

May 12, 2003
10 Iyar 5763

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

Dear Friends,

Recently, I heard that discussions were going to be held on the future directions of Claims Conference allocations. As a Holocaust survivor, I feel it appropriate to add my thoughts to these deliberations.

In a pact of life, I, as a 9 year old child, with my 11 year old sister and 7 year old brother, escaped from the overcrowded Warsaw ghetto through its sewers. During this time, death was preferable to life. Only our need to tell what we had witnessed and the need to continue Jewish heritage and tradition encouraged us to live. We three youngsters, the only survivors of a 250-member Jewish family, were convinced that we were the only surviving Jews on earth and vowed to walk to Palestine and begin anew the Jewish People in our ancient homeland. We did this because we believed deep in our hearts that the continuity of the Jewish People was even more important than our own continued existence. Throughout the over two years of wandering, we dreamed of food and warmth but we also dreamed of a Jewish nation reborn, one which by its existence vanquished the very notion that the Jewish People would not continue forever. One where orphaned children could learn the traditions of their fathers who were no longer living.

Today, while the issue of what will happen to resources distributed by the Claims Conference is being debated, I salute its efforts to help find comfort and service for the remnants of needy survivors they deserve all the solace that we can give. Yet if we don't increase our efforts to educate, research and commemorate the Holocaust, if we don't use the present time remaining for survivors to tell and teach and pass on the epic which they witnessed, then we are multiplying our losses from the Shoa and harming this and future generations' obligation to know and continue the struggle, the struggle that began for me in the cold forests of Poland.

I would appreciate your cooperation in distributing this letter to the Board of Directors of the Claims Conference.

Sincerely,



Matityahu Drobles