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November 9, 1999

Judah Gribetz, Esq.
Richards & O'Neil, LLP
885 3rd Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Judah:

I am pleased to submit to you the proposal of the Central Council of Sinti and Roma of Germany. I hope you will take their views into consideration.

Sincerely,

Martin Mendelsohn

Enclosure (proposal)

cc: Romani Rose
Arnold Rossberg

MM:dIm

■ WASHINGTON, DC ■ HOUSTON ■ AUSTIN
■ HONOLULU ■ LAS VEGAS ■ MIAMI ■ MCLEAN

Distribution Plan on Behalf of the Sinti and Roma of Germany

The Central Council of Sinti and Roma, located in Heidelberg, Germany represents the 70,000 Sinti and Roma with German citizenship, of whom 3,500 are survivors of the Holocaust. The Central Council was founded in 1982 and has been recognized and funded by the German government since that year.

More than 500,000 Sinti and Roma were killed in the Nazi occupied countries of Europe during the Second World War. In Auschwitz alone, there were 23,000 Roma from 11 countries, of which 20,000 were murdered; 11,000 came from Germany. Some of the survivors do receive a small pension from the German government.

There are 1,404 individual claims that we know can be documented now. Altogether, 2,850 Sinti and Roma have successfully applied to the Swiss Humanitarian Fund. Some of them were fleeing from the Nazis and lived illegally or had been forced into slave labor. Each individual whose application was approved has received a grant of 2,000 Swiss Francs. The Central Council has been appointed by the Humanitarian Fund to administer the applications for the grants with a documentation of each individual case in detail. The Central Council appointed the "Baden-Wurttemberg Regional Office for Compensation" in Stuttgart as a special trust agency for the entire payment settlement directly from the Swiss Fund to the 2,850 Sinti and Roma in Germany.

As the Swiss Humanitarian Fund investigated and has recognized the Central Council as the proper legitimate representative of the Sinti and Roma in Germany, we are making this proposal.

We start with the premise that whatever compensation is granted is not adequate for the suffering of our people. We also believe, however, that this is a necessary first step. We further

believe that the funds should be allocated equally among the class members without regard to religion or national status.

It is hard to be certain of the number of persons who will file claims, but we believe that the primary goal should be to make individual grants. Those individuals who survived the Concentration Camps and had been victims of the robbery by the SS should have a claim from the Swiss Bank settlement. If the looted assets of an individual claimant are not provable in detail, a lump sum grant should be made. Those survivors of slave labor with employers connected to Switzerland, but who are not able to provide documents that Swiss firms received profits from their forced labor should also receive a lump sum grant.

The decisions and payments should be made by the administration of the settlement or by an independent Commission (with the participation of survivors' organizations) directly to the individual claimants. By statute, the Central Council is generally not allowed to receive and distribute any money of compensation and is not allowed to decide about compensation grants.