

ארגון יוצאי לודז' בישראל * קאמיטעט פון לאדזשער אין ישראל
ORGANISATION OF FORMER RESIDENTS OF LODZ

רח' דיזנגוף 158 תל-אביב מיקוד 63461 טלפון: 03-5241833 פקס: 03-5248137
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June 11, 2003

Board of Directors
Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.
15 East 26th Street, Rm. 906
New York, NY 10010

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Dear Friends,

In the following lines I wish to put across my views regarding a topic that will be discussed at the upcoming board meeting of the Claims Conference, i.e. the call to reduce Claims Conference allocations for Holocaust remembrance. Although I am not a member of the Claims Conference board of directors, it is important to me to express my opinion on this vital matter, both as a Jew and a Holocaust survivor, and I prefer that my words be heard and not represented by those whose position does not reflect my own nor that of my friends.

As a Holocaust survivor, it is important for me to stress that the commitment that the Claims Conference has taken upon itself – preserving the memory of the Holocaust – is a moral responsibility of the highest order, and you as members of the board must constantly make sure yourselves that you are fulfilling your obligation.

This commitment, is not simply an obligation, it is the last will of the owners of these Holocaust era funds – the victims.

On their behalf and, if you will allow me, on our behalf – the survivors – we must ensure remembrance of the Shoah and its lessons for eternity. We must document what happened, record the names of the victims, the communities and their heritage. The coming generations must be taught about what happened in all its aspects, and thus ensure as much as possible that such phenomena will not recur.

This is not only a commitment to those who perished, but also to ourselves – the living.

Today, we are witnessing a rising wave of antisemitism, misrepresentation of the Holocaust in verbal attacks against the State of Israel, and increasing tendencies of Holocaust denial and minimalization, all this less than sixty years since the end of the horrific Shoah that was perpetrated against our nation.

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We have reached a time when the members of the generation of the Shoah, those who can testify firsthand as to what happened, are fast passing from this world and soon there will be no live testimony, the defensive wall against denial of and indifference to the greatest human tragedy.

With this in mind, I am calling on you, the heads of the Claims Conference, to increase your support for Holocaust remembrance enterprises, for education, documentation, research and commemoration of the Shoah. Increase the amounts allocated today for these objectives and make sure that these important goals receive sufficient funding, especially in this hour.

I call on you to fulfill our commitment to the martyrs - that the Holocaust and its victims will never be forgotten.

Sincerely yours,

Avraham Zelig
Chairman
Organization of
Former Resident of Lodz