

April 29, 2003

For Immediate Release

Contact 202/289-4100

ICHEIC ANNOUNCES PUBLICATION OF 360,000 NAMES OF
HOLOCAUST-ERA INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS

Washington, DC – On April 30, 2003, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) announced the publication of over 360,000 names of insurance policyholders from the Holocaust-era.

With the publication -- made possible under the terms of an Agreement signed on October 16, 2002 by ICHEIC, the Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” and the German Insurance Association -- the public now has access to the most comprehensive listing ever available of insurance policies issued to Jewish residents of Germany during the National Socialist era.

ICHEIC Chairman and former Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger said that “the publication of this list is the culmination of years of negotiation and work. This list of policyholders provides access to information that was not available before and would never have been possible at an earlier time. It is unprecedented in the world of Holocaust-era restitution. Its publication is a testament to the goodwill and dedication of all parties to the Agreement.”

The published list of more than 360,000 policyholders now added to the ICHEIC website results from a process by which the German insurance industry compiled electronic data on German policyholders, collecting more than eight million names.

A group of archivists and historians then collectively researched archives in Germany, Israel, the United States and other locations to gather all available data to create a list of the pre-war German Jewish population, based on names extracted from a national census of 1939 and supplemented with names from Memorial Books, emigration and deportation lists and other registers of German Holocaust victims. Over 2.5 million data entries were collected in an attempt to reconstruct information that had been unavailable for decades. The list of 2.5 million entries will be processed and edited over the coming months to eventually create the most complete list of German Jews ever assembled.

The German Federal Archives along with numerous other individuals played a key role in bringing this project to fruition. Once completed, the list of Jewish residents of Germany will be available to organizations in the United States, Germany and Israel and will stand as a lasting memorial to the victims of Nazi oppression.

These two lists of information (the approximately 8 million names of policyholders in Germany and the list of 2.5 million data entries of Jewish residents of Germany) were matched to determine who among the Jewish community may have had an insurance policy. In total, 363,232 names were included on the published list which is available on ICHEIC's website (www.icheic.org). These names were published along with approximately 16,000 other names provided by insurance companies and archives throughout Europe as part of ICHEIC's ongoing research program.

Altogether ICHEIC has located policies from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and Yugoslavia.

ICHEIC originally published names of policyholders in April 2000 and has updated the list numerous times since. In total, nearly 450,000 names have now been published, representing more than 500,000 insurance policies throughout Europe. A final group of names is expected to be posted by June 30, 2003.

*** **

The International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) was established in October of 1998 by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), in conjunction with several European insurance companies, European regulators, representatives of several Jewish organizations, and the State of Israel. The Commission is charged with establishing a just process that will expeditiously address the issue of unpaid insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust.

End...