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Last Updated: 03/18/2025

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10165

May 85



The President has seen _____

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
LONDON, ENGLAND

CHARLES H. PRICE II
AMBASSADOR

May 20, 1985

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. Price

Dear Mr. President:

There is so much press speculation as to whether or not you and Gorbachev will meet, whether Gorbachev will go to the United States or the location of any proposed meeting.

If you should evolve that Gorbachev does come to the United States, I would be very wary of any agenda that permits him to do much traveling or to meet with different segments of our society. From my vantage point, Gorbachev is not only smart, but he is very clever at his public relations and in manipulating public opinion. Were I in his position, having made a decision to go to the United States, I would try to develop an agenda to permit me to see blacks, farmers, industrialists, corporation leaders and perhaps stop by some place like Disney World. I need not tell you the amount of coverage the American press would provide him. Such an agenda would be carefully calculated to portray him as active, intelligent, possessing a good sense of humor, reasonable, peace-loving and an all-round "Good Guy."

In my judgement we are going to have a lot of problems with the public affairs handling of S. D. I. As I mentioned in a previous cable which I understand you read and I subsequently discussed with Bud McFarlane, we need to clearly define our policy handling on S. D. I. , and I believe you then need to call in the troops, tell them the line that is to be followed and make it absolutely clear that they are not to step out of bounds.

Carol joins in sending you and Nancy our love.

Sincerely,,

Charles H. Price II

221203

End
Case
File

320748
C-174

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Farach and Mr. Solorzano:

Forgive me for being so late in answering your letter of March 25. It has only just reached me. I appreciate very much your description of what has taken place in Nicaragua. I shall see that our Congress is informed also.

Let me assure you I shall continue doing everything I can to see that support is given to those who are fighting for freedom in your land, indeed in all of Central America. We must not permit the communist bloc to get a foothold on the mainland of the Americas.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing.

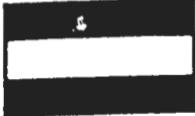
Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Fuad Farach
Mr. Alvaro Solorzano
Apdo 909 Centro Colon
San Jose, Costa Rica

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)



Empresa Privada Nicaraguense en el Exilio

March 25, 1985

His Excellency
Ronald Reagan
President of the United States of America
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

We, as Nicaraguans, want to acknowledge the very special interest that you have demonstrated with your valiant and decided attitude on behalf of the liberty of the Nicaraguan people, now under the domination of the Soviets.

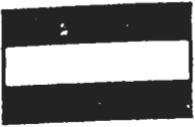
Our organization, integrated by Nicaraguan private businessmen who have had to abandon their country in search of tranquility and security for their families, wants to express our deep concern about the way things are presently in Central America. We have the firm belief that while in Nicaragua there exists a totalitarian communist regime, there will never be a truthful and durable peace in our region. On the other hand, due to the distrustfulness and the lack of credibility toward Central America that the Sandinista regime inspires on the private investors, the depressed economic activity will continue to aggravate. At the same time, the social well-being and economical situation of the residents of Central America will deteriorate even more. The consequences of this deterioration are going to also put more pressure on the borders of the United States. Not even the very well conceived "Caribbean Basin Initiative" that you have proposed will find the appropriate grounds to prosper.

Your recent manifestation, in which you compared the valient Nicaraguan combatants with the patriots of the American Colonies that made possible the independence of your great nation, model of liberty and democracy, has filled us with pride.

The Nicaraguan combatants, in spite of their tremendous material limitations, are fighting against the sandino-communist army who is very well equipped by the Soviets and under the direction of internationalists of diverse communist origins.

We profoundly trust that you will keep your promise of impending Nicaraguan to become consolidated as one appendix more of the Soviet expansion, that this time would occur on the mainland of our American Continent. The consolidation of this Soviet Base would threaten the tranquillity of the Caribbean Basin, would subdue our Central American population to the inhuman communist domain and would associate

*Tels. 310363 y 325840 - Telex 3116 Tracsa CR - Apdo. 909 Centro Colon
San Jose, Costa Rica*



Empresa Privada Nicaraguense en el Exilio

- 2 -

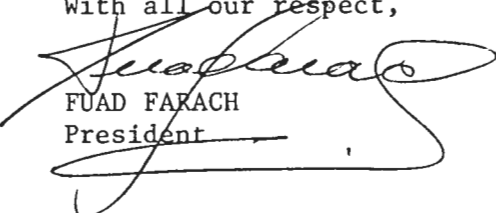
with Cuba in the training of international terrorists and in the illegal drug-traffic that has provoked a great deal of harm already to the youngsters of the United States.

We see with great satisfaction how many Latin American countries are making efforts to democratize their governments. Unfortunately, these efforts to improve the social life of the Latin Americans will be fruitless while the sandinista regime of Marxist-Leninist nature prevails in Nicaragua.

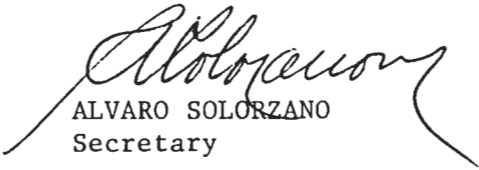
We have fervently advocated for a pacific and civilized solution to the problem of Nicaragua. But, the FSLN has kept an intransigent attitude by rejecting the numerous proposals for negotiation that the democratic organizations have made for them. They are, with their totalitarian attitude, the only viable alternative we have left in order to recover our country and establish a truly democratic government that guarantees and respects mans fundamental rights.

Mr. President, we the Nicaraguans, trust in your leadership, as we also believe that the people of the United States are and must continue to be the standard-bearer of the Human Rights in the world. For that reason, we urge you to continue your efforts in Congress and in the House of Representatives in order to obtain the approval of economic aid to our people who are fighting and offering their lives hoping to obtain peace, liberty and democracy that you so well know about, but which we have never had.

With all our respect,



FUAD FARACH
President



ALVARO SOLORZANO
Secretary

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I hope you won't mind my answering your letter to Don Regan. He showed me your letter to the New York Times and I wanted to thank you personally for both your letter to the Times and for sending it on to us.

During and since my trip to Bitburg I've heard a number of stories having to do with incidents that reveal as yours does that humanitarian instincts are not limited to one side in war. Such stories only add to my belief that we can build a permanent peace and I'm going to keep on trying.

Thanks again and give my regards to your sons.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Werner A. Schmidt
9 John Jay Place
Rye, New York 10580

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

Bitburg

WERNER A. SCHMIDT, M. D., M. A.
9 JOHN JAY PLACE
RYE, NEW YORK 10580

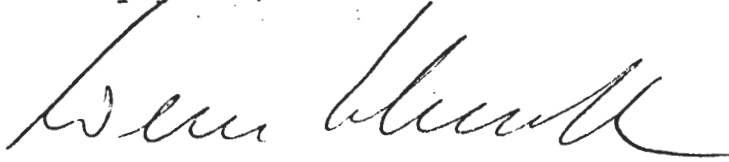
May 9, 1985

The Honorable Donald T. Regan
Chief of Staff
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20050

Dear Sir:

When I heard the President's speech at the Bitburg Air Base in which he referred to the meeting of three American and four German soldiers in the farm cottage within the Western Front on Christmas 1944, I thought that the event I described in the enclosed copy of a letter to the New York Times might also be of interest to the American public.

Sincerely yours,



WAS:hv

1 Encl.

WERNER A. SCHMIDT M.D., M.A.
9 JOHN JAY PLACE
RYE, NEW YORK 10580

The New York Times Co.
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

May 6, 1985

Re.: President Reagan's Visit to the Bitburg Cemetery

Gentlemen:

In 1942, at the age of 17, I was a highschool student in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. One Sunday morning the upper classes of my school were ordered to appear at the Town-hall where SS officers selected those students they wanted to have for the Waffen SS, an elite unit of the armed forces, contrary to the SD (Sicherheitsdienst) also a sub-unit of the SS responsible for the concentration camps. None of us had a chance to avoid this selection process. Fortunately I already was a candidate for the medical corps of the Navy and could go home. By 1944, I had become a medic in a German infantry division retreating from the invasion front in Normandy. The division was flanked by two SS divisions with many brave young soldiers. I was assigned to a field hospital where all wounded soldiers were treated. One day a long line of soldiers was waiting for treatment, among them members of the SS divisions. When a badly burned American tank crew, just captured, was brought in I then saw the young SS soldiers giving up their places in line so that the Americans could receive immediate treatment.

This was the reality of the war in France in 1944. A few days later I was captured by partisans. Fortunately, American soldiers were around within a few minutes and saved our lives. With all this in mind, I feel that President Reagan is absolutely right by going to Bitburg, and stretching out his hand for further reconciliation and the building of a safe and peaceful Europe.

I have been living in the U.S. for 22 years. Both of my sons are members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sincerely yours,



320750

T12123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you very much for writing as you did.
I'm truly grateful.

You are right about the "absolute moral evil of Nazism" and that we should not forget. What struck me forcibly in Germany and gave assurance that what I was doing was right was the evidence that Germany is determined not to forget. They have preserved the death camps with all the evidence of the Holocaust horror. Each year they bring their schoolchildren to these camps so they will grow up determined there will not be a repeat of that obscene chapter in their country's history.

I have enclosed copies of my speeches at Bergen-Belsen and later that day at Bitburg where our Airmen are based with Germans on the NATO line.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing and for understanding.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Curtis W. Davis
290 West End Avenue
New York, New York 10023

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

Encls: (2) Press Releases on Speeches



CURTIS W. DAVIS

290 WEST END AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

(212) EN 2-1656

May 10, 1985

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D. C.

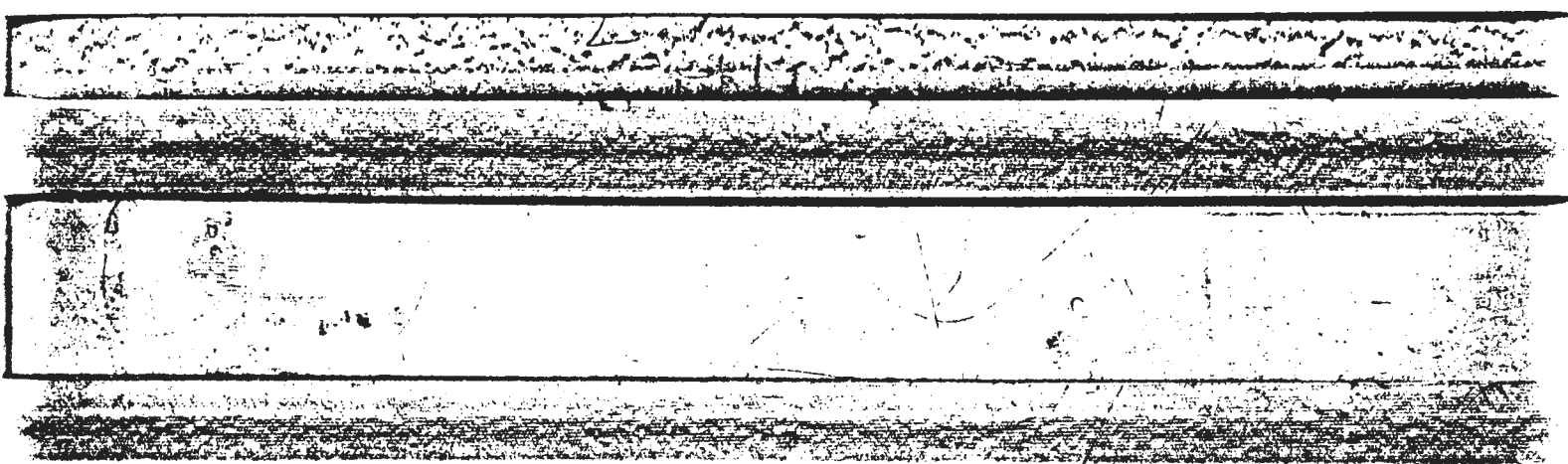
Dear Mr. President:

After thinking over what I saw on television this week, I have changed my mind about your visit to Bitburg. I had considered it a profound mistake. I now think that your visit taught us much, although the venue chosen by your staff was less than felicitous. You have honored a wreath laid in a cemetery where S. S. graves abound, and many have mourned your act.

Leaders perform symbolic acts throughout their stewardship. When Napoleon took the crown into his own hands at his Coronation and placed it on his own head, he may have elated the French, but he caused Beethoven to tear up the dedication of his "Eroica" symphony. When Anwar Sadat went to the Knesset he won the admiration of Golda Meir, and sowed the seeds of his later demise. I remember Franklin Roosevelt, campaigning bareheaded through the rainy streets of New York, in 1944 still carrying the banner of the happy warrior, with only months to live.

The evil deeds of the past cannot be eradicated, but with persistence and faith, hate can. I turned 17 just a month after V-E Day, and was expecting to be drafted in six months. Most Americans have forgotten that we were taking young men into the service then at 17-1/2. Instead, right after V-J Day, the draft age went back up to 18, and was then abolished, until Korea. I finally went in then, already into a career at 22, and was sent to Germany, where the evidences of war remained present everywhere: a tentative coexistence had only just begun.

Among the young Germans I met then, the most persistent question was "What will you think of us now?" In my liberal family tradition, I tried to reassure them, but in my heart I had no ready answers. I have thought about that question often these past decades, and while watching you and General Ridgway on tv I found some answers, at least for me. The absolute moral evil of Nazism and the





Reagan 5/10/85

2.

Holocaust is as unthinkable as it is unforgiveable, but to bury the past does not mean to forget it. Adolf Hitler, that feckless Austrian watercolorist who made his dream to become a third Kaiser, burned in upon our memory, at incalculable human cost, the knowledge that hate and prejudice, married to greed and brutality, and allowed to fester for a century, can threaten human survival, especially when rallied around a charismatic leader. The German nation was not yet a century old when Hitler took it, shook it, and left it broken in half. Centuries from now Germans will still bear the scar which their forebears so eagerly sought, prostrate before "Der Fuehrer," as if in some collective Manson or Jones cult, a frenzy beyond reason.

That past is now 40 years behind us. As we saw, it lies buried at Bitburg, as it does under the Berlin Wall. We continue to move on, as we have every day since V-E Day, vigilant and hopeful. To equate that movement with forgetfulness is false, I believe. Indeed the lesson of your action is of another order altogether.

"With malice toward none" was Lincoln's last message 120 years ago. How truly unthinkable those words must have sounded to many at the time, with that war not yet over which pitted brother against brother. How heavily Lincoln paid for them. Your words and deeds have reminded us all, vividly and painfully, how passionate are the feelings which remain in our hearts, how unquenchable the memories, how unhealed the wounds. It has been a useful, a necessary lesson. The consequences for your stewardship remain ahead of you. Yet you have made us all examine ourselves deeply, and for that we are in your debt.

Sincerely,

Curtis W. Davis

To Mr. Frank Frank April. 909 Butler Collin
San Jose Costa Rica

Dear Mr. Frank & Mr. Bergman

Forgive me for being so late in answering your letter of March 25th. It has only just reached me. I appreciate very much your description of what has taken place in Nicaragua. I shall see that our Congress is informed of also.

Let me assure you I shall continue doing everything I can to see that support is given to those who are fighting for freedom in your land, ridged in all of Central America. We must not permit the communist bloc to get a foothold on ~~the~~ ^{the} mainland of the Americas.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing.
Sincerely RR

To Mr. Warren A. Schmidt 9 John Jay Pl.
Dear Mr. Schmidt Regs N.Y. 10580

I hope you won't mind my answering your letter to Don Regan. He should see your letter to the N.Y. Times and I wanted to thank you personally for both your letter to the Times & for sending it on to me.

During & since my trip to Beijing I've found a number of stories tending to do with incidents ~~in~~ that reveal as you do that humanistic instincts are not limited to one side in war. I wish stories only add to my belief that we can build a permanent peace and I'm going to keep on trying. Thanks again & give my regards to your sons.

To Mr. Curtis W. Davis 290 West End Ave.

Dear Mr. Davis

N.Y. N.Y. 10023

Thank you very much for writing as you did. I'm truly grateful.

You are right about the "absolute moral evil of Nazism" and that we should not forget. What struck me forcibly in Germany and gave assurance that what I was doing was right was the evidence that Germany is determined not to forget. They have preserved the death camps with all the evidence of the Holocaust horrors. Each year they bring their school children to those camps so they will grow up determined there will not be a repeat of that obscene chapter in their country's history.

I have enclosed copies of my speech at Bergen-Belsen & later that day at Bitburg where our airmen are buried with Germans on the Katoline.

Thank you again for your kindness in writing & for understanding. Sincerely RR

Send copies of speeches
with the above.

RR

End
Case
File

320754
C0114

May 20, 1985

Dear Al:

Thanks for your letter and the review of Jeane Kirkpatrick's Nicaragua lecture. She's quite a person and I'm glad to hear what she's doing. There is no question but that we haven't been able to inform America about that situation.

On another matter, I'm enclosing the speeches I made at Bergen-Belsen -- the concentration camp -- and later in the day at Bitburg, where we have our Air Force unit based with a German wing. In spite of all the press sniping, I believe what I did was the morally right thing to do. In fact we all think the whole trip was a success and not the sorry mess the press seems to think it was.

Sorry about having to miss your birthday. Nancy sends her love and from both of us to Cynthia.

Sincerely,

Dutch

Mr. Albert Schwabacher, Jr.
1000 Mason Street
San Francisco, California 94108

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

Encls: (2) Press Releases on Speeches

To Mr. Albert Schwalbecher Jr. 1000 Mason st.
S. F. Calif. 94108

Dear Al

Thanks for your letter and the review of Jeanne Trippletrick's Nicaragua lecture. She's quite a person and I'm glad to hear what she's doing. There is no question but that we haven't been able to inform America about that situation.

On another matter I'm enclosing the speeches I made at Belson-Bergen - (the Concentration Camp) and later in the day at Bitburg where we have our Air Force unit based with a German wing. In spite of all the press sniping I believe what I did was the morally right thing to do. In fact we all think the whole trip was a success & not the sorry mess the press seem to think it was.

Sorry about having to miss your birthday.

Mary sends her love & from both of us to Cynthia.

Sincerely Dieter

Dear Dutch

in route mail
8 May 85

Spent Tuesday in battle making Corporate Finance Calls with 2 young specialists. Bob Trux (whom you know) runs one of the 8 or 9 best Banks in the U.S. Rainier. Thanks to Bob Dean Witter (and I) have been able to enjoy some good business.

Imagine my surprise last night to be sitting with an elite group of their officers and directors plus clients listening to Jeanne Kirkpatrick do an hour summary on Nicaragua - complete - factual. I learned a lot.

If she were to reduce this presentation to 25 or 6 minutes it would be a tremendous help to the public in understanding the situation.

Hope this reaches you in time to be helpful.

Congratulations on your tough but necessary stand on B.T.B. etc.

I'll miss you on my birthday
Cynthia sends love to you and Nancy

Robert

ALBERT S. HAWORTH

FOUR SEASONS OLYMPIC HOTEL - SEATTLE

411 UNIVERSITY STREET, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101, USA. TELEPHONE (206) 621-1700. TELEX 00152477

End
case
File

320755
TR 123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Barney:

Thanks very much for all your encouraging words and for all the history. I especially liked that high-level inspection and watering down of the dragon's teeth.

Barney, I felt from the start that I was doing the morally right thing, and I'm even more sure now. I've received some of the most moving letters -- some of the other kind, too, -- they are from veterans with stories to tell that put a lump in your throat. They think I did the right thing, too.

I'm enclosing copies of my speeches -- the morning talk at Bergen-Belsen and the afternoon one at Bitburg Air Force Base.

Thanks again and best to Vada.

Sincerely,

Ron

Colonel Barney Oldfield, USAF, Ret.
360 North Crescent Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

Encls: (2) Press Release on Speeches



Col. Barney Oldfield, USAF (Ret)
(Consultant)

May 5, 1985

Dear President Ron:

How fantastic it was to see the escorts chosen for Chancellor Kohl and yourself at Bitburg, two gentlemen I've known and respected -- with good reason -- for a long, long time. Luftwaffe General Johannes Steinhoff was the one selected by the new Federal Republic of Germany on Oct. 1, 1955 to "walk the plank" when he came in civilian clothes as MR. Steinhoff to Luke Air Force Base in Arizona to check out how it would work if his country elected to train the sons and grandsons of the old enemy there in the American southwest. He ultimately was told and savored it very much that the high standing of Luke in the eyes of Arizonans was owed more to the Luftwaffe trainees than the Americans. That facial disfigurement has reconciliation written on it, too. When his jet blew up, his whole face was burned away to the bone and it was a British Royal Air Force flight surgeon who rebuilt for him the face he wears today. When we brought our Cactus Starfighter Squadron into being at Luke, he was the logical selection to be its "Commander" and he still is. You may remember his contribution to our books, Those Wonderful Men in the Cactus Starfighter Squadron (see attached) for which you and Chancellor Kohl contributed prefaces.

It was Ridgway, just ahead of Normandy, that I had to tell of witnessing the heart attack of our airborne troops founder, much-loved old Maj. Gen. William Carey Lee, which took him off the command of his baby, the 101st Airborne Division just before Normandy. Ridgway sent over from his 82nd Airborne Division a feisty Brig. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor to take that division in on D-Day.

Ah, so much history was in step with you at that Bitburg Cemetery.

Just north of where you were, when Prime Minister Churchill, accompanied by US Gen William H. Simpson, Field Marshal Montgomery and Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Sir Alan Brooke, was going to make his first foray onto German soil he wanted to see the famous "Dragon's Teeth" of the Siegfried Line defenses. When the entourage arrived, I was asked to gather up all the war correspondents' cameras "for a moment", then they could take all the photos they wanted. This was like asking them to hold still while I knocked out all their teeth with a ballbat, but eventually the cameras were stashed. Then the foursome walked in among the Dragon's Teeth, unzipped and piddled on Hitler's impregnable defenses. The cameramen ran for their equipment

but were too late -- and I'm cursed roundly by the survivors still for having robbed the historical record!

Personally, I think you have outflanked the fear-and-dreadists. You did the right thing, in a right place, and because none had been brave enough to take that step before, it has to have been the right time.

To you and Nancy, Vada and I send our best, and a couple of extra hurrahs as well. We pass a milestone of our own tomorrow, 50 years in lockstep, and we still talk to each other -- and enjoy!

Always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Danny", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

President Ronald Reagan,
The White House,
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

To Col. Barney Oldfield 380 No. Crescent Dr.
Beverly Hills Calif. 90210

Dear Barney

Thanks very much for all your encouraging words and for all the history. I especially liked that high level inspection & watering down of the dragons teeth.

Barney I felt from the start that I was doing the morally right thing and I'm even more sure now. I've received some of the most moving letters (some of the other kind too) they are from veterans with stories to tell that put a lump in your throat. They think I did the right thing too.

I'm enclosing copies of my speeches - the morning talk at Bergen Ballon & the afternoon one at Bitburg A.F. Base.

Thanks again & best to Kade.
Sincerely Ron

End
Case
File

320760
TR 123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Judge Weisberger:

I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me. You were more than kind to write as you did and I'm most grateful for your generous words.

You are so right about not forgetting or forgiving those who committed the atrocities of the Holocaust. What struck me in this whole episode was the determination of today's Germans that they were not going to forget or ask forgiveness. I learned that, in addition to preserving the death camps with all the evidence of the evil done there, they bring their school children each year to these camps, so they will grow up determined it must never happen again.

Looking back through history, we see how wars in the past planted the seeds of the next war. When peace came, the rivalries and hatreds remained. Forty years ago we did something different. Now forty years later erstwhile enemies are friends and allies. It was in this spirit I accepted the invitation to visit Bergen-Belsen and Bitburg. I still believe it was the morally right thing to do.

Well, again, my heartfelt thanks to you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Joseph R. Weisberger
Judge
Supreme Court of Rhode Island
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)



Supreme Court of Rhode Island

JOSEPH R. WEISBERGER
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

Providence

May 10, 1985

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan:

The events of the past few weeks relating to your trip to Europe have included many critical and difficult elements which must have been productive of extreme distress on your part. I, therefore, feel constrained to write to you in order to express my deep feeling of pride in the dignified and steadfast manner in which you have withstood the cacophonies of criticism and the many slights and discourtesies which have been visited upon you.

I strongly believe that your determination under the circumstances to visit the cemetery at Bitburg was the right decision to make. Many well meaning people were highly critical of this courageous act on your part. I share with those critics, as I know you do, complete revulsion and horror at the atrocities committed by the rulers of Nazi Germany.

However, I believe that they misassessed the purpose of your trip. That purpose was in great part to demonstrate our reconciliation with the Republic of West Germany forty years after armed conflict had ended. I recognize, as I am sure you do, that it is impossible to forgive the part in

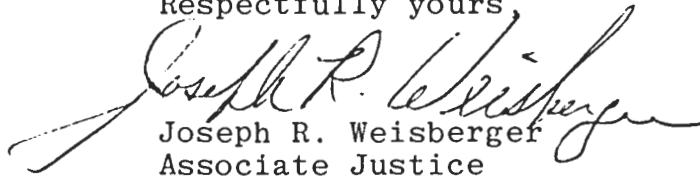
The Honorable Ronald Reagan
Page Two
May 10, 1985

these atrocities played by members of the Waffen SS and many members of the German bureaucracy. Nevertheless, we cannot expect the German people and government to remain tarnished by guilt forever. There is no question that Germany is probably the strongest member of NATO and the keystone of the arch of our alliances in western Europe. Therefore, a slight to the German Chancellor and government at this time would have accomplished far more counterproductive results than those which could have been beneficial to persons who suffered under the Nazi regime.

I therefore wish to compliment you on your skill and perceptiveness in carrying out what must have been a most difficult and heartrending decision. Your address at the cemetery was a masterpiece of declaration of reconciliation, without forgetting the terrible events of the past. Your address before the European Parliament in the face of discourtesy and attempted disruption was dignified and statesmanlike. You turned aside the barbs of your detractors with gentle humor and good natured tolerance.

In summary, the events of these past two weeks have made me very proud of our President and very proud to be an American. As a lifelong Republican, I am also proud that our party is represented by one who can rise above the expedience of the moment to achieve a foreign policy goal which will be of lasting benefit to our country.

Respectfully yours,


Joseph R. Weisberger
Associate Justice

3207.61
TR123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Judge Houston:

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I am most grateful for your kind and generous words. They mean a great deal to me, especially in view of your own war-time experience.

It seems to me we achieved something most unusual forty years ago. Back through history wars were settled in such a way they planted the seeds for the next war. The hatreds and rivalries remained. Not this time. Here it is four decades later and our erstwhile enemies are our staunchest friends and allies.

Again, my thanks to you and very best regards.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable E. J. Houston
Judge
District Court of Ontario
Court House
2 Daly Avenue
Ottawa, Canada K1N 6E2

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)



THE HONOURABLE EDWARD J. HOUSTON
JUDGE
DISTRICT COURT OF ONTARIO

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS
COURT HOUSE
2 DALY AVENUE, OTTAWA, CANADA
K1N 6E2

May 5th, 1985

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

Dear Mr. President:

Through the miracle of television, I have watched the events in West Germany today.

May I congratulate you on your actions. It took great courage to do what you did. I heard two addresses by you. Both were in good taste and will contribute to world peace which is the aim of all right-thinking people.

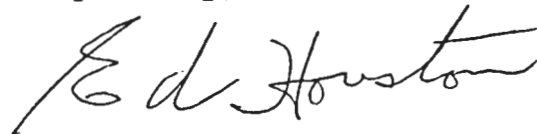
I know Germany. In January 1944 I was shot down while preparing to drop bombs on Berlin - my eighth trip. Five of our seven-man crew were killed.

After about twenty hours I became a P.O.W. While in Germany I was from time to time with thousands of U.S.A. P.O.W.'s - mostly B-17 crews.

I know about the Gestapo and Hitler Youth from personal experience. Your account today about the German mother reminded me of a German soldier who was very kind to me when we were on the march near the end of the war. I can assure you that I fully understood your message.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir,

Yours respectfully,



Judge E.J. Houston

320759
TIR123-01

May 20, 1985

Dear Mr. Rosenfeld:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your letter of May 8. I appreciate more than I can say your kind and generous words.

My purpose was never to suggest we forgive and forget, and I found that today's Germans do not suggest such a thing. They have preserved the camps with evidence of all the horror of the Holocaust, and they say along with us, "never again."

You were kind to write as you did and your letter means a great deal to me.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. REAGAN

Mr. Robert T. Rosenfeld
1215 Terminal Tower
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

1200
Walter, Haverfield, Buescher & Chockley

Attorneys at Law

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216/781-1212

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16 East Broad Street

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May 8, 1985

Christopher L. Gibbon
Victor J. Leo
Marcia E. Hurt
Frederick W. Whatley
Mark D. Weller
Marian C. Abram
Nancy A. Noall
Kenneth A. Zirm
Mark T. Wassell
Robert M. Humphrey

Loyal V. Buescher (1915-1979)

Of Counsel

Susan E. Batal
Oscar H. Johnson
Walter J. McNamara III

Paul W. Walter
D. Rusk Haverfield
Edward D. Wyner
F. Wilson Chockley, Jr.
Homer W. Giles
Arthur P. Steinmetz
Robert L. Musser
J. Robert Malloy
Robert T. Rosenfeld
Michael T. McMenamin
Robert S. Horbaly
Charles T. Riehl
John H. Gibbon
William D. Buss II
Jeffrey G. Wyner
James E. Betts
Henry B. Fischer
William A. Welty
David W. Welty

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you not only as a proud American but also as a thankful Jew, proud of your courage at Bitburg Cemetery and thankful for your remarks at Bergen-Belsen.

I, too, before your visit joined hundreds of thousands of Americans in disagreeing with both the purpose and the act of your visitation to the cemetery. However, having observed your remarks at the airport and those of Chancellor Kohl, it became clear to me how important this act of symbolism was. I thank you for your courage.

In retrospect, I think that your visit to the concentration camp site and your compassionate remarks were among the highest points of your presidency to date. No one could have listened to you and observed you without feeling both the anguish and compassion which you must have felt at that moment. Through your words I felt that same anguish but I never could have expressed it as well as did you. I thank you for saying to the world what needed to be said in 1985.

Again, my heartfelt thanks.

Very truly yours,


Robert T. Rosenfeld

RTR:kaw

To Judge Joseph R. Weisberger - Supreme Court of Rhode Island
Providence Rhode Island

Dear Judge Weisberger

I can't tell you how much your letter meant to me. You were more than kind to write as you did and I'm most grateful for your generous words.

You are so right about not forgetting or forgiving those who committed the atrocities of the Holocaust. What struck me in this whole episode was the determination of today's Germans that they were not going to forget or ask forgiveness. I learned that in addition to preserving the death camps with all the evidence of the evil done there they bring their school children each year to these camps so they will grow up determined it must never happen again.

Looking back through history we see how war in the ~~past~~ past planted the seeds of the next war. When peace came the ~~seeds~~ rivalries & hatreds remained.

Forty years ago we did something different. Now forty years later erstwhile enemies are friends & allies.

It was in this spirit I accepted the invitation to visit Bergen-Belsen & Bitburg. I still believe it was the morally right thing to do.

With again my heartfelt thanks to you,
Sincerely RR

To Judge E.J. Houston - Judges Chambers Court House
Dear Judge Houston 2 Daly Ave. Ottawa Canada
Kin. 6E2

Thank you very much for your kind letter. I am most grateful for your kind & generous words they mean a great deal to me especially in view of your

own war time experience.

It seems to me we achieved something most unusual forty years ago. Back through history wars were settled in such a way they planted the seeds for the next war. The hatreds & rivalries remained. Not this time. Here it is four decades later and our erstwhile enemies are our staunchest friends & allies.

Again my thanks to you & very best regards.
Sincerely
RR

To Robert T. Rosenfeld - Walter, Haverfield, Buescher &
Chockley.
1215 Terminal Tower, Cleveland Ohio
44113

Dear Mr. Rosenfeld

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your letter of May 8. I appreciate more than I can say your kind & generous words.

My purpose was never to suggest we forgive & forget and I found that Today's Germans do not suggest such a thing. They have preserved the camps with evidence of all the horror of the Holocaust and they say along with us, "never again".

You were kind to write as you did and your letter means a great deal to me.

Again thanks.

Sincerely
RR

End
Case
File

320758
T12123-01

May 20, 1985

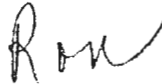
Dear Joe and Dorothea:

Thanks very much for your kind letter and for the column. I enjoyed reading it, something I rarely have a chance to say about "The Free Press."

I'm enclosing copies of the two speeches I made on May 5. The first was at Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Later in the day, the second was at the Bitburg Air Base where our men are based with a German unit.

Again, thanks and best regards.

Sincerely,



Mr. and Mrs. S. Josiah Penberthy, Jr.
35560 Heritage Lane
Farmington, Michigan 48024

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation (Sample)

Encls; (2) Press Releases on Speeches

To Mr. ~~W. H.~~ ⁵¹⁴⁴ Parmenter St. 35560 Stoughton Lane
Farmington Mich. 48024

Dear Joe & Dorothea

Thanks very much for your kind letter &
for the column. I enjoyed reading it, especially
I really have a chance to say about the Free Press.
I'm enclosing copies of the 2 requests I

made on May 5. The 1st was at Bergen - Bodrum
concentration camp, later in the day the 2nd was
at the Bithynia Qui Bae where our men are
lived with a German Unit.

Bergen Bithynia & Bost Bergen
Dorothea

May 5, 1985

Hon. Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dutch:

Bitburg - as I write this you are speaking at the airport. Bitburg, I'm afraid, has become a name which is wearing a bit thin. The politics which has been injected into the matter is a complete turn-off but I must say, your handling of a most awkward situation demonstrated leadership and tact which all Americans can be proud. Thank God for your good sense to go through with the visit.

The NBC coverage of the day seemed to be an attempt to make a "star" out of Mr. Wiesel of the Holocaust Committee. I become disturbed when I hear "my people" from such as he, although I know what he is talking about, it is separatist talk. In the United States we are one people, Christians, Jews, black, white, whatever, led by you, our President. That simple fact is most difficult for some to understand.

The enclosed McWhirter article which appeared in Friday's "Detroit Free Press", is perhaps the best on the subject I have read and I surely hope you take the time to read it too. The general editorial policy of "The Free Press" carries with it particular significance. Nicky's usual approach to your administration is not what one would call the most flattering, but occasionally she does take what I like to think of as "the proper stand" on an issue.

Again, Dorothea and I send our very best to you and Nancy and pray for your continued good health and well-being.


-Joe Penberthy



**Nickie
McWhirter**

Reasons for Bitburg visit buried in nation's anxiety

Bitburg is driving us crazy. President Reagan plans to visit a cemetery in that small West German town for 20 minutes on Sunday, at the suggestion of his host, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Suddenly, nothing else about the presidential mission to cement political and economic union with our European allies seems to matter. We are in the throes of a national anxiety attack.

Stripped of raw emotional response, anti-Reagan cheap shots and easy moralizing, there are sound international, political reasons for this presidential stopover at the Bitburg cemetery in 1985. And the job of any president, in large measure, is international politics.

Please remember it was Chancellor Kohl who asked for the cemetery visit. Do you suppose he did that out of respect for Nazis, out of disrespect for Jews, out of thoughtlessness, naivete? Hardly. Neither do I suppose Reagan agreed for any of those reasons.

Put aside old hatreds

Perhaps we forget that just as Germans were our enemies in World Wars I and II, so were we their enemies. Just as we were carefully conditioned to think of Germans as unfeeling killers of innocent civilians, so were Germans conditioned to think of us. We remember the burning of London as an act of barbarism. Germans remember the firebombing of Dresden as an act of equal barbarism.

Why should they feel otherwise? The German people were force-fed even larger doses of war-time patriotic propaganda than we were. Heaven knows, we got our share, and it took effect.

We and our allies won that last and most brutal of the global wars. In so doing, we killed most of a generation of young German men and boys. I don't suppose their families love us for that. And when the war was finished, the allies split the nation that had been Germany in two pieces and gave half to the USSR as a kind of trophy. I don't suppose the German people love us for that, either.

Forty years after WWII, however, we need to put aside old hatreds and grudges. We need the Germans and figure they need us. Despite history, which cannot be changed, and propaganda, which tends to lurk in dark corners of human minds avoiding the light of reason, West Germany and the United States must work co-operatively and enthusiastically for our mutual survival and prosperity.

We need never forget

siles belong on West German soil, insinuating war again. So he asked President Reagan to pay a brief, unceremonious visit to a small cemetery that contains the remains of German civilians as well as soldiers. It would be a visible symbol to Germans that Americans are no longer insensitive to German humanity. If we want our missiles on their soil, perhaps we need to demonstrate we understand that they bleed and die in wartime.

We need never forget, write off or otherwise discount the agony of the Jews in the Nazi death camps. We need not forgive, certainly not honor, those responsible, including SS troopers. German voters need some demonstration that America recognizes our mutual, war-bred hatreds have been put aside, however, and that we accept the mortality, the humanity of German people today.

That's the only message of the cemetery visit. That's the reconciliation Reagan says is morally just. It has nothing to do with forgiving or honoring murderers.

End
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