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**A letter to:** Rehabilitacje un Erngericht bajm Farband fun di bafrajte Jidn in der US Zone Dajczlands (Organization of Rehabilitation at the Association of Liberated Jews in the US zone of occupation in Germany)

**Date:** July 28. 1949, Munchen (Germany)

**Written by:** Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Legal Department, Munchen, Mohlstr. 12 a

**Language:** Yiddish (written in Latin script)

The Central Committee of Liberated Jews in the US zone of occupied Germany. Proceedings will take place without Dawid Gertler, born on 15 February 1911 in Lodz, Poland. He lives in Munchen (Germany) on Pfistermeister Street No. 9. 3. In the years 1940 – 1943, he was in the Lodz ghetto and acted as a functionary in the organization called Sonderabteilung. He was related to the activities of the Jewish police in the ghetto. He acted on behalf of the Gestapo. His activities overall had been harmful for the ghetto residents.

### Justification

Based on the documents which Central Committee received from the Historical Institute of Polish Jews, claims:

1. Dawid Gertler was involved with Gestapo actions and worked for a special function in the Judenrat (Jewish Council in the ghetto). He had a large role in this organization, like Rumkowski (former chairman of Judenrat).
2. Later, he worked in the “Sonderabteilung”, which was a Jewish Police force in the Lodz Ghetto. During that time, he was collaborating (or also can be translated as working together with) with the Gestapo and was also conducting daily revisions at Jewish houses. He delivered orders to the policemen. Due to his position in the “Sonderabteilung”, he requisitioned all sort of valuable items in large quantities, such as: gold, diamonds, furs, textiles and other things.
3. During many of the inspections, inhabitants of the ghetto were beaten up by the Jewish Police (Sonderpolitzei)
4. As a result of the many inspections commanded by Gertler, inhabitants of the ghetto were left without money and they didn’t even have enough to buy a loaf of bread. People in ghetto were often sick and were dying because of hunger.
5. (sprawdzic)
6. He was responsible for providing food for the ghetto. Because of that, he had access to the resources and supervised distribution of food in the ghetto. He

- delivered good products only to some people, whom he regarded useful for himself. They would receive meat, butter, sugar and other essential commodities.
7. Gertler, together with Rumkowski and other functionaries of the Judenrat (Jewish Council), assisted in the deportation of 20,000 Jews from the Lodz ghetto to the Chelmno extermination center, which took place in 1942.
  8. In 1943, Dawid Gertler assisted the Gestapo men when they convoyed a group of 7 Jews to the Marysin railway station near the Lodz ghetto. He was in command and giving orders with the other Gestapo men to the Jewish policeman (members of Jewish Police from the Ghetto) and also to the railway workers.
  9. Dawid Gertler lived a life of luxury like other people in power in the Lodz Ghetto. He had a shiny car and often was seen in the company of Gestapo functionaries in a friendly atmosphere.

### Appeared

- I. Witnesses:
  1. Josef Bleiweihs –Munchen (Germany) – used to live in Munchen (Germany) on Konigin Street no. 10, now lives in United States
  2. Elias Kirstein – Munchen (Germany), Max Weberplatz Street 1. II
  3. Wolf Regenfisch, Regensburg , Schotten Street no. 7
- II. Documents received from Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw (Poland) by Central Committee ( 50 loans)

Often hate (cause) from the ....asked the Rehabilitation Association to punish (Sic!)

- 2.

**A letter to:** World Jewish Congress, New York 23 N. Y. 1834 Broadway

**Date:** October 29. 1948, New York

**Written by:** Kurt R. Grossmann

**Language:** English

Dear Mr. Shlomowitz,

Today I received a call from Emmanuel Goldstein, who is a cousin of one of our coworkers. He told me that on a boat en route to South America, he met a group of Jews coming from Germany. They had asked him to report to us that in Munich there is a certain Mr. Dawid Gertler, whom they accuse of collaboration in Lodz ghetto with the German authorities. We don't want to assume any responsibility for these accusations, but we would like to pass on to you this information since we feel you may be able to clarify the matter. Will you be so kind to have your reply as soon as possible?

- 3.

**A letter to:** Jewish Council in Displaced Persons Camp in Furth, next to Nürnberg (Germany)

**Date:** December 2, 1948 Munchen (Germany)

**Written by:** Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Legal Department

**Language:** Yiddish (written in Latin script)

The trial against Dawid Gertler will deal with his activities in the Lodz ghetto. We would kindly request that you inform the person who can be a witness in this case, Moniek Grinbaum, DP Camp in Furth, block No. 7. Please inform us within a five-day term.

- 4.

**A letter to:** Central Committee, Legal Department

**Date:** December 5, 1948., Furth

**Written by:** Jewish Council in DP Camp of Furth

**Language:** Yiddish (in Latin script)

Moniek (here spelled Monjek) Grinbaum left the DP camp last year due to his "Exodus" to the Land of Israel. His current address is unknown to us.

- 5.

**A letter to:** Jewish Council in DP Camp of Feldafing

**Date:** December 2, 1948, Munchen (Germany)

**Written by:** Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Legal Department

**Language:** Yiddish (in Latin script)

“Rekwizycje “(Reacquisition) investigates the case against Dawid Gertler as a functionary in the Lodz ghetto. The documents contain three copies.

We kindly request that you give us information about the 3 people who can act as witnesses in this case and who knew him during the times of Hitler (Sic!).

1. Wolf Kleiner, address: Feldafing, Villa Park, No. 14
2. Lajzer Binke, ( the same address)
3. Pinkus Nachmanowicz, (the same address)

Please respond within the next 5 days.

- 6.

**A letter to:** Central Committee of Liberated Jews, Legal Department

**Date:** December 6. 1948, Feldafing

**Written by:** Police Department in DP Camp Feldafing

**Language:** German

We are sending you testimonies of two witnesses: Wolf Kleiner and Pinchus Nachmanowicz. Binke Lajzer hasn't been in Feldafing for three months.

Testimonies:

1. On December 6, 1948 in the office of Police in Displaced Persons Camp in Feldafing, Mr. Kleiner Wolf, who was born on February 19, 1923 in Lodz and now lives in DP Camp Feldafing at Villa Park Street made the following statement: I cannot make any statement about Dawid Gertler, because I have never met this man and therefore I cannot make any statements about his actions. I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is correct, I am aware of the consequences of providing false information and I am ready to take an oath in the court.
2. On December 6, 1948 in the office of Police in Displaced Persons Camp in Feldafing, Mr. Nachmanowicz Pinkus, who was born in May 10. 1919 in Poland and now lives in DP Camp Feldafing at Villa Park Street and made following statement: I do not know Dawid Gertler in person. I have never spoken with this man. His actions are unknown to me. I do not know if he should be allegedly executed (Sic!). For all of these reasons, I can't make any further statements. I certify under penalty of perjury the above information is correct, and I am aware of the consequences of providing false information and I am ready to take an oath in the court.

Language: German

3. On December 6, 1948 in the office Jewish Council in Regensburg, Mr. Wolf Rogensfish , who was born on April 20, 1911 and now lives in Regensburg on Schotten Street No. 7, made the following statement: I don't know Dawid Gertler in person. Although I was aware that while I was living in the Lodz Ghetto, Mr. Dawid Gertler was a member of Judenrat (Jewish Council) and cooperated with the Gestapo. I can't make any further statements. I certify under penalty of perjury that the above provided information is correct, I am aware of the consequences of providing false information and I am ready to take an oath in the court.

- 7.

Language: Yiddish (in Latin script)

#### **Press note**

**Residents of Lodz ghetto!** Who knows Dawid Gertler, who was in 1941- 1943 the member of the Jewish Council and later worked with "Sonderarbeitlung" supervising the Jewish Police and can testify against him? Please report to the Central Committee in Munchen (Germany), at Mohl Street No. 12, Room No. 4 or contact any representative of the Jewish Committee.

This note will appear in every Jewish newspaper.

Published in the newspaper: "Our way" No. 6 (243) January 25, 1949.

- 8.

Documents from the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Poland. This Institute has a collection of Gertler records. In these records, the proof of his collaborating activities can be found. In particular, he had expropriated valuables form Jewish houses under the authority of Sonderarbeitlung (during searches). One of the documents contains the list of the expropriated items, such as, golden rings, amounts of money and diamonds, carpets and other objects taken from Jewish homes during the searches conducted by the Jewish police.

- 9.

**Testimony**, in Polish court in Lodz, Poland

**Date:** September 25. 1947

**Name of witness:** Fiszlewicz, Jakob who lives on Narutowicza Street No. 12 in Lodz.

**Language:** Polish

He made the following statement:

During the war, I worked at the railway station called Marysin, which was on the side of the Ghetto and trucks arrived from the Ghetto to this station. In the fall of 1943, I saw Dawid Gertler when he came with several Gestapo men (among them was commissioner Fuksen). He (Gertler) assisted them with the deportation of 7 Jews from the Ghetto.

Gertler, together with the other Gestapo men, was giving orders to Jewish policemen and workers at the railway station. Stemming from his behavior, I can describe his relations with the Gestapo as good and even friendly. I know that Gertler was a commissioner in a special department of the Jewish Council called Sonderabteilung, which was in charge of maintaining order and implementation of the German rule. This department was officially entrusted with the investigation of abuses of power and fraud in the Ghetto economy. Gertler often attended the railway station of Marysin, perhaps because he lived nearby. He always was in charge of controlling all of the incoming ghetto transports and he also supervised the transports with the products made in the ghetto factories when they went to Germany.

- 10.

**Testimony** in Polish court in Lodz, Poland

**Date:** September 25. 1947

**Name of witness:** Kantor Josef, born in 1914, lives on Kilinskiego Street No. 34 – 13, Lodz, Poland,

**Religion of the witness:** Jewish

**Language:** Polish

He made the following statement:

During the war I was in the Ghetto. I have never met Dawid Gertler in person, but I know about him as much as others inhabitants of the ghetto. I've heard that Dawid Gertler was forced by the Germans to join the Board of the Jewish Council. It seems truthful because the Germans regarded him higher than they did in relation to the official chairman Rumkowski. Everyone in the ghetto knew that he was connected with the Gestapo. It was possible for him to arrange a money transfer from the Lodz ghetto to the Warsaw ghetto. The conditions in the latter were better than in Lodz. I've heard about two cases of money transferring in 1941. I have seen and heard that Gertler could leave the ghetto without any

problems; he drove a car and often traveled to Warsaw, which was not possible for the average Jew. For a period of time in 1942, when Gertler was the real chairman of the ghetto and had the official title of Commissar of Sonderabteilung, the situation somewhat improved in the ghetto, because he took steps to supply more food for the ghetto. Being in charge, he controlled a fair distribution of food.