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(Trips: Economic Summit, Bonn, 05/03/1985-05/04/1985;  
Bonn, West Germany, 04/30/1985-05/06/1985)

**Case file Number(s):** 334000-336573

**Box Number:** 5

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3047 25  
7-1-85

UNCLASSIFIED  
(Classification)



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
TRANSMITTAL FORM

*file*

S/S 8533628

Date November 25, 1985

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

Reference:

To: President Reagan From: Dr. David Goldberg

Date: Sept. 9, 1985 Subject: Thank you for Letter

Reagan wrote on the spirit of the Jewish People

WH Referral Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ NSC ID # \_\_\_\_\_  
(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: Incoming is thank-you letter.

*E.T. Amis*  
for Nicolas Platt  
Executive Secretary



S/S 8533628  
United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 18, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William F. Martin  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Alerting NSC on Presidential  
Correspondence

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to President Reagan  
from Dr. David Goldberg of Argentina  
which is transmitted for your information.

This document was received in the Executive  
Secretariat Information Management Section on 11/13/85.

*Charles E. Jackson, Jr. for*  
Director, S/S-I  
Information Management Section  
Executive Secretariat  
ext. 23836

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 118056  
EL/WD  
Spanish

Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas  
D.A.I.A.  
[Delegation of Argentine Israelite Associations]  
Pasteur 633, 5th floor  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

September 9, 1985

Mr. Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
of America  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

We have the honor of acknowledging receipt of your kind letter of July 24, 1985, which in turn was in reply to the concern we expressed in our letter to you of May 2.

We have read your response to our concern with much interest, and can only emphasize that your clear and precise ideas strengthen our Jewish spirit, when you note that the Government of the United States is not forgetting the horrendous crimes committed by oppressive and dehumanizing Nazism against the Jewish people. Our deep Jewish feelings are kindled by your stirring reaffirmation that there will be no pardon for those monstrous crimes against humanity. As children of the Jewish people, who suffered the Holocaust and the extermination of six million of our brothers, we feel truly encouraged in our faith that the United States, consistent with

the great humanistic declarations, will keep aloft its principles of human coexistence, the bulwark of the democracy and moral values which are so inseparable from the American humanist tradition and the Jewish people.

Deeply moved by the enlightened ideas expressed in your letter, we, as representatives of the Argentine Jewish community, send you our warmest regards.

[Signature]

Mr. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretary

[Signature]

Dr. David Goldberg  
President

**ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP**

Date

10-22-85

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Don Harrington, ARA/SC		
2.	8533628	
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

**REMARKS**

Don,  
 Please forward the attached letter for President Reagan to the White House. I attached a copy for your information. Many Thanks.

*Letter responds to a response from the President to a previous letter from the same group. A Courtesy note.*  
 ARAK

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

<b>FROM:</b> (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
Tony Allitto FOL/BA	Phone No.

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
 Prescribed by GSA  
 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206



8533628

*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

PASTEUR 833 5º PISO

TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, septiembre 9 de 1985

Señor Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pensylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C.  
20500 U.S.A.  
-----

De nuestra mayor consideración:

Cumplimos con la honrosa misión de dirigirnos al Señor Presidente, para acusar recibo de la atenta nota del 24 de julio ppdo., que se hace eco, a su vez, de nuestra inquietud exteriorizada en la carta que le hiciéramos llegar con fecha 2 de mayo.

Hemos leído con vivo interés su amable respuesta a nuestra preocupación y no podemos menos que subrayar que sus conceptos, claros y precisos, reconfortan nuestro espíritu judío, al señalar que el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos no olvida los horribles crímenes perpetrados por el nazismo opresor y deshumanizante contra el pueblo judío. No ocultamos nuestro profundo sentimiento judío por su reafirmación, hoy más ponderable que nunca, de que no habrá perdón para esos monstruosos crímenes de lesa humanidad. Como hijos del pueblo judío, que sufrió el Holocausto y el exterminio de seis millones de nuestros hermanos, experimentamos un legítimo aliento a nuestra fe de que Estados Unidos, consecuente con los grandes enunciados humanistas, mantendrá en alto sus principios de convivencia humana, base sustentadora de la democracia y de los valores morales, tan inseparables de la tradición humanista norteamericana y del pueblo judío.

Emocionados profundamente por los lúcidos conceptos puntualizados en su atenta carta, saludamos al Señor Presidente con nuestra mayor estima, en nuestra condición de representantes de la comunidad judeoargentina.

  
Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario

  
Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente

8533628

Buenos Aires, septiembre 2 de 1985

Señor Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C.  
20500 U.S.A.

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Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario

  
Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente



8533628

Buenos Aires, septiembre 2 de 1985

Señor Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C.  
20500 U.S.A.  
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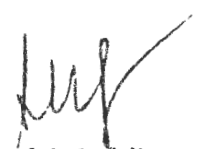
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Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario

  
Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente

*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

PASTEUR 633 5º PISO

TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, septiembre 9 de 1985

Señor Presidente de los  
 Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
 D. Ronald Reagan  
 1600 Pensylvania Avenue  
 Washington D.C.  
 20500 U.S.A.

-----

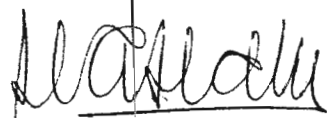
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 Secretario

  
 Dr. David Goldberg  
 Presidente

8533628

*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

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TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, septiembre 9 de 1985

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D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pensylvania Avenue  
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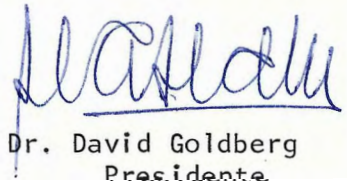
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Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario



Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente



S/S 8533628 9330  
United States Department of State

334235

TK/123-01

Washington, D.C. 20520

November 18, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. William F. Martin  
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Subject: Alerting NSC on Presidential  
Correspondence

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This document was received in the Executive Secretariat Information Management Section on 11/13/85.

*Charles L. Jackson, Jr. for*  
Director, S/S-I  
Information Management Section  
Executive Secretariat  
ext. 23836

NSC # 8609330

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 118056  
EL/WD  
Spanish

Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas  
D.A.I.A.  
[Delegation of Argentine Israelite Associations]  
Pasteur 633, 5th floor  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

September 9, 1985

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[Signature]

Mr. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretary

[Signature]

Dr. David Goldberg  
President

**ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP**

Date

10-22-85

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number, building, Agency/Post)	Initials	Date
1. Don Harrington, ARA/SC		
2.	8533628	
3.		
4.		
5.		

Action	File	Note and Return
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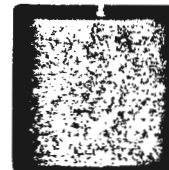
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FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)	Room No.—Bldg.
	Phone No.

Tony Allitto FOL/BA

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)  
 Prescribed by GSA  
 FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.206



8533628

*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

PASTEUR 633 57 PISO

TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, septiembre 9 de 1985

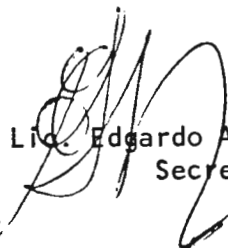
Señor Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pensylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C.  
20500 U.S.A.  
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De nuestra mayor consideración:

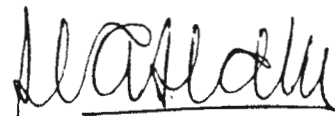
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Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario



Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente



8533628

Buenos Aires, septiembre 9 de 1985

Señor Presidente de los  
Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
D. Ronald Reagan  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington D.C.  
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Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretario

  
Dr. David Goldberg  
Presidente

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8509330

RECEIVED 19 NOV 85 10

TO PRESIDENT

FROM GOLDBERG

DOCDATE 09 SEP 85

PLATT, N

18 NOV 85

KEYWORDS: ARGENTINA

SUBJECT: GOLDBERG 9 SEP LTR TO PRES RE JEWISH SPIRIT

ACTION: PENDING STATE DRAFT REPLY DUE: 25 NOV 85 STATUS D FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

STATE

TILLMAN

NORTH

HUGHES

BURGHARDT

COMMENTS

REF# 8533628 LOG 8504626 NSCIFID ( KL )

ACTION OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE COPIES TO

*c 4/20* *see per W/S*

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_ W/ATTCH FILE *Wk* (C)

July 24, 1985

334235  
3500  
TR123-01  
C0008

Dear Dr. Goldberg  
and Mr. Gorenberg:

I am replying to your letter of May 2 to Ambassador Frank V. Ortiz regarding President Reagan's trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his visit, the President made absolutely clear the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors committed in the name of Nazism before and during World War II, and our determination not to forget them. His itinerary included participation in a ceremony at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to pay homage to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the April 21 anniversary of the liberation of that camp and again during his own visit, "There can and should be no absolution."

For four decades, the Federal Republic of Germany has faced up to the guilt and responsibilities of its Nazi past. It has demonstrated concretely in countless ways its commitment to democratic ideals and human rights, including standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the Alliance in defense of freedom. The President's trip to Bitburg at the personal invitation of Chancellor Kohl, which included a visit to the large Bitburg Air Base that houses members of both the U.S. and German Air Forces, was made in the spirit of reconciliation -- not forgiveness -- between erstwhile enemies.

The President believes it is important to demonstrate, particularly to the younger generation in Germany, that although we continue to hold the nation responsible for its past, we do not consider them to bear individual responsibility for the crimes of Nazism. The President did not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent

NSC 8504626

an act of forgiveness for those crimes. Rather, it was an acknowledgment of the democratic society the German people have built. He considered this to be a positive gesture which in no way detracted from his full and heartfelt commitment to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust and the American soldiers who gave their lives to defeat the Nazi regime and put a halt to its terrible crimes.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Dr. David Goldberg  
Mr. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations  
Pasteur 633, 5th Floor  
Buenos Aires  
Argentina

✓ cc: C. Donovan, Rm. 94  
✓ cc: Don Engler, Rm. 94  
AVH/State/DE/CAD/frw (7AVH)



## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

MEMORANUM FOR SALLY KELLY

FROM: WILLIAM F. MARTIN *WFM*

SUBJECT: President Goldberg May 2 Letter to the President

U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, Frank Ortiz, received a letter from a delegation of Argentine Jews regarding the President's visit to the Bitburg cemetery. Ambassador Ortiz was asked by the delegation to forward the letter to the White House. The Department of State has drafted a response to the letter with which the NSC concurs, as amended.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
SUGGESTED RESPONSE

Dear Dr. Goldberg and Mr. Gorenberg:

I am replying to your letter of May 2 to Ambassador Frank V. Ortiz regarding President Reagan's trip to the Federal Republic of Germany.

During his visit, the President made absolutely clear the revulsion all Americans feel for the horrors committed in the name of <sup>Nazism</sup> ~~the German state~~ before and during World War II, and our determination not to forget them. His itinerary included <sup>participation in</sup> a ceremony at the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp to pay homage to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. As he said on the April 21 anniversary of the liberation of that camp and again during his own visit, "There can and should be no absolution."

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

For four decades, the Federal Republic of Germany has faced up to the guilt and responsibilities of its Nazi past.

Dr. David Goldberg, President,  
and Mr. Edgardo A. Gorenberg, Secretary,  
Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations,  
Pasteur 633, 5th Floor,  
Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA.

It has demonstrated concretely in countless ways its commitment to democratic ideals and human rights, including standing shoulder to shoulder with us in the Alliance in defense of freedom. The President's trip to Bitburg, <sup>at the personal invitation of Chancellor Kohl which</sup> included a visit to the large Bitburg Air Base, <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ houses members of both the U.S. and German Air Forces, <sup>was made in the</sup> ~~spirit of reconciliation -- not forgiveness --~~ <sup>between erstwhile enemies.</sup>

<sup>The President believes</sup> It is important to demonstrate, particularly to the younger generation in Germany, that although we continue to hold the nation responsible for its past, we do not consider them to bear individual responsibility for the crimes of Nazism. The President did not consider his appearance at Bitburg to represent an act of forgiveness for those crimes. Rather, it was an acknowledgment of the democratic society the German people have built. He considered this to be a positive gesture which in no way detracted from his full and heartfelt commitment to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust and the American soldiers who gave their lives to defeat the Nazi regime and its <sup>terrible</sup> crimes.

Sincerely,

<sup>put a halt to</sup>

cc: C. Damon > Room 94  
Dm Engle

$\frac{S}{out}$   
out

QAD



National Security Council  
The White House

RECEIVED System #

Package #

85 JUL 12 P 1: 43

*Handwritten initials*

I

4626

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	<u>1</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
William Martin			
John Poindexter			
Paul Thompson			
Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane			
William Martin			
NSC Secretariat	<u>2</u>		<u>A</u>
Situation Room			

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

cc: VP Regan Buchanan Other \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Date/Time)

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

July 8, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM F. MARTIN

FROM:

JACQUELINE TILLMAN *JT*

SUBJECT:

President Goldberg May 2 Letter to the President

U.S. Ambassador to Argentina, Frank Ortiz, received a letter from a delegation of Argentine Jews regarding the President's visit to the Bitburg cemetery. He was asked to forward it to the White House. State has drafted a response to send to Sally Kelly for signature. We concur with the response, as amended.

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward your memorandum to Sally Kelly.

Approve *WMP* Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

*TC*, *CM*  
Cobb, Menges concur.

Attachments:

- Tab I Your memo to Sally Kelly
- Tab II State's draft reply
- Tab III Incoming letter with translation

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DIVISION OF LANGUAGE SERVICES

(TRANSLATION)

LS NO. 116567  
EL/JF  
Spanish

Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations

Pasteur 633, 5th floor

Buenos Aires, May 2, 1985

The Honorable  
Frank V. Ortiz  
Ambassador of the United States of America  
Colombia 4300

Mr. Ambassador:

We have the unavoidable duty of writing to you in the name of the Judeo-Argentine community to express our deep consternation at the decision of President Ronald Reagan to visit, while he is in the Federal Republic of Germany, the military cemetery at Bitburg, where members of the Nazi SS are buried who died in battle against the democratic allies.

The attitude of the U.S. President causes inconceivable sadness and bitter disappointment in the hearts of the members of the community we represent, a community inseparably bound to the united Jewish destiny and zealous in its custody of the high principles of freedom and human dignity.

These principles are violated when the President of the largest democracy in the world, which paid a generous tribute in young lives to crush Nazism, performs an act that could be

considered a vindication of the genocide of six million Jews--in the most horrifying holocaust in history--and of the despotic regime which tried to degrade the human condition with death and cruel oppression.

We ask you to transmit to your government the substance of what is stated above, the profound feeling of the Jewish community of Argentina, and we take this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Ambassador, the assurances of our highest consideration.

[Signature]

Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
Secretary

[Signature]

Dr. David Goldberg  
President

*Delegación de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas*  
*D. A. I. A.*

PASTEUR 633 5º Piso

TEL. 47-9442/9742

Buenos Aires, mayo 2 de 1985

Señor Embajador de los  
 Estados Unidos de Norteamérica  
 D. Frank V. Ortiz  
 Colombia 4300  
 S/D

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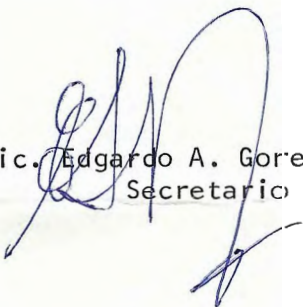
Señor Embajador:

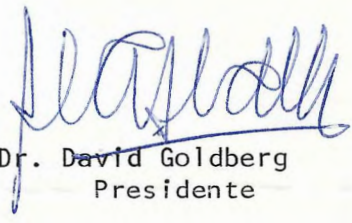
Cumplimos con el inexcusable deber de dirigirnos a usted con el fin de expresarle, en nombre de la comunidad judeoargentina, la profunda consternación de ésta ante la decisión del Presidente de los Estados Unidos, Sr. Ronald Reagan, de concurrir durante su visita a la República Federal Alemana, al cementerio militar de Bitburg, donde se encuentran sepultados miembros de la S.S. nazi, caídos en lucha contra los aliados democráticos.

La actitud del mandatario norteamericano produce inculcable tristeza y amarga decepción en el seno de la comunidad que representamos, inseparablemente ligada al destino mancomunado judío y celosa de la custodia de los altos principios de libertad y dignidad humana.

Estos se ven vulnerados cuando el Presidente de la mayor democracia del mundo, que pagó generoso tributo en vidas jóvenes para aplastar al nazismo, efectúa un acto pasible de ser considerado como reivindicativo de los genocidas de los seis millones de judíos -en el más horrendo Holocausto de la historia- y del despótico régimen que pretendió degradar la condición humana con la muerte y la cruel opresión.

Al rogar a usted quiera transmitir a su Gobierno el significado de todo lo arriba expuesto, que es el profundo sentir de la comunidad judía de la Argentina, hacemos propicia la oportunidad para saludar al Señor Embajador con nuestra consideración más distinguida.

  
 Lic. Edgardo A. Gorenberg  
 Secretario

  
 Dr. David Goldberg  
 Presidente

RECEIVED 07 JUN 85 13

TO PRESIDENT

FROM GOLDBERG, DAVID

DOCDATE 02 MAY 85

GORENBERG, EDGARDO

02 MAY 85

KEYWORDS: ARGENTINA

FRG

SUBJECT PRES GOLDBERG 2 MAY LTR TO PRES

ACTION: TRANSLATION / RECOMMENDATIONS DUE: 18 JUN 85 STATUS D FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

STATE

TILLMAN

NORTH

MENGES

BURGHARDT

PEARSON

COMMENTS

REF#

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NSCIFID

(LF DR)

ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
J	6/9	See d/s 15 8517012		RS
Tillman	5 7/2	Mem Martin to	7/6	
		Sally Kelley		
C	7/13	Martin Sgt memo		WM, JT, MECO

DISPATCH Dys 7/13 EA 4 WATCH FILE WLT (C) DR

Ag

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TR123-01  
WE001  
F008

August 1, 1985

Dear Mrs. Widell: Sharon L.

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan following his visit to Bitburg Air Base in May. I regret the delay in this response, but our efforts to determine the circumstances surrounding the difficulties you cited in your letter prevented us from answering as quickly as we would like.

First of all, on behalf of the President, let me express his regret that you and your daughter, as well as her fellow second-graders, were unable to greet him on this occasion. The White House Advance Office informs us that your daughter's class was seated at a prominent place in the crowd for the President's visit with the hope that, circumstances permitting, the President would have the opportunity to greet the students and thank them for their kind invitation to Mrs. Reagan to visit their classroom.

As you can understand, such factors as the size of the crowd, the requirements of the President's schedule, and the need for security influence any decision for the President to greet individuals attending an event. Because these factors are affected by the situation at a given site once an event is underway, decisions for the President to greet members of the crowd are not always made in advance. In this case, no meeting was promised and, as it turned out, the size of the crowd and security considerations prevented the President from meeting the students.

I can assure you that there is nothing the President enjoys more than spending time with young Americans, particularly those who are members of Armed Forces families serving our nation overseas. Every effort is made during Presidential visits to ensure that he is visible to all the attendees, and I know you will understand that even with the most meticulous planning it is impossible to assure that every person in an audience has the opportunity to see him.

Once again, I hope you will accept our apology for the disappointment you felt on this occasion. I am enclosing for your daughter a signed photograph of President Reagan and a copy of the White House Booklet, which I hope she will enjoy having.

Your kind words for the President mean a great deal to him, and he has asked me to send you and your family his warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Mrs. Sharon I. Widell  
Post Office Box 4353  
APO New York 09123-5374

AVH/CAD/blb (7AVHA)

✓ WHcc: Rep. David Harris  
cc: Advance Office

✓ Sign photo at  
Striping Rest  
Note 2 enclosures



AVH:CAD:

*side  
and*

*with*

Dear Mrs. Widell:

Thank you for your letter to President Reagan following his visit to Bit-burg Air Base in May. I regret the delay in this response, but our efforts to determine the circumstances surrounding the difficulties you cited in your letter prevented us from answering as quickly as we would like.

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Your kind words for the President mean a great deal to him, and he has asked me to send you and your family his warm best wishes.

WHcc: Rep. David Harris  
cc: Advance Office *state Rep.*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 7/5/85

TO: Advance

ACTION:

- Review/Approval
- Recommendation
- Information Copy
- Draft Reply
- As we discussed

DATE ACTION NEEDED:

COMMENT: Do you have any background on this that might help us in responding? Thanks.

CHARLES A. DONOVAN  
Presidential Correspondence  
Room 94, OEOB - x7610



DISTRICT OFFICE:  
1655 SO. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60005-3724  
312/952-1995

CAPITOL OFFICE:  
2132 STRATTON BUILDING  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62706-0001  
217/782-7776

COMMITTEES:  
REVENUE  
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS  
ELECTIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

**DAVID HARRIS**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 53RD DISTRICT

July 17, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: CHARLES A. DONOVAN  
FROM: DAVID HARRIS *David Harris*  
SUBJECT: Background on Bitburg Correspondence

In reference to the letter The President received from the parent of a second grade student at Bitburg AFB, West Germany (letter attached), let me relay the following information. Hopefully this will be helpful to you in deciding whether or not to respond; and by the way, I do believe a response would be appropriate. Give me a call if you have any further questions.

I was the Lead Advanceman at Bitburg, and during the course of my team's work there, it was discovered that the second grade class from the Bitburg AFB elementary school had invited The First Lady to visit their class when she was in Germany. The invitation was extended in January or early February prior to any itinerary being set. The class received a note from The First Lady's office saying that a visit would probably not be possible.

When it was determined that The President would visit Bitburg AFB, I made arrangements with the school principal to have the second grade class sit right at the front of the crowd. The principal was told that if time and circumstance permitted, The President might be able to come over to the crowd area and say hello to the second graders. No meeting was ever promised; however I'm not sure that is the message which was passed along to the kids.

As things worked out, the crowd was too large and security barriers not strong enough for The President to work the ropeline; therefore, he did not have the opportunity to greet the second graders. The fact that The President did not acknowledge the students in his remarks, I cannot account for. I thought speechwriting was plugged in regarding the children; perhaps they didn't fit into the context of a very significant speech.

As for the letter writer's inability to see The President, that can only be attributed to a larger-than-expected crowd and the bad luck of the draw as to a place to stand. The President was positioned in the middle of the tarmac in clear sight of virtually everyone, and I would find it hard to believe that he was not seen by 99.8% of the people in attendance.

P.O. Box 4353

APO NY 09123-5374

10 May 85

After 1 June 85 General Delivery  
Griffis AFB, N.Y.

13441

Dear President Reagan,

On 5 May 85 you made a visit to Bitburg AB, West Germany. While I was personally honored at the idea of seeing you, I was elated to think my second grader, Amy, and her class would actually meet you. Amy and her class had written to you before the Presidential Election as well as after the Election. In fact, you sent Amy an Inauguration Announcement, which she cherishes.

Amy's class waited patiently for three hours for an opportunity to talk to you. Her class was seated with the honored guests at the front near the podium.

That opportunity never came. I wish there was something I could have done to ease their disappointment. Even an acknowledgement that they were there would have been enough. If your schedule did not permit a hello from you, I wish the children would have been spared the disappointment. As you can probably tell, I am protective of children, especially when I feel their feelings are not considered by adults.

It was interesting to see how visible you were to the Germans at Hambach Castle. It was good to see that many were actually able to see you. My husband and I, as well as others, waited patiently for three hours to see you. All we saw was the tail of Air Force One. If it were not for the sound of your voice, I would not have known you were there. The podium was placed where it was, I was told, for security reasons. Am I to believe that Americans and the military are more likely

to present a security risk than the Germans? All military and their dependents had to give Identification Card or Passport Numbers to obtain a Pass to see you. Then we were checked by metal detectors as well as Security Personnel who checked purses and cameras. Believe me, I am not objecting to the security measures. You are the Commander-in-Chief of the military forces, and I feel it is too bad that so many military never even caught a glimpse of you.

President Reagan, you are such an honorable man and one who commands respect. You have restored integrity to the Office of President. Please respect my views even if you disagree and view them as only as constructive and not to find fault. I felt I had to express my opinion.

God bless you, always.

Sincerely,  
Sharon L. Widell

CHAIRMAN  
JACK F. KEMP, M.C.  
31ST DISTRICT, NEW YORK

VICE-CHAIRMAN  
LYNN MARTIN, M.C.  
16TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

SECRETARY  
ROBERT J. LAGOMARSINO, M.C.  
19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA



Republican Conference  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

ROOM 1618  
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
202-225-5107

DAVE HOPPE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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C0054-02

PK  
PL

JV

April 22, 1985

Mr. Jack Gilder  
Room 100  
The Old Executive Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Jack:

Whoever is working on speech material for Bitburg may be interested in looking at Frederick Douglass's autobiography, "My Life and Times." Chapter sixteen includes an account of his visit to his former slave master after the war and may contain some material that might be useful with respect to the Bitburg problem.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Teti*  
Dennis Teti





19 April 1985

TO: Josh Gilder  
Presidential Speechwriting  
The White House

FROM: Ed McNally

Good luck with this headache.

The attached materials are  
the Lincoln addresses we discussed this  
morning.

MARCH 4, 1865

State, in compliance with the requirements of the 18th. Section of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the Diplomatic and Consular Systems of the United States," Approved August 18th. 1856.

Washi[ngton, March 3, 1865] [ABRAHAM LINCOLN]

<sup>1</sup> DS, DNA RG 46, Senate 38A F3. Part of the date and signature have been torn from the document. The accompanying report may be found in Thirty-eighth Congress, Second Session, *Senate Executive Document No. 32*.

## Second Inaugural Address<sup>1</sup>

[Fellow Countrymen:]

March 4, 1865

At this second appearing to take the oath of the presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued, seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention, and engrosses the energies [*sic*] of the nation, little that is new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil-war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to *saving* the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to *destroy* it without war—seeking to dissol[v]e the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would *make* war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would *accept* war rather than let it perish. And the war came.

One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part<sup>2</sup> of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already

MARCH 4, 1865

attained. Neither anticipated that the *cause* of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three<sup>3</sup> thousand years ago, so still it must be said "the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether"

With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.<sup>4</sup>

[Endorsement]

Original manuscript of second Inaugural presented to Major John Hay. A. LINCOLN

April 10. 1865

<sup>1</sup> AD, DLC. The salutation is not in Lincoln's handwriting. An autograph copy of the final paragraph, written by Lincoln at the request of Mrs. John P. Usher, is now owned by Arthur Wendell, Rahway, New Jersey.

<sup>2</sup> Lincoln deleted "half" and inserted "part."

<sup>3</sup> Lincoln first wrote "four," erased it and substituted "three."

<sup>4</sup> Lincoln deleted "the world" and inserted "all nations."

for an attack by 15,000 of the Union line. A. P. S. senior commander, by one of Longstreet's, George E. Pickett, Longstreet was slow aration began at 1:00 el ensued until the d to cease fire to con, when he was told ry was running out of ve the command to ile (about 1 km) of o cross, yet the 15,000 e Union artillery tore. Only a few men. They captured a ut could not hold it. e" have become syn- valor. e Union and Confed- a battle east of the ping to attack the ck. A Union cavalry an of the Confederate

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate—we can not consecrate—we can not hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



HERBERT LANKS-PIX

SITE OF GETTYSBURG ADDRESS is marked by a memorial with a bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln.

forces at Gettysburg en. The Confederates the field. The Union captured, and missing while the Confeder- casualties; but the men, for its manpower

**GETTYSBURG ADDRESS**, the memorable words spoken by President Abraham Lincoln at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery at Gettysburg, Pa., on Nov. 19, 1863.

**Circumstances.** For three days in early July 1863, one of the most critical battles of the American Civil War was fought outside the village of Gettysburg. When it was over, more than 7,000 soldiers, Northern and Southern, were buried in temporary graves near where they fell. On Cemetery Ridge, the site of the village cemetery, which had been the center of the Union line during the battle, land was purchased for a permanent military cemetery. Within the next few months the Union dead and nearly 1,000 unidentifiable corpses, Union and Confederate, were disinterred and reburied. Southern soldiers were reburied after the war in Southern cities.

**Ceremonies.** The cemetery was formally dedicated on November 19 in the presence of President Lincoln, cabinet members, governors of Northern states, and other civil and military officials. The principal speaker was Edward Everett, a distinguished public servant, who was considered the nation's foremost orator.

Everett gave the crowd of 15,000 what it expected and wanted to hear—a long and learned oration full of classical allusions, historical parallels, and a vigorous denunciation of secession. After the singing of a hymn, Lincoln rose to speak the brief words of dedication.

**The Address.** Lincoln had prepared his speech carefully, and had not, as tradition says, dashed it off on the back of an envelope aboard the train from Washington. The Union victory at Gettysburg had been momentous. It demonstrated that if the will of the Northern people to fight on could be sustained, the Union ultimately would triumph. Lincoln was anxious to pay a suitable tribute to the men who had given their lives to make such a victory possible. He may also have wished to neutralize an unflattering story his political opponents were telling about his visit to the battlefield at Antietam, Md., in 1862.

While riding in an ambulance across the field where so many men had died two weeks earlier, Lincoln had asked a friend to relieve the grimness of the moment with a song. The opposition press reported the incident as if Lincoln had desecrated a holy spot with ribald songs and laughter. At Gettysburg he could express the reverence he truly felt.

There are five copies of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting. The first, owned by the President's secretary, John G. Nicolay, was probably the copy actually read at Gettysburg. Each of the others, written during the next few months at the request of individuals, including Edward Everett, contain minor variations. It is not until the third, or Everett, copy, for example, that the words "under God" appear, although it is possible that Lincoln interpolated the phrase while reading the original copy. The fifth version, incorporating Lincoln's final revisions, hangs in the Lincoln Room in the White House. It is reprinted above.

**Reaction.** The Gettysburg Address was quickly recognized as a literary masterpiece even though a few opposition newspapers predictably disparaged it. So elegant and graceful is Lincoln's simple prose-poem that the grandeur of its message is obscured. Yet, Edward Everett wrote to Lincoln, "I should be glad if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion in two hours as you did in two minutes." The central idea of the occasion—and the whole purpose of the Civil War as Lincoln saw it—was that the people of the United States should fight on to victory, not for its own sake, not even for the sake of the black slaves, but—to paraphrase his words—so that nations conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal would not perish from the earth.

WILLIAM HANCHETT, San Diego State College

evening of July 4, at to Virginia. Many ized General Meade ying Lee's army be- c. These criticisms, he assumption that he thoroughly defeated is attacks had been ue, but a vigorous d extensive damage, e ill afforded. r 4, the Confederate ated. The Mississippi orthern shipping, and o. The decisive vic- g simultaneously with marked the turning en the North could outh fought on for very little hope. JOSEPH B. MITCHELL es of the Civil War"

West Point Atlas of York 1959). uenants, 3 vols. (New J. C., eds., Battles and vols. (New York 1956). William R., The Story 1933). at Gettysburg (Harris- Campaigns (Harrisburg, of Gettysburg (Harris- usburg (Indianapolis he Rebellion, Official ferite Armies (Wash-

E  
US 1728  
R128

W618  
A109

EP

The President has seen

LAURENCE W. BEILENSEN  
1946 NORTH GRAMERCY PLACE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90068  
TELEPHONE (213) 467-6479

Mr. Reagan  
335835  
5300  
TR 123.01  
CO 054-02  
PR 005-02

W/S

May 3, 1985

President Ronald Reagan

Dear Mr. President:

You were right to refuse to bend to the journalistic outcry against your visit to Bitburg Cemetery. Morally, Christianity enjoins forgiveness. Wise statecraft commands that if we accept the West Germans as a major member of the North Atlantic Alliance, we cannot treat them as pariahs.

The same voices which condemned your visit applauded:

Israel's acceptance of reparations from the West Germans;

Israel's extended hand to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who commanded a submarine in World War II under Hitler;

Nixon's toasts to Mao Zedong, whose hands were still dripping the blood of the millions of innocents he had slaughtered;

Tip O'Neill's visit to Gorbachev, who is still killing the Afghans;

Your prospective visit to Gorbachev, whose predecessors murdered more persons than Hitler.

If a nation is always to be held responsible for past horrors, let us not forget:

That the German pamphleteers first used the appellation "Huns" to describe the French, following Louis XIV's burnings and killings in the Palatinate, where Bitburg is located;

That Cromwell, while ruling England, killed off a third of the Irish;

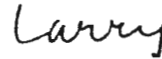
That Turkey massacred Armenians plus all and sundry;

That from colonial times to the Civil War, Americans held the negro in slavery, not to mention what we did to the Indians.

I could go on endlessly. The pages of history are steeped in the blood of the innocents. Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.

We should remember humankind's inhumanity, but not to perpetuate it by wars of revenge. Good morals and wise statesmanship dictated your courageous stand.

Sincerely,



LAURENCE W. BEILENSEN

LWB:dc

Dictated but not signed

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

May 30, 1985

336259  
VI 1101  
TR 123-01  
PR002  
N1A034

Dear Mr. Luxner:

On behalf of President Reagan, I want to acknowledge receipt of your message regarding his decision to visit the military cemetery at Bitburg, West Germany. The personal concern that prompted you to write the President and to enclose the items you earned as a result of your military service is fully understood. As he said on May 5, the President regrets that his decision to proceed with this visit caused loyal Americans a measure of pain in what should have been a time of healing.

With this letter, I am returning to you the items you sent to the President as a sign of your deep disagreement with his action. Your statement has been brought to the attention of all the appropriate members of the Administration. I hope you will understand, in turn, our view that the items you enclosed signify your accomplishments in service to our country, and that their importance can in no way be diminished by any current controversy. You earned these awards in the defense of peace and freedom, and for that reason we believe that they should remain in your possession as a symbol for you and your loved ones of both your courage and sacrifice.

The President has asked me to send you his best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Anne Higgins  
Special Assistant to the President  
and Director of Correspondence

Mr. Mort Luxner  
Post Office Box 25487  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33320

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~~Mr. Mort Luxner  
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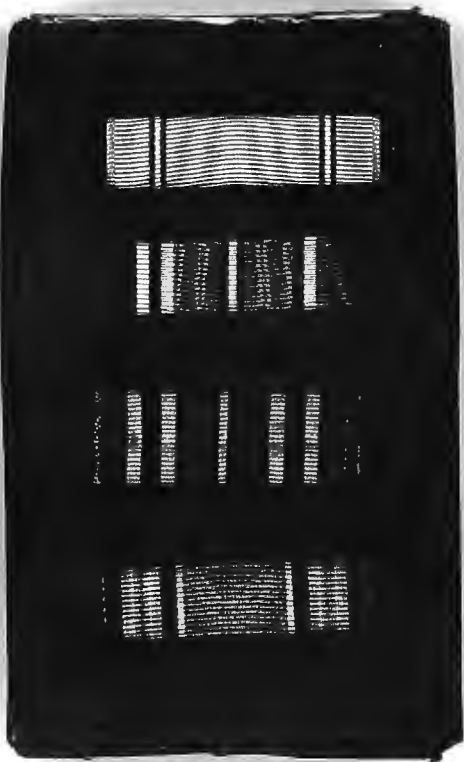
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DESCRIPTION:

*4 military service ribbons from WWII:  
From Mr. Mont Luxner*

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