

Holocaust Survivors, Inc. - Queens Chapter

Rego Park Jewish Center • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 800-157 Elmhurst, NY 11380-0157

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Honorable Judah Gribetz Esq.

c/o Law Firm Of Richards & O'Neil LLC.

885 3d Avenue

New York, NY.10022-4873

November 14, 1999

Dear Mr.Gribetz,

We are sending this proposal to you for consideration during the forthcoming hearings concerning the distribution of the 1,250 billion dollars from the Swiss fund, for Holocaust Survivors.

We are a not for profit organization of Holocaust Survivors located in Queens, NY. with a membership of more than 350 people. All of them are waiting for the decision by the Honorable Judge Korman, as to who, how much and when will they receive the decision.

Our board tries to explain and warns them that the amount of their share will eventually be very small, and it will not help in their daily struggles and worries.

During our recent meeting the overwhelming majority expressed very strongly their preference that instead of receiving a small token payment, we believe the whole amount should go towards the establishment of a fund, that will assure home care and long term care, for the rapidly aging and frail Survivors. The money should be given directly to those who need this kind of care.

This will allow them to live out their last years in dignity. Time is running out for us, the majority are now nearing 80 and 90. Their numbers are dwindling with every passing day (with the exception of children Survivors who are in their fifties, sixties

Therefore this fund is only needed for the next 15, 20 years.

We hope we are not too late with this proposal. We were never advised that we could send a proposal. We just learned about it from Mr.Rechter of the "NAHOS" organization.

Enclosed is the latest news from Florida, there too Survivors want the money to go for HOME CARE.

We strongly oppose any payments or participation of any organization for purpose of education or other causes. We supported them all these years, we don't believe they have any right to this money.

Our deepest appreciation to you and Judge Korman.

Respectfully yours

Hanka Hirshaut
Hanka Hirshaut - President

NEW HOPE FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

USE MONEY NOW FOR HEALTH CARE

Florida Insurance Commissioner Bill Nelson has a good idea: Provide home health-care services to needy and frail survivors of the Holocaust. So, implement it.

Let former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who now heads the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, take \$10 million of the \$90 million European insurers have already deposited, hire visiting nurses and therapists and send them to the homes of people most in need. It really shouldn't be that difficult.

Mr. Eagleburger recently met with 300 survivors in South Florida pledging to do what he can to expedite distribution of money that is clearly owed to people whose claims were arrogantly dismissed following World War II because they couldn't produce copies of their policies. Never mind that these were people who had been stripped of their belongings and held in concentration camps under constant death threats.

Pressured by Mr. Nelson and insurance regulators in other states, the European companies now are reported to be searching their archives to reconstruct lists of policyholders and to pay claims. Negotiations are under way to determine how much will be paid. It is estimated that \$173 million or more is owed.

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them. Many more suffer from a variety of medical conditions that can be traced to harsh conditions in the camps and may cut short their lives. Most retain a special fear of institutions that bring back memories of the camps. These are people who need help now to maintain themselves at home.

The commission appeared receptive to Mr. Nelson's sensible and sensitive proposals. It authorized him to seek cooperation from the 11 companies engaged. That was a positive gesture. But why wait when significant money is on hand and so much is owed? Every day is precious? Granted there is not enough money in escrow to provide immediate help to all. There is enough to provide comforting, helpful hands to keep several thousand at home and out of nursing homes and to do so with or without the acquiescence of insurance companies. Let that money be distributed.