

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 71

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 25, 1996

By Senator SINGER

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION calling on the President and the Congress of the
2 United States to undertake all appropriate actions to encourage the Swiss
3 government to take certain actions concerning unclaimed bank accounts of
4 Holocaust victims.

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6 WHEREAS, During the horrific period when the Nazis ruled Europe, many
7 Jews in Germany and Eastern Europe saw Switzerland as the only safe
8 haven for their assets because of Switzerland's neutrality and Switzerland's
9 banking secrecy laws; and

10 WHEREAS, As a result of the Holocaust, many of the accounts established in
11 Swiss banks were dormant after the end of World War II; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1962 Switzerland set up a system in which any money found in
13 dormant accounts on which no claim had been made for five years and
14 thought to belong to Holocaust victims was put into a special government
15 account to be used to support charitable organizations; and

16 WHEREAS, The world has recently become aware of the probable misuse of
17 those funds to compensate Swiss citizens for property expropriated by
18 former communists regimes in Eastern Europe; and

19 WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to assure that surviving family
20 members of Holocaust victims receive the money in dormant accounts that
21 is legitimately and properly theirs; and

22 WHEREAS, In those instances in which no surviving members come forward
23 or can be located, the monies in those accounts should be used to help
24 Holocaust survivors throughout the world who are indigent and in need of
25 financial assistance; and

26 WHEREAS, The President of the United States and the Congress of the United
27 States should undertake all appropriate actions to encourage the
28 government of Switzerland to establish a fund consisting of those unclaimed
29 monies and to make those monies available to Holocaust survivors
30 throughout the world who are indigent and in need of financial assistance;
31 now, therefore,

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33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

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35 1. This House calls upon the President of the United States and the

1 Congress of the United States to undertake all appropriate actions to
2 encourage the government of Switzerland to establish a fund consisting of the
3 monies in any unclaimed accounts in Swiss banks belonging to victims of the
4 Holocaust and to make those monies available to Holocaust survivors
5 throughout the world who are indigent and in need of financial assistance.

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7 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
8 the Senate and attested by the Secretary thereof, shall be transmitted to the
9 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority and minority leaders
11 of both Houses, and every member elected to the Congress from this State.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This resolution calls upon the President of the United States and the
17 Congress of the United States to undertake all appropriate actions to
18 encourage the government of Switzerland to establish a fund consisting of the
19 monies in any unclaimed accounts in Swiss banks belonging to victims of the
20 Holocaust and to make those monies available to Holocaust survivors
21 throughout the world who are indigent and in need of financial assistance.

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26 Calls upon President and Congress to undertake all appropriate actions to
27 encourage Swiss government to take certain actions concerning unclaimed
28 bank accounts of Holocaust victims.