



Jerusalem, 12 August 2009

Mr. Baruch Tenenbaum  
Founder  
International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum,

Thank you for your letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Avigdor Liberman, who asked me to respond to the matter that you raised.

After the relevant parties in the Foreign Ministry looked into the issue, I wish to inform you of the following.

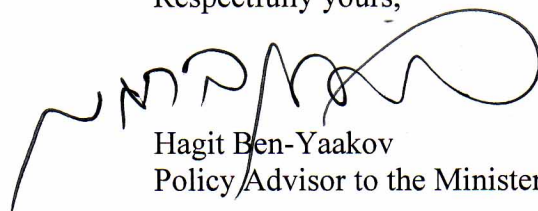
Our Ambassador in Norway was instructed to raise the matter with the Norwegian Foreign Ministry and to present our position expressing our concern.

Moreover, the Anti-Semitism and Holocaust Remembrance Department of our Foreign Ministry has been in contact with the relevant parties in Norway and with the International Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF) regarding the matter. In those contacts we presented our position that the Norwegian Chair of the ITF needs to issue a clear statement which would be distributed to the media and to the members of the ITF. It was agreed that emphasis would be given to recognizing Hamsun's dark past and that, while commemorating his 150<sup>th</sup> birthday in view of his literary achievements, they totally reject his support for the Nazis, for which he was tried and sentenced. Moreover, the statement must contain their commitment to remembrance of the Holocaust and to the fight against anti-Semitism, as expressed recently by the Norwegian Foreign Minister and Chair of the ITF.

As a result of our action, the Norwegians have decided to adopt the abovementioned position and to issue the attached statement which recognizes the problematic nature of the issue and the criticism that was levied against it.

I trust that this addresses the concerns that you raised and which we share.

Respectfully yours,



Hagit Ben-Yaakov  
Policy Advisor to the Minister