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March 23, 2009

The Honorable Christian Kennedy
Special Envoy, Holocaust Issues
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Kennedy:

I am writing to you once more in regard to the upcoming Conference on Holocaust Era Assets that is scheduled to take place in Prague, Czech Republic on June 26-30. Specifically, I respectfully request that, prior to the Conference, you visit South Florida in order to meet with Holocaust survivors and provide them with an opportunity to express their views, concerns and suggestions regarding the agenda concerning social welfare programs for the survivor community.

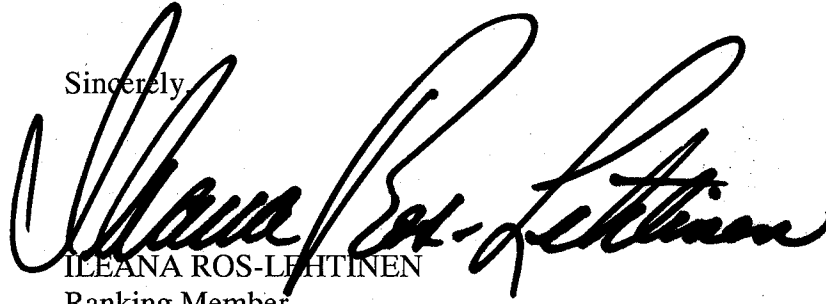
As you know, South Florida has a large Holocaust survivor population and it is important that their opinions be heard and taken into consideration when assessing restitution issues and the needs of the survivors. I believe their proposals on how to move forward in addressing unresolved Holocaust-era compensation issues would provide valuable insight as the U.S. prepares for the Prague Conference. Due to health problem and financial limitations, many survivors are unable to participate in the Conference or attend the preparatory meetings at the Department of State in Washington, D.C.

The Prague Conference serves as an important opportunity to address the remaining Holocaust-related issues and to enhance the social welfare programs for the survivors in need. For the Conference to be successful, it is vital that survivors are given a voice to express their concerns and proposals.

For this reason I respectfully request that you visit the Miami area before the Prague Conference to speak with the survivor community and utilize their input to advance the interests of the survivors at the Conference. My office would be happy to assist in arranging a meeting between you and the members of the Miami survivor community.

I thank you in advance for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,



ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN
Ranking Member