



Nationalfonds der Republik Österreich
für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

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LEGAL SERVICES

The Honorable Edward R. Korman
Special Master Judah Gribetz
Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
P.O. Box 8300
San Francisco, CA 94128-8300
USA

Vienna, March 10th, 2004

Dear Judge Korman and Special Master Gribetz:

I am writing to support the proposal of the *Pink Triangle Coalition* for a small allocation out of possible unclaimed residual funds from the Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation.

As head of the National Fund, I am proud to say that, for the first time in Austrian history, the National Fund has had the possibility to award compensation to homosexual survivors of the Nazi persecution. The National Fund has also been supporting an exhibition in Vienna on this issue in order to enhance education and information on this aspect of the Nazi regime of terror. Furthermore, we take part in an international project on establishing standards for profound education on all aspects of the Nazi era in schools, including the persecution of gays and lesbians.

From my perspective, it is important to support the proposal of the *Pink Triangle Coalition*. It needs to be stressed that, as you know, due to continuing discrimination of homosexuals in society, it is a difficult task to reach homosexual survivors of Nazi persecution. According to our own experience, gay survivors of the Nazis have not been easily identifiable through usual channels. Gay survivors are not likely to participate in other networks or organizations of survivors because of the particular circumstances of being gay or lesbian. The final distribution of the unclaimed residual funds should benefit all of the class members and not exclude any victims. Anything less than that would continue the discrimination they suffered.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that the proposal submitted by the *Pink Triangle Coalition* is very much worth being supported, as this coalition is the only organization that represents the homosexual class members in this very important case.

Respectfully Yours,

Hannah M. Lessing
Secretary General of the National Fund

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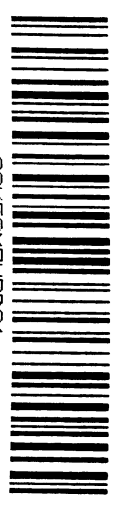
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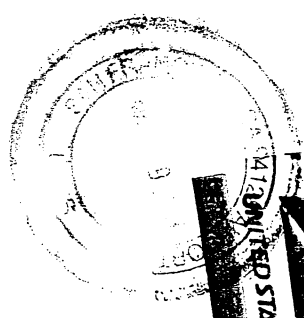
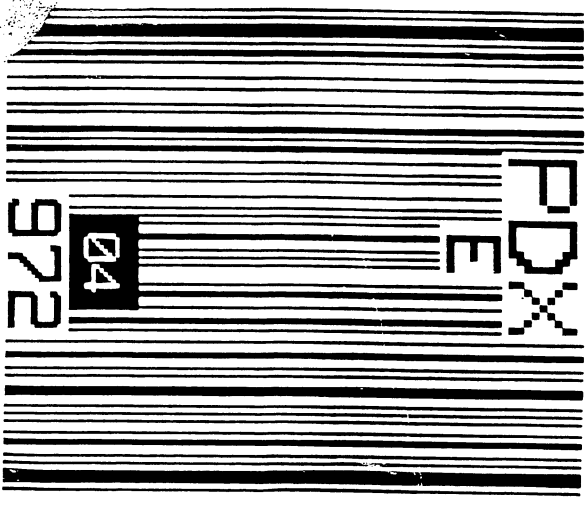
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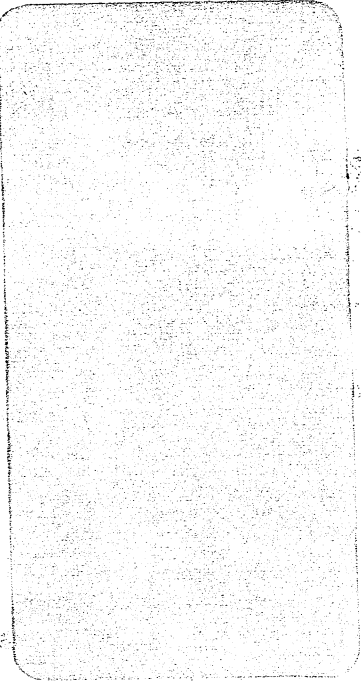
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