

*Holocaust Assets*

PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION

## Working to Bring Justice to Holocaust Survivors and their Heirs

*"We all have much to do to bring this tragic chapter of European history to a just end. And we owe it to the victims, not only of the Holocaust, but we also owe it to ourselves, to complete that task. The spotlight of history, whether it is on race and slavery in the United States, or apartheid in South Africa, or the Holocaust here in Europe, can be harsh, but it is only through facing that history that we can strengthen our commitment to democratic ideals and to keep working together to fulfill those ideals. And we shall learn the lessons of the past, because we ignore them at our peril."*

Address by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
University of Zurich, 1/31/98

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was instrumental in ensuring that the Administration worked to bring some measure of justice to Holocaust survivors and their families. When Edgar Bronfman, Sr. ran into problems in 1996 in his efforts to see that Swiss banks returned funds to Holocaust victims, he asked the First Lady for help. Mrs. Clinton responded immediately, and the White House got involved.

The President and his Administration have achieved the following steps:

- Established a Presidential Commission headed by Edgar Bronfman to research Holocaust assets that came under the control of the US government during and after WWII.
- Launched two comprehensive studies on Nazi gold and the role of neutral countries in supporting Nazi Germany.
- The US joined with other nations to establish a fund totaling \$60 million to aid needy survivors.
- Secured a \$1.25 billion settlement in the case against the Swiss banks responsible for withholding the savings of Holocaust victims.
- Created an International Commission for Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims and some of Europe's largest insurance companies have agreed to establish a fund to deliver on policies they sold to victims and refused to pay to heirs.
- Convened a 1998 conference where 44 nations agreed by consensus on principles to guide the identification and return to rightful owners of Nazi-looted art.
- Brokered a \$5.1 billion agreement for slave and forced laborers and others injured by German companies during WWII. This agreement was reached as a result of the direct intervention of President Clinton and Chancellor Schroeder.

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**Fax Cover Sheet**

DATE: 5/10/00

CODE: 153

TO: Ruby Shonier

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FROM: Osterman

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Number of pages, including cover sheet:

**MESSAGE**

Thanks for your help. As I mentioned,  
Mrs Clinton has already committed to attend.  
We are trying to find out if Pocus will be  
attending as well.  
Thanks.

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PLEASE CALL 202.393.1010**

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TO: STEPHANIE STREETT  
FROM: ANTONELLA PIANALTO  
podesta.com  
DATE: APRIL 26, 2000  
RE: INVITATION FROM EDGAR BRONFMAN

Edgar Bronfman, Chairman of The Seagram Company, has extended an invitation to the President and Mrs. Clinton to receive an award at a dinner honoring those who were instrumental in achieving restitution of stolen Holocaust assets. The dinner is scheduled for September 11, 2000 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City. He has spoken to the President about this event.

Mr. Bronfman has not received a response to his March 20 letter to Mrs. Clinton, which I have attached. He is waiting for a confirmation from the President and Mrs. Clinton before extending invitations to others. He is anxious for a reply.

Please let me know if you need further information to respond to this invitation. I can be reached at 202-879-9368.

POTUS is going —  
Apparently they haven't heard from anyone —  
do you want to call Bronfman's office?

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Edgar M. Bronfman

375 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10152  
March 20, 2000

Dear Hillary,

For your amusement, here are few thoughts on the campaign. I think you should make it clear that the issues that will face the senator are very different from those which face a mayor. I would talk about the issues – gun control, campaign finance, women's rights for choice, care for the elderly, and social security, and education, all issues that will face the next senator from New York. One way of making it clear that he is parochial is to always refer to him as "The Mayor." Over time it will sink in that he's not knowledgeable about the issues, and that you are. You may be having a little trouble with women now, but if you pound home the issues, choice, gun control and education, you will win them over. Those issues, women really care about.

I spoke with Bill the other day about the dinner on Sept. 11. It has to be that evening because that's the only time the Waldorf is free. We are planning a real gala, and you and the President are the centerpiece. We will honor all those who were instrumental in achieving restitution of stolen Holocaust assets. I am hoping that Prime Minister Ehud Barak will chair the dinner, and I plan to call him as soon as you and the President confirm the date. The other invitees will be Avraham Hirshson, the chairman of the Knesset committee on Restitution, Leah Rabin who will accept an award on behalf of Yitzhak, Paul Volcker, Alan Hevesi, whose committee of state officers was instrumental in making the Swiss banks cave, Al D'Amato and Jim Leach. I have also decided to invite BB Netanyahu because his behavior *in re* our issue was absolutely first class. Just before you and then the President are scheduled to receive your awards I would like to have Stuart Eizenstat honored. I plan to present the honors to you and the President in one speech (short) and then have you and finally the president reply. Each of the presenters and the honorees, except for you and the president, will be limited to two minutes, strictly enforced. Some of the awards will start the evening, and more will be given out after the main course, and then Stuart, you and the president will be the real dessert.

If you or members of the White House staff have questions or suggestions, please send them to me. I hope it will be a great evening. I hope it will have the desired effect of telling the Jews of New York that you played a vital role in the restitution process.

Sincerely and faithfully yours,



The First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Via Facsimile No. (212) 643-9071

file a fghmistr

**PARSA  
(PHYSIOTHERAPY AND REHABILITATION  
SUPPORT FOR AFGHANISTAN)**

Wednesday, 6 December

قریبیہ سہارا  
میں ہوتا ہے

Dear Malane Vermeer,

Thank you for seeing Carol and me. I'm always happy to find an interested listener on Afghan topics -

I'll remember you and tell my staff about you when I get back to Peshawar, Pakistan. I've met some wonderful people on this trip who want to help - but it is so hard to figure out what to do since the Afghan women are without voices - Nancy Dupree is working on a project to

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get Afghani women's voices on email  
to the West - that should help -

My best regards, and thanks  
again -

Mary Mackelinn