

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
ON HOLOCAUST ERA INSURANCE CLAIMS
www.ICHEIC.org

February 1, 2007

Commissioner Diane Koken
Chair, International Holocaust Commission Task Force
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Commissioner Koken:

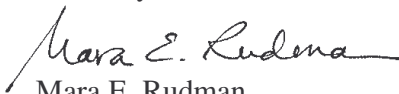
We write to respond to inaccuracies in press coverage on the International Tracing Service's Bad Arolsen Archives. The recently announced increased accessibility to Bad Arolsen is important because it means that researchers and historians can now access information related to persecution that only survivors and their relatives could access in the past.

Contrary to claims being made, expanding accessibility does *not* mean individuals would have opportunities to further enhance their claims against European insurers. The increased accessibility will not generate information that could lead to more eligible Holocaust era insurance claims than identified through the claims and appeals processes of the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC).

Expanded accessibility to the Bad Arolsen Archives in no way would further benefit claimants in the outcome of ICHEIC investigations because: (1) ICHEIC always assumes that a person was persecuted unless information is presented which points to the contrary (and these records relate to issues of persecution), (2) ICHEIC offers full valuation in instances where it is unclear when a person died. The Bad Arolsen records offer information that proves persecution or shows the date at which a policyholder died.

In the absence of this type of information, ICHEIC has allowed for the greatest possible payout. Provision of this information would not have enhanced the awards through the ICHEIC process nor would it have led to additional eligible claims. In fact, in some instances, it may have lowered awards based on the fact that it may have shown that certain individuals died after the war, thereby reducing the payout on the policy or policies on which such awards were based.

Sincerely,


Mara E. Rudman
COO