

**Präsident**

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Mr. Judah Gribetz

Special Master

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885 Third Avenue

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CH-3074 Muri, January 31st 2000 rb/ga

**Litigation Swiss Bank Settlement"**

Dear Mr. Gribetz,

The Federation of Swiss Jewish Communities presents herewith a project for attribution out of the global settlement with the Swiss banks.

In Switzerland a center for tolerance should be established in order that Swiss people understand the dreadful significance of the Shoa. This center will at the same time constitute an educational institution in prevention of anti-Semitism and racism.

It is obvious that in view of certain behaviors in Switzerland before, during and after world war 2, such a center is necessary and its financing - totally or partly - out of the Swiss Banks Settlement will have high symbolic significance. We are of course available for further clarifications.

Annexed please find a project description with budget.

Thanking you for taking our submission into consideration.

Sincerely yours

SWISS FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES



Dr. Rolf Bloch

Encl. ment.

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## **Spirit and basic idea of the Centre**

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance keeps the memory alive in order to prevent oblivion.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is a place of Switzerland's open encounter with its past and with topical questions.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance shows how racism and xenophobia lead to a rejection of the principle of equality, the negation of the freedom of thought and of people of a different opinion, the withering away of human conscience and the gradual elimination of liberty itself.

The Swiss Centre of Tolerance is not a place where one moves about in sack and ashes, no admonishing finger, no chamber of horrors, no self-confirmation for good people, no dock for the accused. The Swiss Centre for Tolerance wants to keep its visitors alert so that they can perceive their own weaknesses. A look into the mirror. They are encouraged to realise that everything else is left up to them, but that they are not left alone with this.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is an invitation to young people not to let their sense of tolerance and justice be taken away from them.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is a place from which ideas for tolerant action within the family, at school, in the working world and in society emanate.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance shows how the abandonment of own responsibility by many led and leads to the uncontrollable power of a few.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is an integral part of the educational programme for our schools. It contributes towards opening up historical awareness and thought.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is a platform for a self-confident examination of our country's controversially assessed humanitarian, democratic and constitutional tradition and identity.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance reminds the industrial leaders in the globalised world of their social responsibility which includes putting certain limits of ethical criteria to their own power – ultimately for their own benefit.

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance is a sign from Switzerland to the outside world. It supports compliance with the "International Convention on the Elimination of Every Kind of Racial Discrimination" within our own country and worldwide (in close collaboration and networking with similar institutions abroad).

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### **The Scenario**

The Swiss Centre for Tolerance works in three fields of activity:

With exhibitions, events, workshops from a fixed location.

With exhibitions, events, workshops all over Switzerland.

As a study, research, publication and documentation centre from its fixed location.

The authorities of the City and Canton of Berne, as well as the *Bürgergemeinde* Berne have announced their willingness to support the Swiss Centre for Tolerance in its search for suitable premises in the City of Berne. They are interested in establishing the Centre in the City of Berne. Exhibition rooms and rooms for public events, as well as the accommodation for the study, research, publication and documentation centre are intended to be located together in one building.

In addition, mobile actions are being evolved, exhibitions and events which will be shown or held for a certain time in each case in different places in Switzerland.

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### **The room arrangement**

The Centre's premises are made up as follows:

Exhibition room, permanent exhibition	1000 sqm
Exhibition room, changing exhibitions	400 sqm
Seminar and public function rooms	100 sqm
Library/Media centre/Internet corner	100 sqm
Cafeteria	100 sqm
Offices	100 sqm
Depot/workshop/archive	250 sqm
Technical section	100 sqm
Traffic area	25 %

In the search for suitable premises in Berne, the ideal wishful notion would be to be able to establish the centre in a former industrial property. However, there are also possibilities in a new building.

## Target public

Reference is to be made here once again to the educational assignment contained in the International Convention. Accordingly, the Centre is intended to have an effect on the following target groups:

Young people, adults, senior citizens (individual visitors)  
Families  
Schools  
Groups (clubs, firms, tourists, etc.)  
Companies (which make a contribution to contemporary events and wish to use the Centre's infrastructure).  
Politics  
Scholarship

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## Probable costs for the implementation, maintenance and operation of the Centre

Although only the detailed concept will show the exact costs, it is to be assumed that the following costs will probably arise. The details shown are comparative values for similar institutions.

Building costs*, investment	CHF 5 – 10 m
Design and refurbishing, investment	CHF 2 – 3 m
Total investments	CHF 7 – 13 m
(* if no suitable property to let is available)	
Annual renovation works, temporary events	CHF 300,000.-
Annual operating costs deficit**	CHF 800,000.-
(** OCD after taking regular operating receipts into account)	
Total annually	CHF 1,100,000.-

A detailed list of costs with variants is in the appendix.