

## Reagan's Visit To German Military Cemetery Protested

(Continued from page 13)

Marchiniak, President, Institute for Urban Life, Loyola University, former President, National Center for Urban Ethnic Affairs; Rev. Herbert Martin, President, Chicago Southside Branch, NAACP; Ray Romero, Chicago Regional Director, Associate Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Connie Seals, Chairperson, Illinois Consultation on Ethnicity in Education; Maria Medina Seidner, Chairperson, ASPIRA, Inc., of Illinois, Past President, National Association for Bilingual Education; Rev. Vilis Varaberga, President, Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Speaking for the American Jewish Committee, Mr. Friedman stated:

"Let it be clearly understood: there can be no reconciliation with the unspeakable horrors perpetrated by the SS. The SS were the chief agents of Hitler's war against the Jews; they manned the ramparts of the Holocaust kingdom. It is morally obscene for the President of the United States -- however well-meaning his intentions -- to lay a wreath at a cemetery containing SS graves."

Two other AJC officials, Rabbi A. James Rudin, National Director of Religious Affairs, and Irving M. Levine, Director of National Affairs and Director of the AJC's Institute for American Pluralism, issued a joint statement:

"It is heartwarming that such a diverse group of American ethnic and religious leaders have declared themselves so emphatically as being opposed to President Reagan's Bitburg cemetery visit. It is an issue that has touched deep emotional chords among all sections of the American public whose memories of why we fought against Nazi brutality have not been extinguished by time. Their voices heard now will make it more difficult for their children to forget the Holocaust and its meaning to all mankind."

The American Jewish Committee is this country's pioneer human relations organization. Founded in 1906, it combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews here and abroad, and advances the cause of improved human relations for all people everywhere.

## Kohl Asked For Investigation Of Bitburg Official

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the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes in December 1944 during which Waffen SS massacred more than 100 disarmed and bound U.S. prisoners of war. He said it was stationed south of Warsaw at that time. The Waffen SS men buried at Bitburg took part in the Battle of the Bulge.

In another development, a group of German Roman Catholic and Protestant theologians and scholars has urged Chancellor Kohl and Reagan not to visit the Bitburg cemetery. In a letter to the two leaders, the group said the visit would amount to an act of "suppression of German

history" and would add to the suffering of Nazi victims. Among the signatories were Helmut Gollwitzer of Berlin and Dorothee Soelle of Hamburg.

Meanwhile, government spokesman Peter Boenisch said on May 2 that Kohl and Reagan, at their first private meeting, confirmed their intention to go to Bitburg in order to focus on the development of democracy in Europe since the end of World War II and German-American friendship.

According to Boenisch, Reagan told Kohl that the American people and government have rejected the thesis of collective guilt and that this goes back to the time of the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

NEW YORK (WNS) — Mayor Edward Koch unveiled a street sign honoring Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved more than 100,000 Hungarian Jews during the Holocaust. Wallenberg was arrested by the Red Army when it liberated Budapest 40 years ago. The street sign designates the west side of First Avenue, across from the United Nations, from 42nd street to 49th street as "Raoul Wallenberg Walk."

# LETTERS

(Editor's Note: The signatories to this letter represent a total of nearly five million women of all religions, races, and creeds in the United States.)

Dear Michael:

In forcing the American people to swallow the bitter pill of Bitburg, President Reagan has shown that he is more interested in symbolically alleviating any resentment and anger remaining from World War II than with the needs and feelings of his own citizens. As leaders of American women's groups of different religions, races and creeds, we are deeply disturbed that the President has expressed his insensitivity in this manner.

The President now seems to think that he can silence American protests by also visiting the site of a former concentration camp -- rather in the manner of applying a band-aid to a serious wound. But his actions dishonor our national pride in those Allies who bravely fought against Facism, those who fell in the struggle, and our memories of the tragic deaths of the twelve million Jewish, Christian and other victims of the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mandel  
National President  
National Council of Jewish Women

Dorothy Height  
National President  
National Council of Negro Women

Sylvia R. Talbot  
National President  
Church Women United



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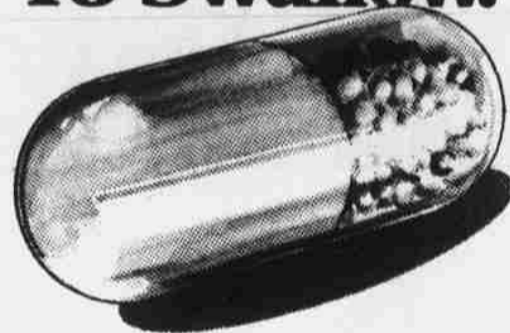
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