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Via Fax - 001-212-679-2126

Board of Trustees Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, Inc. 15 East 26th Street, Room 906 New York, NY 10010

Dear Friends:

I would like to address a matter that I understand will be discussed at the upcoming Claims Conference Board meeting: the ratio between allocations for the welfare of survivors and allocations for Holocaust education, documentation, research and commemoration.

When approaching the issue of the proper distribution of these funds, the property of the Holocaust victims, we must contend with the devastation wrought by the Hitler regime and from it continue to build a foundation to serve both the rebuilding of our people, and a memorial to the victims.

The destruction that the Nazis perpetrated against the Jewish People was not only a physical destruction in which millions were slaughtered and entire communities annihilated, but also a destruction of the spirit, of our heritage, culture, Jewish creativity and writing that flourished and enriched the world, especially Europe, before the war.

In view of this, we must continue to operate along two channels of resurrection while taking into account the limited scope of resources at our disposal. Surely we must see to the welfare of the survivors who are the remnants of this physical and spiritual destruction, but at the same time we mush promote documentation, research and commemoration of the victims and communities that were destroyed. We must document their names, their memories, their creative works and the entire sacred edifice that they built before and during the Shoah.

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In this way they will also be remembered not simply as numbers, but as individual people.

We must educate the next generation on the horrors of the Shoah, and especially the lessons to be learned, and ensure that the memory of the Shoah will not fade in the coming generations.

In consideration of the needs of the survivors, the Claims Conference rightfully established a policy whereby the majority of the funds are designated for the welfare of the survivors, and the remainder is allocated for commemoration of the Shoah and its legacy.

I strongly support the need to tend to the welfare of the survivors, however, in my opinion, we must augment support for Holocaust <u>remembrance</u> and, in any case, certainly not reduce the little that is allocated for this task.

We are morally obligated to carry out the last will and wishes of the victims whose money is today under discussion: "Remember and never forget!"

Donald S. Dav

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