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SUBJECT: "MEDIA REACTION" NAZI GOLD/HOLOCAUST ASSETS

SUMMARY: THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS A SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES
THAT HAVE APPEARED THE PAST TWO WEEKS ON SWISS "NAZI GOLD" AND
DORMANT SWISS BANK ACCOUNTS OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS:

BEGIN EXCERPTS:

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1. SHADOWS OF WORLD WAR II

THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS HAS PRAISED SWITZERLAND FOR ITS COOPERATION IN 1997. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH SWISS NEWS AGENCY, ISRAEL SINGER SAID THAT "WE WERE ABLE TO GO FROM CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION."

IT WOULD BE AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT THE PROBLEMS OF DORMANT ACCOUNTS AND NAZI GOLD WERE SOLVED IN 1997, SINGER SAID. BUT, HE COMMENTED, WE ARE GOING INTO THE RIGHT DIRECTION. HE INDICATED THAT THE WJC WANTS TO PUT THIS ISSUE BEHIND THEM AND DESIRES GOOD RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND. SINGER REFERRED TO THE COOPERATION WITH THE BERGIER AND VOLCKER COMMISSION. THE DISCUSSIONS IN ZURICH IN MID-DECEMBER WERE VERY PROMISING. A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT AS PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, EDGAR BRONFMAN, COULD BE USEFUL IF AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED THAT COVERS ALL OPEN QUESTIONS. SINGER HOPES THAT A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT WOULD INCLUDE THE CLAIMS FROM THE PENDING CLASS ACTION LAW SUITS IN NEW YORK.

SINGER ADMITTED THAT, IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WERE SOME DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PAYMENTS FROM THE HOLOCAUST FUND. "IT TOOK SOME TIME UNTIL WE ESTABLISHED THE RIGHT STRUCTURE, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO DO SO," SINGER STATED. HE EXPECTS THAT THE BOARD OF THE FUND WILL DISTRIBUTE THE ENTIRE FUND DURING ITS NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 20.

SINGER EXPECTS THAT SWITZERLAND WILL NOT BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF INTEREST IN 1998. ACCORDING TO SINGER, THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IS INTERESTED IN THE ENTIRE PICTURE AND THE CONDITIONS ARE NOW BETTER BECAUSE COMMUNICATION DOES NOT HAPPEN VIA THE MEDIA BUT DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED. THE WJC WILL EXPAND THE PICTURE AND LOOK INTO UNSOLVED QUESTIONS, SUCH AS LOOTED ART, WHICH AFFECTS OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, E.G. FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS.

(NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG/TAGES-ANZEIGER, 12/29)

2. HOLOCAUST FUND

THE LARGE SWISS BANKS HAVE AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE AN ADDITIONAL SFR. 15 MILLION TO THE HOLOCAUST FUND. CREDIT SUISSE, SWISS BANK CORPORATION, AND UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND WILL COVER THE COSTS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS' ASSETS WITH THE SFR. 15 MILLION.

(TAGES-ANZEIGER, 12/27)

3. SWISS-AMERICAN DIALOG

"WINTERTHUR" INSURANCE COMPANY STARTS THE CELEBRATORY EVENTS FOR THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SWISS CONFEDERATION WITH A SPEECH BY COLIN POWELL, SECURITY ADVISOR TO THREE U.S. PRESIDENTS AND POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. WINTERTHUR WANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SWISS-AMERICAN DIALOGUE WITH THIS SPEECH. MORE THAN 800 PROMINENT GUESTS, AMONG THEM PRESIDENT FLAVIO COTTI, U.S. AMBASSADOR MADELEINE KUNIN, THE HEAD OF MIGROS PETER EVERTS, AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND LABOR, JEAN-LUC NORDMANN, ARE EXPECTED AT THE IMPORTANT EVENT ON JANUARY 5.

UNCLASSIFIED

(BERNER ZEITUNG, 12/31)

4. LEOPOLD G. KOSS' REFUGE IN SWITZERLAND

LEOPOLD G. KOSS WAS 19 YEARS OLD WHEN HIS NATIVE COUNTRY POLAND WAS INVADED. HE MANAGED TO FIND REFUGE IN VICHY-FRANCE IN 1940. IN 1942, HE FLED TO SWITZERLAND WHERE HE WAS INTERNED BUT WAS LATER ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS STUDIES. HE IMMIGRATED TO THE U.S. IN 1946 WHERE HE CONTINUED HIS STUDIES AT DIFFERENT HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES. FROM 1972 TO 1992, HE HEADED THE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT THE ALBERT EINSTEIN UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK. OUT OF GRATITUDE TO SWITZERLAND, KOSS ESTABLISHED A SERIES OF LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BERN IN 1997. KOSS DONATED THE "LEOPOLD KOSS LECTURE FUND" WHICH ALLOWS THE MEDICAL FACULTY TO INVITE A FAMOUS DOCTOR EVERY YEAR. THE FIRST LECTURE TOOK PLACE ON DECEMBER 8, 1997 WITH JEFFREY WHITSETT, A PIONEER IN MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY FROM CINCINNATI.
(DER BUND, 12/31)

5. SOLIDARITY

THE TWO PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, "FUND FOR HUMANITY AND JUSTICE" INITIATED BY COUNCILOR OF STATE GIAN RETO PLATTNER AND THE "SOLIDARITY FUND FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS" INITIATED BY BERNESE STUDENTS, DISTRIBUTED APPROXIMATELY SFR. 670,000 BY THE END OF 1997. THEY HOPE FOR MORE DONATIONS IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR PROJECTS.
(DER BUND, 12/31)

6. "IMMEDIATE APOLOGY REQUESTED"

ONE YEAR AFTER THE AFFAIR REGARDING AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY FEDERAL COUNCILOR JEAN-PASCAL DELAMURAZ, THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS HAS CRITICIZED PRESIDENT FLAVIO COTTI FOR STATEMENTS MADE ON THE NAZI ERA. COTTI STATED IN AN INTERVIEW WITH "TRIBUNE DE GENEVE" AND "24HEURES" THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THE ANGER OF MANY SWISS ABOUT THE ALLEGATIONS AND REQUESTS IN CONNECTION WITH DORMANT ACCOUNTS. "THESE ATTACKS COME FROM CERTAIN AREAS, E.G. FROM THE U.S. EAST COAST AND ESPECIALLY FROM NEW YORK," COTTI SAID TO THE TWO SWISS FRENCH DAILIES.

KALMAN SULTANIK, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS, COMPARED COTTI'S "DUMB STATEMENT" WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY FORMER NAZI OFFICER AND AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT **KURT WALDHEIM**. ACCORDING TO SULTANIK, WALDHEIM MADE THE SAME STATEMENT WHEN HE WAS PUT ON THE "WATCH LIST" OF UNDESIRED PEOPLE.

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND, YITZCHAK MAYER, REGRETTED SULTANIK'S ATTACK ON COTTI AND SAID THAT SUCH A COMPARISON CANNOT BE MADE.

THE HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE ZURICH JEWISH COMMUNITY, SIGI FEIGEL, ACCUSED WJC PRESIDENT EDGAR BRONFMAN OF "POISONING THE ATMOSPHERE WITH REPEATED ALLEGATIONS, REQUESTS, AND THREATS." FEIGEL ASKED BRONFMAN TO APOLOGIZE AND SUGGESTED THAT THE FEDERAL COUNCIL BREAK OFF RELATIONS WITH THE WJC.

UNCLASSIFIED

THE HEAD OF THE SWISS TASK FORCE, THOMAS BORER, HAS REQUESTED AN EXPLANATION FROM THE WJC. WJC SECRETARY GENERAL ISRAEL SINGER EMPHASIZED THAT THE WJC DOES NOT WANT A NEW CONFRONTATION. AMBASSADOR BORER STATED THAT, DESPITE SIGI FEIGEL'S PROPOSAL, SWITZERLAND IS STILL WILLING TO DEAL WITH THE WJC.
(TAGES-ANZEIGER, ALL MAJOR SWISS DAILIES, 1/3)

7. ROLF BLOCH

SWISS GERMAN TV'S PRIME TIME NEWS PROGRAM CHOSE ROLF BLOCH, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT OF THE SPECIAL FUND FOR HOLOCAUST VICTIMS, AS "PERSON OF THE YEAR FOR 1997." THEY ARGUED THAT HE ALWAYS WORKS TOWARD CONSENSUS AND REMAINS CALM IN DIFFICULT TIMES.
(BERNER ZEITUNG, 1/3)

8. POWELL IN ZURICH

FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF COLIN POWELL SPOKE AT THE CITY HALL IN WINTERTHUR ON MONDAY EVENING ABOUT "US-SWISS RELATIONS, THE MANAGEMENT OF CRISIS AND CHANGE." MORE THAN 800 SENIOR POLITICIANS, OFFICERS, AND BUSINESSPEOPLE ATTENDED THE EVENT. FEDERAL COUNCILOR FLAVIO COTTI MET THE FOUR-STAR GENERAL AND HIGH-RANKING WINTERTHUR INSURANCE COMPANY OFFICIALS LATE IN THE AFTERNOON. POWELL SAID, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT AS LONG AS THE DORMANT ACCOUNT ISSUE HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY SOLVED, THE U.S.-SWISS RELATIONS WILL NOT IMPROVE. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE PAST CENTURY, A TIME WHEN THE U.S. AND SWISS SYSTEMS INFLUENCED EACH OTHER AND THE TWO COUNTRIES REGARDED EACH OTHER AS "SISTER REPUBLICS."

POWELL ADVOCATED THE "MAGIC OF DEMOCRACY" AND SAID THAT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IS LOUD AND CONFUSING. IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE ONCE EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND THE U.S., POWELL SUGGESTED THAT THE SWISS DEFEND THEMSELVES.

THE GUEST LIST WAS LIKE A "WHO'S WHO" OF SWISS ECONOMY, POLITICS, AND MILITARY. ALL OF THE MORE THAN 800 PEOPLE, ALMOST ALL MEN, WERE PERSONALLY INVITED BY WINTERTHUR INSURANCE COMPANY.

(FRONT PAGE TAGES-ANZEIGER, 1/6)

9. ALFONSE D'AMATO

NEW YORK SENATOR ALFONSE D'AMATO CLAIMS TO HAVE DOCUMENTS WHICH PROVE THAT AT LEAST ONE SWISS BANKER HELPED NAZIS BRING LOOTED ASSETS OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS TO SWITZERLAND AFTER WORLD WAR II. D'AMATO WROTE IN A LETTER TO PROFESSOR JEAN-FRANCOIS BERGIER THAT HE HAS A DOCUMENT FROM THE SWISS FEDERAL ARCHIVE WHICH IS EXTREMELY "SCARY." THE SENATOR HAS REQUESTED AN INVESTIGATION. THE OFFICE OF THE BERGIER COMMISSION STATED THAT BY 9:45 P.M. LAST NIGHT IT HAD NOT RECEIVED A FAX OR A LETTER FROM D'AMATO. THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION IS DATED FEBRUARY 16, 1945, WRITTEN BY A COLONEL MUELLER AND ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL TREASURY. MUELLER WROTE THAT "SCHULTHESS, DIRECTOR OF THE SWISS CREDIT BANK IS TRANSFERRING ASSETS FROM PEOPLE PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE NAZI REGIME FROM GERMANY TO SWITZERLAND. SOME OF THE TITLES CONTAINED THE NAMES OF THE FRENCH OWNERS." MUELLER'S "RELIABLE SOURCE" DID NOT WANT TO GIVE EXACT FIGURES

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BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID OF THE BANK SECRECY LAW. HOWEVER, HE MADE A HINT THAT IT COULD BE ABOUT SFR. 11 MILLION.
(DER BUND/NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG, 1/7)

10. SWITZERLAND DURING WORLD WAR II

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, THE SITUATION REGARDING THE REAPPRAISAL OF SWITZERLAND'S HISTORY DURING WORLD WAR II HAS "SOMEWHAT IMPROVED." HOWEVER, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT FURTHER EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY. CRITICISM FROM "THE U.S. AUTHORITIES, AS WELL AS FROM CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS" HINDERS AN OBJECTIVE DEBATE IN SWITZERLAND AND ABROAD.
(DER BUND, 1/7)

11. DORMANT ACCOUNTS

THE RAIFFEISENBANKS WERE ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR SEARCH FOR DORMANT ACCOUNTS FROM THE NAZI ERA. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THESE 455 ACCOUNTS - INCLUDING SWISS ACCOUNT OWNERS - AMOUNTS TO SFR. 186,000.
(BASLER ZEITUNG, 1/8)

12. GLOBAL SETTLEMENT

THE HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE, "SWITZERLAND-WORLD WAR II," THOMAS BORER, IS CLEARLY AGAINST A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SWITZERLAND'S ROLE DURING THE NAZI ERA WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PAYMENTS FROM THE FEDERAL AUTHORITIES. SUCH A SOLUTION SEEM UNREALISTIC, BORER SAID AT AN EVENT SPONSORED BY CREDIT SUISSE IN BASEL. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE HEAD OF THE TASK FORCE COMMENTED ON THE REQUEST OF THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS FOR A GLOBAL SETTLEMENT. HE CONTENDED THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE THAT IN FIVE OR TEN YEARS SWITZERLAND WOULD BE RIGHTFULLY CRITICIZED FOR HAVING THROWN ASIDE ITS PRINCIPLES OF TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND SOLIDARITY. THERE IS ALSO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER SUCH A DEAL WOULD LOOK LIKE A CONFESSION OF GUILT. HOWEVER, A FINAL AND OBLIGING SOLUTION COULD BE REACHED WITH A SETTLEMENT FOR THE BANKS.
(DER BUND, 1/9)

13. LOOTED ART

WITH THE CONFISCATION OF TWO SCHIELE PICTURES OF THE RUDOLF LEOPOLD COLLECTION BY U.S. AUTHORITIES, THE ISSUE OF LOOTED ART BY THE NAZIS HAS AGAIN MADE HEADLINES. EXPERTS BELIEVE THAT THOUSANDS OF OBJECTS FROM FORMER JEWISH OWNERS ARE IN MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTIONS ALL OVER THE WORLD. SWITZERLAND WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE THE ORIGIN OF ITS ART COLLECTIONS. SINCE LAST FEBRUARY, ABOUT TEN HISTORIANS AND LAWYERS ARE INVESTIGATING THE HISTORY OF FEDERAL TREASURES AT THE FEDERAL MUSEUM AND THE FEDERAL LIBRARY FOR THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF CULTURE. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE EXPERTS MUST DETERMINE WHETHER THE OBJECTS WERE BOUGHT AT A FAIR PRICE.
(DER BUND, 1/9)

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14. BRITISH TV ON SWISS INTERNMENT CAMPS FOR JEWISH PEOPLE

ACCORDING TO BRITISH TV CHANNEL 4, SWISS AUTHORITIES PLACED THOUSANDS OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN INTERNMENT CAMPS IN SWITZERLAND DURING WWII. REFUGEES WERE TREATED AS CRIMINALS AND THREATENED WITH BEING SENT BACK TO NAZI GERMANY. ACCORDING TO THE BRITISH TV CHANNEL, SEVERAL AMERICAN LAWYERS ARE PREPARING LEGAL SUITS AGAINST THE SWISS GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF CAMP SURVIVORS. "THE SWISS DID NOT PLACED THE REFUGEES IN INTERNMENT CAMPS BUT IN CONCENTRATION WORK CAMPS," SAID ONE OF THE LAWYERS, ED FAGAN. "IT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION TO FORCE SOMEONE TO WORK UNDER POOR CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THE PERSON HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED TO ENTER THE COUNTRY," HE ADDED. ACCORDING TO A PRESS AGENCY REPORT, SWISS AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY THE BRITISH TV CHANNEL.

JOURNAL DE GENEVE - 1/5/98

15. "CAMPS IN SWITZERLAND WERE NOT CONCENTRATION CAMPS"

REACTING TO A RECENT TV BROADCAST IN GREAT BRITAIN ACCUSING SWISS AUTHORITIES OF HAVING FORCED JEWISH REFUGEES TO WORK UNDER PAINFUL CONDITIONS, ANDRE LASSERRE, AN HISTORIAN FROM LAUSANNE, SAID IN AN INTERVIEW THAT INTERNMENT CAMPS IN SWITZERLAND WERE NOT CONCENTRATION CAMPS. ACCORDING TO THE HISTORIAN, REFUGEES WERE CARED FOR BY HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS. FOLLOWING AN INCREASE IN REFUGEES AND LACKING THE MEANS TO SUPPORT THEM, THE ORGANIZATIONS REQUESTED THE HELP OF THE GOVERNMENT. IN 1940, THE FEDERAL COUNCIL, FEARING THAT THE REFUGEES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO DEPART TO A THIRD COUNTRY, DECIDED TO SET UP THE CAMPS. ALTHOUGH THE FEDERAL POLICE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OPERATION, THE CAMPS WERE CREATED UNDER A PRIVATE CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION, THE CENTRAL OFFICE FOR HOMES AND CAMPS. BEFORE THE WAR, THIS ORGANIZATION USED TO FIND WORK ON FARMS FOR STUDENTS WISHING TO DO SOMETHING USEFUL DURING THEIR VACATIONS. HOWEVER, PRIOR TO BEING PLACED IN ONE OF THE CAMPS, REFUGEES HAD TO GO THROUGH THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CAMPS WHERE ASYLUM CANDIDATES WERE SCREENED. IN SUCH CAMPS, LIVING CONDITIONS WERE RATHER DIFFICULT. MOST OF THE REFUGEES AT THE CAMPS WERE GERMAN AND FRENCH JEWS, BUT THERE WERE ALSO ITALIANS AND FRENCH PERSECUTED FOR HAVING OPPOSED THE NAZIS, AS WELL AS RUSSIAN AND POLISH REFUGEES FLEEING FORCED LABOR. THEY WERE GROUPED ACCORDING TO NATIONALITY. LIVING CONDITIONS DEPENDED ON THE ADMINISTRATOR OF EACH CAMP WHO WERE DIFFICULT TO RECRUIT. LASSERRE STRESSED IN THE INTERVIEW THAT IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE TO COMPARE SWISS CAMPS WITH CONCENTRATION CAMPS. FIRST, BECAUSE SWISS CAMPS WERE OPEN AND PEOPLE COULD COME AND GO AND EVEN HAVE VACATION. REFUGEES ALSO HAD THE RIGHT TO PROTEST AGAINST ABUSES. ALTHOUGH NOT HAVING QUIT WING CAMP LEADERS, LASSERRE ADMITTED THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN SOME AND MENTIONED THE CASE OF ONE IN GENEVA, KNOWN FOR HIS HATE OF JEWS, WHO WAS REMOVED THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. THE HISTORIAN BELIEVES IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE THAT JEWISH REFUGEES AT CAMPS WERE THREATENED WITH BEING SENT BACK. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT, WHILE REFUGEES WERE IN MILITARY CAMPS, THEY COULD BE EXPELLED, BUT NOT AFTERWARDS BECAUSE THEIR STATUS WAS SET. LASSERRE SAID THAT

UNCLASSIFIED

CAMPS WERE CLOSED BY THE END OF THE WAR, PRECISELY AT A TIME WHEN REFUGEES AND CAMPS WERE MORE NUMEROUS.
NOUVEAU QUOTIDIEN - 1/6/98

16. SWISS REFUTES ACCUSATIONS MADE ON BRITISH TV

SOME SWISS OFFICIALS REJECT THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST SWITZERLAND IN A RECENT BRITISH TV BROADCAST. HANS-ULRICH JOST, A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE, STRESSED THAT WORKING CAMPS IN SWITZERLAND HOUSED A WIDE VARIETY OF REFUGEES AND WERE NOT LIMITED TO JEWISH REFUGEES, UNLIKE THE TREATMENT OF COMMUNIST REFUGEES WHO WERE SEGREGATED INTO SEPARATE CAMPS. QUESTIONED BY THE TV JOURNALIST, A BRITISH JEW EXPRESSED SURPRISE ABOUT THE NEW ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SWITZERLAND. ACCORDING TO HIM, "JUST AS IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, REFUGEES WERE INTERNED AND HAD TO WORK FOR THEIR LIVING. WORK WAS HARD BUT CONDITIONS FOR EVERYBODY IN SWITZERLAND WERE NOT PARTICULARLY THE BEST." SWISS AMBASSADOR TO LONDON, FRANCOIS NORDMANN, POINTED OUT THAT CONDITIONS IN CAMPS HAD BEEN KNOWN FOR A LONG TIME. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT VACATION CAMPS, THEY WERE NOT CONCENTRATION CAMPS. "PEOPLE COULD COME AND GO ON WEEKENDS AND SOME EVENINGS. SOME EVEN MANAGED TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES," SAID THE AMBASSADOR. FOR NORDMANN, A NEW LEGAL COMPLAINT AGAINST SWITZERLAND DUE TO THE CAMPS DOES NOT HAVE ANY MORAL OR LEGAL BASIS. JOST SAID THAT ISOLATED CASES OF ABUSE AGAINST JEWISH REFUGEES MAY HAVE HAPPENED IN CERTAIN CAMPS. "ANTI-SEMITISM RAN HIGH THEN, AND SOME PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE GIVEN FREE REIN TO THEIR PREJUDICE." THE HISTORIAN BELIEVES THAT OTHER EMBARRASSING REVELATIONS WILL FOLLOW. SUCH AS THE FACT THAT, WHEN REFUGEES ARRIVED IN SWITZERLAND, PART OF THEIR FUNDS WERE CONFISCATED AND DEPOSITED IN THE POPULAR BANK.

JOURNAL DE GENEVE - 1/6/98

17. ISRAEL SINGER INVITED TO BERN

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEADERS OF THE WJC, ISRAEL SINGER, HAS BEEN INVITED TO BERN BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WITH THE HOPE THAT HE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLARIFICATION OF SWISS HISTORY DURING THE WAR. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE SITUATION IS IMPROVING, IT CONSIDERS THAT ADDITIONAL EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY TO END THE POLEMICS. AFTER HEARINGS WITH AMBASSADOR THOMAS BORER AND THE HEAD OF THE HISTORIANS COMMISSION, JEAN-FRANCOIS BERGIER, THE COMMITTEE "SALUTED THE EXCELLENT WORK CARRIED OUT BY ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED."

JOURNAL DE GENEVE - 1/6/98

18. NO ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION ON D'AMATO'S LATEST DOCUMENT

THE BERGIER COMMISSION BELIEVES IT IS USELESS TO OPEN AN ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION OF A DOCUMENT PRODUCED RECENTLY BY SENATOR ALFONSE D'AMATO CONCERNING A SWISS BANKER WHO IN 1945 HELPED THE NAZIS TRANSFER FUNDS TO SWITZERLAND FROM HOLOCAUST VICTIMS. ACCORDING TO THE COMMISSION, THIS IS A WELL-KNOWN ISSUE AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE BANK INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION IS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE COMMISSION.

JOURNAL DE GENEVE - 1/8/98

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END EXCERPTS. KOENIG

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Page 8