



“YAD LAAD” TESTIMONY HOUSE OF RELIGIOUS ZIONISM AND THE HOLOCAUST HERITAGE FOUNDED BY BNEI AKIVA VETERANS - EUROPE  
"יד לעד" בית העדות למורשת הציונות הדתית והשוואה מיסודם של ותיקי בני-עקיבא - מ. ארופה

May 27, 2003

ב"ה

Board Of Directors  
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

Gentlemen:

I have recently heard that the Board of Directors has been reevaluating the policies of the Claims Conference with regard to the allocation of funds for programs of Holocaust research, documentation, and education. Furthermore, I have been informed that funding will be reduced.

As a Holocaust survivor and Chairman of the Board of Directors at "Yad Laad" – Beit Haedut – Testimony House of Religious Zionism and the Holocaust, I would like to express my concerns. I feel that it is a significant mistake to take this action. Organizations like ours cannot continue our important task without your assistance. The government of Israel is not able to support us in these times of economic hardships and the high cost of security.

Until now we have been fortunate to receive funding from the Claims Conference. However, with the economic problems that exist, it is my opinion that the Claims Conference should consider providing more monetary assistance rather than less and require a lower percentage of matching funds. This would make it more realistic to reach the requirements for funding.

We have an important mission at Beit Haedut, which is to teach the history of the Holocaust and to memorialize those lost in the Holocaust.

I have heard that your rationale for a reduction of funding stems from your belief that the money should be given directly to survivors. Unfortunately, everyday there remain fewer and fewer survivors. There should be funds available for institutions like ours to tell their story.

I am sure this is the opinion of most of the survivors since they are interested in memorializing their plight and that of their friends and family members that have perished.

I hope my letter will be taken into consideration in making your policy decisions. I would be grateful if my request does not fall on deaf ears, but on open hearts.

Respectfully yours,  
Shraga Shemer

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NIR GALIM 79245 TELFAX: 08-8535687 טלפקס: 08-8532332 טל: 79245 יור גלים