



CENTRAL UNION OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES  
IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
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Bratislava, August 11th, <sup>2000</sup>~~1999~~

SPECIAL MASTER/DISTRIBUTION  
In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation  
Notice Administrator  
JAF  
P.O.Box 1601  
New York, NY 10116-1601

Dear Notice Administrator, dear Sirs,

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.

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 successful 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 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:

1. Straight payments – compensations to still living Holocaust victims (50 % of the sum)
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 etc. For this we have established Or Chaim organization which is beginning its activities this September.
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.
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 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.


Ad 2) to 5) The other 50% of the received funds would be used as untouchable endowment providing permanent support for activities named in the sections 2 to 5.

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. All activities of the CUJRC are controlled by its Presidium and by the Board of supervisors. Of course we can deliver the audit of the used financial means whenever it is necessary. I. e. all activities of the CUJRC are under public control.

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

With the best wishes

  
Dr. Fero Alexander  
Executive Chairman

  
Dr. Jozef Weiss  
Office Director