

**ASSOCIATION OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS FROM
THE FORMER SOVIET UNION
184-24 Hovenden Road
Jamaica Estates, NY 11432
(718)454-2046**

October 24, 1999

Re: Master Docket No: CV-96-4849

Dear Sir:

I have filled out the questionnaire, as did many others in my organization. As I was reading over the requirements for the settlement, I found some requirements to be illogical.

Survivors of the camps are required to know the number of Swiss bank accounts, or the banks which held them. Survivors should know if the profits that were made from their work at labor camps, would go to Nazi regime, Swiss banks, or other Swiss agencies. They are also required to know if any Swiss bank or agency acquired the looted possessions of their homes, when the Nazi's came marching through. Then it goes on to say, that you are aware that more then fifty years have passed, and that this maybe hard to recall, but that any information would help with the settlement procedure.

Speaking on behalf of myself, and my organization, I think that these requirements are ridiculous. We were children, some as young as one month old. When the Nazi's came, we ran, and we didn't stop and ask where would our possessions be going. When we worked in the labor camps, we weren't told who profited, we didn't care, all we were concerned about was surviving. We didn't know anything about the Swiss, all we knew was that if we breathed to loud, or stepped out of line, we would be beaten or shot to death. Those Jews who owned businesses or conducted business in Romania, Bucavina, and Bess-Arabia, had to have a credit line in some sort of bank. Most had their credit line in Swiss banks, because they were considered neutral, and after WWI, that was the best place to do business in.

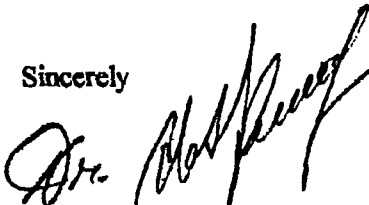
Our generation is Dying. We the Jewish Survivors of the former Soviet Union, were persecuted under the Nazi's, and under the communists. Here in the United States we

have found our freedom and our right to talk about what happened to us. But we are old, and we are sick, and those who have recently came here in the great Russian exodus, can not afford to start over and build businesses. They are dependent on the government to pay their rent, and to buy some food, and to visit the doctor when they need too.

In conclusion, I ask you to not deny the claims of those who do not remember bank accounts, or even if they had any. We were all persecuted, and the fact that the Swiss helped finance their regime, only means that they robbed us not of our money, but of our lives. I ask you to consider all, in the settlement, equally. I ask that money from the settlements be first given to those Survivors who live day by day, by missing a meal.

I ask that the Survivors from the lands formerly governed by the Soviet Union, not be neglected as history has done before. And that some portion of the settlement be reserved for the education and the research of the Holocaust in the former territories of the Soviet Union, just as it is being done in Germany and Poland.

Sincerely



Dr. Izea Katzap
President