

## Restitution remains painful for Poland

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He understands that just as there are those who have profited from the unspeakable crimes against Jews who were, after all, loyal Polish citizens, there are others who would suffer consequences because of restitution.

Among those Scott has interviewed so far are claimants Lea Evron and Rabbi Joseph Karmel, both living in the United States. Evron, whose father owned a business and house in Poland, recounts the derisive reaction from the present occupiers of the property. They told her Adolf Hitler had promised to get rid of all the Jews.

She says she doesn't need the money, and will donate any funds she receives to charity.

Rabbi Joseph Karmel, a descendant of a property owner, understands that the current possessors are resentful of someone like him – not even Polish – showing up and demanding the house back.

But it is his, he says, and it's as simple

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as that. Yet, the Polish authorities have repeatedly stalled on hearing his claim.

Ultimately, Scott said, this is about more than real estate. He feels it should be an essential part of the ongoing efforts at Polish-Jewish reconciliation, he believes. “For Poles themselves, facing this issue will help them heal the wounds of history,” he said.

Scott is disappointed that Jews also seem reluctant to touch this topic. He received \$15,000 from the Claims Conference toward making the film, but had to return it because it was a matching grant and he could not find a donor for the other half. ■