

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 768

AN ACT

For the relief of Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili,
Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The actions of Swiss banks and their rela-
4 tions with Nazi Germany before and during World
5 War II and the banks' actions after the war con-
6 cerning former Nazi loot and heirless assets placed
7 in the banks before the war have been the subject
8 of an extensive and ongoing inquiry by the Commit-
9 tee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the
10 Senate and a study by a United States interagency
11 group.

12 (2) On January 8, 1997, Michel Christopher
13 Meili, while performing his duties as a security
14 guard at the Union Bank of Switzerland in Zurich,
15 Switzerland, discovered that bank employees were
16 shredding important Holocaust-era documents.

17 (3) Mr. Meili was able to save some of the doc-
18 uments from destruction and then turned them over
19 to the Jewish community in Zurich and to the Swiss
20 police.

21 (4) Following Mr. Meili's disclosure of the de-
22 struction of the Holocaust-era documents, Mr. Meili
23 was suspended and then terminated from his job. He
24 was also interrogated by the local Swiss authorities
25 who tried to intimidate him by threatening prosecu-
26 tion for his heroic actions.

1 (5) Since this disclosure, Mr. Meili and his fam-
2 ily have been threatened and harassed, and have re-
3 ceived many death threats. Mr. Meili also received a
4 hand-delivered note threatening the kidnapping of
5 his children in return for the “Jewish money” he
6 would receive for his actions, and urging him to emi-
7 grate to the United States or be killed.

8 (6) Because of his courageous actions, Mr.
9 Meili and his family have suffered economic hard-
10 ship, mental anguish, and have been forced to live
11 in fear for their lives.

12 **SEC. 2. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.**

13 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for pur-
14 poses of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
15 1101 et seq.), Michel Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili,
16 Mirjam Naomi Meili, and Davide Meili shall be held and
17 considered to have been lawfully admitted to the United
18 States for permanent residence as of the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fees.

20 **SEC. 3. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.**

21 Upon the granting of permanent residence to Michel
22 Christopher Meili, Giuseppina Meili, Mirjam Naomi Meili,
23 and Davide Meili as provided in this Act, the Secretary
24 of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by the
25 appropriate number during the current fiscal year the

1 total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the
2 country of the aliens' birth under section 203(a) of the
3 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)).

Passed the Senate May 23, 1997.

Attest:

Secretary.

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