

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 39

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 1998

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas the annihilation of 6,000,000 European Jews during the Holocaust and the murder of millions of others by the Nazi German state constitutes one of the most tragic episodes in the history of man's inhumanity to man;

Whereas there are more than 125,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States and approximately 500,000 living around the world;

Whereas aging Holocaust survivors throughout the world are still suffering from permanent injuries suffered at the hands of the Nazis, and many are unable to afford critically needed medical care;

Whereas, while the German Government has attempted to address the needs of Holocaust survivors, many are excluded from reparations because of onerous eligibility requirements imposed by the German Government;

Whereas the German Government often rejects Holocaust survivors' claims on the grounds that the survivor did not present the claim correctly or in a timely manner, that

the survivor cannot demonstrate to the Government's satisfaction that a particular illness or medical condition is the direct consequence of persecution in a Nazi-created ghetto or concentration camp, or that the survivor is not considered sufficiently destitute;

Whereas tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors in the former Soviet Union and other formerly Communist countries in Eastern and Central Europe have never received reparations from Germany and a smaller number has received a token amount;

Whereas, after more than 50 years, hundreds of thousands of Holocaust survivors continue to be denied justice and compensation from the German Government;

Whereas the German Government pays generous disability pensions to veterans of the Nazi armed forces, including non-German veterans of the Waffen-SS;

Whereas in 1996 the German Government paid \$7,700,000,000 in such pensions to 1,100,000 veterans, including 3,000 veterans and their dependents now living in the United States;

Whereas such pensions are a veteran's benefit provided over and above the full health coverage that all German citizens, including veterans of the Waffen-SS, receive from their government; and

Whereas it is abhorrent that Holocaust survivors should live out their remaining years in conditions worse than those enjoyed by the surviving former Nazis who persecuted them: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the German Government should expand and
2 simplify its system of reparations so that all Holo-
3 caust survivors can receive reparations, regardless of
4 their nationality, length or place of internment, or
5 current financial situation;

6 (2) the German Government should provide
7 reparations to Holocaust survivors in the former So-
8 viet Union and other former Communist countries in
9 Eastern and Central Europe;

10 (3) the German Government should fulfill its
11 responsibilities to victims of the Holocaust and im-
12 mediately set up a comprehensive medical fund to
13 cover the medical expenses of all Holocaust survivors
14 worldwide; and

15 (4) the German Government should help restore
16 the dignity of Holocaust survivors by paying them
17 sufficient reparations to ensure that no Holocaust
18 survivor be forced by poverty to live in conditions
19 worse than those generally enjoyed by the surviving
20 former Nazis who persecuted them.

Passed the Senate November 13, 1997.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.