

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
STEVEN C. LA TOURETTE, OHIO  
DOUG OSE, CALIFORNIA  
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY  
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
ADAM H. PUTNAM, FLORIDA  
EDWARD L. SCHROCK, VIRGINIA  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA  
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA  
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN  
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS  
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, SOUTH DAKOTA  
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2974  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
TTY (202) 225-6852

[www.house.gov/reform](http://www.house.gov/reform)

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
CHRIS VAN HOLLER, MARYLAND  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,  
MARYLAND  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
CHRIS BELL, TEXAS

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,  
INDEPENDENT

December 18, 2003

The Honorable H.E. Aleksander Kwasniewski  
President  
Republic of Poland  
Warsaw, Poland

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to request your assistance in expanding access to Polish government archives that may relate to insurance policies sold in Poland between 1920 and 1945. This information is vitally necessary to help Polish Holocaust survivors and their families locate assets sold by Italian and Eastern European companies that did business in Poland before World War II.

Over the course of the last two years, the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Government Reform has conducted oversight of the efforts to ensure efficient and appropriate resolution of Holocaust-era insurance claims. At the Committee's most recent hearing on September 16, 2003, witnesses from the State Department, the International Commission on Holocaust Era-Insurance Claims (ICHEIC), and the Conference on Materials Claims Against Germany, and other experts on this issue stressed the importance of access to Eastern European archives. They testified that such access by ICHEIC researchers could help survivors verify the existence of Holocaust-era insurance policies and submit claims with the appropriate companies.

We commend Poland's largest insurance company, Powszechny Zaklad Ubezpieczen Spólka Akcyjna (PZU), for providing 1,500 names of pre-war Jewish policyholders. We believe, however, that there are likely more Polish Jewish policyholder names that have yet to be revealed. We understand from historical and genealogical researchers, for example, that records from pre-war insurance branches of companies like Reunione Adriatic DeSecurtia (RAS) and Generali were not destroyed during the war and may have been turned over to the Polish Government in 1945.

The Honorable H.E. Aleksander Kwasniewski  
President  
Page Two of Two  
December 18, 2003

We are pleased to hear that ICHEIC researchers have had some success in accessing government archives in Lodz, Poznan and, Wrozlav. We urge the Polish government to continue giving ICHEIC researchers the full cooperation and support they need to reach other archives and determine whether there are any documents that could benefit elderly Polish survivors seeking a measure of justice for family members persecuted by the Nazis.

We thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call Randy Kaplan with Chairman Davis' staff at 202-225-5074 or Michelle Ash with Ranking Minority Member Waxman's staff at 202-225-5051.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis  
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member