



נשיא המדינה
رئيس الدولة
THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, December 14, 2025

Mr. Yoav Gad, Chairman

Mr. Ari Lipinski, Member

HeChalutz Hachshara Training Farms in Germany 1933–1947 / the Next Generation

Ha-Rotem 28

Yavne 8153958

Israel

Dear friends,

I was pleased to learn of your fruitful cooperation, ongoing for several years, with Holocaust researcher Dr. Franz-Josef Wittstamm from Germany, and I thank you for sharing this information with me.

Dr. Wittstamm's continued efforts, at his own expense and on his own volition, to research, write, and publish biographical profiles of more than 6,000 Jews – both Holocaust victims and survivors, is a moving tribute to the heroism and the pain of the generations before us. This impressive body of work constitutes an achievement in scholarship that is remarkable both in scale and scope, and there is no doubt that Dr. Wittstamm contributed significantly to our understanding of the men and women of the HeChalutz Hachshara training farms in Germany. These are stories that must be told and passed on to future generations.

It is particularly striking that Dr. Wittstamm's gracious response to your request to expand his research was motivated by his profound personal sense of historical responsibility. His commitment to documenting and researching the records of thousands of German Jews, while engaging in a meaningful cooperation with an Israeli association, invokes respect and appreciation.

I commend Dr. Franz-Josef Wittstamm and the HeChalutz Hachshara Training Farms in Germany 1933–1947/ the Next Generation Association, for fostering mutual understanding and friendship between the Israeli and German peoples. The study of our shared and painful past is crucial for mapping out our future, and the understanding of our history is the only path towards realizing the hopeful vision to which we aspire.

Sincerely,


Isaac Herzog

President of the State of Israel

with Shalom!