

Jewish Labor Committee

25 East 21st Street • New York, N.Y. 10010-6297 • (212) 477-0707 • FAX (212) 477-1918

ATLAN CENTER FOR JEWISH CULTURE

ידישער ארבעטער-קאָמיטעט

Monday, May 19, 2003

President

Stuart Appelbaum

Vice Presidents

Moe Biller

Larry Cohen

Amy B. Dean

Jeannette B. DiLorenzo

Evelyn Dubrow

John Fox

Ted H. Jacobsen

Martin Lapan

Jay Mazur

Vladka Meed

Lenore Miller

Fred Nauman

Michael S. Perry

Bruce Raynor

Bert Seldman

Irwin Solomon

Andrew L. Stern

Betty Kaye Taylor

Ivan Tiger

Randi Weingarten

Treasurer

Morton Bahr

Secretary

Sandra Feldman

Executive Director

Avram B. Lyon

Past Presidents

Morton Bahr

Herb Magidson

Lenore Miller

Donald S. Sialman

Jack Sheinkman

Jacob T. Zukerman

Charles S. Zimmerman

Executive Director Emeritus

Emanuel Muravchik

Mr. Julius Berman

Conference on Jewish Material Claims

Against Germany, Inc.

15 East 26th Street

Room 906

New York, NY 10010

Dear Julie:

As someone who has played an active role in Jewish communal life locally, nationally and internationally for more than 30 years, I would like to convey my support for continuing the policy of allocating Claims Conference funds to education and commemoration of the Shoa.

Whether that proportion should be 20%, 12% or 30% is debatable, and worthy of discussion. But to allocate 0% is, I believe, misguided. The interests of the entire Jewish People must guide us at this stage, as they have in the past.

If we curtail our critical support of research into the most decisive chapter in modern Jewish history, if we decrease our active investment in teaching young Jews and non-Jews the world over the lessons of the Shoa, if we slow down our efforts to commemorate the struggles and very lives of the millions of Jews who were in the vortex of the Shoa, then we would be giving the Nazi regime, 60 years later, a posthumous victory.

As others, I see around me Holocaust survivors whose circumstances have deteriorated and whose needs are pressing. I understand their plight and believe we must continue to devote the greatest portion of Claims Conference allocations to this cause. The needs of these survivors sear the soul and challenge us all. I also believe that local Jewish communities around the world have a special obligation to assist Holocaust survivors in such need and these communities must rise to the occasion. The obligation to aid survivors is not the sole burden of the Claims Conference alone.

Unfortunately, we see new generations "who knew not Joseph." I see young people -- Jews and non-Jews -- who no longer remember the lessons of the Shoa. No, I do not believe that education can prevent genocide from occurring in all parts of the world and among all peoples. But we can, and must, make the effort to educate those people we can reach. To do less would be an insult to the memory of six million of our People who perished at the hands of evil while an indifferent world stood silent.



The Claims Conference must continue to allocate restitution funds to efforts in the fields of documentation, commemoration and education. Our future, our integrity, and our obligation to those who survived and those who perished, depend on it.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Avram B. Lyon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Avram B. Lyon
Executive Director

cc Stuart Appelbaum, President

opeiu:153