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To: International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation / Mr. Baruch
Tenenbaum (irwf@irwf.org)

From: Amb. Dr. Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff

Tel. Ext.: 3369

**Re.: ITF: Internat. Raoul Wallenberg Foundation/Tenenbaum; Knut
Hamsun**

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,

Upon instruction by Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger I wish to thank you for your letter of 9 July 2009 and to congratulate you on the important work of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation in the field of Holocaust education and remembrance.

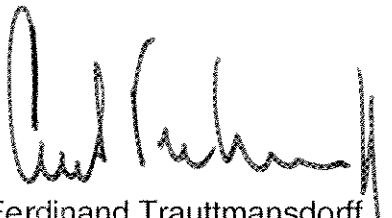
I refer to your question regarding Austria's position on the recognition of the 150th anniversary of Nobel laureate Knut Hamsun during Norway's chairmanship of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). The debate about this author, who sympathized with and openly supported the Nazi regime before and during the Second World War, is understandable and welcome. While Mr. Hamsun's literary work is being honored as such, his pro-Nazi activities must continue to be clearly condemned as they were when he was tried, convicted and punished in Norway after the war. Because of this sordid aspect of his life, Hamsun will remain a controversial figure in Norway and globally.

As a member state of the ITF, we, as well as other members of ITF, see Norway's current chairmanship of the Task Force as an important service to the functioning and performance of the ITF on the basis of the Stockholm Declaration 2001. There is, therefore, a clear interest that this service to Holocaust education, remembrance and

research is not affected by the discussion around Knut Hamsun. This does not prevent the ITF and its member countries and institutions to voice their criticism and clear dismay towards Hamsun's support and sympathy for Hitler and the Nazi ideology. Addressing any trivialization of the Holocaust and other forms of revisionism constitutes the center piece of ITF's objectives and functions. Many members of the Task Force including, of course, Austria, have to face the dark side of their past during the National Socialist regime nationally as well as within the ITF. On the basis of the Stockholm Declaration it is the very responsibility of ITF to address all aspects of the Holocaust on the victim's as well as on the perpetrator's side. Therefore, Austria supports any efforts to address the issue of Knut Hamsun's 150th anniversary within the appropriate structures of the ITF.

Therefore, Austria joins those ITF members that continue to have full confidence in the Norwegian Chair and share their appreciation for the Norwegian Chair's commitment to foster the goals of the Task Force in the international public arena in the areas of Holocaust education, remembrance, and research and in the fight against anti-Semitism.

With kind regards,



Ferdinand Trauttmansdorff
(Ambassador, Legal Advisor)