

January 8, 2004

**U.S. District Judge E.R. Korman,  
U.S. District Court  
Eastern District of New York  
U.S.A**

**Case No. CV 96-4849 (ERK)(MDG)**

**Re: Allocation of Funds - Jewish Property  
Center of Organization of Holocaust Survivors -  
Commemoration, Legacy and Education Committee**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Although bulk of resources from Holocaust-related claims should go to the sick, elderly and needy survivors still alive, it is also important to allocate funds for "cultural" needs. Teach the living, tell the world, explain to the "second generation", write memories and autobiographies. The holy obligation to immortalize and honor the dead martyrs and heroes, should now be realized.

The Center of Organization of Holocaust Survivors Commemoration, Legacy and Education Committee requests \$495,250 from the Swiss Bank Claims Settlement for a series of projects in these fields.

All the administrative overheads will be covered by the Center from other funds, so that all money allocated by the Court will be used directly to memorialize the Holocaust and the suffering of the victims, and allow the survivors to tell their story.

**BACKGROUND**

1. 1945. The war was over. Thousands of survivors emerged from the death camps, ghettos, underground and forests. Some sick physically and mentally. They refused to go back to their homeland, there was nobody to wait for them.  
They gathered together, lived in the same camp huts, wore the same clothing. Survivors from Eastern Europe made to the west and joined them.
2. Survivor Organizations appeared all over.  
Inmates from Aushwitz, Treblinka, Dachau. Ghetto survivors, Underground and anti-Nazi fighters, individuals in hiding, all joined hands to support each other. These Organizations formed in post-war Europe, were later transplanted to their new immigration countries. Israel received the majority of them.

3. Most of the organizations of the early years exist until today. They enlarged their membership with each new wave of survivor immigrants. Led by volunteers, they paid membership fees, received donations and cared for the old and sick, not forgetting their promise to the dead and fallen: "Never forget".

With the years, when the membership fees declined, they had to rely more and more on outside aid.

### **CENTER OF ORGANIZATIONS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS IN ISRAEL**

4. In 1988, a group of the organizations' leaders initiated the merger of the survivor organization in Israel. The vast majority of them (circa 45) joined the Center. A new life was injected. The Center, with the assistance of American and Israel authorities, and world Jewish organizations, initiated new approaches to German, Swiss and other bodies.

The demand to rehabilitate the Jews for stolen property, gold, valuables, hidden bank accounts and insurance brought positive results.

The request to compensate for slave labor, ghetto workers, social security, health deterioration and others, resulted in allocation of funds for the survivors, especially for the sick, lonely and poor.

The new sources enabled also allocations for study and teaching the lessons of the Holocaust, to commemorate the victims and the fallen, and to "remember and not to forget".

Following is a partial list of the 45 organizations affiliated to the "Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors" :

- Organization of Bergen Belzen camp survivors
- Organization of hard labor units survivors
- Organization of Nazi handicapped survivors
- Organization of "Yesh" - children and survivors
- Organization of the Jews of Bukovina
- Organization of ex-Nazi prisoners
- Organization for survivors assistance
- Organization of Zaksenhausen camp survivors
- Organization of survivors from the ex Soviet Union and other ex-communist countries
- Organization of the Hungarian Jews
- Organization to commemorate the victims of Dachau-Landsberg-Kaupering
- Organization of the Zaglembia Jews
- Organization of Wohlin Jews
- Organization of invalids in the war against the Nazis
- Organization of Nazi invalids
- Organization of Bulgarian Jews
- Organization of the Sepharadic Jews
- Organization of Partisans, Underground Fighters and Ghetto Rebels
- Organization of Check Jews
- Organization of Lodz Jews
- Organization of "Mengele" children

"Amcho"  
Bet Terezin

## **THE COMMEMORATION, LEGACY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

5. The Center of Organizations established this committee. Six million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. Ninety thousand Jews fought the Nazis in underground activities, ghetto and concentration camps uprisings and partisan warfare. More than 50% perished. Thousands of individuals sacrificed their lives to save others. Many of the victims acted heroically before going to their death. Those who survived, those who were lucky not to be there should make good their promise "to tell and not forget".
6. Although it is obvious to everyone that the bulk of the resources should go to the sick, elderly and needy survivors still alive, it is also important to allocate funds for "cultural" needs. Teach the living, tell the world, explain to the "second generation", write memories and autobiographies. The holy obligation to immortalize and honor the dead martyrs and heroes, should now be realized.

## **COMMITTEE OBJECTS (REMEMBRANCE AND IMMORTALIZATION)**

7. The committee has undertaken to coordinate its activities with Yad Vashem, Beit Lochamei Hagetaot, Massua, Moreshet and others, but there are tasks that the Committee must do on its own:

### **7.1 PROJECT - memoirs and biographies**

This project is to assist "common people" survivors to publish their memoirs and biographies. These books are the best source of information for the Holocaust and for millions of people, Jews and non Jews, children, students and future generations. It is probably the only source to learn about the Holocaust.

Historians, researchers and scientists have wide sources of information. They have access to archives, museums and documentation. But much of their facts are based on the "common people" books; that is where they find the real facts of the Holocaust. It is left to the Commemoration, Legacy and Education Committee of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel to care for those survivors and to assist them in publishing their memoirs or biographies. We believe that those publications are one of the best sources for future generations. We see the interest in them rising constantly.

The costs to publish is high and increasing yearly, while the survivors are getting older and their financial resources fewer. We propose to establish a fund and a

public committee of scholars and distinguished Holocaust personalities, to initiate the program.

Considering the age of the prospected writers, we recommend to start it as soon as possible.

### **Budget for memoirs and biographies (7.1)**

In our survey among the publishing firms, we found that the cost of editing and publishing a book of approx. 300 pages, ranges from 38.000 I.S. (8,450 \$) to 48.000 I.S (10.670 \$).

The cost of translating from Yiddish, Russian or French to Hebrew or/and from Hebrew to English is approx. 20.000 I.S.

Total cost including translation is 63.000 I.S.

Considering that the project is to publish 10 books within 2 years, of which half of them (5) to be translated, the total budget is:

$$(5 \times 63.000 \text{ I.S.}) + (5 \times 43.000 \text{ I.S.}) = 530.000 \text{ I.S.} = \underline{\underline{117.250 \$}}$$

(1\$ = 4.5 I.S.) (43.000 I.S. is an average figure).

#### Note:

The new figure is half of the original requested before. This it to prevent duplication of subject with Yad Vashem. As we know Yad Vashem publishes mainly scientific, research and specialized value books, while our application is for "popular" books only. Therefore, we recommend as follows:

- a) As regards the scientific issues, we do not apply at all.
- b) As regards to "popular" books for which we apply (memoirs and auto-biographies), we shall share the allocation with Yad Vashem. (Our share 117.500\$). Yad Vashem shall include their request for "popular" memoirs of 117,250 \$, into their general application for "scientific" as well as "popular" works.

## **7.2 PROJECT - Communities and remembrance days**

Six million Jews were murdered, 4 million in the concentration and the death camps and about 2 million at the hands of the einsatzgruppen s.s (death squads).

Thousand of Jewish communities were wiped out, most victims murdered and buried in mass graves. The universal custom to meet at the grave of the beloved and their visit ancestral homes is financially difficult and sometimes impossible to Holocaust survivors.

The survivors in Israel formed organizations and groups, to meet, console and remember the past. Hundreds of groups spread around the country. The day when most of the

Jewish population was murdered, drawn or burned to death, become the remembrance day of their community.

It is on this day, when the survivors and their families gather to commemorate, light candles, say "Kadish" and grieve for their victims. This is their commemoration, legacy and education day. The survivors arrive with their children, grandchildren and friends. The past of their community is told. Their future generation is actively involved.

But as times past, the organizations and groups become smaller and some have stopped their gatherings all together. Lack of funds prevented the hiring of a hall, some food and drinks etc.

### **Budget - Communities and remembrance days (7.2)**

We suggest a 2,000 \$ for each organization and group to enable the continuation of the gatherings. Considering that the allowance shall be distributed to some 50 organization, we require a total of :

$$2,000 \$ \times 50 = \underline{100.000 \$}.$$

With this sum, the organization should be able to organize, send invitations, hire a hall, buy biscuits and drinks and send money to the gentiles to maintain the graves, mow the grass and water the flowers around the tombstone and the mass grave.

### **7.3 Project - Second Generation**

The generation of Holocaust survivors is now entrusting the legacy and commemoration of the Holocaust to the younger generations. "Second Generation" groups of sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters are active in Israel.

Without their continuation, the Holocaust legacy and education will slowly disappear. They are going to be our future "ambassadors" to fight anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. They shall conduct lectures and seminars even abroad.

#### **A. Budget**

The second generation groups, started to operate only recently. They have no funds or established offices and it is important to assist them, in their initial efforts.

We visualize their activities as follows:

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| (a) To write and publish their objectives in various forms.<br>Issue information and news letters, brochures and other<br>media means : | <b>\$ 23,000</b> |
| (b) Develop internet material, documentation, memoirs<br>to be sent on their web-site. Maintain web-site :                              | <b>\$ 26,000</b> |

(c) Contact and associate with similar young groups in Israel and abroad. Exchange information and data, documents and education material :	<b>\$ 25,000</b>
(d) Collect documentation and relevant publications about the Holocaust, Antisemitism and Holocaust denial :	<b>\$ 9,000</b>
(e) Meet internationally with the counterparts on international forms dedicated to the issues above :	<b>\$ 15,000</b>
(f) Any other operation that requires their stand and action, concerning the Holocaust, its memory, resistance and legacy :	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b><u>TOTAL</u> :</b>	<b><u>\$103,000</u></b>

#### 7.4 **PROJECT - Monuments and Memorials**

When the War of Independence (1947 - 1948) broke out, many Jewish survivors were called to arms. Some recently arrived, some straight from the ships. It is estimated that about 35% of the war victims were survivors.

A recent survey revealed that 275 of the fallen were young men and women, who died on the battlefields without leaving a single soul to remember them. They were last members of large families perished in the Holocaust. Their graves are scattered all over Israel.

Due to intensive activity of some of their friends and our committee, we convinced the authorities to jointly erect a monument on Har Herzl to the memory of this group (The "last of the family").

Furthermore, YadVashem agreed to allow building a passage, connecting Yad Vashem with Har Herzl and to enable visitors of Yad Vashem museum, to climb the passage and visit the monument and the more than 20 others on Har Herzl. This is what we call: "FROM HOLOCAUST TO INDEPENDENCE".

But monuments cost money and this monument including the landscape shall cost approx. 90,000\$. We are asked to participate in 1/3 of it, namely 30,000\$.

Another monument by one of our well-known sculptors, Mr. Alexander Bogen, is planned to be erected in Tel-Aviv in one of the main squares. The cost of this monument with the architecture and landscape should cost approx. 120,000\$ .

We shall try to find sponsors and our part in it is approx. 1/2 = 60,000\$ .

#### **Budget (7.4)**

<b><u>Total cost for monuments and memorial</u></b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>\$ 90,000</u></b>
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### 7.5 **PROJECT - Fighters data-base and web-site**

The date-base project is memorizing and remembering the anti-Nazi resistance fighters, Partisans, Ghetto and camp rebels and Underground fighters in Nazi Europe. It is shown and indexed in our organization web-site and so far 4,000 names, data, photo (where available) and short 10-15 lines biographies.

This is a unique project and we are struggling with funds which are diminishing yearly. Yet there is plenty more to be done with another 6,000 names, waiting to be included.

We received, so far, some funds from donors, but it is far from enough.

**The sum required to continue the project and enhance our web-site : \$ 45,000**

### 7.6 **PROJECT - International conference of survivors**

The unity and cohesion of the Holocaust survivors is one of the most important assets when dealing with international bodies.

During the years, when the survivors were younger and money was easier, we organized our international meetings without much outside help. But times changed. In 2005, we shall commemorate 60 years of freedom. In 1945, the last concentration camps were liberated and the survivors reappeared.

We shall hold an international gathering, maybe the last one, for the survivors, summarizing our struggle for life, the efforts against anti-Semitism and the Holocaust denial and most importantly the education of the future generations.

The last international costing was approx. 190,000 I.S. (40.000 \$).

#### **Budget (7.6)**

**We hope to receive the sum of 40,000 \$ to organize the 2005 international gathering of the Holocaust survivors.**

#### **The total budgeting of our programs in 2004 and 2005 is as follows:**

(7.1) Memoirs and Biographies	-	117,250 \$
(7.2) Communities and Remembrance days	-	100,000 \$
(7.3) Second generation	-	103,000 \$
(7.4) Monuments and Memorials	-	90,000 \$
(7.5) Fighters data-base and web-site	-	45,000 \$
(7.6) International gathering	-	40,000 \$
<b>T O T A L</b>	-	<b>495,250 \$</b>

**Respectfully Yours,**

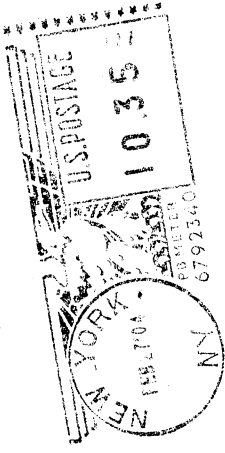
**Noach Flug, Chairman  
Center of Organization  
of Holocaust Survivors in Israel**

**Baruch Shub,  
Head of Committee  
Commemoration, Legacy and Education**



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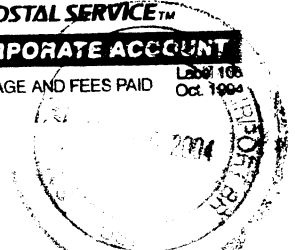
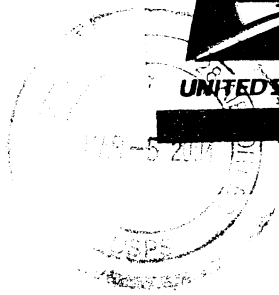
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