



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2000

Contact: Janet Keller
Shoah Foundation
(818) 777-4999
janetk@vhf.org

**SPIELBERG AND SHOAH FOUNDATION TO PRODUCE
INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARIES ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST**

Los Angeles, CA; July 13, 2000 - Steven Spielberg and Academy Award® winning documentary filmmaker James Moll (*The Last Days*) have assembled a noteworthy team of international directors to make films about the Holocaust. Five one-hour television documentaries will be produced and exhibited in Poland, Argentina, the Czech Republic, Russia, and Hungary. The films are being produced under the auspices of Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

Academy Award honoree Andrzej Wajda, who fought as a partisan against the Nazis, is directing the Polish film. Luis Puenzo, director of the Academy Award winning film, *The Official Story*, is the Argentine director. Wojtech Jasny, who fought as a partisan after the Nazis deported his father to Auschwitz, is directing the Czech film. Pavel Chukhraj, nominated for the Academy Award for his critically acclaimed drama *The Thief*, is the Russian director. Janos Szasz, the son of two Holocaust survivors, is directing the Hungarian film.

According to Shoah Foundation Founder and Chairman Steven Spielberg, the documentaries are being made "in response to many demands from educators all over the world to teach the history of the Holocaust, confront Holocaust deniers and racial hatred."

The documentaries will be comprised largely of Holocaust survivor testimonies from the Shoah Foundation archive in the language native to each of the five countries. With the assistance of prominent Holocaust historians around the world, the directors are combining elements of these testimonies with new footage, original music scores, and archival photographs and film footage. Distribution is planned for the television and educational video markets in each of the five countries in 2001.

Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation was established by Steven Spielberg in 1994 to videotape and preserve the testimonies of Holocaust survivors and witnesses so that future generations can learn from the past. The foundation has collected more than 50,000 eyewitness testimonies in 57 countries and 32 languages, and is committed to the broad and effective educational use of the archive worldwide. Producer Moll worked with Spielberg to establish the Foundation and currently serves as Founding Executive Director together with June Beallor.

more

International Documentaries

Page 2-2-2-2

The Foundation has produced three previous documentaries: *The Last Days*, 1999 Academy Award winner for Best Feature Documentary; *The Lost Children of Berlin*, honored with the Edward R. Murrow Award; *Survivors of the Holocaust*, winner of the Peabody and two Emmy Awards. Other educational products include a groundbreaking CD-ROM, *Survivors: Testimonies of the Holocaust*.

The five new international documentaries will further advance the Shoah Foundation's goal of using its archive as an educational tool to inspire racial tolerance and understanding.

Individuals interested in supporting the efforts of the Shoah Foundation are encouraged to call (818) 777-4673 or write to P. O. Box 3168, Los Angeles, CA 90078-3168. The Shoah Foundation's internet homepage is at www.vhf.org.

###