

STATE OF ALASKA
SENATE

1998

Source
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Senate
Resolve No.
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Relating to compensation of Holocaust victims and survivors, their heirs, and Jewish communities by the government of Switzerland and the Swiss banking industry.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:

WHEREAS, when the Nazis came to power in Germany more than half a century ago, many European Jews and other individuals frantically sent their valuables to secret bank accounts in neutral Switzerland, trusting their possessions would be safe; and

WHEREAS Swiss bank deposits made by Jews and other individuals later murdered in the Holocaust have not all been made available to heirs or to the world Jewish community; and

WHEREAS all Americans have a responsibility to ensure that justice is done; and

WHEREAS it is appropriate for Alaska to join other states in the effort to encourage Swiss banking institutions to release information that will bring closure to the painful chapter in history we know as the Holocaust and justice to those who lost everything, even their lives, to the actions of the Nazi Germans and the Swiss banks; and

WHEREAS the establishment of two commissions by the Swiss government to

investigate Switzerland's wartime dealings reflects Swiss recognition of a moral obligation to uncover the truth, especially in light of the advanced age of the Holocaust survivor population;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate expresses its gratitude to the members of the Swiss government and banking officials who have cooperated thus far in allowing investigations to be carried out because, without their assistance, these investigations would not be possible and none of the assets in question would be recoverable by their rightful owners or their heirs; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate requests the government of Switzerland and the Swiss banking industry to compensate Holocaust survivors, their heirs, and Jewish communities in Switzerland and throughout the world for denying them their property for more than 50 years.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the United States; the Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress; and to the seven members of the Federal Council, or Bundesrat, of the Swiss government.