

P.L. 1997, Joint Resolution No. 1, *approved March 7, 1997*
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 50

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** memorializing the government of Switzerland
2 to promptly and fully disclose all information regarding funds
3 deposited in Swiss banks by Jewish Holocaust victims, calling for
4 the return of these assets to Holocaust survivors and their heirs,
5 and commending the efforts of the United States Senate Banking
6 Committee.

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8 **WHEREAS**, Because of the efforts of the United States Senate Banking
9 Committee, it has come to the world's attention that, in the words
10 of Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Switzerland "blatantly benefitted from
11 the Holocaust"; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Switzerland benefitted by using the funds of European
13 Jews deposited in Swiss banks during World War II to compensate
14 Swiss citizens for property expropriated by former communist
15 regimes; and

16 **WHEREAS**, In a 1949 secret agreement with Poland, Switzerland used
17 the assets of Polish Jews to compensate Swiss citizens for the
18 nationalization of their property by that country; and

19 **WHEREAS**, The Swiss government later entered into similar
20 agreements with the nations of Hungary and Czechoslovakia; and

21 **WHEREAS**, Swiss banks have refused to help Jewish Holocaust
22 survivors locate bank accounts, demanding that they produce death
23 certificates for relatives who perished in Nazi concentration camps;
24 and

25 **WHEREAS**, The Swiss government has refused to deal with these
26 issues and is attempting to stall justice by establishing a commission
27 that will take five years to report its findings on assets stolen by
28 Germans and deposited in Switzerland during World War II; and

29 **WHEREAS**, It is time for complete disclosure by the Swiss government
30 of all funds deposited in Swiss banks by Jewish Holocaust victims
31 and for a full accounting of all unclaimed assets of these victims;
32 now, therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
35 of New Jersey:

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37 1. The government of Switzerland is memorialized to promptly and

1 fully disclose all information regarding funds deposited in Swiss
2 banks by Jewish Holocaust victims and to make a full accounting of all
3 unclaimed assets of these victims.

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5 2. The Swiss government is called upon to expedite the prompt
6 return of these assets to Holocaust survivors and their heirs.

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8 3. The United States Senate Banking Committee is commended for
9 its efforts in bringing this dark chapter in Swiss history to light and in
10 attempting to help Holocaust survivors and their families.

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12 4. Duly authenticated copies of this joint resolution shall be
13 transmitted to the Swiss Ambassador to the United States and to the
14 Chairman and members of the United States Senate Banking
15 Committee.

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17 5. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately .
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20 STATEMENT

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22 At hearings of the United States Senate Banking Committee, it has
23 come to the world's attention that Switzerland "blatantly benefitted
24 from the Holocaust" by entering into secret agreements to use the
25 assets of Polish and other European Jews deposited in Swiss banks to
26 compensate Swiss citizens for property expropriated by former
27 communist regimes. It has also been shown that Swiss banks have
28 refused to help Holocaust survivors locate bank accounts and other
29 assets.

30 This joint resolution memorializes the Swiss government to
31 promptly and fully disclose all information regarding funds deposited
32 in Swiss banks by Jewish Holocaust victims and to make a full
33 accounting of all unclaimed assets of these victims. The Swiss
34 government is called upon to expedite the prompt return of these
35 assets to Holocaust survivors and their heirs. The joint resolution
36 commends the United States Senate Banking Committee for its efforts
37 in bringing this dark chapter in Swiss history to light and in attempting
38 to help Holocaust survivors and their families.

39 Duly authenticated copies of this joint resolution shall be
40 transmitted to the Swiss Ambassador to the United States and to the
41 Chairman and members of the United States Senate Banking
42 Committee.

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3 Memorializes Swiss government to disclose information regarding
4 accounts of Jewish Holocaust victims, calls for a return of funds to
5 survivors, and commends efforts of U.S.Senate Banking Committee.