CROATIAN WORLD CONGRESS – HRVATSKI SVJETSKI KONGRES

*NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*

**Dr. Efraim Zuroff**

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Zagreb, 27.10.2017

Dear Mr Zuroff,

We have been advised that the Society for the Research of the Triple Jasenovac Concentration Camp has submitted a proposal to you that aims to establish an international team of experts (historians and researchers in other domains) charged with the mission of undertaking an exhaustive study of all information related to the internment camp at Jasenovac during the period of the Independent State of Croatia (NDH) from 1941 to 1945.

We trust that you are aware to the subject matter and require no further elaboration of its details.

The proposal tabled by the above mentioned society is consistent with your own sentiments as expressed in an interview you gave to the Croatian-based Express weekly in September of 2016: <https://www.express.hr/top-news/sori-hasane-komunizam-je-bolji-od-nacizma-7231>

In this interview you noted that more than seventy years after the end of the Second World War there is no credible and generally accepted number of Jasenovac camp victims. You noted that it was "unbelievable that there has been no international commission that would determine the number of Jasenovac victims," adding that you felt "that there is a need for a joint Croatian-Serbian or neutral international commission that would determine the scale of the crime and forever settle the matter."

You words require no additional remarks – we second them without reservation. In the interview you also observed that, "In a way Jasenovac is also a source of conflict between Croatians and Serbians. That is bad. I feel for both sides. This needs to be resolved. The sooner, the better."

We appeal to you, then, to join us in founding – with all interested parties from around the world – a Jasenovac Commission, and that we pool our efforts in applying historical methodology to an analysis of the existing archival material to bring to light the data and other documentation related to the camp at Jasenovac.

Researchers in Croatia tell us that verifiable documents are to be found that offer a realistic appraisal of the events that occurred at this camp during the Second World War. They claim that there are still living witnesses of these events. Researchers from Zagreb, who have contacted us, are prepared to present these documents and open a fact-based discussion on the camp at Jasenovac.

Let's do this – so that the topic ceases to be fuel for hatred among peoples and in order to defuse a catalyst for renewed armed conflict in Southeast Europe.

Temporizing and avoiding a discussion will make us complicit in any possible future conflict.

Your reputation in Croatia, Serbia and other countries in the region with regard to this topic place a particular burden of responsibility on your shoulders. Your advocacy can contribute to a real and exhaustive historical investigation of the events of the Second World War, in Jasenovac and elsewhere in Southeast Europe.

Circumstances to date have thwarted an objective history of the region. Up to 1990 this was supressed by the communist regime – later this research was hindered by wartime and political conflict in the area.

We are now enjoying a relatively peaceful period of democracy during which we need to set aside time and resources for an appraisal of this controversial past.

We trust that, as a person that has studied this period, you will support the proposal submitted for your consideration by the Society for the Research of the Triple Jasenovac Concentration Camp at a joint meeting in Zagreb on the 16th of August 2017.

Our organization also invites your proposals in aid of the creation of a team of researchers that will contribute to shedding light on Jasenovac and on other historical controversies from the period of Communist rule in the former Yugoslavia.

We look forward to your speedy and positive response and further collaboration.

Respectfully,

President

Croatian World Congress

Vinko Sabljo