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ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

| NT: | DATE: | LEAD ADVANCE: | DATE PREP'D | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Bitburg AB, | 5 May 85 | David Harris | 10 May 85 | | | | |
| EWED F-Film SC- UNIT ARES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Miss. or Mrs. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW REASON | |
| | | COL | James Stewart Vice Commander 36th Tactical Fighter Wing | Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | primary point of con- tact for The Presi- dent's visit | | |
| | | COL | Peter D. Robinson Commander 36th Tactical Fighter Wing | Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance and coordinational help | | |
| | | COL | Bennie B. Blansett Base Commander | Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | point of contact for for logistical help | | |
| | | | The Honorable Theo Hallet Mayor | Bitburg Federal Republic of Germany | primary point of con- tact for visit to Bitburg cemetary | | |
| | | *The above 4 individuals met The President upon arrival of Air Force 1.* | | | | | |
| | | SMSgt | John T. Parker | Bitburg Air Base 36 CSG/SVH APO NY 09132 | provided logistical support in setting up advance offices | | |
| | | Mr. | George Kuss | Bitburg Air Base 36 CSG/SVH APO NY 09132 | provided carpentry and other help on several projects. | | |
| | | Mr. | George I. Price | 36 CSG/CC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | coordinated the crowd activities at the base on the day of the visit | | |

*RR sent
6/17/85*

*Re: trip to Bitburg, Germany
 355744
 PR 123-01
 09001*

ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

| NT: Bitburg AB, | | DATE: 5 May 85 | LEAD ADVANCE: David Harris | DATE PREP'D 10 May 85 | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| EWED F-File SC- UNIT RRES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Mrs. or MIL. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW REASON |
| | | Mrs. | Judith M. Hall | PO Box 1307 Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance staff office | |
| | | Mrs. | Sandra L. Gaskin | 36 TFW/AC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance press office | |
| | | SrA | Kathleen A. Stewart | 36 EMS/MAEA Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance staff office | |
| | | SSgt | Sharon F. Waite | 36 CRS/MACA Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance staff office | |
| | | Mrs. | Vicki A. Muellner | PSC 1, Box 806 Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance staff office | |
| | | MAJ | Barnett Zircle ("Major Zircle and Staff") | HQ USAFE/DAR Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | his group prepared reproduction support for meetings, briefings | |
| | | LtCol | Michael Zettler | 36 AGS/CC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | he was the Commander of Troops which The President and Chan- cellor Kohl reviewed | |

ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

| NT: Bitburg AB, | DATE: 5 May 85 | LEAD ADVANCE: David Harris | DATE PREP'D 10 May 85 | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| REVISED F-File SC- UNIT RAES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Ms., Mrs. or Mrl. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW/ REASON |
| | | CMSgt | Stephen W. Powers <i>Chief Master Sgt.</i> | 36 TFW/CMS Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | Senior Enlisted Ad- visor on base and a big help with all military aspects of the visit | |
| | | CMSgt | Donald E. Andrews <i>Dear Sergeant,</i> | 36 CSG/SP Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | First Sergeant of the Security Police | |
| | | CMSgt | Peter E. Loos | 36 SVS/CC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance food services supt. | |
| | | CMSgt | Mark A. Ross | 36 CSG/CC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance aircraft maintenance | |
| | | Mr. | Fusch Serger | Holiday Inn An der Mosel 5500 Trier Federal Republic of Germany | Manager of the Holiday Inn, Trier (the ad- vance team stayed there) | |
| | | SSgt | Dan Generette | 36 TFW/LGT Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | managed motor pool | |
| | | SSgt | Donald Miller | (ditto) | motor pool/motorcade driver | |
| | | AlC | Paul Shullick <i>Aprman / Class</i> | (ditto) | (ditto) | |

ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

NT: Bitburg AB, **DATE:** 5 May 85 **LEAD ADVANCE:** David Harris **DATE PREP'D**

| NEWED F-File SC- LIMIT RAES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Mrl. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW REASON |
|--|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| | | ALC | Michael Milliken | 36 TFW/LGT Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | motor pool/motorcade driver | |
| | | ALC | Richard Steffes | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | SrA | John Ramsey | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | ALC | Christopher Zeher | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | ALC | Mary Horan | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | ALC | Michael Case | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | SrA | Jeffrey Clements | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Sgt | Cedric Garner | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | ALC | Ronald Hessil | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | ALC | Marcos Lavrador | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | SSgt | Mark Martus | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Mr. | Anton Bures | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Mr. | Wilhelm LeJeune | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Mr. | Helmut Lockermans | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Mr. | Hans-Josef Marzi | (ditto) | (ditto) | |
| | | Mr. | Werner Fredrich Vogt | (ditto) | (ditto) | |

ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

| NT: Bitburg AB, | DATE: 5 May 85 | LEAD ADVANCE: David Harris | DATE PREP'D | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|---|--|
| REVISED F-File SC- UNIT RRES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Mrs., Miss, or MIL. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW REASON |
| | | Mr. | David W. Morris | 36 CSG/SVH Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance | |
| | | ALC | Paul R. Maerski | 36 TFW/DAD Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance (jack-of-all trades run-any-errand type) | |
| | | Mr. | Andrew Voss | 36 CES/DEED Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | provided scale diagrams for event sites | |
| | | ALC | Albert Watkins | 36 CSG/SVH Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance | |
| | | SrA | Steven Pelechowicz | 36 TRANS/LGTM Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | general assistance | |
| | | Mrs. | Lydie Hangen | 36 TFW/PAC Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | community relations advisor who acted as translator and go-between with the Mayor. She was of tremendous help! | |
| | | Mrs. | Ann M. Jones | 36 CSG/DA Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | worked in advance staff office | |

ADVANCE REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL THANK-YOU

| NT: Bitburg AB, | | | DATE: 5 May 85 | LEAD ADVANCE: David Harris | DATE PREP'D 10 May 85 | |
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| REVISED F-File SC- LIMIT RAES. | PERSON'S CAPACITY .. | PREFIX: Mr., Ms., Miss. or Mrs. | NAME, TITLE, GROUP NAME | ADDRESS, Phone # | DESCRIPTION Gift, Activity(ies), Reason for T-Y | DATE LETTER SENT OR *NLW/ REASON |
| | | Mr. | Hans-Werner Schumacher | Zum Discholls 4 5210 Troisdorf 18 Federal Republic of Germany | motor pool driver for 2 week period | |
| | | Mr. | Gunther Dechene | InterRent Autovermietung GmbH Paulinstrasse 72 5500 Trier Federal Republic of Germany | motor pool driver for 2 week period | |
| | | | Mr. O'Gara's Second Grade Class | Bitburg Elementary School Bitburg Air Base APO NY 09132 | Mr. O'Gara had written to Mrs. Reagan extending an invitation to visit their class. We couldn't do that, but we put the class in the front at The President's speech. | |

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9/19/85

file

Chuck:

I received this from Nancy
Theis this week. Mayor Hallet
and Colonel Blansett have been
thanked (Blansett by Major
Robert Ivany, Army Aide to the
President).

I check with Joni Stevens who
told me that General Caufield
advises that Major Ivany has
made attempt to thank every
service "person" affiliated with
trip. Considering tardiness
and thank-yous already sent,
I suggest we file.

Pat

Ken
clips? yes

CA

417301

1150

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TR123-01

Bonn, Germany

0054-02

MEDD1-01

MEDD6-01

January 10, 1986

WEDD9

PPDD501

FDD02

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC

RATHSACK, MELGA
RULH, HANS ARNOLD
STERNEDICK, WEYNER

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

I have the honor to transmit to you the attached
message from the German Federation of Parents' Groups of
Drug Endangered and Drug Addicted Adolescents.

Sincerely,

Rick

Richard R. Burt
Ambassador

Enclosure:
Letter and Informal Translation

Informal Translation - American Embassy Bonn, January 10, 1986

Federation of Parents' Groups of Drug Endangered and Drug Addicted Adolescents

Mrs. Nancy Reagan
The White House of Washington

via the Embassy of the United States of America in the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn

December 18, 1985

Dear Mrs. Reagan:

On the occasion of your visit to the Federal Republic of Germany in May of this year you took a special interest in the work of the German parents' groups and presented to our Federation a donation from the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS FOR DRUG FREE YOUTH in the amount of \$ 5,000. We were pleased to receive this generous gift which has helped us in our work. At the end of this year, we wish to personally pass on to you our parents' groups thanks for the donation.

You became acquainted with the work of a German parents' group during your visit to Bonn. Although the methods the parents' groups of our Federation work with are different, they all have the same objective. We want to continue to give strength and hope to parents of drug addicted adolescents and children so that the problems in their families can be solved and the drug addicts can be helped.

Your commitment and your example attracts the attention of all of the German addicts' treatment programs. We thank you for your worldwide effort in the fight against drugs, in drug prevention and in the encouragement of parents' groups.

The Federation of Parents' Groups of Drug Endangered and Drug Addicted Adolescents has experienced remarkable support this year due to the patronage of the wife of the President of the Federal Republic, Marianne Freifrau von Weizsäcker. We are confident that the personal relationship between you and our patroness has benefited all of the drug enforcement and treatment programs.

Merry Christmas to you and your husband, the President of the United States of America, and best wishes for a successful and peaceful 1986. We thank you once again for the generous donation.

In the name of the Federation of Parents' Groups,

Yours sincerely,

/S/
Werner Sternebeck
Parents' Group Bremen

/S/
Helga Rathsack
Parents' Groups Berlin

/S/
Hans Arnold Ruh
Managing Director

Bundesverband der Elternkreise drogengefährdeter und drogenabhängiger Jugendlicher



Schirmherrin: Marianne Freifrau von Weizsäcker

Bundesverband der Elternkreise, Postfach 16 67, 4700 Hamm 1

Frau
Nancy Reagan
The White House of Washington

vermittelt über die Botschaft der
Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika
in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Bonn

Bundesgeschäftsstelle:
Jägerallee 5
Postfach 16 67
4700 Hamm 1
Tel.: (0 23 81) 87 69

Bankverbindung:
Sparkasse Hamm
BLZ: 410 500 95
Kto.-Nr. 400 400 8

Ihre Zeichen

Ihr Schreiben

Unsere Zeichen

Datum

EK/mi.

18. Dezember 1985

Sehr verehrte Frau Reagan!

Anlässlich Ihres Besuches in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland im Mai dieses Jahres, haben Sie sich in besonderer Weise für die Arbeit der deutschen Elternkreise interessiert und unserem Bundesverband eine Spende der NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARENTS FOR DRUG FREE YOUTH über \$ 5.000,- überreicht. Dieses großzügige Geschenk hat uns sehr gefreut und uns in unserer Arbeit ermutigt. Inzwischen haben unsere Elternkreise auf die Nachricht von Ihrer Spende sehr positiv reagiert und sich dafür bedankt. Diesen Dank möchten wir nun am Ende dieses Jahres persönlich an Sie weitergeben.

Sie haben die deutsche Elternkreisarbeit an einem konkreten Beispiel bei Ihrem Besuch in Bonn kennengelernt. Die Methoden, mit denen die Elternkreise im Bundesverband arbeiten, sind zum Teil sehr unterschiedlich. Sie alle haben jedoch dasselbe Ziel. Wir wollen weiterhin Eltern drogenabhängiger Jugendlicher und Kinder Kraft und Hoffnung geben, damit die Probleme in ihren Familien gelöst und den Drogenabhängigen geholfen werden kann.

Ihr Engagement und Ihr Vorbild finden in der ganzen Deutschen Suchtkrankenhilfe viel Beachtung. Wir danken Ihnen für Ihr weltweites Bemühen in der Drogenbekämpfung, in der Suchtvorbeugung und in der Stärkung der Elternarbeit.


- 2 -


Der Bundesverband der Elternkreise drogengefährdeter und drogenabhängiger Jugendlicher hat in diesem Jahr eine große Förderung erfahren durch die Übernahme der Schirmherrschaft der Gattin des deutschen Bundespräsidenten, Marianne Freifrau von Weizsäcker. Wir sind sicher, daß die persönlichen Verbindungen zwischen Ihnen und unserer Schirmherrin der gesamten Drogenbekämpfung und Suchtkrankenhilfe zugute gekommen ist.

Ihnen und Ihrem Gatten, dem Präsidenten der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika, wünschen wir ein gesegnetes und frohes Weihnachtsfest. Gleichzeitig übermitteln wir Ihnen beiden unsere besten Wünsche für ein erfolgreiches und friedliches Jahr 1986. Wir bedanken uns noch einmal für Ihre großzügige Spende.

Im Namen des Bundesverbandes der Elternkreise grüßen Sie


Werner Sternebeck
Elternkreis Bremen


Helga Rathsack
Elternkreise Berlin


Hans Arnold Ruh
Bundesgeschäftsführer

CF

Sg

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 1985

454400
TR123-01
FB006-01

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL DEEVER

FROM: FAITH WHITTLESEY *FHW*

TR

I am leaving as you know. I would like to discuss this letter with you if you have a chance. This letter has not been delivered to the President. I am leaving it with you. It will require some kind of an answer. You should know that the group is completely flexible as to the proposed location of the religious service. It need not be at Dachau.

In my judgement, the downside domestically of failing to acknowledge the human rights aspect of W.W. II slaughter will be significant in the religious community, Christian as well as Jewish.

If you decide to stand by the original decision, I will convey the message through the intermediary who came to me. I have shown the letter to Pat Buchanan and Craig Fuller. Both indicated it was up to you.

There will be no publicity regarding this letter from the signatories. It is completely confidential and will remain so.

re: the President's visit to Dachau

April 2, 1985

The President
The White House

My dear Mr. President:

We, along with many Americans, are aware of and concerned about your announced decision not to visit Dachau, during your forthcoming visit to West Germany as the guest of its government to join in the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of V-E Day.

We also are aware of your conviction that this visit should not be a celebration of a victory in war but an occasion for reconciliation between former adversaries and present allies.

We, therefore, presume to offer a suggestion which, with deference to your sensitivities, would, nevertheless, permit an appropriate commemoration of the fact that V-E Day not only marks the end of World War II but also the liberation by allied forces of the survivors of the Holocaust from Dachau and the other death camps.

Our suggestion is that the undersigned undertake to invite you, if agreeable, to an ecumenical service, hosted by us, at Dachau during your visit to West Germany. This service would be non-governmental and non-political. We envisage a solemn and solely religious observance.

If our suggestion has merit, in your eyes, the undersigned would issue in our names an invitation to you to join us in such a service. Thus, the West German government would not be the host and the considerations which impelled you to announce that you would not visit Dachau would not apply.

Our proposal is founded on precedent. The undersigned, Archbishop O'Connor and Justice Goldberg were participants at a Human Rights Conference in Berchtesgaden several years ago. At that time the Archbishop was Chief of Chaplains of our Armed Forces, with the rank of Admiral, and the other clerical participants were Chief Chaplains of the NATO powers.

After Justice Goldberg delivered his address on the subject of basic human rights, it was suggested that the Conference recess and en masse conduct religious services at the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish chapels at Dachau. The visitation by the Conference, it was uniformly agreed, was appropriate, inasmuch as what occurred at Dachau and other death camps, was a supreme violation of fundamental human rights. Further, it was agreed that the services at Dachau would be solely religious.

It will interest you to know that rather than offending West German sensitivities, the visitation by the NATO Chaplains and the religious services they conducted at Dachau were welcomed by the West German Government and people. Indeed, the homily at the Catholic Chapel at Dachau was delivered by His Eminence, the Cardinal of Munich, who spoke in forthright terms of the horrendous violations of human rights which occurred there and in other death camps.

Further, the Cardinal emphasized that the lesson of the Holocaust needs telling again and again if reconciliation between Germans and Jews is to endure.

We express the hope that you will give due consideration to our proposal and advise us, at your early convenience, whether you deem it appropriate to join us for this solemn observance.

Respectfully yours,

+ John T. Walker
John T. Walker
Episcopal Bishop of Washington

+ John J. O'Connor
His Excellency John J. O'Connor
Archbishop of New York

Joshua O. Haberman
Rabbi Dr. Joshua O. Haberman
Senior Rabbi, Washington
Hebrew Congregation

Franklin H. Littell
The Rev. Dr. Franklin H. Littell
Professor of Religion
Temple University, Philadelphia

Elie Wiesel
Professor Elie Wiesel
Author & Chairman of the U.S.
Holocaust Memorial Council

Arthur J. Goldberg
Arthur J. Goldberg
Former Justice of the Supreme Court
and Honorary President of The
American Jewish Committee

§ The Washington Hebrew Congregation
3935 Macomb Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20016

466890
4000
TR123-01
C0054-02
ND009-01
FGD16

AB

December 9, 1988

Dear Miss Jones:

It has just come to my attention that you did not receive a note of thanks for your assistance during my May 1985 trip to Bitburg Air Base. While I must apologize for this belated response, please be assured of my gratitude.

I know how much hard work goes into making a Presidential visit successful. You have my appreciation for a job well done.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN A

Miss Ann M. Jones
4811 Bonny Circle
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302

RR:LBK:KC:AVH:jfc (12PMND)

8612, 9

This message to all
volunteers, attached.

PRESIDENTIAL THANK YOU NOTES

VARIATION LANGUAGE (P-84A)

TRIP: October 1985 - Cincinnati

Approved
Language

Dear _____:

It has ^{just} ~~recently~~ come to my attention that you ^{did} ~~have~~ not received a note of thanks for your assistance during my ~~trip to~~ October 1985 trip to Cincinnati. While I must apologize for this belated response, please ^{be assured} ~~know~~ that my gratitude is deep and sincere.

I know how much hard work goes into making a Presidential visit successful. You have my appreciation for a job well done.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

O.R.
per

Checking

with

Advance

4811 Bonny Circle
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
October 20, 1986

OK To SEND

The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500-0001

Dear Mr. President

I never thought I would be writing to The President of the United States, but I don't deceive myself by expecting an answer. However, something has been on my mind since your visit to Bitburg Air Base in May 1985.

I was a civilian employee who was hand picked to serve as the administrative assistant working directly for the head of the advance team sent in to arrange for your visit. There were four others working for me (two military administrative personnel, a civilian secretary GS employee, and a civilian secretary "volunteer"). We all worked very hard. A staff sergeant and I worked many 12-hour days, absorbing the brunt of the workload. I had never experienced the type of pressure we worked under those four weeks.

For the most part, we were volunteers for the job; and as such, we were doing the work because we wanted to do our part. However, we were told repeatedly that we would receive a "personal thank you from The President," a piece of paper to show the world that we did something "over and above" for our country. It's a good thing we feel good about the work we put in, because that's the only satisfaction we received. Our records contain nothing to document that we were part of that special team. There was no outward recognition.

I can live without a thank you letter, but please tell your advance teams not to promise such things if there is no way the promises will be kept. All of the admin people were instructed to keep lists of those who contributed to your visit--Security Police, clean up crews, supply personnel, Billeting employees who went out of their way to make us all comfortable--all were assured they would receive a personal letter from you. Many of these people were young airmen, new to the service, the first time overseas. It was a good opportunity for them to do something they could brag about when they got back home. We verbally thanked everyone as things happened, and I believe everyone who participated received a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Base Commander and an official of the German government; but, it really isn't the same. It would have been so easy for us to put a form on the computer and print out those routine letters to be sent to your office for signature stamping. But, we didn't.

Thanks for listening to just one more complaint from one of the underlings.

Respectfully yours,

Ann M. Jones
Ann M. Jones

1g

472395
TP123-11

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 26, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL HENKEL

FROM: Larry Speakes *LS*

As the President's schedule for May 5 is finalized, it is critical to view the events at Bergen-Belsen and Bitburg as one story. Therefore, an interchange is required between Hannover and Bitburg for the purpose of allowing press other than just the Air Force One pool to cover both events.

If members of the press are forced to choose between Bitburg and Bergen-Belsen, it is highly likely they will go to Bitburg and thus the President's message at Bergen-Belsen could be lost. We look for super-pool coverage at both events and have been assured of the availability of German helicopters to transport these extra people from Bergen-Belsen to the press charter at Hannover airport.

While the existing 20 minute hold time currently scheduled for the President aboard Air Force One would need to be maintained, the only additional time to the President's schedule would be the time needed to affect the interchange. The Filing Center would be located in Bitburg and no additional filing time would be required at Hannover.

In order to provide for the most comprehensive coverage of the President's activities and to prevent further unnecessary "negatives" I strongly request an interchange be inserted between Bergen-Belsen and Hannover.

cc: Don Regan
Mike Deaver ✓

g

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

472398

Santa Barbara

April 11, 1985

TR123-01

PR016

MEMORANDUM FOR MIKE DEEVER

FROM: Larry Speakes S

At our briefing today, we ran into some press problems regarding the President's visit to Bitburg German Military Cemetery. The press questions focused on the fact that the President is not visiting a concentration camp but is honoring what the press called "defenders of the Third Reich." I've attached the transcript of that part of the briefing.

I am afraid this could cloud the entire Europe trip if we don't mitigate it in some fashion.

cc: Bill Henkel
Jim Rentschler
Bob Sims

Attachment

Q Are you positive there are Americans buried at Bitburg because there are reports --

MR. SPEAKES: That right, Mark?

Q -- there are reports there are only Germans there.

MR. SPEAKES: Mark.

Q Well, I have a follow-up anyhow, which is that I'm a little puzzled, since you say that the theme of this trip is American commitment to individual freedom, why the President decided it would be better to visit a German military cemetery, where I believe they were considered the foes of individual freedom, and not go to any concentration camp as a reminder of what happened --

MR. SPEAKES: The President has --

Q -- when you don't have individual freedom.

MR. SPEAKES: The President has addressed that. Ask Mark back there, somebody, please about who's buried at the cemetery.

Q Larry, my impression when I was there was Germans and no Americans.

MR. SPEAKES: Germans, huh? Germans and Americans or just Germans in the cemetery.

MR. WEINBERG: That's what I was checking on. I'll be right back.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, okay.

Q We were told only Germans.

MR. SPEAKES: Well, we'll have to see.

The President has addressed that issue.

Q -- if I could follow, Larry, he didn't address at a time when -- now you say that the theme is -- individual freedom. And without even talking about concentration camp, what is the purpose of visiting a German military cemetery in light of that theme?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, let's be sure we know what we're talking about, see who's buried there.

Q Can I come back to that? Because --

Q I'd like to come back to it, too.

MR. SPEAKES: I was wrong. There are no Americans buried, German cemetery.

Q If that's the case, then, I mean, what is the rationale for --

MR. SPEAKES: The rationale is that, as the President stated, that he is there in a spirit of reconciliation, in a spirit of 40 years of peace, in a spirit of economic and military compatibility of the European community together with its specific allies.

It is interesting to note that the economic summits over the past 11 years have brought together people that 40 years ago were on the opposite ends of a great World War. And these people now sit down and discuss common problems and common issues. And that's what the President wishes to emphasize on it is peace and prosperity over 40 years.

Q Then why go at all?

Q But, Larry, isn't it ironic that he is paying homage to soldiers who killed Americans, as well as millions of others?

MR. SPEAKES: The President will, as you see, in his visit, stress the solidarity of the Western alliance and the ability for us to have pursued an unprecedented 40 years of peace in Europe.

Q Whose idea was it for him to go to a German cemetery?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't have to discuss whose ideas are what.

Q Larry, do we know anything about the German soldiers that are buried there?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't at the moment, but I'm sure we will.

Q Does Mark know or --

MR. SPEAKES: George.

MR. SKELTON: It's in the pool report.

MR. SPEAKES: Read George's report.

Q It's off the record. George's report is off the record.

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I do not know.

Q Your report's off the record?

Q Larry, according to the pool report --

MR. SKELTON: Well, is the pool report off the record now or what?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know what your rules are.

Q It is off the record?

MR. SPEAKES: I would assume it is because --

Q It is.

Q Can you arrange to have some of that put on the record, the factual information about the cemetery?

MR. SPEAKES: We'll --

Q Or could you make it available?

MR. SPEAKES: We will in due course, yes.

Q Will you do it today?

MR. SPEAKES: Mike. No.

Q Larry, he's paying homage, apparently, to the defenders of the Third Reich, while ignoring the victims of the Third Reich. Is there any way to directly address that?

MR. SPEAKES: Mike, I've said what I'm going to say. He's spoken on it. I've spoken on it. Enough said.

1985

474145
TR 135-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

W/S

April 14, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: PAT BUCHANAN

Last night CBS reported, and today the New York Times recorded for posterity, a genuine Communist historical outrage at the former Nazi concentration camp of Buchenwald. The American Liberators and Jewish victims were non-persons at the 40th Anniversary. In this Soviet-East German re-write of history, no credit was given to the liberating American soldiers; instead, the United States was smeared as a menace to peace.

The Soviets may have played into our hand, and provided us with an opportunity. We can now plausibly argue that the "Orwellian rewrite of history attempted yesterday at Buchenwald," the lie reminiscent of the thirties, calls forth a Presidential response. I.e., we have a changed situation, which calls forth a revised Presidential schedule in Germany, and a new focus for Presidential remarks this Friday on Jewish Heritage Week. In those remarks, the President can talk about who was left out of the Communist ceremonies at Buchenwald -- i.e. American Liberators and Holocaust victims -- and indicate his new schedule in Germany.

To set the stage, however, requires a certain indication, today at best, that the President has seen either the CBS report and/or the Times report, that he considers the Communist falsification an insult to the memory of American soldiers and Jewish victims, and that he intends to respond soon to this Orwellian rewrite of history.

Also, Bill Buckley called. Says our "friends" are deeply disconsolate not only over the German military cemetery, but this Buchenwald episode. He suggests either A) a Presidential visit to Plotzen, where the anti-Hitler plotters/martyrs are buried, or B) to Synagogue in Berlin destroyed by Hitler rebuilt by Americans (Sasenstrasse). Charles Wick has visited the first.

Also, Al D'Amato called, urging a change in schedule (which he is publicly predicting) and Hy Bookbinder of AJC, who says that an emergency meeting of the Holocaust Commission in New York is taking place tomorrow -- and if we have any message on possible changes we should get it to Elie Wiesel, whose phone number I now have.

Again, with this Buchenwald thing, we have a peg on which to alter or add events in Germany; and we have an occasion to recapture high ground -- perhaps by Tuesday, when RR speaks to the Religious conference. Will be home this afternoon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

ID# 586945 *De*

TR123-01

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: AUGUST 04, 1988

RECEIVED

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: MR. EDWARD J. MALOUF

AUG 5 1988

SUBJECT: ENCLOSES COPY OF NEWS ARTICLE HE WROTE FOR THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS IN APR 85 REGARDING THE VISIT TO BITBURG CEMETERY AND REQUESTS RESPONSE AS TO WHAT EFFECT, IF ANY, THE *

MEDIA RELATIONS

| ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME) | ACTION | | DISPOSITION | | |
|---|----------|---------------|-------------|-----|--------------------|
| | ACT CODE | DATE YY/MM/DD | TYPE RESP | C D | COMPLETED YY/MM/DD |
| ANNE HIGGINS | ORG | 88/08/04 | | | |
| ELIZABETH BOARD | RSI | 88/08/04 | | C | 88/08/04 |
| REFERRAL NOTE: | | | | | |
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COMMENTS: * ARTICLE HAS HAD, IN PARTICULAR, THE LAST PARAGRAPH SEE I.D. 303596

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   *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC *S-SUSPENDED        *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                       *           OUTGOING  *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                       *                       *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                       *                       *
*****
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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.

586945

ED MALOUF APPAREL, INC.

10017 CAYUGA • DALLAS, TEXAS 75228 • (214) 324-9977

July 29, 1988

President Ronald Reagan
c/o The WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D.C..

A.H.
cc E. Board

Dear Mr. President:

I am enclosing a copy of the article which I wrote for the DALLAS MORNING NEWS in April, 1985, together with the letter I received from you concerning the article. I think that it will refresh your memory of Bitburg. Your speech was absolutely PERFECT! There are three items which I'd like to fill you in on, and they are these:

1. Three regular G.I.s who were involved with three different infantry divisions in the BATTLE OF THE BULGE offered to help lay the wreath at Bitburg. They are: John Malouf, Wills Point, Texas, 106th Division; Ed Malouf, 78th Division, Dallas, Texas; and Don Taylor, 8th Division, Allen, Texas. John Malouf was the "cousin" from Wills Point to whom I referred in the article.

2. Of the 48 "SS" troopers in the Bitburg cemetery, 46 were 14 or 15 years old at the time of their deaths. The other two were about my age (19). It is ridiculous to think that these young kids could have been a party to atrocities...even if they were in SS uniforms. John Malouf stated that they captured "bunches" of SS troopers in the BULGE, and that MOST of them were just KIDS. Some were even crying at the time of their capture.

3. I had numerous letters and telephone calls about the article. Most pleasing were those from my Jewish friends who had changed their minds upon reading the article. It is too bad that Elie Wiesel didn't read it. His criticism of your going to Bitburg was unjustified.

Finally, as your term as president comes to an end I want you to know that THIS American thinks that the greatest thing that you accomplished in your eight years was THE IMPOSSIBLE!! I refer to your PEACE initiative in getting the Russians to begin to act as civilized members of the human race. (see last paragraph of article). NOTHING could mean more to the entire world than what you have accomplished with the Russians (though we all know that we have a long way to go.) Perhaps, by praising the good things they do, they will be encouraged to go deeper into the PEACE process..and the FREEDOM process. Because of this I believe that history will prove that you have been one of our GREATEST presidents...to rank up there with Washington and Lincoln. God love you...and Nancy,

Sincerely yours,
Ed Malouf

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

TR/23-*[Handwritten Signature]*

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|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
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| * | * | *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 | * |
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Ed Malouf

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2

P.S. I can't tell you how surprised and pleased I was when I received your letter. I just got tired of so many people and newspapers "REAGANBASHING" over Bitburg. And since I am an unbiased independent voter, I thought I'd do what I could do to counteract their activities. At any rate, I would appreciate it if you could drop me a line and let me know what effect, if any, this article has had on your thinking...particularly the last paragraph. Too few people realize what an utterly amazing accomplishment it is...to have persuaded the Russians to do what they are doing. Please bear in mind that I might use your response in another article for the DALLAS MORNING NEWS. As I said before, people just don't realize that you have done the impossible...and they need to know about it.

In defense of Bitburg visit

EDWARD MALOUF

READER'S REPLY

Mike Royko is upset about President Reagan's laying

a wreath on the grave of a German soldier. He says "an SS trooper," but he is incorrect. Were it to be an SS trooper, I would object, for those criminal animals should never be forgiven.

Let us hope our children and all future generations will never forget man's inhumanity to man. The Holocaust Museums will keep the memory of this shameful period of human — or should it be inhumane — activity alive.

News service reports state that most of the SS men who are buried at Bitburg appear to have been casualties of the Ardennes, better known as the Battle of the Bulge. The American death toll in that battle has been placed at 19,000. It includes the bulk of the U.S. 106th "Timberwolf" Infantry Division. It also includes members of the 78th "Lightning" Division of which I was a member.

At the time of the German breakthrough another GI and I were "volunteered" to man a two-man troop shelter in the no-man's-land between German and American lines, just southwest of Simmerath, Germany. Our purpose was to give the front-line troops to the rear a warning in case Germans attacked.

It was not a particularly comfortable position in which to be. From Dec. 9, 1944, to Dec. 31, 1944, our company of 184 had lost 102 men. The occupation of the troop shelter, which was at the deepest penetration of Germany at that time, was an invitation to add a couple of more casualties.

But I had it easy compared to a cousin who lives in Wills Point. He was a member of the 106th Division which was so badly mauled during the initial German onslaught. He and a few buddies managed to get some artillery pieces and form a pocket of resistance, firing all night long until on Christmas morning of 1945. German tanks moved in on them — just as clouds broke and the Air Force began to skip-bomb the Germans.

I asked him, "Would you object to our president laying a wreath on the grave of a German soldier, so long as it wasn't a grave of an SS trooper." He thought a moment and then answered, "No."

The situation in the Bulge was serious. Our communications had been

cut off, so we came under the command of the British. Efforts to eliminate the "Bulge" and keep the German soldiers from getting to the security east of the Rhine was completed March 7, 1945, when the American 9th Armored Division captured the bridge at Remagen intact.

It is interesting to note that today there is a large U.S. base near Bit-

Mike Royko is on vacation. His column will resume Saturday, May 18.

burg and that 16,000 American children have been born there. Also, 5,000 German women have married American GIs. It is ironic that the SS used Bitburg as a staging area for their Ardennes offensive.

Germany is a democracy now. From all appearances it will stay that way. It has progressed to the point where people are protesting and demonstrating against the planned

face by a piece of shrapnel.

His jaw was left hanging by a shred of skin. Before we could get our gear off so we could move faster to go back to pick him up, the German medic bolted out the door, through the artillery barrage and got to the American. He pulled the jaw back up to his face with a kerchief, then brought him piggyback through the barrage and back to the farm house.

Had the German medic been an American he probably would have received the Silver or Bronze Star. He was an ordinary German GI who had been conscripted into service by his Nazi government.

I'd like to offer Royko a free trip to Germany in May. We can watch our president place the wreath on the grave of an ordinary German soldier. We can both make sure he doesn't pay tribute to the SS.

The German people have to live with what happened in their country

Germany is a democracy now. From all appearances it will stay that way. It has progressed to the point where people are protesting and demonstrating against the planned meetings of the living members of the SS.

meetings of the living members of the SS.

Four groups of SS troopers will be meeting at Nesselwang, Germany, about the same time our president will be at Bitburg. The Nesselwang town council tried to ban them, but German federal law permits the right to assemble, so the council passed a resolution condemning the SS and that for which it stands.

Local political action groups have sprung up to oppose the gatherings. Labor unions are joining in the protests, and several Jewish and civil rights groups have called for a ban on the SS veteran groups.

To describe the SS organization as "insidious" or "barbaric" would be to use inadequate adjectives. I cannot put the ordinary German GI in the same category. This is because the greatest act of heroism I ever witnessed in combat was by a German medic we had captured in the Ruhr, near the end of the war.

We had just gone through a withering artillery barrage from German 88s when we came across the German medic treating a couple of wounded. It was in the relative safety of a farm house. While we were going through the barrage, a member of my squad was hit in the

when they allowed Hitler and his cutthroats to come to power. Six million Jews, six million Catholics and Protestants, 20 million Russians and millions upon millions of others perished because of the Third Reich.

The German people have reached out and the Jewish people in Germany have responded. Chancellor Helmut Kohl was invited to speak at the commemoration of the Holocaust which took place recently at the Belzen concentration camp.

I think the President *should* visit the German cemetery and take that opportunity to tell the SS, "No, we don't forgive you. Nor will we forget you. Nor will we allow people like you ever again to perpetrate this sort of crime against humanity."

In the meantime, let us not sit around and let virtually the same thing happen to slave laborers in Russia. When the summit meeting commences with the Russians, this topic should be as important as the reduction of arms. If we can get the Russian leaders to act as civilized members of the human race, arms reduction will be automatic. There will be no more need of war.

Edward Malouf is a Dallas businessman

Dallas Morning News April 27, 1985 C.P. Ed page