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To Rabbi Israel Singer. & Julius Berman.

It needs to be emphasised that the Claims Conference's two commitments: caring for the welfare of needy Holocaust Survivors and preserving the memory of the Holocaust are moral and inescapable responsibilities.

With reference to the second commitment, we must remember and constantly remind ourselves that the funds at our disposal come as part of a legacy with instructions from those who perished to "Remember and never Forget". On their behalf and on behalf of survivors we must enshrine remembrance of the Shoah and its lessons for posterity. The Nazi's intention was to destroy the Jewish people and its memory. The history of the Shoah was built on the memories of survivors. Their numbers have dwindled and it is essential to promote new generations of researchers, writers, film makers and artists so that all future generations will be taught the recent and tragic history of our people and the lessons to be learned by all in the hope that it will prevent the recurrence of such cataclysmic events.

This is a promise not only to those who perished but also to ourselves -- the living.

Important Holocaust Institutions rely heavily on the support given by the Claims Conference and a freeze or reduction in allocations to them would seriously impair the importance of their work. It would send out the wrong signals that we are down playing the importance of Education, Remembrance and Research.

However, we have reached a stage when we need to examine the way in which applications are considered and processed in order to avoid duplication.

The Board of the Claims Conference apportioned the majority of the funds i.e. 80% for the welfare of survivors and 20% for Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research. It would be unwise to create conflict between these duties. We should not undermine one to the advantage of the other. We should maintain the present balance as any change would deflect from the path adopted to successfully discharging our legacy.

Ben Helfgott.