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October 20, 2014

Michael E. Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Inspector General Horowitz:

I write to request an immediate investigation into the payment of Social Security benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution during World War II. After the conclusion of the war, we now know that thousands of people who participated or were complicit in the atrocities of the Holocaust fled to the U.S. and lied about their pasts to become American citizens. According to the results of an Associated Press investigation published on October 19 (article enclosed), it is estimated that these individuals were paid millions of dollars in federal benefits (i.e. Social Security) even after the Department of Justice Office of Special Investigations (OSI) identified them as Nazi war criminals. Due to varying circumstances, it seems that several dozen criminals left the U.S. without completing trial before an immigration judge and were never issued a final order of removal. Without this order of removal, Social Security benefits were never terminated. I am deeply concerned about these reports, and believe that an investigation into the matter is appropriate and should be launched immediately.

I have made a request to DOJ to provide information on Nazi war criminals who left the U.S. before being formally deported to accurately calculate the amount in Social Security benefits that has been paid to these individuals. I have yet to receive a response to my inquiry. I am particularly troubled by the notion that there is no mechanism to terminate benefits for individuals OSI identified as Nazi war criminals for whom a denaturalization process had started. The Associated Press also found evidence that OSI may have promised these individuals that their Social Security benefits would continue to provide incentive for them to leave the U.S. voluntarily. This is certainly a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars and warrants a full assessment of DOJ and OSI policies regarding identification and removal of Nazi War Criminals, which the OSI was created to carry out in 1978.

As a co-author of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act which created the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group (IWG), I

strongly support the release of all records documenting the involvement of the U.S. Government with Nazi war criminals. An Inspector General investigation into this matter will make transparent the circumstances in which these individuals left the U.S. and how many received or continue to receive Social Security benefits. This information is vital to determine the best remedy for the situation and ensure that we make informed policy decisions going forward. Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress