



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע"ר)
The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

May 15th, 2003

To: Messrs. Israel Singer, President Claims Conference
Julius Berman, Chairman of the Board
Gideon Taylor, Executive Vice President

From : Zeev Factor, Member of the Board

Re: Your letter of April 11, 2003

Dear Sirs,

Further to the memorandum cited in reference, which discusses the question of distribution of the Claims Conference budgets and the division of the annual allocations for social needs, research and education by a ratio of 80% - 20%, I wish to make the following remarks.

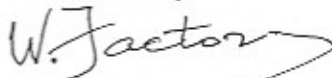
1. The Holocaust survivors have always supported allocations and resources for commemoration and education. This is demonstrated by the fact that, in the recent years, some 100 million dollars were allocated for these purposes.
2. However, there are changes caused by the passage of time, which make reexamination of the distribution an urgent necessity. This distribution must be modified for the reasons specified below:
3. The age of most of the Holocaust survivors living in Israel and in the rest of the world is almost 80 and subsequently facing difficult health.. The new situation of economic penury in Israel, combined with the fact that these people have not been part of the labor force already for 15 years, means that the few economic means that they had have been exhausted. Most of them are constrained to submit applications for urgent aid. There remains no prospect for these people to live out their lives with dignity. The group of Holocaust survivors who are defined as "needy" is growing substantially day by day.

4. In light of this reality, there is an urgent need to change the ratio of distribution of the support budget at least for the next few years, which are liable to be extremely critical.
5. The social needs must take precedence over the education, commemoration and research needs. They should be placed in a ratio of 95% to 5%. It may be assumed that within a few years (5-7) demographic changes will occur, and it will be possible to reopen this matter for reconsideration.
6. I do not overlook the fears of those who are anxious about commemoration, research and education. However, I believe that there is an exaggerated sensitivity concerning the "dangers anticipated for commemoration". It is inconceivable that the many investments made until now will not be sufficient to surmount temporary cutbacks for a relatively short period.

Allow me to quote the passage from "Pirkey Avot" saying - "It is not thy duty to complete the work".

I fully believe that the next generation, and those following it, will make their proper contribution to the commemoration of the important episodes in the history of the Jewish people, just as we have done before them.

Yours sincerely,



Wolf Z. Factor