

News From...



The Committee on Government Reform

Dan Burton (R ~ IN), Chairman



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Hearing Notice:
November 6, 2001

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Hearing Planned to Review Insurance Restitution for Holocaust Victims and Their Heirs

Former U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger to Testify

WHO: House Government Reform Committee
Dan Burton (R-IN), Chairman
Henry Waxman (D-CA), Ranking Member

WHAT: Full Committee Hearing -
"The Status of Insurance Restitution for Holocaust Victims
and Their Heirs."

WHEN: Thursday, November 8, 2001
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: 2154 Rayburn House Office Building

HEARING BACKGROUND:

Former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger will testify Thursday regarding ongoing negotiations to provide restitution for Holocaust survivors and their families. Eagleburger chairs an international commission working to secure payments to Holocaust survivors and families of Holocaust victims who were unable to collect on life insurance policies after World War II.

Many Jewish families were unable to file life insurance claims on behalf of Holocaust victims because all of their personal records were destroyed when they were taken to concentration camps. The Commission is formally known as the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims.

The hearing will focus on whether the Commission has succeeded in achieving efficient and appropriate resolution of Holocaust-era insurance claims. The hearing will assess the participation of European insurance companies in the Commission, the high rate of denial for claims filed with the five major insurers that are part of the Commission, and the role of the United States in the claims resolution process, among other issues. Thursday's hearing will follow by one day a round of negotiations taking place in London that are designed to bring additional German insurance companies into the process.

WITNESSES:

Panel 1: *Holocaust Survivors and Advocates*

Dr. Jack Brauns, Covina, CA
Israel Arbeiter, Newton, MA
Arthur Falk, Boca Raton, FL
Danny Kadden, Olympia, WA

Panel 2: *ICHEIC Participants and Observers*

Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Chairman of ICHEIC,
former U.S. Secretary of State
Ambassador J.D. Bindenagel, U.S. State Department Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, U.S.
Trustee to the German Foundation, and U.S. observer to ICHEIC
Nathaniel Shapo, Chairman of the International Holocaust Commission Task Force of the
National Association of Insurance Commissioners, NAIC representative to ICHEIC
Gideon Taylor, Executive Vice-President of The Conference on Material Claims Against
Germany
Roman Kent, Chairman of The American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and ICHEIC
member

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