

CONFERENCE ON JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY, Inc.

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March 16, 1994

John Kim, Esq.

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Dear Mr. Kim:

I very much appreciate your invitation to join your friends on Sunday, March 27. Regretfully, I will not be able to be with you as this is the first day of Passover, one of the major Jewish religious holidays. It will interest you to know that Passover commemorates the liberation of Jews from Egyptian slave labor.

Please convey to all assembled my warmest wishes for the success of your efforts to secure long overdue compensation to those Korean women and men who were abused by the Japanese occupation forces prior and during World War II.

As the Executive Director of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), I have devoted more than a quarter of a century to the task of securing a measure of compensation for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. I do not have to elaborate on the enormity of the tragedy that has befallen European Jewry at Nazi hands: six million men, women, and children perished in the Holocaust.

Member Organizations: Agudath Israel World Organization, Alliance Israelite Universelle, American Gathering/Federation of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Zionist Federation, Anglo-Jewish Association, B'nai B'rith International, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Canadian Jewish Congress, Central British Fund for World Jewish Relief, Centre of Organizations Holocaust Survivors in Israel, Conseil Représentatif des Institutions Juives de France, Council of Jews From Germany, Delegacion de Asociaciones Israelitas Argentinas, Executive Council of Australian Jewry, Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Labor Committee, South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Synagogue Council of America, World Jewish Congress, World Union for Progressive Judaism, Zentralrat der

Dr. Adenauer, the first chancellor of postwar Germany, publicly acknowledged on behalf of the German Federal Republic that unspeakable crimes were committed in the name of the German people which called for material indemnification. Subsequently the Claims Conference negotiated a series of agreements with the German government providing for compensation to Nazi victims for imprisonment in concentration camps, slave labor camps, and ghettos, as well as for damage to health resulting from persecution, for loss of providers, and for other personal injuries and suffering.

The German Federal Republic recognized that a true democracy has a legal and moral responsibility to deal with the consequences of the acts of its predecessor government. It is totally unacceptable for the government of Japan to deny its similar moral and legal obligations to the victims of the brutality of its predecessor government. Imperial Japan joined Nazi Germany in bringing on World War II. It is high time for postwar Japan to emulate the German Federal Republic in recognizing its obligation to those who were victimized by Imperial Japan.

I hope that you will intensify your efforts on behalf of the aging Korean "comfort women" and slave laborers so that they can receive a measure of compensation for their humiliation, indignities, and pain and suffering. This is the least that is due to them.

SK/fr

Cordially yours,

Saul Kagan