

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

IN RE
HOLOCAUST VICTIMS ASSETS LITIGATION

SUBMISSION OF CLAIM VIA SPECIAL MASTER JUDAH GRIBETZ

General Information

Name of Institution submitting claim: PROJECTS INC. – Incorporated in Illinois (1984) as non-profit entity.

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Title of Project: LESSONS FROM THE PAST – GUIDES TO THE FUTURE©

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Total estimated budget of project and amount of claim: \$355,500

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Summary of Project Content and Objectives:

LESSONS FROM THE PAST
GUIDES TO THE FUTURE©

OBJECTIVES, RELATIONSHIP TO THE STUDY OF THE HOLOCAUST, DEMONSTRATED NEED

As the years rush by, memories of the Holocaust fade from the public mind. There may be Holocaust archives and museums, but why would a young person want to go there? To see a gruesome illustration of man's inhumanity to man? School children may be forced to visit – but what lessons will they remember? What relevance will it have to them in modern day America/Israel/Russia?

We must not let the memory of the 6-million be lost.

¹ We propose a program to create a LIVING MEMORY© of the Holocaust. We will train large groups of selected individuals who will then be qualified to give one or more talks/presentations/classes on what happened in the Holocaust – and the relevance it has to us today. Most of those attending will not be professional educators – but will be interacting with all levels of society on a day-to-day basis. As a result the message we are seeking to convey will also be “seeded” throughout society. A talk with co-workers, relatives, or friends can be an extremely effective method of first-stage education ¹

The Nazis were not simply out to kill 6-million “bodies”. Their goal was to destroy everything the Jewish people stood for – our ideals, values, beliefs. Our trained Guides will be able to connect the tragedy of the Holocaust with these ideals, values and beliefs to make the Holocaust a relevant part of modern day life.

An illustration of the sort of approach that will be used can be found in the attached article from Midstream.

TARGET GROUP

We have selected the FSU as an initial primary target for our efforts in Holocaust education and strengthening of Jewish identity.

WWII is a major event in Russian consciousness. Actual battles were fought on their lands and the landscape is dotted with memorials to Russians who fell in the defense of their homeland. Unfortunately, but expectedly, no mention is made of the Holocaust in Russian history. Russians died, Jews are not mentioned. Russian Jews may have heard vague mention of the Holocaust but it is not part of their knowledge base.

If our goal is to educate about the Holocaust – the Russian Jews are a primary audience. Forgetting the Holocaust is not an issue for them – they, practically speaking, never knew about it.

Our program for developing a LIVING MEMORY© as LESSONS FROM THE PAST – GUIDES FOR THE FUTURE© becomes an absolute necessity.

By establishing trained leadership groups in key areas we begin the process of Holocaust education for the Jews of the FSU while strengthening their Jewish identity.

METHODOLOGY

Tours of the concentration camps combined with pre- and post-tour seminars. A group selected for leadership potential will receive the educational resources needed for them to understand what happened to our people in the Holocaust. They will then be trained how to effectively communicate what they have learned with friends, family, co-workers. Those who show particular promise will receive further training so that they can serve as teachers and lecturers to the general Jewish public in the FSU.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

It is the policy of Projects Inc. to minimize its own administrative structure. We have found that we can accomplish much more, at a lower cost, when we either direct/advise or sub-contract existing organizations in the Jewish world.

Projects Inc. will design the educational material for LESSONS FROM THE PAST GUIDES TO THE FUTURE©. In order to implement, we will sub-contract, train and supervise organizations which already have a proven track record in these areas.

For the purposes of this project we have selected– a Russian division of Aish HaTorah for project implementation. They have a wide experience in the FSU - with ten branches - and ability to handle a large project – they had 42,000 participants in various programs in 1997-98 alone. For the purposes of this program - they have run similar programs successfully, understand our educational objectives and are willing to follow our direction. We have included full background information about them. (Enclosed)

EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR PROJECTS

We at Projects Inc. have been fortunate to experience a remarkable degree of success using this approach. We have designed seminars for Aish HaTorah (1989) which are still in use today. We have helped the Lev L'Achim organization in Israel expand and to develop a degree of "American professionalism" in their work. We designed and implemented a manpower training program that would allow their volunteers the ability to educate their fellow Israeli about basic Jewish concepts. We also designed and established a major telephone study program. In 1997 we initiated a major program that would allow children from non-religious homes the right to be accepted and integrated into religious schools if they desired. We have also advised other major educational organizations in North America, Israel and the FSU.

LONG TERM FUNDING

Our goal is to work with the other organizations that are involved with similar types of programming. Eventually our approach will become a standard methodology for Holocaust education and "March of the Living" type programs. Long-term funding will accrue from these organizations.