

**EICHMANN'S PROSECUTOR SAYS REAGAN, BY VISITING GERMAN WAR CEMETERY, IS HANDING HITLER A POSTHUMOUS VICTORY**  
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, April 21 (JTA) — Gideon Hausner, the man who prosecuted Adolf Eichmann, declared that by visiting a German war cemetery, where SS killers are buried, during his trip to West Germany next month, President Reagan is handing Hitler a posthumous victory.

Visiting a Nazi concentration camp site on the same trip cannot compensate or balance that "appalling act," Hausner said in a radio interview over the weekend. Reagan is to place a wreath on the Bitburg war cemetery where Wehrmacht soldiers who battled the Allies in World War II are buried, along with more than a score of Waffen SS.

"This would be, in our view, a victory of Hitler from beyond his grave and a desecration of the memory of his Jewish victims," Hausner said. "It is an irony of fate that while the American machinery of justice is dealing with the extradition of Demjanjuk as a war criminal, the President of the United States will pay tribute to the comrades in the army of this war criminal who are buried in that German war cemetery."

Hausner was referring to John Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian-born war criminal who operated the gas chambers at Treblinka. Demjanjuk, who entered the United States after the war by lying about his Nazi past and was naturalized, has been stripped of his U.S. citizenship and presently faces extradition to Israel to stand trial for the murder of Jews.

**'It Is An Absurdity'**

Hausner noted also that "Countless acts of savagery were perpetrated against the British, American and Soviet prisoners of war by the Waffen SS" who are among the dead Reagan plans to honor. "It is an absurdity to assume that since both the murderers and their victims are now dead, a misguided idea of comradeship in arms should lead to an even-handedness of attitudes to both sides," Hausner said.

"There was, in fact, never any comradeship in arms between the murderous SS and the Allied soldiers ... It is therefore astonishing that with such people the President is now to perform a symbolic act of reconciliation."

"Does the President now intend to obliterate all demarcation lines between those who embarked on the destruction of civilization and those who gave their lives in defense of it?"

**WIESEL: IF REAGAN DOES NOT VISIT MILITARY CAMP IT WILL BE SEEN AS A 'HUMAN RESPONSE TO A HUMAN PLEA'**  
By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA) — Eli Wiesel, chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, said today that if President Reagan had responded to his plea last Friday not to go to a West German military cemetery next month, it would have been

seen not as having given in to "pressure" but as a "human response to a human plea." (See separate story, P. 2.)

"I think he would have come out stronger," Wiesel said in an appearance on the ABC-TV "Issues and Answers" program. He added that "At this point, the key is in the hands of Chancellor (Helmut) Kohl." He said Kohl should "release" Reagan from the President's commitment to lay a wreath at the Bitburg military cemetery where some 2,000 German soldiers and 47 members of the Waffen SS are buried.

Reagan did not respond when Wiesel made an emotional plea to the President, at a ceremony at which he received the Congressional Gold Medal, that Reagan not go to the cemetery.

**Alternative Sites Suggested**

Wiesel said today that an alternative site could be found that would be in the spirit of reconciliation the President is seeking, and suggested a prison where Germans who opposed Hitler had been killed.

A similar suggestion on the ABC program was made by Rep. Stephen Solarz (D. N.Y.) who added that one alternative site could be the grave of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, the first post-war Chancellor, who guided Germany toward democracy.

Wiesel said he feared that by going to the cemetery, Reagan was "implicitly and unwillingly giving a signal for the rehabilitation of the SS." He said he would not be so anguished if only German soldiers and not SS were buried at the cemetery.

But Solarz said he would object to even this since World War II was not an ordinary war but against "an evil regime" that would have imposed "totalitarian terror" on the world.

Both Solarz and Wiesel said they were especially upset by Reagan's comment last Thursday in which he said the German soldiers buried at Bitburg were "surely" as much victims as those who died in the death camps.

**Doubts Council Members Will Resign**

"The victims suffered, the others caused the suffering," Wiesel said. Solarz, a member of the Holocaust Memorial Council, said he doubted that members of the Council would resign. He said they have the important task of building a Holocaust museum, which Reagan supports, and "I think it is very important that this work continue."

Both Wiesel and Solarz stressed that they did not believe in collective guilt and favor reconciliation with the Germany of today. But Michael Naumann, senior foreign editor of the West German newspaper Der Spiegel, said this reconciliation already exists. He said it came with the Marshall Plan and especially with the Berlin airlift.

**REAGAN: 'WE ARE ALL ... VICTIMS'**

BONN, April 21 (JTA) — President Reagan, who is embroiled in a controversy marking his planned trip to a German military cemetery and for his statement last Thursday in Washington that German soldiers "were victims just as surely as the victims of the concentration camps," said today that "In a sense we are all

its victims since it forces us to try to come to terms with a time when civilization lost its way."

Reagan, who is scheduled to visit the military cemetery in Bitburg in two weeks and also to visit the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, made his remarks in a message to a ceremony at the camp marking the 40th anniversary of the liberation of the camp. The statement, read out by U.S. Embassy Counsellor Robert Tynes, added: "The Holocaust is part of the consciousness of responsible human beings everywhere no matter what their age."

#### Kohl: Germans Bear 'Never-Ending Shame'

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking at the ceremony, said that Germans bore "never-ending shame" for the atrocities committed by the Nazis during World War II. Addressing a crowd of some 3,000 people, including Jewish survivors of the camp, Kohl declared: "Reconciliation with the survivors and descendants of victims is only possible if we accept our history as it really was; if we Germans acknowledge our shame."

In his speech, broadcast live on television, Kohl said that Bergen-Belsen "remains a mark of Cain branded in the minds of our nation, just like Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor, Chelmno and Majdanek and the many other sites testifying to that mania for destruction."

The Chancellor announced plans to establish an archive for the study of Jewish history in Germany, saying that this was intended to underline the great role played by German Jewish thinkers in past centuries.

Before the ceremonies began, Kohl and President Richard von Weizsäcker both laid wreaths at the memorial to the 100,000 people who died in Bergen-Belsen.

#### REAGAN TO VISIT SITE OF FORMER BERGEN-BESEN NAZI CAMP BUT STILL INTENDS TO VISIT MILITARY CEMETERY

By David Friedman

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA) -- President Reagan, despite an impassioned plea from Elie Wiesel, chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, said he still intends to go through with his plans to lay a wreath at a West German military cemetery. But he also announced that he will visit the site of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp when he goes to Germany next month.

The President's comments came before he presented a Congressional Gold Medal to Wiesel at a White House ceremony Friday marking Jewish Heritage Week. In accepting the medal, Wiesel said "it belongs to all those who remember what the SS did to their victims."

In his remarks at the ceremony in the White House Roosevelt Room, Reagan did not refer to the week-long controversy over his decision to visit the Bitburg military cemetery where some 2,000 German soldiers, including more than 40 members of the SS, are buried.

Instead, he discussed it at a private meeting in the Oval Office with Wiesel, and Peggy Tishman, President, and Malcolm Hoenlein, director, of the Jewish Community Council of New York, the group that initiated Jewish Heritage Week. Also participating were Vice President George Bush and White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan.

The President told the Jewish leaders that when the cemetery was selected, it was not known that SS members were buried there, and that now he could not change the visit because of West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's strong request that he go through with it.

However, the White House announced later on Friday that Reagan had spoken by telephone to Kohl. While spokesman Larry Speakes would not give any details of what was said, there was a belief here that if a change came, it would have to be at a German initiative.

Hoenlein said the President also stressed that in his remarks to regional reporters Thursday, in which he said that most of the 2,000 soldiers buried in Bitburg cemetery were 18-year-old boys conscripted into the army and "they were victims just as surely as the victims of the concentration camps," he was not comparing the atrocities suffered by the victims of the Holocaust to soldiers who died in the war. Hoenlein said Reagan meant that all those who died in World War II were victims of the Nazis.

But leaders of major national Jewish organizations continued to express dismay and outrage at what they termed Reagan's distortion of history and his perversion of language by claiming that the German soldiers and victims of the Holocaust were equal victims.

Statements to this effect were issued by the American Jewish Committee, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Congress, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Rabbinical Assembly, Zionist Organization of America, American Jewish Heritage Committee, and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Jewish leaders also continued to urge Reagan not to visit Bitburg cemetery. (See related story, P. 4.)

It was not clear how Reagan determined that most of the soldiers buried in Bitburg cemetery were 18-year-old boys. According to the Simon Wiesenthal Center, one of the SS soldiers buried in the cemetery is SS Staff Sergeant Otto Franz Bengel who was awarded a gold German Cross in the name of Adolf Hitler in 1944 by senior SS officials for killing 10 American soldiers. The Wiesenthal Center said that Bengel was born on October 4, 1922 and would have been 23 years old at the time of his death.

Another soldier, Ugen Schuler, who was a member of the Reich Sicherheitsamt, the infamous SS security service, is also buried there, according to the Center. He was born on May 11, 1913 and would have been 32 at the time of his death. The Wiesenthal Center said it has begun "a thorough investigation of the background of the SS soldiers buried" in Bitburg cemetery.

At the White House ceremony, Wiesel expressed the "sadness that is in my heart" over the controversy. "I am convinced that you were not aware of the presence of SS graves," he told the President. But Wiesel said now that it is known, "I implore you to do something else ... that place is not for you, your place is with the victims."

Wiesel stressed that he does not believe in collective guilt or responsibility and that young Germans today are not responsible for crimes committed by their parents. But he said the President could find another way of expressing reconciliation. He told reporters later that one proposal made was that Reagan could talk to German students.

Rabbi Haskel Lookstein, spiritual leader of Kehillath Jeshurun in New York City, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that if it were not for the existence of

the State of Israel, an American Jew would not be able to make such a statement face to face to a President. He said that 40 years ago a Jew would not have received such a medal and that, if he did, he would not have dared to give the President a lesson in *musar* (ethics).

Reagan signed a proclamation at the ceremony making the week of April 21 Jewish Heritage Week. He declared that Americans are pledged to "never again" allow the Holocaust to happen, adding that never again is not enough.

He said Americans have demonstrated their support for the survival of the Jewish people in backing Israel and "Americans will never waver in our support." He noted that "with Israel, the United States reached out and saved Ethiopian Jews."

Reagan expressed continued support for Soviet Jewry. "If the Soviet Union truly wants peace, truly wants friendship, it will release Anatoly Shcharansky and free Soviet Jewry."

Reagan added that "We pledge we will never forget that in many places in the world the cancer of anti-Semitism still exists." He said the United States will bring to justice those responsible for the Holocaust. "We will take action to root out the vestiges of anti-Semitism in America," he declared.

In his reply, Wiesel said he was "so grateful for Reagan being a friend of the Jewish people," for trying to help the oppressed Jews of the Soviet Union and for supporting Israel.

#### SOME 550,000 MARCHERS AND SPECTATORS IN ANNUAL SALUTE TO ISRAEL PARADE

By Yitzhak Rabin

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA) -- Under brilliant spring skies, an estimated half million spectators watched and more than 50,000 people marched in the 21st annual Salute to Israel Parade today, marking the 37th anniversary of the independence of the Jewish State.

The parade, organized and sponsored by the American Zionist Youth Foundation, began at noon. From then until after 4 p.m. scores of marching bands, colorfully decorated floats and cadres of youths, men and women of all ages and all walks of life, trooped along sunny Fifth Avenue from 59th to 86th streets. The songs they sang and the multi-colored banners they carried emphasized this year's parade theme: "Builders of Zion, Builders of Israel."

The reviewing stand, set up at 59th Street, near the southeast entrance to Central Park, was packed with city, state and national dignitaries, Israel's ranking diplomats and a visiting Cabinet Minister from Jerusalem.

Speaking for the Administration, Secretary of Interior Donald Hodel expressed America's deep commitment to Israel's security and well being. He emphasized Israel's strategic importance to the U.S. and vowed continued American support for Israel.

Many of the speakers on the reviewing stand referred to the Holocaust, the remembrance of which takes on special significance this month as the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany and the liberation of the death camps approaches.

Mayor Edward Koch of New York, declared, "We will never, never forget what the Nazis did to the Jewish people." He observed that had Israel existed then as a sovereign independent state, the Holocaust would not have taken place.

Sen. Joseph Biden (D. Del.), who spoke briefly from the reviewing stand, declared that today's

Salute to Israel Parade "is the answer to Bitburg." He was referring to the German war cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany where, to the anguish of Jews and non-Jews, President Reagan will lay a wreath next month at the graves of German soldiers who fought in World War II, including members of the notorious Waffen SS.

Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R. N.Y.), also stressed America's support for Israel, declaring that the Salute to Israel Parade is a salute to all the values which Americans stand for.

Gad Yaacobi, Israel's Minister of Economics and Planning, who was the guest of honor at the parade, said the event was a tribute to the friendship of Israel and the U.S. and the friendship of the Jewish people for Israel. "We are one," he declared. He promised that Israel would overcome its current economic difficulties with the help of American Jews. Israel, he said, will insure that no Holocaust will ever occur again.

Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, said the strategic and military cooperation between Israel and the U.S. was never stronger. He asserted that the parade is a symbol of the solidarity between Israel and the U.S.

Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, called on Mayor Koch to let next year's Salute to Israel Parade march along First Avenue. He said it would be appropriate for the parade to pass by the headquarters of the UN, located on First Avenue.

#### CABINET VOTES TO GET IDF OUT OF LEBANON BY BEGINNING OF JUNE

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA) -- The Cabinet decided by majority vote today to implement stage three of the Israel Defense Force withdrawal from Lebanon so that the last Israeli soldier will be out of that country by the first week in June.

The vote, which came after a seven-hour debate, was 17-3 with one abstention. The ministers opposed to the plan were not immediately identified. The army radio reported later that the Cabinet meeting was "stormy" and that there had been sharp exchanges between Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein of the doveish Shinui faction and Minister of Commerce and Industry Ariel Sharon of Herut.

Stage three of the three-stage withdrawal plan approved by the Cabinet last January 14, will bring the IDF behind the international border. But Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who proposed the resolution voted on today, warned at a press conference afterwards that the IDF "will not see itself to be limited by any line" should terrorist threats arise inside Lebanon.

If the threat is "30, 40 or 50 kilometers from the border" and Israel considered it to endanger her security, she would act against it, Rabin said. He said the IDF also would come to the aid of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) if any of its units encountered a security problem they could not handle.

He said that in addition, Israel would "from time to time" establish look-out posts in Lebanon, not necessarily within the security belt along the border. The Israeli media reported earlier today that the security belt would vary in depth from eight to 15 kilometers, being widest in the east facing Syrian forces.

Asked about Syria's intentions, Rabin said Damascus is aware of "certain things which Israel will not tolerate." He said it would not be beneficial to specify what they are. (By David Landau)

# KIRKPATRICK INDIRECTLY CRITICIZES REAGAN'S REMARK THAT GERMAN SOLDIERS AND HOLOCAUST VICTIMS ARE EQUAL By Yitzhak Rabi

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA) -- Declaring that she believes "in the importance of remembering the Holocaust," outgoing United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Jeane Kirkpatrick, appears to have criticized the remark by President Reagan last Thursday to a group of regional editors and publishers that most of the 2,000 German soldiers buried in Bitburg cemetery "were victims just as surely as the victims of the concentration camps."

"We are not all equally victims," Kirkpatrick declared in her remarks at a farewell luncheon in her honor last Friday given by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. She declined, however, to mention the President by name or to refer to his upcoming visit to a military cemetery in Bitburg, West Germany, where SS Nazi soldiers are buried.

Kirkpatrick said there is a need to remember and honor the victims of the Holocaust. "We can never remember and learn enough of the horrors of the Holocaust," she said. The envoy stated that the "victimization" of the Jewish people continues to this day and expressed her belief that the American Jewish community has a vital role in reminding the world of the genocide that took place against the Jews.

## 'Revolting' Anti-Semitism At The UN

Kirkpatrick, addressing about 400 Jewish leaders who attended the luncheon in her honor, said that the anti-Semitism at the United Nations "is bold, unashamed and revolting." She said that the attacks against Israel in the world organization are "incredibly vitriolic attacks, bitter hateful attacks, violent attacks." She said that the speeches against the Jewish State are "so extreme, so violent, it is a breach of good taste to quote from them."

She said that what is rejected at the United Nations is not Israeli policies but "Israel itself, its existence." She charged that Israel is often accused of genocide at the United Nations. "We are in the center of double-speak," she said, referring to the anti-Israeli accusations. The former UN Ambassador criticized the silence and passivity "of almost everyone" at the UN over the unfair treatment that Israel receives at the world organization.

Kirkpatrick, the first woman to serve as the chief U.S. delegate to the UN, retired from the post as of April 1. She was appointed by President Reagan in January, 1981.

She was presented at the luncheon Friday with a 13-volume Encyclopedia Judaica by Kenneth Bialkin, chairman of the president's conference. Her support of Israel at the United Nations was praised by Bialkin, by Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's Ambassador to the UN, and by Norman Podhoretz, editor of Commentary magazine.

Bialkin and Podhoretz took issue with Reagan's visit to the Bitburg military cemetery and his remark on Thursday that Nazi soldiers and the victims of the Holocaust were both victims of Nazism.

## GERMAN NEO-NAZI PARTY POSTPONES CONCLAVE IN RESPONSE TO PRESSURE By David Kantor

BONN, April 21 (JTA) -- The neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) has announced the postponement of its regional convention which was to be held in the Bavarian town of Nesselwang at the end of this month.

The NPD apparently was responding to protests from inside Germany and abroad. Otto Ulbrich, chairman of its regional branch in Schwaben, said the postponement was decided in order to relieve some of the pressure put on Rolf Buchheister, owner of the hotel in Nesselwang where the convention was to take place.

Buchheister, a former member of the SS and a neo-Nazi activist, is deeply involved in organizing a reunion of some 1,000 former SS officers in Nesselwang from May 3 through May 12. The dates cover the period of President Reagan's visit to West Germany.

Buchheister was a member of the SS for five years during World War II and after the war immersed himself in neo-Nazi activities though he also has roots in respectable conservative organizations such as the local chapter of the Christian Social Union (CSU), the ruling party in Bavaria and a coalition partner of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

## AIPAC URGES REAGAN NOT TO VISIT BITBURG CEMETERY By David Friedman

ARLINGTON, Va., April 21 (JTA) -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) sent a letter today to President Reagan asking him not to go to the Bitburg military cemetery when he visits West Germany next month. Robert Asher, AIPAC president, announced this at the opening session of AIPAC's 26th annual policy conference at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel here.

He told the 1,200 people in attendance that the letter by AIPAC's Board stated that "As human beings, as Americans and as Jews, we join millions of our fellow citizens in calling you to cancel the visit to the Bitburg military cemetery."

The letter stressed that it would be "a sign of strength, not weakness, to correct this injustice. To honor those SS soldiers (buried in the cemetery) who spread terror and death under the sign of the skull and crossbones dishonors their victims -- the Jews and the American GIs they slaughtered only 30 miles away at Malmedy, and it dishonors those Germans who are today working to build a democratic and free country."

Marshall Breger, President Reagan's liaison to the Jewish community, who accepted the letter to take to Reagan, said he "understands your agony" and "I share your communal pain."

He stressed that Reagan was "profoundly moved" by Eli Wiesel in both his public and private meeting with him last Friday. Breger declared that Reagan is the "best friend of our community who ever sat in the White House."

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NEW YORK (JTA) -- In response to appeals from the Chief Rabbis of Israel, Boris Begun, son of Soviet Prisoner of Conscience Isosif Begun, has ended a 45-day hunger strike, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry said it learned. The 19-year-old Begun fasted to protest increasing measures to isolate his father from his family, and the failure of Soviet officials to answer concerns about Isosif's health. In violation of Soviet law, Begun's family has repeatedly been denied the right to visit him at the camp, with officials declaring no meeting will be allowed before late 1985.