



**CENTRAL UNION OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES  
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC**  
Kozia ul. 21, 814 47 Bratislava, SLOVAKIA  
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Bratislava, 26 October 1999

**Mr. Judah Gribetz**  
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c/o Richards & O'Neil LLP  
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Fax.: 001(212)750 9022

Dear Judah,

The time is running so quickly, I even did not have time to notice that we are at the end of the period and the deadline for delivering the questionnaires is here.

Here are some basic facts mentioned also in my letter from March:

Before the war the Slovak Jewish community made almost 2 % of the European Jewry. We are convinced, that e. g. 1% from the total distributed amount would be a modest but just and adequate share for the Jews of Slovakia.

These funds are to be used for:

1. Straight payments – compensations to still living Holocaust victims (50 % of the amount)
2. Support of social and charity facilities, serving to the needs of Holocaust survivors:
  - a) Home for the Aged Ohel David opened in Bratislava in November 1998
  - b) Day care center at the Jewish community Košice (East Slovakia)
  - c) Day care centers in Nové Zámky and Dunajská Streda (West Slovakia)
  - d) Clubs for seniors in Banská Bystrica and Žilina (Central Slovakia)
3. Individual social service – help like visiting ill old people, providing them with medicals, meals on wheels etc.
4. Education about Holocaust – we have already negotiated with the Minister of education a program of education in basic and high schools, s.t. similar to the Swedish approach. This was the state in March, today the process is beginning with the first educational activities and it does require financial means.
5. Maintenance of synagogues and cemeteries round Slovakia. We have created a so called SOS Center for Preservation of Cemeteries and Synagogues based in Banská Bystrica, because there are round 600 mostly abandoned Jewish cemeteries in Slovakia.

**Ad 1) We have the necessary infrastructure to be able to process the straight payments in the shortest possible period of time – we have the actualized list of survivors. It is necessary to realize, that every Jewish person here in Slovakia, who is older than 55, is a Holocaust survivor, as here in Slovakia are no refugees from East or West. There is nobody who has settled in Slovakia after the WWII.**

**Ad 2) The other 50% of the received funds would be used as untouchable endowment providing permanent support for activities named in this and the following sections.**

**Our opinion is that we would be able to process the above written more efficiently if the funds would not go via Claims Conference or WJRO. According to our experience with those organizations we could count with delays and as slow processing as possible. Our Central Union is the only umbrella Jewish organization in Slovakia, it delivers its yearly financial reports to the Ministry of Culture and between 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1999 it was audited by Ms. Carmel Kuperman, an independent auditor of the AJDC, with a positive result. Of course we can deliver the audit of the used means whenever it is necessary.**

**There are round 1400 living Jewish Holocaust survivors in Slovakia, represented by the CUJRC.**

**Dear Judah, we desperately hope in some significant help provided by this class action also for the Slovak Jewry. The humanitarian aid from the Swiss Fund for needy Holocaust survivors brought 1000.-USD one time payment to individuals (this process is nearly finished) and this helped people also for their self conscience – finally, after so many years somebody was thinking of them. This action could also help the community to survive as we do not deserve (after everything) not to be able even to upkeep an old age home and to support Jewish youth activities.**

**Enclosed, please, find leaflet and photos of our old age home.**

**With best wishes**

  
**Fero Alexander**  
**Executive Chairman**

  
**Jozef Weiss**  
**Office Director**

COPY



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Bratislava, 31 March 1999

**Mr. Judah Gribetz**  
Attorney  
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Fax.: 001(212)750 9022

Dear Mr. Gribetz,

Let us say several words about the activities of the Central Union of Jewish Religious Communities in Slovakia (CUJRC). CUJRC is the only umbrella organization of the (so called) living Jewish communities in Slovakia and is also the legal heir of the perished Jewish communities. The number of the living Jewish communities today is 11. Other Jewish organizations also embraced by the CUJRC are: The Hidden Children, The Association of the Holocaust Survivors, The Slovak Union of Jewish Youth, B'nai Brith, Maccabi etc.

On the basis of the press informations we turn to you as the responsible person for the distribution of the funds made available by the Swiss banks on behalf of the Holocaust survivors.

Our polite request follows the previous letter to Hon. Judge Korman (enclosed). As we have learnt that you were appointed by the concrete distribution, we would politely suggest the following: the Slovak Jewish community should avail 1 % of the distributed sum. This modest request seems to us to be appropriate as for the condition in which our community recently stands.

**It was the Slovak Jewish community, which during the Holocaust:**

- a) opened the eyes of the world after the succesful escape of young Slovak Jews Wetzler and Vrba from Auschwitz,
- b) during the first war years selflessly helped Jewish refugees from Poland and other already afflicted or occupied countries,
- c) immediately after the war, being itself decimated, did help to thousands of Jewish refugees from Poland, Hungary, Soviet Union, who after their return home because of extreme antisemitism were on their way to Palestine later to Israel or to the West.

The Jewish community on the territory of the present day Slovakia belonged to the most important communities of the Jewish world of the XIX. century. This was the golden age of Rabbi Chatham Sopher. In the period during the world wars the community counted 140 000 Jewish souls (except the territory of the Subcarpathian

Ruthenia, which is now a part of Ukraine) out of which about 108 000 perished. Today the Slovak Jewish community is a tiny community of 5000 until recently totally neglected as for its spiritual life and/or any compensations and humanitarian aid. During the period of communism the Jewish community here belonged to the most suffering minorities (e.g. trials in the fifties) and many of its members were rather hiding their identity.

For the first time in 1998 humanitarian aid (rather symbolic) was given to the Holocaust survivors (400 USD per living person, the second instalment – 600 USD is still invisible).

Our suggestion for the distribution of the available funds is following:

Before the war the Slovak Jewish community made almost 2 % of the European Jewry. We are convinced, that e.g. 1% from the sum 1 250 mill. USD i.e. 12,5 mill USD would be a just and adequate share for the Jews of Slovakia.

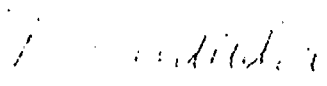
These funds are to be used for:

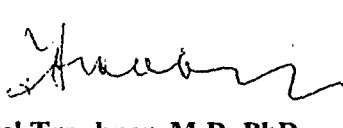
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Dear Mr. Gribetz, anybody coming to Bratislava from the U.S. is welcomed here and we show him or her everything what has remained from the formerly so rich Jewish life here in the city of Chatham Sopher.

Our parents and those who live here alone do deserve after what they have survived to live their last years provided with a care they could not afford.

With the best wishes

  
Fero Alexander  
Executive Chairman

  
Prof. Pavel Traubner, M.D. PhD  
Honorary President

  
Jozef Weiss  
Office Director