in this spirit I accepted the invitation to visit Bergen-Belsen and Bitburg. I still believe it was the morally right thing to do.

Thank you egain and God bless you.

Sincerely,

A

### RONALD REAGAN

1.18

The Reverend Richard Andersen, Ph.D. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 370 Junipero Avenue Long Beach, California 90814-2297

WHee:

The Honorable Daniel E. Lungren House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: M. B. Oglesby, Jr. RR/DE/AVH/efr BTBURG Bitburg 3(v)

RR/DE/ANH

PNON BITBURG 3 var.

> THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

> > May 29, 1985

### Dr. Andersen

Dear VnameV:

WHCC: Congressman Lungren cc: M.B. Oglesby

Congressman Dan Lungren has passed along your

letter.

I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me. You were more than kind to write as you did and I'm most grateful for your generous words.

You are so right about not forgetting or forgiving those who committed the atrocities of the Holocaust. What struck me in this whole episode was the determination of today's Germans that they were not going to forget or ask forgiveness. I learned that, in addition to preserving the death camps with all the evidence of the evil done there, they bring their schoolchildren each year to these camps, so they will grow up determined it must never happen again.

Looking back through history, we see how wars in the past planted the seeds of the next war. When peace came, the rivalries and hatreds remained. Forty years ago we did something different. Now, forty years later, erstwhile enemies are friends and allies. It was in this spirit I accepted the invitation to visit Bergen-Belsen and Bitburg. I still believe it was the morally right thing to do.

A Thank you again and God bless you.

Sincerely,

The Reverence Kichard Andersen, Ph.D. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 370 Junipers Avenue Long Beach, California 90814

(5/29/85)

¥inside address¥

RR/DE/CAD/AVH/ Bitburg 3

Vinsert x∀

### May 17, 1985

#### Dear Dan:

Thank you for your May 13 letter enclosing correspondence to President Reagan from Reverend Richard Andersen in support of the President's recent trip to Germany.

Please know that I have brought your constituent's comments to the attention of the Office of Presidential Correspondence in order that a response may be sent to Reverend Andersen on the President's behalf.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Daniel E. Lungren House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb cc: w/copy of inc to Anne Higgins - for further action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

DANIEL E. LUNGREN 420 DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES: JUDICLARY RANKING MINORITY MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION REFUGEES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, JOBS AND PRICES

M

VICE CHAIRMAN SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE. PRODUCTIVITY, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON CRIME AND NARCOTICS



304351

2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515 (202) 225-2415

> DISTRICT OFFICE: 555 EAST OCEAN BOULEVAND SUITE 505 LONG BEACH, CA 90802 (213) 438-9133 (213) 438-0219 (213) 548-2406

WASHINGTON OFFICE

DISTRICT OFFICE

PLEASE REPLY TO:

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

May 13, 1985

Mr. Kenneth Duberstein Assistant to the President for Legislative Affairs 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Ken:

Enclosed you will find a letter addressed to President Reagan from Reverend Richard Andersen, a constituent, who has several observations with respect to the President's recent trip to West Germany.

I hope that Reverend Andersen's views will be taken into consideration. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

• • •

Sincerel Dan 61 E. 1.11 gren er of Co Mem gress

Encl. cc: Reverend Richard Andersen

### OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN GHURCH

The American Lutheran Church

370 JUNIPERO AVENUE Long Beach, California 90814-2297

CHURCH OFFICE: (213) 434-7409, 434-7400 PRE-SCHOOL: (213) 439-9679 THE REVEREND RICHARD ANDERSEN, PH.D., Pastor 1 The Reverend Clyde Showalter, Ph.D.,

PASTOR II PASTOR MARK C. FRY, B.A., INTERN MICHAEL FISHER, B.MUS., M.MUS. MINISTER OF MUSIC MRS. ELEANOR LETT PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR

April 28, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan President of the United States of America The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. President:

I am grateful to you for the Christian leadership you have shown the nation and the world in your concern for reconciliation. I can understand the furor that your trip to Bitburg is causing, but I believe your opponents have failed to see several vitally important reasons for pursuing the visit.

Tres

First of all, World War II resulted because of the severe devision between people and their ideologies. An alien influence had upset the accepted ethical and religious norms with the advent of National Socialism. The reason why war resulted was not solely in defense of freedom, but to restore the broken world to a wholeness again where respect for people of varying political, spiritual and cultural values would be universally shared and guaranteed.

The Nazis rejected people as people, making Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, the mentally and physically handicapped, Communists, Jehovah Witnesses and other sects to be something less than what God created. The defeat of the fascist ideals united people once more as people. The tragedy is that Hitler and his associates did more than send six million Jews to their deaths, and twelve million other persons. He blinded the minds and souls of all too many Germans and others. Those who were in the military of the Third Reich, whether foot soldiers or Waffen SS or Gestapo, were the most tragic of the victims Hitler destroyed. They not only lost their physical lives, but many gave their souls to his mindless preachments.

It is well, Mr. President, that you go to Bitburg to remind the world that the problems that ended the War forty years ago still exist. Antisemitism is still around. Brainwashing and mind-control are still with us. Nazism is resurfacing here and abroad in pseudo-patriotic para-military groups. Political intrigue has not been defeated. I believe that you go to Bitburg to <u>remember</u> the German sacrifice, rather than <u>honor</u> the political, ethical and moral attitudes of those buried in its soil. There is a distinction. Through you, we remember what these men could have been had they not so willingly sought the cheese in the Fuhrer's trap.

To go in the spirit of reconciliation is certainly Scriptural and Christian. As pastor of the congregation that made Raoul Wallenberg a member, I am particularly interested in the well-being of all of the

"When the goodness and loving kindness of God Our Saviour appeared, He saved us ..." Titus 3:4



### Page Two

victims of the Holocaust, especially my Jewish neighbors. Your visit to Bitburg does not speak against them or the terrible sacrifice they were forced to make. What it does is remind us of the tragic lesson World War II has taught us: NEVER AGAIN!

In recent months, due to my involvement in awakening the worldwide Lutheran Church to the circumstances of Raoul Wallenberg, I have spoken in a number of synagogues, and been involved in a number of programs dealing with the Holocaust. I am fully sympathetic to its victims. I believe, however, they make a mistake in repudiating your visit, for they fail to see is worth to them and their cause, as well as to the rest of the world. Neither Chancellor Kohl nor you seek to open old wounds, but instead to heal them. To remember Germany's own terrible price, its continuing embarrassment and shame with dignity, to weep with them in their own losses as well as our own, is to build a bridge so that in our solidarity such madmen as Adolph Hitler will never usurp the leadership of an educated, free, and thoughtful society again.

I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in this regard. Having discussed these ideas with my parish informally, I am aware they share my views to a large degree.

May God bless you in this important venture.

Richard Andersen

Pastor I

RA/hs

P.S. My former parishioner, Lois Lundberg, Chairman of the Orange County Republican Party, suggested I forward this directly to you. I am asking Congressman Lungren to share the letter with your staff.

ID# 304351

123-01

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TNCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 16, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE BONORABLE DANIEL E. LUNGREN

SUBJECT: FORWARDS LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM REVEREND RICHARD ANDERSEN, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA REGARDING GERMAN TRIP

	AC	TION	DIS	POSITION
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETE D YY/MM/DI
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTI	NG UPDATES TO	CENTRAL I	REFEREI	CE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT. 2590	in the second			Super- sector and
KEEP THIS WORKSHEFT ATTAC				DC
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND S	END COMPLETED	RECORD	) RECOR	(DS

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With best wishes,

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The Honorable Daniel E. Lungren House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB:mdb cc: w/copy of inc to Anne Higgins - for further action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT HAS RETAINED ORIGINAL INCOMING

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> COMMITTEES: JUDICIARY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION REFUGEES AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTMENT, JOBS AND PRICES

VICE CHAIRMAN SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE, PRODUCTIVITY, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

CHAIRMAN, HOUSE REPUBLICAN TASK FORCE ON CRIME AND NARCOTICS



### **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives Washington, DE 20515

2440 RA

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DISTRICT OFFICE: 555 EAST OCEAN BOULEVARD SUITE 505 LONG BEACH, CA 90802 (213) 436–9133 (213) 439–0219 (213) 548–2406

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Encl. cc: Reverend Richard Andersen

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I stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you in this regard. Having discussed these ideas with my parish informally, I am aware they share my views to a large degree.

May God bless you in this important venture.

Sincerel Richard Andersen

Richard Andersen Pastor I

RA/hs

P.S. My former parishioner, Lois Lundberg, Chairman of the Orange County Republican Party, suggested I forward this directly to you. I am asking Congressman Lungren to share the letter with your staff.

CON BIT. 3

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET ID# 304382 TR123-01

) {

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. PETER SOMOGYI

SUBJECT: OPPOSES DECISION TO VISIT BITBURG MILITARY CEMETERY

	ACI	ACTION		DISPOSITION		
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD		C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD		
MARSHALL BREGER	ORG 8	85/05/17	<	8570514		
PEFERRAL NOTE:	A 8	50520	- and have	A 85106121		
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C-COMMENT/PECOM *B-NON-SPEC-		*		SIGNER *		
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING U	JPDATES TO	CENTRAL	REFEREN	NCE		
(ROOM 75.0EOB) EXT. 2590						
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED	TO THE ORI	IGINAL IN	COMING			
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND	COMPLETED	RECORD T	O RECOI	RDS		
MANAGEMENT.						

June 21, 1985

Dear Mr. Somogyi:

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. Peter Somogyi 36 Lake Shore Drive Pleasantville, NY 10570

Enclosures

AVH:CAD:AVH:lmpf ConBB3 (AVHNON)

3.04382



Children of Auschwitz Nazi's Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors

Not for Profit -- Tax Deductible

Peter Somogyi 36 Lake Shore Drive Pleasantville, New York 10570

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

Dear Mr. President:

Concerning your upcoming trip to Europe and your plan to visit the Bitburg military cemetery.

Are you aware of the fact there are S.S. soldiers, better known as killers buried there? Did you know that at the Battle of the Bulge, these same SS "Soldiers" captured American soldiers and massacred them with their hands tied behind their backs? Can you, in clear conscience look into the eyes of any of these soldiers' parents, wives, or children after honoring their killers? Can you, on that same night go to bed and have a good night's sleep?

By the way, I am also a survivor of Auschwitz concentration camp. I was 11 years old at that timeone of Dr. Mengele's twins- and I saw with my own eyes, the brutality of these same SS "Soldiers".

Since you are adamant in laying a wreath at the Bitburg cemetery, after visiting the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, can you really make us beleive that your fellings towards us, the survivors, is sincere?

Or would you be man enough to admit that

Our purpose: to reunite the survivors of the twins experiments; to research the experiments and their effects on the twins; to bring Dr. Mengele to trial for his crimes.

Under the auspices of: Yad Vashem Martyrs' and Heroes Remembrance Authority With the blessings of: Mr. H Herzog President of Israel

Mr. M Begin Former Prime-Minister

Mr. S. Hillel Speaker of the Knesset

Mr. M. Landau Formerly President of the Supreme Court Mr G. Hausner Chief Prosecutor in the Eichman Tria

East Coast Office Irene Hizme 3207 Neptune Ave. Oceanside. V.Y. 11572 Tel. 516-536-8798

Mid West Office Eva Kon 24 West Lawrin Blud. Terre Haute. Ind. 47803 Tel. 812-877-2336

West Coast Office Frank Klein P.O. Box 24 El Passo, Texas 79940 Tel. 915-775-0253

European Office Otto Klein 3 Rue Le Vrier 1201 Geneva. Switz. Tel. 412-248-6755

> שניף ישראל: ורה קרינל כר כוכבא 14/4 דימונה 057-59082 50

Executive Director Eva Nozes Kon

Honorary President Tark Berkowitz

Vice Presidents Irene Slotkin Hizme Frank Klein Otto Klein Airiam Mozes Zaigher

> Public Relations lune Slotkin Rene' Slotkin

> > Special Events Peter Somogyi



Children of Auschwitz Nazi's Deadly Lab Experiments Survivors

Not for Profit -- Tax Deductible

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> Public Relations Iune Slotkin Rene' Slotkin

> > Special Events Peter Somogyi

you made a grave error in judgement by insulting American veterans, concentration camp survivorsregardless of their race- and cancel your trip. As it is right now, I doubt your sincerity and I do not think that your visit will serve any purpose.

ours sincerely, Peter Somogyi

Our purpose: to rewrite the survivors of the twins experiments; to research the experiments and their effects on the twins; to Bring Dr. Mengele to trial for his crimes.

I.

With the blessings of: Under the auspices of: Mr. H Herzog Mr. M. Begin Mr. S. Hillel Mr. M. Landau Mr. G. Hausner Yad Vashem Former Prime-Minister Chief Prosecutor Speaker of the Knesset Formerly President President of Israel Martyrs' and Heroes in the Eichman Trial of the Supreme Court Remembrance Authority

NESTO

THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 304390

TR123-01

AB

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: MAY 17, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. ED RFIMERS

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF GERMAN VISIT

	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)				C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
KATHERINE C. SHEPHERD REFERRAL NOTE:	ORG			C851 121 27
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COMMENTS:ED & KATHY, P4				
ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA	L IND	IVIDUAL CO	DES:	
MI MAIL USER CODES: (A)	(B)	(	C)	
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Seleimen

May 5 1985

304390

Mor President (Dean Dutch)

KA

you were right - and eloquert! Hang in Neve- we med epw! Vaya Con Dia In to Many

ID# 304393 TR123-01

## THE WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECFIVED: MAY 17, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON

SUBJECT: FORWARDS LETTER FROM CHARLES HUNSINGER, BURNT PRAIRIE, ILLINOIS REGARDING VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY

		AC	CTION	DISPOSITIO	N
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF	NAME)		DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE C COMPLI RESP D YY/MM,	
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	*B-NON-SPEC-RFF *C-COMPLETED	CRRAL	* C		*
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REFER QUESTIONS A (ROOM 75,0EOB) EX KEEP THIS WORKSHI LETTER AT ALL TIN MANAGEMENT.	KT. 2590 EET ATTACHED TO	THE OF	RIGINAL IN	COMING	

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May 17, 1985

Dear Senator Simon:

This is to acknowledge your May 10 letter forwarding correspondence regarding the President's State Visit to the Federal Republic of Germany. We fully understand the depth of your constituent's concerns and assure you the President's feelings about the crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Nasi regime are no less deeply felt. President Reagan has attempted to make absolutely clear during his visit the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors which were committed in the name of the German state and our determination not to forget them. As you know, his itinerary included a ceremony at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in order to pay homage to all those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the anniversary of the liberation of that camp April 21, there can and should be no absolution.

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

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

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

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Paul Simon United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

MBO:STATE:NSC:KRJ:hlb

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With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Paul Simon United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: w/copy of inc to Will Ball, Cong Affrs, State - FYI

- - 9

MBO:STATE:NSC:KRJ:hlb

304393

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 10, 1985

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

Dear President Reagan:

I am enclosing a letter from one of my constituents, Charles Hunsinger, regarding your visit to Bitburg.

Mr. Hunsinger is a World War II veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

He asked that I forward his letter to you.

Perhaps you will find wisdom in his words.

My best wishes.

ordially

Paul Simon U.S. Senator

÷.,

PS/jg

Burn Grainie Il. april 21, 1985

Honorable Ronald Reagan ; Bresidens U.S.A. Washington, D.C.

you've nor only gor me emotionally lust dear Mr. Bresidenr: I'm sure all of the surdivors of the Baltle of The Bulge' and all other deterand, and moss of the people of this Country, if they would be honest in these feelings. Forty years ago the Faw th armaned Jasty years ago the Faw th armaned Infantry Vision received The Oresidental, fitation as a linit. The second division in The History of our country to receive, is for the Whole d'éliesion. The first Nuesion for all The members of the Division to receive it was al The 101 st air Borne (as a limit ) just ahead of The Jorth armoured, for these services as Bastogne, forty year Pater au Gresident is going to lay a wreath as a German Cemetry Where Kitters ( Deck Irrops, The SS, and anatroops, moss of them if not all fay, that were killed in the Battle of the Bulge A wonder if General Learge S. Salton Fr.

Would warry about henting the Germans feetings, Mowing of all the brutakity that we were through at that time, I know this will be gro concern to you bur during the Battle of the Bulge Low lass fall, myself and my wife Gauline and monrae R. dunn and his wife Jessie, had the sligh Honor and priviledge of laying The Wreath as the mardasson monument ar Baslogne, Belgum, october 2, 1984 mr dum is from Chactan, Offahoma. thar wreath Hosping Hitlers Crack Troops, The May 55 90 varationes, fir what went far from Bastogne, or from the Hamm Military Cemetry where Stenesal George S. Patton, Military in Glory forever, and Honor? In sure you'll not receive This Censonally bur it gave me grear relief to know, that we still have the priviledge of expressing our feeling mer? COB Spor lismt inf Br. 4th Curnd, Inf Di

P.O. Box 43 Burnt Prairie, IL 62820