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The history of the Jewish people in the past century lies between two major events that we mark today and tomorrow. On November 28, in 1939, Hans Frank, the Nazi General Governor of Poland, announced the establishment of Jewish councils – the Judenrat. On November 29, in 1947, the United Nations voted to create the State of Israel.

The Claims Conference was established in October 1951 following the historic speech made by German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in which he called for “moral and material compensation” to be made to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

The financial support provided by the Claims Conference helps Holocaust victims to live their life with a degree of self-respect, to which we are all committed. However, financial support in their old age does nothing to alleviate or provide comfort or compensate for the awful and terrible suffering they experienced in their youth.

In addition, I attach great importance to the Claims Conference's support of organizations and institutions engaged in Holocaust research and instruction. The memory of the Holocaust follows us as individuals and as a nation, and affects all our lives -- and rightly so. Our generation must pass on to the next generations all the knowledge related to the Holocaust, and educate them in order to reinforce the memory of the Holocaust, and the lessons to be drawn from the Holocaust.

The memory of the Holocaust will certainly be retained in the Jewish nation's awareness for generations to come. However, I hope that the lessons of the Holocaust will permeate through to the generations after that. There is a guarantee that humankind will pass on the memory and lessons of the Holocaust to the generations of the future.

Recently, we have witnessed attempts, in the international arena, to belittle the uniqueness of the Jewish Holocaust. At the Durban Conference, for example, a conference of racists that called itself an anti-racism conference – there was an attempt which, after a bitter struggle, failed. For, unfortunately, even after the Holocaust, numerous injustices have been committed against various minorities, even including genocide. However, the organization and methodical approach, and the use of advanced technologies of the era, without reason, without explanation or justification. The events leave us open-mouthed and unable to decipher the tragedy.

The Durban Conference should serve as a warning sign for all countries of the world and, in particular, for the countries of Europe on whose soil the destruction, and human and national tragedy of the Jewish people took place, in the center of Europe, in one of the countries which was then considered one of the most advanced in the world.

The German federal government compensated the Holocaust victims when the last settlement was agreed upon with the help of the Claims Conference, the objective of which was to provide compensation for forced laborers and those put to hard labor. We appreciate the endeavors of the German government to formulate suitable compensation arrangements. Both they and we know full well that the Holocaust does not, and cannot have a price tag.

I believe that, over the years, the trauma will become a part of both nations, the victim and the culprit, due to Germany's efforts to come to terms with its past and as a result of the determination of the Jewish nation to impart knowledge of the Holocaust and to inculcate its lessons. Even so, we also expect other European countries to deal with their past with wisdom and courage by teaching universal values to members of the younger generation.