

Declassified Documents Shed Light on What U.S. Government Knew at the Time of the Holocaust During WWII

Washington, DC — Today, U.S. Rep. José E. Serrano (D-NY), Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, and Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) announced House legislation to provide federal funds to complete a review and historical analysis of declassified U.S. Army, CIA and OSS documents on the Nazis and Japanese Imperial Government.

Since 1999, in one of the largest declassifications in history, federal agencies have declassified more than 8 million pages of documents related to the involvement of the United States government with Nazi and Japanese war criminals. The documents help illuminate what the U.S. government knew about the Holocaust during World War II. A working group established to review and report on the documents ended in 2007 without being able to analyze the entirety of the material.

“We must fully understand our nation’s history however painful,” Chairman Serrano said. “In order to facilitate that understanding, we must bring all the facts to light. Completing this review of the documents relating to our government’s knowledge of the Nazis and the Holocaust will help us to finally close this chapter in our nation’s history. I thank my friend Steve Israel for his important work on this subject.”

“The information we’ve gained from this declassification has shed light on a dark part of our history. It’s imperative that we continue to learn about our past and finishing this work will show us what our government knew of the Nazis during World War II,” Rep. Israel said.

As part of the Financial Services and General Government funding measure, passed by the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, the Committee designated \$650,000 to complete the review of the US government documents pertaining to the activities of the Nazis and Japanese Imperial Government. The Committee also directs the National Archives and Records Administration to provide a report summarizing recently discovered Nazi-era documents. The legislation will be considered by the full House of Representatives in the coming weeks.