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H. RES. 323

Relating to the treatment of Hugo Princz, a United States citizen, by the Federal Republic of Germany.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 21, 1993

Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. ZIMMER, and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Relating to the treatment of Hugo Princz, a United States citizen, by the Federal Republic of Germany.

Whereas Hugo Princz and his family were United States citizens residing in Europe at the outbreak of World War II;

Whereas as civilians, Mr. Princz and his family were arrested as enemy aliens of the German Government (not prisoners of war) in early 1942;

Whereas the Government of Germany, over the protests of Mr. Princz's father, refused to honor the validity of the Princz family's United States passports on the grounds that the Princz family were Jewish Americans and failed to return the Princz family to the United States as part of an International Red Cross civilian prisoner exchange;

Whereas the Princz family was instead sent to Maidanek concentration camp in Poland, after which Mr. Princz's father, mother, and sister were shipped to Treblinka death camp and exterminated;

Whereas Mr. Princz and his two younger brothers were transported by cattle car to Auschwitz to serve as slave laborers, where Mr. Princz was forced to watch as his two siblings were intentionally starved to death while they lay injured in a camp hospital;

Whereas Mr. Princz was subsequently transferred to a camp in Warsaw and, then, by death march, to the Dachau slave labor facility;

Whereas in the closing days of the war, Mr. Princz and other slave laborers were selected for extermination by German authorities in an effort to destroy incriminating evidence of war crimes;

Whereas hours before his scheduled execution, Mr. Princz's death train was intercepted and liberated by United States armed forces, and Mr. Princz was sent to an American military hospital for treatment;

Whereas although the actions of the United States Army saved Mr. Princz's life, he was sent to an American facility and was never processed through a "Center for Displaced Persons", a development which would later affect his eligibility to receive reparations for his suffering;

Whereas following his hospitalization, Mr. Princz was permitted to enter then-Communist-occupied Czechoslovakia to search for family members, and, after determining that he was the sole survivor, Mr. Princz traveled to America where he was taken in by relatives;

Whereas in the early 1950s, the Federal Republic of Germany established a reparations program for “survivors”, to which Mr. Princz made timely application in 1955;

Whereas Mr. Princz’s application was rejected, and Mr. Princz has argued that his rejection was based on the grounds that he was a United States national at the time of his capture and later rescued and not a “stateless” person or “refugee”;

Whereas Mr. Princz has not received relief from the Federal Republic of Germany in the intervening 40 years;

Whereas Mr. Princz’s diplomatic remedies were exhausted by late 1990, forcing him to sue the Federal Republic of Germany in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia in 1992;

Whereas the Court denied Germany’s dismissal motion and determined Mr. Princz’s situation to be *sui generis*, given Germany’s concurrence with the material facts in the case and its simultaneous failure to accept financial responsibility with respect to Mr. Princz, when it has distributed billions of dollars in compensation to other Nazi death camp survivors, simply because of his American citizenship at the time of Mr. Princz’s capture and later rescue;

Whereas the trial is now stayed pending Germany’s appeal to the District of Columbia Circuit to require the case to be dismissed on grounds of sovereign immunity; and

Whereas Germany’s refusal to redress Mr. Princz’s unique and tragic grievances and to provide him a survivor’s pension undercuts its oft-voiced claims to have put its terrible past behind it: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the President and the Secretary of State
3 should—

4 (1) raise the matter of Hugo Princz with the
5 Federal Republic of Germany, including the Chan-
6 cellor and Foreign Minister, and take all appropriate
7 steps necessary to ensure that this matter will be ex-
8 peditiously resolved and that fair reparations will be
9 provided Mr. Princz; and

10 (2) state publicly and unequivocally that the
11 United States will not countenance the continued
12 discriminatory treatment of Hugo Princz in light of
13 the terrible torment he suffered at the hands of the
14 Nazis.

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