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MASTER

(Gilder/BE)
April 29, 1985
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON AT BITBURG A.F.B.
BITBURG, GERMANY
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1985

I have just come from the cemetery where the German war dead lay at rest. No one could visit there without deep and conflicting emotions. I felt great sadness that history could be filled with such waste, destruction, and evil. But my heart was also lifted by the knowledge that from the ashes has come hope, and that from the terrors of the past we have built 40 years of peace and freedom -- and reconciliation among our nations.

This visit has stirred many emotions in the American and German people, too. I have received many letters since first deciding to come to Bitburg cemetery, some supportive, others deeply concerned and questioning, others opposed. Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing. To the veterans and families of American servicemen who still carry the scars and feel the painful losses of that War, our gesture of reconciliation with the German people today in no way minimizes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. They gave their lives to rescue freedom in its darkest hour. The alliance of democratic nations that guards the freedom of millions in Europe and America today stands as living testimony that their noble sacrifice was not in vain.

To the survivors of the Holocaust: your terrible suffering has made you ever vigilant against evil. Many of you are worried that reconciliation means forgetting. I promise you, we will

never forget. I have just come this morning from Bergen-Belsen, where the horror of that momentous crime was forever burned upon ~~we will never forget the million Jewish children whose tragic~~ my memory. No, ^{will be} ~~we~~ will never forget, and we say with the victims of the Holocaust: "Never again."

The war against Hitler was not like other wars. The evil world of Nazism turned all values upside down. Nevertheless, we ^{sketch} ~~g~~ mourn the German war dead today as human beings, crushed by a vicious ideology.

X There are over 2,000 buried in Bitburg cemetery. Among them are 49 members of the SS. The crimes of the SS must rank among the most heinous in ~~the~~ ^{we cannot honor the} human history. But ^{sketch} others buried here were simply soldiers in the German army. How many were ~~sketch~~ followers of Hitler who willfully carried out his cruel orders? And how many were conscripts, forced into service during the ~~final~~ ^{we do not know} death throes of the Nazi war machine? ^{however} Many, we know from the dates on their tombstones, were only teenagers at the time. There is one boy buried here who died 2 weeks before his 16th birthday.

There were ~~we know~~ thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt. Only God can look into the human heart. All these men have now met their Supreme Judge, and they have been judged by Him. *As shall we all.*

^{today} Our duty ^{today} is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism; and today, in Bitburg cemetery, we commemorated the potential good and humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago. Perhaps if that young 15-year-old soldier had lived, he would

have joined ~~with~~ ^{that we celebrate today,} his fellow countrymen in building the new democratic German nation devoted to human dignity and the defense of freedom. Or perhaps his children or grandchildren might be among you here today at the Bitburg Air Base, where new generations of Germans and Americans join together in friendship and common cause, dedicating their lives to preserving peace and guarding the security of the free world.

Too often in the past, each war only planted the seeds of the next. We celebrate today the reconciliation between our two nations that has liberated us from that cycle of destruction. Look at what ^{together,} we have accomplished: We who were enemies are now friends; we who were bitter adversaries are now the strongest allies. In the place of fear we have sown trust, and out of the ruins of war has blossomed an enduring peace. More than 100,000 Americans have served in this town over the years. In that time there have been more than 5,000 marriages between Germans and Americans, and many thousands of children have come from these unions. This is the real symbol of our future together, a future to be filled with hope, friendship, and freedom.

To the men and women of Bitburg Air Base, I just want to say that we know your job is not an easy one. You serve, far from home, on the frontier of freedom. We are ~~very~~ ^{very} grateful, and ~~very~~ ² proud of you. And to the people of Bitburg, our hosts and the hosts of our servicemen, you make us feel very welcome. Vielen dank [FEEL-en donk].

Four decades ago, we waged a great war to ^{LIFE} push back the ^{darkness} shadow of evil from the world, to let men and women in this country and in every country live in the ^{SUNSHINE} light of liberty. Our victory was great, and today the Federal Republic, Italy, and Japan are returned to the community of free nations. But the struggle for freedom was not complete, for today much of the world is still cast in totalitarian darkness.

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CLOSE HOLD

Document No. _____

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/29/85 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. TOMORROW

SUBJECT: REMARKS: LUNCHEON AT BITBURG A.F.B.
(4/29 - 6:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	OGLESBY	☐	☐
REGAN	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☐	☐
DEAVER	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
CHEW	☐ P	☒ SS	VERSTANDIG	☐	☐
FIELDING	☐	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
FRIEDERSDORF	☐	☐	<u>RYAN</u>	☐	☐
HICKEY	☐	☐	<u>DANIELS</u>	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>KHACHIGIAN</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
McFARLANE	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Gilder/BE)
April 29, 1985
6:00 p.m.

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3491

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URGENT

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FIELDING	☐	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
FRIEDERSDORF	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
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No change

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DEAVER	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
CHEW	☐ P	☒ SS	VERSTANDIG	☐	☐
FIELDING	☐	☐	WHITTLESEY	☐	☐
FRIEDERSDORF	☐	☐	<u>RYAN</u>	☐	☐
HICKEY	☐	☐	<u>DANIELS</u>	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>KHACHIGIAN</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
McFARLANE	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide your personal edits directly to Ken Khachigian, Room 179, Ext. 7565, by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, with an information copy to my office. We plant to forward a draft to the President at noon tomorrow, 4/30. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

Suggestive / KK

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

(Gilder/BE)
April 29, 1985
6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON AT BITBURG A.F.B.
BITBURG, GERMANY
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1985

I have just come from the cemetery where the German war dead lay at rest. No one could visit there without deep and conflicting emotions. I felt great sadness that history could be filled with such waste, destruction, and evil. But my heart was also lifted by the knowledge that from the ashes has come hope, and that from the terrors of the past we have built 40 years of peace and freedom -- and reconciliation among our nations.

This visit has stirred many emotions in the American and German people, too. I have received many letters since first deciding to come to Bitburg cemetery, some supportive, others deeply concerned and questioning, others opposed. Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing. To the veterans and families of American servicemen who still carry the scars and feel the painful losses of that War, our gesture of reconciliation with the German people today in no way minimizes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. They gave their lives to rescue freedom in its darkest hour. The alliance of democratic nations that guards the freedom of millions in Europe and America today stands as living testimony that their noble sacrifice was not in vain.

To the survivors of the Holocaust: your terrible suffering has made you ever vigilant against evil. Many of you are worried that reconciliation means forgetting. I promise you, we will

never forget. I have just come this morning from Bergen-Belsen, where the horror of that momentous crime was forever burned upon my memory. No, we will never forget, and we say with the victims of the Holocaust: "Never again."

The war against Hitler was not like other wars. The evil world of Nazism turned all values upside down. Nevertheless, we ~~g~~ ^{sketch} mourn the German war dead today as human beings, crushed by a vicious ideology. ?

There are over 2,000 buried in Bitburg cemetery. Among them are 49 members of the SS. The crimes of the SS must rank among the most heinous in ~~the~~ human history. But ~~others~~ ^{They sketch} buried here were simply soldiers in the German army. How many were ~~followers~~ ^{sketch} of Hitler who willfully carried out his cruel orders? And how many were conscripts, forced into service during the ~~final~~ death throes of the Nazi war machine? ^{We do not know.} Many, we know from the dates on their tombstones, were only teenagers at the time. There is one boy buried here who died 2 weeks before his 16th birthday.

There were ~~we know~~ thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt. Only God can look into the human heart. All these men have now met their Supreme Judge, and they have been judged by Him. *As shall we all.*

^{Today} Our duty is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism; and today, in Bitburg cemetery, we commemorated the potential good and humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago. Perhaps if that ~~young~~ 15-year-old soldier had lived, he would

have joined ~~with~~ his fellow countrymen in building the new democratic German nation devoted to human dignity and the defense of freedom. *That we celebrate Today.* Or perhaps his children or grandchildren might be among you here today at the Bitburg Air Base, where new generations of Germans and Americans join together in friendship and common cause, dedicating their lives to preserving peace and guarding the security of the free world.

Too often in the past, each war only planted the seeds of the next. We celebrate today the reconciliation between our two nations that has liberated us from that cycle of destruction. *Together,* Look at what we have accomplished: We who were enemies are now friends; we who were bitter adversaries are now the strongest allies. In the place of fear we have sown trust, and out of the ruins of war has blossomed an enduring peace. More than 100,000 Americans have served in this town over the years. In that time there have been more than 5,000 marriages between Germans and Americans, and many thousands of children have come from these unions. This is the real symbol of our future together, a future to be filled with hope, friendship, and freedom.

To the men and women of Bitburg Air Base, I just want to say that we know your job is not an easy one. You serve, far from home, on the frontier of freedom. We are ~~very~~ grateful, and ~~very~~ proud of you. And to the people of Bitburg, our hosts and the hosts of our servicemen, you make us feel very welcome. Vielen dank [FEEL-en donk].

Four decades ago, we waged a great war to ^{lift} push back the ~~shadow~~ ^{darkness} of evil from the world, to let men and women in this country and in every country live in the ^{sunshine} light of liberty. Our victory was great, and today the Federal Republic, Italy, and Japan are returned to the community of free nations. But the struggle for freedom was not complete, for today much of the world is still cast in totalitarian darkness.

Twenty-two years ago, President John F. Kennedy stood at the Berlin Wall and proclaimed that he, too, was a Berliner. Today, ~~all~~ freedom-loving people around the world must say, I am a Berliner, I am a Jew in a world still threatened by anti-semitism, I am an Afghanistani, and I am a prisoner of the Gulag, I am a refugee in an ~~over~~ crowded boat foundering off the coast of Vietnam, I am a Laotian, a Cambodian, a Cuban, and a Miskito Indian; I, too, am a potential victim of totalitarianism.

The one lesson of World War II, the one lesson of Nazism, is that ~~democracy~~ and freedom must always be stronger than totalitarianism; that good must always be stronger than evil. The moral measure of our two nations will be found in the resolve we show to preserve ~~human~~ liberty, to protect ~~human~~ life, and to honor and cherish all of God's children.

That is why the free, democratic German nation is such a profound and hopeful testament to the human spirit. We cannot undo the crimes and wars of yesterday, nor call the millions back to life. But we can give meaning to the past by learning its lessons and making a better future. We can let our pain drive us to greater efforts to heal humanity's suffering.

Today, I have traveled 250 miles from Bergen-Belsen and, I feel, 40 years in time. With the lessons of the past firmly in our minds, we have turned a new, brighter page in history. One of the many who wrote me about this visit was a young woman who had recently been Bat-Mitzvahed. She urged me to lay the wreath at Bitburg Cemetery in honor of the future of Germany; and that ~~I feel~~ ^{is} what we have done. On this 40th anniversary of World War II, we mark the day when the hate, the evil, and the obscenities ended, and we commemorate the beginning of the democratic German nation.

There is much to make us hopeful on this historic anniversary. While much of the world still huddles in the darkness of oppression, we can see a new dawn of freedom sweeping the globe. And we can see -- in the new democracies of Latin America, in the new economic freedoms and prosperity in Asia, in the slow movement toward peace in the Middle East, and in the ^{strengthening} alliance of democratic nations in Europe and America ~~that is today stronger than ever~~ -- that the light from that dawn is growing stronger.

Together let us gather in that light, and walk out of the shadows, and ~~let us~~ ^{let} live in peace.

Thank you and God bless you all.

(Gilder/BE)
April 29, 1985
3:30 p.m.

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There were, we know, thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt. Only God can look into the human heart. All these men have now met their Supreme Judge, and ^{have been} ~~will be~~ judged by Him.

Our duty is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism; and today, in Bitburg cemetery, we commemorated the potential good and humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago.

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The war against Hitler was not like other wars. We do not honor the dead today as soldiers, or even as patriots. The evil world of Nazism turned all values upside down. We mourn them today as human beings, crushed by a vicious ideology.

There are over 2,000 buried in Bitburg cemetery. Among them are 49 members of the SS, whose crimes must rank among the most heinous in all human history. But the rest were simple soldiers in the German army. How many were fanatical followers of Hitler who willfully carried out his cruel orders? And how many were conscripts, forced into service during the final death throes of the Nazi war machine? Many, we know from the dates on their tombstones, were only teenagers at the time. There is one boy buried here who died 2 weeks before his 16th birthday.

There were, we know, thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt; yet it is beyond our power to parcel out guilt and forgiveness among the graves. Only God can look into the human heart. All these men have now met their Supreme Judge, and they will be judged by Him.

Our duty is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism; and today, in Bitburg cemetery, we commemorated the potential

good and humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago. Perhaps if that young soldier had lived, he would have joined with his fellow countrymen in building the new democratic German nation devoted to human dignity and the defense of freedom. Or perhaps his children or grandchildren might be among you here today at the Bitburg Air Force Base, where new generations of Germans and Americans join together in friendship and common cause, dedicating their lives to preserving peace and guarding the security of the free world.

Too often in the past, each war only planted the seeds of the next. We celebrate today the reconciliation between our two nations that has liberated us from that cycle of destruction. Look at what we have accomplished: We who were enemies are now friends; we who were bitter adversaries are now the strongest allies. In the place of fear we have sown trust, and out of the ruins of war has blossomed an enduring peace. More than 100,000 of our soldiers have served in this town over the years. In that time there have been more than 5,000 marriages between Germans and Americans, and many thousands of children have come from these unions. This is the real symbol of our future together, a future to be filled with hope, friendship, and freedom.

To the men and women of Bitburg Airforce Base, I just want to say that we know your job is not an easy one. You serve day and night on the front lines of freedom. We are very grateful, and very proud of you. And to the people of Bitburg, our hosts

and the hosts of our servicemen, you make us feel very welcome.
(German word for thank you.)

Four decades ago, we waged a great war to push back the shadow of evil from the world, to let men and women in this country and in every country live in the light of liberty. Our victory was great, and today West Germany, Italy, and Japan are returned to the community of free nations. But our victory was not complete, for today much of the world is still cast in totalitarian darkness.

Twenty years ago, President John F. Kennedy stood at the Berlin Wall and proclaimed, "Ich bin ein Berliner." Today, all freedom-loving people around the world must say, I am a Berliner, I am a Jew in a world still threatened by anti-semitism, I am an Afghanistani and I am a prisoner of the Gulag, I am a casualty of the Great Leap Forward and I am a refugee in an overcrowded boat foundering off the coast of Vietnam, I am a Laotian, a Cambodian, a Cuban, and a Miskito Indian; I, too, am a potential victim of totalitarianism.

The one lesson of World War II, the one lesson of Nazism, is that the defenders of democracy and freedom must always be stronger than the forces of totalitarianism and human destruction; that good must always be stronger than evil. The moral measure of our two nations will be found in the resolve we show to preserve human liberty, to protect human life, and to honor and cherish all of God's children.

That is why the most profound and hopeful memorial to the Holocaust is the free, democratic German nation. We cannot undo

the crimes and wars of yesterday, nor call the millions back to life. But we can give meaning to the past by learning its lessons and making a better future. We can let our pain drive us to greater efforts to heal humanity's suffering.

Today, I have traveled 250 miles from Bergen-Belsen and, I feel, 40 years in time. With the lessons of the past firmly in our minds, we have turned a new, brighter page in history. One of the many who wrote me about this visit was a young woman who had recently been Bat-Mitzvahed. She urged me to lay the wreath at Bitburg Cemetery in honor of the future of Germany; and that, I feel, is what we have done. On this 40th anniversary of World War II, we mark the day when the hate, the evil, and the obscenities ended, and we commemorate the new beginning of the democratic German nation. We celebrate a land that has become one of the staunchest champions of freedom and one of the most vigilant protectors of human life.

There is much to make us hopeful on this historic anniversary. While much of the world still huddles in the darkness of oppression, we can see a new dawn of freedom sweeping the globe. And we can see -- in the new democracies of Latin America, in the new economic freedoms and prosperity in Asia, in the slow movement toward peace in the Middle East, and in the alliance of democratic nations in Europe and America that is today stronger than ever -- that the light from that dawn is growing stronger.

Together let us gather in that light, and walk out of the shadows, and let us live in peace.

Thank you and God bless you all.

(Gilder/BE)
April 29, 1985
12:00 Noon

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LUNCHEON AT BITBURG A.F.B.
BITBURG, GERMANY
SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1985

I have just come from the cemetery where the German war dead lay at rest. No one could visit there without deep and conflicting emotions. ~~(As I walked among the graves)~~ I felt a great sadness that history could be filled with such waste, destruction, and evil. But my heart was also lifted by the knowledge that from the ashes has come hope, and that from the terrors of the past we have built 40 years of peace and freedom -- and reconciliation among our nations.

I know that this visit has stirred many emotions in the American and German people, too. I have received many letters since first deciding to come to Bitburg cemetery, some supportive, others deeply concerned and questioning, ^{others opposed.} Some old wounds have been reopened, and this I regret very much, because this should be a time of healing. To the veterans and families of American servicemen who still carry the scars and feel the painful losses of that War, our gesture of reconciliation with the German people today in no way minimizes our love and honor for those who fought and died for our country. They gave their lives to rescue freedom in its darkest hour. The alliance of democratic nations that guards the freedom of millions in Europe and America today stands as living testimony that their noble sacrifice was not in vain.

To the survivors of the Holocaust: your terrible suffering has made you ever vigilant against evil. Many of you are worried

that reconciliation means forgetting. I promise you, we will never forget. I have just come this morning from Bergen-Belsen, where the horror of that momentous crime was forever burned upon my memory. No, we will never forget, and we say with the victims of the Holocaust the greatest imperative of our time: "Never again."

The war against Hitler was not like other wars. ~~We do not honor the dead today as soldiers, or even as patriots.~~ The evil world of Nazism turned all values upside down. ~~we mourn them~~ ^{never release, we can't} ~~the German war dead~~ ^{step} ~~today~~ as human beings, crushed by a vicious ideology.

There are over 2,000 buried in Bitburg cemetery. Among them are 47 members of the SS ^{The} ~~whose~~ ^{of the SS} crimes must rank among the most heinous in all human history. ^{But others buried here} ~~But the rest~~ were simple soldiers in the German army. How many were fanatical followers of Hitler who willfully carried out his cruel orders? And how many were conscripts, forced into service during the final death throes of the Nazi war machine? Many, we know from the dates on their tombstones, were only teenagers at the time. There is one boy buried here who died 2 weeks before his 16th birthday.

There were, we know, thousands of such soldiers to whom Nazism meant no more than a brutal end to a short life. We do not believe in collective guilt, ~~yet it is beyond our power to parcel out guilt and forgiveness among the graves.~~ Only God can look into the human heart. All these men have now met their Supreme Judge, and they will be judged by Him.

Our duty is to mourn the human wreckage of totalitarianism; and today, in Bitburg cemetery, we commemorated the potential

good and humanity that was consumed back then, 40 years ago.

Perhaps if that ~~young~~ ^{fifteen year old} soldier had lived, he would have joined with his fellow countrymen in building the new democratic German nation devoted to human dignity and the defense of freedom. Or perhaps his children or grandchildren might be among you here ~~today~~ ^{at the Bitburg Air Base}, where new generations of Germans and Americans join together in friendship and common cause, dedicating their lives to preserving peace and guarding the security of the free world.

Too often in the past, each war only planted the seeds of the next. We celebrate today the reconciliation between our two nations that has liberated us from that cycle of destruction. Look at what we have accomplished: We who were enemies are now friends; we who were bitter adversaries are now the strongest allies. In the place of fear we have sown trust, and out of the ruins of war has blossomed an enduring peace. More than 100,000 ~~of our soldiers~~ ^{Americans} have served in this town over the years. In that time there have been more than 5,000 marriages between Germans and Americans, and many thousands of children have come from these unions. This is the real symbol of our future together, a future to be filled with hope, friendship, and freedom.

To the men and women of Bitburg Air ~~Base~~ ^{base}, I just want to say that we know your job is not an easy one. You serve ~~day and night~~ ^{far from home} on the ~~front lines~~ ^{frontier} of freedom. We are very grateful, and very proud of you. And to the people of Bitburg, our hosts

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and the hosts of our servicemen, you make us feel very welcome.

~~(German word for thank you.)~~ Vielen dank (*Feel'en donk*).

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