

Mr. Allan G. Hevesi,
New York City Controller
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Archief Philip Staal

The Hague, 26 June 2000

Dear Mr. Hevesi,

As you may have heard from Mr. Elan Steinberg of World Jewish Congress, the Central Jewish Board in the Netherlands (CJO), Platform Israel and our Advisory Council of survivor organisations have signed a provisional agreement on 15 June with the Dutch Bankers Association, the Amsterdam Exchanges and the Association for Securities Trade (in liquidation). They have promised to pay Dutch Jewry an amount of 314 million guilders for restitution and damage caused by the Exchange after the war. By doing so and by promising to apologize via advertisements they have admitted their bad behavior during and after the Second World War. Some minor legal matters still have to be solved, before the money will be transferred and will be distributed among the survivors, or, in case they have passed away after the war, among their children. These allocations will be tied to the allocations of the insurers and state money.

Money, not collected by survivors or their children will go to Jewish causes. The pot for Jewish causes will not be higher than 20% of the total of the restitution money. Anything above this percentage will be redivided among the survivors.

Of course some small amounts have to be reserved in order to be able to honor individual claims of persons who are entitled to a dormant bank account or the full restitution of the securities.

We want to let you know how pleased we were with the help we have received from your Committee. Your involvement made banks and the Exchange understand that it was in their own interest to come to an agreement fast. CJO and Platform Israel would like to express to you our sincere gratitude. Your role and the role of World Jewish Congress have been vital in speeding up the negotiation=s process and fixing an acceptable payment for all parties involved.

We already have expressed our gratitude to World Jewish Congress, which has been so kind to take an interest in our case. We were glad to find U.S. allies who supported our claims aimed at moral and historical justice. Thank you again.

Kind regards,

Avraham Roet, Chairman Platform Israel

Ronny Naftaniel, Board Member CJO

c.c. Mr. I. Singer, Vice-President WJC
Mr. E. Steinberg, Executive Director WJC, NY
Dr. A. Becker, Director WJC Israel