

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE: :
HOLOCAUST VICTIM ASSETS : Case No. CV 96-4849 (ERK)(MDG)
LITIGATION : (Consolidated with CV 96-5161
and CV 97-461)
: **ORDER**
:
:
This Document Relates to: All Cases :
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: X

KORMAN, Chief Judge.

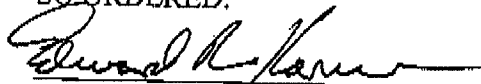
Upon review and consideration of the January 21, 2010 letter of the Executive Director of the Victim List Project recommending with the approval of the Special Master and the Deputy Special Master that an allocation be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, it is hereby

ORDERED that the recommendation of the Executive Director of the Victim List Project, described in the letter annexed hereto, is approved and that \$493,561 be allocated to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) under the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement to bring to conclusion the effort to identify, catalogue and digitize name-based information about victims of the Nazis and their allies who were Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, or mentally or physically handicapped, as well as to continue the effort to identify and catalogue Jewish name list material within the Museum's archival holdings over the next two years. The Signatories

to the Settlement Fund are hereby directed to transfer immediately \$493,561 from the Settlement Fund to the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany, which serves as the Court's agent for purposes of administration of the Victim List Project. Upon receipt, the Claims Conference shall transfer such sum to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in accordance with the Claims Conference's regular procedures for grants.

Date: Brooklyn, New York
January 30 2010

SO ORDERED:



Edward R. Korman
United States District Judge

Dr. Wesley A. Fisher
Executive Director
Victim List Project
Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV 96-4849

C/o Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.
1359 Broadway, Suite 2000
New York, NY 10018
(646) 536-9105 phone
(212) 481-9607 fax
wesley.fisher@claimscon.org

January 21, 2010

Hon. Edward R. Korman
Chief Judge
United States District Courthouse
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Dear Judge Korman:

I am writing to recommend that an allocation of \$493,561 be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) under the Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement to bring to conclusion the effort to identify, catalogue and digitize name-based information about victims of the Nazis and their allies who were Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, or mentally or physically handicapped, as well as to continue the effort to identify and catalogue Jewish name list material within the Museum's archival holdings over the next two years.

This recommendation has been reviewed and approved by Special Master Gribetz and Deputy Special Master Reig. As the Court is aware, the Victim List Project (described as the "Victim List Foundation" in the Plan of Allocation and Distribution of Settlement Proceeds approved by the Court on November 22, 2000) is intended as a mechanism under the Court's direction to encourage and help organize the compilation and greater accessibility worldwide of the names of individuals whom the Settlement Agreement is intended to benefit – Jewish, Romani, Jehovah's Witness, homosexual, and disabled victims or targets of Nazi persecution, those who perished and those who survived.

The grant hereby requested is the last needed to ensure that the goals of the Victim List Project will be fully realized in regard to the non-Jewish victims. With the assistance of the Court to date, it has been possible for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to identify and acquire virtually all the main name sources for the non-Jewish victims. With these additional funds, over a two-year period the identification of such sources will be brought to closure, the lists will be entered into the Museum's Victim List Catalogue,

and the individual names on the lists will be entered into the Museum's Namesearch database. All sources of names will have been identified and made accessible, and all individual names that can be released to the public will have been made accessible.

With the Court's support, very large numbers of Jewish as well as non-Jewish name lists have been acquired from the International Tracing Service, the Joint Distribution Committee, and other sources (including the Swiss Banks Settlement itself) in addition to large numbers of lists obtained in the course of the Museum's regular ongoing archival acquisitions program. The requested grant will also make possible the cataloging of Jewish name lists in the Museum's collections, so that – in coordination with the work being done at Yad Vashem - almost all sources of Jewish names as well will have been identified and made accessible.

Attached please find a proposal from the Registry of Holocaust Survivors of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum with a cover letter from Dr. Michael W. Grunberger, Director of Collections at the Museum.

Respectfully submitted,



Wesley A. Fisher

Cc: Judah Gribetz, Special Master
Shari C. Reig, Deputy Special Master
Greg Schneider, Executive Vice President, Conference on Jewish Material Claims
Against Germany

ATTACHED: Proposal and cover letter from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Registry of Holocaust Survivors

Funding Proposal for Phase III Victim List Project of the Swiss Banks Settlement January 2010

I. Summary

The Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) respectfully requests funding in the amount of **\$493,561** (over two years) for the final phase of the Victim List Project (VLP). The purpose of this phase will be to bring to conclusion the effort of identifying, cataloguing and digitizing name-based information about victims of the Holocaust – both those who perished and those who survived – who were Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, or mentally or physically handicapped. The project will also continue the effort of identifying and cataloguing Jewish name list material within the Museum's archival holdings. This final phase of the VLP will begin on March 1, 2010 and continue over the two years. At the conclusion of the Victim List Project, and with the incorporation of the recently acquired ITS materials, the USHMM will have one of the largest searchable digital resources on victims of the Holocaust.

Phase I (concluded in 2006): In the first phase of the VLP the Registry developed technology applications to store lists of names of victims from the Holocaust, and subsequently made the information available to the public and other institutions involved with the VLP. During this phase the Registry more than doubled the number of catalogued victim lists to 11,500.

Phase II (2007-2009): In the second phase of the VLP the Registry conducted additional name list cataloguing, integrated data to allow easier search capabilities, developed the data systems

that were created in phase I, normalized existing and new data, coordinated research on non-Jewish victim groups, acquired new collections, created digital data about Romanian victims from two important archival collections in USHMM holdings, and catalogued lists of Jewish and non-Jewish victims. At the conclusion of this phase the Registry more than doubled the number of catalogued victim lists to 28,132.

Phase III (2010-2011): In the proposed third phase of the VLP the Registry will bring to closure the identification, cataloguing and digitization of victim lists and names data for the Roma, Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and the mentally and physically handicapped. It will also continue identifying and cataloguing Jewish name lists from the USHMM archival collection.

II. Project Description

The proposed third phase of the VLP project will build on the results of the first two phases and include the following elements:

a. Identification of Non-Jewish Name Lists

During the previous stages of the VLP the Registry has already identified the major non-Jewish name list material in existence outside the Museum. Most of these collections have either been acquired or made accessible in the Museum. However, in order to conclude this effort the Registry will contact other memorials, museums, archives and relevant institutions to ensure the completeness of the non-Jewish name list materials in its possession.

The majority of the effort to identify non-Jewish name lists during this phase will focus on the Museum's own collections. In keeping with the USHMM's mission of rescuing the evidence, the Museum has been rapidly acquiring new archival collections. In the last year alone, the Museum acquired more than 7 million pages of archival documents. In addition, the USHMM has been designated as the American repository of the International Tracing Service collection from Bad Arolsen, Germany. The full digital copy of the collection will add to the Museum more than 150 million digital images of documents and other materials relating to approximately 17.5 million victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution. As a result of this rapid increase in the Museum's archival holdings, the estimated number of relevant victim lists has increased

exponentially. It is therefore essential for Registry staff to systematically survey the Museum's collections to identify relevant non-Jewish list material.

In order to support this effort the Registry is requesting funding for one full time VLP coordinator [see budget]. The VLP coordinator will manage all aspects of this project: survey the collections, make recommendations for list cataloguing, and coordinate and supervise the work of content and technical staff. The VLP coordinator will also promote closer working relationships with Yad Vashem and other relevant institutions around the world, in order to maximize the results of the USHMM's Victims List Project.

b. Cataloging of Name Lists in the USHMM Collections

During the second phase of the VLP the Registry more than doubled the number of catalogued victim lists to 28,132. Yet these lists represent a very small fraction of the lists that currently exist within the Museum's collections. The rapid pace of the Museum's archival acquisitions coupled with the lack of resources for general cataloguing has resulted in this gap. In order to address this problem the Registry will embark on a large-scale systematic name list cataloguing effort. A priority will be given to non-Jewish name lists and an attempt will be made to conclude the cataloguing of the major non-Jewish lists within the two years allotted for this project. The effort will focus on the least accessible archival collections first (i.e. collections on microfilms and microfiche), followed by list materials in the ITS collection. A conservative estimate suggests that over 120,000 uncatalogued non-Jewish and Jewish lists currently exist in the Museum's archives.

In order to support this effort the Registry is requesting funding for two full time cataloguers [see budget attached]. The two contractors will work on lists identified by the VLP coordinator within the Museum's collections. It is estimated that they will be able to add 45,000 Jewish and non-Jewish lists to the Victim List Catalogue over a two year period.

c. Digitization of Individual Name Data

Capturing victim names as searchable data remains one of the central goals of the Registry of Holocaust Survivors. The Registry's Namesearch database is currently undergoing a major

restructuring that will allow the attachment of digital images to name files. This will result in the ability to eventually view images of all relevant documents, photos and artifacts within the Museum that relate to individual victims of the Holocaust or Nazi persecution.

During this phase the Registry will focus its effort on the digitization of non-Jewish individual name data to be included in the Registry's Namesearch database. This part of the work will be handled by the VLP coordinator and any future interns that will be hired by the Registry. Their work will form the basis for the eventual ability to collect information about the persecution path and personal experiences of non-Jewish survivors and victims of the Holocaust.

III. Budget

The total funding requested to support this phase of the VLP is **\$493,561** over two years. The majority of the budget will be allocated to cover the costs of staff and contractor positions. Other expenses are technology related. The budget will be allocated as follows:

Budget for 2010	\$222,516
Budget for 2011	\$226,176
Museum's Overhead (10%)	\$44,869
Total	\$493,561

Budget for 2010:

Staff:	\$134,098
VLP Coordinator (GS schedule 12/1 with benefits)	\$94,388
Data Technician (GS schedule 7/3 with benefits, 1@1/2 time)	\$39,710
Contractors:	\$84,418
Cataloguers (2) (GS schedule 7/1 equivalent)	\$84,418
Technology:	\$4,000
Computer equipment (4@\$1,000 per)	\$4,000

Budget for 2011:

Staff: **\$141,758**

VLP Coordinator (GS schedule 12/2 with benefits) \$99,823

Data Technician (GS schedule 7/4 with benefits, 1@1/2 time) \$41,935

Contractors: **\$84,418**

Cataloguers (2) (GS schedule 7/1 equivalent) \$84,418

UNITED STATES
MEMORIAL
**HOLOCAUST
MUSEUM**

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW Washington, DC 20024-2126 T 202.488.0400 F 202.488.2690 ushmm.org

January 13, 2010

Dr. Wesley A. Fischer, Executive Director
Victim List Project of the Swiss Bank Settlement
c/o Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
1359 Broadway, Room 2000
New York, NY 10018

Dear Wesley:

The United States Memorial Museum is committed to the Victim List Project and its ongoing effort to memorialize Holocaust victims by improving access to documents and lists that record their histories. The Museum – America’s national institution for the documentation, study, and interpretation of Holocaust history – collects information about all survivors and victims of the Holocaust.

Building on the success of earlier VLP grants, we submit the attached proposal for VLP funding to conclude our multi-year effort of identifying, cataloguing and digitizing name-based information about victims of the Holocaust who were Roma, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, or mentally or physically handicapped. The proposed project will also continue the effort of identifying and cataloguing Jewish name list material within the Museum’s archival holdings. At the conclusion of the Victim List Project, and with the incorporation of the recently acquired ITS materials, the USHMM will have one of the largest searchable digital resources on victims of the Holocaust.

The attached proposal outlines a request for funding of \$493,561 over two years. The Museum is prepared to assist in reporting on its Victim List Project activities as may be needed by the Court.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Michael W. Grunberger
Director of Collections

Attachment