

## Holocaust victim sites addressed

*By Larry Lipman, Palm Beach Post Washington Bureau*  
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WASHINGTON -- Nearly 60 years after the end of World War II, the United States and Germany signed an agreement Monday to preserve and protect sites associated with Holocaust victims.

"We want to commemorate the victims of genocide as well as those who gave their lives to stop the Nazi evil," said Wolfgang Ischinger, Germany's ambassador to the United States. "The sites serve, and should serve, as a reminder of the atrocities committed by the Nazi dictatorship -- something we must never forget and will not forget."

Ischinger signed the agreement with Warren Miller, chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, in the ornate Indian Treaty Room of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door to the White House.

Miller noted that "the vast majority" of Germans today were not alive during the Holocaust and "do not bear responsibility for what happened. But they do bear responsibility to confront the past and remember it truthfully and accurately."

The agreement signifies Germany's willingness to protect cemeteries, places of worship, Holocaust memorials and other sites of importance such as concentration camps. The agreement also declared the commitment of the United States and Germany "to effectively preventing in the future every form of prejudice or discrimination against any national, ethnic or religious group."

Although the United States and Germany have been involved for years in preserving historic sites related to the Holocaust, Miller said the agreement "will serve as a catalyst for more projects."

Even without the formal agreement, Germany and the U.S. commission have teamed up to preserve several sites, including:

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The "Little Camp" section -- considered the most inhumane section -- of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

- The Mittelbau Dora concentration camp.

- A Jewish cemetery in Hamburg threatened by a shopping center's building.

- A burial site in Hillersleben where concentration camp inmates who died soon after liberation were buried.

- The reburial of victims of the Wöbbelin concentration camp at Ludswigslust.