

СУСВЕТНАЕ ЗГУПТАВАННЕ БЕЛАРУСКИХ ЯЎРЭЯЎ  
THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF BELARUSAN JEWRY

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November 1, 1999

Judah Gribetz  
Special Master  
885 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10022-4873

Dear Mr. Gribetz:

During the Second World War, 810,000 Jews in Belorussia were killed as a result of the heinous acts perpetrated by the German Nazis. An additional 55,000 Jews brought from Western Europe were also killed in this Republic along with these Belorussian Jewish victims.

At no time during the post-war era have the survivors of this tragic persecution or their descendants received any funds from previous allocations designated specifically as compensation for the atrocities committed against the Jewish race.

Given the nature of this situation and the appalling treatment of the people living in this Republic, the World Association of Belorussian Jews (WABKJ) considers it imperative that a portion of the \$1.25 billion allocation now being developed through Swiss Banks be provided to Belorussian Jews as follows:

- \$3.5 million for the creation and operation of schools, including boarding schools, providing Jewish education to children and young adults;
- \$7 million for the construction and operation of nursing, rehabilitation and convalescent facilities for elderly survivors of the holocaust and their descendants so that they may live their remaining years with decency and dignity;
- \$700,000 for the creation and operation of educational programs, open to all persons in the Belorussian Republic, to promote awareness and understanding of the Holocaust and an appreciation of the heritage and experience of the Belorussian Jewish population;
- \$19 million for the restoration and maintenance of cemeteries and burial grounds where holocaust victims and their ancestors and descendants have been laid to rest;
- \$14 million for the restoration and preservation of buildings, schools, synagogues and other sites of Jewish architectural character and achievement;
- \$800,000 for the creation and operation of program which will provide financial assistance for persons unable to afford the costs of funeral services and other related activities.

As stated above, Belorussian Jews have received no compensation through previously allocated funds, and, at this stage, it is most appropriate that this \$1.25 billion allocation be disbursed in a manner which will ensure receipt of funds by Jews from the Republic of Belorussia.

We would be most grateful to learn of your opinions regarding our proposal, any recommendations you are willing to present to the Honorable Edward J. Korman and the criteria or process to be used regarding disbursement of this allocation. We would also respectfully request, if possible, that a representative from the WABJ be introduced into the process of collecting and evaluating proposals placed before the Court.

We offer our sincere appreciation for your review of our proposal and we will look forward to your kind reply.

Very truly yours,



Yacov Goodman  
President