

Minister
of Foreign Affairs



Ministre
des Affaires étrangères

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

SEP 24 2009

Mr. Baruch Tenenbaum
Founder
The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation
34 East 67th Street
New York, New York 10065
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Tenenbaum:

Thank you for your letter of July 9, 2009, concerning Norway's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of author Knut Hamsun.

I understand your concerns. The commemoration of Knut Hamsun's birth has led to a debate about him as an acclaimed author and as a person who sympathized with the Nazi regime occupying Norway. While the debate is understandable, it is our view that it does not affect Norway's role as Chair of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF). The Government of Norway has recognized that Knut Hamsun's pro-Nazi activities must continue to be condemned as they were when he was tried in Norway, convicted and punished after the war.

Canada remains vigilant, both at home and abroad, against all forms of racism and discrimination, including anti-Semitism. The Government of Canada is confident that Norway is firm in its commitment to the principles of the Stockholm Declaration, which form the basis of the Task Force, and is dedicated to the fight against contemporary anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance. Canada will continue to work with members of the ITF to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust.

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lawrence Cannon'.

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

Canada 