

TYLENEWS

# TV plans extensive coverage of Bitburg

*You can watch Reagan's visit to cemetery on four networks Sunday*

By Jan Cherubin  
Herald staff writer

At least 20 television news commentators and reporters from the three major networks and Cable News Network are in Germany to cover live President Reagan's controversial visit to the military cemetery in Bitburg Sunday morning.

The level of coverage is intense and comprehensive, even though the president's visit is likely to last just 10 minutes, and though there is no indication that he will make any remarks at the ceremony. (Shortly afterward, however, he is scheduled to give a speech at the U.S. air base in Bitburg.)

Ostensibly, some commentators and crews journeyed to Europe to cover the economic summit in Bonn. But the controversy surrounding the visit to Bitburg, where 49 members of Hitler's ~~are among those buried~~, has created a demand for more extensive coverage.

"We had always planned to bring precisely the same number of people, even before this evolved into the president's visit to Bitburg," says Jeff Gralnick, ABC's executive producer of the president's trip coverage. "I'm damn glad we made the decision to



**On NBC's "Meet the Press"** Sunday morning, one of host Roger Mudd's guests will be Franz Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria.



**David Brinkley** will have Helmut Schmidt, former West German chancellor, as his guest on his regular weekly ABC show Sunday morning, which will be taped in Bonn.

bring our people here, because now it's doubly important."

Sunday morning (5:30 a.m. PDT), when the Bitburg cemetery visit is scheduled, each network will cover the visit free with NBC's hourlong special report in the afternoon.

Here is how TV coverage breaks down, network by network:

**NBC:** Since Monday, and throughout the duration of the trip, reports from Bob Jamieson are being broadcast from Bonn each morning on "The Today Show."

Chris Wallace, Andrea Mitchell, Marvin Kalb and Irving R. Levine are currently in Germany in addition to regular NBC News European correspondents.

Coverage of the Bitburg cemetery

visit will be aired live, and a tape of the president's Bergen-Belsen, concentration camp visit, made earlier in the morning, will be broadcast.

NBC's "Meet the Press," also directed by Mudd, will air at its regular time, Sunday at 11:30 a.m., with Marvin Kalb and Roger Mudd, and guests Franz Josef Strauss, prime minister of Bavaria, and Richard R. Burt, U.S. assistant secretary of state for European affairs.

NBC's hourlong special report on Bitburg begins at 4 p.m. on the West Coast, pre-empting Tom Brokaw's special, "Vietnam Ten Years Later."

**ABC:** Since Wednesday, Peter Jennings has been anchoring the ABC Evening News from Bonn. He is the only network news anchor who traveled to Europe. Reporting from points

in Germany are foreign correspondent Pierre Salinger, White House correspondent Sam Donaldson and commentator George Will.

The Bitburg ceremony, to be broadcast live at 8:30 a.m. East Coast time, will be seen on the West Coast via tape at 8:30 a.m. PDT on ABC.

"We're reasonably certain," says Gralnick, "that the ceremony will take place at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time, but nothing official has come from the White House so far. We don't know what the ceremony will consist of and we may not know until it happens."

ABC will also run a tape of the Bergen-Belsen visit.

ABC's Sunday morning show "This Week With David Brinkley," reports from Bonn at its regular hour, 10:30 a.m., Brinkley's guest is Helmut Schmidt, former chancellor of West Germany.

**CBS:** Charles Kuralt will be anchoring coverage of the Bitburg visit from New York. Reporting from Bonn for CBS are Bill Plante, Lesley Stahl, Gary Schuster, Jacqueline Adams and Terry Smith.

CBS coverage of Bitburg comes to L.A. live at 5:30 a.m., also with a tape from Bergen-Belsen.

At 9:30 a.m. Sunday, CBS' "Face the Nation" addresses the Bitburg issue, with Secretary of State George Shultz and famed Holocaust survivor and Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal as guests.

CNN: The Cable News Network is covering the president's trip live, around the clock. It is responsible for satellite transmission for all the networks, a rotating assignment.

In Bonn for CNN are White House correspondents Charles Bierbauer and Frank Sesno, State Department correspondent Ralph Begleiter and London correspondent Mike Chinny. CNN provides two live shots a day with live feeds all the time, for 24-hour coverage.

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Cover design by David Limrite

## Wanted: One innovative video director

By Hunter Drohojowska

Stay tuned. The American Film Institute and 3M's Magnetic Audio/Video Products Division yesterday announced an award to encourage "innovation" and "creativity" in the field of music videos. The 3M Corp. will give \$28,000 to a director who can best expand the current form of the music video.

AFI is soliciting applications and has gathered a prestigious group of judges to winnow the original number of applicants to between 10 and 30. Each applicant will make a proposal from a selection of seven songs contributed by as many record companies. The winning director's budget covers non-production expenses; the production and post-production work will be done at AFI's facilities in Hollywood.

The judges include music video producers Simon Fields (Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean"), Keith Williams (Phil Collins' "Against All Odds"), and Mary Lambert (Lone Justice video). Ede Griles, executive vice president of development at Columbia Communications (director of Clint Eastwood's "Girls Just Want to Have Fun"); and actor

Nicolas Cage ("Birdy," "The Cotton Club"), who says he has as much interest in videos as in acting.

Other judges include Mick Kennedy, director of the National Academy of Video Arts and Sciences; Michael Mann, executive producer of "Miami Vice"; Leonardo Pieruzzi, vice president of 3M Magnetic Audio/Video Products Division; and performers Irene Cara and Herbie Hancock.

Representatives from the seven record companies that will propose songs — Warner Bros., Epic/Portrait and CBS associated labels, Columbia,

MCA, Polygram, RCA and Atlantic — will also serve as judges.

The appropriate record company will help distribute the winning tape, which, AFI officials pointed out, need not fit the format of MTV-type, three-minute programming.

The winner will have two months to make the videotape this summer. Applicants need not have completed a music video, but must have had some professional experience as a director in film or video. The application deadline is June 14. For information, call 856-7714.

## HBO to sell services to satellite dish owners

Home Box Office announced yesterday it will sell its pay-TV HBO and Cinemax services to owners of individual satellite dishes, who normally pick up channels without cost.

HBO is in the process of scrambling reception of its service to prevent free pickup by the "backyard" satellite dish market, which is expanding by some 100,000 installations per month. HBO says it is "protecting" its satellite signals

Under HBO's plans, its two pay channels would be sold through local cable systems, which would arrange to descramble reception through home devices. In areas not served by cable, HBO will sell the channels through a toll-free 800 phone number.

Monthly rates will be about average — \$12.95 each for HBO and Cinemax, and \$19.95 if a dish-subscriber takes both.