The original documents are located in Box 5, folder “Buchenwald Concentration Camp Liberation - 30th Anniversary Proclamation” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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94th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. J. RES. 268

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 1975

Mr. HERSCHSPITZ (for himself, Mr. O'NEILL, Mr. ANDERSON of California, Mr. ANVY, Mr. RICHARDSON, Mr. HOLAND, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. BURKE of California, Mr. DEMING, Mr. DODG, Mr. DUNNAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. EUNICK of California, Mr. EHRENBERG, Mr. FIDLER, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. LARSON, Mr. HICK, Mr. HULSCH, Mr. HULZMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. KASS, Mr. KINZ, Mr. NORD, Mr. NIX, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following Joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate April 24, 1975, as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man".

1 Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 That April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as "National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man", and

3 the President of the United States is authorized and requested

4 to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for

5 all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian
1 ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in
2 Turkey in 1915, and in whose memory this date is com-
3 memorated by all Armenians and their friends throughout
4 the world.

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate April 24, 1975, as "National Day -

of Remembrance of Mass Inhumanity to

Men."

By Mr. HUUSON, Mr. O'NEILL, Mr. ABERSON,

Mr. HURST, Mr. ASSROD, Mr. DERWIN, Mr. EDWARDS,

Mr. DEMPSEY, Mr. KOREY, Mr. HILL, Mr. NA,

Mr. HICKS, Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. KIRK,

Mr. KOREY, Mr. BOLTON, Mr. KOREY, Mr. HUTCHINS,

Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS, Mr. HICKS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. NA,

Mr. HICKS, Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. NA,

Mr. HICKS, Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. NA,

Mr. HICKS, Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. NA,

Mr. HICKS, Mr. JUHREIN, Mr. HOFF, Mr. DOWNS,

Mr. JORDAN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HORN, Mr. NA,
CONMEMORATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BUCHENWALD

Message of the President

Thirty years ago, on April 6, 1945, Allied soldiers liberated the survivors of Buchenwald's concentration camp, and the world discovered the atrocities committed there.

Time has dulled the shock of the terrors revealed by the liberation, but the inhumanity suffered at Buchenwald and other such camps must never be forgotten.

This Sunday, April 6, 1975, it would be appropriate to recall those horrors of thirty years ago, that we may be reminded of our responsibilities to our fellow human beings.

GERALD R. FORD
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 1, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH
FROM: BOB WOLTHUIS

As you will note from the attached memorandum addressed to me and Warren Hendriks, Bill Nichols has disapproved the issuance of a Presidential proclamation on April 6 dealing with Buchenwald. They have drafted a Presidential statement to be used in lieu thereof.

We have not had a great deal of Congressional pressure on this issue. I checked with Kendall and he said that Javits has been moderate and Gilman of New York has also shown a fairly strong interest. Based on the logic contained in Nichols' memo, I recommend that we not issue the proclamation and go with the Presidential statement.

It is my understanding that perhaps six or eight Congressman have also written in recommending the issuance of a Presidential proclamation.
MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB WOLTHUIS

WARREN HENDRIKS

Subject: Buchenwald Holocaust

Shall the President proclaim April 24, 1975, as "National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man", in memory of all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in Turkey in 1915? There have been twelve joint resolutions introduced in the House which would ask him to do so (copy of H.J. Res. 268 is attached).

Or, shall the President proclaim April 6, 1975, in remembrance of the genocide committed by the Third Reich?

Or, do we try and salvage the value of Presidential proclamations by stopping the influx of new ones until we’ve weeded out the present list, which last year saw the year dedicated three times, eight months dedicated, 33 weeks set aside, and at least 30 separate days commemorated?

If the President proclaims Buchenwald because it passed the Senate, what about "Youth Art Month," "American Business Day," and "National Car Care Month" which also passed?

The draft has been revised for a Message of the President as was the solution for "Black Press Week" and "Black History Week." A similar approach was also used in response to the Chinese New Year and the Senate Resolution requesting an Energy Conservation Month.

The issuance of the proposed Proclamation is not approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

William M. Nichols
Acting General Counsel

Enclosures
MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: JIM CANNON

SUBJECT: Buchenwald Holocaust

Senator Javits has personally requested that you issue a proclamation to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the survivors of Buchenwald concentration camp.

Background

S.J. Res. 56, which Senator Javits introduced, passed the Senate but did not clear the House prior to recess. Indications are that it will be passed April 8. Additionally, the Senate passed unanimously S. Res. 123 which also requests that the President issue an appropriate proclamation. Based on either resolution, the Senator requests issuance of a proclamation which may be read at a ceremony in New York on April 6th commemorating this occasion.

Discussion

OMB strongly recommends that the policy of only issuing proclamations which have passed both Houses be adhered to. Otherwise, it would be difficult to decline similar requests in the future and would hamper the effort to maintain the value of Presidential proclamations.

As an alternative, OMB recommends issuance of a Presidential message. A similar approach has been used recently for "Chinese New Year" and "Energy Conservation Month".

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann (Calkins), Max Friedersdorf, Phil Buchen (Lazarus), Bill Baroody (Marre) and NSC concur in OMB's recommendation that you issue the attached message which has been cleared by Paul Theis.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the message at Tab A.
Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.
George F. Will

Remembering Buchenwald

Elie Wiesel, the novelist, was a young boy when he, his parents, baby sister and other relatives were deported from Hungary to Auschwitz. His mother, older sister and other relatives died there, and he and his father were moved to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before the Americans arrived.

In Wiesel's autobiographical novel, "Night," the protagonist, a boy, remembers Auschwitz:

"Not far from us flames were leaping up from a ditch, gigantic flames. They were burning something. A lorry. A trolley car. A warehouse. A factory... Never shall I forget the little faces of the children, whose bodies I saw turned into wreaths of smoke beneath a silent blue sky."

It is a time, 30 years later, for remembering the Holocaust, and for forewarning the innocence that should have died with the millions of innocents. It is time to remember Buchenwald, the concentration camp located on a hill above Weimar, home of Schiller, Liszt and Goethe.

Around noon, April 11, 1945, the SS men left. That afternoon U.S. tanks rolled into the camp. As cope went, Buchenwald was not ambitious. Fewer than 60,000 people died there. The principal killing camps were in the east, outside of Germany.

But Buchenwald provided the West with the first shattering sight of what can happen when a modern state is put on the service of radical evil. It is the joining of ancient sins and new forms of tyranny that has made this century a charnel house—the worst century in terms of the quantity of inflicted death, and in terms of gratuitous, ideological bestiality.

The counter-intuitive is always fascinating, and the Holocaust refutes those modern intimations that flatter men.

"What a piece of work is man!" exclaimed Hamlet, who knew better, "How noble in reason! how infinite in faculty!... in action how like an angel! in apprehension how like a god! the beauty of the world! the paragon of animals!"

In 1956 a piece of work called "Night," the protagonist, a boy, and other relatives were brought to Buchenwald, where his father died shortly before.

One could not be sure about such things in the middle of the 20th century, in the middle of Europe.

The Holocaust was not just the central event of the 20th century. It was the hinge of modern history. It is the definitive (albeit redundant) refutation of the grand Renaissance illusion that man becomes better as he becomes more clever. The most educated nations in Europe built modern transportation systems and machines, and transported Jews to machines of mass murder.

The Holocaust, like most modern atrocities, was an act of idealism. It did not make economic sense, and it hindered the German war effort, but it was a categorical imperative for Hitler, and hence worth all the trouble.

Genocide requires bureaucratic organization to bring together men and material, railroad rolling stock and barbed wire, Zyklon-B gas and ovens.

As the Israeli court in the Adolf Eichmann trial noted, acidly: "The extermination of the Jews was... a complicated operation... Not everywhere was convenient for killing. Not everywhere would the local population submit to the slaughter of their neighbors."

The size of the gas chambers defined the issue. Their purpose was not the punishment of individuals for violations of known laws. Rather, their purpose was the liquidation of a people whose crime was existing.

A task of that scale required paper work, record-keeping, tidiness: a loudspeaker in one camp announced the request that anyone planning suicide should, please, put a note in his mouth with his number on it.

Eventually the bureaucracy tattooed victims of what it called the "negative population policy." It is still with me, the chill I felt on a warm summer night in 1964 in a cafe in Brussels, when I saw the blue numbers on the forearm of the matron at the next table.

There was nothing new about cruelty to Jews and other vulnerable people. Remember, for centuries Jews and gypsies (also Nazi victims) were considered "useless" and "not belonging" and were herded through history.

There was a time when some Rhineland nobility hunted not foxes but Jews. Woe to the peasant who ran from the baying hounds even when desperately weary, the huntsmen lashed the women to their babies. This occurred in the 18th century, the age of reason and horsemanhood.

What was new about the Nazi "final solution" was the bureaucraticization of cruelty.
TO:  
Jack Marsh

FROM:  WILLIAM T. KENDALL

TO REHEARD
Senator Javits office approves message in place of proclamation, but suggests it be sent to Temple Emmanuel in N.Y. Also they want to present an appreciation plaque to the United States ...... can someone receive it?
Temple Emmanuel
5th Ave and 65th St
NYC

Benjamin Meed
212-20-1-1-0-6-5

1:30 PM
MEMORANDUM FOR \THE PRESIDENT\\nFROM: JIM CANNON\\nSUBJECT: Buchenwald Holocaust\\n
Senator Javits has personally requested that you issue a proclamation to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the survivors of Buchenwald concentration camp.

Background

S.J. Res. 56, which Senator Javits introduced, passed the Senate but did not clear the House prior to recess. Indications are that it will be passed April 8. Additionally, the Senate unanimously passed S. Res. 123 which also requests that the President issue an appropriate proclamation. Based on either resolution, the Senator requests issuance of a proclamation which may be read at a ceremony in New York on April 6th commemorating this occasion.

Discussion

OMB strongly recommends that the policy of only issuing proclamations which have passed both Houses be adhered to. Otherwise, it would be difficult to decline similar requests in the future and would hamper the effort to maintain the value of Presidential proclamations.

As an alternative, OMB recommends issuance of a Presidential statement. A similar approach has been used recently for Energy Conservation Month.

Jack Marsh, Bob Hartmann (Calkins), Max Friedersdorf, Phil Buchen (Lazarus), Bill Baroody (Marrs) and NSC concur in OMB's recommendation that you issue the attached statement which has been cleared by Paul Theis.
Additionally, Jack Marsh advises that Bill Kendall has talked with Javits’ office and was informed that they would be very pleased to have a statement in lieu of a proclamation.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the statement at Tab A.

Approve _____  Disapprove _____
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF BUCHENWALD

Thirty years ago, on April 6, 1945, Allied soldiers liberated the survivors of Buchenwald's concentration camp and the world discovered the shocking atrocities committed there.

Time may have dulled the horror of those tragic revelations. But the inhumanity suffered there, and at other such camps, must never be forgotten nor ever permitted to happen again.

On this Sunday, April 6, 1975, it is not only appropriate to recall the atrocities of thirty years ago, but to also remember our responsibilities to our fellow human beings today. Let us resolve anew that the horrors of the past will never occur again.

GERALD R. FORD
MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB WOLTHUIS
WARRIN HENDRIK

Subject: Buchenwald Holocaust

Shall the President proclaim April 24, 1975, as "National Day of Remembrance of Man’s Inhumanity to Man", in memory of all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in Turkey in 1915? There have been twelve joint resolutions introduced in the House which would ask him to do so (copy of H.J. Res. 268 is attached).

Or, shall the President proclaim April 6, 1975, in remembrance of the genocide committed by the Third Reich?

Or, do we try and salvage the value of Presidential proclamations by stopping the influx of new ones until we’ve weeded out the present list, which last year saw the year dedicated three times, eight months dedicated, 33 weeks set aside, and at least 30 separate days commemorated?

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The draft has been revised for a Message of the President as was the solution for "Black Press Week" and "Black History Week." A similar approach was also used in response to the Chinese New Year and the Senate Resolution requesting an Energy Conservation Month.

The issuance of the proposed Proclamation is not approved by the Office of Management and Budget.

William M. Nichols
Acting General Counsel

Enclosures
COMMEMORATING 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF
BUCHENWALD

Message of the President

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liberated the survivors of Buchenwald's concentration camp,
and the world discovered the atrocities committed there.

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by the liberation, but the inhumanity suffered at Buchenwald
and other such camps must never be forgotten.

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to recall those horrors of thirty years ago, that we may
be reminded of our responsibilities to our fellow human
beings.

GERALD R. FORD
March 27, 1975

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding herewith for your interest a copy of S. Res. 123, passed by the Senate on March 26, 1975.

Respectfully yours,

Francis R. Valeo
Secretary of the Senate

Enclosure:  
S. Res. 123
In the Senate of the United States,
March 26 (legislative day, March 12), 1975.

Resolved, That the sixth day of April 1975 is hereby marked in commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the liberation of the survivors of the Holocaust. It was on that day in 1945 that the Allied soldiers liberated the survivors of Buchenwald concentration camp exposing to the world the shameful genocide committed by the Third Reich. In order that such inhumanity never be forgotten the President is requested to issue a proclamation inviting the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Attest:

[Signature]

Secretary.