

Press Release

The international co-operative for the compensation of survivors of the Nazi dictatorship will convene a non-public conference about current issues of the compensation legislation at the Forum Hotel at the Alexanderplatz in Berlin from June 6th until June 9th 2000. Organisations and groups which have so far been excluded from the compensation negotiations of the German federal government will be participating.

They are seeking contact with the German government and the German parliamentary groups in order to obtain information about the current facts. As yet, neither the German government nor the US American negotiators have made any public statements concerning procedures, amount, and time of the payments which are to be expected.

The representatives of European Jewish communities and of organisations of non-Jewish and Jewish former prisoners of concentration and extermination camps, on behalf of their members whose average age is around eighty, wish to prepare themselves for the conditions of payment so that quick and non-bureaucratic payments could be carried out without any further delays.

However, tensions seem to be impending as, among others, the parliamentary group of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD Bundestagsfraktion), as well as the Federal Minister of Finance (Bundesminister der Finanzen) and Count Lambsdorff, the chief negotiator for the slave labour compensation fund project (Stiftungsinitiative der Deutschen Unternehmen) advised by the German Chancellor, due to "lack of time" and "other commitments", cannot send any of their representatives to provide the requested information about the current state of affairs.

Letters to the Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt) and to the Federal President (Bundespräsident) requesting advice and help for the conference have, unfortunately, remained unanswered so far.

There will be two press conferences at the conference venue: on Wednesday, June 7th at 10.30 a.m. and on Friday, June 9th at 10.30 a.m.. Should your editors be interested, please inform us in advance by sending a fax. Before Sunday evening: 0421 76844 or 0421 378 0440; from Sunday onwards at the Forum Hotel at the Alexanderplatz, c/o von Münchhausen, fax: 030 2389 4305, telephone number of the hotel: 030 2389 0.

June 1st 2000,

Klaus von Münchhausen

3 attachments