

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): 308000-308132
Box Number: 4

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/>

JV

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 11, 1985

VI 308054

1230

TR 123-01

CO054-02

PK

FB011

ND016

FB016-12

Dear Tom:

After looking at the article you forwarded me in your letter of February 12, I asked the State Department to review the article prior to the President's state visit to the FRG. - re anniversary of VE day

The State Department direct reply to you (copy attached) should be helpful in responding to your constituents.

sincerely,

Robert C. McFarlane

Very moving expression of positive hope for the future. The President agrees with them.

The Honorable Tom Loeffler
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

NSC 8501379

Karl & Betty Ackmeier
x



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Congressman Loeffler:

On behalf of Secretary Shultz, I would like to thank you for forwarding to us the article on the 40th anniversary of V-E Day written by your constituents, Mr. and Mrs. Wehmeyer. The State Department certainly agrees with the sentiments expressed concerning the appropriate way to commemorate the anniversary. Our policy on World War II anniversaries generally is to stress peace, reconciliation and democratic solidarity rather than military victory. We recognize the sensitivity of these occasions, particularly in the FRG, and have been in close consultation with Bonn concerning them. As you know, the President will make a state visit to the FRG on May 5-6 following the Bonn summit. He will address the European Parliament on May 8. We believe these occasions will afford opportunities to stress the accomplishments of the past 40 years and our hopes for the future.

Sincerely,

J. Edward Fox
Acting Assistant Secretary
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable
Tom Loeffler,
House of Representatives.

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

March 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: RONALD K. SABLE *l*SUBJECT: Loeffler Letter Regarding President's Trip to Germany SIGNED

In his February 12 letter to you (Tab II) Rep. Tom Loeffler (D-TX) forwards an article about the Bonn Summit written by two of his constituents.

The State Department reply to Loeffler, prepared in response to a similar letter from Loeffler to Sec. Shultz, outlines our general agreement with the constituents' article. The proposed letter to Loeffler (Tab I) acknowledges the State response.

Peter Sommer concurs. *Peter*

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Rep. Loeffler at Tab I.

Approve *W*

Disapprove _____

Attachments

Tab I Letter to Rep. Loeffler
 Tab II State response with incoming letter

RB

National Security Council
The White House



System # I

Package # 1379

1631

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Bob Kimmitt	<u>2</u>	<u>IC</u>	
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson	<u>3</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Wilma Hall	<u>4</u>		
Bud McFarlane	<u>5</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>A</u>
Bob Kimmitt			
NSC Secretariat	<u>6</u>	<u>1 MAR 1985</u>	<u>D</u>
Situation Room			

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Regan Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

s/s 8506302

Date March 6, 1985

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

Reference:

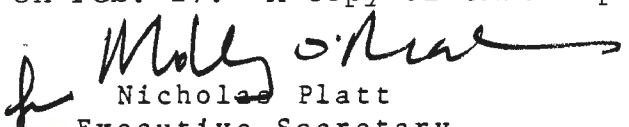
To: Robert C. McFarlane From: Mr. Tom Loeffler
Date: February 12, 1985 Subject: Letter to McFarlane
from Rep Loeffler forward letter from Constituents re
WH Referral Dated: February 28, 1985 NSC ID# 8501379
(if any)

 The attached item was sent directly to the
Department of State

Action Taken:

- A draft reply is attached.
 A draft reply will be forwarded.
 A translation is attached.
 An information copy of a direct reply is attached.
 X We believe no response is necessary for the reason
cited below.
 The Department of State has no objection to the
proposed travel.
 Other.

Remarks: Secretary Shultz received a letter from Congressman Loeffler on Feb. 12 with the identical attachment, to which the Bureau of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs replied on Feb. 27. A copy of that reply is attached.


Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(Classification)

REFERRAL

DATE: 28 FEB 85

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPT OF STATE

8506302

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

TO: MCFARLANE

SOURCE: LOEFFLER, TOM

DATE: 12 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: GERMANY F R

MCO

WEHMEYER, KARL

WEHMEYER, BERRY

SUBJ: LTR TO MCFARLANE FM REP LOEFFLER FWDING LTR FM CONSTITUENTS RE

REQUIRED ACTION: DRAFT REPLY FOR WH SIG

DUE DATE: 06 MAR 85

COMMENTS

Loretta Drastor
395-6870

FOR ROBERT M KIMMITT

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

*Received in 5/57
2/28 at 4:00 pm (ca)*

TOM LOEFFLER
21ST DISTRICT, TEXAS

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

ALAN M. KRANOWITZ
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

1379

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

ROOM 1212
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4236

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION
INTERIOR

COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET

February 12, 1985

→ Ron Cable
for action

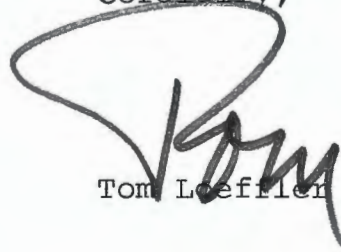
The Honorable Robert McFarlane
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Bud:

I am forwarding an article written by two of my constituents
for your consideration regarding the President's upcoming trip to
West Germany.

With best regards.

Cordially,



Tom Loeffler

TL:mto

Enclosure

Feb. 27
Loretta:
Per Ron, this
package should
go to State for
draft response.
Inx.
Jean

85 FEB 14 AIO: 41

1

[Handwritten signature]

[Faint, illegible typed text]

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF TEXAS

[Faint, illegible text]

[Faint, illegible text]

Karl and Betty Wehmeyer
P. O. Box 118
Ingram, Texas 78025
Tel: 512/367-5758

Approximately 900 words
First U. S. Serial Rights
© Harbour, Inc.

PRESIDENT REAGAN'S SECOND CHANCE

by

Karl and Betty Wehmeyer

When the yearnings of American voters were understood and shared and when visible progress had been made toward their fulfillment, Ronald Reagan was elected President of the United States by a historic landslide. Now our president will have a second chance to produce a victory for world peace, with repercussions of even greater historic magnitude.

President Reagan's second chance will be in Bonn, West Germany on May 8 - the 40th anniversary of "V-E Day".

He missed his first chance last June 6th when he met with our World War II Allies in Normandy to celebrate the "D-Day" landings. Overlooked by the American contingent was the rejection and shame the West German people would and did feel as the Allies had their deserved and great celebration while West Germans watched the events on television without a signal of respect from America for its post-war partner. Manfred Rommel, son of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel and now Mayor of Stuttgart, expressed the humiliation of the West German man-in-the-street when he said,

"D-Day" was one of the various great defeats in German history and I think it quite proper the Allies have their celebration. It was better to lose the war with Hitler than to win it with Hitler. This is a very bitter idea," he said, "but a very necessary idea."

When President Reagan is in Bonn on May 8th, he can demonstrate American understanding and willingness to share the yearnings of West German citizens. Just as his understanding and sharing the yearnings of his fellow Americans propelled him to victory at home, his demonstration of America's understanding and sharing of Germany's will propel America and West Germany toward imminent world peace, of which our mutual friendship is the cornerstone.

Buried under the cacophony of international diplomacy, trapped on their lips by fear in their hearts,

the deepest yearning of the West Germans is to be reunited with their East German brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. Reunification is not a propitious subject for discussion in the press or political circles, but given the opportunity to contact ordinary as well as extraordinary West German citizens and speak with them in their native language, is to know the burning yearning that is stifled at public levels.

One of Germany's wonderful walking paths begins at a village railroad station where a wood-carved gnome embraces a written invitation to walk through the Black Forest. We arrived there midway through a three month writing assignment on which we walked, trained and bussed through West Germany's countryside, stayed in its villages and visited in homes and guesthouses. The gnome-wrapped signpost begged us to take its picture. As we were about to do so, a taxi pulled between us and our subject. We asked the driver if he'd be kind enough to move long enough for a snapshot. He smiled at our accent.

"English or American?" he asked as he pulled out of the way.

"I appreciate your talking to me in my language," he said. "Would you take a message back to America for me? I was only a baby in the war. My sisters and brothers live in the eastern Fatherland and although we write, I have never seen them. We - you

and I - the whole world - we are all brothers and sisters. Do we not have one understanding that unites us? Cannot you in America unite with us in this understanding? Can you not help us?"

Tears welled in his eyes as we told him we would take his message home with us.

Our glimpse into the soul of the taxi driver was the most impromptu of our encounters with West Germany's "common man". The subject came up in nearly every conversation we enjoyed. Even in a tiny and remote village in Franken we were reminded of the pathetic but profound depth of their yearning. Standing high above the gravestones in the village cemetery a monument says, simply,

"To our beloved in the Eastern Fatherland"

President Reagan cannot directly address the problem of German reunification in May, what with the overriding responsibility to keep the hair of the Russian bear unruffled as disarmament negotiations show hopeful signs of progress. But, the first step at his second chance can be to let the West German people know we not only need West Germany as an ally, but desire her as a friend, that the American people respect and admire the accomplishments of the strongest nation in Western Europe, that "V-E Day" is a celebration of the entire free world and that the West German people are now as much a part of that world as are we in America.

If we fail to show and tell our West German Ally we are his friend, if this May we celebrate the defeat of the Nazis in the exclusive and separate way we did last June at Normandy, should we be surprised if West Germany someday succumbed to friendship with another who has the power to fulfill its most poignant yearning?

Last September, three months after the "D-Day" celebration, leaders of France invited West German leaders to Verdun where French and German armies slaughtered one another in World War I. In solemn ceremonies, the leaders of the two former enemies honored one another's battlefield dead and vowed that friendship between the two nations would be the memorial to their fallen sons.

If the French can reach out the hand of friendship to a powerful neighbor with whom they have been warring for over 1,000 years, is not the celebration of "V-E Day" a propitious moment for our President to make a similar, heartfelt gesture to our now strongest and most dependable ally with whom we have warred twice in 70 years? Would not the West German "common man" turn to an acknowledged friend when the realization of his most ardent yearning becomes a reality in the future? America must be that friend and President Reagan must take the first step toward recognition of that fact at his second chance on May 8.

RECEIVED 21 FEB 85 10

TO MCFARLANE

FROM LOEFFLER, TOM

DOCDATE 12 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: GERMANY F R

MCO

WEHMEYER, KARL

WEHMEYER, BERRY

SUBJECT: LTR TO MCFARLANE FM REP LOEFFLER FWDING LTR FM CONSTITUENTS RE
PRES UPCOMING VISIT TO GERMANY

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR MCFARLANE DUE: 27 FEB 85 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

SABLE

SOMMER

COMMENTS LOGGED PER BUD

REF# LOG NSCIFID (LB)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
<i>State</i>	<i>2/28</i>	<i>Draft Reply</i>	<i>3/6</i>	<i>RS</i>
<i>RS</i>	<i>3/6</i>	<i>See 5/5 Reson</i>		
	<i>3/7</i>	<i>Concur w/ state</i>	<i>3/13</i>	
<i>Rm</i>	<i>3/8</i>	<i>yes - no - other For Signature</i>	<i>3/13</i>	<i>RS, PS</i>
DISPATCH	<i>3/11</i>	<i>MCFarlane</i>		W/ATTCH FILE <i>094</i> (C)

UNCLASSIFIED

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

1945
cc Kimmitt
Bobs see
MKD's comment

JV

PAGE 01 OF 03
SIT277

PARIS 9537
AN009181

press

DTG: 071825Z MAR 85 PSN: 030531

TOR: 066/1828Z 308069

DISTRIBUTION: KIMM *press* SITT DEAV SIT EOB HNKL /008

HART

ROUTINE

DE RUFHFR #9537 0661827

R 071825Z MAR 85

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO USIA WASHDC 7230

INFO WHITE HOUSE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG 2390

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 2243

UNCLAS PARIS 09537

USIA

USIA FOR P/FW, EU; WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE,
ADVANCE OFFICE (STEPHEN HART); BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E. O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN -
DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE

1. PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MAY 8 VISIT TO STRASBOURG WILL
INEVITABLY STIMULATE NUMEROUS REQUESTS FROM THE FRENCH
(AND OTHER) MEDIA FOR INTERVIEWS. WE REALIZE THAT THE
DEMANDS ON THE PRESIDENT'S TIME WILL PREVENT HIM FROM
SATISFYING MORE THAN A FEW OF THE REQUESTS. IN
ADDITION, WE PRESUME THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL GIVE GROUP

Bal
TD

(Turn Down)

1150
1140
TR133-01
PRO16
PRO07
PU
BE003-04
FO005-03
CO016
CO054-02
FB006-12
FB298

NSC 8501945

Mr. Catherman

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 03 PARIS 9537

DTG: 071825Z MAR 85 PSN: 030531

INTERVIEWS TO EUROPEAN PRINT AND AUDIO-VISUAL JOURNALISTS BEFORE HIS TRIP AND THAT FRENCH JOURNALISTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THESE ENCOUNTERS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE RECEIVED ONE REQUEST FROM A FRENCH NEWSPAPER WHICH WE THINK DESERVES SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

2. DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE (ALSACE LATE NEWS) IS NOT ONLY THE LEADING DAILY PAPER OF STRASBOURG BUT ALSO THE PAPER WHICH PROVIDES THE MOST COMPLETE COVERAGE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE. IT IS WIDELY READ AT THE PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THUS HAS AN IMPACT IN THE MEMBERS HOME COUNTRIES AS WELL AS IN FRANCE. IT HAS A CIRCULATION OF 200,000 IN FRENCH AND SOME 60,000 IN GERMAN. IN ADDITION, IT HAS ARRANGEMENTS WITH TEN OTHER PAPERS IN FRANCE WHICH WOULD ENABLE IT TO SHARE AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN WITH THEM, THUS INCREASING TOTAL CIRCULATION TO 1.3 MILLION.

3. IDEALLY, DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE WOULD LIKE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ITS FOREIGN EDITOR, DANIEL RIOT, TO INTERVIEW PRESIDENT REAGAN FACE-TO-FACE. HOWEVER, IF THIS WERE NOT POSSIBLE, THE PAPER WOULD SETTLE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND RECEIVE WRITTEN ANSWERS, PROVIDED THERE WAS ALSO A BRIEF PHOTO OPPORTUNITY AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHICH WOULD SHOW FOREIGN EDITOR RIOT WITH THE PRESIDENT. RIOT WOULD USE THE OCCASION TO SEEK INTERVIEWS WITH OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS.

4. DERNIERES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE IS PLANNING A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS PRIOR TO MAY 8. AN INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN, RUNNING ON OR ABOUT MAY 8, WOULD BE A MOST APPROPRIATE WAY TO MARK THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO STRASBOURG. WE RECOMMEND A

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 03 PARIS 9537

DTG: 071825Z MAR 85 PSN: 030531

POSITIVE REPLY TO THIS REQUEST. CATHERMAN
BT

UNCLASSIFIED

NSCs -

1/15 just file FRP. Distribution
has been done -

KMS
3/11

National Security Council
The White House

System # I

Package # _____

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	<u>1</u>	<u>K</u>	_____
John Poindexter	_____	_____	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	_____	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	_____	_____	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>	_____	<u>stuff</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	_____

I = Information A = Action R = Retain D = Dispatch N = No further Action

cc: VP Meese Regan Deaver Other _____

COMMENTS Should be seen by: _____
(Date/Time)

Info *Sims* *Pearson*
Small *Cobb* *Doyle*
Markin

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8501945

RECEIVED 11 MAR 85 12

TO MCFARLANE

FROM DEAVER, M

DOCDATE 08 MAR 85

KEYWORDS: FRANCE

MEDIA

PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW W/ PRES FM FRENCH MEDIA

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE:

STATUS C

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

COBB

MARTIN

SMALL

PEARSON

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

(HW HW)

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH

FILE

(C)

308080

ID # _____

TR 123-01

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

O - OUTGOING

H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 85 103129

Name of Correspondent: Charles E. Schumer

MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Letter regarding President's planned trip to commemorate V-E Day.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>LA Ogle</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>85, 04/01</u>	<u>MO</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>85, 04/08</u> ^{AB}
_____	Referral Note: _____	_____ / _____ / _____	_____	_____	_____ / _____ / _____
_____	Referral Note: _____	_____ / _____ / _____	_____	_____	_____ / _____ / _____
_____	Referral Note: _____	_____ / _____ / _____	_____	_____	_____ / _____ / _____
_____	Referral Note: _____	_____ / _____ / _____	_____	_____	_____ / _____ / _____

ACTION CODES:

- A - Appropriate Action
- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
- S - For Signature
- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

- Type of Response = Initials of Signer
- Code = "A"
- Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

^{AB} Letters sent to all signers except S. Solamy and Tom Gaudes
See # 300938 See # 300673 ↑

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
 Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOb).
 Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
 Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: 0019 Media: L Individual Codes: 1230 1240

Prime Subject Code: TR 123-01 Secondary Subject Codes: _____
_____.
_____.

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

<u>Code</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>Form</u>
<u>C</u> _____	_____	<u>Time:</u> _____	<u>P-</u> _____
<u>DSP</u> _____	_____	<u>Time:</u> _____	<u>Media:</u> _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
 - n - 3 - Ron
 - n - 4 - Dutch
 - n - 5 - Ron Reagan
 - n - 6 - Ronald
 - n - 7 - Ronnie
- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
 - n - 0 - Unknown
 - n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Nancy
 - n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan
- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
 - n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
 - n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package**
- C - Copy**
- D - Official document**
- G - Message**
- H - Handcarried**
- L - Letter**
- M - Mailgram**
- O - Memo**
- P - Photo**
- R - Report**
- S - Sealed**
- T - Telegram**
- V - Telephone**
- X - Miscellaneous**
- Y - Study**

April 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Schumer:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 28 in which you and 19 of your colleagues urged that the President include a stop at Dachau in the schedule for his May visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the outset, let me assure you that the President remains deeply committed to full recognition of the horrors surrounding the Holocaust. He has demonstrated his continuing concern both by words and actions.

Concerning your specific question, we and the German Government fully considered the possibility of a visit to Dachau in reviewing the President's itinerary. However, due to the limited amount of time available for the bilateral portion of the President's visit to the FRG, it did not prove possible to include a visit to the Munich area. Although the President will be in the FRG for several days, most of his time will be spent in Bonn for the Seven-Nation Economic Summit and talks with President von Weizsaecker and Chancellor Kohl.

Let me reemphasize that the President fully appreciates the special significance of events related to the Holocaust during this year, when we will be marking the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II. The German Government, and Chancellor Kohl personally, share this understanding, as indicated by the Chancellor's scheduled visit to the site of the former Bergen-Belsen concentration camp on April 22, the 40th anniversary of its liberation by Allied forces. Our Ambassador to the Federal Republic, Arthur Burns, will join Chancellor Kohl -- as the President's personal representative -- at the ceremonies at Bergen-Belsen. His presence at Bergen-Belsen, particularly given Ambassador Burns' high personal prestige, will emphasize the importance which the President, and all Americans, attach to this event. Again, we appreciate your interest in this important matter.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:NSC:KRJ:jfc--(4MBOGA)

COMMITTEES:
BUDGET
BANKING, FINANCE
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY
NEW YORK CITY
DEMOCRATIC WHIP

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

March 28, 1985

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

308080

Dear Mr. President:

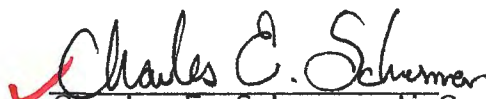
As Jewish members of Congress and as strong supporters of human rights, we find it necessary to address a comment made during your Press Conference on March 21, 1985.

In light of your planned trip to Germany to commemorate V-E Day, you have decided not to schedule a trip to any of the Nazi concentration camps that serve as painful reminders of the terror of World War II. As justification for this decision, you stated at your news conference that "the German people have very few alive that remember the war, and certainly none of them who were adults and participating in any way." Not only is this statement untrue, but it reflects a thoughtless attitude towards the lessons of the war. Many German citizens who have lived through World War II are indeed alive and very much aware that Nazism is a chapter in history that must never be repeated. More importantly, many of those who survived the Holocaust harbor memories that should be passed on to their children who were born too late to experience the horror firsthand.

We have a great deal of respect for German efforts to rebuild and promote the atmosphere of peace and democracy that has been Germany's goals in the years following the war, yet, as Representatives to people who directly experienced the horrors of Nazism, we cannot understand your decision to avoid visiting the concentration camps for the explanation you cited. The memories of the concentration camps that haunt these survivors cannot be erased. We strongly believe that a respected national leader--the President of the United States-- must set an example to the rest of the world by commemorating V-E Day with a visit to a site which accounted for a large number of deaths in World War II. Such a visit would not dampen the spirit of celebration that surrounds your planned trip. It would, however, add meaning to V-E Day by emphasizing how far the German efforts toward democracy and freedom have progressed.

Mr. President, we ask that you commemorate the end of World War II by honoring the memories of all those who perished in it. There must never again be another Holocaust, and we can prevent this by never forgetting the valuable lesson it taught us. By incorporating this lesson into our lives, we can continue to move forward, confident in the ideals of democracy.

Sincerely,


Charles E. Schumer, M.C.

✓ Gary L. Ackerman
Gary L. Ackerman, M.C.

✓ Howard L. Berman
Howard L. Berman, M.C.

✓ Barbara Boxer
Barbara Boxer, M.C.

✓ Sala Burton
Sala Burton, M.C.

✓ Ben Erdreich
Ben Erdreich, M.C.

✓ Barney Frank
Barney Frank, M.C.

✓ Martin Frost
Martin Frost, M.C.

✓ Benjamin A. Gilman
Benjamin A. Gilman, M.C.

✓ Dan Glickman
Dan Glickman, M.C.

✓ William Lehman
William Lehman, M.C.

✓ James H. Scheuer
James H. Scheuer, M.C.

✓ Lawrence J. Smith
Lawrence J. Smith, M.C.

✓ Howard Wolpe
Howard Wolpe, M.C.

✓ Ben Wyden
Ben Wyden, M.C.

✓ Sander M. Levin
Sander M. Levin, M.C.

omit
see ID 300673
✓ Stephen J. Solarz
Stephen J. Solarz, M.C.

✓ Ted Weiss
Ted Weiss, M.C.

✓ Sam Gejdenson
Sam Gejdenson, M.C.

omit
(KRS)
✓ Tom Lantos
Tom Lantos, M.C.

308131
VI 4610
TR123-01
IV085
LG AUGSB
00054-02
P100501
PR013

THE WHITE HOUSE

March 29, 1985

Dear Girls and Boys:

Thank you so much for writing to me and inviting me to visit Augsburg Elementary School.

Nothing would make me happier than to meet with you while I am in Germany. Unfortunately a busy official schedule while I am overseas is making it necessary for me to say no to invitations I would very much like to accept. I regret that I won't be able to visit with you, but want you to know that hearing from you meant a great deal to me.

The President joins me in sending you our warmest good wishes.

Sincerely,

NANCY REAGAN

Pupils of Mrs. Lewis'
Fourth Grade Class
Augsburg Elementary School
APO, New York 09178

850330



AUGSBURG
St. Ulrich

Augsburg Elem. School
Augsburg, Germany
February 13, 1985

NR-34A

Dear Mrs. Peagan,

It would be a great honor for our class to meet you. We have heard that you might be coming to Germany with the President in May and might come to Augsburg. We know that you are interested in drug and alcohol awareness and we are interested too. It would be very nice if you could come to our classroom and share your thoughts with us about drug and alcohol.

awareness.

Sincerely,
Tyson Faircloth Room 21
Heather Pappas Grade 4
Mrs. Lewis

Dane Bass
Benji Marvin
Dale Forbess
Gary Tolley
Tim Gambler
Thomas Palacios
Sarah Anderson
Emily Steer
Julie Harderburg
Melissa Telfer

Alexis Brown
Tracy Duenm
Alisa Frajier
Amy R.
Stacy Weltmer
Elisabeth Dengl
Kristine Millepaugh
Stephanie McDonald
Christina Kirk
Alexandra Daniels
Stephanie Float
Robert + Micheaux
Tommy Mihalco