

May 11, 2003
9 Iyar 5763

Mr. Julius Berman, Chairman
Dr. Israel Singer, President
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
New York

Dear Julius and Israel,

During my service as Treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel, I received a world view on most aspects of Jewish life. I saw the heights and depth of Jewish existence everywhere that Jews reside. One of the aspects of Jewish organizational activity that I found most rewarding was the efforts of the Claims Conference in creating a balance between two important mitzvot - that of preserving the remnant of our people who survived the flames and that of preserving the traditions and memories that survived the hate.

Interfering with the delicate balance between social welfare on the one hand, and passing on the lessons of the Holocaust to future generations on the other, would be an error that would long outlive our efforts. I urge my fellow Board and Executive members to reject forthrightly any change in the 80-20 structure which is not only correct, but has kept us together so long and created both unity of purpose and peace within our ranks.

I would appreciate your relaying this message to the other members of the Board of Directors of the Claims Conference.

Sincerely,



Chaim Chesler