



United States Holocaust Memorial Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 12, 1980

International Liberator's Conference Planned for 1981

Professor Elie Wiesel, distinguished author and Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, and himself a Survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, announced at the December 10, 1980, Council meeting that the Council will sponsor the first International Conference of Liberators of Concentration Camps. It will take place in the fall of 1981 in the Nation's Capital. The conference will honor and pay tribute to the Allied Forces who liberated Nazi concentration camps. The United States, the host country, is the home of over 5,000 Survivors of these camps.

The United States Army Center of Military History, commanded by Brigadier General James L. Collins, Jr., will provide liaison between the Department of Defense and the Council. Every effort will be made to locate medical corps personnel, military correspondents and photographers, and every commanding officer of each army participating in the liberation, as well as the chief of staff, the battalion commander, and the officer of the detachment that first entered each camp.

Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, New Zealand, Poland, the United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia have been invited by the Council to send a formal delegation made up of individuals who participated in camp liberations. Initial contact with these countries was made through the Department of State.

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Miles Lerman, Chairman of the Council's Committee on International Relations, and a resistance fighter during the Nazi occupation of Europe, has met with representatives of American veterans organizations to seek their help in locating American liberators.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Council will make every effort to see that as many liberators as possible will be recognized at the fall conference.

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