



April 14, 2004

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BY FAX:

Special Master Judah Gribetz
Deputy Special Master Shari Reig
Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
c/o Bingham McCutchen, LLP
399 Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Gribetz and Ms. Reig:

We are writing in response to your request for clarification of the January 30, 2004 submission by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) regarding the needs of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). Based on information obtained from local Jewish communities, JDC estimates that 15,600 of the Jewish Nazi victims in that region will receive some type of welfare service in 2004. This aid is generally provided by the social service/welfare department of the Jewish community in each of the 12 countries in CEE. Funds for this humanitarian aid comes from the Court under the Looted Assets Class of the Swiss Banks Settlement¹, as well as by the Claims Conference and the JDC budget and other sources.

The total budget for Jewish community welfare services for Jewish Nazi victims in CEE in 2004 is approximately \$9 million from all external sources. The regional average cost of service per client is \$435 per annum².

Many of the countries in CEE are joining the European Union (EU) next month and prices of medication, homecare and health care services are expected to continue to rise toward Western European levels while the elderly, including Jewish Nazi victims, continue to live on fixed incomes (mainly pensions) which remain at formerly Eastern European levels. In these countries the level of state-provided care is still nowhere near Western standards. This is especially true in Hungary where more than half of the Jewish Nazi victims in the CEE region live. For other countries, which are not being admitted to the EU now, such as Romania (with the second largest Jewish Nazi victim population in the CEE region) there remains extreme poverty for the elderly.

¹ Via the Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Program administered by the Claims Conference.

² This is for social services for individuals living at home and does not include the operating costs of small Jewish Old Age Homes (in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia). In total these Old Age Homes only have a few hundred residents and are not funded by the Court or other restitution sources.




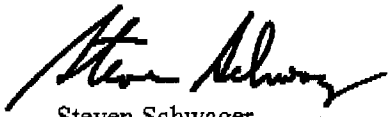
GRIBETZ AND REIG LETTER CONTINUED:

Should funds be available from the Court, JDC believes that an additional \$1.0 million is most critically needed for welfare services for Jewish Nazi victims in CEE in 2004. We project that these funds will be used to provide food assistance to an additional 1,000 Nazi victims clients, medicine and medical care for an additional 1,000 Nazi victim clients, and homecare for an additional 1,000 Nazi victims clients. In total, funds from the Court, if granted, will provide services to an additional 3,000 needy Jewish Nazi victims in CEE.

We recommend any funds provided be used to supplement the grants provided under the Holocaust Survivor Emergency Assistance Program (administered by the Claims Conference), according to a detailed budget, which would be submitted to the Court.

Sincerely,


Herbert Block
Assistant Executive Vice-President


Steven Schwager
Executive Vice-President

SS/HB:km