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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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October 12, 2001

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The Honorable Lawrence S. Eagleburger  
Chairman  
International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims  
1300 L Street Northwest, Suite 1150  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Eagleburger:

Pursuant to its authority under Rules X and XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Government Reform is conducting an oversight investigation of the implementation of the German and Austrian agreements with the United States regarding claims of Holocaust survivors and their heirs. Specifically, the Committee is focusing on the efforts of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), which was designated by the agreements to resolve outstanding Holocaust-era claims.

The Committee is seeking information on a number of issues related to ICHEIC. As such, the Committee requests that you provide the following information by October 19, 2001:

1. **ICHEIC Schedule.** Describe the schedule for ICHEIC's work, including:
  - (a) The frequency of ICHEIC meetings since its establishment; and
  - (b) The dates and topics of major meetings ICHEIC has held to date.
  
2. **Claims Data.** Provide the following data:
  - (a) The number of claims that have been filed with the Commission, including:
    - The number of claims submitted for each insurer that signed the ICHEIC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU),
    - The number of claims submitted for a non-MOU company, and
    - The number of claims that do not name a particular insurer;
  - (b) The number of claims processed by the Commission, including:
    - The number of claims for each MOU insurer for which a final decision has been reached,
    - The number of claims for each MOU insurer that have been denied, and
    - The number of claims that have resulted in the award of compensation;

- (c) The total amount of compensation ICHEIC has paid claimants to date; and
- (d) The range of the amount of compensation claimants have received, from the lowest amount to the highest.

3. Publication of Policyholder Names. Provide the following information:

- (a) The number of compensable Holocaust-era claims that ICHEIC estimates for each MOU insurer;
- (b) The number of compensable Holocaust-era claims that ICHEIC estimates for non-MOU insurers;
- (c) The ICHEIC rules that guide insurers in determining which policyholder names should be published;
- (d) The number of policyholder names each MOU insurer has reported to ICHEIC;
- (e) The number of policyholder names ICHEIC has received from a source that is not an insurer and a description of those sources;
- (f) The number of policyholder names ICHEIC has submitted to Yad Vashem;
- (g) The number of policyholder names returned from Yad Vashem to ICHEIC for publication;
- (h) The total number of policyholder names ICHEIC has published; and
- (i) A description of the role played by Yad Vashem in the policyholder name publication process.

4. Standards for the Evaluation of Claims. Please provide information on any ruling the Chairman issued to clarify standards for the evaluation of claims.

5. Claims Review Process. Provide the following information:

- (a) Describe how the appeals process works, including a description of the entity deliberates appeals;
- (b) The number of claims that have been submitted for appeal including:
  - The number of claims reviewed, and
  - The number of claims accepted or rejected upon appeal;
- (c) The current status of "fast track" claims that were rejected;
- (d) The rules regarding compensation when a claimant is found to have been reimbursed after the war ended;
- (e) The status of audits required for each MOU insurer, including:
  - The date and subject of each audit submitted to ICHEIC, and
  - The process for ICHEIC to approve an audit; and
- (f) Copies of the audit reports.

6. Costs Incurred by ICHEIC. Describe ICHEIC's administrative and operational expenses,

The Honorable Lawrence S. Eagleburger

October 12, 2001

Page 3

including:

- (a) The total amount ICHEIC has spent to date, not including the amount paid to victims for claims, as well as the amount ICHEIC has spent specifically on each of the following:
    - salaries,
    - office related expenses,
    - meetings and conferences,
    - outreach to Holocaust survivors, and
    - processing of victims' claims;
  - (b) The ICHEIC budgets to date including the amount projected to be provided to claimants and the amount projected to be spent for other ICHEIC costs over the remainder of ICHEIC's operation.
7. Funding of ICHEIC. Describe the process by which ICHEIC assesses companies for contributions to support the functioning of ICHEIC.
  8. Disposition of Humanitarian Funds. Describe the amount of humanitarian funds accepted by ICHEIC, and the programs that will be eligible to apply for and receive these funds.
  9. Reimbursement of Insurers. Describe and provide copies of any proposal or proposals for insurers to be reimbursed for the costs incurred in connection to the compensation of claims, and describe the status of such proposals.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Michelle Ash at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Dan Burton  
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member