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Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)
Case file Number(s): 316800-319999
Box Number: 5

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WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WHORM: Subject File

OA/Box:

File Folder: TR123-01 ~~317000-320759~~
316800-319999

Archivist: mjd

FOIA ID: F00-103, Schuldiner

Date: 01/30/2001

| DOCUMENT NO. & TYPE | SUBJECT/TITLE | DATE | RESTRICTION |
|----------------------|--|---------|-------------|
| 1. Cable (318641) | 1513127Z APR 85, 5p <i>R 4/19/06 NLS F00-103/1 #7</i> | 4/15/85 | B1 |

RESTRICTIONS

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- B-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- B-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- B-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- B-7a Release could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings [(b)(7)(A) of the FOIA].
- B-7b Release would deprive an individual of the right to a fair trial or impartial adjudication [(b)(7)(B) of the FOIA].
- B-7c Release could reasonably be expected to cause unwarranted invasion or privacy [(b)(7)(C) of the FOIA].
- B-7d Release could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source [(b)(7)(D) of the FOIA].
- B-7e Release would disclose techniques or procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or would disclose guidelines which could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law [(b)(7)(E) of the FOIA].
- B-7f Release could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual [(b)(7)(F) of the FOIA].
- B-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

155h

ID# 316804

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 27, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PAUL S. SARBANES

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURE LETTER FROM MISS KERNER
REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BITBURG

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | |
|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD |
| M. B. OGLESBY | | ORG | 85/06/27 | <i>AWD</i> | <i>48510427</i> |
| <i>Co Head</i> | | | <i>R 85/06/29</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210

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

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

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

June 27, 1985

Dear Senator Sarbanes:

Thank you for your June 25 letter forwarding to the President correspondence from a German relative of one of your constituents.

In an effort to be of assistance, please know that I have forwarded the letter to the appropriate White House officials to see if a response may be sent in the President's behalf. Your interest in writing is appreciated.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

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

MBO/KRJ/HLB/hlb

cc: w/copy of inc, Anne Higgins -- for
DIRECT action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL
INCOMING

PAUL S. SARBANES
MARYLAND

#316 807

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510


June 25, 1985

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding a letter from the Aunt of one of my constituents concerning your recent visit to Bitburg. I would appreciate your review of this letter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/blk

Enclosure

Bow Bertsch 26. Mai 1985

Sehr geehrter Herr Präsident Reagan!
Als einfache deutsche Büntesbängerin möchte ich Ihnen dafür danken das Sie bei Ihrem Deutschland Besuch trotz aller Proteste den Soldatenfriedhof in Bitburg besucht haben. Als im August 1944 unser Kirsbetrieb eingestellt wurde weil keine Kirschgöste mehr kamen habe ich von September 1944 bis zum Kriegsende ehrenamtlich in einem deutschen Feldlazarett gearbeitet. Unter den Verwundeten befanden sich auch viele S.S. Soldaten. Es waren überwiegend junge Männer die automatisch ohne Ihren Willen zur Waffen S.S. eingestuft wurden und das Nazi-Regim genau so erwartet haben wie die meisten Deutschen aber nichts dagegen tun konnten.

Diesen Brief schreibe ich aus meine Cousine in Cumberland, welche mit einem ehemaligen amerikanischen Soldaten verheiratet ist und schon 25 Jahre in Amerika lebt, mit der Bitte ihn aus Sie sehr geehrter Herr Präsident weiter zu leiten.

Herzlichst
Kümpf

Frau Irene Kerner

Kirchstr. 20

5582 Bow Bertsch

Deutschland

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 27, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PAUL S. SARBANES

SUBJECT: ENCLOSURE LETTER FROM MISS KERNER
REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO BITBURG

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C D | COMPLETED YY/MM/DD |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|
| M. B. OGLESBY | | ORG | 85/06/27 | | | |
| <i>Co Hagan</i> | REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
| <i>file</i> | REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
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| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210
MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
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MANAGEMENT.

June 27, 1985

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With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

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

MBO/KRJ/HLB/hlb

cc: w/copy of inc, Anne Higgins -- for
DIRECT action

WH RECORDS MANAGEMENT WILL RETAIN ORIGINAL
INCOMING

PAUL S. SARBANES,
MARYLAND

#316804

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 25, 1985


President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding a letter from the Aunt of one of my constituents concerning your recent visit to Bitburg. I would appreciate your review of this letter.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senator

PSS/blk

Enclosure

Bow Berlich 26. Nov 1985

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Herzlichstünopvoll

Frau Irene Kerner
Kürfünsterstr. 20
5582 Bow Berlich
Deutschland

9

7/1
SE This is
going to
ID# 316922

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

AJ

TR/123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JUNE 29, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MOST REVEREND JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

SUBJECT: APPRECIATION FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HANDWRITTEN
NOTE CONCERNING TRIP TO GERMANY, EXPRESSES
SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD |
| KATHERINE C. SHEPHERD | | ORG | 85/07/01 | | C 85/07/02 AJ |
| PRREAG | REFERRAL NOTE: | | 85/07/02 | | 1/1 AJ |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | 1/1 | | 1/1 |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | 1/1 | | 1/1 |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | 1/1 | | 1/1 |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: | | 1/1 | | 1/1 |

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: _____

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

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

NA 11

316922
TR103-01

THE WHITE HOUSE

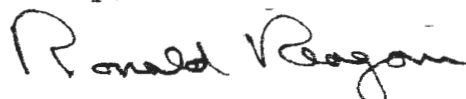
WASHINGTON

July 5, 1985

Your Eminence:

Thank you for your very kind, warm letter of June 26. You make me very proud. I appreciate, too, the message from The Holy Father. Nancy was privileged to meet with His Holiness during our trip to Bonn. While I was involved in the Economic Summit meetings, she journeyed to Rome on an errand having to do with the problem of drug abuse throughout the world. She sends her warmest regard to you as do I and, again, thank you for your letter -- and more importantly for your prayers.

Sincerely, -



Reverend John Cardinal O'Connor
1011 First Avenue
New York, New York 10022

HANDWRITING FILE

850708

To Rev. John Cardinal O'Connor 1011 First Ave.
N.Y. N.Y. 10022

Your Eminence

Thank you for your very kind, warm letter of June 26. You make me very proud. I appreciate the message from the Holy Father. Nancy was privileged to meet with His Holiness during our trip to Bonn. While I was involved in the G-7 summit meetings she journeyed to Rome on an errand having to do with the problem of drug abuse through out the world. She sends her warmest regard to you as do I and again thank you for your letter and more importantly for your prayers.

Sincerely RR

#316922

1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022



June 26, 1985

RS
Dear Mr. President:

It was a great honor for me to receive your gracious handwritten undated note concerning your recent trip to Germany, and I shall keep it among my valued possessions.

I particularly appreciate your note and copy of your poignant and prayerful remarks, in view of the telegram I sent you prior to your trip. If that telegram reached you, you may recall that the intense feeling and concern transmitted to me by so many people, coupled with specific requests from unexpected sources, prompted me to propose that you consider revising your itinerary. At the same time I expressed my conviction that you would do what you thought to be right. It is quite obvious, I believe, that you did precisely that.

It is my pleasure to convey to you the prayerful best wishes of the Holy Father, with whom I was privileged to meet while in Rome for the recent Consistory, and to add my own sentiments of highest esteem, together with a promise of continuing prayers for you and Mrs. Reagan.

Faithfully,

+ John Cardinal O'Connor

John Cardinal O'Connor
Archbishop of New York

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

NASA

ID# 317658

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRAINING WORKSHEET

TR123-01

INCOMING

1985 JUL 17 PM 4:26

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 03, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INFORMATION FOR TED KELLER REGARDING
NUMBER OF AIDES ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT ON
THE VISIT TO WEST GERMANY

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | |
|---|-------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD |
| M. B. OGLESBY | ORG | 85/07/03 | W | A 85/07/12 |
| <i>M.A. Hecks</i> REFERRAL NOTE: | R | 85/07/17 | CH | A 85/07/18 AB |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | / / | | / / |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | / / | | / / |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | / / | | / / |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | / / | | / / |

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 _____

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

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|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| *ACTION CODES: | *DISPOSITION | *OUTGOING | * |
| * | * | *CORRESPONDENCE: | * |
| *A-APPROPRIATE ACTION | *A-ANSWERED | *TYPE RESP=INITIALS | * |
| *C-COMMENT/RECOM | *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL | * OF SIGNER | * |
| *D-DRAFT RESPONSE | *C-COMPLETED | * CODE = A | * |
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- *****

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1985

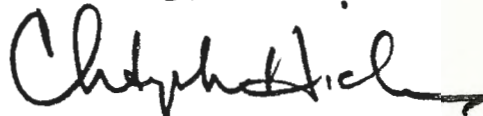
Dear Mr. Carper:

I have been asked to respond to your letter inquiring about the number and duties of White House aides who accompanied the President on his recent visit to Europe.

Forty six members of the White House staff accompanied the President and the First Lady. The bulk of the 46 were advancement and women who prepared for the President's stops in West Germany, Spain, France and Portugal, as well as the First Lady's visit to Rome. The remainder of the travelling staff performed the same duties as they do when the President is here at the White House, including press liaison, speechwriting and national security support.

I have no way of verifying the number of State Department officials who travelled to Europe in support of the President's trip, although I would think that the figure of 215 would be quite high. I would suggest that you contact the State Department directly.

Sincerely,



Christopher Hicks
Deputy Assistant to the President
for Administration

The Honorable
Thomas R. Carper
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: M.B. Oglesby

July 12, 1985

Dear Tom:

This is to acknowledge your June 18 letter, which we received on July 3, requesting information regarding the number of aides that accompanied the President on his recent trip to Germany.

Please know that your constituent's inquiry has been brought to the attention of the appropriate White House office for further response.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB

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

THOMAS R. CARPER
DELAWARE, AT-LARGE

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

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

317658
1020 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4165

DISTRICT OFFICES:
5021 J. CALEB BOGGS
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
844 KING STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801
(302) 573-6181

J. ALLEN FREAR FEDERAL BUILDING
300 S. NEW STREET
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 736-1666 (KENT)
(302) 856-3334 (SUSSEX)

June 18, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have recently been informed by a constituent, a Mr. Ted Keller, that there were 215 State Department officials and approximately the same number of White House aides who accompanied you on your recent diplomatic visit to West Germany.

Could you please verify these figures and, additionally, respond with a note explaining the various roles these people played.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
Member of Congress

TC:wwh

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 18, 1985

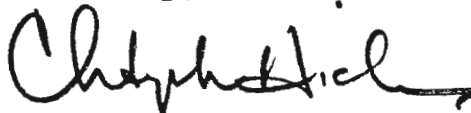
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Assistant to the President

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MBO:KRJ:MDB

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Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB

cc: w/copy of inc to Chris Hicks - for DIRECT response
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THOMAS R. CARPER
DELAWARE, AT-LARGE

COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

317658
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DISTRICT OFFICES:
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FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
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WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801
(302) 673-6181

J. ALLEN FREAR FEDERAL BUILDING
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(302) 738-1666 (KENT)
(302) 856-3334 (SUSSEX)

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Washington, D.C. 20515

June 18, 1985

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Member of Congress

TC:wwh

NASH

ID# 317658

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR 123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 03, 1985

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. CARPER

SUBJECT: REQUESTS INFORMATION FOR TED KELLER REGARDING
NUMBER OF AIDES ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT ON
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| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY | (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C D |
| M. B. OGLESBY | | ORG | 85/07/03 | <i>W</i> | <i>A 8507/12</i> |
| <i>PP Hicks</i> | REFERRAL NOTE: _____ | <i>R</i> | <i>85/07/17</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: _____ | | <i>1/1</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: _____ | | <i>1/1</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: _____ | | <i>1/1</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |
| | REFERRAL NOTE: _____ | | <i>1/1</i> | | <i>1/1</i> |

COMMENTS: _____

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 _____

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

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

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

July 12, 1985

Dear Tom:

This is to acknowledge your June 18 letter, which we received on July 3, requesting information regarding the number of aides that accompanied the President on his recent trip to Germany.

Please know that your constituent's inquiry has been brought to the attention of the appropriate White House office for further response.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

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

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

MBO:KRJ:MDB

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

THOMAS R. CARPER
DELAWARE, AT-LARGE

5
w
COMMITTEES:
BANKING, FINANCE
AND URBAN AFFAIRS
MERCHANT MARINE
AND FISHERIES

317658
1020 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4165

DISTRICT OFFICES:
5021 J. CALEB BOGGS
FEDERAL OFFICE BUILDING
844 KING STREET
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19801
(302) 573-6181

J. ALLEN FREAR FEDERAL BUILDING
300 S. NEW STREET
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901
(302) 738-1666 (KENT)
(302) 856-3334 (SUSSEX)

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

June 18, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

I have recently been informed by a constituent, a Mr. Ted Keller, that there were 215 State Department officials and approximately the same number of White House aides who accompanied you on your recent diplomatic visit to West Germany.

Could you please verify these figures and, additionally, respond with a note explaining the various roles these people played.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
Member of Congress

TC:wwh

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

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PAGE 01 OF 05 CHANCELLOR HELMUT K 0001 DTG: 151327Z APR 85 PSN: 029287
SIT277 AN004546 TOR: 105/1456Z

DISTRIBUTION: PRES /001
WHSR COMMENT: FOR THE PRESIDENT

FLASH
DE WTE25 #0001 1051520
Z 151327Z APR 85

FM CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL

TO PRESIDENT REAGAN

~~UNCLASS~~ ANNEX CHARLIE MESSAGE

MSGNR. 562
BONN APRIL 15TH, 1985
FOLGT UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 1
TRANSLATION

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR

BONN, 15 APRIL 1985

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR RONALD W. REAGAN,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEAR RON,

I HAVE LEARNED WITH GREAT CONCERN ABOUT DELIBERATIONS IN
THE WHITE HOUSE WITH A VIEW TO CHANGING AGAIN THE AGREED
PROGRAMME FOR YOUR STATE VISIT TO BONN, TO THE EFFECT THAT
OUR PROPOSED JOINT LAYING OF A WREATH AT THE GERMAN

Visit Bitburg Cemetery

DECLASSIFIED/RE/OASHJ
NLS 100-103/1-7

UNCLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~ CU NARA, DATE 6/19/06

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 02 OF 05 CHANCELLOR HELMUT K 0001 DTG: 151327Z APR 85 PSN: 029287

MILITARY CEMETERY IN BITBURG WOULD BE EITHER DROPPED ALTOGETHER OR REPLACED BY A VISIT TO ANOTHER MEMORIAL TO THE DEAD OF WORLD WAR II.

ON THIS QUESTION I MUST TELL YOU WITH THE FRANKNESS THAT OUR FRIENDSHIP PERMITS THAT IN MY OPINION SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE A FATEFUL STEP SINCE IT WOULD HAVE A SERIOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT ON THE FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS OF THE GERMAN PEOPLE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND FOR YOUR ADMINISTRATION.

AT THE TIME I MADE THIS SUGGESTION MY MAIN INTENTION WAS TO DEMONSTRATE ON THE OCCASION OF THE UPCOMING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERMINATION OF WORLD WAR II THAT THE WAR ENEMIES OF THOSE DAYS ARE NOW CLOSE FRIENDS AND PARTNERS WHO EXTEND THE HAND OF RECONCILIATION TO ONE ANOTHER ACROSS THE WAR GRAVES. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PERSONAL, THIS HUMAN GESTURE BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS IS ONCE AGAIN TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD PUBLIC AND UNDERSCORE THE CLOSE ALLIANCE BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN IT.

AS YOU KNOW, IN THE FALL OF LAST YEAR A SIMILAR SYMBOLIC ACT OF RECONCILIATION TOOK PLACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND MYSELF AT VERDUN, THE SCENE OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GRAVES OF GERMAN AND FRENCH SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE TWO WORLD WARS. THE VETERANS ASSOCIATIONS FROM FRANCE AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TOOK PART IN THAT CEREMONY AND REAFFIRMED THEIR PEACE WITH THEIR FORMER ENEMIES. THAT MEETING IN VERDUN TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN FRANCE AND IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. THAT OCCASION ALSO MADE AN IMPRESSION ON THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE WITH WHOM, FOR POLITICAL REASONS,
ENDE UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 1

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~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 03 OF 05 CHANCELLOR HELMUT K 0001 DTG: 151327Z APR 85 PSN: 029287

FOLGT UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 2

SUCH A RECONCILIATION HAS NOT YET BEEN POSSIBLE. BUT THEY HAVE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE NATIONS AND GOVERNMENTS WHO EKSTEND A HAND TO ONE ANOTHER ACROSS THE GRAVES OF THEIR FALLEN, CONTRARY TO ALL THE PROPAGANDA, CANNOT BE ENEMIES OF PEACE, MISSILE ADDICTS OR WARMONGERS. INDEED, THEY WERE ABLE TO SEE THAT WE ARE RESOLVED TO WORK FOR MUTUAL PEACE BECAUSE WE HAVE LEARNED THE LESSON OF THE BLOODY HISTORY OF OUR PEOPLES.

THAT GREAT EKSPERIENCE, WHICH IS ALSO REFLECTED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, WAS WHAT I HOPED TO DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN BEFORE THE WORLD ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR VISIT. ONLY A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY CAN SERVE THIS PURPOSE BECAUSE THERE EKISTS NO AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY IN GERMANY. THE BITBURG CEMETERY, LIKE ALL COMPARABLE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERIES, CONTAINS THE GRAVES OF MOSTLY VERY YOUNG SERVICEMEN, MANY OF THEM ONLY 18, 19 OR 20 YEARS OLD, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR. THEY INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE WAFFEN SS WHO, DOING THEIR DUTY AS SOLDIERS, DIED VERY YOUNG IN THE BITBURG AREA. AT THE AGE OF 18 OR 19 THEY HAD NO CHOICE AS TO WHERE THEY WOULD BE DRAFTED TO. THEY DIED LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS IN A SENSELESS WAR. ARE THE FEW GRAVES OF THESE YOUNG MEN OF THAT TIME TO SERVE AS A PRETEKST 40 YEARS AFTER THE WAR FOR US NOT TO HONOUR TOGETHER ALL THE DEAD OF THE WORLD WAR> NOR SHOULD WE FORGET THAT THE SOLDIERS NOW SERVING IN THE FEDERAL ARMED FORCES AND DEFENDING OUR COMMON FREEDOM IN MANY INSTANCES ARE SONS OR GRANDCHILDREN OF THOSE GENERATIONS WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II.

WHAT ARE THE GERMANS TO THINK OF A FRIENDSHIP WHICH DOES NOT PERMIT THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND THE GERMAN CHANCELLOR TO LAY A WREATH TOGETHER AT A GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERY 40 YEARS AFTER THE WAR, 40 YEARS IN WHICH THEY HAVE

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 04 OF 05 CHANCELLOR HELMUT K 0001 DTG: 151327Z APR 85 PSN: 029287

PUBLICLY AND CONSTANTLY REAFFIRMED THEIR FRIENDSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP> AN INTENTION WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED UPON, HAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND IS NOW TO BE REVERSED IN ANSWER TO PROTESTS> PARTICULARLY CONCERNED WILL BE THOSE CITIZENS OF GERMANY WHO TO DATE HAVE UNSWERVINGLY SUPPORTED THEIR COUNTRYS POLICY OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ALSO IN DIFFICULT TIMES. FOR 40 YEARS THE GERMANS HAVE BEEN PLAYING THEIR PART IN SAFEGUARDING PEACE AND FREEDOM IN EUROPE.

I CAN UNDERSTAND THE REACTION OF THE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, WHO STILL HAVE VERY VIVID MEMORIES OF NATIONAL SOCIALIST TERROR. THIS WAS ALSO THE REASON WHY I SUGGESTED THAT YOU MIGHT VISIT THE DACHAU MEMORIAL SITE. ALTHOUGH OVER 60 PER CENT OF THE GERMANS LIVING TODAY WERE ONLY BORN AFTER WORLD WAR II, I KNOW, AND I HAVE DISCOVERED TIME AND AGAIN, HOW VERY MUCH THESE GENERATIONS TOO FEEL HURT BY THE FACT THAT SUCH IMMEASURABLE CRIMES AGAINST THE JEWS COULD BE PERPETRATED IN THE NAME OF GERMANY.

ENDE UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 2

FOLGT UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 3

I WISH THEREFORE TO COME BACK TO MY ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAT YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR SCHEDULE AS AN ADDITIONAL ITEM EITHER THE DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP OR ANOTHER SITE COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS OF FASCIST TERROR, BUT THAT OTHERWISE YOUR PROGRAMME BE LEFT AS AGREED. OF COURSE, EVEN THEN YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SATISFY ALL THOSE NOW MAKING PUBLIC PROTESTS. BUT I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL MEET WITH THE UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE SERIOUS ABOUT PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

I FEEL STRENGTHENED IN MY ATTITUDE BY THE PROPAGANDA THAT IS NOW ISSUING FORTH FROM SOVIET QUARTERS AGAINST YOUR VISIT AND AGAINST OUR MUTUAL GESTURE OF RECONCILIATION. THE

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WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

PAGE 05 OF 05 CHANCELLOR HELMUT K 0001 DTG: 151327Z APR 85 PSN: 029287

SOVIET LEADERSHIP IS OF COURSE WELL AWARE THAT SUCH A SYMBOLIC ACT OVER THE GRAVES OF THE WAR DEAD ACHIEVES MORE IN FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES THAN MANY OTHER THINGS. THIS CANNOT BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE SOVIET UNION AND IT WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO UNDERMINE THE POSITIVE EFFECTS OF OUR MUTUAL GESTURE OF RECONCILIATION ON THE NATIONS IN ITS SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AS WELL. IF WE NOW BACK DOWN AND CHANGE THE AGREED PROGRAMME, THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WILL FEEL THAT ITS PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

DEAR RON, I HAVE EKSPRESSED MY OPINION AND MY FEELINGS VERY FRANKLY IN THIS LETTER. PLEASE REGARD MY WORDS AS BEING FROM A FRIEND WHO DOES NOT WISH TO CREATE ANY ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR YOU IN YOUR DIFFICULT OFFICE BUT WHO FELT PROMPTED BY THE FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES OVER THE PAST FOUR DECADES, NOT LEAST THROUGH YOUR OWN PERSONAL EFFORTS, TO WRITE IN THIS OPEN MANNER.

YOURS MOST SINCERELY,

(SGD.) HELMUT KOHL

ENDE UEBERSETZUNG SEITE 3

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WIS

May 17, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN
CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: MARSHALL BREGER ^{MB}
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON

You have tasked me to report on what might be done in the aftermath of the Bitburg visit to repair relations with the Jewish community. This assignment takes on added importance given that progress in the Middle East peace process may become possible in the next few months. The degree of confidence that the American Jewish community invests in this Administration is clearly central to the success of our peace efforts.

o Kenneth Bialkin, President of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations, has requested a meeting with the President. I see no need for an early meeting - it can only rehash Bitburg. We ought to wait six-eight weeks until tempers have cooled down and other subjects can be usefully discussed. By that time, King Hussein's visit to Washington, D.C. may already have occurred. Furthermore, such a meeting should be structured by the White House and anchored in groups which are interested in spurring a good relationship -- such as the National Jewish Coalition (of which Max Fisher is honorary chairman.)

o While Jewish groups are interested in moving back onto the reservation, time is needed to heal the wounds. I urge that any decision on arms sales to Jordan and Saudia Arabia be held over for 90 days notwithstanding that this may mean delay in approval until the fall. The community (and its Congressional allies) cannot easily sustain two body blows in quick succession.

o Strategic cooperation with Israel should be publically emphasized whenever possible. Publicity about strategic cooperation is the clearest and most visible sign of the growing closeness of US-Israel relations. The President or the Secretary of Defense might consider laying out the theory and practice of strategic cooperation at some public forum.

o The President should seek out opportunities, symbolic and otherwise, to underscore his fidelity both to Israel and to the American Jewish community. For example, the President might dedicate the West Point Jewish Chapel -- the only Jewish chapel at a military academy. (The Chapel was built with private funds). The West Point location provides the President with an opportunity to strike two powerful themes simultaneously -- the contributions Jews have made to American society, and the moral predicates of our defense posture. This proposal, developed with the assistance of Ambassador Max Kampelman, was turned down for scheduling reasons in Fall 1984. I resubmit it now because of its extraordinary symbolic value.

o AIPAC is anxious for you to meet with their officers June 9-11. They would prefer to have you to an informal dinner on June 9th or 10th, but would meet with you at the White House whenever your schedule permits. I strongly encourage you to meet with them. The AIPAC officers are political pros and want to dwell on US-Israel relations rather than the Bitburg episode. That is to our mutual advantage.

o Consideration should be given to a state visit by President Herzog in the next six months. No Israeli president has ever made a state visit.

o One area of continued tension will be the place of the Jewish liaison within the White House structure. As you know, the job has historically had a short tenure -- there were four over the last four years -- and has consistently failed to meet community expectations. As US-Israel relations have been on an even keel over the last year, the gap between community expectations and bureaucratic reality has been finessed. However, the Bitburg episode has placed the status of the liaison position into bas-relief and it is unlikely to go away. The allegations of "insensitivity" are partly based on the (erroneous) claim that the President does not wish to be surrounded by Jewish advisors.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

T.O. will
thank Marshall
for memo

T.O.

April 30, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD REGAN
CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: MARSHALL BREGER ^{MB}
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC
LIAISON

SUBJECT: Bitberg (Once Again)

May I take the liberty of underscoring, in capsule form, why the Bitberg wreath-laying stirs such emotions in the Jewish community. If the content of the clashing emotional symbols behind this controversy are better understood, the President may be better able to act in ways which will not exacerbate the frustrations of either the Germans or the Jewish community.

The CDU, and in particular, Chancellor Kohl, view the German people as having been controlled by a group of madmen during World War II. Thus, in their calendar, May 8 is a day of liberation for Germany as well as for the allies--it is a day in which the bulk of the German people were liberated from Nazism. Following this view, it is understandable why the German "dough boys" (excepting certified war criminals) are to be viewed as akin to GI Joes. It is this version of history which the President will legitimate by the Bitberg wreath-laying.

There is, however, another version of history--one held by most historians, the German Social Democrats, citizens of those countries in Western Europe who were subject to Nazi aggression and by the Jewish community.* This version holds that Germany was not led sullenly into the Nazi inferno by a few evil madmen. Rather, the entire nation was seized by a totalitarian madness. Historians have made abundantly clear that the German nation supported Hitler throughout the early victorious stages of the war. Indeed as William Shirer has written recently in the New York Times, German soldiers he met in Poland, France and Russia never viewed themselves as forced draftees but rather as willing participants in a patriotic war.

* There is a third approach advanced by the Soviets today and by some politicians during and immediately after World War II--that the Teutonic character is genetically militaristic. We, of course, reject this communal taint.

This alternate vision of World War II is rejected by the Bitberg wreath-laying ceremony and, at some level, Chancellor Kohl's insistence on the ceremony reflects a need to legitimate the "crew of thugs" version.

The controversy over the wreath laying ceremony at Bitberg must be understood in this context. If Germany was overtaken by a "crew of thugs" than it is legitimate (indeed it is "morally right") to honor all in that cemetery (including the Waffen SS) excepting specific war criminals. If the German nation was seized by Nazi madness (excepting those few anti-Nazis such as Konrad Adenauer) then far more discriminating moral judgments must be made.


I believe that if the President has an appreciation of these competing views, he will be better able to engage in the reconciliation process for which he is making this trip.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 17, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN 

SUBJECT: VETERANS ON BITBURG

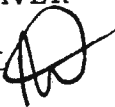
Had Doug Riggs of OPL check. Despite what we heard yesterday, the VFW has issued no statement attacking the Bitburg decision, the AmVets have issued no statement, and the American Legion statement was done by a lower level type -- a statement the top has had to stand by, but which it has not elaborated upon. A cursory analysis is being done of calls and letters.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: MICHAEL K. DEAVER
FROM: WILLIAM HENKEL 
SUBJECT: ALTERNATIVE TO WREATH-LAYING AT BITBURG
MILITARY CEMETERY

The Fortress Ehrenbreitstein, located in Koblenz at the convergence of the Rhine and Mosel Rivers south of Bonn, contains the German version of our Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Fortress has a diverse history, including sheltering civilians during World War II bombing raids. On October 29, 1972, the current German Army, the Bundeswehr, dedicated the Fortress Ehrenbreitstein as a memorial to the fallen Germans of the two World Wars (five and one-half million killed).

A plaque on the outside wall states:

...their sacrifice, their bravery and their suffering
should not be forgotten...

Inside the fortress in a large vaulted archway is a marble statue of a dead German soldier, with his helmet laying next to his waist and a laurel wreath at his feet. Inscribed on the archway is the following:

To the dead of the German Armies
1914-1918 1939-1945
Their legacy: Peace

We recommend that this be considered as an alternative to the Bitburg Military Cemetery visit. In our opinion it could meet Kohl's objectives and would avoid the awkward situation of visiting a cemetery in which SS are buried.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 19, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR DONALD T. REGAN
MICHAEL K. DEEVER

FROM: WILLIAM HENKEL *WH*

SUBJECT: BITBURG CEMETERY

I had Rick Ahearn quietly develop the attached statistical information on the German troops buried in Bitburg Cemetery. Quoting from Chancellor Kohl's personal letter to the President:

"LIKE ALL COMPARABLE GERMAN MILITARY CEMETERIES, CONTAINS THE GRAVES OF MOSTLY VERY YOUNG SERVICEMEN, MANY OF THEM ONLY 18, 19 OR 20 YEARS OLD, WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR. THEY INCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE WAFFEN SS WHO, DOING THEIR DUTY AS SOLDIERS, DIED VERY YOUNG IN THE BITBURG AREA. AT THE AGE OF 18 OR 19 THEY HAD NO CHOICE AS TO WHERE THEY WOULD BE DRAFTED TO. THEY DIED LIKE MILLIONS OF OTHERS IN A SENSELESS WAR."

The attached data contradicts this claim. We should be extremely careful not to use Kohl's rationale, for the facts contained in the analysis can be researched by the press. (See attachments)

W/S

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 19, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM HENKEL

FROM: FREDERICK L. AHEARN

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF BITBURG CEMETERY

The following text is an analysis compiled from the official roster of troops buried in Bitburg Cemetery. This analysis was conducted at my request by officials of the U. S. Embassy, Bonn, Defense Attache's office.

Youngest SS Grave 1739 13 Sept 1927 - 28 Dec 1944
17 yrs. 3 mos.

Oldest SS Grave 837 22 Aug 1900 - 1 Oct 1944
44 yrs. 2 mos.

Youngest Soldier Grave 2025 1 May 29 - 15 Dec 1944
15 yrs. 7 mos.

Oldest Soldier Grave 1543 26 Oct 1983 - 24 Jan 1945
62 yrs. 4 mos.

Mean age of SS 30.5 yrs.

Mean age of Soldiers 38.5 yrs.

Unknown ages/Identities 228 graves

Dead from other battles/wars 50 graves

Oldest Civilian Grave 391 2 March 1875 - 25 Dec 1944
69 yrs.

Youngest Civilian Grave 1008 17 Oct 1928 - 1 Oct 1944
15 yrs. 11 mos.

Average age of soldiers who died in 1944 -- 25.9 yrs.

Average age of soldiers who died in 1945 -- 27.9 yrs.

Average age of SS who died in 1944 & 1945 - 26.3 yrs.

Average age for all military -- 26.7 yrs.

Number of graves -- 2,044

I hope these facts prove to be of use to you.



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

April 16, 1985

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WS

TO: The Minister
FROM: POL - Richard C. Barkley *RCB.ry*
Subject: The Bitburg Military Cemetery

We have checked the graves register of persons buried at Bitburg against the SS records contained in the Berlin Document Center. Of the 48 individuals on the list who were identified as members of the SS, 15 had records at the BDC. Only two of those records contained information of special note. The others did not indicate that the person had served in a concentration camp or with the SS Security Service, the SS Security Police, or the GESTAPO.

One of the two individuals with noteworthy records was Eugen Schuler who was at one time a member of the SS Security Service. He had been a member of the SS since 1933 and attained the rank of sergeant in 1939. Schuler's record at the BDC does not contain any entries after that date. According to the graves register, Schuler died in September 1944 as a member of the Waffen-SS (armed-SS) at the age of 30.

The other notable record was that of Otto Bengel, a staff sergeant in the Waffen-SS who was awarded the German Cross of Gold in 1944 for, among other things, having killed 10 Americans in combat in July 1944. Bengel died in combat in September 1944 at the age of 22.

Of the more than 2,000 soldiers buried at Bitburg, a significant proportion were born prior to 1920 and were therefore not green recruits thrown into the battle in the final stages of the war.

POL:RDJ *Johnson*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 18, 1985

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WS

FOR DON REGAN

FROM: Larry Speakes

FYI

Articles Regarding the President's Visit to
Hillburg Cemetery

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^AP-Reagan-Cemetery

^Bitburg Mayor Protests Row Over Cemetery<

^By MARK HEINRICH=

^Associated Press Writer=

BITBURG, West Germany (AP) - The small military cemetery in this southwestern German town is the focus of an uproar over President Reagan's visit to West Germany.

But Bitburg's mayor, Theo Hallet, said Thursday that American military officers have come to the cemetery for years to attend memorial services and "I don't see why people should be upset if the president comes."

Hallet has written to U.S. Ambassador Arthur Burns expressing astonishment at the "macabre row" caused by the planned Reagan's visit.

Reagan has been criticized in the United States and other countries for planning to lay a wreath at a German military cemetery that contains graves of Nazis SS elite guards.

The president initially decided not to visit a former Nazi concentration camp to pay tribute to Nazi victims. But after an outburst of criticism, Reagan is expected to visit to Dachau or some other concentration camp.

Hallet says Reagan should not abandon his plan to visit the Bitburg military cemetery, a plain rectangular field where 2,000 German soldiers are buried. Most of them died fighting the Americans and their allies in World War II, but there are graves of 100 soldiers killed in World War I.

Hallet, 63, said he has written to Burns twice in the last week to encourage Reagan to visit the cemetery as part of his trip to West Germany May 1-6.

The cemetery, about half the size of a football field, is in a residential area of of this town of 25,000 that is nearly half American. Four thousand airmen are stationed at the nearby U.S. Air Force base and a total of 11,000 Americans live in the town.

Forty-seven of the graves carry the initials of the Nazi SS. Hallet said his community is especially perturbed by the issue that has been made of those graves by opponents of Reagan's visit.

"Our people say, let the dead lie in peace. After 40 years, one can't X-ray the graves to distinguish whether they were fanatic defenders of the Third Reich or just defenders of the fatherland," Hallet said.

Most of the graves are of German soldiers killed in the December, 1944 Battle of the Bulge, the last major German assault of World War II. The gravestones, which carry the names, companies, and dates of birth and death, indicate many of the soldiers were teen-agers.

Nineteen thousand Americans were killed in the fighting, which leveled Bitburg and damaged many other cities in the area.

Hallet, a Christian Democrat who said he fought on the Russian front in World War II, said American, French and West German military officers from the area have held a memorial service at the cemetery annually since 1955.

The purpose of the service is to pay respects to the dead of both world wars, as well as victims of Nazism, he said.

"The SS symbol makes us remember the horrors of the war, and causes the sensitivities, I know," he said. "But these people were soldiers, not concentration camp guards. In addition, most of them were pulled into service at the end of the war and were just children."

"Our people cannot comprehend this macabre row over the soldiers who fell 40 years ago," Hallet wrote to Burns.

A young German woman who was placing flowers at the cemetery Thursday remarked "the SS people died like any others."

Her 76-year-old grandfather said: "We (Germans and Americans) were once enemies and now we are friends. We should mark that occasion. It is 40 years now, we must put behind us what has happened."

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AM-Wall Street 0414<

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan insisted Thursday there is nothing wrong with his plan to visit a German cemetery where Nazi SS soldiers are buried and said the young men interred there "were victims, just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."

The statement touched off another outburst of criticism of Reagan and his German visit, with one Jewish leader calling the comments "morally unconscionable and politically outrageous."

During an interview with about 100 editors and broadcasters at the White House, Reagan said he could not do an about-face and strip the visit from his 10-day schedule in Europe, asserting that would "look as if I had caved in the face of unfavorable attention."

"I think that there's nothing wrong with visiting that cemetery where those young men are victims of Nazism also, even though they were fighting in the German uniform, drafted into service to carry out the hateful wishes of the Nazis," Reagan told the group.

"They were victims just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps."

The president had been asked to comment about the controversy over his plan to visit the Bitburg cemetery with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl following the economic summit in May.

Reagan announced earlier this week that he would add a visit to a concentration camp or a similar place as a means to quell the controversy and show his wish to honor the victims of the Nazi terror.

White House spokesman said Reagan aides Michael K. Deaver and William Henkel were returning from Germany and would meet with the president Friday to decide whether Reagan will visit Dachau or some other concentration camp site.

At first, Reagan had said he would bypass such a place, which led to expressions of outrage from Jewish leaders and veterans organizations. Many of the military men buried at Bitburg cemetery fought in the bloody Battle of the Bulge, in which thousands of Americans died.

Reagan attempted to point out that there were only about 30 members of Hitler's elite SS military corps buried at the grave site, calling them "the villains, as we know, that conducted the persecutions and all."

"But there are 2,000 graves there," Reagan said, "and most of those — the average age is about 18. These were those young teenagers that were conscripted, forced into military service in the closing days of the Third Reich, when they were short of manpower."

"We're the victor, and they're there," the president added, "and it seemed to me that this could be symbolic also of saying ... this must never happen again."

The president said "that there is much to be gained" from the visit, because the German people "live in constant penance, all these who have come along in these later years, for what their predecessors did and for which they're very ashamed."

The president said Bitburg was picked because a U.S. base was located near there and he will attend a church service with U.S. military there.

Reagan also appeared to equate the visit to the Bitburg with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, the resting place of some of the nation's most honored war dead. He noted that when the leaders of former war-time enemies — such as Italy, Japan and Germany — have come to the United States, they have visited Arlington.

The expressions of outrage over the president's comments were quick and furious.

Abraham H. Foxman, the associate national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and himself a Holocaust survivor, said, "I am flabbergasted at the continued insensitivity and shocked at the lack of historical perspective."

Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said: "For the president of the United States to equate the soldiers who died in an attempt to subjugate the world to an unconscionable ideology, with those who were the tragic victims of the implementation of that ideology, is morally unconscionable and politically outrageous."

"It shows that he has learned nothing from the controversy of the past week," said Saperstein.

Meanwhile, Elie Wiesel, who was named chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council by Reagan, publicly called on Secretary of State George P. Shultz to ask the president not to visit the cemetery.

The two men appeared at a ceremony honoring the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps at the Capitol.

"Mr. Secretary, I plead to you, be our emissary," Wiesel said. "Tell those who need to know that our pain is genuine, our outrage is deep and our perplexity is infinite."

Shultz said, "I share with you also the deep conviction that ... within the deep spirit we feel of reconciliation and compassion, there is no place for understanding of those who took part in the perpetration of the Nazi horror."

And House Democrats, led by party caucus leader Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., introduced a resolution calling on Reagan to cancel his trip to the German cemetery because "it is an affront to all Americans."

Rep. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., one of the measure's co-sponsors, said a House vote was expected by the middle of next week.

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^REAGAN: GERMAN WAR DEAD NAZI VICTIMS TOOK
BY ARNOLD SAWISLAK=
UPI SENIOR EDITOR=

WASHINGTON (UPI) - PRESIDENT REAGAN SAID THURSDAY @@THERE IS NOTHING WRONG'' WITH HIS VISITING A GERMAN ARMY CEMETERY AS SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST PLEADED WITH HIM TO CANCEL IN THE NAME OF ALL WHO DIED FIGHTING HITLER.<

@@I THINK THAT IT (CANCELING THE VISIT) WOULD BE VERY HURTFUL AND ALL IT WOULD DO IS LEAVE ME LOOKING AS IF I'D CAVED IN IN FACE OF SOME UNFAVORABLE ATTENTION,'' REAGAN TOLD A GROUP OF EDITORS AND BROADCASTERS AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHO ASKED ABOUT HIS SCHEDULED VISIT TO THE BITBURG CEMETERY NEXT MONTH.<

@@I THINK THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH VISITING THAT CEMETERY WHERE THOSE YOUNG MEN ARE VICTIMS OF NAZISM ALSO, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE FIGHTING IN THE GERMAN UNIFORM, DRAFTED INTO THE SERVICE TO CARRY OUT THE HATEFUL WISHES OF THE NAZIS,'' REAGAN SAID.<

@@THEY WERE VICTIMS JUST AS SURELY AS THE VICTIMS IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS,'' HE SAID. @@AND I FEEL THERE IS MUCH TO BE GAINED FROM THIS.''<

AS REAGAN RULED OUT ANY REVERSAL OF THE PLAN TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE SOME MEMBERS OF THE NAZI WAFFEN SS ARE BURIED WITH OTHER GERMAN DEAD, HIS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, MICHAEL DEEVER, RETURNED FROM WEST GERMANY WITH A PROPOSAL TO BALANCE THE VISIT TO BITBURG WITH A TOUR OF A NAZI DEATH CAMP SITE.<

SOURCES SAID THE BERGEN-BELSEN CONCENTRATION CAMP WAS UNDER @@THE MOST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.''<

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAD SAID A VISIT TO THE NOTORIOUS DACHAU CAMP, AS PROPOSED BY THE WEST GERMANS, WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE WITH REAGAN'S OTHER EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES. A FRIDAY MEETING WAS PLANNED TO REVIEW DEEVER'S RECOMMENDATION, OFFICIALS SAID.<

AS REAGAN SPOKE, ELIE WIESEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL, WAS TELLING A CROWD IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA, @@HAVE OUR POLICY PLANNERS FORGOTTEN WHAT SS STANDS FOR? AUSCHWITZ (DEATH CAMP) WAS CONCEIVED, STRUCTURED, ELABORATED, PERFECTED, BUILT, ORGANIZED, AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE SS.''<

WIESEL SAID THE SS @@BUTCHERED POLES AND CZECHS, FRENCH AND DUTCH, NORWEGIANS AND DANES, YUGOSLAVS, UKRAINIANS, GREEKS, GYPSIES AND GAYS,'' AS WELL AS JEWS.<

@@AUSCHWITZ WAS A UNIVERSE AND THE SS WERE ITS GODS,'' WIESEL SAID. @@WHY THEN SHOULD OUR PRESIDENT VISIT AND HONOR THEIR CEMETERY AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN NOTHING BUT PATRIOTIC SOLDIERS WHO DIED FOR THEIR FATHERLAND?''<

HE APPEALED TO SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ, THE MAIN SPEAKER AT THE OBSERVANCE, TO @@BE OUR EMISSARY,'' AND SHULTZ, DEPARTING FROM HIS PREPARED TEXT, SAID, @@THERE IS NO PLACE'' IN THE HOPE FOR RECONCILIATION OF PAST HOSTILITIES @@FOR UNDERSTANDING FOR THOSE WHO TOOK PART IN THE PERPETRATION OF THE NAZI HORROR.''<

SHULTZ PLEDGED IN HIS SPEECH TO BRING NAZI WAR CRIMINALS TO JUSTICE, SAYING, @@WE NEVER FORGET THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY HITLER, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE THE CRIMINALS WHO CARRIED OUT THIS AWFUL DESIGN.<

@@WE WILL BRING THEM TO JUSTICE NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.''<

@@AND WE MUST NEVER DELUDE OURSELVES,'' HE WARNED. @@MANKIND'S CAPACITY FOR EVIL DID NOT DIE IN THE BUNKER WITH HITLER.''<

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NATIONALLY BUDGETED

By JOHANNA NEUMAN

GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON - President Reagan, explaining his decision to visit Bitburg Military Cemetery, said Thursday the German soldiers buried there were victims of the Nazi war machine, just as the victims of the Holocaust were.

"Even though they were fighting in German uniforms, drafted into service to carry out the hateful decisions of the Nazis, they were victims just as surely as the victims in the concentration camps," he told editors and reporters meeting at the White House.

Most of the 2,000 graves, said Reagan, are those of "young men who were conscripted, forced into military service in the closing days of the Third Reich when they were short of manpower."

The president said, "I think that there's nothing wrong with visiting a cemetery where those young men are victims of Nazism also."

Reagan renewed his intention to visit the cemetery, saying to cancel the trip "would be very hurtful, and all it would do is leave me looking like I'd caved in in the face of some unfavorable attention."

Calling the West Germans "our staunchest allies," Reagan said that "their leaders have come here and visited Arlington."

So when Chancellor Helmut Kohl invited him to Bitburg, Reagan said he thought it would be "a symbol" of the renewed friendship and shared democracy that developed between the two countries after the war.

But then, he said, "the furor erupted, and it got as far as Germany" after "someone dug up the fact there are about 30 graves of SS troops (at the cemetery)." The SS, explained Reagan, "are the villains ... that conducted the persecutions."

As for his visit to a concentration camp, Reagan said he misunderstood the invitation to visit Dachau as an unofficial part of his trip.

"There was no way I as the guest of the government could on my own take off and go someplace and then run the risk of appearing as if I was trying to say to the Germans, 'Look what you did.'"

The Germans, said Reagan, "believe me, they live in constant penance for what their predecessors did."

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DEAVER OFF TO SURVEY REAGAN TRIP CHANGES<

BY NORMAN D. SANDLER=

@WASHINGTON (UPI) - THE WHITE HOUSE ORDERED TWO TOP PRESIDENTIAL AIDES TO WEST GERMANY MONDAY IN A BID TO LIMIT POLITICAL FALLOUT FROM PRESIDENT REAGAN'S PLANNED VISIT. CHIEF OF STAFF MICHAEL DEAVER AND HEAD ADVANCE MAN WILLIAM HENKEL MADE PLANS TO FLY TO WEST GERMANY TO SURVEY ADDITIONAL SITES REAGAN MAY VISIT.<

WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES SAID THE TRIP WAS ORDERED AFTER REAGAN RECEIVED A LETTER FROM WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL URGING HIM TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS VISIT TO THE BITBURG MILITARY CEMETERY MAY 5.<

SPEAKES SAID WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF DONALD REGAN DIRECTED DEAVER AND HENKEL TO @@LOOK AT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES'' REAGAN MAY HAVE TO EASE CRITICISM THAT ERUPTED LAST WEEK OVER HIS PLAN TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE GERMAN WAR DEAD BURIED AT BITBURG, STAGING AREA FOR NAZI TANKS IN WORLD WAR II.<

WHEN ASKED IF DEAVER AND HENKEL WOULD CONSIDER ADDING A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO A CONCENTRATION CAMP, SPEAKES REPLIED, @@IT DEPENDS ON THE LOGISTICS OF THE TRIP, BUT THEY WOULD CERTAINLY LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY.''<

WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS SUGGESTED EARLIER THAT A VISIT TO A SYNAGOGUE ALSO WAS POSSIBLE IN AN EFFORT TO @@BALANCE'' THE PRESIDENT'S APPEARANCES DURING HIS TWO-DAY STATE VISIT, WHICH FOLLOWS THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN BONN.<

REAGAN CREATED A STIR AT HIS MARCH 21 NEWS CONFERENCE BY EXPLAINING HIS DECISION TO NOT VISIT A NAZI DEATH CAMP AS A MOVE TO STRESS POST-WAR RECONCILIATION WITH GERMANY AND NOT REVIVE BITTER MEMORIES OF THE PAST.<

SPEAKES CONCEDED THE WHITE HOUSE ATTITUDE HAD CHANGED IN RECENT DAYS IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE FROM JEWS AND VETERANS. @@THINGS HAVE HAPPENED BETWEEN NOW AND THEN THAT ARE OBVIOUS,'' HE SAID.<

AT THE SAME TIME, SPEAKES SAID THE WHITE HOUSE HAS RECEIVED FEWER THAN 100 CALLS CRITICIZING REAGAN FOR HIS PLANNED VISIT TO BITBURG, WHERE SOME 1,000 GERMAN SOLDIERS FROM WORLD WAR I AND 1,800 FROM WORLD WAR II ARE BURIED.<

THE DECISION FOR REAGAN TO PARTICIPATE IN A WREATH-LAYING AT BITBURG WAS MADE BY DEAVER AND DESCRIBED BY SOME OTHER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS DISASTER.<

IN BONN, GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN PETER BOENISCH SAID CONSULTATIONS ARE UNDER WAY ON POSSIBLE CHANGES IN REAGAN'S ITINERARY AND REFUSED THREE TIMES TO SAY WHETHER THERE ARE GRAVES OF ELITE WAFFEN SS SOLDIERS IN THE BITBURG CEMETARY.<

@@THIS IS A QUESTION OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE,'' SAID BOENISCH. HE SAID THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE REAGAN VISIT WAS TO DEMONSTRATE RECONCILIATION BETWEEN WARTIME FOES AND NOT TO HONOR ANY INDIVIDUALS OR MILITARY UNITS.<

THE INFLUENTIAL, CONSERVATIVE AND USUALLY PRO-AMERICAN DIE WELT NEWSPAPER QUOTED GOVERNMENT SOURCES AS SAYING A REFUSAL BY REAGAN TO VISIT THE BITBURG CEMETERY WOULD CAUSE @@THE DEEPEST CONCERN'' IN BONN AND BE @@A HEAVY BLOW TO GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.''<

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^Eds: First 11 grafs new, picking up 6th graf pvs, Kempner released, but deleting last 3 grafs pvs, Maariv's editorial, to tighten. <

^By MICHAEL PUTZEL=

^Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House, reacting to public outrage over President Reagan's plan to visit a German military cemetery, today dispatched two top aides to West Germany to look for a concentration camp or other site for Reagan to also visit next month.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said that West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl wrote Reagan requesting that he go ahead with plans to lay a wreath at the cemetery at Bitburg and that the president still plans to do so.

But the spokesman said White House chief of staff Donald T. Regan ordered the return planning trip to look "at other opportunities" for Reagan to visit during his six-day stay in West Germany.

Speakes said that could mean Reagan will visit a World War II concentration camp but that no site has been determined.

He said deputy chief of staff Michael K. Deaver and advance chief William Henkel, who were among those arranging Reagan's European schedule, would leave Monday to see other potential memorial sites.

Asked if the return planning trip was a result of outrage and concern expressed by Jewish and veterans' groups following disclosure of the Bitburg cemetery plan, Speakes acknowledged it was.

Meanwhile, a former prosecutor at the Nuremberg war crimes trials urged Reagan to visit a concentration camp site.

Robert M. W. Kemner, who now lives in Frankfurt, urged Reagan to "honor (Holocaust) victims by visiting Dachau, Bergen-Belsen or a similar place" during his upcoming trip.

Reagan ruled out a visit to a Nazi concentration camp site, saying on March 21 that instead of "reawakening the memories" of the war, he wanted to commemorate the post-war friendship between the United States and West Germany.

In recent days, both West German and U.S. Jewish leaders have expressed outrage at Reagan's plan to visit the German military cemetery and urged him to visit a concentration camp instead.

"The relatives of hundreds of thousands of American citizens were murdered in Nazi concentration camps," Kempner said in a telegram he sent to Reagan.

Kemner released the statement to reporters here, saying it was sent on behalf of American families of Holocaust victims. About 6 million Jews are believed to have perished in Nazi death camps.

Reagan is slated to visit West Germany May 1-6 for a seven-nation economic summit and state visit. May 8 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe.

The Bitburg cemetery, located in the Eifel hills southwest of Bonn, is the resting place of 1,983 Germans killed in the Battle of the Bulge, the Dec. 1944 clash that was the last major Nazi offensive of World War II.

Ignatz Bubis, the chairman of Frankfurt's 5,000-member Jewish community, has termed the planned Reagan visit "outrageous," while Werner Nachmann, the chairman of the Executive Council of West German Jews, said Reagan would have been "better advised" to visit a concentration camp site.

Kemner, who was born in Germany but who became a U.S. citizen in 1945, was a deputy prosecutor at the post-war trials in Nuremberg of leading members of the Nazi regime.

In Israel, the conservative Maariv newspaper also criticized Reagan's plans today. "How is it possible to explain or justify the decision not to honor the victims of the Nazis and at the same time to take part in a demonstration of forgiveness for those who fought to conquer the world?" Maariv asked in an editorial.

"With whom is Ronald Reagan going to carry out his symbolic act of conciliation? With the jackboots that trampled across Europe, violated the image of man, robbed the freedom of hundreds of millions and almost succeeded in annihilating the freedom and putting an end to democracy of the whole world?" the newspaper asked.