



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE  
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

*Preserving American Jewish History*

MS-603: Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum Collection, 1945-1992.

Series D: International Relations Activities. 1961-1992

Box 76, Folder 7, West German visit, 1979.

Programme  
for the Visit of

AMERICAN JEWISH  
Rabbi Marc H. TANNENBAUM  
ARCHIVES  
USA

to the Federal Republic of Germany



Study tour of representatives of the American Jewish Committee

Participants:

Mr. Richard MAASS, President  
Mr. Morris B. ABRAM, Honorary President  
Mr. Philip E. HOFFMAN, Honorary President  
Mr. Bertram H. GOLD, Executive Vice-President  
Mr. Miles JAFFE, Chairman, National Interreligious Affairs Commission  
Rabbi Marc H. TANNENBAUM, Director, Interreligious Affairs Department  
Mr. William S. TROSTEN, Director of Development  
New York/ USA

Period of stay : from March 23rd to March 29th, 1979

The programme for your visit has been arranged by  
INTER NATIONES, Visitors' Office, Kennedyallee 91-103,  
5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg, on behalf of the Press and In-  
formation Office of the Federal Government.

Programme-planning : Mrs. Barbara Kaiser/ Mrs. L.E. Simons

Tel.No.: 880 - 371

Az.: 2-009-2-12

On arriving in the Federal Republic of Germany you will  
have an opportunity to discuss the details of your pro-  
gramme with a representative of INTER NATIONES.

At each city you will be visiting during your stay you will  
be given a detailed programme on arrival.

If your escort fails to meet you and there is no message  
waiting for you at the Lufthansa information desk or the  
station information office, please go directly to your  
hotel.

We wish you a pleasant stay in our country.

Bonn, March 15th, 1979

Friday, March 23rd

9.00 hrs

Arrival München by LH 409 from New York

Welcome by a representative of Inter Naciones, München

Accommodation: Hotel Excelsior  
Am Hauptbahnhof  
München  
tel.: 55 79 06

Saturday, March 24th

Sunday, March 25th

Monday, March 26th

Tuesday, March 27th

Stay in München

The programme will be arranged and escort provided for by INTER NATIONES

-Besucherdienst-  
München

Programme in preparation: talks with the Catholic and the Protestant Churches, the Jewish Community, the Bavarian State Government, and to Oberammergau etc.

11.40 hrs

12.45 hrs

Departure München by LH 408

Arrival Köln/Bonn

Welcome by a representative of Inter Naciones, Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Accommodation: Hotel Continental  
Am Hauptbahnhof  
Bonn  
tel.: 63 53 60

Wednesday, March 28th

Thursday, March 29th

Stay in Bonn

The programme will be arranged and escort provided for by INTER NATIONES

-Besucherdienst-  
Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Programme in preparation: talk with members of the Political Parties, the Law Committee of the German Bundestag, the Federal Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ministry of Defence, the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany etc.

Departure open

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## Information

for Foreign Guests of the Federal Government

The Federal Government has invited you to come to the Federal Republic of Germany for an informatory tour and is looking forward to your visit. You will be taken care of by INTER NATIONES, an association for the promotion of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and foreign States.

In order to help you prepare for your journey, the mission of the Federal Republic of Germany which has sent you the invitation on behalf of the Federal Government will gladly provide you with information material and answer any questions you may have in connection with your visit. In addition, it will be useful for you to know the following points:

### Scope of the Invitation

The invitation covers your flight to the Federal Republic of Germany and back — usually on an aircraft of Deutsche Lufthansa —, and all flights or rail travel in your native country and within the Federal Republic of Germany connected with your trip. If for private reasons you wish to alter your route, any additional costs will be your own responsibility. During your stay in the Federal Republic your host will attend to your hotel accommodation, pay for the usual meals, and meet all costs arising within the scope of the official programme. You will appreciate that any expenditure over and above that, such as for long distance telephone calls, telegrams, postage stamps, souvenirs, private entertainment, etc. will have to be borne by you.

You will be accompanied by someone who speaks your own language or a language you understand.

### Entry into the Federal Republic of Germany

The Embassy or the nearest Consulate of the Federal Republic of Germany will be pleased to

provide you with information as to passport and visa requirements, vaccination regulations, etc.

You can bring any amount of foreign currency and traveller's cheques into the Federal Republic of Germany and there are no restrictions on the amount you take out, in so far as the regulations of your own country do not provide otherwise.

The amount of luggage you can carry will be governed by international airline regulations. Your host will unfortunately not be able to meet the cost of excess luggage.

Flight or rail tickets will be sent to you in good time by the mission of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### Programme

If possible, you will receive the general programme before you set out on your journey. The detailed programme will be handed to you as you arrive in each town. Should you want the programme to be altered in any way, please let your host know in good time. Your wishes will be taken into account as far as possible. If for important reasons you cannot make the trip, please notify the appropriate mission of the Federal Republic of Germany as soon as possible.

The INTER NATIONES representative who is to accompany you, will meet you on your arrival in the Federal Republic of Germany. In the event that he or she misses you owing, for instance, to a change in your time of arrival, please go to the information desk at the airport or railway station, or contact one of the INTER NATIONES offices on the enclosed list. You can also have your mail sent to these addresses so that it can be forwarded to you without delay.

**Dress**

You are advised before your journey to make some inquiries about the climate in the Federal Republic of Germany and bring the appropriate clothing. For receptions, visits to the theatre, etc., a dark suit will usually be sufficient.

The Federal Government wishes you bon voyage. INTER NATIONES will try to make your stay as pleasant as possible.

**Illness or accident during the visit**

If you fall acutely ill during your stay in the Federal Republic of Germany, your host will see to the appropriate medical treatment.

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**List of INTER NATIONES offices with addresses and telephone numbers**

Inter Naciones  
Besucherdienst  
Kennedyallee 91-103  
5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg  
Tel.: (022 21) 88 01

Inter Naciones  
Besucherdienst  
Täunusanlage 21  
6000 Frankfurt  
Tel.: (06 11) 72 81 63  
72 85 30

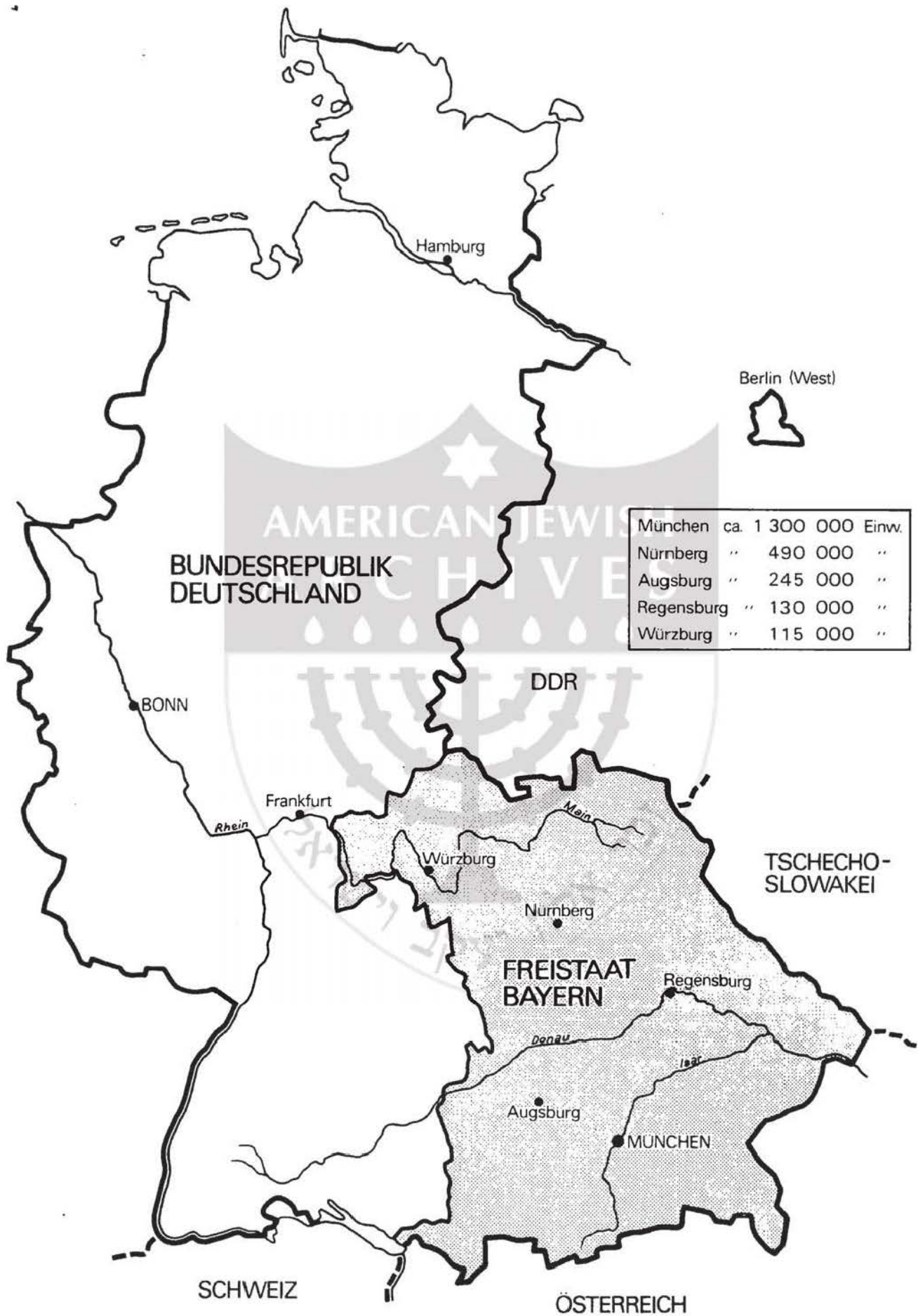
Inter Naciones  
Besucherdienst  
Neuer Jungfernstieg 5  
2000 Hamburg 36  
Tel.: (040) 35 13 01

Inter Naciones  
Besucherdienst  
c/o Bayerische Staatskanzlei  
Königinstraße 11  
8000 München 22  
Tel.: (089) 23 70 31

Inter Naciones  
Besucherdienst  
Charlottenplatz 17  
7000 Stuttgart  
Tel.: (07 11) 29 67 89  
29 18 69

**Berlin:**

Der Bevollmächtigte der Bundesregierung in Berlin  
Geschäftsbereich Presse und Information  
Bundesallee 216-218  
1000 Berlin 15  
Tel.: (030) 2 12 61





BAVARIAN STATE CHANCELLERY

Inter Nations  
Visitors' Service

Königinstraße 11  
8000 München 22  
Telephone 23 70 31  
Telex 2 4 215

Programme for:

THE VISIT OF A DELEGATION  
OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

U.S.A.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

Stay

March 23 - March 27, 1979

Accommodation

Hotel Excelsior  
Schützenstraße 11  
tel. 55 79 06

Bus service:

Messrs. Klaus Kurz  
tel. 80 21 92

Escort

Miss Erzsebet András  
tel. 98 99 81

Programme-organizer

Tel. 2 37 03 302

Mrs. Christina Hederer

Betr. Nr.: 97-3

Az.: 2-009-2-12

München, March 23, 1979



Participants

Mr. Richard MAAS  
President of the "American Jewish Committee"

Mr. Morris ABRAM  
Honorary President

Mr. Philip E. HOFFMAN  
Honorary President

Mr. Bertram H. GOLD  
Executive Vice-President

Mr. Miles JAFFE  
Chairman, National Interreligious Affairs Commission

Rabbi Marc H. TANENBAUM  
Director, Interreligious Affairs Department

Mr. William S. TROSTEN  
Director of Development



Friday, March 23

09.00 hrs. Arrival München-Riem airport on  
LH 409 from New York  
Welcomed by Miss A n d r á s  
Transfer by taxi to the hotel  
"Excelsior"

subsequently - Rest -

11.00 hrs. Visit to the  
"Evangelisch-Lutherischer Landeskirchenrat"  
Meiserstraße 13, tel. 55 951  
Welcomed by  
D.Dr. Johannes H a n s e l m a n n ,  
Landesbischof der Evangelisch-Lutherischen  
Kirche in Bayern

12.00 hrs. Meeting with His Eminence  
Dr. Josef Kardinal R a t z i n g e r ,  
Archbishop of München and Freising  
- Erzbischöfliches Palais -  
Kardinal-Faulhaber-Straße 7, tel. 29 69 55

13.00 hrs. Luncheon in honour of the delegation,  
given by Dr. H e n r i c h , director  
of the "Katholische Akademie in Bayern"  
Mandlstraße 23, tel. 39 10 91  
(1979 Symposium)

17.30 hrs. Meeting with Mr. Ernst-Maria L a n g ,  
architect, at the hotel "Excelsior"

evening at leisure

*To  
MCH.  
P.M. - 5:30  
at hotel  
Excelsior*

Saturday, March 24

morning

Opportunity to attend the religious service at the synagogue  
Reichenbachstraße 27

- Due to S h a b a t no program has been scheduled for this day-

*Max Ernst exhibit  
Emp. Ludwig palace*

Sunday, March 25

09.00 hrs.

Departure hotel by bus for Oberammergau

11.00 hrs.

Meeting with the Mayor of Oberammergau

-12.00 hrs.

Mr. Ernst Z w i n k / *Hans Meyer / Deputy Mayor*  
- Rathaus - , tel. 08822 / 4411

13.00 hrs.

Luncheon at the hotel "Alois Lang",  
tel. 08822 / 4141  
with Mr. Hans S c h w a i g h o f e r  
and two other representatives of the  
"reformers" *Helmut Fischer, Konrad Lang*

subsequently

Visit to the Passion Play House  
and the surroundings of Oberammergau  
(Ettal monastery, Linderhof Castle)

Monday, March 26

09.30 hrs.

Departure hotel by bus for the  
Dachau memorial site -

*כלי כלי  
האחדים*

10.15 hrs.

Arrival at Dachau-museum  
tel. 08131 / 1741 (Mrs. Distel, head of the  
museum will be present)

subsequently

at leisure

Opportunity to visit München museums  
and art galleries

15.00 hrs.

Visit to the "Landesverband der  
Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde in Bayern"  
Effnerstraße 68, tel. 98 94 42

Welcomed by the Honorary President

Dr. Dr. Simon S n o p k o w s k i, Dr. Segal

evening

5<sup>30</sup>

*Ernst Marrow hang*  
at leisure

Tuesday, March 27

*Dr. Hans Lamm*

11.40 hrs.

Departure München-Riem airport  
on LH 408

12.45 hrs.

Arrival Köln-Bonn

Accommodation: Hotel Continental  
Am Hauptbahnhof  
tel. 63 53 60





From M. Tamman

STATEMENT PRESENTED TO HIS EXCELLENCY, HELMUT SCHMIDT,  
 CHANCELLOR OF FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, BY  
 THE HON. RICHARD MAASS, PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE  
 AT MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LEADERS  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 1979, BONN, WEST GERMANY.

Your Excellency, Chancellor Schmidt,

~~(appreciation)~~ It is with a genuine sense of privilege and  
 gratitude that this delegation of leaders of the American  
 Jewish Committee greets you today.

Our feelings of privilege <sup>and gratitude</sup> for ~~this meeting~~  
 with you are heightened by the knowledge that we  
 have come together at a truly historic moment at which  
 two potentially momentous watershed events intersect.

The first is that we meet but two days  
 after the signing of the peace treaty between the  
 sovereign states of Israel and Egypt, after <sup>some</sup> thirty years  
 of protracted conflict and painful loss of precious human  
 lives.

The second is that we meet on the eve  
 of the opening of the debate in the Bundestag of the  
 Federal Republic of Germany ~~on~~ that hopefully will climax  
 in the abolition of the Statute of Limitations on Murder,  
 specifically the mass murders perpetrated by Nazi war  
 criminals against six million Jewish men, women, and  
 children, and millions of other human beings.

Our feelings of gratitude which we  
 freely express to you today, Chancellor Schmidt, derive  
 from our awareness that you personally and your  
 administration of the West German Government have played  
 constructive, morally courageous, and decisive roles in

helping to realize these historic developments.

We are here as ~~several~~ representatives of the oldest pioneering human relations organization in our country, and we are here both as Americans and as Jews.

As Americans, we have been blessed to live, to grow, and to thrive with millions of our fellow-citizens in ~~one of the~~ greatest democracies that mankind has yet experienced, a society governed by constitutional laws that ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>honored</sup> the dignity of ~~every~~ the human personality by assuring civil and political liberties to all its inhabitants, regardless of their race, color, <sup>religion</sup> or ethnic identification.

In the contemporary world, as you well know, the causes of constitutional democracy and individual liberties <sup>are</sup> subjected <sup>daily</sup> to mounting pressures from totalitarian ideologies, demagogic <sup>nationalisms and</sup> militarisms from left-wing and right-wing extremists who together have cast an alarming pall of darkness over formerly free societies in many parts of the world. Indeed, Freedom House (a research group that studies the condition of human liberties throughout the world) has recently reported that there are no more than <sup>the number of countries</sup> ~~nineteen~~ <sup>(14)</sup> countries that qualify as "free" or "democratic" societies in their ensuring of basic human liberties and human rights to their citizens <sup>are</sup> ~~precisely few~~. <sup>It is for these reasons that</sup> <sup>we</sup> <sup>are</sup> <sup>so</sup> <sup>very</sup> much heartened by the firm dedication to the cause of constitutional democracy, and to the rule of law, and to freedom of conscience in the context of religious and ethnic pluralism ~~in the "New Germany"~~ which you personally and your administration have demonstrated in innumerable ways.

Your struggle to create a "New Germany" out the ashes of the ~~the~~ past - your decisive and unambiguous



Rejection of Nazi totalitarianism, its denunciations and murderous anti-Semitism - are not taken for granted, but rather are deeply welcomed and <sup>consciously</sup> supported by the American Jewish Committee and, we are confident, by the overwhelming majority of some 220 million American people.

~~The~~ ~~emergent~~ ~~Third~~ Germany today - a predominant political and economic power on the European continent and in the world at large - has also become a major bastion of freedom. In the post-WWII era, the growth of ties of friendship, solidarity, and mutual helpfulness <sup>that have not been described</sup> between our American democracy and your "New German" democratic society is a bright ray of light in a darkening world order of increasing ideological repressions that desperately needs such models of respect for human liberties and democratic freedoms. We want you to know that the American Jewish Committee will ~~not~~ do everything in its power to seek to advance this growing rapprochement and collaboration between our two democratic societies, even as we will stand with you against whatever <sup>forces</sup> forces that will try to undermine this vast historic movement for human betterment.

That great German Jewish genius, and Albert Einstein, whose 100th birthday the civilized world is now observing, expressed these sentiments aptly, "Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding."

As I indicated earlier, Chancellor Schmidt, we are also here as Jews. To the Jewish people, Germany was once the scene of the zenith of Jewish creative flowering in religious, culture, politics and economic well-being. Tragically, in our recent history it became the nadir of Jewish suffering, [an abyss of victimization and dehumanization that is without

of anti-Semitism and ~~prejudice~~ invites Catholics and Jews to work together in "fruitful collaboration" to uproot prejudice and to serve the common human welfare. As far back as the 1950s, the American Jewish Committee recognized how destructive religious and racial prejudice was to society and we pioneered with major Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish universities and seminaries in sponsoring religious and secular textbook studies, as well as social psychological research. We are pleased that these efforts have resulted in the virtual total elimination of hostile or offensive teachings and group stereotypes in practically all Christian and Jewish educational materials. We should be glad to cooperate with ~~all~~ appropriate educational authorities - state and religious - in carrying out similar programs in West Germany.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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parallel or precedent in the history of mankind.

This past Monday, our American Jewish Committee delegation went to Dachau <sup>in</sup> as an act of homage to the memory of the six million Jewish men, women, and children and to millions of ~~the~~ Christians and other human beings whose lives were so brutally destroyed by the Nazis during World War II. We are still left dazed, morally shattered, by what our eyes <sup>once again</sup> saw <sup>in</sup> that place of death and destruction. [It is beyond description and surpasses all human comprehension. "Le retour de Sator," Andre Malraux once called that vast system of murder.]

There are only two responses to the Nazi holocaust, capitulate to it, and thereby

One is to succumb to despair, to ~~capitulate to it~~, and thereby give Hitler his final victory, ~~power of demoralization and annihilation~~. The other, and the only humanly viable course, is to seek to wrest some human meaning from that ~~tragedy~~ <sup>experience</sup>, to learn some lessons by which such ~~cosmic~~ evil can never be allowed to stalk our earth again.

Lead in  
facilitators

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More than others, we believe, that you have grasped those stark alternatives of choosing life or death for mankind - and for Germany. Your moving address on <sup>commemorating</sup> Kristallnacht of November 9, 1978, ~~makes~~ <sup>clear</sup> the depth of your understanding of how fateful is the need for Germany and the world to face the Nazi trauma and to find ways to create a consciousness and a method to prevent any recurrence of that ~~cosmic~~ disaster. In effect,

~~One of~~ you paraphrased ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> declaration of one of our great rabbinic teachers and theologians, the late Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, who said,

"We do not want your guilt. We want your responsibility."



~~1~~

Chancellor Schmidt, we are convinced that you personally understand that responsibility to the Jewish people and to mankind as a whole. We have come to Germany, to New Germany, to ask for expressions in tangible form of that responsibility from the Federal Republic of Germany.

We accept as tangible signs of that responsibility, which we greatly welcome, the ~~growing~~ <sup>ongoing</sup> ongoing and intensified ~~past~~ moral, political, and economic support by the Federal Republic of Germany for the security, and safety, and well-being of our three million Jewish brothers and sisters in the sovereign State of Israel. [Israel stands at the center of the religious and historic consciousness of Judaism and the Jewish people, ~~and~~ after the Nazi Holocaust, it is one of the major assurances of Jewish survival and haven in the modern world.]

1

Another sign of that responsibility, which has become very meaningful to the Jewish people, has been the unexpected and overwhelming response of large segments of the German population, particularly its young people, to the NBC television series, "Holocaust," with which the American Jewish Committee was privileged to be associated. Millions of German people, in response to viewing "Holocaust" clearly have made a decision to face up to the reality of Nazism in the German past, and to try to learn its moral meaning for combatting anti-Semitism and its anti-democratic and anti-human ideology.

Article  
German  
Holocaust

Heartened as we, and many others, are by that unprecedented expression of conscience, ~~we~~ we believe that a comprehensive, systematic program in state and religious schools - from elementary schools through university education - is required if that display of conscience is to become anchored in <sup>the present</sup> knowledge. [The only

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authentic basis for changed attitudes and behavior toward anti-Semitism, toward the Jewish people, their religious, cultural, and way of life. The American Jewish Committee has had decades of experience in developing such programs with educational and religious authorities, and we shall be glad to collaborate with German educational authorities in pursuing this vital goal.

Beyond these tangible evidences of responsibility, we firmly believe that the <sup>overpassing</sup> ~~transcending~~ substantive and symbolic sign to face the Nazi past and to establish moral commitment to justice on a firm basis rests on the outcome of the debate which begins tomorrow and the abolition of the Statute of Limitations on murder, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> singularly, for Nazi mass murderers.

have been heightened by the ~~entirely~~ <sup>hearing</sup> ~~hearing~~ <sup>we have seen</sup> ~~we have seen~~ <sup>in your country</sup> ~~in your country~~ <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~

We believe that we understand how complex are the legal, <sup>and</sup> political and moral issues that are involved in this historic legislation. But in the face of "the greatest crime in history," ~~we see~~ the American Jewish Committee is convinced that the course required is clear and unambiguous - the forthright abolition by the largest possible majority of the Bundestag of the statute of limitations for bringing Nazi war criminals to justice.

Failure to abolish the Statute of Limitations for murder ~~which~~ <sup>where</sup> ~~numerous~~ <sup>other</sup> ~~governments~~ <sup>have</sup> ~~have~~ would be regarded by "Old Nazis" as a major victory and by the "New Nazis" as a source of encouragement.

(one more paragraph of concluding)

But we equally understand the universal moral issues involved. <sup>in his national character</sup> We are certain that when the debate is ended the vast majority of <sup>German</sup> legislators will respond positively to the <sup>historical</sup> ~~historical~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~will~~ <sup>lead</sup> ~~lead~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>best</sup> ~~best~~ <sup>readings</sup> ~~readings~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~the <sup>Bundestag</sup> ~~Bundestag~~ <sup>tomorrow</sup> ~~tomorrow~~~~

This would take place at a time when neo-Nazis and former SS members organized as "Third Reich veterans" appear to be gaining strength, or at the very least, are intensifying their activities through public rallies, and anti-Semitic propaganda. The organized white-washers of ~~the~~ Nazi crimes who extol the Hitler regime, and who seek to falsify history by denying the ~~same~~ truth of the holocaust would feel vindicated. There is a rising awareness in the Federal Republic, as we have mentioned, of the urgent need to educate German young people about the realities of the Second World War and the horrors perpetrated by the Nazi regime. How could any such critically-needed educational programs be even minimally successful if young people were to be given the message that the Federal Republic of Germany regards the chapter on Nazism as closed?

Would not the maintenance of the Statute of Limitations signal to German society and to the world at large that mass murderers who engaged premeditatedly in the "greatest crime in history" are immune from prosecution? Would not the failure to abolish the Statute of Limitations encourage criminals to feel free to boast about their crimes with impunity in the face of victims within and outside Germany who still suffer tragically from the consequences of their actions? Can one apply to this unique and unparalleled crimes the conventional arguments of "rehabilitation of criminals" or of expiation and forgiveness? Would not such deceptions have the effect of rendering these grotesque and barbaric acts as somehow "normal"? Even if not thus intended, such indeed would



be a predictable consequence.

In ~~our~~ <sup>the</sup> judgment of the American Jewish Committee and that of many expert jurists, there exist no legal obstacles to abolition of the Statute of Limitations if it is executed as a general measure applicable to all murders. While there appears to be no binding international rule, there are numerous precedents in the laws of many civilized countries that favor such abolition. The practical effect in terms of number of anticipated prosecutions and trials appears to be minor. Under these circumstances, the decision to abolish finally the barriers to bringing mass murders to ~~the~~ justice should clearly be guided by compelling moral and political considerations.

Together with <sup>you</sup> Chancellor Schmidt, we are persuaded that such a ~~decision~~ <sup>reversal</sup> by the Bundestag under your ~~stewardship~~ <sup>will</sup> would enable the New Germany to embark on a new era whose hallmark would be the maxim that "History need not be a hitching post to the past, but rather a guiding post to a creative and hopeful new future;" - for Germany, for the Jewish people, and for the cause of democracy in the world at large.