TOM LANTOS CATIFORNIA

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Congress of the United States Couse of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

March 12, 2004

SWISS BANKS HOLOCAUST 18901 C-ENG 0076 Veterans' Affairs and International Relations

> Cochair, Permanent United States Congressional Delegation to the European Parliament

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Member, United States Congressional Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

> Cochair, Congressional Human Rights Caucus

Member, United States Holocaust Memorial Council

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Chief Judge Edward R. Korman Special Master Judah Gribitz Holocaust Victims Assets Litigation P.O. Box 8300 San Francisco, CA 94128-8300

Dear Chief Judge Korman and Special Master Gribitz:

I am writing to you as the only survivor of the Holocaust ever to have been elected to the United States House of Representatives. With that heavy responsibility, I have always supported to the utmost, and continue to support, the principle that Jewish and other identified survivors of the unspeakable crimes of the Nazi Holocaust should be financially compensated to every extent possible, although compensation can never be adequate for the monstrosities carried out by Hitler and his regime.

I have long been aware of the many complexities and difficulties facing individual survivors, and the organizations and institutions supporting them during the decades since the Holocaust, in attempts to obtain recognition and recompense for their terrible suffering. I am also painfully aware of the recent resurgence in anti-Semitism in far too many places around the world, as well as continuing dangerous prejudice in many of these places, never truly addressed, against additional groups attacked and killed by the Nazi regime, including gay and lesbian persons, the disabled, the Roma, and other persecuted ethnic, religious, and social groups.

In general, I believe it is the responsibility of current governments to finance whatever efforts may be necessary to ensure the highest standards of civilized behavior toward all persons within their borders, without discrimination, and of educating their citizens to do the same. In addition, to the extent there may be residual funds remaining after absolutely every appropriate effort is made to award Holocaust Victims Assets funds to individual survivors, I would also support every proper consideration for the award of very small percentages of overall settlement funds to credible organizations, capable of carrying out important continuing education of the general population to abandon longstanding prejudices against Jews and others persecuted by Nazis and Nazi-influenced regimes, especially in geographic areas directly affected during the Holocaust.

Chief Judge Korman, Special Master Gribitz, March 12, 2004, p. 2.

Without prejudice to other highly credible groups that may also be presented, I would like to commend to you two of these organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area with whom my staff and I have worked, and whose extraordinary leadership I have known of and admired for many years. These organizations have performed and continue to carry out excellent widespread education and advocacy on behalf of groups subjected to terrible treatment during the Holocaust.

First, I recommend strongly the Pink Triangle Coalition, coordinated by Ms. Julie Dorf. Ms. Dorf was the original founding Director, for more than ten years, of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, a highly respected advocacy group, formed in San Francisco, which is a member of the Coalition. The Pink Triangle Coalition is an important U.S. based alliance for education to prevent further prejudice and persecution toward gay and lesbian people around the world. My staff and I have high confidence in the ability and integrity of Coordinator Julie Dorf.

Second, I strongly recommend Disability Rights Advocates, headed by Mr. Larry Paradis, in whom my staff and I have high confidence as well. Disability Rights Advocates also is a prominent San Francisco Bay Area advocacy organization with whom my staff and I have worked, and they have been making persistent efforts for disabled people to be heard and considered in compensation processes for Holocaust survivors. Both of these outstanding organizations already have worked for a number of years to combat prejudice particularly in central Europe, among other locations around the world.

I thank you very much for your consideration of this letter.

Most cordially,

Tom Lantos

Member of Congress

Please use the text of this second original mailed March 12, 2004, corrected on page 2 to read:

"International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission."

Thank you.

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March 12, 2004

P.O. Box 8300

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Holocaust Victims Assets Litigation

San Francisco, CA 94128-8300

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Tom Lantos

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