



Federal Foreign Office

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Dear Mr. Tenenbaum:

Thank you very much for your letter to Federal Minister Steinmeier concerning the Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) and on Norway's current chairmanship. Federal Minister Steinmeier has asked me to reply on his behalf. The ITF enjoys our full support; we are grateful that the ITF decided to establish its Permanent Office in Berlin. Only a few months into its chairmanship it can be said that Norway has worked hard to promote the ITF's political goals on the international stage.

The various events taking place to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of the author Knut Hamsun have led to a debate within Norwegian society, both on his literary work and on his role as a sympathizer and supporter of the Nazi occupation regime. This debate has given the country an opportunity to examine difficult issues relating to its history.

We also discussed this within the ITF. I am confident the ITF plenary meeting in December 2009 will show that the debate in Norway has further heightened awareness of the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes.

I wish you every success with your important mission of preserving the legacy of those who helped Holocaust victims.

Yours sincerely,

/s/ Gernot Erler