



UNITED STATES COMMISSION  
FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICA'S HERITAGE ABROAD

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**U.S. AND GERMANY SIGN HISTORIC DECLARATION ON  
PRESERVATION OF HOLOCAUST, OTHER CULTURAL SITES**

WASHINGTON, DC – At a White House ceremony today, the United States and Germany signed a historic document reaffirming their mutual interest to preserve and protect cultural sites, particularly those that are important to individuals and groups that were victims of genocide during World War Two. Warren L. Miller, Chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad and German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger signed the Joint Declaration of Agreement in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building's Indian Treaty Room.

In the Joint Declaration, both Governments also emphasize their determination to effectively prevent every form of prejudice or discrimination against any national, ethnic or religious group. "While certain other countries have been reluctant to educate their citizens about what happened, including the complicity of their own government and some of their people, Germany for many years has been uncompromisingly forthright," said Mr. Miller.

Germany and the United States, with the assistance of the Commission, have been working together for many years to confront these preservation issues. Last year, in a joint project, the Commission and the German Government completed construction and dedicated a significant memorial to commemorate victims of the Little Camp, the most inhumane section of the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp. The Commission has completed projects and worked to preserve and protect cultural sites throughout Eastern and Central Europe.

Miller, to an audience including Holocaust survivors, Commission members and dignitaries explained, "There is great irony and symbolism in today's ceremony. During the Holocaust, as the Jews of Europe were being destroyed by the German government, most of the world, including the American government, offered no sanctuary. The European Jews had everything taken from them – including their lives. Even in death most were not afforded a burial place – they were burned, their bones crushed, their ashes scattered. Today, in the White House, the German and American governments reaffirm their interest in the protection and preservation of Jewish burial sites and sites associated with the murder of the Jewish people. Today is a remarkable day."

Prior to today's agreement, the United States, through the efforts of the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, has signed bilateral agreements to preserve cultural properties with Estonia, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Latvia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Slovenia, Ukraine, Romania, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

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*The Commission was established by law to identify sites in Eastern and Central Europe associated with the cultural heritage of U.S. citizens and to obtain assurances from the region's governments that cultural properties will be protected and preserved.*