



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

25 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201-2483, U.S.A. PHONE (718) 625-3600

June 8, 1999

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

Recently, the Society was approached by an agency that wishes to contact all survivors of Nazi persecution. Some survivors may qualify to receive monetary compensation for work that they performed for certain German firms while they were incarcerated in Nazi camps and prisons. Jehovah's Witnesses are among those specified in the agreement, along with Jews, Sinti and Roma (Gypsies), Poles, and others.

At this time the Society would like to gather a list of all those persons associated with our congregations who survived persecution by the Nazi regime, *whether they were Jehovah's Witnesses at the time or not*. This would include those who may not have been incarcerated but were affected in other ways by persecution. As noted above, not all such individuals will necessarily qualify for compensation under this particular agreement. However, it could be that in the future there will be similar arrangements with differing requirements. Thus, it would be helpful for us to have this information on file.

Since survival of Nazi persecution often involved considerable physical and emotional trauma, some brothers and sisters may have been reticent about speaking of their experiences. Others may not speak openly about their past, not wishing to draw attention to themselves or for other personal reasons. In some cases, brothers in their congregations have even been totally unaware of their background. Thus, we ask that you make discreet and tactful personal inquiry of any persons you think might have had any personal connection with the Nazi experience.

Please send us the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of any such persons. You may offer the individual a brief explanation as to why the Society is interested in this information. However, it would be best not to raise hopes that money will definitely be forthcoming. We have yet to find out the specific terms for compensation and arrangements for distribution.

The Society is not directly involved in the financial administration of funds. We are merely facilitating the notification of Witnesses who may qualify. Of course, we realize that no amount of money can compensate for the difficult times that individuals experienced during the Nazi era. However, we wish to be of assistance to any brothers who qualify to receive the monies allotted in recognition of their suffering.

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In the coming weeks, the notification agency will make information packets available containing details of the agreement and application forms. Rather than disclose to the agency the names and addresses of our brothers, the Society will obtain the packets from the agency and care for distribution of the information among the brothers. The Public Affairs Office will coordinate these arrangements in behalf of the Writing Committee of the Governing Body. All correspondence and inquiries should be directed to the Writing Committee, Attention: Public Affairs Office.

Since there is a time limit for applications, we would appreciate receiving this information from you by July 31, 1999, or as soon as possible.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & F. Society

OF NEW YORK, INC.