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Authority NWD 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USO HQ

File File 43

Box 722

RPH/LKB/PB

3

Berlin, Germany

MAR 20 1948

COME BACK COPY PROP DIV RECORDS - MR BORN - MFAA SECT, REST BR, PROP DIV

Dr. Luther H. Evans
 Librarian of Congress
 The Library of Congress
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Evans:

According to information available here, a number of books belonging to the Weltbibliothek of Stuttgart were removed from Germany by the Library of Congress Mission. It now appears that this removal was in error, since the library was a private library devoted to the study of the causes of war. The last chief of the Library of Congress Mission has concurred in this conclusion.

We, therefore, consider that an early return of these books to Germany is desirable, and hope that you, in agreement, will make arrangements to accomplish this purpose. Please keep us advised.

Sincerely yours,

20/1200

Hays

GEORGE F. HAYS
 Major General, U.S. Army
 Deputy Military Governor

110474

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Authority NWD 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

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LKB/PD

RPH/LKB/RD

Weltkriegsbücherei

Dep	Div	15
Mil	P3	Mar
Gov		48

NOTE FOR RECORD:

1. In accordance with the policy stated in directive of 15 July 1947, para 39, that Military Government would protect and permit German authorities to protect Cultural properties, it is desired to correct an error which occurred prior to that date.

2. A library called the Weltkriegsbücherei (World War Library) which, according to sources believed to be wholly reliable, is and has been a private library devoted to research on the background of war, was confiscated and shipped to the United States during 1948 in the belief that it was a Nazi or militaristic property.

3. The return of this library has been requested through a petition presented to the Landesrat and also through correspondence sent directly to this office. It is believed that the basis of the petition is valid. In this view the last chief of the Library of Congress Mission concurred.

4. It is recommended that the letter at the END TAB be approved, signed, and dispatched.

PHILLIPS HABERIG
Director

Mr. Born
Telephone 45194

CONE BACK COPY PROP DIV - MINT BORN - ITAA SECT REST R. PROP DIV

110475

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USN HQ

File File 43

Box 722

1/3
TR/LKB/TT

Berlin, Germany

Dr. Luther H. Evans
 Librarian of Congress
 The Library of Congress
 Washington D.C.

Dear Dr. Evans:

It has been brought to our attention that the Weltkriegsbücherei of Stuttgart, the bulk of whose books were removed from Germany to the United States by the Library of Congress Mission upon a release signed by the local Military Government authorities, was, in fact, a private library devoted to the study of the causes of war in the broadest sense, and that the release and shipment of this library appear to have been made in error.

In view of the fact that the presently available evidence, namely, statements by reliable library personnel in Stuttgart and researches made by Military Government officers and by the last chief of the Library of Congress Mission, points to the non-confiscable nature of the subject library, we regard its removal from Germany as an unfortunate incident which might be adversely misconstrued, and we therefore consider the early return of this library to Germany to be desirable.

We feel certain that you will entertain this same view, and that we can look forward to arrangements which will enable us to demonstrate once again that American Military Government respects the cultural properties of occupied territory.

Sincerely yours,

GEORGE P. HAYS
 Major General, U.S. Army
 Deputy Military Governor

110476

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Recd USDOHQ

File Germany General

Box 724

GFR-A
43961

Mr. Paesch

Dr. Fritz Hesse, Kelheim/D.H.LL

TO: Mr. O.F. Yanish, Chief, Restitution Branch, Econ. Div.
OMGB

Dear Sir,

Mr. James R. Wilkinson, the US Consul General Munich has advised me to ask for your help in the following matter.

I had deposited in the Reichsbank Berlin six cases containing fourteen valuable pictures (oil-paintings old masters) two valuable coloured prints, three Chinese paintings on silk, china and objects d'art. Pictures were by Reynolds, Richard Wilson, Opie, William Turner, Ferdinand Bol, Jan Both, Breughel, Rosa di Tivoli, Sanchez Coello, Hamilton, Luini, Peter Pourbus, Jan Bati. All these pictures were in my possession before 1928. The paintings were known by the National Gallery in London and several German art galleries. They were valued at appr. 600 000 dollars.

According to information I received from Berlin these cases of mine have vanished from the Reichsbank in spite of the solemn promise of the Kommandantura that private property would be respected.

May I inquire whether there is any possibility to get my property restituted through the mediation of your office or another American authority.

As recompensation for the restitution of my property I would be prepared to give to the American nation the portrait of James Boswell, the famous biographer of Dr. Johnson, by Opie, the only in the National Gallery, London, by Reynolds.

Thanking you in advance I am sincerely yours

Signed Dr. F. Hesse

Drexel

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20/100

110477

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Recd USO HQ

File Germany General

Box 724

GER-A

CARRIER SHEET — MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS — USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET — NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY — DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ITEM

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO. ED 007 (RES/MFAA) 2404

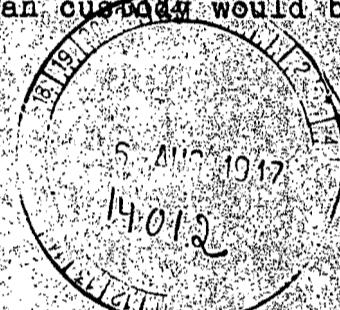
SUBJECT Art Property Claimed by Dr. Fritz Hesse

NO TO FROM DATE (Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)

1 Prop Rest 4 Attn: United Nations & Neutral Property Section
 Contr Br, Aug 1. Reference is made to telephone conversation
 Br, ED between Mr. Requardt and Mr. Monroe, this office,
 FD of 31 July 1947, regarding the possibility of
 tracing subject material.

describing material deposited in the Reichsbank, BERLIN. Any information con-
 cerning the present location of the property and means of receiving property
 into American custody would be appreciated.

FOR THE CHIEF, RESTITUTION BRANCH:



RICHARD F. HOWARD
 Chief, MFAA Section

2 Rest. Prop. 29 Attn: Mr. Pilliard
 Br. Contr. Sept 1. This matter has been investigated by the
 ED Br. 47 Berliner Stadtkontor. A copy of its report is
 FD attached.
 2. It would appear, considering the period,
 June 1945, that the removal of the property from German control
 mentioned was made by Russian authority.
 3. As action by this office on requests to
 the Soviet Military Administration is limited to matters wherein
 evidence of US citizenship of the claimant is shown, the matter is
 being returned to your office with the suggestion that the Fine
 Arts & Monuments Section of your Division may be of assistance to
 Dr. Hesse.

E.N. REINSEL

Chief, Property Control Branch

Incl.
 Cy rep Berl. Stadtkont.
 dtd 1 Sept 47

Tel: 43-611 Rm 413 FD Bldg.

(94 X) 1262
94/600 12 07/1000

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 6/1947

(Page No.)

110478

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AUTHORITY NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260
 Entry Recd at USO HQ
 File 74 FMFA) Arch Libr
 Box 721

HARVARD · COLLEGE · LIBRARY
 CAMBRIDGE 38 · MASSACHUSETTS

25 Sept 1945

Dear Mason:

Bob Haynes has let me see your recent letter to him. I wish I knew just where you were in Germany so that it might be easier for me to put you in touch with the man or men who are doing library buying abroad. It is a long and complicated story. It is perfectly true that the State Department, under great political pressure, permitted a representative of the Hoover War Library to go abroad. From all that I hear, he hasn't been particularly successful. The State Department has refused to go any farther, although the representatives of the Association of Research Libraries and the American Library Association and the Joint Committee of Libraries on Importations have done their best to persuade the State Department to grant passports for an American library mission. After our lack of success in this connection, arrangements were made to have two of the young men who have been with Bill Langer's and Fred Kilgour's Interdepartmental Committee transferred from the OSS payroll to that of the Library of Congress, and these two with a third Library of Congress man are now buying books in Italy, France, the Low Countries, and Germany, not only for the United States government libraries, but for American libraries in general. All of this material is to be shipped to the Library of Congress, and to it will be added the material that has been gathered together by other branches of the government; after the Library of Congress has had its pick, the rest will be distributed to research libraries on a basis that was described in a project proposed two or three years ago by Julian Boyd, Archibald MacLeish and Keyes Metcalf. We are hoping for the best, but it has been a bad situation. If there is anything that you can do, I hope you will help us. One of the OSS representatives, indeed the one who is in charge of the German buying, is Reuben Peiss who has been on our staff since 1938. The most recent address that I have for him is

Reuben Peiss, Civilian
 OSS Mission for Germany
 A. P. O. 655
 c/o Postmaster, New York.

I am writing today to Washington to ask for a new address and if I get different information, I shall let you know.

Sincerely yours,

K D Metcalf

K. D. Metcalf, Librarian

Lt Col Mason Hammond
 Sq. U.S. Group C C (Germany)
 R D & R Division
 A. P. O. 742, New York City

110479

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Recd USO HQ

File Jew Archives Libr

Box 724

IN FIVE UNDER EACH ITEM

CARRIER SHEET MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET

U.S.

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO 742

FILE NO.

SUBJECT: Disposition of Jewish Books

NO.	TO	FROM	DATE	(Has this been coordinated with all concerned?)
1	ED	SC	11	Attention: Colonel Allen
	Restitu-		July	Letter from Mr. Peiss, a copy of which is attached, has been sent to General Clay. Request that you consult IA&C Division and submit necessary comment to General Clay.
	Br.		46	
	ED			
2	SG	Rest	16	1. Asst. Archives and Libraries Officer, MFA&A Section, conferred with Education Section, IA&C Division, and agreed to support in comments a version of the points (a) - (c) of the "possible disposition" discussed on the second page of Mr. Peiss' letter.
	Br.		Aug	2. There are items in custody of the Offenbach Archival Depot which are clearly not identifiable as to country of origin. These are outside the scope of quadripartite agreements because of such non-identifiability. The following comments are intended to apply to such of those items as are associated with Jewish interests by language or subject matter.
	ED		46	3. An estimated 15% of the material of unidentifiable ownership may be of non-Jewish origin, since the OAD has been made a general sorting center not limited, as it was at first, to material taken from Jewish individuals or institutions.
				4. It is suggested that a representative body should be created by State Department action, including State Department representation authorized to protect State Department interests, but also including a Library of Congress official, a representative of UNESCO, and representatives of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and such other Jewish interests as the State Department may select, for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the disposal of material defined in par. 2.
				5. It is suggested that when such a body has been formed, the Office of Military Government (US) place complete responsibility for disposal of the material in question in its hands.

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AUG 04 1947
By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USO HQ

File Jew Archives Libr

Box 121

P-

FILE NO.

SUBJECT: Disposition of Jewish Books

NO. TO FROM DATE

6. It would probably not be necessary for any representative of such a newly created body to come to Europe. The requisite facts and figures can be assembled for the body's use by action on cabled request to OMGUS for such data.

7. When the representative body has actually formulated a detailed, workable set of instructions, OMGUS could at that point check any apparent conflict with the existing policy of any division concerned, and correspond with the representative body until a satisfactory, non-contradictory compromise has been reached.

8. The final plan could then be implemented by an OMGUS directive.

9. The Library of Congress should not be charged with any classifying, cataloguing or other work on the collection in Europe, as has been suggested in the Commission's letters to General Hildring dated 5 June, item IV 3. The Offenbach Archival Depot should perform the work of sorting, according to current practices, and as a matter of courteous cooperation might further assist with physical details, so long as the Depot is active. But following an agreement for disposal, responsibility for action should rest with the newly created body, and any work which cannot be performed or arranged for by the Depot as part of its normal function should be at the expense of that body.

10. The practical alternative, should it not prove feasible for such a body to be created and undertake this degree of responsibility, is to follow the course suggested as normal Property Control procedure, and consider the books as surplus, and that claims are to be made against German Civilian authorities, as delegated heirs of the original German responsibility.

11. The possible alternative of arriving at a decision within OMGUS has so far led neither in the direction of equitable consideration for the interests of world Jewry or eventual religious and cultural beneficiaries, nor in that of a purely practical disposal by the line of least legal resistance. If the interests of world Jewry are a paramount consideration, they should have adequate representation, with the power, but not the exclusive power, which they request to decide and act.

12. Decisions on the possible support of a world Jewish library in Copenhagen, would, in the suggested program, rest with the newly created representative body. It is urged that caution be used in committing this headquarters to any specific program without consulting the several interests mentioned in paragraph 4.

13. MFA&A Section categorically denies that there is any "risk of many of the books with no rightful owners being transferred to Palestine" previous to full consideration of responsibility for decision on disposal.

2

(Page No.)

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG

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Entry Recd USM HQ

File Jew Archives Libr

Box 721

CARRIER SHEET MUST REMAIN WITH ATTACHED PAPERS - USE ENTIRE WIDTH OF SHEET - NUMBER ITEMS CONSECUTIVELY - DRAW LINE UNDER EACH ITEM

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

APO-742

FILE NO.

SUBJECT Disposition of Jewish Books

- | NO. | TO | FROM | DATE | (Has this been coordinated with all concerned?) |
|---------------|----------------------|------|-----------|---|
| 2
(cont'd) | SG Rest
Br.
EE | | 16 Aug 46 | <p>14. All books which it is possible to identify as subject to external restitution on the basis of identified ownership, with the exceptions of the YIVO library, a special case, and books from Baltic countries, are being returned to the governments of the countries from which they were taken, in conformity with directives on interim restitution procedure. No policy has been established and no action is being taken with respect to internal restitution, but the material concerned is being segregated so as to be in readiness. W-86514, dated 2 May 46, represents last instruction on exceptions.</p> <p>15. No comment is included on revision of policy on restitution to Poland, or transfer of material to USWA custody, suggested on the grounds of reduced or substantially eliminated Jewish population. No comment is included on disposal of materials which exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in countries to which some restitution is now being made, as it is felt that these terms are vague and that pending establishment of a recognized body to represent this point of view, restitution policies and procedures in force cannot be officially modified.</p> |

1 Incl: n/c

Telephone 43194
Room 1038, Econ BldgJohn H. Allen
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Branch

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260
Entry Rec of USN HQ
File Jew Archives Libr
Box 721FILE NO.
SUBJECT:

NO. TO FROM DATE

(Page No.)

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110483

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Authority AIND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG

260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File Jew Archives 1/b

BOX

21

MFA+A

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MISSION
 Hq. US Forces, European Theater
 APO 757 US Army

6 July 1946

My dear General Clay:

Following our meeting this morning, I have looked into our correspondence file and am happy to send you excerpts from three (3) letters bearing upon the problem of the disposition of Jewish books. The first two (2) letters were addressed to Dr. H. M. Lydenberg who has just returned home from duty with this Mission and who was especially charged with liaison with our British colleagues. I quote first from a letter to Dr. Lydenberg dated 17 May 1946 from Dr. Jean Thomas, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Preparatory Commission of UNESCO:

"At the end of 1945, a proposal was made to us through Count Rewentlow, Danish Minister in London and Mr. C. E. AAGAARD, Danish delegate to UNESCO, that we should support the establishment of a world Jewish Library in Copenhagen formed out of the many thousands of valuable Jewish books which have been found in German occupied territory and which cannot be returned to their previous owners.

"Later this scheme was further endorsed by the Danish Library Authorities who declared their willingness to defray all working expenses and proposed also that it should be maintained by the Royal Library in Copenhagen, if possible under UNESCO auspices.

"The Preparatory Commission of UNESCO has not yet met to consider this proposal and I cannot say, therefore, that it has our approval but all the persons here who have considered it agree that the scheme has many merits and is one which the Preparatory Commission should be encouraged to consider at the first possible moment.

"We have been dismayed to hear, in the last few days, from Dr. Schmidt-Phisaldeck, Librarian of the Royal Library, Copenhagen, in a letter a copy of which I enclose, that there is a risk of many of the books with no rightful owners being transferred to Palestine before the Danish Scheme has been discussed.

"These are exactly the books which would form the nucleus of the Copenhagen collection.

"It would be most regrettable if the scheme would be prejudged by the actual removal of any books or by permission being given for their eventual removal until the serious and generous proposal from Denmark has been properly debated."

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File Jew Archives Libr

Box 1

A second letter addressed to Dr. Lydenberg dated 28 June 1946 and signed by Edward J. Carter, Counsellor for Libraries and Museums of the same Commission, reads in part as follows:

"Since I communicated with you last and also since the correspondence you had with Professor J. Thomas, with regard to the Jewish Library in Copenhagen, we have had a meeting of the Libraries Committee of the Preparatory Commission, when one of the things which received definite support was a proposal that UNESCO should establish an International Clearing House for publications, which may be able not only to continue the work of the Inter-Allied Book Centre in London, which closes down at the end of this year, and of the American Book Centre, but will also be able to serve as a collecting and distribution centre for material discovered in Europe."

On 12 June 1946, Mr. Verner W. Clapp, Director of the Acquisitions Department of the Library of Congress, wrote to me as follows:

"Disposition of Jewish Books in Offenbach Disposal Center—Dr. Evans has consulted with Prof. Baron and other representatives of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction. Our position with regard to these books is as previously stated. We will not touch them (or the unrepudiated residue of them) unless requested to do so through official channels. A possible disposition that has been discussed is as follows:

"(a) Each of the four occupying powers to assume custody (by Control Council Decision) of unrepudiated residues of such books within its zone, final disposition to be made by its national library.

"(b) The national library in each case to get together with Jewish interests and plan a distribution, sort and catalog the books.

"(c) Before distribution is effected, any books identifiable as coming from a particular country (Poland, Russia, etc.) even though not identifiable as deriving from a particular library or group would be offered to that country."

I hope that these excerpts will be of some aid to you in filling in the background of the problem.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Reuben Peiss

/t/ Reuben Peiss
Chief
Library of Congress Mission

Lieutenant General Lucius D. Clay
Director, Office of Military Government (US)
APO 742, U. S. Army

110485

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USO HQ

File Jew Archives Libr

Box 721

Mr. Vandervort



THE LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON

JUN 3 1946

Dear Paul:

I received, some time since, your long letter regarding the disposition of the Judaica at the Offenbach Archival Depot. That letter has not gone unregarded; indeed, it has been at the center of a number of discussions with persons interested, including especially Dr. Baron and Professor Michael of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction. Unfortunately, however, the letter itself has been lost in transit between New York (whither Dr. Gaster took it) and here.

On May 22nd I had a second conference with Drs. Baron and Michael, and they conferred later with Verner Clapp and Hemmendinger of State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee. As a result of all these conversations, the following emerges:

a. The time is not yet for LC to interpose its services for the distribution of the "unidentifiable residue" of this material, because:

1. There is no possibility that the material may be evacuated before all restitution has taken place; and

2. As long as it is not evacuated, Military Government has its own agency for handling.

b. The first question to be settled is that of "exterior restitution." So far as the western countries are concerned there is no question; but one exists as respects, e.g., Poland. However, this question is up for settlement, and pointed questions have been directed to CMGUS; see in this connection War Department outgoing communication W80514, May 1, 1946. 16

c. After "exterior restitution" is settled, "interior restitution" still requires settlement. It is understood here that CMGUS has asked the Laenderrat to provide a plan for this; see in this connection release by Public Relations Office, CMGUS, April 27, 1946, stating that the Laenderrat's plan is expected to be submitted not later than May 15 and is hoped to be in operation not later than July 1, 1946.

d. Only after all restitution is effected can the disposition of the "unidentifiable residue" be considered.

e. Appropriate representations on the part of the Commission at the present time might include the following:

1. That "internal restitution" of Jewish cultural materials should not be handled under a Laender program or Laender auspices.

2. That restitution of these materials in strict accordance with legal concepts of inheritance would not be appropriate; e.g. it would not be appropriate to restore a community library to a community whose original members had been to all intents and purposes exterminated even though their places had been taken in part by newcomers.

110486

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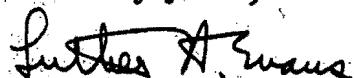
Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00RG 260
Entry Rec of USO HQ
File Jew Archives Libr
Box 721

L-page 2

3. That, if these representations are granted, then a trustee should be designated to dispose of the property in the interest of world Jewish cultural interests. The trustee might be a representative of world Jewry, or it might be an American governmental agency able to reflect those interests.

We anticipate that some such representations will be made. Meanwhile LC will take no action. I shall be happy to learn of any developments from you.

Sincerely yours,

Luther H. Evans
Librarian of Congress

Mr. Paul Vanderbilt
Technical Adviser, Archives and Libraries
MFA & A, Restitution Branch, Econ. Div.
APO 742, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

AIR MAIL

110437

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Authority NND 775057

Sy SR NARA Date 21-00

RG

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Entry Rec of USG HQ

File Jew Archives Libr

Box

724

1 ED! SG
Restitu-
tions Br11 July
46

Attention, Colonel Allen
 Letter from Mr. Peiss, a copy of which is attached, has
 been sent to General Clay. Request that you consult
 IAGC Division and submit necessary comment to General
 Clay.

Room 2019, Dir Bldg
Telephone 42006

1 Incl
 Gy ltr 6 Jul 46
 fr Mr. Peiss to
 Gen Clay

WILLIAM WHIPPLE
 Colonel, GSO
 Secretary General

2 SG Best Br.
HD Aug 16

1. Asst. Archives and Libraries Officer, IAGC Section, conferred with Education Section, IAGC Division, and agreed to support in comments a version of the points (a) - (c) of the "possible disposition" discussed on the second page of Mr. Peiss' letter.

2. There are items in custody of the Offenbach Archival Depot which are clearly not identifiable as to country of origin. These are outside the scope of quadripartite agreements because of such non-identifiability. The following comments are intended to apply to such of those items as are associated with Jewish interests by language or subject matter.

3. An estimated 15% of the material of unidentifiable ownership may be of non-Jewish origin, since the OAD has been made a general sorting center not limited, as it was at first, to material taken from Jewish individuals or institutions.

4. It is suggested that a representative body should be created by State Department action, including State Department representation authorized to protect State Department interests, but also including a Library of Congress official, a representative of UNESCO, and representatives of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and such other Jewish interests as the State Department may select, for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the disposal of material defined in par. 2.

5. It is suggested that when such a body has been formed, the Office of Military Government (US) place complete responsibility for disposal of the material in question in its hands.

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

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Entry Rec of USA HQ

File Jew Archives Lib

Box 724

Disposition of Jewish Books

6. It would probably not be necessary for any representative of such a newly created body to come to Europe. The requisite facts and figures can be assembled for the body's use by action on cabled request to OHDUS for such data.

7. When the representative body has actually formulated a detailed, workable set of instructions, OHDUS could at that point check any apparent conflict with the existing policy of any division concerned, and correspond with the representative body until a satisfactory, non-contradictory compromise has been reached.

8. The final plan could then be implemented by an OHDUS directive.

9. The Library of Congress should not be charged with any classifying, cataloguing or other work on the collection in Europe, as has been suggested in the Commission's letter to General Fielding dated 5 June, item IV J. The Offenbach Archival Depot should perform the work of sorting, according to current practices, and as a matter of courteous cooperation might further assist with physical details, so long as the Depot is active. But following an agreement for disposal, responsibility for action should rest with the newly created body and any work which cannot be performed or arranged for by the Depot as part of its normal function should be at the expense of that body.

10. The practical alternative, should it not prove feasible for such a body to be created and undertake this degree of responsibility, is to follow the course suggested as normal Property Control procedure, and consider the books as surplus, and that claims are to be made against German Civilian authorities, as delegated heirs of the original German responsibility.

11. The possible alternative of arriving at a decision within OHDUS has as far led neither in the direction of equitable consideration for the interests of world Jewry or eventual religious and cultural beneficiaries, nor in that of a purely practical disposal by the line of least legal resistance. If the interests of world Jewry are a paramount consideration, they should have adequate representation, with the power, but not the exclusive power, which they request to decide and act.

12. Decisions on the possible support of a world Jewish library in Copenhagen, would, in the suggested program, rest with the newly created representative body. It is urged that caution be used in committing this body to any specific program without consulting the several interests mentioned in paragraph 4.

13. MPAAA Section categorically denies that there is any "risk of many of the books with no rightful owners being transferred to Palestine" previous to full consideration of responsibility for decision on disposal.

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Activity NIND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec'd USO HQ
File New Archives Lib
Box

Disposition of Jewish Books

2 SD Best (cont'd)

Mr.
SD

16 Aug 46

14. All books which it is possible to identify as subject to external restitution on the basis of identified ownership, with the exceptions of the YIVO Library, a special case, and books from Baltic countries, are being returned to the governments of the countries from which they were taken, in conformity with directives on interim restitution procedure. No policy has been established and no action is being taken with respect to internal restitution, but the material concerned is being segregated so as to be in readiness. S-84514, dated 2 May 46, represents last instruction on exceptions.

15. No comment is included on revision of policy on restitution to Poland, or transfer of material to USWA custody, suggested on the grounds of reduced or substantially eliminated Jewish population. No comment is included on disposal of materials which exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in countries to which some restitution is now being made, as it is felt that these terms are vague and that pending establishment of a recognized body to represent this point of view, restitution policies and procedures in force cannot be officially modified.

1 Incl: n/c

Telephone 43194
Room 1038, Penn EldeJOHN W. ALLEN
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Branch

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Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Recd USO HQ
File Jew Archives Libr.
Box 121US
Dr

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

AG CABLE CONTROL

DATED 210032Z INCOMING MESSAGE REC'D 220755B-SEPT 46
RESTRICTED

731/21 ehd

~~RESTRICTED~~~~ROUTINE~~

FROM : AGWAR FROM WDSCA ES
 TO : OMGUS AND USFA
 INFO : USFET
 REC NO : NX-81072

I Reurads July CC-9626 July P-1441 item.

Following is paraphrase of new proposals recd by State Dept from Commission on European Jewish Cultural reconstruction dated 26 Aug.

1. NY Membership Corporation being formed, fol orgns to be initial members - American Jewish Conference, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, American Jewish Committee, Synagogue Council of America, Federation of Jews from Central Europe, World Jewish Congress, Hebrew Univ. Provision to be made for enlargement of membership to assure complete representation Jewish interests.

2. When corporation fully organized USFET and USFA will transfer to it as trustee for former Jewish owners and Jewish people all Jewish religious and cultural objects, of whatsoever nature and in whosoevers possession, in US Zones in any of fol categories:

A. Formerly owned by indiv German or Austrian Jews or Jewish Communities or Jewish Philanthropic or Cultural Institutions.

B. Removed from countries to which US not required to return by virtue of any existing international arrangement to which US party.

X C. Removed from countries to which US is required to return by virtue international arrangements if

AGC IN 37574

RESTRICTED

Exempt from paraphrase. Handle in compliance with AR 380-5

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WX-81072

R E S T R I C T E D

2

claimed but which are not claimed within reasonable time.

D. Not identifiable as falling within any of above categories.

E. Now owned or possessed by German and Austrian State, Municipal and other Publicly owned or maintained libraries, archives, museums and similar institutions whenever and however acquired except such as US required to dispose of otherwise by existing international arrangements.

3. Corporation to send Tech Mission of limited size into US Zones to:

A. Examine and classify Jewish Religious and Cultural objects now in possession of or hereafter acquired by US Forces according to foregoing categories.

B. Seek out Jewish Religious and Cultural objects now previously acquired, ascertain what Jewish Religious and Culture objects are in possession public institutions.

C. Report results activities to Commanding Generals USFA and USFET. Commanding Generals USFA and USFET to. A. Admit mission into US Zones, give free access to places where Jewish Religious and Cultural objects are found, accord freedom movement in zones, and provide housing, food and such clerical and other assistance and transportation facilities as are reasonably necessary to enable it to perform functions. B. Seize Jewish Religious and Cultural objects in above categories discovered by mission. C. Seize all Jewish Religious and Cultural objects held by public institutions.

4. Corporation to have full powers, duties and functions as trustee of Jewish Religious and Cultural objects transferred to it.

A. Corporation may take possession and remove to any place in or outside Germany objects transferred to it as trustee at such times and in such lots as it may deem advisable.

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PC

REF ID: RICL02

AGC IN 37574 22 Sept 46 CB/Ed. RRF NO: MX-B1072

ECON DIV	6
Branch	
Exec	
Personnel	
Report &	
Policy & Cons	
Int'l Affairs	
Spec	
Govt	
Other	
File	

INFORMATION: O/S
 ACT/IN: ECON
 CC-9626, 24 July 46, Econ
 P-1441 is not identified

SUSPENSE: 24 SEPT 46

REF ID: MX-B1072 RICL02

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AUGUST 1945
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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

AG CABLE CONTROL

REF NO

W-81072 RESTRICTED

**INCOMING MESSAGE
RESTRICTED**

B. Corporation to dispose of such objects as fol:

1. Restore identified objects to indiv owners or successors.
2. Restore objects to communities in proportion to prospective Religious and Cultural needs of community and ability to use for appropriate Religious and Cultural purposes.
3. Restore objects formerly belonging to Jewish Philanthropic or Cultural Institutions upon proof of institutions capacity to use for Philanthropic or Cultural purposes for which intended.
4. Objects not identifiable as included in first 3 categories and objects taken from German and Austrian public institutions to be distributed among Jewish Religious and Cultural Institutions throughout world in such manner as will in judgement of corporation best serve Religious and Cultural needs of Jewish people, especially surviving members Nazi persecution and satisfy desire of Jews to pay tribute to victims as for example by establishing library in Hebrew Univ in Palestine as memorial.

C. Corporation to have such further powers as are necessary, appropriate or convenient for execution of trust.

5. To facilitate execution of trust, mil govt to:

A. Take and retain possession and safeguard objects transferred to corporation as trustee until corporation elects to assume possession.

B. At expense of Germany or German Leader, pack and transport to points within Germany objects allotted to German or Austrian communities or institutions and to German or Austrian border such objects as corporation elects to remove from country.

C. Provide such other facilities as are necessary to enable it to execute its trust. State and

I. State and WD strongly sympathetic to objectives these proposals and believe them generally acceptable SW personally interested. Your comments desired, especially reference those proposals requiring action by you. If you consider any quadripartite agreement conflict with proposal, please give full details. Lowenthal generally familiar with this matter and suggests you may wish to discuss with him.

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RESTRICTED

E.D.

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Box 126

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No document void

15 December 1945

FROM: Paul VANDERBILT

TO : Capt. R. TINDLEY *No record.*

SUBJECT: Selection and removal of books from ROTHSCHILD library building at request of Judge RIFKIND.

1. Judge RIFKIND made written application, in a memorandum dated 28 Nov. 1945 to Major LaFarge for the loan of 25,000 books for the use of Jewish displaced persons. The books involved are among those looted by the Rosenberg organization, now stored as part of the Offenbach Collecting Center.

2. I understand that this request was refused by Capt. RORIMER, but later approved verbally by Mr. Breitenbach and Major LaFarge.

3. A cable from USFET (Main) to OMGUS dated 7 Dec 1945 requested clarification of policy for such action. There is no record here of the receipt of any answer.

4. Mr. Breitenbach verbally asked my opinion in this matter, and I replied that I disapproved of such removal unless it could clearly be shown that the books in question were duplicated within the collecting point resources which might remain after restitution of items of identifiable ownership had been effected. I was not at this point directly involved in the actual decision. I did not authorize Mr. Breitenbach to act for me in this matter.

5. The question of whether the cultural materials, of whatever character, in IFAA custody at collecting centers or elsewhere, are to be made available for dispersal according to a variety of education or other projects, while matters of restitution, disposition of unwanted or unidentifiable residue, and return to German civilian custody are still pending, seems to me one of high policy which should not be decided informally. If such removal is authorized in this instance it will open the door to a variety of similar proposals which are likely to result in the dispersal of material which it may later be found should have been kept together for the reconstruction of former libraries or the constitution of new ones.

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- 2 -

6. The work of selection, with the sanction of Lt. KULKE, is now underway at the Rothschild library building, but no books have so far actually been removed.

7. I question whether appropriate authorization has been received. The project seems to me contrary to MFAA preservation, control, restitution and reconstruction policy. It has been verbally disapproved by Col. KLUSZ and Mr. BOELL. I doubt whether Mr. Breitenbach or Lt. Kulke are authorized to approve the removal of books from Collection points in this way and for such purposes (as distinguished from authorized removal for restitution or return to properly constituted German civilian custody). I doubt whether the consideration of this removal as a "loss" can be taken seriously, in view of the probable actual situation in camps for displaced persons. In a published article concerning camps for displaced persons in Military Government weekly Information Bulletin, it is indicated that food, fuel and the like are to be furnished by Military Government, but that reading matter and the like is to be supplied by UNRRA.

8. I recommend that selection or other work on this project be stopped immediately until it can further reviewed in the light of overall policy regarding future operations and approval obtained from all concerned.

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PV/hs

4/1
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)
 Economics Division
 Restitution Branch
 APO 742

Berlin, 28 June, 1946

Dear Luther,

Thank you for taking an interest in the Jewish books problem, conferring with Drs. Baron and Michael of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, and writing me your good letter of June 3 in answer to mine of March 25 on this subject.

Have you had any conversation with Pomrenze about this? He was, I know, eager to see you. He left here early in May, was to take a long vacation in the U.S. (or Z.I. as they call it), but he is probably by now back at the National Archives where I understand he is to be librarian. He can give you not only a first hand, but a warmly-worded, colorful and explosive picture of the situation.

The developments seem to be these: The Länderrat did not submit any plan for disposal of unidentified material subject to internal restitution by May 15 nor by June 1. Nor does any official elaboration exist of the working theory by which we have been guided: that when all possible restitution has been effected, the residue will be turned over to German civilian authorities, against whom claims from anywhere in the world may be made, and the Germans can solve the problem. To get some line on how Military Government thinking is developing, I went to talk with Mr. W. M. Loewenthal, of the German Property Section, Property Control Branch, Finance Div., OMGUS. His views are unofficial and off the record, but he thinks, if I understand him correctly, that something like this will develop with respect to books: Books will be considered according to the same policies as govern other kinds of property (i.e. completely without regard for potential bibliological considerations). Residue property will be converted by the German civilian agencies into something negotiable, possibly a future issue of German state bonds, by, in the case of books, block sales to the trade or any other customer, according to something like our Surplus Property Disposal program. Claims against the German government will be received on an equal basis from Germans and citizens of other countries up to a certain announced date. On that date, receipts from sales (bonds?) will be distributed pro rata to those who filed claims. Others who file claims later will be out of luck. My understanding is that they contemplate for non-German affairs, claims of individuals and institutions, and not, as in the case of restitution, dealing only with a Restitution Mission of the Government concerned. May I emphasize what Mr. Leewenthal emphasized

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to me — that this is but the substance of a conversation, a possibility and not an established program.

Restitution of the Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) to New York or to Poland, is, as a potential exception to established policy, still before State Dept. authorities for decision, as you doubtless know.

If the Commission wishes to make representations regarding the books, to the effect that an alternative plan would be preferable, e.g. designation of the Commission as Trustee to act in the interest of world Jewry, or designation of an American governmental agency other than OMG for Germany to dispose of the books, I think that they, as the party willing to assume the responsibility, should make these representations as soon as possible to the Director, Finance Division, OMGSUS, APO 742. Failing assurances from you which would warrant initiation of recommendations by MFA&A, as originally suggested, this is probably the best course. There will doubtless be difficulty, however, in getting approval of a policy for books which is different from that for other categories of property. MFA and A responsibility would normally be inherited by Property Control Branch but MFA&A is powerless to suggest specific alternative plans without prior assurances from some continuing authority. I must say that I hardly think that surplus disposal of such a quantity of books of that character in the open book market in Germany in the next few years would be profitable.

The Offenbach Depot has restituted to other countries slightly more than half of the material taken in; I think about 500,000 items will be left at the conclusion of restitution.

Paul VANDERBILT
Asst Archives and Libraries Officer

Dr. Luther Evans
The Librarian of Congress
Washington 25, D.C.

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By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 360

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File Jew Archives Libr

Box 721

1 ID 3G 11 Attention: Colonel Allen
 Restitu-
tions Br July 46 Letter from Mr. Peiss, a copy of which is attached, has
 been sent to General Clay. Request that you consult
 IAGC Division and submit necessary comment to General
 Clay.

Room 2019, Dir Bldg
 Telephone 42096

1 Incl
 Cy ltr 6 Jul 46
 fr Mr. Peiss to
 Gen Clay

WILLIAM WHIPPLE
 Colonel, CSC
 Secretary General

- 2 ID 3G Rest 16 1. Asst. Archives and Libraries Officer, WMAA Section, conferred with Education Section, IAGC Division, and agreed to support in comments a version of the points (a) & (c) of the "possible disposition" discussed on the second page of Mr. Peiss' letter.
2. There are items in custody of the Offenbach Archival Depot which are clearly not identifiable as to country of origin. There are outside the scope of quadripartite agreements because of such non-identifiability. The following comments are intended to apply to such of those items as are associated with Jewish interests by language or subject matter.
3. An estimated 15% of the material of unidentified ownership may be of non-Jewish origin, since the OAD has been made a general sorting center not limited, as it was at first, to material taken from Jewish individuals or institutions.
4. It is suggested that a representative body should be created by State Department action, including State Department representation authorized to protect State Department interests, but also including a Library of Congress official, a representative of UNESCO, and representatives of the Committee on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and such other Jewish interests as the State Department may select, for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the disposal of material defined in par.2.
5. It is suggested that when such a body has been formed, the Office of Military Government (W) place complete responsibility for disposal of the material in question in its hands.



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Disposition of Jewish Books

6. It would probably not be necessary for any representative of such a newly created body to come to Europe. The requisite facts and figures can be assembled for the body's use by action on cabled request to OMCUS for such data.

7. When the representative body has actually formulated a detailed, workable set of instructions, OMCUS could at that point check any apparent conflict with the existing policy of any division concerned, and correspond with the representative body until a satisfactory, non-contradictory compromise has been reached.

8. The final plan could then be implemented by an OMCUS directive.

9. The Library of Congress should not be charged with any classifying, cataloguing or other work on the collection in Europe, as has been suggested in the Commission's letters to General Bildring dated 5 June, item IV 3. The Offenbach Archival Depot should perform the work of sorting, according to current practices, and as a matter of courteous cooperation might further assist with physical details, so long as the Depot is active. But following an agreement for disposal, responsibility for action should rest with the newly created body and any work which cannot be performed or arranged for by the Depot as part of its normal function should be at the expense of that body.

10. The practical alternative, should it not prove feasible for such a body to be created and undertake this degree of responsibility, is to follow the course suggested as normal Property Control procedure, and consider the books as surplus, and that claims are to be made against German Civilian authorities, as delegated heirs of the original German responsibility.

11. The possible alternative of arriving at a decision within OMCUS has so far led neither in the direction of equitable consideration for the interests of world Jewry or eventual religious and cultural beneficiaries, nor in that of a purely practical disposal by the line of least legal resistance. If the interests of world Jewry are a paramount consideration, they should have adequate representation, with the power, but not the exclusive power, which they request to decide and act.

12. Decisions on the possible support of a world Jewish library in Copenhagen, would, in the suggested program, rest with the newly created representative body. It is urged that caution be used in committing this headquarters to any specific program without consulting the several interests mentioned in paragraph 4.

13. MFAAA Section categorically denies that there is any "risk of many of the books with no rightful owners being transferred to Palestine" previous to full consideration of responsibility for decision on disposal.

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Disposition of Jewish Books

2 20 Root 16 (cont'd)
Br. Aug 46
ES

14. All books which it is possible to identify as subject to external restitution on the basis of identified ownership, with the exceptions of the YIVO library, a special case, and books from Baltic countries, are being returned to the governments of the countries from which they were taken, in conformity with directives on interia restitution procedure. No policy has been established and no action is being taken with respect to internal restitution, but the material concerned is being segregated so as to be in readiness. U-86514, dated 2 May 46, represents last instruction on exceptions.

15. No comment is included on revision of policy on restitution to Poland, or transfer of material to USFA custody, suggested on the grounds of reduced or substantially eliminated Jewish population. No comment is included on disposal of materials which exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in countries to which some restitution is now being made, as it is felt that these terms are vague and that pending establishment of a recognized body to represent this point of view, restitution policies and procedures in force cannot be officially modified.

1 Incl; n/c

Telephone 43191
Room 1838, Room BlockJOHN H. ALLEN
Colonel, CSC
Chief of Branch

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By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

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File New Archives 16r

Box

724

(Classification)

INTERNAL ROUTE STIP

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO: 314.4 (GBT/OPS/Doc)
SUBJECT: Jewish Library

DATE 18 Dec 45

No.	From	Pass To	Date	Has this paper been coordinated with all concerned?
1.	G-2 Office of Military Government (US Zone) Attn: Monuments and Fine Arts	18 Dec 1945		<p>1. Attached is Berlin District Target Report No. 21 which requests disposition of a 25,000 book Jewish library of the Berlin-Schoeneberg Synagogue.</p> <p>2. It is requested that this office be advised as to the contemplated disposition of these books, so that Berlin District may be notified.</p> <p>For the A C of S, G-2:</p> <p>DUPRE SASSARD Lt Col GSC Executive</p> <p>1 Incl: US Hq Berlin District Target Report No. 21 dtd 10 Dec 45</p> <p>Telephone: Frankfurt 22176.</p>



(Classification)

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By SR NARA D210 21-00

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334.3 (GSI/GPS/Doc)
Jewish Library

18 Dec 65

1. G-2 Office 18 Dec
of Mill- 1945
tary
Govern-
ment
(US Zone)
Attn:
Monuments
and Fine
Arts

1. Attached is Berlin District Target Report No. 21 which requests disposition of a 25,000 book Jewish Library of the Berlin-Schoenesberg Synagogue.

2. It is requested that this office be advised as to the contemplated disposition of these books, so that Berlin District may be notified.

For the A C of S, G-2:

1 Incl:
US Hq Berlin District
Target Report No. 21
dtd 10 Dec 65

DUPRE BASSARD
Lt Col GSG
Executive

Telephone: Frankfurt 22176



110503

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File Jew Archives Libr
Box 721U. S. HEADQUARTERS BERLIN DISTRICT
G-2 Documents Section

Phone: Berlin 76-4748

APO 755, US Army
10 Dec 45TARGET REPORT # 21Covered in
Archives and Libraries.

1. Berlin-Schöneberg Synagogue
2. Basement of temple. Used as storage place for a 25,000 book Jewish library.
3. a. Berlin-Schöneberg c. Münchener Strasse 37
b. J-10 d. Town Plan of Berlin, Sheet # 3
4. 4-5 Dec 1945
2nd Lt. C.H. Lehmann, Tec 4 L.E. Nachman
5. Documents in question (books) are partly crated and partly stacked up, are subject to the extreme moisture of the basement.
6. No guard needed
7. Documents believed to be of interest to LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.
8. -
9. Documents left in situ
10. A representative of the Library of Congress should inspect the documents at the earliest possible date.
11. Above mentioned documents consist of approximately 25,000 books of Hebraic and Judaic character that had been looted during the years 1942-43 from synagogues in Smolensk, Russia; Salonika, Greece; Lodz, Poland; Katowice and Beuthen, Upper-Silesia by Amt VI F of the RSHA (Weltanschauliche Forschung und Auswertung).
12. a. -
b. All documents were left in situ.
Fine Arts and Monuments representatives of the Berlin Region Military Government have been contacted.

Charles H. Lehmann
 CHARLES H. LEHMANN
 2nd Lt. AUS
 USBDDS

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JL

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Please prepare communication as follows:

TO C-2

1. Books stored in basement of Berlin-Schöneberg synagogue should be turned over to customs of MFA and to officer, Berlin district, Lt. Norman T. Byrne, Chie. MFA and A. U.S. Hq. Berlin district, APO 755 pending restitution negotiations with the original owners.

2. These books should not be turned over to the Library of Congress representatives at this time until policy on methods available for the transportation to the U.S. has been clarified.

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File 35.7 Germany

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357 LPS M DHP

(Basic letter, Headquarters, U.S. Forces, European Theater,
 Office of Military Government (U.S. Zone), Economics Division,
 GEO-ECON 007, subject: Works of Art in U.S. Zone Oppenheim
 Collection, dated 6 Jan 1946)

GEO-ECON 2nd Ind. JAB/mk
 ECONOMICS DIVISION, OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT (U.S. ZONE),
 HQ, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER (MAIN) APO 757, U.S. ARMY,
 26 February 1946.

TO: Chief, Economics Branch, Office of Military Government
 for Greater Hesse, APO 655, U.S. Army
 (ATTN: Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives)

It is requested that the information desired by the
 Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.), as in-
 dicated in paragraph 2 of the preceding endorsement, be
 communicated to this Headquarters.

For the Director:

DOUGLAS H. PATTERSON
 Major, CSC
 Executive

Telephone: Frankfurt 14-356

Originator's come-back copy. Return to MFA&A Room 321, RC, Econ File No:

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Box 721

C O P Y

HEADQUARTERS
 U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
 Office of Military Government (U.S. Zone)
 Economics Division

GEC-ECON 007

(Main) APO 757
8 January 1946

SUBJECT: Works of Art in U.S. Zone Oppenheim Collection

TO : Director, Economics Division, Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.)
 (Attn: Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section, Restitution Branch)

1. It is requested that the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Branch, Internal Affairs and Communications Division, Control Commission for Germany (British Element) be informed that the Repository at Hungen, which as stated in the inclosed letter was believed to contain the Oppenheim Collection, has been evacuated recently to the Central Collecting Point at Offenbach.

2. It will take sometime before the enormous quantities of material brought to Offenbach have been put in order. This headquarters is unable at this time to give a definite answer concerning the Oppenheim Collection.

For the Director:

/s/ Signature

for /t/ WILLIAM C. BAKER, JR.
 Colonel, GSC
 Executive

EB/aw

Telephone: Frankfurt 14-357

1 Incl:
 Ltr. MFA&A Br.,
 IA&C Div, C.C. for G.(BE)
 INTR/1020/MFA, subj:
 Works of Art in U.S. Zone,
 dtd 26 Nov 45, w/incl.

110507

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File 35.7 Germany
Box 721C O P Y

Works of Art in US Zone Oppenheim Collection,
GEC-ECON 007, Hq, USFET, OMG (USZ), 8 Jan 46

ED 007 (RES) 1st Ind

Economics Division, Office of Military Government for Germany
(U.S.), APO 742, U.S. Army, 18 January 1946

TO: Economics Division, Office of Military Government
(U.S. Zone), APO 757, U.S. Army

1. This Headquarters has advised the Advance Headquarters, CC for Germany (B.W.) that it is not possible at this time to give a definite answer concerning the location of the Oppenheim Collection.

2. Request that this Headquarters be advised when it has been determined whether the subject collection is now stored at Offenbach in order that the information may be passed on to the British.

3. There is forwarded for your information a copy of letter from Alfred N. Oppenheim to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, 22 April 1945 containing a description of subject collection together with copy of reply to Mr. Oppenheim, dated 28 April 1945.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

/s/ L. W. Jefferson

/t/ L. W. JEFFERSON
Colonel, GSC
Chief, Restitution
Branch

2 Incis.

(Original incl. w/d;
2 Incis added)

Incl 1 - Ltr, A.N. Oppenheim
22 Apr 45.

Incl 2 - Ltr, SHAEF, 28 Apr 45

Telephone: BERLIN 43255

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By SR NARA Date 21-08

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File 35.7 Germany

Box 721

C o p y

ALFRED N. OPPENHEIM

17, Cleve Road
London, N.W. 6,
April 22nd, 1945.

TO

S.H.A.E.F.
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

Sir,

Under the heading of "Hoard of Jewish Treasures", several London papers of April 10th published reports on the seizing of Jewish art, books, manuscripts, etc., in a castle near the village of Hungen (12 miles South-East from Giessen) by men of the Third Army.

Among other loot from galleries, libraries, etc., "the Oppenheim collection at Frankfurt a.M." is mentioned. As far as I know as an artist and collector of Frankfurt - no other collection of this name existed in my native town but the one I owned. I, therefore, assume that my collection, which had been confiscated by the Nazis, may be the one in question.

My collection consisted of:

- (1) Early Eastern Art (Chinese and Korean pottery, bronzes, sculptures, paintings, colourprints, textiles, etc.)
- (2) Etchings, drawings and lithographs by Continental, especially French, well-known artists (mostly 19th century)
- (3) My library, comprising European and Eastern art, archaeology and history, literature, art catalogues, etc.
- (4) Paintings, studies, drawings, sketchbooks, documents, manuscripts, and letters written by, and addressed to, my Grandfather, the well-known painter Moritz Oppenheim; and my own paintings in oil, water colours, drawings, etc.

Having put before you the above rough details, may I ask you to be so good as to forward to the authorities concerned my request to investigate whether "the Oppenheim collection" is identical with my confiscated property? I may add that my last address in Frankfurt a.M. - from April 1906 up to February 1939 - was 45 Eppsteinerstrasse.

I shall be most grateful for any information on the matter, and sincerely hope you may be able to oblige.

Yours truly,

/s/ Alfred N. Oppenheim

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File 35.7 Germany
Box 721C o p ySUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 DivisionAPO 757 (Main)
28 April 1945Mr. Alfred N. Oppenheim
17, Cleve Road,
London N.W.6

Dear Sir:

Your letter of 22 April 1945 regarding the objects uncovered at Hungen has been received.

Copies of your letter have been placed on file with the proper agencies and consideration for action will be made at a later date, when circumstances permit.

For the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-5:

/s/ D. C. Walker-Smith

At/ D. C. WALKER-SMITH
Lie. Colonel,
A/Chief, Internal
Affairs Branch

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By 52 NARA Date 2-1-00

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35.7

LBLaF

LPS ypt

DHP

Come-back copy. Return to MFA&A Secy., RG, Econ File No.

2. UMG AG Feb 15 Feb
(U.S. USFET 1945
Zone)

1. Letter referenced in paragraph 1 of minute 1 has not been amended or superseded and the prohibition of sale or export of works of art in Germany is set forth in paragraph 18-401.3 of Military Government Regulations.

2. Paragraph II 5 (d) of Military Government Law No. 52 similarly provides in general that no person shall import, acquire or receive, deal in, sell, lease, transfer, export, hypothecate, or otherwise dispose of, destroy or surrender possession, custody or control of any property ... which is a work of any cultural object or material of value or importance, regardless of the ownership or control therefor.

3. Attention is invited to the definition of the term "cultural objects" in MGR 18-108-2. The term "cultural objects" includes "all movable goods of importance or value of their religious, artistic, documentary, scholarly or historic, the disappearance of which constitutes a loss to the cultural heritage of the country concerned."

4. A clarification of MG Law 52 to distinguish between a

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By SR NARA Date 21-00RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 35,7 Germany

Box 721AG 311.1 AGM
Mailing of Works of Art

15 February 1946

2. (Cont'd.).

work of art or "cultural object" as defined above, and a decorative house-furnishing is at present being considered.

For the Director:

WILLIAM O. BAKER, JR.
Colonel, GSC
Executive

1 Incl: n/c

EAS/rv

Telephone: Frankfurt 14-622

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File 35.7 Germany

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Copy

INTERNAL ROUTE SLIP

(Classification)

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

FILE NO. AG 311.1 AGM

SUBJECT: Mailing of Works of Art

DATE: 29 Jan 46

(Number each memo or minute consecutively. Fill in each column, signed legibly
draw a line across the sheet. Use entire width of sheet for long memoranda)

No.	From	To	Date	HAS THIS PAPER BEEN COORDINATED WITH ALL CONCERNED?
1.	AG Pos, OMGUS USFET	24 Jan 46		<p>1. Letter, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, file AGO 014.1-1 (Germany), GAP-AGM, dated 21 Nov 1944, subject, "Prohibition of sale and export of Works of Art in Germany," is the authority for paragraph 18, Section I, of Postal Circular 1, cited in paragraph 1 of basic communication.</p> <p>2. Forwarded for information as to any amendments or rescissions to the above cited letter or other information upon which to base a reply.</p> <p>/s/ G. V. Pope, /t/ G. V. POPE, Colonel, Inf., Theater Postal Officer.</p>
1	Incl-Ltr, Hq, 61st APU, APO 403, dated 20 Dec 45, subj. Mailing of Works of Art.	Frankfurt 22917		

(Classification)

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By SR NARA Date 21-04

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File 35.7 Germany

Box 721

SECRET

AG 611.1 AGO
Mailing of Works of Art

29 Jan 48

1. AG Pos, GM 2003 26 Jan
USFET 48

1. Letter, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, file AGO 014.1.1 (Germany) C.R.-120, dated 21 Nov 1944, subject, "Prohibition of sale and export of Works of art in Germany," is the authority for paragraph 1B, section I, of Postal Circular 1, cited in paragraph 1 of basic communication.

2. Forwarded for information as to any amendments or resolutions to the above cited letter or other information upon which to base a reply.

/o/ G. V. Pope,
 A/ G. V. Pope,
 Colonel, Inf.,
 Master Postal Officer.

Frankfurt 23917

1 Incl-1TP, En, 31st AVU,
 APO 603, dated 20 Dec 47, subj.
 Mailing of Works of Art.

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By 52 NARA Date 21-00

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File 35.7 Germany

Box 721

Copy

HEADQUARTERS
 51st ARMY POSTAL UNIT
 APO 403, US ARMY

BAR/rjc

20th Dec 1945

Subject: Mailing of Works of Art

TO : Postal Officer
 Third U.S. Army,
 APO 403, US Army

1. Sec I, par 18, Postal Circular I prohibits mailing of Works of Art such as paintings.

2. Several instances have come to the attention of this organization in which it has been claimed that the article offered for mailing was purchased from a civilian source, or had been recently produced by local artists.

3. Would appreciate any information as to the possible revision of above circular in regard to distinction between Works of Art and ordinary paintings, etc.

/s/ Bernhard A. Raywood,
 /t/ BERNHARD A. RAYWOOD,
 2nd Lt Inf
 Postal Officer

AG 007 - GNMCF(P)
 (20 Dec 45)

HO THIRD U S ARMY AND EASTERN MILITARY DISTRICT, APO 403, US Army,
 28 Dec 45.

TO: Commanding General, US Forces European Theater (Rear), APO 887, US Army (Attention Postal Division)

Request further clarification of the above quoted circular and letter quoted therein.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

/s/ S. T. Hill
 /t/ S. T. HILL
 Major, AGD
 Asst. Adj. G

Telephone:
 Third Army 420

110516

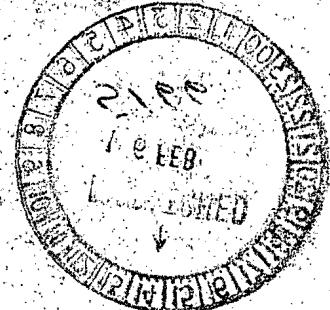
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by SR NARA Date 21-00RG 260
Entry Rec of USA HQ
File 35.7 Germany
Box 721

15 February

Minute 2 on IBS to the Theater Postal Officer containing a response to Minute 1, dated 24 Jan 46, subj: Mailing of works of art which requested information as to amendments or recissions as to letter this headquarters dated 21 Nov 45, subj: "Prohibition of sale and export of Works of Art in Germany"; that letter referred to has not been amended or superseded such transactions referred to in MGR-401.3.

XX GSC



110517

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Box 720

Covered in individual file.

File Archives and Libraries

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY GOVERNMENT

NORTH RHINE PROVINCE

714 (P) Det.

Subject: Kempen Archives.

NR/MFA&A/3108/2

1 Oct 45

To: Major B. Lafarge
 MFA & A O.5 Div
 U.S.T.E.T.
 A.P.O. 757 U.S. Army Frankfurt a/M.

1.) We were told on 17 Sept (rather late in the day) that archives had been removed from Kempen in March or April during the occupation by U.S. troops. The archives were in a safe in the cellar of the Knabenschule at Kempen. The most valuable of the archives were:

Stadtgrundungs - Urkunde 1294
 Rotes Buch (Urkundensammlung) 1940
 Bürgerbuch 1628
 Goldenes Buch 1630.

2.) Enquiries made by Mil Gov at Kempen produces only the following information:

The Knabenschule was occupied from 3 to 12 March by the H.Q. of 5 American Tank Div (code name VOLCANO). From 12 March to 3 April the school was occupied by an American medical unit, name and number unknown. For a few days after 3 April the school was unoccupied, and on the 9 April it was noticed that the safe had at some time been broken open and the archives removed.

3.) There is just a chance that the archives may have been handed to an M.F.A. & A officer, and that you may have some report on them, or that you may be able to make some inquiries. Any information that you can get will be appreciated.

17 Oct.

No info on schools - Answered by Personnel
 Letter to Maj. Terry *John L. Smith* Major RA
 Fine Arts Officer

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VII. Reports.

1860 The object of reports prepared by MFA&A personnel at various levels is to make available a maximum of pertinent information in a form readily usable by U. S. Military Government officials and agencies and by authorized civilian agencies to which such material is a concern.

1861 Field Reports:

The term "Field Report" as used generally means any report emanating from an echelon below USFET or U. S. Group CO. Reports made by USFET and Group CO personnel are also called Field Reports if they result from inspection trips or visits made to obtain first-hand information. These reports, the Cultural Object Inventory Cards (1866.2 below) and the Archives Catalogue Cards (1866.3 below) are the principal sources of information to USFET and U. S. Group CO concerning MFA&A activities in the U. S. Zone of Occupation.

1861.1 Field Reports are of five types:

- a. Monthly Consolidated MFA&A Field Report;
- b. Status of Cultural Objects Report;
- c. Status of Collecting Point Report;
- d. Monthly MFA&A District Summary Report;
- e. Special Reports.

1862 Monthly Consolidated Field Reports:

Monthly Consolidated MFA&A Field Reports cover cultural monuments, internal affairs (non-military personnel) and administrative details.

1862.1 MCFR are prepared by all MFA&A Specialist Officers assigned to Military Government "E" or "F" detachments. Consolidated reports will be made from Land of Provinz Military Government Headquarters.

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2.

1862.2 Reports will be submitted at such times as are designated by USFET and in any case at least once a month. Reports will be due at USFET by the 10th of the month following the month covered by the report.

1862.3 MCFR will be prepared in the form shown in - - - . Paragraphs and sub-paragraphs for subjects on which there is nothing to report may be omitted; all monuments inspected will be included, however, whether or not they have suffered damage.

1862.4 Lower echelons will submit reports to Land or Provinz Military Government Headquarters, which will consolidate them and forward copies through Military District Headquarters to USFET, for ultimate disposition by U. S. Group CC.

1863 Monthly Status of Cultural Objects Report:

Monthly Status of Cultural Objects Reports cover repositories, collections of cultural objects in situ, and the movement of cultural objects. They will be made out and forwarded by the same personnel at the same time and in the same manner as MCFR.

1864 Monthly Status of Collecting Points Reports:

Status of Collecting Point Reports will be submitted monthly by each MFA&A Specialist Officer in charge of a collecting point through technical channels to the MFA&A Officer of the Military Government Headquarters under which the collecting point operates. It will then be forwarded through technical channels to USFET MFA&A Sub-Section for final disposition by U. S. Group CC.

1864.1 SCPR will be submitted in the form shown in - - - . They will include accounts of all accessions, movements and dispositions of cultural objects.

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3.

ment of progress of _____ such as
inventory.

1865 Monthly MFA&A District Summary Report:

MFA&A District Summary Reports will be submitted each month by the senior MFA&A Specialist Officer assigned to each Military District through AC of S G-5 District to AC of S G-5 USFET, for disposition by U. S. Group CC.

- 1865.1 District Summary Reports will contain a brief account of all MFA&A operations in the District during the period covered.

1866 Central Monuments File:

In order to place emphasis where it belongs in the repair and preservation of structures of world-wide artistic importance located in Germany, a Central Monuments File will be maintained at USFET.

- 1866.1 In addition to other pertinent information, this file will include data as to the condition, wartime history and protection of culturally and artistically important buildings located in the U. S. Zone of Occupation.

- 1866.2 Photographs of damaged buildings and of repairs thereto will be required as an integral part of the Monuments File. These photographs will normally be included with the MCFR. Persons taking the photographs will be expected to record the following information in addition to that required in the MCFR for the identification of a building:

- a. Date of photograph.
- b. Sufficient data to orient the picture and identify details fully.

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1866.3 Ultimate disposition of the Monuments File will be determined by U. S. Group CC.

1867 Central Inventory File of Cultural Objects:

A Central Inventory File of Cultural Objects in the control of Military Government in the U. S. Zone of Occupation will be maintained at U. S. Group CC Headquarters.

1867.1 The purpose of this file is to furnish the Allied Control Commission with a readily accessible and accurate file of objects of art at the collecting points and other places where inventories may be taken within the U. S. Zone of Occupation.

1867.2 Officers in charge of collecting points and other places where the importance of objects warrants the taking of a detailed inventory, will have made a complete inventory of objects under their control, using the card illustrated at - - - - -.

1867.3 Inventory cards, filled out as completely as possible, will be forwarded to U. S. Group CC at least once a month. Where pictures are not available, they should be sent later, with complete identification. Cards will be forwarded in duplicate.

1868 Union Catalogue for Archives:

1868.1 Purpose

1868.2 Flow of catalogue cards from Archives Centers.

1868.3 Cards used.

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RECORDS, DOCUMENTS & ARCHIVES
INVENTORY FORM
(Military Organization Name)
U. S. ARMY

Form No. _____

Name _____ Checked by _____

Organization or Institution; _____

Division & Sub-Division; _____

Location: present; _____

past; _____

Full title of series; _____

Dates: Inclusive; _____

missing; _____

Quantity: () volumes; () File drawers; () bundles

() ft. of shelves; () lbs; () tons;

Other; _____

Description of Contents _____

Indexed? _____ How; _____

Present Condition; _____

Remarks as to value _____

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RECORDS, DOCUMENTS & ARCHIVES
REQUEST FOR REPRODUCTION
(Military Organization Name)
U. S. ARMY

Form No.

Name _____ Checked by _____

Organization or Institution; _____

Division & Sub-division; _____

Location _____

Full title of series; _____

Dates: Inclusive _____
of material to be filmed _____

Approximate number of pages _____

If filesdrawers or volumes give number _____

Description of Contents _____

Condition _____

Remarks _____

110524

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18-100.2

[from AddMs
Part 1, 926]

of religious, artistic, archaeological,
historical or similar cultural value, such
as movable works of art; antique or
historic arms, trophies or similar
souvenirs; historic records or documents;
rare or valuable books; archaeological,
ethnographic, artistic, scientific and similar exhibits.

- 2 -

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18. MILITARY GOVERNMENT HANDBOOK
CHAPTER XVIII
MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS AND ARCHIVES

Note: Chap. 18, "Administration of military government in the U.S. zone in Germany, July 1945-Adm," Chap 16, "Handbook for military government in Germany - HMG"

18-1

1801 Scope of Chapter:

This chapter is intended to provide Commanding Officers, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Officers, and other interested persons with the policies and instructions concerning Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives to be followed in the performance of their duties during the occupation of Germany by armed forces of the United States. Detailed instructions are included to the degree that such are found in Army Regulations; material that relates to the treatment of Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives in general has not been included, since information of this type is available in a number of published sources. The policies and instructions set forth herein supersede all previous directives, orders and other documents on the subject.

I Policy and Organization:

18-100

1811 Definitions:

1811.1 The term "cultural structures" includes

18-100.1 monuments and other buildings or sites of

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10
13
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Part 5
Revise by 1/1/50

Part 5

ARCHIVES, BOOKS
AND MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

18-500

Objectives. The objectives set forth in MGR 18-101, as applied to archives, books, and miscellaneous documents involve: the investigation and recording of the present location, condition, and identity of collections which are now and may subsequently be located in the U.S. Zone; the protection of such collections; the organization and supervision of suitable German agencies to maintain custody and operations thereof, as delineated in MGR 18-502; and the exploitation of such collections through maintenance of a central reference file in the Office of Military Government for Germany (U.S.).

18-501

Collections to be Covered. The OMG for the Land will be responsible for collections and records of all categories, for archives, books and miscellaneous documents defined in MGR 18-100.3, including those relating to cultural, educational, political, administrative, military, economic, industrial, scientific, and commercial matters.

18-502

Responsibility

18-502.1

Archives and Documents. OMG for the Land, through the MFA&A officers, will take the necessary measures to

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effectuate the objectives stated in MGR 18-500 and the instructions set forth in the remaining paragraphs of this Part 5. They will require the Ministerpräsidenten to enforce the German laws applicable to archives and documents, and to maintain suitable civilian agencies for the administration and custody thereof.

18-502.2

Libraries. The responsibility between the Education and Religious Affairs Branch, IA&C Division, and the MFA&A Section, Economics Division for public, church, factory, technical, school, university and all other libraries except commercial lending libraries will be divided as follows:

a. MFA&A will be responsible for information gathering activities concerning library affairs in the general cultural interest, and for library materials stored inactively in MFA&A custody, or discovered at some future time to be subject to restitution.

b. Education and Religious Affairs Branch will be responsible for library materials which have been released from storage for use in a library partially or wholly available to the public, whether that library is independent or a part of a larger organization, for the allocation of books or other research materials, for the screening of personnel and books, and for operations.

c. A library from which the general public is excluded by official order, and which is for the exclusive use of a restricted group of persons associated with an organization of which the library is a part, will be subject

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to the supervision of the authorities which normally control the organization as a whole. If such a restricted organization is in any way educational, and to which any successful applicant is admitted as a member or student, the control over allocation of books or other research materials, over screening of personnel and books, and over operations will be exercised by the Education and Religious Affairs Branch.

18-503

Collecting Points and Depots. OMG for the Land will establish and maintain Collecting Points and Depots as needed for the temporary housing, cataloguing, reproduction, and preservation of collections located in insecure, inaccessible, or unsuitable repositories. Intermediate local Collecting Points and Depots will be established as needed.

18-504

Removal of Collections.

a. Collections located in their proper locations, or in temporary locations, will not be removed unless such action is necessary for their security, preservation, reproduction, cataloguing, restitution, or exploitation.

When necessary for such reasons collections will be

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removed to Collecting Points or Depots.

b. Removal will be conducted under expert supervision in such manner as to preserve the integrity and arrangement of the collections, and with adequate measures to ensure preservation and security during the process of removal.

c. Removal of collections from existing locations, except for emergency reasons of preservation and security, will be effected only on written authorization of the CMG for the Land concerned.

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18-505

Release to civilian agencies. The OMG for the Land may authorize the release of libraries, collections, records, archives, and parts thereof [except modern military and Nazi party archives, records, and libraries] to civilian agencies and institutions within their areas which have been approved by them, subject to such conditions and such continuing supervision and control as they may determine to be desirable.

18-506

Preservation and security. Measures for preservation and security of archives, records, collections, and libraries, wherever located, will include:

- a. Housing in dry buildings free from fire hazard and vermin;
- b. Use of suitable shelving and/or containers;
- c. Retention in comprehensible order; adequate labeling, classification, or cataloguing [see MGR 18-507]; and
- d. Control of access to repositories by locking entrances, posting guards, ordinary police measures, and customary custodial precautions applicable to like collections.

18-507

Arrangement and listing of archives and records. OMG for the Land will insure that:

- a. Collections of archives and records are kept in the existing proper arrangements, so far as practicable, and that an orderly arrangement of dispersed or disarranged archives and records is effected;
- b. In Collecting Points and Depots archives and records will be kept segregated and arranged according to place or institution of origin and in the order of their creation;
- c. Adequate lists or cards catalogues will be made of all accessions at Collecting Points and Depots, and such data

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will be reported to the OMG I.U.S.I;

d. Technical operations of a permanent character, such as definitive cataloguing, reorganization, restoration, photo-copying projects and the like, whether conducted at normal locations, at repositories, or at Collecting Points and Depots will be initiated only with its prior approval in writing.

18-508

Exploitation

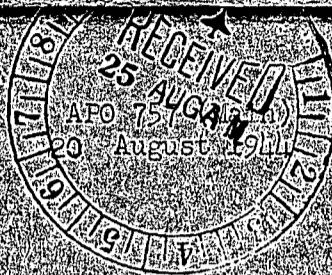
a. The OMG for the Land may authorize preliminary exploitation of libraries, collections, records, archives, miscellaneous books and papers in situ by U.S. intelligence services and technical personnel, or by those accredited through the U.S. intelligence services.

b. The OMG for the Land will permit no removal of libraries, collections, records, archives, books and papers, or parts thereof by U.S. intelligence services or technical personnel, or by those accredited through U.S. intelligence services without its prior approval in writing.

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AG 000.4-1.GAP-AGM



SUBJECT: Preservation of Archives

TO : Headquarters, 21 Army Group
Commanding General, Twelfth Army Group
Commanding General, First U.S. Army Group

1. Accumulations of documents connected with business of all kinds, public and private, secular and ecclesiastical, are to be found in all towns. Some of these Archives date from early times, others from the present day; but whatever may be their intrinsic worth, all have great value for every kind of research and organization, and may be of considerable importance to the Intelligence Service and to agencies concerned with the reconstitution of civil life.

2. The importance of these Archives lies in the fact that not only do they contain valuable information, but also they are continuous series of related documents. They may be almost as effectively ruined by the displacement of a few documents as by the destruction or disposal of the whole. Moreover, their value as evidence depends largely on their continuous preservation in authorized custody.

OOH

3. In order to insure that Archives are not destroyed or damaged, all buildings in which they are housed will, where practicable, be put out of bounds to all troops. Should it be essential to occupy parts of such buildings, the necessary steps will be taken, in consultation with the responsible custodians, to insure that there is no access to the Archives except for officers duly authorized by Army Group Commanders.

4. Important archives are for the most part kept in official buildings, but, in order to insure that none are overlooked, the local authorities in all large towns will be consulted as to their whereabouts.

By command of General EISENHOWER:

C. C. Bohmke
E. C. BOEHMKE
Colonel, A.G.D./44A
Adjutant General

DISTRIBUTION:

"C" plus:

- 3 - Communications Zone
- 3 - War Office
- 3 - Admiralty
- 3 - Air Ministry

- 1 -

R E S T R I C T E D

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6. It was originally assumed that we were dealing with a large anti-semitic library, consisting primarily of Hebrew and Jiddish books. The material in the Rothschild Lbr. confirmed our opinion. But now a closer examination of the material from Hungen leads us to believe that besides the Hebrew and Jiddish books there are many other essential parts to the collection. We may not forget that the Hohe Schule collected their material not only from a few very important Jewish Libraries, such as Ecole Rabbinique and Lippschutz, but also many private Jewish Libraries and collections, which have nothing to do with Hebrew literature. It is our opinion that at least thirty percent of the books in Offenbach have nothing to do with Jewish literature and are only by way of coincidence in the collection. Everything owned by Jews was included whether its subject matter had anything to do with them or not. In Offenbach is the large collection of James Rothschild which included a very valuable collection of first editions and signed volumes dealing almost exclusively with French literature. There is the collection of Maurice de Rothschild dealing with art subjects. The autogram collection of Mme. James de Rothschild. The archives of the Rothschild Bank Feres, Paris. The Free Mason archives from Saliniki (not yet unpacked and not identified). The private correspondence of Le Grand Rabbi de France Liber. The archives ~~for~~ of the ministry on Jewish Affairs in Lithuania. Books on almost every conceivable subject looted from Jewish homes everywhere from Greece to Norway. The archival material is much greater than was originally assumed. We have the feeling that just this material comprises some of the most valuable material in the Collecting Point. It is not so easy to deal with this material as with books. Still it must be sorted in some fashion or other. It would be our suggestion that a staff be put to work to sort it at least ~~work~~ roughly so that it can either be returned to its owners or can be disposed in some other way. When the final discussion on disposal takes place, it will be necessary that those determining the question know just what they are dealing with and where in the matter of books this is a comparatively easy task, these stacks and stacks of archival material will offer untold difficulties both now and in the future if we don't take the time to determine what we have. There is, for example, the valuable autogram collection probably belonging Mme de Rothschild. We did not know of the existence of this collection until one of our workers in Hungen who had been told to carefully pick up all the small scraps of paper on the floor of the brickyard in Hungen, came to us with a autogram of Prince Metternich and countersigned by Kaiser Joseph of Austria. A closer examination of the "scraps of paper" on the floor of the brickyard brought to light the signatures of Louis XIV, Gneisenau, Bluecher, Gustav Freytag, and others. We ask ourselves: how many more similar collections of one ~~know~~ sort or other exist among these stacks of loose paper? The danger exists that if we do not proper list even the archival material after we are finish a question will come as to the whereabouts of this or that collection or group of documents and we will only be able to point to the stacks of packed boxes and admit that we know neither of its existance nor of its whereabouts. There exists in our minds no doubt that such a situation may arise. The exact duration of these work cannot be estimated as yet for we have no way of knowing just what is contained in the unpacked boxes.

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Suggestedns concerning the future of the Offenbach and Rothschild Library Collecting Points.

1. The Rothschild Library be evacuated at once and the building be turned over to the city of Frankfurt for use in housing their own library. The Rothschild Library would make a ideal administrative building and reading room for the use of students, etc. The stacks in the building will only house a comparative small number of books, but enough for reference purposes. The housing of too many books in the building would be dangerous for the entire building is threatened. It is to be expected with the approach of Spring that all the plastering and even a part of the rafters may cave in. They all wet and damp at present and as soon as the Spring sun begins to dry them out the building will be dangerous. However, it is to be assumed that presaution measures would be able to prevent much if taken at once.
2. The Rothschild Library could be cleared of all the material formerly belonging to Hone Schule within at the most a month's time.
3. The Offenbach Collecting Point, i.e. Building VI of the I.G.Farben plant in Offenbach, should be cleared of all material not belonging to the Collecting Point. At present one complete floor and parts of two other floors are still be used as storage room by the I.G.Farben. This building would be large enough to house easily all the material of the Hone Schule.
4. All boxes of material would be unpacked to determine the exact contents of the boxes and to determine the state of the material in the boxes. It is to be assumed that much of the material will have to be treated against bookworms, mild mould, etc. (see). In as far as the max contents of the boxes are in good condition and the boxes themselves permit, the material would be immediately repacked. In our opinion it would be advisable to make a short list of the contents of each box before repacking and to place this short list in the box itself and a similar list be kept on file. (see)
5. The work of salvage is in our opinion one of the most important task facing us. At present the material in the Rothschild Libr. is in fairly good condition and needs little attention from this point of view. At the beginning appr. 10,000 books were treated against bookworms, etc. In Offenbach, however, there has been nothing done, for the books just arrived during the last half of December from Hungen. On their condition see report Nr.1. Damp books can be dried by spreading them out and putting absorbent paper between the pages. Those books which are threatened by worms etc. should be put thru a process which was used for the Rothschild Books. They were disinfected in the disinfection chambers of the City Hospital offFrankfurt. This is a long drawn-out process, but upto now no quick one has been suggested.
6. All books will be listed in short lists and packed as quickly as possible. Of course, they could be packed without listing but in this case neither we nor the receiver will have any concrete idea of what is passing thru his hands and since we are dealing with valuable material, it would better for all persons to know what and where the material is. The listing will without a doubt slow down matters considerably, but in my opinion there is no shortcut which will give us the guarantee that we are handing on all the material placed in our hands. As it is the work should not take longer than a year and can be done in even less time if the proper staff is at hand. The work could easily be divided into sections so that no project ~~extends~~ extends over three months.

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Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ
File 456(MFA) A Libr
Box 720

22 January, 1947

Dear Major Born:

I feel that it is wise to present this case to you informally at first. If you feel that a report should be made through channels, I will draft it and get it on its way!

You are probably familiar with the details of the AJDC loan of materials from the Depot to DP camps. There is some material on it in our office files in Berlin, but to be sure that you have available everything you need to understand the situation, I am enclosing copies of some correspondence from our files here.

Enclosure 1 is a copy of the standard receipt form which was used when books were turned over to AJDC.

Enclosures 2,3, and 4 are copies of correspondence. It is possible that all of this material is in the Libraries and Archives files in Berlin.

The story up to now is as follows:

In July, 1946, Dr Sholem of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem came to the Depot to examine and assist in identifying Jewish materials. He visited us in Berlin. Some of the people around the Section probably will recall having seen him. The greater part of his time at the Depot was spent in examining and classifying the collection of Hebrew manuscripts. He examined each one quite carefully, and marked them with his initials and a Roman numeral, I, II, III, IV, and V, indicating the value of the particular piece. Number I was the most valuable, number II next, etc. Sholem was assisted in his work ~~here~~ by one of the ~~employees~~, a young man named Gerhard Dipereux, who is still employed here. A good deal of the information in this paragraph was obtained in the course of an interview with him.

After Sholem had finished his work, Captain Bencowitz ordered that all manuscripts which had been marked with the Roman Numerals I and II be carefully packed in boxes and banded. This was done. Those were the five boxes you and I saw ~~here~~ in the Torah room last November. These five banded boxes remained in the Torah room until December 30, 1946.

On December 30 Rabbi Bernstein and Lt. Friedman, with Captain Bencowitz visited the Depot. After making what appears to have been a cursory inspection, they left. Captain Bencowitz came to his office and instructed his secretary, Miss Hershfeld, to prepare an AJDC receipt (Encl.1) for 1100 items. A few hours later Lt. Friedman returned, signed the receipt in the name of Koppel S Pinson, and the five boxes were taken from the Torah room and loaded into a covered AJDC truck, and taken away.

After finding out this much I phoned you and Mr. Heinrich. Mr Heinrich suggested that all pertinent facts be assembled, and you phoned Lt. Friedman. Lt. Friedman called me this morning. I asked him if it would be possible to get even a rough list of the materials contained in

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	Box 720

the boxes. He replied that he couldn't promise anything, but that he would try. He thought perhaps the boxes contained "Grammars and light reading matter. He was vague in all of his answers, perhaps because I didn't press him. It was a friendly call and he promised, upon my inviting him, to drop out here and see me as soon as he could.

The matter of the removal of the five boxes took place during the period after Capt. Bencowitz had returned from Palestine, and while he was awaiting his orders to return to the States.

After I phoned you yesterday, I discovered a list of all the manuscripts in the depot. It will be possible to reconstruct the contents of the boxes from this list, since the categories are also marked on the list.

I would like to call your attention especially to Paragraph 5 of enclosure 3, and compare it with the wording of the receipt form.

The significance of this matter, in as far as I am personally mixed up in it, is perfectly clear to me. Should it develop that certain elements of the pressure group become unhappy over my having poked my nose into this affair, I will very probably lose my job. However, I am unable to divide my loyalty as conveniently as could my predecessors. This is not a pleasant spot for MG either. For example, what happens if Jewish Pressure Group A discovers that Jewish Pressure Group B managed to make off with the boodle while MG was supposed to be the custodian, holding the stuff for a policy decision?

Here are a couple of items which may or may not mean anything.

1. Bencowitz disliked Sholem personally last July. He made this clear to various employees at the Depot. However, upon his return from Palestine he remarked that he had been very much mistaken in his estimate of Sholem, and spoke repeatedly of what a fine person he was.

2. Lt. Friedman told you he didn't remember that either he nor Rabbi Bernstein had signed any receipt on December 30. When I mentioned the receipt to him this morning, he readily admitted having signed it.

3. The register of visitors, kept by the guard shows that Lt. Friedman was here twice on 30 December, although I believe you said he told you he had only been here once.

I have not yet reported all of these findings to Mr Heinrich, and would like the benefit of your advice and guidance before I do anything more on it. There are some big issues involved, and I want to be sure of my ground.

Sincerely:

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By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File H56(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

B O X No 1

I

107 Hebrew manuscripts, owner unknown. Not listed by title.

B O X No 2

I

- 1 Small box of handwritten Hebrew pages and fragments
- 2 Manuscripts reproductions.
- 4 Hebrew manuscripts with Hebrew stamps.
- 11 Hebrew manuscripts with Hebrew stamp: "... Planower"
- 9 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Belaruski dzjarzauny Muzei
(one of them questionably).
- 1 Hebrew manuscript by Partenheim.
- 2 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Lemle Moses Klaus-Stiftung,
Mannheim.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Elias Ullmann, Frankfurt a.M.
- 2 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Stadtbibliothek Frankfurt a.M.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: S.G. Stern, Wien.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Kievsk. O-va Raspr. Prosv. Mezd.
Evrejami v.Rossi. Bibliotheka, Kiev.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Zalman Nekelevic Zelokson, Veliz.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: M. Subbat, Kurljanskoe Gub.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Ovsej Kostrel', Libau (Latvia).
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Latvian ownership: Riga (stamp)
- 3 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Histor.-Ethnograph. Gesellschaft,
(Lithuanian)
- 8 Hebrew manuscripts with questionable Russian mark of ownership.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Questionable owner: Hugo Bondi, Frankfurt/M.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable German mark of ownership.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable German mark of ownership.
Frankfurt/M.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript on parchment and paper with questionable
German mark of ownership.
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Yiwo.
- 4 Hebrew manuscripts with questionable Russian mark of ownership.
 - 1. Zalman ? 2. R. Lulov ?
 - 3. Mendel Cheifez ? 4. Meier Senderov Rasal, Veliz ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable Latvia mark of ownership.
Riga ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable Lithuanian mark of ownership.
Rossiena near Kowno ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable Polish mark of ownership.
Warschau ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Hekupa Rubens ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Emil a. Bell ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Zalman David Ginzburg ?
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: W.L. Mintz.
- 2 Hebrew manuscripts with questionable Italian mark of ownership.
- 1 Folder with Hebrew and Italian handwritten pages with questionable
Italian mark of ownership.
- 1 Latin-Italian manuscript with questionable Italian mark of ownership.

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By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 456(MFA)A Libr

Box 720

B O X No 3I

- 1 German-Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Israelitische Corporation
in Krotoszin.
1 German handwritten Glückwunsch-Adresse. Owner: Oberrab.
Dr.Z.Frankel.
8 Hebrew printed works (?)
1 Arabian printed work (?)

B O X No 4II

110 Hebrew manuscripts, owner unknown. Not listed by title. (2)

B O X No 5III

- 9 Hebrew manuscripts, owner unknown. (2)
3 Hebrew parchment manuscripts, owner unknown. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Dorothea Schläher. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Saul Läwe, Glogau. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Oppenheimer, Worms. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: S.Hirsch. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Markus Löw. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Abraham Stern. (2)
2 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Historisch-Ethnographische Gesell-
schaft in Lithuanian. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: V.Polocki, Riga. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript with Latvian mark of ownership (Mitau). (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript with Latvian mark of ownership (Dünaburg). (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript with Lithuanian mark of ownership. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript with questionable Polish mark of ownership. (2)
6 Hebrew manuscripts with questionable German mark of ownership. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Collegio Rabbinico Italiano, Firenze. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Bibliothek der israelitischen Reli-
gionsschule Frankfurt a.M. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Bibliothek der israelitischen
Gemeinde, Frankfurt a.M. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Lippmann Aron, Floss near Weiden,
(Ob.Pfalz). (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Salomon, Steinbach near Schwäb.Hall (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Besitzer: Jüdische Gemeinde, Karlsruhe. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Nathan Josef Ellinger, Mainz. (2)
5 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Rabb. Weill, Karlsruhe ? (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Israelitisch-orthodoxe Gemeinde,
Karlsruhe. (2)
7 Hebrew manuscripts. Owner: Hugo J.Bondi, Frankfurt a.M. (2)
1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Abraham, Aaron Beer, Feurich. (2)
1 Hebrew parchment manuscript. Owner: Frühere orthodoxe Gemeinde
Karlsruhe. (2)
1 Hebrew parchment manuscript. Owner: Bermann, Friedländer,
Königsberg. (2)

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Authority NWD 775057
By SR NARA Date 2-1-00RG 260
Entry Rec of USA HQ
File 456(MFA) A Libr
Box 720BOX No 5

- 1 German-Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Seligmann Trebitsch, Zwittau. (2)
- 1 Hebrew Italian manuscript, owner unknown. (2)
- 1 judaistische German manuscript, owner unknown. (2)
- 1 German manuscript. Owner: Jüdische Gemeinde ~~Wittenberg~~. (2)
Ballenstedt.
- 1 judaistische German manuscript. Owner: S.R.Hirsch, Frankfurt/M.(2)
(gehört seiner Familie
Dr.Josef Breuer, Rabbi in
New York, 728 W.181 Str.NYC)
- 3 Italian manuscripts, owner unknown. (2)
- 3 Hebrew manuscripts, woner unknown. (1)
- 1 Hebrew manuscript. Owner: Belaruski Dzjarzauni Muzei. (1)
- 3 Hebrew porchment manuscripts, owner unknown.

110510

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Authority NWD 775057

By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 456 (MFA) A Libr

Box 720

Covered in Central Index
Archives and Libraries.OFFENBACH ARCHIVAL DEPOT
OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT

THE GTEATER HESSE

ECONOMICS DIVISION

Liaison & Security Office,

LE/SK

OFFENBACH Det F-13
2nd MG BN (Sep)
APO 633

8 October 1946

SUBJECT: Request for Removal of Books

TO : Office of Military Government for Bavaria,
APO 170, US Army. ATTN: MFA&A SectionTHRU : Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse,
APO 633, US Army. ATTN: MFA&A SectionREF : Letter OMGUS, 10 Sep 46, File AG 007 (ED), Subject:
Removal to Central Archival Depot of Archives, Books,
Other Library Material and Jewish Religious Objects

1. It is requested that permission be granted to the undersigned Officer to remove books from Nurnberg to the Offenbach Archival Depot, books coming within the category specified in par 2 of ref.letter.

2. Specifically it is desired to bring to the OAD the remaining portion, about 5000 items, of the books formerly of Stürmer Verlag which through a series of transactions have been turned over by the Office of Military Government for Bavaria, Economic Team 31, 27 April 46, to the City Library of Nurnberg which then turned over the books to the Jewish Community of Nurnberg and finally to Professor Pinson of the AJDC. Upon the request of the latter, dtd. 5 Aug 46, half of this collection has been moved to the OAD, 16 Aug 46. The remaining part of this collection was held by the Military Government Office of Nurnberg for proper clearance. Sorting reveal that all of these books are in the Hebrew language, that more than fifty percent have no library markings, and that the remaining belong to different Jewish libraries within and without Germany.

3. Attention is invited to Incl. 1, letter by Dr. E. Bock, Director of the Nurnberg City Library, dtd. 26 April 46, par 2, which seems to indicate that non-Hebrew books of the Stürmer Verlag have been retained by the City Library.

5874
1415
Phone: Frankfurt Switch 24532

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By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File H56(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

OAD OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION

8 Oct 46

If these books are not the property of the library and not the property of any other existing German Institution they should also be brought to the OAD.

FOR THE DIVISION CHIEF:

Isaac Benowitz
 ISAAC BENOWITZ
 Capt. SR
 Director OAD
 Economics Division

Incls.

Incl. 1 - Copy of Letter by Dr. F. Beck to the Military Government of Nürnberg.

Incl. 2 - Copy of Letter by Lt. Frank P. Albright, MFA & A Spec. Officer, OMG for Bavaria, Economic Team 31.

Information Copy to: OMGUS. ATTN: MFA&A Section.

110542

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Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00RG 260
Entry REC OF USA HQ
File H56(MFA) ALIBR
Box 720Archives and Libraries
8 Oct 46

OAS OMG GH, ECONOMICS DIVISION

Inclosure 1:

C O P Y

To the

Nürnberg Military Government

In the Office of the Stirmer Verlag (Pfannenschmiedgasse) some thousand books with different contents, the most treating the Jewish problem, have been found.

The USA Military Government gave one part of these books to the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (Jewish Congregation) Nuremberg, viz. books written in Hebrew; the other part (Hebrew and many non-Hebrew books) has been assigned to the Nuremberg City Library.

Now the Kultusgemeinde wishes to have all Hebrew books, because the greater part of them has been stolen in the destroyed synagoges and in the houses of private israelite proprietors.

Indeed to re-unite these treasures of Hebr. books having been destined formerly in a great extent for devotional functions and being without a greater scientific importance, would be justified by reason and by equity. So I request the Government to authorize me to return thses Hebrew books to the Kultusgemeinde, but under one condition: The Kultusgemeinde itself must provide for the transportation of the collection.

The Director of the Nuremberg City Library:

/S/ Dr. P. Bock

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR BAVARIA

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 456(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

Central Index
and Libraries.

OAG GMG GR, ECONOMICS DIVISION

Covered in Central Index
Archives and Libraries.

8 Oct 46

Inclosure 2:

COPYOFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FOR BAVARIA
ECONOMIC TEAM 31

NURNBERG

APO 170

SUBJECT: Jewish Books

TO : Dr. F. Book, City Library of Nurnberg

The Jewish Books found in the Stürmer Verlag have been given to the Nürnberg City Library as a possession and not as a trust, and the Library is therefore free to do with them what it pleases

/S/ PRANK P. ALBRIGHT
 PRANK P. ALBRIGHT
 1st Lt. AC
 MPAA Spec. Officer



110544

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00RG 260
Entry Rec of USA HQ
File H56(MFA) A Libr
Box 720156
TELEPHONES ARE NOT SECRET

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)

File No. _____ Time 1415 Date 26 Aug 46

SUBJECT: Sturmer Lib at Nuremberg
TO: Major Born Telephone No. _____
FROM: Capt Benowitz Telephone No. _____

SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

Ref: discussion by Capt Lee just before I left Munich on Capt Benowitz's "raid" on Nuremberg. Vanderbilt had already talked with Benowitz, so I did not.

Capt Benowitz reports his talk with Major Le Page to whom he showed file of correspondence. Believes his action was OK morally, if not through channels. Wants authority to pick up residue of books (5000) which he has to leave behind. Background: a lot alright you books to Nuremberg Municipal Lib as "possession"; they gave them to Jewish community. Benowitz took half to Offenbach, but without knowledge of OMS Berlin.

Action: Discuss with Maj. Le Page, and get details cleaned up for future. If so done, must issue cable change to Lt. May, and revision of letter.

Division or Branch

Signature

Mr. Born

TELEPHONES ARE NOT SECRET

110545

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Authority NND 775057
By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File H56(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

3 September 1946

MEMO TO FILE

SUBJECT: Conversation with Capt Bencowitz, 27 July.

1. According to Capt Bencowitz, Director of Offenbach Archival Depot, this is present status of informal discussions on ultimate disposition of Jewish books at OAD:

a. Jewish communities so decimated that it is not sensible to restitute their books to them.

b. Libraries so decimated that if scattered about they will not be good reference sources.

c. Capt Pomrenze (for Director, OAD), Bencowitz, Prof. Pinson (U.S. Repres. of AJDC) believe that libraries should be held intact for world Jewry.

d. Suggest immediate removal out of Germany - to Holland - because of danger from fire and loss while in Germany.

2. No commitments made on our part; information merely received and noted.

LESTER K. BORN
Major CAC
Archives Officer

110546

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AUTORITY NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File HSG(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

OAD

1 ED SG 11 Attention: Colonel Allen
 Restitu- July 46 letter from Mr. Peiss, a copy of which is attached, has
 tions Br been sent to General Clay. Request that you consult
 Room 2019, Dir Bldg IMA Division and submit necessary comment to General
 Telephone 42006 Clay.

1 Incl
 Cy ltr 6 Jul 46
 fr Mr. Peiss to
 Gen Clay

WILLIAM WHIPPLE
 Colonel, GSC
 Secretary General

- 2 SO Rest 16 1. ASST. Archives and Libraries Officer, MFAA Section, conferred with Education Section, IMAC Division, and agreed to support in comments a version of the points (a) - (c) of the "possible disposition" discussed on the second page of Mr. Peiss' letter.
2. There are items in custody of the Offenbach Archival Depot which are clearly not identifiable as to country of origin. These are outside the scope of quadripartite agreements because of such non-identifiability. The following comments are intended to apply to such of those items as are associated with Jewish interests by language or subject matter.
3. An estimated 15% of the material of unidentified ownership may be of non-Jewish origin, since the OAD has been made a general sorting center not limited, as it was at first, to material taken from Jewish individuals or institutions.
4. It is suggested that a representative body should be created by State Department action, including State Department representation authorized to protect State Department interests, but also including a Library of Congress official, a representative of UNESCO, and representatives of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction and such other Jewish interests as the State Department may select, for the purpose of arriving at a decision on the disposal of material defined in par. 2.
5. It is suggested that when such a body has been formed, the Office of Military Government (US) place complete responsibility for disposal of the material in question in its hands.

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File 456(MFA) A Libr
Box 720

Disposition of Jewish Books

6. It would probably not be necessary for any representative of such a newly created body to come to Europe. The requisite facts and figures can be assembled for the body's use by action on enabled request to CGCEUS for such data.

7. When the representative body has actually formulated a detailed, workable set of instructions, CGCEUS could at that point check any apparent conflict with the existing policy of any division concerned, and correspond with the representative body until a satisfactory, non-contradictory compromise has been reached.

8. The final plan could then be implemented by an CGCEUS directive.

9. The Library of Congress should not be charged with any classifying, cataloguing or other work on the collection in Europe, as has been suggested in the Commission's letters to General Fielding dated 5 June, item IV 3. The Offenbach Archival Depot should perform the work of sorting, according to current practices, and as a matter of courteous cooperation might further assist with physical details, so long as the Depot is active. But following an agreement for disposal, responsibility for action should rest with the newly created body and any work which cannot be performed or arranged for by the Depot as part of its normal function should be at the expense of that body.

10. The practical alternative, should it not prove feasible for such a body to be created and undertake this degree of responsibility, is to follow the course suggested as normal Property Control procedure, and consider the books as surplus, and that claims are to be made against German Civilian authorities, as delegated heirs of the original German responsibility.

11. The possible alternative of arriving at a decision within CGCEUS has so far led neither in the direction of equitable consideration for the interests of world Jewry or eventual religious and cultural beneficiaries, nor in that of a purely practical disposal by the line of least legal resistance. If the interests of world Jewry are a paramount consideration, they should have adequate representation, with the power, but not the exclusive power, which they request to decide and act.

12. Decisions on the possible support of a world Jewish library in Copenhagen, would, in the suggested program, rest with the newly created representative body. It is urged that caution be used in committing this headquarters to any specific program without consulting the several interests mentioned in paragraph 4.

13. IWAAG Section categorically denies that there is any risk of many of the books with no rightful owners being transferred to Palestine previous to full consideration of responsibility for decision on disposal.

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By SR NARA Date 21-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 456(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

Disposition of Jewish Books

2 SG Rest 16 14. All books which it is possible to identify as subject to external restitution on the basis of identified ownership, with the exceptions of the YIVO library, a special case, and books from Baltic countries, are being returned to the governments of the countries from which they were taken, in conformity with directives on interim restitution procedure. No policy has been established and no action is being taken with respect to internal restitution, but the material concerned is being segregated so as to be in readiness. W-86514, dated 2 May 46, represents last instruction on exceptions.

15. No comment is included on revision of policy on restitution to Poland, or transfer of material to USFA custody, suggested on the grounds of reduced or substantially eliminated Jewish population. No comment is included on disposal of materials which exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in countries to which some restitution is now being made, as it is felt that these terms are vague and that pending establishment of a recognized body to represent this point of view, restitution policies and procedures in force cannot be officially modified.

Telephone 43194
Room 1038, Econ Bldg

JOHN H. ALLEN
Colonel, GSC
Chief of Branch

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File HSG(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
 STADTREIS FRANKFURT A/MAIN
 Det E-6, 2d Mill Govt Bn (Sep)
 APO 633, U.S. Army

AAW/EPL/bh

Frankfurt a/Main, Germany (M 6869)

MG/MFA&A/3/F

2 February 1946.

SUBJECT: MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS, AND ARCHIVES
 STATUS OF COLLECTING POINT REPORT.

TO: The Director
 Office of Mil Govt for Greater Hesse
 Wiesbaden
 APO 633 U.S. Army
 (Attn: MFA&A)

1. Administration:

a. SK Offenbach (M/7367), Offenbach Collecting Point,
 IG Farbenindustrie, Building V-1.

b. Personnel:

(1) US:

Capt Everett P. Lesley, Jr., QMC
 1st Lt Clyde A. Harris, CE

(2) German:

The following staff is still working at the Collecting Point for the purpose of unpacking, sorting, and attending the books:

- (a) Leitzbach, Jean
- (b) Frohnhofer, Erwin
- (c) Handstein, Friedrich
- (d) Lohnes, Walter
- (e) Schmidt, Wilhelm
- (f) Peters, Gunther
- (g) Anoll, Ferdinand
- (h) Knittel, Franz
- (i) Schafer, Fritz
- (j) Leinekuzel, Peter
- (k) Hochberger, Fritz
- (l) Engelhard, Nikolaus

(3) Other:

Mr Glenn H. Goodman, custodian.

c. Building:

(1) Security:

Civilian guard at entrance, and guard also at entrance of Collecting Point proper. Personnel have instructions to admit no one except certain MFA&A Specialist Officers, or others previously cleared by this office.

el: Frankfurt Switch
 23851/2/3/4/5/6
 Ext. 339

- 1 -

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Authority NND 775057

By SR NARA Date 2-1-00

RG 260

Entry Rec of USA HQ

File 456(MFA) A Libr

Box 720

Ltr Det E-6, MFA&A, Status of Collecting Point Report, 2 February 46.

(2) State of Repair:

Relatively good.

(3) Normal maintenance:

Carried out by IG Farbenindustrie. Building is Class A ferro-concrete structure, demanding little upkeep.

(4) Heating Supplies:

No heat is available for the floors in which the books are warehoused. Offices (two) are tolerably heated by wood stoves.

d. Receipt of Documents:

None.

e. Important Visitors or Events:

None.

f. Miscellaneous:

Nothing to report.

g. Discussion:

(1) Objectives:

Inspection and analysis of the Offenbach Collecting Point disclose four (4) objectives. These are to:

- (a) Shelter the items in the building and provide for additional deposits.
- (b) Salvage the material and prevent further deterioration.
- (c) Systematize the material.
- (d) Prepare for restitution.

(2) Phases of these Objectives:

- (a) The attainment of these objectives falls into four (4) distinct phases:

- 1. Collection.
- 2. Emergency salvage.
- 3. Classification
- 4. Restitution.

- (b) Phases 2, 3, and 4, can be carried on simultaneously.
- (c) Collection will be substantially completed when deposits from the Rothschild Library are transferred to Offenbach.
- (d) Emergency salvage is being carried out, but by a minimum staff with perfunctory facilities. Salvage at present consists of drying damp volumes and interleaving to prevent adhesions.

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Ltr Det E-6, MFA&A, Status of Collecting Point Report, 2 February 46.

- (e) Classification is almost completely curtailed; its revival is contingent on the problems of policy, administration, labor, and supply outlined below.
- (f) Restitution in some instances can commence immediately.

(3) Specific Problems Regarding these Phases:

- (a) In the collecting phase only one problem obtains: this is transportation. It can be solved by tenacity and, where justified, intrigue.
- (b) In the emergency salvage phase, disinfection is the requisite. A large percentage of books (estimated at between 100,000 and 150,000) are worm-eaten, or polluted by fungi and mold.
- (c) In the classification phase, several problems arise.
 1. Many books are still packed in their original boxes. However, this is no guarantee that the contents of the boxes are actually the property of the owner whose name or cypher is stamped on the outside. Books were partially unpacked in Frankfurt by the Hohe Schule, and reused without changing labels. The Hohe Schule made no attempt to keep books grouped according to libraries. In some instances books were assembled in one collecting point by the Hohe Schule. There they were sorted, those not considered valuable were disposed of, and the residue was packed for further shipment, with complete disregard for ownership. This condition makes it necessary to open each box and determine whether the stamp, plate, or inscription in the books agrees with the box label. Even though not all books may be stamped, if a large proportion do agree with the box label, it is a reasonable assumption that they are all from the same provenance.
 2. One of the most valuable parts of the collection is the archive material, most of which at present cannot be identified. But there is no doubt that at some time owners will present claims.
 3. Labor necessary to complete this phase is estimated at thirty (30) or forty (40) persons. It is not advisable to work with more, because of the difficulties of efficient control. This phase should not endure beyond nine (9) months, and could perhaps be terminated in much less time, but in dealing with the unknown contents of mislabelled containers it is prudent to reckon the maximum.
 - (d) In the restitution phase, the principal problem is that of accounting, with reasonable accuracy, for the shipments made.

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Ltr Det E-6, MFA&A, Status of Collecting Point Report, 2 February 46.

(4) Proposed Solutions for Specific Problems:

- (a) In the collecting phase, transportation can be requisitioned daily from the Frankfurt Fahrberichtschaft through the Transportation Section, Military Government Detachment E-6.
- (b) In the emergency salvage phase, disinfection might be accomplished by:
 - 1. Use of the fumigating apparatus in the Frankfurt City Hospital, which can handle three hundred (300) books a day. At this rate the work could hardly be completed within a year's time. Other hospitals might be enlisted: using three chambers disinfection of the 100,000 - 150,000 volumes needing treatment could be completed in six (6) months.
 - 2. Requisition through the Office of the Theater Quartermaster of a sterilization unit, to be set up adjacent to the Collecting Point and used until disinfection was completed. This would eliminate transportation to and from Frankfurt, and the imposition on already overburdened medical institutions.
- (c) a. In the classification phase, the simplest solution is to
 - 1. Break down the collections into three (3) categories:
 - (1). Immediately identifiable items.
 - (2). Provisionally identifiable items.
 - (3). Unidentifiable items.
 - 2. Break down these three (3) categories in turn according to the countries from which they:
 - (1). Were obviously taken
 - (2). Might have been taken and into:
 - (3). A stateless, claimless remainder.
- b. If time permits, break down these categories into:
 - (1). Books
 - (2). Portfolios, brochures, magazines
 - (3). Archival material.
 - (4). Art objects.
 - (5). Miscellaneous, including cult objects.

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2. Any items, of whatever sort, which are immediately identifiable by country and are not in need of emergency treatment can be packed and set aside to be shipped in bulk to claimant nations for further processing.
 3. Boxes so packed should be labelled with:
 - a. Name of country.
 - b. Number of volumes or other items in the box.
 4. Classification would thus be carried out by job lot rather than by an exhaustive, tedious, and technically insurmountable process of shelving and detailed arrangement. Labelled wooden platforms would suffice for all items except art and cult objects.
 5. Archival material should be treated with somewhat more difference. It should be sorted according to its nature, racked, and provided with an inventory of categories.
 6. Labor can be provided and paid by the SK Offenbach.
- (d) In the restitution phase, accounting should not be carried beyond a consecutive tally of the bills of lading for the number of boxes shipped.

(5) General Problems.

(a) Policy:

1. Policies regarding the Offenbach Collecting Point, when enunciated, have been obscured by two (2) apparently contradictory, or at least mutually incompatible concerns. The first are the elaborate, retardative, and as yet generally unapplied instructions still in force which govern the handling of "archives" as defined in Military Government directives. The second is the emphasis laid on restitution as such, which demands that expatriate cultural material be repatriated with the least possible delay. So far as archival policy goes, the issue is further complicated by the presence of archivists, non-operational "Technical Advisors", who are the only professionally adept US personnel available in this Theater. Their exertions are limited, either by instruction or personal choice to an advisory and essentially quiescent role. On the other hand, Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Specialist Officers, who are consistently operational and only incidentally interested in or trained for archival duties, are being held liable for the physical effectuation of:

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- (a). Current policies regarding archives which they are not professionally capable of carrying out, and which, if carried out, will delay the restitution program;
 - (b). Plans, recommendations, and prescriptions for which, as soon as they must be executed, their devisers disclaim responsibility;
 - (c). The uncongenial but instant restitution program.
2. The result is that neither the archival program as originally contemplated, nor the restitution program as directed, is being fulfilled to the optimum by either party.

(b) Administration:

1. Efficient administration of the Offenbach Collecting Point depends upon:
 - (a). A decision as to the status of the organization. The unit is at present called a "Collecting Point", a term originally coined to describe what, with the exceptions of Offenbach and Oberammergau, have been constitutionally museums rather than archives, libraries, or simple warehouses. Current directives call for a specific technique in reports from Collecting Points, in which exact inventories, photographic processing, and research into questions of ownership or origin are required or implied. So long as the depository at Offenbach remains a "Collecting Point", this technique, by inference, must be practiced. Yet the nature of the depository is such as to make this quite hopeless.
 - (b). A decision as to what higher unit, if any, the organization is to be answerable since the organization, in both scope and material, is unique, it cannot be fitted into routine channels as they are at present ordained.
 - (c). A decision as to how much is actually necessary in the way of personnel for the accomplishment of the objectives outlined above, and the completion of the mission, archival or restitutive, once this has been decided.

(c) Labor:

Mere requisitioning of labor hardly merits consideration. Once the labor has been detailed, other problems appear.

1. How and by whom are the German staff to be paid?

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2. Where and by whom are they to be fed?
3. How are they to be transported to Offenbach? for most of the employees, the Collecting Point is over an hour-and-a-half from their homes. The transportation cost to these individuals during the height of activity prior to 1 December 1945 was between 25 and 40 RM per month.

(d) Supply:

1. This term is used to embrace all housekeeping problems.
2. These include:
 - (a). Provision of packing and warehousing materials.
 - (b). Arrangements for repairs to the building.
 - (c). Requisition of bookkeeping and necessary clerical sundries.

(6) Proposed Solutions to General Problems:

(a) Policy.

1. The Offenbach Collecting Point should be established either as
 - (a). Exclusively an archival responsibility;
 - (b). Exclusively a MFA&A responsibility.
2. In either case, the personnel made responsible for the Collecting Point should be charged with both plans and operations, and not subject to continuous potential interference from specialists not primarily concerned with the concrete application of procedures.
3. The basic policy should be heavily weighted in favor of restitution. It is not within the capacities, allotted schedule, or conceptions of either the archival or restitution programs to institute a minute, protracted scheme of cataloguing, identification, and arrangement. The first and indispensable need is to return the material to the countries from which it came; these countries should be accountable to their citizenry for further recoveries.

(b) Administration.

1. The Collecting Point should be taken out of this class of organization altogether and made primarily a depot, with processes derived from and applied to the problems of restitution and warehousing as such. This will eliminate fallible and invidious

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comparisons between it and other Collecting Points of which the mission, resources, and functional procedures are totally dissimilar.

2. Custody of the contents should be transferred to the Officer-in-Charge.
3. The depot should be made directly responsible to the Land administration, without intermediary obstructions.
4. The depot should have:
 - (a). One (1) individual, US military, grade immaterial, to be put in plenary charge, make all decisions, and supervise all operations. It is not absolutely essential that this individual should be a librarian, bibliographer, or archivist, but he should have a lively appreciation for, if not knowledge of, the goods of which he is to be in command, and a pragmatic outlook toward what is attainable.
 - (b). One (1) foreman, nationality and status immaterial, with a knowledge of the collections, for supervision of classification. Fortunately such a person is accessible in Mr Glenn H. Goodman.
 - (c). A scholar or bibliographer, nationality and status immaterial, capable of compiling, while classification is in progress, a report, condensed check list, or indication of scope (not an inventory) of the provisionally identifiable and unidentifiable deposits. This person should be versed in Hebrew. If the Officer-in-Charge is versed in Hebrew, so much the better.
 - (d). Between thirty (30) and forty (40) basic laborers, including one (1) clerical assistant. Two (2) of these should be concerned solely with archival material as distinct from books. Provisional T/O would thus be

Officer-in-Charge	1
Foreman	1
Bibliographer	1
Clerical	1
Basic	39 (maximum)
TOTAL	43

(c) Labor:

1. Basic labor can be requisitioned through the SK Offenbach Arbeitsamt.

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2. Staff can be paid by SK Offenbach on the approval of Land administration.
3. Staff can be fed by bringing the noon meal daily from the city kitchen.
4. Staff can be transported to Offenbach from a predetermined central point in Frankfurt by the same vehicle detailed to carry food. This vehicle can be requisitioned from the Frankfurt Fahrbereitschaft.

(d) Supply:

All solutions of supply problems depend upon:

1. The aggressiveness and ingenuity of the Officer-in-Charge.
2. Current availabilities.

h.g. Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

- (1) The solutions given for the special and general problems outlined above be put into effect as soon as possible.
- (2) National authorities be invited to send reliable representatives to the Collecting Point to assist in classification and restitution.

2. Summary of Operations:

a. Estimated number of objects on hand:

(1) Works of art and objects: unknown.

(2) Books: unknown. Probably approximately 2,000,000.

(3) Archives: unknown.

b. Total number of objects inventoried: less than 1,000 books.

c. Number of objects inventoried during reporting period: none.

d. Estimated percentage of total inventoried: much less than one percent.

e. Estimated percentage of total inventoried during reporting period: none.

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Ltr Det E-6, MPA&A, Status of Collecting Point Report, 2 February 46.

- f. Number of inventory cards forwarded: none.
g. Number of photographs produced: none.

For the Director:

ALBERT A. MAVRIMAC
2nd Lt. Inf
Adm. Officer

AMG 369

OFFENBACH
ARCHIVAL
DEPOT

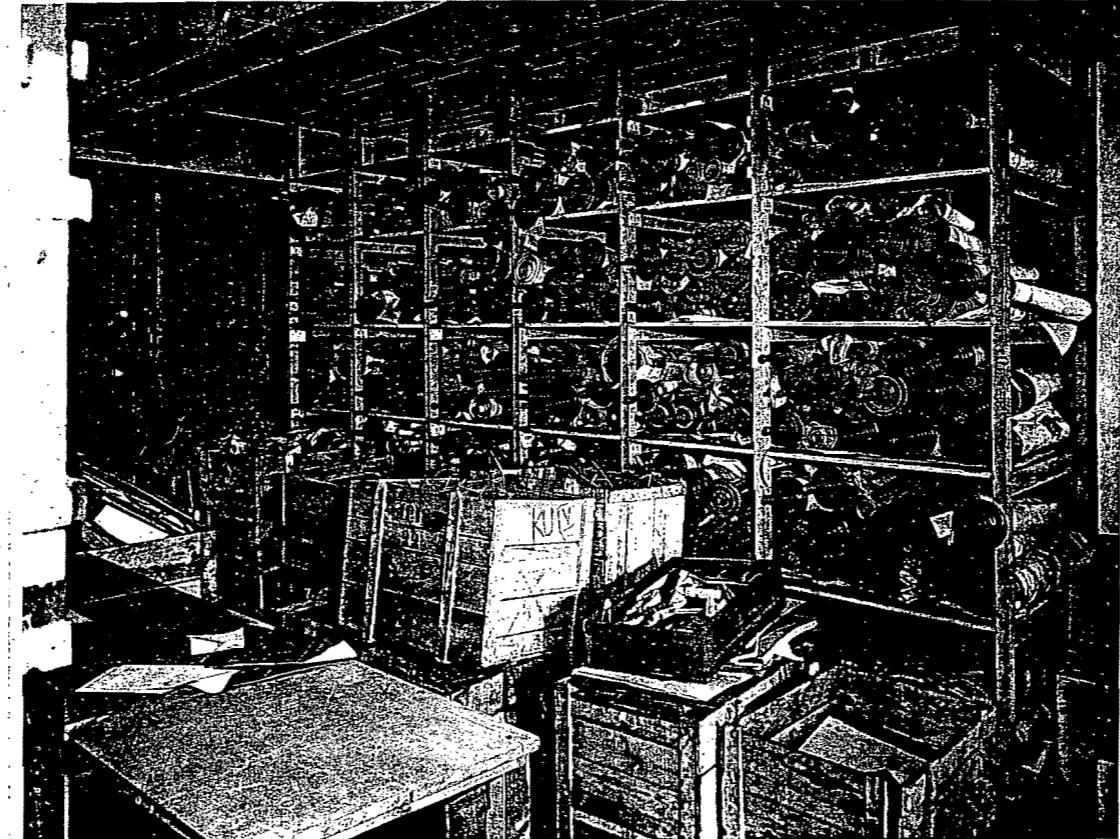
PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY

S. J. POMRENZE
CAPTAIN AGD
DIRECTOR

RG 239
Entry 69 - Phot History
File AMG 369
Box 2A

100359

RG 239
Entry 239 - ~~Anti-Judaism~~
File Anti 369
Box 21



2nd Floor, South Side
Holy Scrolls (Toroth) desecrated by Nazis.
Religious articles piled in cases, unsorted.

100360

RG 239
Entry 62 - MI 224
File Am 6 369
Box 72



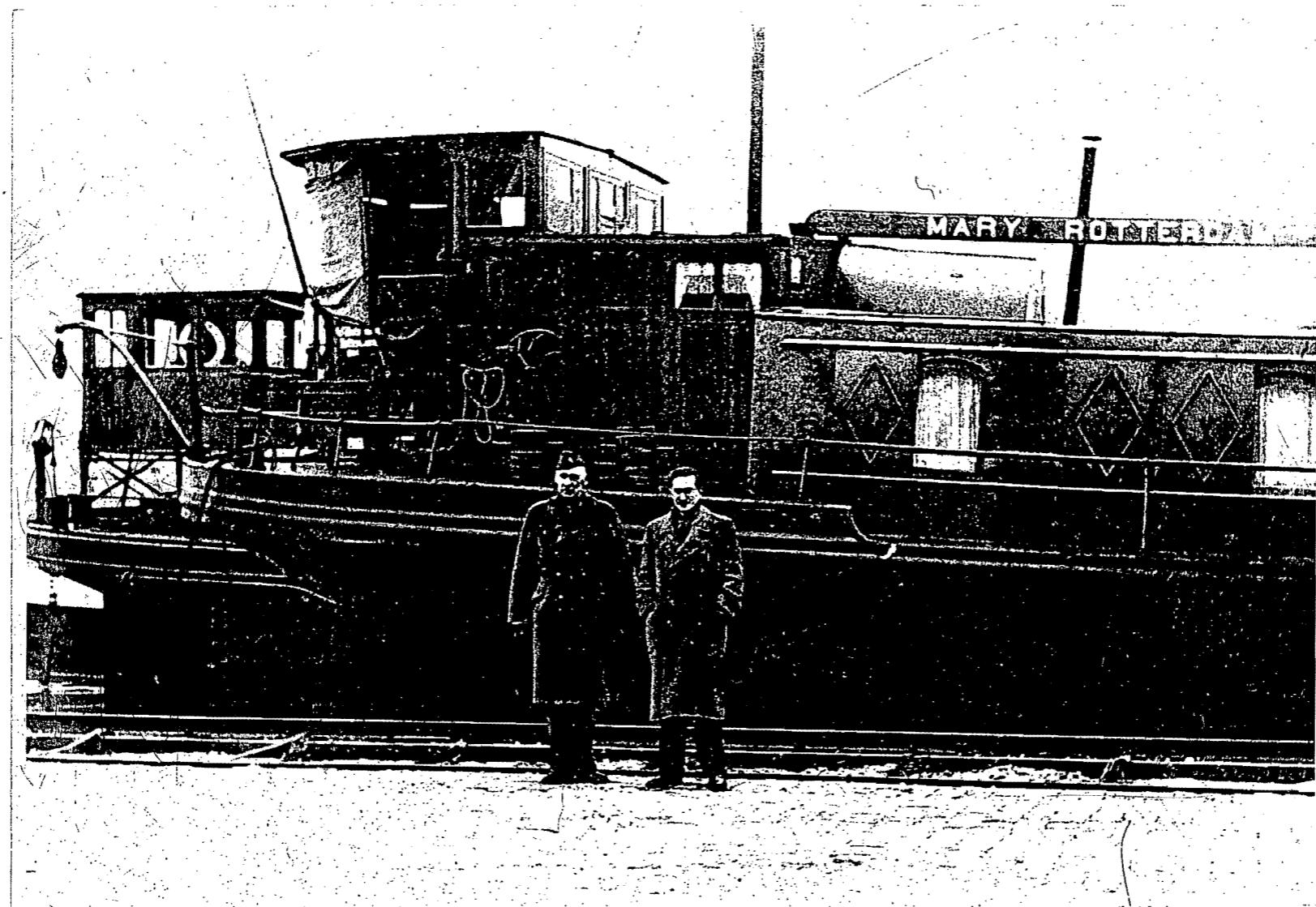
4th Floor, West Side
Books in piles and cases, unsorted.

RG 239
Entry 62 - micro rooms
File Amt 369
Box 71



4th Floor South-east Side
Cases of books, unsorted.

RG 239
Entry ~~Box - Field Survey~~
File ~~Am 6~~ 369
Box 21



Major Graswinckel, Dutch Restitution officer, Archives and Mr. Glenn H. Goodman, Deputy Director, OAD, in Front of barge "Mary Rotterdam".

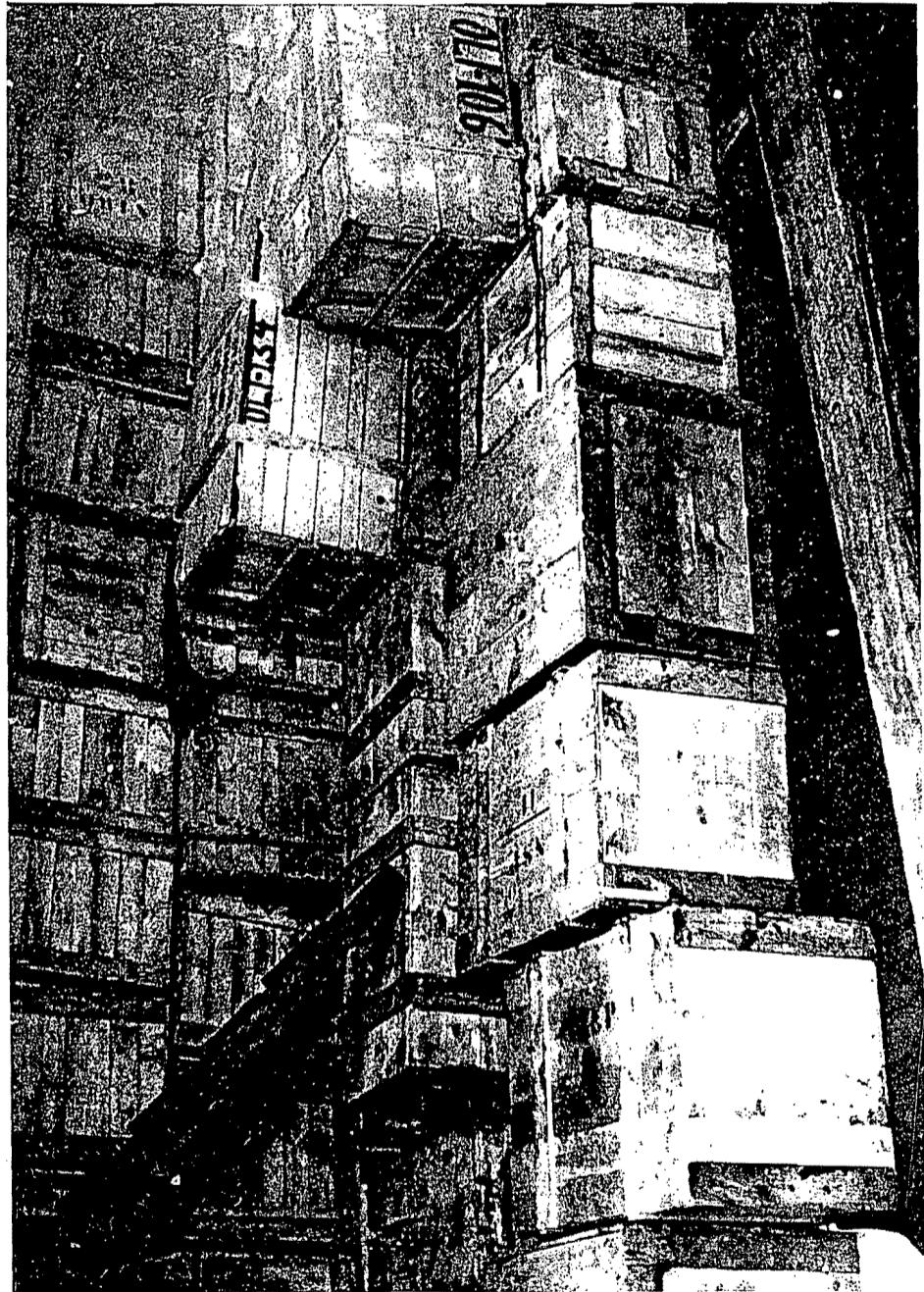
100363

RG 239
Entry 52 - Field Notes
File Amber 369
Box 2



100364
Inspection of loading of barge. Left to right:
Mr. Huisman, Skipper. Capt Pomrenze, Capt. S.G. Garlock, DMG, Det F-13, Dr. H.M. Lydenberg,
Library of Congress Mission, Mr. Goodman, Mr. D.H. Clift, Library of Congress Mission,
1st Lt. L.I. Poste, Librarian-Archivist, Land Württemberg-Baden, Major Graswinckel.

RG 239
Entry 62 - File 4
File 369
Box 7A



Cases of books below deck.

RG 239
 Entry C-2 - Pic 100
 File Art 369
 Box 24



1st Floor, North-east Corner
 Cartons of items being loaned to the American Joint Distribution Committee Chaplain
 Isaiah Rakovsky inspecting cartons.

RG 239
Entry *L.C.M. - Library of Congress Mission*
File *Art 369*
Box *21*



1st Floor, North-east Corner
Cartons of items being shipped to the Library of Congress Mission,
Fechenheim, Sk. Frankfurt.

100367

RG 239
Entry ~~239~~ - ¹⁹⁴⁵
File ~~Amber~~ 369
Box 24



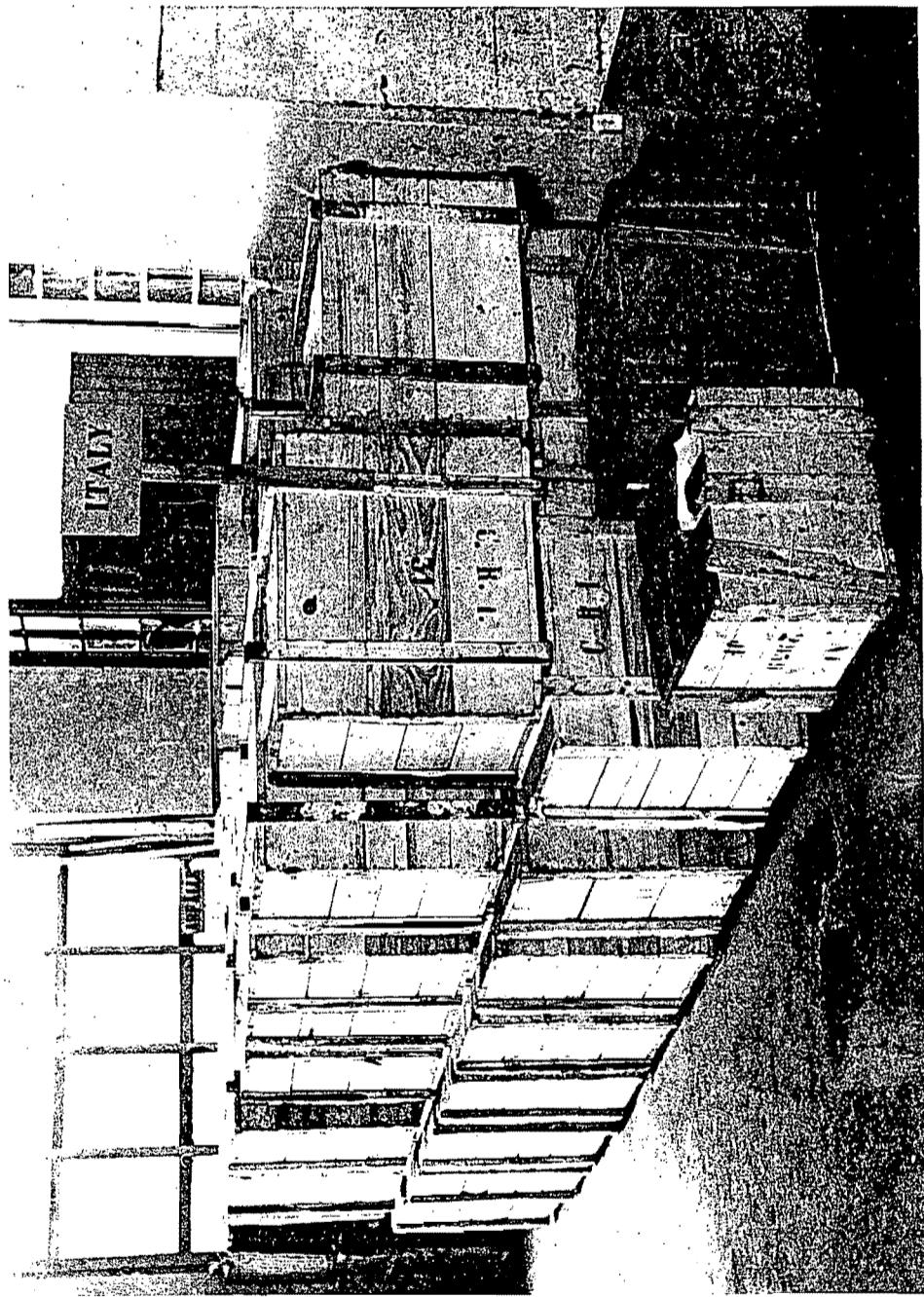
1st Floor, East Side

First cases of Belgian items being prepared for shipment.

Inspected by Belgian Restitution officer, Lt Raymond LeMaire and Capt Pomrenze.

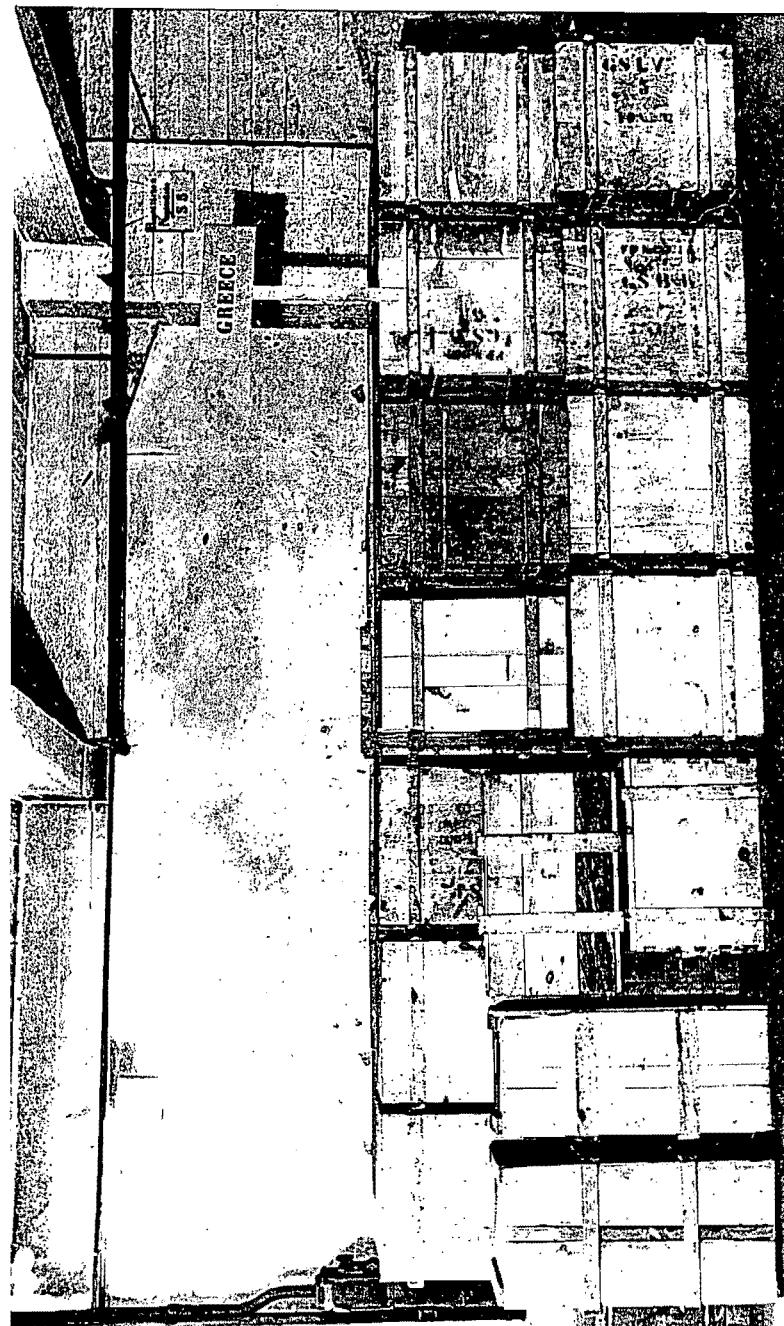
100368

RG 239
Entry 62 - MI PAA-4
File Am 6 369
Box 7A



1st Floor, South-east Corner
Italian items ready for shipment.

RG 239
Entry 62 - PIA 10000
File Am 369
Box 21



1st Floor, South-west Corner
Greek items awaiting shipment.

RG 239
 Entry ~~23 - Photo albums~~
 File Art 369
 Box 2



1st Floor, West Side
 Library and archival materials of the Yiddish Scientific Institute,
 New York City.

100371

RG 239
Entry 62 - MSA 24
File Am 369
Box 71



1st Floor, West Side
Library materials of Matthew Shatzun Collections.

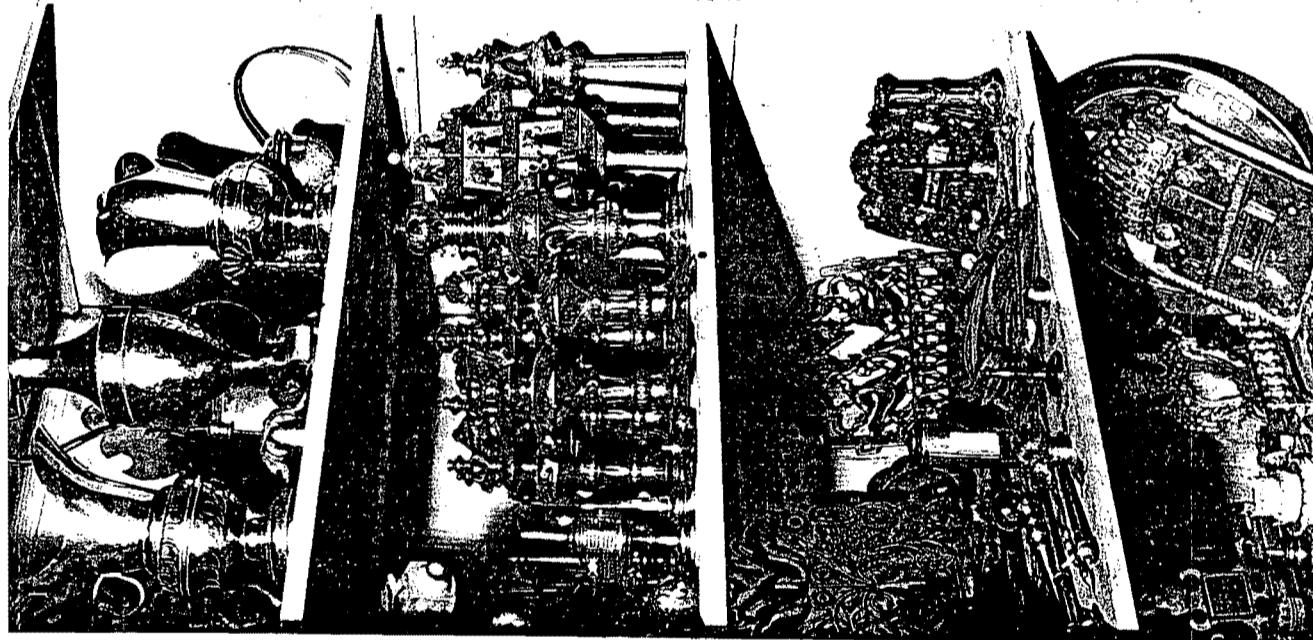
RG

239

Entry 62 - ~~PIELA~~ 10004

File Am 6 369

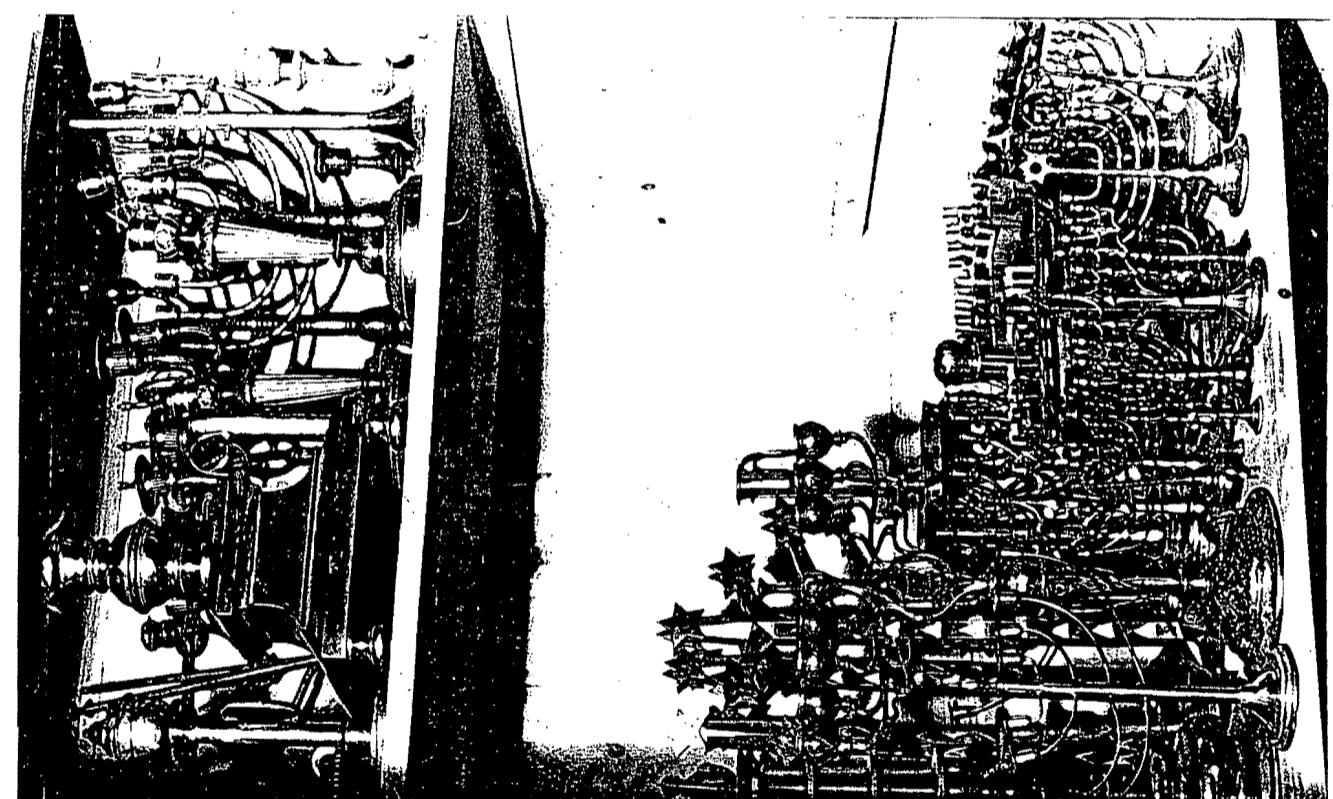
Box 7A



2nd Floor, Torah Room
Jewish ceremonial objects

RG 239
Entry 62 - ~~MEAS~~
File Amb 369
Box 24

2nd Floor, Torah Room
Candelabrum.



100374

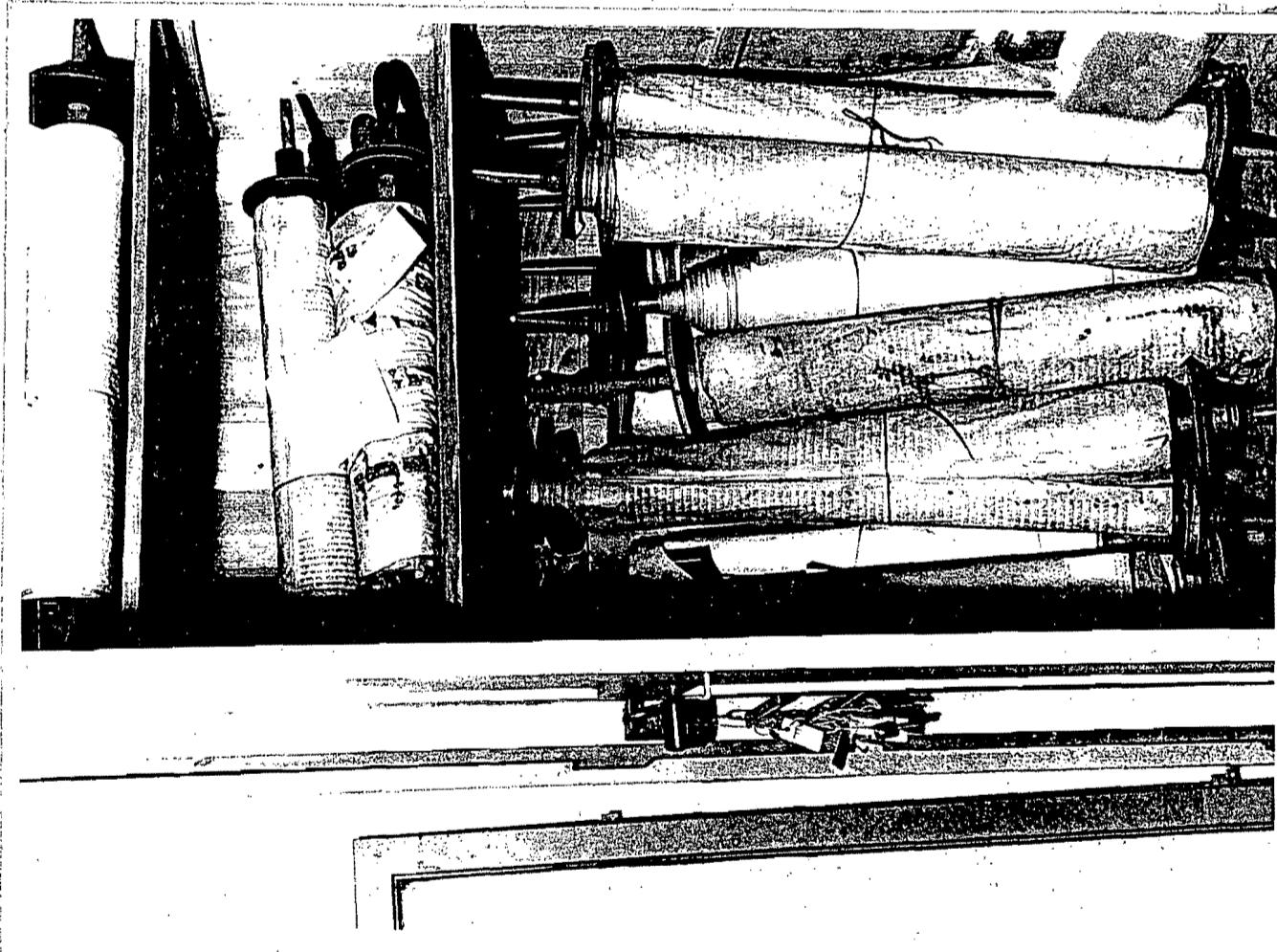
RG 239
Entry 62 - MEAS 9
File Am 369
Box 7A

2nd Floor, Torah Room
Religious covers, Plush and others.

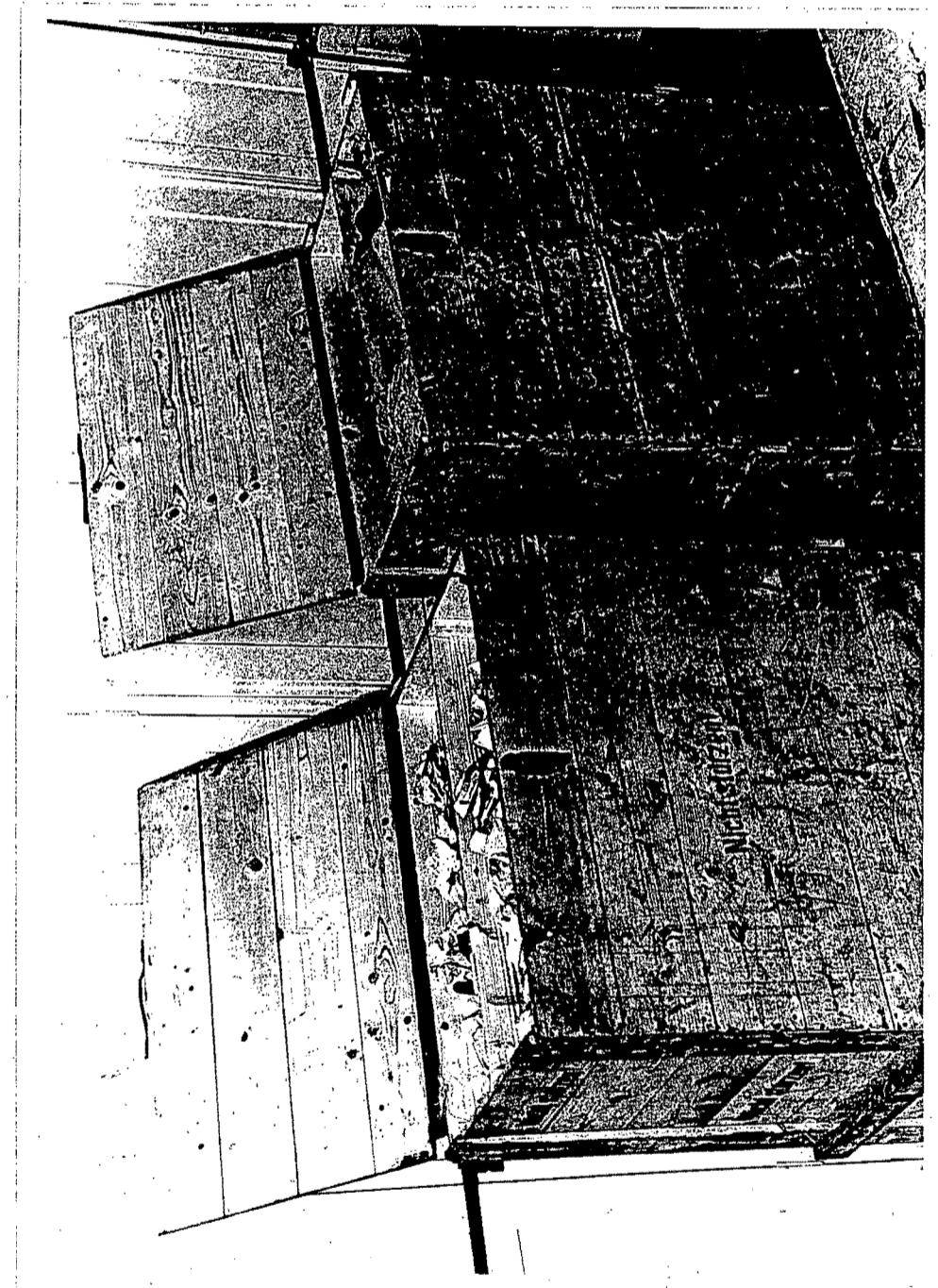


RG 239
Entry 62 - ^{MEAS A} FIELD 100000
File AMB 369
Box 71

2nd Floor, Torah Room
Holy Scrolls (Toroth)



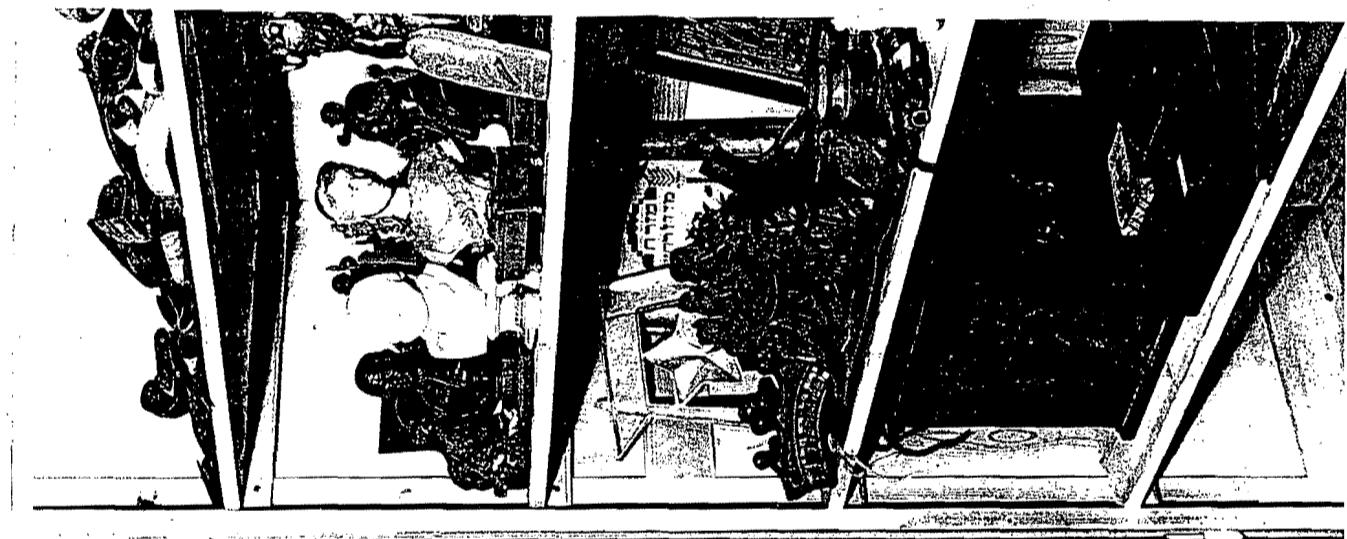
RG 239
Entry 62 - MPAA
File Amb 369
Box 22



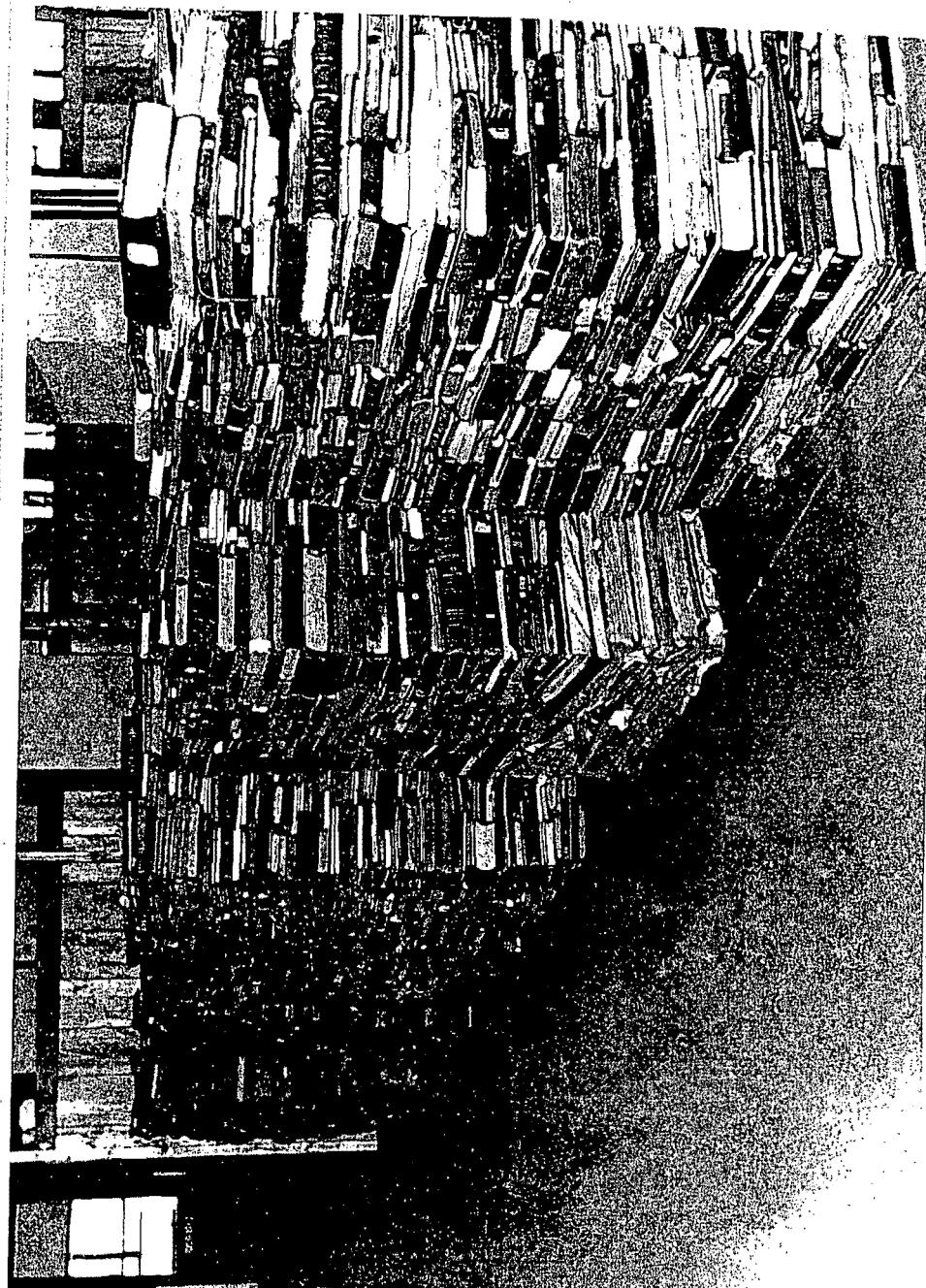
2nd Floor Torah Room
Holy scrolls (Toroth), 20, Dutch, packed in special cases with straw.

RG 239
Entry 62 - MFAA#4
File AMB 369
Box 74

2nd Floor, Torah Room
Various religious and art objects.

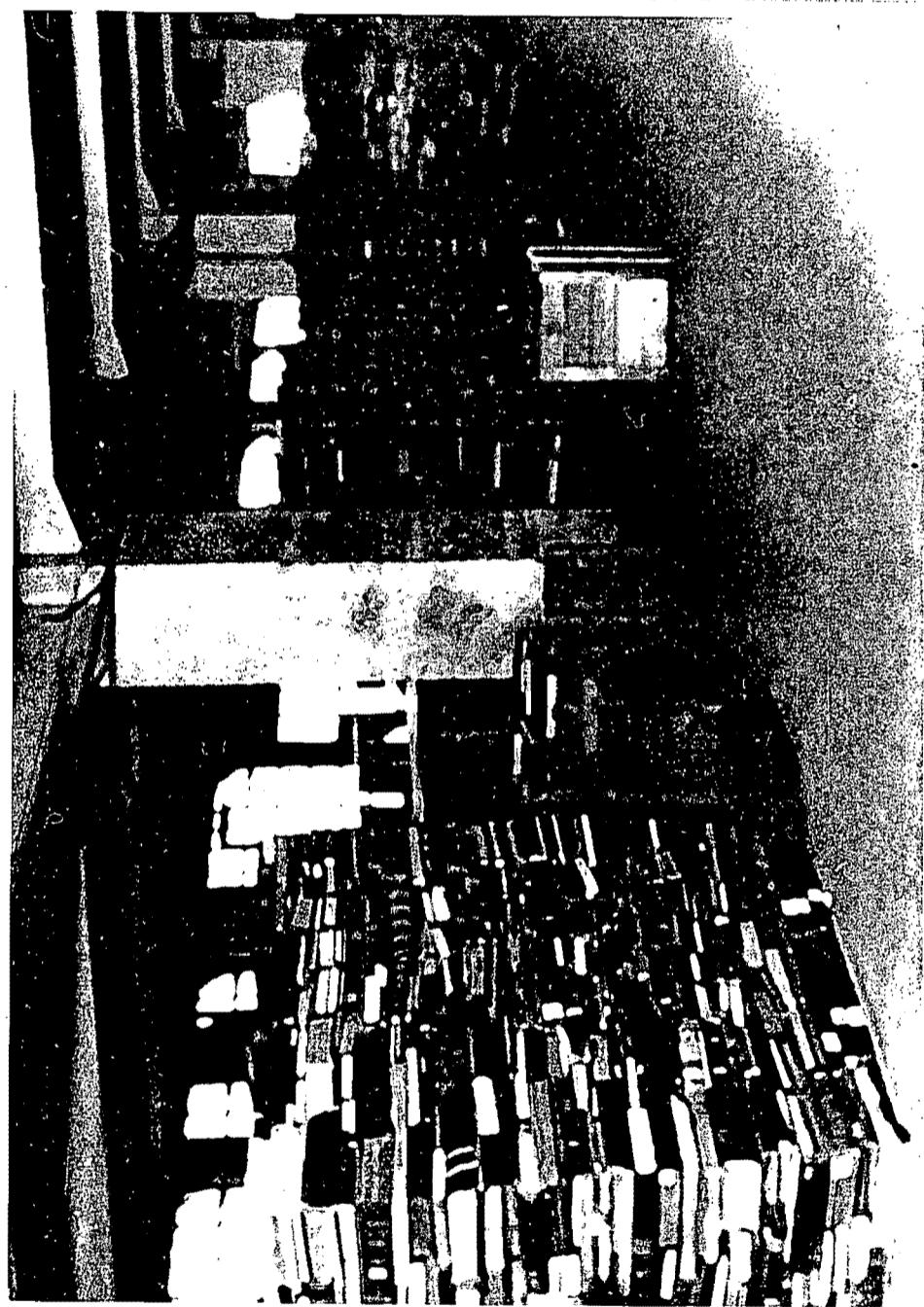


RG 239
Entry 62 - Photo albums
File Amb 369
Box 7A



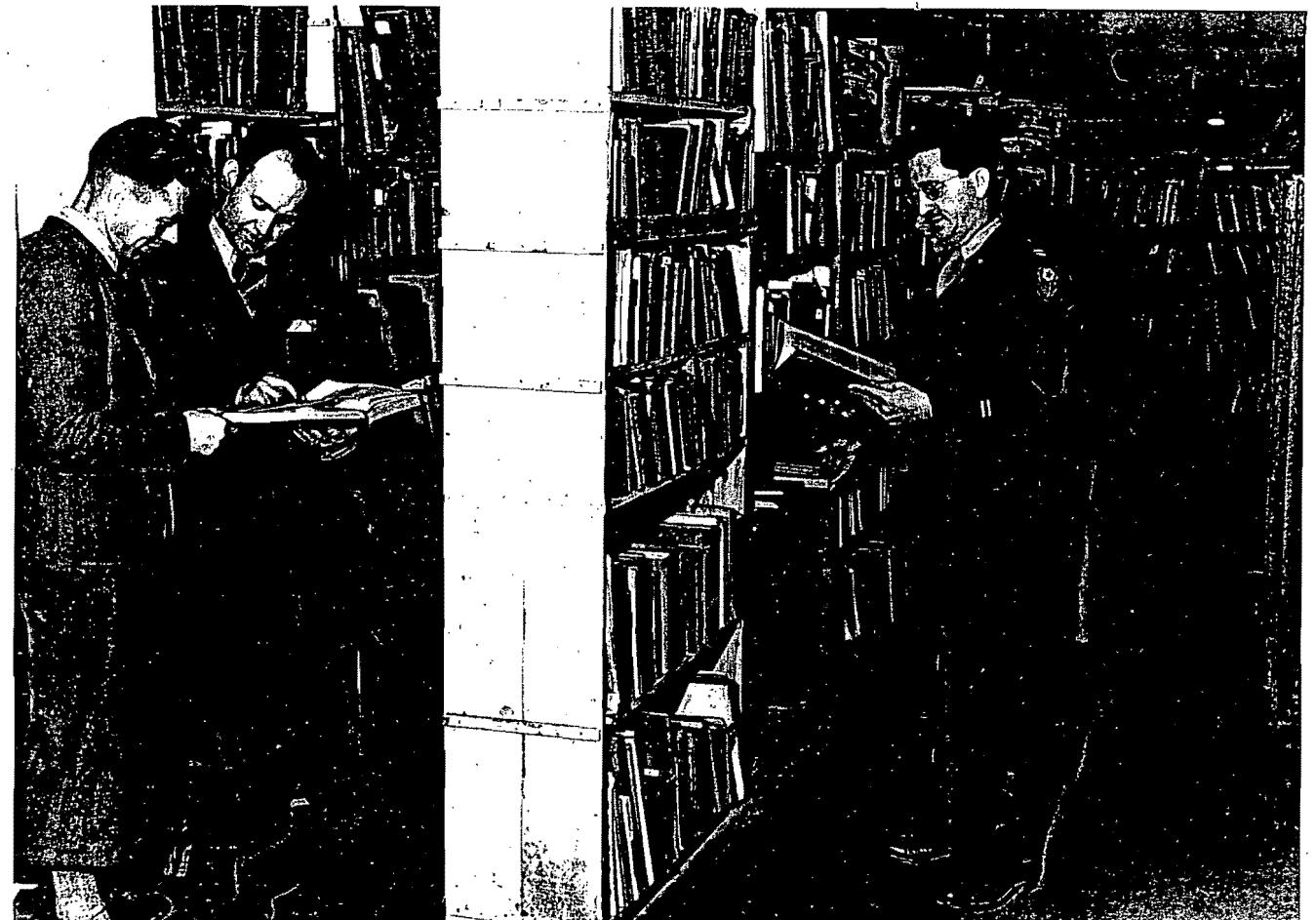
2nd Floor, West Side
Identifiable books, awaiting "Sorting Process 3" arranged in piles.

RG 239
Entry 62 - MPA-4
File Amb 369
Box 24



3rd Floor, West Side
Piles of books in Sorting Room A awaiting "Sorting Process 3."

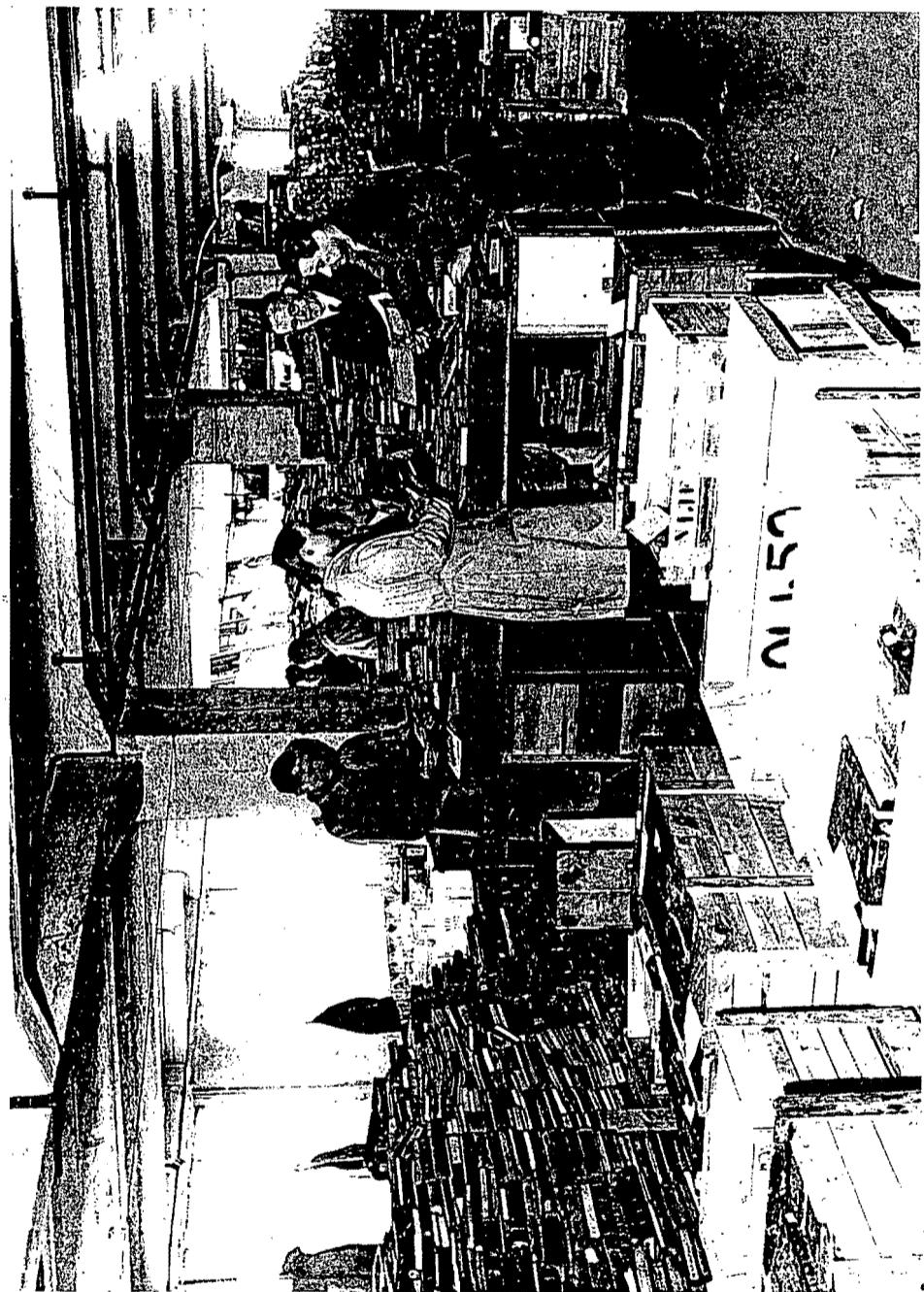
RG 239
Entry 3rd - Field Boxes
File Book 369
Box 2



3rd Floor, South Side
Pinson Hall. Selection of books by Chaplain (Capt.) Rackovsky to be loaned to
American Joint Distribution Committee.

100381

RG 239
Entry 62 - FILE NUMBER
File AM 6 369
Box 7A



Fourth Floor, South Side
Sorting Team at work.

RG

239

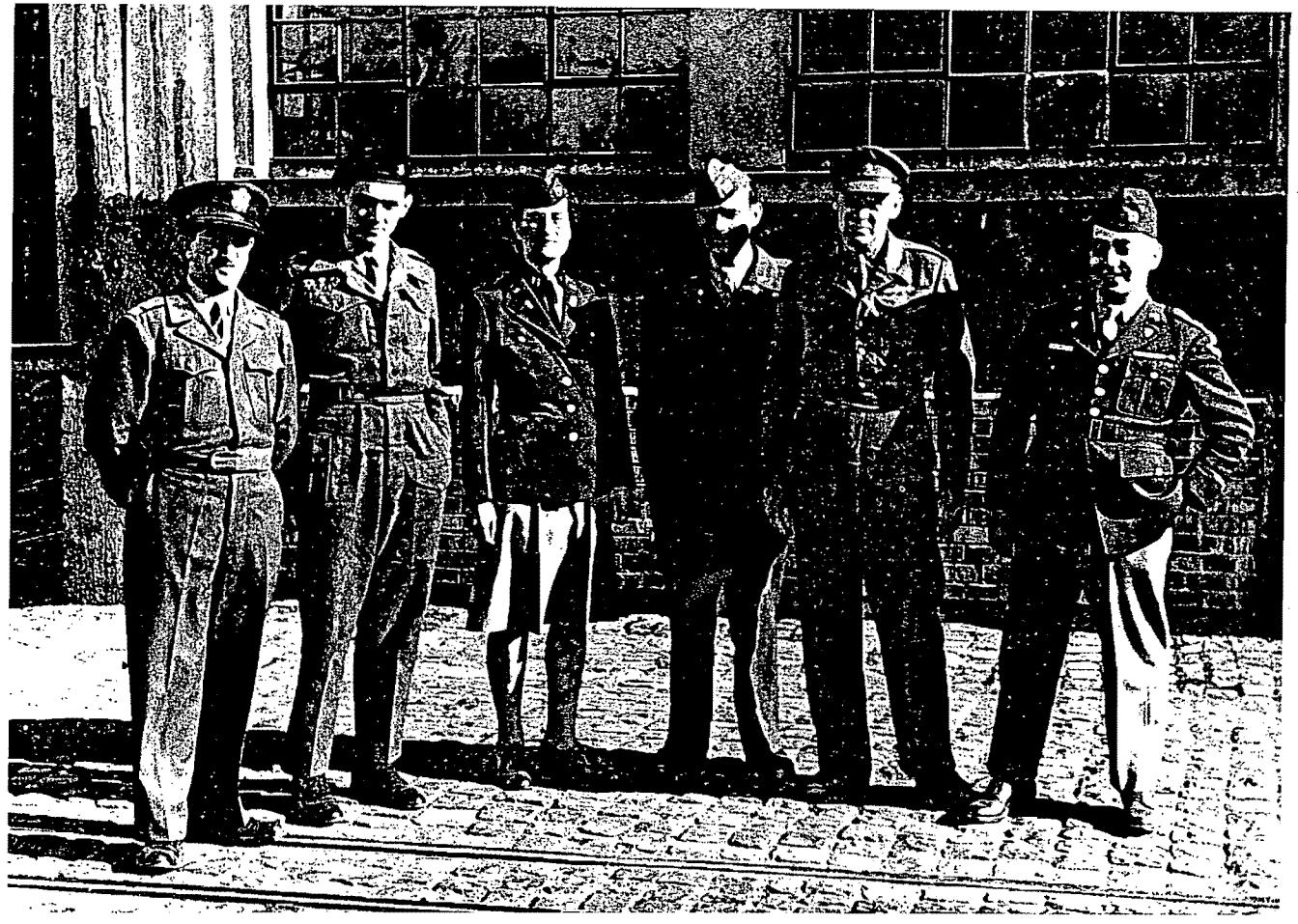
Entry
LGD - Photo Library

File

Art 369

Box

24

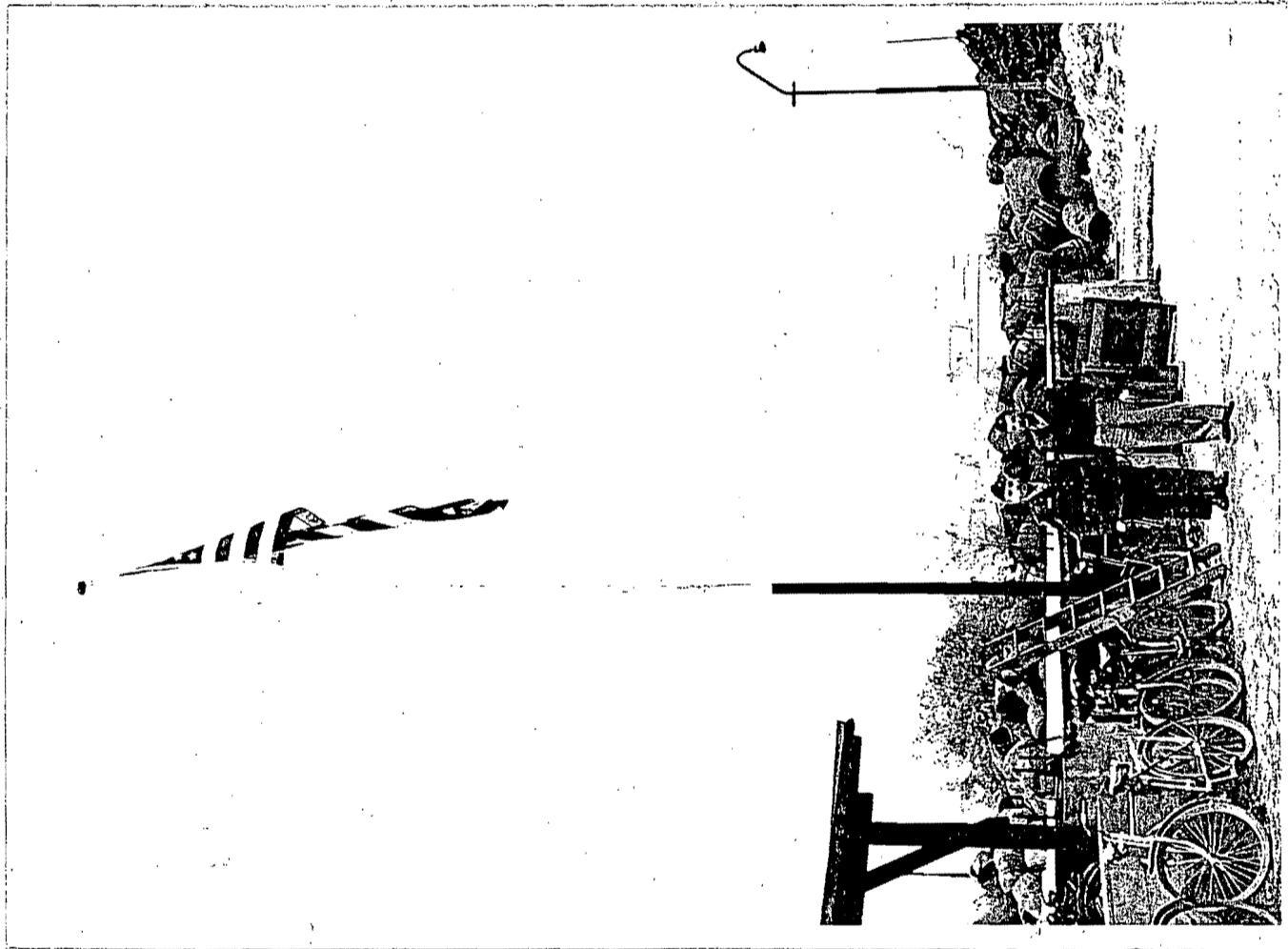


Front view of Depot, left to right:

Chaplain Rackovsky, Lt. Le Maire, Capt. Edith Standen, Wiesbaden Art Collecting Point,
Capt. P. J. Kelleher, LGH MFA & A Spec O, Major Graswinckel, Capt. Pomrenze.

RG 239
Entry 62 - MP 884
File Amb 369
Box 27

Capt. Powrenze turns over Depot to
Capt Isaac Benowitz.



100384

RG 239
Entry 62 - MFAA
File Amt 369
Box 24



3rd Floor, South Side
Pinson Hall. Books placed in cartons and sent to AJDC section,
Shipping Room.

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4 Feb 46

Col. Kluss

My recommendation regarding screening of 25,000 books from the Offenbach Collecting Point and the Rothschild Library building selected for loan to Jewish displaced persons at the request of Judge Rifkind of the American Joint Distribution Committee, is as follows:

1. After books are selected by the men appointed by Judge Rifkind, but before they are removed from either building, each volume selected should be inspected by Mr. Glenn H. Goodman (the best authority on identification ownership) and Capt. Joseph Pomrenze (as one familiar with Jewish books) to assure MFA&A authorities that the provisions of Judge Rifkind's letter of 1 Jan 46 to General Clay have been complied with. MFA&A should, as in other cases of authorized removal, exercise some control over the action. The authorization to remove these books on loan as stated in a letter from Brig. General Milburn to Judge Rifkind dated 12 Jan 46 is subject to the following conditions:

- a) That no book be borrowed that is in any way unusual, irreplaceable, very valuable, or very difficult to procure.
- b) That no book be withdrawn that has been established as the property of any known institution or individual.

In the event of any argument concerning the availability for loan of any particular volume or volumes, the judgement of Mr. Goodman and Capt. Pomrenze should prevail.

2. Before any books are removed, the American Joint Distribution Committee or its agents should be required to give to MFA&A a complete list, in duplicate, of all books selected and screened by Mr. Goodman and Capt. Pomrenze, as an appendix to and in definition of the file copy of the loan receipt.

Paul Vanderbilt
Technical Adviser, Archives and Libraries

110560

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OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY (U.S.)
Economics Division
APO 742

MEMORANDUM

7 February 1946

SUBJECT: Archives - Offenbach Collecting Point.

1. Capt. Kelleher, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives officer, Office of Military Government for Greater Hesse telephoned this office 6 February 1946 and submitted following information regarding plan for providing Jewish books for use by Jewish DP's.

a. Rabbi Rosenberg will make preliminary selection of books.

b. Mr. Goodman will screen this selection removing any books that might be identified for restitution.

c. Capt Pomrenze will screen some to remove any rare or valuable books.

d. Mr. Vanderbilt will draft receipt procedure and receipt form which will be used at time the loan is made.

H.D.M. GRIER
Capt Inf
A/Chief, MFA&A
Section

110561

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W56 — Not accepted. Plan shown in Status of
Collecting Point (Offenbach) Report.

2 Feb 46 is to be followed, with Capt.
Pausch as Director.

1 Febr 46

Recommendations concerning the Administration of the
Offenbach Collecting Point.

The obligation to preserve cultural materials from loss or deterioration has been largely but not absolutely satisfied by removal of the books and papers from the depository at Bungen, and by the work of drying out which is now going on. The obligation to restitute looted cultural materials to their rightful owners can only be fulfilled when the materials can be sorted according to evidences of ownership into physically separate lots in assigned parts of the building so that negotiations can be based on a known unit subject to identification. This work of sorting, in my estimation, can be performed by a staff of 60 to 70 German civilians in six months, and can start as soon as weather conditions permit work in an unheated building. Actual restitution can begin as soon as lots positively identified as to ownership are partially formed and negotiations reach the proper point of approval; it is not necessary to wait for the entire sorting operation to be completed before making any shipment.

The obligation to control, however, means two things in different degree: Firstly, to have the situation well in hand, so that detailed information, backed up by physical order, is available as a basis for executing whatever future plan or plans may be worked out; or, secondly, to determine or influence those future plans. Future plans there will certainly be. The nucleus library of the Hohe Schule für Erforschung der Judenfrage is probably subject to seizure as a Nazi party agency, since the original books were "legitimately" acquired by purchase or deposit and not looted, so far as we know now, until papers of the organisation can be examined. There will remain, after sorting, a considerable residue of material which bears no mark of ownership and to which theories of identification based on unique objects will hardly apply. Many of the books were stolen not from institutions but from individual owners, some of whom may

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have disappeared. Not all of this material concerns Jewish history, religion, literature; included is the property of Jews, regardless of subject matter, and, I understand, files of periodicals edited by Jews, output of publishing firms owned by Jews, etc. There are also at Offenbach (I am, for purposes of this paper, considering the Offenbach Collecting Point and the contents of the Rothschild Library building as one unit) a number of art objects: paintings, frames, prints, ceremonial objects, etc. There are also special collections of autographs, records of the Rothschildbank in Paris, some motion-picture films, etc. This eventual clarification and disposition cannot be settled now, however. There are interests in Palestine, England and the U.S. theoretically at work on it. Delegate after delegate appears on the scene to make an "inspection". Previous administrations have started, as well as they could, in several directions, some of them ill-advised. There have been rapid changes in responsibility. The best thing for us to do, under the circumstances, is to get the material into preliminary order, all in one place, under a simple administration, and provide the whole situation with sound directives, paper plans, and records, so that when decisions as to the future solution of difficulties comes up for discussion, there will be a basis on which to work rather than administrative and physical confusion. I consequently make the following recommendations:

1. The Technical Advisor (Paul Vanderbilt) should prepare full, detailed working plans, showing order of work items, space allocations, tentative time schedules, etc. and discuss these plans privately with Mr. Goodman for practicability. Mr. Goodman is the only one who is familiar with many of the details.
2. These plans should then be submitted for approval, in this order, to Lt. Ratenky, Mr. Child, and Maj. LaFarge, each of whom should review them for (a) practicability (b) conformity

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with established policy (e)possible conflict with other aspects of the MFAA & A program. Suggested changes should be incorporated in the plans until a paper can be produced which tells precisely what is to be done and has the approval of those named or their successors in office.

3. Lt. Ratensky, or his deputy should appoint Mr. Glenn Goodman to be in charge of the Offenbach Collecting Point until further notice, responsible directly to the Chief MFAA officer for the Land Greater Hessen, and not to either the Land Archives and Libraries officer, if any, nor to Frankfurt Military Government. Mr. Goodman is already appointed by Property Control as custodian of the Rothschild Library building, and has also been appointed to some responsibility, I believe by Capt. Leslie. Simultaneously, Lt. Ratensky or his deputy should issue to Mr. Goodman a directive to execute the plan as prepared and approved. Mr. Goodman should then submit regular monthly reports to the Land Office at Wiesbaden and should naturally be subject to inspection by that office at any time. Anyone in a position to do so, will, it is hoped, help Mr. Goodman in any appropriate particular, but no one should give any orders involving a departure from the approved comprehensive plan without a formal change in those plans and the issue of a new, superceding directive which takes into consideration all factors in the original plan, and has been checked with the Technical Advisor.

4. The Land MFAA office at Wiesbaden should receive from anyone concerned or competent, applications or recommendations for the addition to or removal from the Offenbach Collecting Point of cultural materials or equipment.

5. The Technical Advisor should be left in a position to inspect the work informally from time to time to ascertain that operations are proceeding according to plan. If conditions are not satisfactory to him, he should be in a position to make

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sharp criticism, with written constructive recommendations, to the Land MFA&A Office or to his OMGUS superiors. In no case should the Technical Advisor give orders to Mr. Goodman directly; his activity should be limited to formulation of plans, discussion of them or their interpretation as work progresses and submission of recommendations. In this way the requirements of protocol will be fulfilled while the Military Government organization has the benefit of competent technical advice.

6. When all the material can be concentrated in one or more buildings at Offenbach, it should be removed from the custody of Property Control, and custody responsibility rest entirely with MFA&A. My understanding is that Property Control now has custody of the Rothschild Library building, but not of building VI of the I.G. Farbenindustrie plant at Offenbach, and that Property Control will surrender custody of the Rothschild Library building contents upon request when it is to be removed. Whatever may be the advantages of Property Control custody of a building which is inoperative, to place the Collecting Point at Offenbach, where work is going on, under Property Control would seem to me merely to introduce an additional unnecessary authority. My understanding is that Property Control takes custody only of such properties as they are formally requested by competent authorities to care for.

7. A continuation of control over archives and libraries in the Frankfurt area by MFA&A officers attached to the Frankfurt military Government, merely because such was the case under Capt. Buchman seems to me unwise. At the time that administrative pattern was formulated, there was no specialized Archives and Libraries organization at Berlin, Höchst or Wiesbaden, such as potentially exists now. Authority of the Frankfurt Military Government MFA&A officers should be limited to Monuments and Fine Arts, and authority as to the collecting point should not be divided. In any case, the Offenbach Collecting Point is neither an archive nor a library, but, in our problem, a somewhat special case. As I interpret the line of Collecting Point control on the organization chart proposed by Maj. LaFarge, it

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passes from the Land MFA&A office to the person in charge of the warehouse and not through the city office.

8. In view of the great amount of work to be done with other archives and libraries in the Land and the present uncertainties of the situation, it would seem best to me not to involve the Land Archives and Libraries specialist in the administration of the Offenbach Collecting Point, excepting as he may from time to time recommend the addition there, for storage purposes, of other books or papers which come to his attention. The precise function of Land Archives and Libraries specialists requires discussion, but not in this paper.

9. The materials considered to be art objects, as distinguished from books or records, which are in the Offenbach Collecting Point should be segregated, and put at the disposal of the Land Monuments and Fine Arts specialists, either for storage there under their direction or for removal according to their wishes. At the time of segregation, however, any information concerning ownership obtainable from their connection with lots of books or records should accompany them.

Conclusion

The basic situation has suddenly changed several times, during recent weeks while this matter has been under consideration, and these recommendations vary from conceptions which I have held and opinions I have expressed from time to time. The appointment of a military or civilian director, does not appear, for instance, since if such a man could be found, he would doubtless be more useful in some other capacity, and this latest solution seems to me adequate and more likely to be realized, because it presents fewer uncertainties.

I have the notes, derived principally from Mr. Goodman,

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for a report requested by Lt. Comdr. Howe, on the background and present status of the collections, which may serve the purpose of informing the many people who are interested. This paper, as well as the separate, specific recommendations necessary to working plans, I can submit very shortly if it is desired that I concern myself at all with the Offenbach Collecting Point. But the latter can only be done intelligently within the framework of a known administrative pattern. The recommendations may be expected to include the following provisions:

- (a) Continue present preservation and drying work.
- (b) Establish clear division of floor space and assign a specific area to each function, gaining as much free space as possible for future sorting work.
- (c) Do not erect more stacks or make any more lists or catalogue cards.
- (d) Remove, if possible most of the I.G.Farbenindustrie property, from the remaining floor space, gaining about 1 1/4 floors.
- (e) Move all materials from the Rothschild Library building to Offenbach. Keep books already fumigated separated from those still to be treated for bookworms.
- (f) As soon as a staff can be assembled and it is warm enough to work in the unheated building, start sorting all the material according to ownership, so far as it can be determined.
- (g) Repack in boxes material to be restituted as it is segregated, and mark the boxes with a prepared, special label.
- (h) Properly label all of the residue which is not identifiable as to ownership.
- (i) While sorting is going on, engage a competent scholar to write a full descriptive report on the various lots, their character and value as research materials.

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This report would be useful to all those concerned with the eventual disposal of what remains after restitution, as very little is generally known about the collection as a whole, and a good description is essential to well-founded judgement. It will be most unfortunate if this residue cannot be kept intact until this stage is reached. No uninformed proposal should be allowed to gain weight before information on the situation as a whole and its potentiality is available to all.

Paul Vanderbilt
Technical Advisor, Archives and
Libraries
OMGUS.

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COMMENTS ON REPORT CONCERNING OFFENBACH
COLLECTING POINT, 2 FEB 1946
(MG/MFAA/3/B)

19 February 1946

1. Ref. 1.g.(3) Specific Problems..(c)1., When did the Hohe Schule handle the material ? Agree with procedure outlined particularly the last sentence.
 Ref. 1.g.(3)(c)2., efforts should be made at once to identify archival material by a Hebrew reading scholar. Archives unlike books can usually be identified as to origin by their content.
 Ref. 1.g.(3)(c)3., advise 40 rather than 30 persons.
2. Ref. 1.g.(4) Proposed Solutions for Specific Problems,
 (b)1. Good plan. In cases where material is identified and country will accept restitution and fumigate the material after it leaves Germany, it is recommended that it be permitted.
 (b)2. Better than plan above if it can be accomplished.
 (c) Agree entirely subject to review by Vanderbilt who was to propose procedures according to recent agreement.
3. Ref. 1.g.(5) General Problems,
 (a) Policy. What "elaborative, retardative and as yet generally unapplied instruction"? Have seen none that would interfere with rapid restitution of identifiable archives (see 1.g.(3)(c)2. above). American Archivists' or Technical Advisors' activities have been limited it is true due to their lack in numbers, but situation has been improved by the arrival of three since September (plus 3 librarians).
 (a)1.(a) Restitution program of archives need not be delayed if suggestion in 1.g.(3)(c)2. above is carried out.
 (a)1.(b) Disclaim responsibility ? Who? Capt. Buchman and Lt. Kuhlka, though not trained archivists or librarians, were told that they were spending too much time on books and archives and not enough on their other MFAA matters in the Frankfurt area. They were backed by USFET MFAA office in their attempts to get heat for the building.. It is not known who disclaimed responsibility for plans, recommendations and prescriptions.
 (a)1.(c) Restitution has priority over all archival and library matters. It is not known why the compiler of the report uses "uncongenial" with reference to restitution.
 (a)2. The lack of coal seems to have caused the greatest delay. Restitution is a small part of the original program for libraries and archives, but it now has priority.

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Comments on Rpt, Offenbach Coll. Pt.

(b) Administration:

1.(a) Correct. Techniques proposed in August considered unessential by USFET MFAAA. Techniques suggested in this report under 1.g.(4), Proposed Solutions... above, amended by detailed instructions from Vanderbilt, should be substituted for techniques worked out and successfully used for art objects, etc.

(b)1.(b) Obviously answerable to USFET and OMGUS "Routine Channels".

(b)1.(c) Accept the proposal of 40 German or DP workers under adequate supervision. 50 to 60 would be better if supervision can be guaranteed.

(c) Labor: (see comments under 1.g.(6)(c) below).

4. Ref. 1.g.(6) Proposed Solutions to General Problems:

(a) Policy.

1. It has been determined that it is an MFAAA responsibility. Within such a framework procedures to fit archival and library problems are as possible as those for the protection, treatment, restitution, etc. of works of art and the like.

(a)2. O.K., but, because of the nature of the material and the wide interest in it, pressure by groups and specialists will certainly be felt (e.g., Palestine University, Library of Congress Mission, British, etc.). Established procedures should be adhered to. Policy on the disposal of unidentifiable material must be determined later and should not effect established processing procedures.

(a)3. O.K. A minute, protracted scheme of cataloguing is unnecessary. Identification is very important so that errors can be kept to the minimum.

(b) Administration.

1. Not clear what the report means. It is true that archives and library materials are very different from art objects. It is for this reason such efforts were made to bring specialists to the Theater, so that their specialized knowledge could be used. For instance Mr. Breitenbach is a trained librarian and has had experience in supervising German librarians and workers. Capt. Pomrenze is a specialist in archives. Neither would play a "quiescent role". It is recommended that both be considered for the job of being Officer-in-Charge of the Collecting Point (see (6)(b)2.) and custody of contents transferred to the one selected.

(b)3. Good recommendation.

(b)4.(a) Good. Knowledge of Hebrew an added, highly desirable qualification.

(b)4.(b) If Goodman is good, and he has, it is believed, that reputation, why has so little been accomplished? The answer to that question is difficult to comment on.

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Comments on Rpt, Offenbach Coll. Pt.

(b)4.(c) O.K. However, the writer is confused on terms. An inventory of archives and books can be and frequently is a title-line check list.

(b)4.(d) If the total time estimated to do this difficult job is to be reduced, the basic figure of 39 should be increased with a corresponding increase of supervisory personnel.

(c) Labor: Provisions here are good.

(d) Supply: Good.

5. Ref. 1.h. Recommendations:

(1) Subject to Vanderbilt's technical review.

(2) Good.

6. Ref. Para 2. Summary of Operations:

b. Total for month or since operation ? Does not tally with verbal report.

SARGENT B. CHILD
Civilian Advisor,
Archives

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YHEADQUARTERS
U. S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER
Office of the Commanding General

1 July 1946

MEMORANDUM TO: General Joseph T. McNarney

SUBJECT: Designation of Consultant Representing Major
Jewish Groups in Matters of Property Resti-
tution and Indemnity

1. Military Government officials are now engaged in the preparation and approval of legislation which seeks to restore to the victims of Nazi oppression the property formerly held by them and to indemnify them for other losses sustained.

2. The world-wide Jewish community is greatly concerned with this problem. Prior to 1933, 550,000 Jews lived in Germany. They participated and shared in all branches of the national economy. Against them Hitler made his earliest declaration of war. As a consequence, they lost their vocations, their properties, their lives. Their religious communities no longer exist. Their schools, seminaries and philanthropic institutions are practically defunct. No other people or religious community has been thus decimated and plundered. While other religious communities may have suffered persecution, they have in Germany sufficient adherents to reestablish their communities and schools. The Jewish communities do not enjoy such a fate, and the Jewish displaced persons who are here await emigration from, and not settlement in, Germany.

3. Thus Jews have a special interest in the legislation now under consideration. Military authorities recognize that by far the greatest number of claimants are Jews. However, there are several situations which are so peculiarly and exclusively Jewish in character that special policies and procedures must be formulated to cope with them. The legislation now under consideration does not give heed to these special situations. Nor can they be handled by the use of a strictly legalistic conception of property. There is need to resort to the annals of jurisprudence for those unusual precedents which alone can satisfy the requirements of justice in these matters.

4. One simple illustration is that of Jewish communal property which was confiscated by the Nazis. In most cases this property cannot be restored to its original owner for the simple reason that the community no longer exists. Most of its former members are dead, and their heirs, if any, are scattered over the face of the earth. Restitution cannot rightfully be made to these heirs for religious community property is dedicated to a public purpose and must, in equity, be used for that purpose and not for personal ends. Yet general legislation which treats all property alike irrespective of its prior ownership -

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 cannot achieve for Jews and Judaism the professed aim of Military Government - to do justice to all the victims of Nazi oppression, including religious corporations or communities which were expropriated.

5. Another illustration is that of the books, manuscripts, archives, art objects, etc., which belonged to Jewish communities, schools, and seminaries. These schools and seminaries no longer exist. The collections, however, are a priceless heritage, essential to the further development of the religious civilization of the Jewish people. In fact, Jewish scholars all over the world - and particularly in the United States and Palestine - are the rightful heirs of such treasures. But the laws presently under consideration by military authorities do not place these collections in a separate category. The legal concept of property is applied to them and pursuant to legislation now under consideration, they might ultimately become part of a fund which a future German state could use to pay indemnities to the victims of Nazi oppression. No other university or seminary libraries face such a future, and here again general legislation overlooks a special case, while it was primarily Jewish collections that the Nazis vandalized or assembled and it is these collections that the laws under consideration must safeguard.

6. It is admitted by military authorities that considerable property will never be restored to former owners because the original owners are dead, and their heirs are dead unknown or too remote in the line of inheritance to be entitled to restitution. It is difficult to say how many billions of dollars worth of property are thus affected. Let us even assume that such properties - by colligatory registrations and military confiscation - are taken away from their present holders. In the absence of claimants, however, they will escheat to a German government for use by such government in the payment of indemnities to the victims of Nazi aggression. Thus the property of one victim will be used to pay another, and not the property of the wrongdoer - a concept repugnant to our sense of justice. Masterless property must never escheat to any German state or German people for this would mean that whom the German state robbed and murdered, it inherits, while those who were only robbed enjoy restitution. An altogether different approach must be used if the justice practiced by Military Government is not to become a mockery for generations to come.

7. Since it is admitted that most claimants are Jews, the problem of just administration becomes a serious one. One can readily appreciate the personnel problem that Military Government faces and the reason for delegating administration to German courts and/or administrative tribunals. There is, however, nothing in their experience which can reasonably lead Jews to hope that Germans will be just to them, particularly when these Germans themselves must be held to give account for property acquired from Jews.

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That Military Government officers will undertake to supervise the Germans and make certain that they are just is not adequate. Lawyers know all too well how easy it is to avert justice when the will to justice on the part of judges does not exist. If Americans cannot administer the laws because of a shortage of qualified personnel, then resort to novel procedures may be essential.

8. Since most claimants are now either dead, unknown, or residents of other countries, restitution to them of properties they cannot physically possess, or lawfully manage because of sundry acts of Congress, is no remedy for the wrongs they suffered. The problem of the transfer of assets, therefore, becomes relevant - and even if transfer is now regarded by military authorities as impossible because of Germany's bankruptcy, the plans must be sufficiently broad to include proper provision for such relief. This is not only a legal problem, but a political and economic one as well, and requires consultation on the highest governmental and military levels.

9. To cope with these problems, which are specifically and exclusively Jewish problems, the Military Governor should have the most representative Jewish opinion. He should have at his service a consultant representing the major Jewish groups which are concerned with these problems.

RECOMMENDATION

10. It is recommended that the Military Governor approve of the designation of a consultant representing the major Jewish groups, who will give counsel on such questions of property restitution and indemnity as are of special concern to the Jewish community.

/S/ Philip S. Bernstein

RABBI PHILIP S. BERNSTEIN
Advisor on Jewish Affairs
to the Theater Commander

MR/emsr

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June 5, 1946

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(1) Can arguments against "legal" ownership be sustained?
(2) Are Jewish collections of interest solely to Jews, as claimed? I think not; part of heritage of Country of which Jews were a part.
(3) If Jews refuse to recognize themselves as "Germans", "Poles", "Americans", they are weakening their case. Why should they alone be citizens of no country?
(4) Problem of cataloguing, etc., impractical for LC to undertake.
(5) While principle of concentrating Jewish residue into one or more central research centers is screened, such has not been practice of rest of world. If so, we would have no small reference libraries, but only few in entire countries.

August 1946


LESTER K. BORN
Major CAC

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June 5, 1946

General J. H. Hildring
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction begs leave to submit to you a plan for the proservation and ultimate disposition of the Jewish religious and cultural treasures which are still to be found in Germany and Austria.

The Commission is composed of American Jewish religious leaders, scholars and educators. Other Jewish organizations, which together include in their membership or represent the entire American Jewish community, share the Commission's concern about these objects and are collaborating with the Commission's efforts to save them for mankind in general and the Jewish people in particular. If you wish to know precisely who we are, we refer you to the list of our members of the reverse side of this page.

I

For more than a thousand years Europe was the center of Jewish cultural and religious life. European Jews and especially those of Germany and Poland developed famous religious, scientific and other cultural institutions which, with their rich libraries and museums, directly or indirectly served Jews everywhere spiritually and were in turn supported by them materially. Consider, for example, the Jewish Theological Seminary of Vienna, by no means the foremost Jewish cultural institution of pre-Hitler Europe. It recruited its faculty and student body from all Europe; its graduates served Jewish communities not only throughout Europe but in Palestine, the United States, the British Commonwealth of Nations, and other countries; prior to 1914 it was supported by Jews of the various Austro-Hungarian provinces, most of which are no longer Austrian, and after 1918, by the Jews of the United States, South Africa, and other countries.

Thus the Jewish spirit was nourished and kept alive and vigorous in spite of the dispersion of the Jewish people throughout the world. The instrumentalities, the tangible products, and the physical embodiment of this long, devoted, and often heroic spiritual and intellectual activity were books, manuscripts, Torah scrolls and other religious and cultural objects which constitute a priceless heritage and one of the proudest possessions of the Jewish people. In order to indicate to you the number and

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the nature of these cultural treasures we enclose a tentative list of their end of their former locations and owners, prepared by the Commission's research staff.

As you, Sir, undoubtedly know, after the Nazis began to govern Germany in 1933 they established there a number of so-called research institutes for the study of what they were pleased to call the Jewish problem. Of these, the largest and best known was the Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage, which the Nazi Party established at Frankfurt a.M. under the direction of the notorious Alfred Rosenberg. It was the function of these institutes to provide a pseudo-scientific basis for the virulent anti-Semitic propaganda which constituted one of the major political weapons of the Nazi Party and by which they sought, all too successfully, to turn not only the German people but all peoples against the Jews. But in order to conduct their specious studies these institutes wanted, so that they might distort and falsify, Jewish books and other products of the Jewish spirit and mind. And so, by one of the great and ironical paradoxes of human history, at the same time that the Nazis were exterminating the Jews of Europe they were carefully and methodically collecting and preserving Jewish religious and cultural objects and employing them as a means to Jewish annihilation. From 1938 to the end of the recent war, the German Government and the Nazi Party confiscated and transferred to these research institutes the libraries of individual Jews and of Jewish institutions and communities within "Greater Germany" and the countries occupied by the German armies, and numerous, valuable collections of Hebraica and Judaica from the Jewish Divisions of German libraries--municipal, university and others--many of which had been endowed by Jews.

When the Allied Armies occupied Germany, they found parts of these expropriated libraries in huge caches in the vicinity of Frankfurt a.M. and other parts at various places, notably Berlin. The Office of Military Government of the United States seized and has stored these books and other religious and cultural treasures in a depot which it established in Offenbach a.M. They constitute a very large proportion of all the religious and cultural treasures which are the objects of our solicitude.

II

We are concerned about these treasures for two chief reasons:

(1) We are anxious about their safety.

We are informed that they are now stored under such conditions that they are in grave danger of physical deterioration, and that the policy of restoring to the occupied countries the loot taken from them by the Germans, is being so administered that they are also in serious danger of dispersion. These hazards to which these cultural treasures are exposed are not the results of

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official indifference or neglect but of inadequate resources--physical and human. They can be protected against deterioration and dispersion only if they are kept in appropriate structures and placed in the custody and under the control of specialists who are competent to identify and catalogue them and to evaluate claims to them by whomsoever made, whether governments or individuals.

(2) We are troubled about their ultimate disposition.

It seems very clear to us and we hope, Sir, that it will seem equally clear to you that justice and the welfare of the world require that they be so disposed of as to serve two purposes--the one negative and the other positive.

They must, in the first place, be so disposed of that they can never again be misused to make war upon the Jews, by processes of distortion and falsification, and thus to disturb the tranquillity of the world.

This implies that to the extent that they exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in the countries of their origin, they must be removed therefrom. In view of the unscrupulousness of European anti-Semites, especially the Nazis, there is grave danger that they will again misuse Jewish religious and cultural treasures, to the prejudice of the Jews and of mankind, if these are permitted to remain in countries in which intense anti-Semitism is rampant.

These objects must, in the second place, be so disposed of that they can be used, as the Jews who created them and the Jews who throughout the centuries lovingly collected and cared for them intended that they should be used, to serve the spiritual and religious needs of European Jews, of the Jewish people as a whole, and of all mankind.

This, too, implies that to the extent that they exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who may continue to reside in Central Europe, they must be removed therefrom. That they greatly exceed such needs, actual and prospective, there can be no doubt. The attempt of the Nazis and of their anti-Semitic accomplices simultaneously to destroy the Jews of Europe and to preserve their religious and cultural treasures has resulted in an enormous disproportion between the number of Jews and the number of these treasures that still remain in Europe, a disproportion which emigration can be expected to increase. Whereas in 1933 there were approximately 6,500,000 Jews in Europe, exclusive of Russia and the British Isles, today there are only about 1,250,000. Whereas in 1933 there were approximately 560,000 Jews in Germany and 18,000,000 in the rest of Europe, exclusive of displaced persons and 1938 there were more than 200,000 in Austria, today there are only about 5,000 in Austria. Whereas in 1939 there were 3,300,000 Jews in Poland, 850,000 in Rumania and 700,000 in Hungary, today there are only 165,000 in Poland, only 370,000 in Rumania and only 200,000 in Hungary. You will observe, Sir, that the disproportion of which we have spoken is greatest in the case of those Jewish religious and

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cultural objects which had their situs in Poland, Germany and Austria.

To the extent that these objects exceed the religious and cultural needs of the Jews who still reside and are likely to continue to reside in those countries or elsewhere in Central Europe, they must be removed therefrom for two reasons. The first is that in no other way can they be made to serve the needs of all surviving Polish, German and Austrian Jews. As the result of normal emigration and of abnormal flight from the Nazi terror there are many, many more such Jews living abroad than in Europe. Obviously, they cannot enjoy the religious and cultural treasures of the Jewries of their native lands, even vicariously, unless they, their religious leaders, scholars and educators, can have access to them. Obviously, too, their interest in these objects is no less than that of their less fortunate brothers who, largely against their will, still live in Europe. Any disposition of these objects which did not give full recognition to their interest in them would surely be inequitable.

The second reason why the excess of these objects must be taken from Europe is that in no other way can they be made to serve the religious and cultural needs of the Jewish people as a whole. As the result of the annihilation of millions of European Jews, including most of their religious leaders, scholars and teachers, and of the dispersion of the survivors, Europe is no longer, and it is very unlikely that it can again become, a center of Jewish spiritual and cultural activity. The great centers of such activity are now, and will continue to be, Palestine and the United States, where so many thousands of the survivors of European Jews have found refuge. Consequently, not only must the excess of these Jewish religious and cultural treasures be removed from Europe, but they must also be so distributed among Jewish communities throughout the world as best to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the Jewish people as a whole. This implies that their restitution cannot be and should not be governed by narrow legalistic conceptions of title. Such conceptions may be entirely appropriate in the case of property having only economic value but are wholly inappropriate in the case of these treasures whose value in money, while large, is wholly incomensurate with their sentimental value. It is as a symbol of the potentialities of the human mind and spirit and as an instrumentality of their further development that these objects have their real and incalculable value.

III

In the light of the foregoing considerations we wish to propose to you the policies by which the ultimate disposition of Jewish religious and cultural objects in the American Zone of Occupation should be governed. If they are approved by our Government, we urge that it endeavor to persuade the British, French and Soviet Governments to adopt them for the zones which they respectively occupy.

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When confiscated, these objects were differently situated and differently owned. Some of them were in Germany, or Austria, or other enemy countries; others were in the friendly countries which the Germans occupied. Some of them were owned by individual Jews, others by Jewish communities, and still others by Jewish philanthropic or cultural institutions which took the form of corporations or associations or trusts. But wherever situated and however owned, these objects should be so disposed of as to respect both the interests of their former owners and the interests of the Jewish people in them. However, this basic principle will be misapplied if ownership is mechanically identified with legal title and if equitable interests are ignored. Individual ownership was both legal and beneficial, but communal and institutional ownership was only legal. The beneficial owners of communal and institutional property were the members of the community or the Jews whom the institution was created to serve, either the Jews of a region or all Jews. It is these beneficial interests and not dry legal title which must be respected in the disposition of these objects.

For example, in 1933 the Jewish community of Berlin, which then numbered 160,000 persons, owned a library of more than 80,000 volumes, and in 1938 the Jewish community of Vienna, which then numbered 180,000 persons, owned a library of 34,000 volumes. These libraries contained many rare items and were used not only by members of these communities but by Jewish and other scholars of the entire world. Today the Jewish communities in Berlin and Vienna number respectively 6,000 and 4,000 persons, some of whom were, but many of whom were not, members of the old communities. Even if it be assumed that under German and Austrian law these new ghost communities are the legal owners of the property of the old communities, it would, nevertheless, be most unwise and unfair to restore these libraries to them--unwise because the almost certain result would be their dissipation, and unfair because the interests of the much larger number of members of the old communities who now live abroad and of the Jewish people would be sacrificed on the altar of legal title.

This basic policy of respecting both the beneficial ownership of Jewish religious and cultural property and the interest of the Jewish people in them should be applied in the following manner:

I. In the case of objects which had their situs in Germany or Austria:

1. Objects which can be adequately identified as having been individually owned should be restored to their former owners or to their legal successors upon satisfactory proof of ownership, but objects falling within this category which are ownerless or which are unclaimed or the claims to which are not satisfactorily established, should be disposed of as hereinafter provided in sub-paragraph I-4.
2. Objects which can be adequately identified as having been owned by a German or Austrian Jewish community which has

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survived or been reconstituted, should be restored to the community, upon satisfactory proof of ownership, in proportion to the prospective religious and cultural needs of the community and its capacity to retain, to care for, and to use them for the religious and cultural purposes for which they were intended. Objects falling within this category which are ownerless or which are unclaimed or the conditions of whose restoration to their owner are not satisfied, should be disposed of as hereinafter provided in sub-paragraph I-4.

3. Objects which can be adequately identified as having been owned by a German or Austrian Jewish philanthropic or cultural institution should be restored to the institution, if it still exists, upon satisfactory proof of ownership, provided that the claimant clearly establishes that it needs and will hold and use the objects which it claims for the philanthropic, educational, scientific or other cultural purpose for which they were intended or some similar purpose. Objects falling within this category which are ownerless or which are unclaimed or the conditions of whose restoration are not satisfied, should be disposed of as hereinafter provided in sub-paragraph I-4.
4. All objects which cannot be adequately identified as falling within any of the above categories and all objects which can be so identified but which are ownerless or unclaimed or the conditions of whose restitution are not satisfied, should be distributed among Jewish religious and cultural institutions upon and in accordance with the recommendations of the group of Jewish religious leaders, scholars, educators, constituting the Board of Advisors hereinafter referred to, who will be guided in making such recommendations by the religious and cultural needs of the Jewish people and especially of the surviving victims of Nazi persecution and also by the desire of the Jewish people to pay tribute to those victims who did not survive, as, for example, by establishing a library in the Hebrew University in Palestine as a memorial to these martyrs for their faith.

II In the case of objects which had their situs in Rumania, Hungary, or Italy:

The same policies should be applied, but the results of their application to these objects and to those which had their situs in Germany or Austria will differ in degree. A much larger proportion of the former than of the latter will be restored to their owners, whether individuals, communities or institutions. While, as we have pointed out, only about 15,000 Jews now live in Germany and only about 5,000 in Austria, there are still about 370,000 in Rumania, about 200,000 in Hungary, and about 40,000 in Italy. Moreover, a much larger proportion of the Jewish communities and of the Jewish cultural institutions of those countries have escaped destruction and are either

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performing their normal functions or capable of resuming their performance under more fortunate conditions.

III In the case of objects which had their situs in Poland or in one of the Baltic States:

The same policies should be applied, but their application to these objects is conditioned upon the consent of the Polish and Soviet Governments. We urge that our Government try to obtain their consent. We especially urge that insofar as these objects exceed the religious and cultural needs of the vanishing Polish Jewish population, our Government also try to induce the Polish Government to renounce its rights to have the excess returned to Poland.

IV

We also wish to suggest to you the manner in which these policies should be implemented and administered.

1. The Office of Military Government of the United States should declare that it or some other official agency holds Jewish religious and cultural objects in the American Zone of Occupation as trustee for their former owners and for the Jewish people. If, however, the United States and the other occupying powers should subsequently recognize some Jewish body as the trustee of Jewish property in general and as the agency for restitution and indemnification, these cultural treasures should also in that event be included in its trusteeship.

2. The Office of Military Government of the United States should create a Board of Advisers to assist it in the execution of its trust. It should be the function of the Board to assist the Trustee in all matters relating to the salvaging, safeguarding and disposition of these objects. The members of the Board should be appointed by the Trustee upon the nomination of the Commission on European Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, the Hebrew University, and the Synagogue Council of America. For the reasons stated by Dr. Magnos in his letter to you, dated June 4, 1946, it is appropriate and, indeed, imperative that the University should be included among the organizations which will nominate the members of the Advisory Board. The inclusion of the Council is fitting because it is the organization most representative of Jewish religious interests in the United States.

The creation of this Board will recognize the special and exclusive interest of the Jewish people in these objects and will provide the Trustee with the specialized knowledge both of the objects themselves and of the religious and cultural needs of the Jewish people without which the Trustee will find it difficult, if not impossible, to execute the trust.

3. The Trustee should delegate to the Library of Congress the task of classifying and cataloguing those objects and of

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ascertaining their former situs and owners. Cataloguing will greatly facilitate the safeguarding and ultimate disposition of these objects, and it is a task which only librarians, bibliographers, and other experts can perform.

4. The Trustee should ascertain what Jewish religious and cultural objects of especial value have been lost, destroyed or irreparably damaged since their confiscation, and should require that they be replaced by similar objects of comparable value, if such can be found in German or Austrian libraries, archives and museums.

5. The Trustee should create appropriate tribunals to pass upon claims to these objects. A German or Austrian tribunal is not an appropriate one. On April 27, 1946, it was announced by the Office of Military Government that it proposed to return the control of "property which was the subject of wrongful acts of confiscation, dispossession, or spoliation" to the German land governments which are to assume responsibility for its restitution. We protest as emphatically as we can against the inclusion of Jewish religious and cultural objects in this program. To entrust the disposition of these objects to the German land governments or other German agencies is to desecrate them and gratuitously to offend deeply the Jewish people.

6. The Trustee should dispose of these objects in accordance with the policies hereinabove set forth, and the recommendations of the Board of Advisers.

I should be glad to discuss these matters with you if you so desire.

Respectfully,

The Commission on European Jewish
Cultural Reconstruction

JEROME MICHAEL,
ACTING CHAIRMAN.

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By KP NARA Date 11/19/99RG 262
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File P603
Box 1InsuranceTHE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

30 April 1947

Commanding General

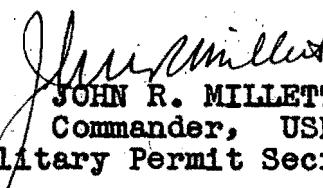
U. S. Forces, Austria

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to our cable WCL 29392
and your cable PC 13056 concerning request of Mr.
✓ Paul Leopold Baeck. ✓

Enclosure is forwarded containing information as requested in your dispatch.

Sincerely,



JOHN R. MILLETT
Commander, USN
Military Permit Secretary

Copy to [unclear]

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By EP ASA Date 11/19/99

RG 260

Entry USACA - Property ControlFile P603Box 4

Information
as to Persons I desire to represent and Properties in Question

A. Matters where I shall act as Attorney.

No file

I. Estate of Siegmund Strauss, deceased.

Siegmund Strauss, world renowned inventor, died, a resident of New York City, on March 29, 1942. I was appointed executor by the Surrogate's Court of New York County on May 6, 1942, No. A 911293. In addition thereto, I have been retained by Mrs. Lotte Margaret Strauss, widow, and Peter Helmut Strauss, son of the deceased, the sole legatees under the will, residing in New York City, both of whom are American citizens.

Property involved: ~~Formerly an attorney at law in Vienna, Austria, citizen and a resident of a large house and garden in Vienna XVII, Pointengasse 5.~~

~~Lot in Vienna, XVII Rosenackerstrasse, adjoining No. 58.~~

Enterprise: ~~Laboratory Strauss, which was owned by the decedent, at the present time in Vienna VI, Buergerspitalgasse 28 (Mr. Otto Lerner, Public Administrator) including most valuable patents.~~

~~Substantial claim against Auspitz, Lieben & Co., or its successors, in an amount presently undetermined.~~

Mortgage: ~~Mortgagor Albert and Berta Krassnigg in Keitzendorf, near Vienna.~~

~~Claim against Max Kassner, Vienna XVII, Rosenackergasse 58, in amount unknown.~~

~~Account of the deceased with KCreditanstalt Vienna, in amount unknown.~~

~~Life Insurance Policy with Oesterreichische Versicherung A.-G. (formerly Phoenix).~~

~~Life Insurance Policy with Gemeinde Wien, staedtische Versicherungsanstalt.~~

~~Life Insurance Policy with Assicurazioni Generali, Vienna Branch.~~

~~Mrs. Margaret Lotte Strauss, individually, claims personal property (to be traced), especially two lost lift-vans, and jewelry taken over by the Gestapo.~~

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File P603
Box 4

REVIEWED - APPROVED
BY: [Signature]
REASONABLE EFFORTS TO DETERMINE OWNERSHIP AND PROVENANCE IN CONNECTION
WITH THIS ITEM ARE BEING MADE.
INFORMATION

Most of the aforementioned claims are subject to the third Restitution Law, Mrs. Strauss' claims to the first Restitution Law.

Preparation, and prosecution as far as possible, for restitution of Leaving Tax (Reichsfluchtsteuer) and Jewish Atonement Tax (Juva) - estate proceedings.

No file

II. Dr. Victor Weiss

Dr. Weiss was formerly an attorney at law in Vienna, and is now a United States citizen and a resident of New York City.

Property Involved:

House and garden in Vienna XIII, Auhofstrasse 69.

Securities deposited with the Creditanstalt, Vienna.

Insurance policies with the Oesterreichische Versicherungs A.G.

Tax questions

(3rd Restitution Law)

No file

III. Heirs of Josef Rudingher, deceased

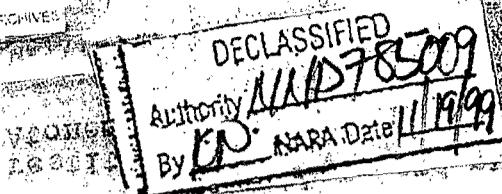
Mr. Josef Rudingher died here about 2 years ago, a resident of New York City. His widow, Mrs. Friedericke Rudingher, and his children (all of them of age), United States citizens, have retained me.

Property Involved:

House and garden in Vienna XIX, Peter Jordan Strasse 43.

Personal property connected therewith.

Tax questions, estate proceedings, and recovery proceedings, pursuant to the third Restitution Law.



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REGARDING YOU FIRM
 PARTLY REINHOLD PSM, M.S. SPISHER, OBTAINING TO THE LIER
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IV. Alexander and Marianne Weiler

United States citizens residing in New York City.

Property Involved:

Estate of Elise Weiler (sister of Alexander Weiler), probably deceased (proceedings for declaration of death and estate proceedings connected therewith), consisting of some personal property and the real property in Vienna XIII, Gussenleitner-gasse 11.

To the registered firm of Alexander Weiler, Vienna.
 (First Restitution Law)

Personal property to be traced.

Insurance claims against Oesterreichische Versicherungs-A.G. (formerly Phoenix).

Tax questions connected with the above property.

No file V. Charles and Anna Neustadt.

United States citizens residing in New York City.

Property Involved:

Accounts and security deposits with Creditanstalt, Vienna, and with the banking firm of Rosenfeld & Co. (now Mayer-Loos & Co.)

Accounting as to the real property located at:
 Vienna VI, Gumpendorferstrasse 77, and
 Vienna XVII, Promenadengasse 3.

Tax questions connected therewith.

Share as a limited partner of the firm of "Vereinigte Mautner-Markhof'sche Presshefefabriken" in Vienna XI.

Contractual pension claims against said firm.

(Partly first, partly third Restitution Law.)

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No file.

VI. Marie Fuerst

United States citizen and resident of New York City.

Property Involved:

Accounting with the banking firm of "Kathrein & Co.", Vienna.

Contractual pension claim against "Gebr. Gutmann", Vienna.

Personal property to be traced. (Third Restitution Law)

(Amicable settlement highly probable.)

No file.

VII. A. Apton

A. Apton, formerly Abraham Aptowitz, is a United States citizen and a resident of New York City.

Property Involved:

Firm in Vienna sold under duress (3rd Restitution Law).

Personal property stored with Kriss, forwarding agents in Vienna II, and claims connected therewith.

Claim for recovery of # 4343.9.1., paid under duress (Gestapo) to Creditanstalt, Vienna.

All other property recovered by, and to the U.S.A. through the U.S. Office, the U.S. also expect a share of the property in question.

No file.

VIII. Dr. Paul and Sabine Bruell

Dr. Bruell was formerly an attorney at law in Krems, Lower Austria. At the present time, he is an accountant; both spouses are United States citizens and residents of Jersey City, New Jersey.

Property Involved:

House and garden, registration number 426, ground-book of Krems (near Vienna).

Mortgages encumbering real property in Krems, Plank, Gneixendorf, Zoebing, Lower Austria.

United States citizen and resident (Third Restitution Law)

Tax questions connected therewith.

Personal property with the forwarding agent Schenck & Co. in Vienna, value about \$10,000.

4. Restitution Law 110388

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ATT.

VI. 1690 / XIII. IX. Wilhelmine Toch

Wilhelmine Toch, whose guardian I was in Vienna, while she was a minor, is now a United States citizen and a resident of New York City.

Property Involved:

House and garden in Vienna XIII, Veitlingergasse 20.

(Probably by and subject to (Third Restitution Law)

No fileX. Heirs of Louise Brodsky, deceased.

Louise Brodsky died about one year ago, a resident of New York City, leaving no will and no property in this country. She is survived by three daughters. Two of them are United States citizens and residents of New York City, to wit:

House and garden in Vienna, XIII, Dr. Kocher Gasse

Sylvia Zappler, nee Brodsky, M.D.D., and

Tax questions connected therewith.

Lydia Grant, nee Brodsky.

(Third Restitution Law)

The third daughter is a citizen and resident of Palestine, to wit:

Nadja Stein, nee Brodsky.

All of them have retained me, and so did Mrs. Grant's daughter, Eva, who also owned a share of the property in question.

Property Involved: Belonged partly to one Anton Drach, deceased in 1944, who died a resident of New York City in 1944. The establishment "Pension Elite", in Vienna I, Wipplingerstrasse 32, a society with limited responsibility, whose shares were sold under duress to one Kampitsch, now incarcerated. Tax involved are heretofore proposed, application of German Restitution Law and American (Third Restitution Law) and Recovery Proceedings in America.

Tax questions connected therewith.

(Third Restitution Law)

No fileXI. Berta Sinnreich

Houses and lots in Kaiserebersdorf, near Vienna,

United States citizen and resident of New York.

Property Involved:

Personal Property with the forwarding agent Schenker & Co. in Vienna, value about \$30,000.

(First Restitution Law - perhaps lawsuit)

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XII. Dr. Carl Klein and his sister, Franc

United States citizens and residents of New York

Property Involved:

Accountings for real property in Vienna and

Two mortgages upon real property in Vienna

(Probably by amicable settlement.)

taken over by the Bureau of the City of

No File XIII. Helen Scheu-Riesz

Resident of New York City.

Property Involved:

House and garden in Vienna, XIII., La Roche

Concerning Tax questions connected therewith.

(Third Restitution L)

No File XIV. Vera Berry, nee Drach.

Resident of New York City, wife of United States Michael Berry.

The property in question belonged partly to one client's father, who died a resident of New York in 18, 1943, partly to her missing mother Frances grand-parents Pollak, who died in Vienna in 194

The questions involved are estate proceedings, death proceedings, tax questions in United States and recovery proceedings in Austria.

(Third Restitution L)

Property Involved:

House and lots in Kaltenlantggeben, near Vien

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House and lots in Atzgersdorf, near Vienna;

House and lots in Alt-Aussee;

Valuable personal property kept in Vienna;

The firm of Moritz Drach Junior in Vienna
property, including buildings;

Very valuable old Vienna furniture (Biedermeier)
taken over by the Museum of the City of Vienna;

Claims against banks in Vienna;

Possibly securities (not yet traced).

No file by the "Festungsbaugesellschaft" (Military Asso-

XV. Eugene and Marie Loewy

Cousins of mine, Austrian citizens, residents of Vienna;

Property Involved:

Real property in Gross Petersdorf, Burgenland;

The firm of "Loewy" in Gross Petersdorf,

Bank accounts in Gross Petersdorf, Burgenland;

(Jurisdiction of the Vienna Court)

I am in a position to give you full information
Having been retained only last week, I am not yet in possession
of all details.

Concerning the property in Vienna (see note on

No file

March 16, 1947, published in the "Wiener Zeitung" of

House in Vienna XIII, Lainzerstrasse 122;

Valuable international law library in the office,
Dr. Ludwig Gruss, Vienna I, Pestalozzigasse 3;

Accountings re my former share against my former
Jeannée, Vienna I, Pestalizzigasse 3;

Mortgage against Count Wimpffen, Fahrfeld, Lower
Austria, especially those arising from the sale

of the Bechtstein Library.

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Restitution of taxes,

Bank accounts, Creditanstalt, Vienna;

Personal property to be traced.

C. Matters of General Interest

- (1) Having published two articles in the "Juristische Blaetter", Vienna, one about the Law Study in New York, and the other one about the New York Inheritance Law, I have been invited by the "Juristische Gesellschaft" (Juristic Association) in Vienna, by the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court, Dr. Heinrich Klang, to lecture about the relation between the States of the Union and the United States (Constitutional Law) and about Outlines of the New York Civil Practice Act and of Federal Practice. Being a graduate of law schools in both countries and, therefore, familiar with both systems of law, I am in a position to explain the subject matter to the Vienna jurists in their own languages and in comparison with their own legal institutions. Thus I shall be able to contribute to the cultural exchange (see press release of March 16, 1947, published in the Department of State Bulletin of March 23, 1947, on page 540) and mutual understanding between the two countries.
- (2) I was invited by the Ministry for Securing Property and Planning Economics to discuss with them questions of Conflict of Laws, especially those arising from the application of the Restitution Laws.

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I deem this intended discussion very useful, because
many unclear questions will arise from the peculiar situation.

New York, April 11, 1947.

Paul L. Baer
Paul L. Baer

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By CD NARA Date 11/19/99RG 262
Entry USACA-control
File P 603
Box +**INCOMING MESSAGE**

UNCLASSIFIED

TO: 140129 Z

ROUTINE

FROM: 140730 Z

FROM: WAR FROM JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

TO : USFA

INFO: USFPT

REF ID: VOL 29392

PAUL LEOPOLD BAENCK naturalized AUSTRIAN born 1912
 desires proceed 15 May to DUCHS, ARBERG, INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA
 carry check on personal property, check on estate of SELIGMUND H.
 as executory also desired take care of several clients interest
 United States Federal AUSTRALIAN Ministry for Preservation of Property
 planning desired confer with him. Requested Army legal and Will
 Corp. Views requested;

TOPICAL: LM

INFORMATION:	SOS	3
	O-3	3
	POL DIV	3
	USACA LEGAL DIV	3
	USACA EXCIG OFF	3
	AG	4

A-10024

14 March 1947

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Authority ND 70509
By LP NAVA Date 11/19/99

RG 262
Entry USAGA-control
File PRES
Box 1

PC 13056

To: WD JCS

Info BuCom

Unclassified - Reurad WCL 29392. Clearance for Mr. Paul Leopold Austria not favorably considered at this time. Suggest resubmit request with complete information of persons he proposes to meet and proper titles in question.

SGS
AC Rec
AC Cab
LVS
C-2

Dickson Col Bert

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Authority 41D 785 006
By JL NARA Date 9/14/97

RG

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Entry USA RA

File Office of Director

Box 3-8

Policy Br
Attn. Col Cary
John H. Thompson

ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA

AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
ON THE
MACHINERY OF CONTROL IN AUSTRIA

DATED
28 JUNE 1946

110596

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Authority NND 785 006
By [Signature] NARA Date 9/14/23

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Entry USA RIA
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Box 38

ALLIED COMMISSION FOR AUSTRIA

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH
REPUBLIC ON THE MACHINERY OF CONTROL IN AUSTRIA

The Governments of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Government of
the French Republic (hereinafter called the Four Powers);

In view of the declaration issued at Moscow on
1st November, 1943, in the name of the Governments of the
United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union
of Soviet Socialist Republics, whereby the three Governments
announced their agreement that Austria should be liberated
from German domination, and declared that they wished to
see reestablished a free and independent Austria, and in
view of the subsequent declaration issued at Algiers on
16th November, 1943 by the French Committee of National
Liberation concerning the independence of Austria;

Considering it necessary, in view of the establishment,
as a result of free elections held in Austria on 25th
November, 1945, of an Austrian Government recognized by
the Four Powers, to redefine the nature and extent of the
authority of the Austrian Government and of the functions
of the Allied organization and forces in Austria and
thereby to give effect to Article 14 of the Agreement
signed in the European Advisory Commission on 4th July,
1945; Have agreed as follows:-

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By DR NARA Date 9/14/93

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Article 1

The authority of the Austrian Government shall extend fully throughout Austria, subject only to the following reservations:-

- (a) The Austrian Government and all subordinate Austrian authorities shall carry out such directions as they may receive from the Allied Commission;
- (b) In regard to the matters specified in Article 5 below neither the Austrian Government nor any subordinate Austrian authority shall take action without the prior written consent of the Allied Commission.

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Box 38

Article 2

- (a) The Allied organization in Austria shall consist of
- (i) an Allied Council, consisting of four High Commissioners, one appointed by each of the Four Powers;
 - (ii) an Executive Committee, consisting of one high ranking representative of each of the High Commissioners;
 - (iii) Staffs appointed respectively by the Four Powers, the whole organization being known as the Allied Commission for Austria.
- (b) (i) The authority of the Allied Commission in matters affecting Austria as a whole shall be exercised by the Allied Council or the Executive Committee or the Staffs appointed by the Four Powers when acting jointly.
- (ii) The High Commissioners shall within their respective zones ensure the execution of the decisions of the Allied Commission and supervise the execution of the directions of the central Austrian authorities.
- (iii) The High Commissioners shall also ensure within their respective zones that the actions of the Austrian provincial authorities deriving from their autonomous functions do not conflict with the policy of the Allied Commission.
- (c) The Allied Commission shall act only through the Austrian Government or other appropriate Austrian authorities except:-
- (i) to maintain law and order if the Austrian authorities are unable to do so;
 - (ii) if the Austrian Government or other appropriate Austrian authorities do not carry out directions received from the Allied Commission;

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By <u>JL</u> NARA Date <u>9/14/92</u>

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Box 3-8

(iii) where, in the case of any of the subjects detailed in Article 5 below, the Allied Commission acts directly.

- (d) In the absence of action by the Allied Council, the four several High Commissioners may act independently in their respective zones in any matter covered by subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of paragraph (c) of this Article and by Article 5, and in any matter in respect of which power is conferred on them by the agreement to be made under Article 8 (a) of the agreement.
- (e) Forces of occupation furnished by the Four Powers will be stationed in the respective zones of occupation in Austria and Vienna as defined in the Agreement on Zones of Occupation in Austria and the administration of the City of Vienna, signed in the European Advisory Commission on 9th July, 1945. Decisions of the Allied Council which require implementation by the forces of occupation will be implemented by the latter in accordance with instructions from their respective High Commissioners.

110600

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By [Signature] NARA Date 9/14/97

RG 260

Entry USA RA

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Box 3-8

Article 3

The primary tasks of the Allied Commission for Austria shall be:

- (a) To ensure the enforcement in Austria of the provisions of the Declaration on the Defeat of Germany signed at Berlin on 5th June, 1945.
- (b) To complete the separation of Austria from Germany, and to maintain the independent existence and integrity of the Austrian State, and pending the final definition of its frontiers to ensure respect for them as they were on 31st December, 1937;
- (c) To assist the Austrian Government to recreate a sound and democratic national life based on an efficient administration, stable economic and financial conditions and respect for law and order;
- (d) To assist the freely elected Government of Austria to assume as quickly as possible full control of the affairs of state in Austria;
- (e) To ensure the institution of a progressive long-term educational program designed to eradicate all traces of Nazi ideology and to instil into Austrian youth democratic principles.

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Box 38

Article 4

- (a) In order to facilitate the full exercise of the Austrian Government's authority equally in all zones and to promote the economic unity of Austria, the Allied Council will from the date of signature of this Agreement ensure the removal of all remaining restrictions on the movement within Austria of persons, goods, or other traffic, except such as may be specifically prescribed by the Allied Council or required in frontier areas for the maintenance of effective control of international movements. The zonal boundaries will then have no other effect than as boundaries of the spheres of authority and responsibility of the respective High Commissioners and the location of occupation troops.
- (b) The Austrian Government may organize a customs and frontier administration, and the Allied Commission will take steps as soon as practicable to transfer to it customs and travel control functions concerning Austria which do not interfere with the military needs of the occupation forces.

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By JL NARA Date 9/14/92

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Box 38

Article 5

The following are the matters in regard to which the Allied Commission may act directly as provided in Article 2(c)(iii) above:

- (i) Demilitarization and disarmament (military, economic, industrial, technical and scientific).
- (ii) The protection and security of the Allied forces in Austria, and the fulfilment of their military needs in accordance with the Agreement to be negotiated under Article 8(a).
- (iii) The protection, care and restitution of property belonging to the Governments of any of the United Nations or their nationals;
- (iv) The disposal of German property in accordance with the existing agreements between the Allies.
- (v) The care and evacuation of, and exercise of judicial authority over prisoners of war and displaced persons;
- (vi) The control of travel into and out of Austria until Austrian travel controls can be established;
- (vii) (a) The tracing, arrest and handing-over of any person wanted by one of the Four Powers or by the International Court for War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity.
(b) The tracing, arrest and handing-over of any person wanted by other United Nations for the crimes specified in the preceding paragraph and included in the lists of the United Nations Commission for War Crimes.

The Austrian Government will remain competent to try any other person accused of such crimes and coming within its jurisdiction, subject to the Allied Council's right of control over prosecution and punishment for such crimes.

110603

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NARA Date 9/14/92

RG 260

Entry USA RA
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Box 38

Article 6

- (a) All legislative measures, as defined by the Allied Council, and international agreements which the Austrian Government wishes to make except agreements with one of the 4 Powers, shall, before they take effect or are published in the State Gazette be submitted by the Austrian Government to the Allied Council. In the case of constitutional laws, the written approval of the Allied Council is required, before any such law may be published and put into effect. In the case of all other legislative measures and international agreements it may be assumed that the Allied Council has given its approval if within thirty-one days of the time of receipt by the Allied Commission it has not informed the Austrian Government that it objects to a legislative measure or an international agreement. Such legislative measure or international agreement may then be published and put into effect. The Austrian Government will inform the Allied Council of all international agreements entered into with one or more of the 4 Powers.
- (b) The Allied Council may at any time inform the Austrian Government or the appropriate Austrian authority of its disapproval of any of the legislative measures or administrative actions of the Government or of such authority, and may direct that the action in question shall be cancelled or amended.

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By DR NARA Date 9/14/92

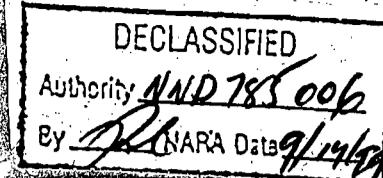
RG 260

Entry U.S.A.R.A
File Office of Director
Box 38

Article 7

The Austrian Government is free to establish diplomatic and consular relations with the Governments of the United Nations. The establishment of diplomatic and consular relations with other Governments shall be subject to the prior approval of the Allied Council.

Diplomatic Missions in Vienna shall have the right to communicate directly with the Allied Council. Military Missions accredited to the Allied Council shall be withdrawn as soon as their respective Governments establish diplomatic relations with the Austrian Government, and in any case within two months of the signature of this agreement.



RG 260
Entry USA RA
File Office of Director
Box 38

Article 8

- (a) A further agreement between the Four Powers shall be drawn up and communicated to the Austrian Government as soon as possible, and within three months of this day's date defining the immunities of the members of the Allied Commission and of the forces in Austria of the Four Powers and the rights they shall enjoy to ensure their security and protection and the fulfilment of their military needs.
- (b) Pending the conclusion of the further agreement required by Article 8 (a) the existing rights and immunities of members of the Allied Commission and of the forces in Austria of the Four Powers, deriving either from the Declaration on the Defeat of Germany or from the powers of a Commandor-in-Chief in the field, shall remain unimpaired.

110606

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Authority ND 783 006
By JL NARA Date 9/14/03

RG 260
Entry USA RA
File Office of Director
Box 38

Article 9

- (a) Members of the Allied Council, the Executive Committee and other staffs appointed by each of the Four Powers as part of the Allied Commission may be either civilian or military.
- (b) Each of the Four Powers may appoint as its High Commissioner either the Commander-in-Chief of its forces in Austria or its diplomatic or political representative in Austria or such other official as it may care to nominate.
- (c) Each High Commissioner may appoint a deputy to act for him in his absence.
- (d) A High Commissioner may be assisted in the Allied Council by a political adviser and/or a military adviser who may be respectively the diplomatic or political representative of his Government in Vienna or the Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Austria of his Government.
- (e) The Allied Council shall meet at least twice in each month or at the request of any member.

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By RL NARA Date 9/14/03

RG 260

Entry U S A R A

File Office of Director

Box 38

Article 10

- (a) Members of the Executive Committee, shall, when necessary, attend meetings of the Allied Council;
- (b) The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Allied Council in matters delegated to it by the Council;
- (c) The Executive Committee shall ensure that the decisions of the Allied Council and its own decisions are carried out;
- (d) The Executive Committee shall coordinate the activities of the Staffs of the Allied Commission.

110608

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Authority NND 783 006
By [Signature] NARA Date 9/14/99

RG 260
Entry U.S.A.R.A.
File Office of Director
Box 38

Article 13

The existing Inter-Allied Command in Vienna, formerly known as the Kommandatura, shall continue to act as the instrument of the Allied Commission for affairs concerning Vienna as a whole until its functions in connection with civil administration can be handed over to the Vienna municipality. These will be handed over progressively and as rapidly as possible. The form of supervision which will then be applied will be decided by the Allied Council. Meanwhile the Vienna Inter-Allied Command shall have the same relation to the Municipal Administration of Vienna as the Allied Commission has to the Austrian Government.

110809

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By JL NARA Date 9/14/99

RG 260
Entry USA RA
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Box 38

Article 12

The decisions of the Allied Council, Executive Committee, and other constituted bodies of the Allied Commission shall be unanimous.

The Chairmanship of the Allied Council, Executive Committee and Directorates shall be held in rotation.

110610

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Authority ND 783 006By RL NARA Date 9/14/73

RG

260Entry USA RD

File Office of Director

Box 38Article II

- (a) The staffs of the Allied Commission in Vienna shall be organized in Divisions matching one or more of the Austrian Ministries or Departments with the addition of certain Divisions not corresponding to any Austrian Ministry or Department. The List of Divisions is given in Annex I to this Agreement; this organization may be changed at any time by the Allied Council;
- (b) The Divisions shall maintain contact with the appropriate Departments of the Austrian Government and shall take such action and issue such directions as are within the policy approved by the Allied Council or the Executive Committee;
- (c) The Divisions shall report as necessary to the Executive Committee;
- (d) At the Head of each Division there shall be four Directors, one from each of the Four Powers, to be collectively known as the Directorate of that Division. Directors of Divisions or their representatives may attend meetings of the Allied Council or of the Executive Committee in which matters affecting the work of their Divisions are being discussed. The four officials acting as the head of each Division may appoint such temporary subcommittees as they deem desirable.

110311

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Authority: NND 785 006
By [Signature]
NARA Date: 9/14/99

RG

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File Office of Director
Box 38Article 14

The present Agreement shall come into operation as from this day's date and shall remain in force until it is revised or abrogated by agreement between the Four Powers. On the coming into effect of the present Agreement the Agreement signed in the European Advisory Commission on 4th July 1945, shall be abrogated. The Four Powers shall consult together not more than six months from this day's date with a view to its revision.

In witness whereof the present Agreement has been signed on behalf of each of the Four Powers by its High Commissioner in Austria.

Done this twenty eighth day of June 1946 at Vienna in quadruplicate in English, in French and in Russian, each text being equally authentic. A translation into German shall be agreed between the four High Commissioners and communicated by them as soon as possible to the Austrian Government.

For the Government
of the United
Kingdom

For the Government
of the United States
of America

For the Government
of the Union of
Soviet Socialist
Republics

For the Government
of the French
Republic

Lieutenant General

General

Colonel General

General de Corps
d'Armee

/s/ J. S. Steele

/s/ Mark W. Clark

/s/ L. V. Kurasov

/s/ M. E. Bethouart

110612

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Authority NND 783 006
By DDC NARA Date 9/14/97RG 260
Entry USA RA
File Office of Director
Box 38List of the Divisions of the Allied Commission (See Article II (a))

(a) Divisions each matching one or more Ministries or Departments of the Austrian Government:-

<u>Division</u>	<u>Austrian Departments</u>
1. Internal Affairs	(Interior (Chancery (except (Foreign Department)
2. Political	Chancery (Foreign Department)
3. Legal	Law and Justice
4. Finance	Finance
5. Education	Public Education and Religious Affairs
6. Social Administration	Social Administration
7. Economic	(Economic Planning and (Property Control (Commerce and Reconstruction (Food (Agriculture and Forestry (Electrification and (Power
8. Transport and Communications	Transportation
(b) Divisions not matching any Austrian Ministry or Department:-	
9. Reparations, Deliveries and Restitution	
10. Prisoners of War and Displaced Persons	
11. Naval	
12. Military	
13. Air	

Pub Health
WelfareLabour
PDC

110613

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By <u>10</u>	NARA Date <u>01/28</u>

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 Box 126

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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
 ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
 G-5 DIVISION

SHAEF/G-5/Info/850/6

2 June 1945

MILITARY GOVERNMENT - CIVIL AFFAIRS
WEEKLY FIELD REPORT NO. 51

(For week ending 2400 hours 2 June 1945)

CONTENTSPart I **MILITARY GOVERNMENT**

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Part II **CIVIL AFFAIRS IN LIBERATED TERRITORIES**

Section A - FRANCE	8
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APPENDICES**"A" LOCATION OF DETACHMENTS****"B" EIGHTH TYPHUS REPORT**

21 30

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have been destroyed or damaged. Before occupation, in accordance with Reich instructions, files relating to the affairs of Jews and of high state and party officials were destroyed, as were also the secret records of the Zollgrenzschutz.

The Oberfinanzpraesident, who was a NSDAP member from 1933, claims that all officials of the Praesidium were compelled to become party members.

The SS who had always wanted to control the Zollgrenzschutz, took over control after the attempt on Hitler's life in July 1944.

Property Control

MUNICH. The Fuehrer's Bau and the offices of the NSDAP Treasury are under the direct control of and guarded by the T-Force, with whom the actual taking of the property under control is being coordinated. The most important party financial records appear to have been destroyed or removed. The Party HQ contains a wealth of records, stores and installations. There are complete party membership files, radio stations, secret rooms and passages, great quantities of arms and ammunition, and, in the cellars, many art treasures from both the United Nations and Germany. The works of art are to be removed from the cellars, where they have been deteriorating owing to dampness and flooding.

MEERKINGEN. Two miles from this town, an important part of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg art collection was discovered in the Buxheim Monastery. There are fifteen rooms containing paintings, tapestries, rugs, furniture and other objets d'art. Prima facie evidence of loot is supplied by tags indicating ownership by the Rothschilds and other French collectors.

FRANKFURT. A number of trucks containing vital parts of the Opel plant were discovered in the custody of officials of the company. They said that the parts had been removed when the German Army withdrew, and that their return would make operation of the plant possible. The discovery has been reported to G-4 and the trucks held in custody.

4. FOOD and AGRICULTURE

The WESTPHALIA potato crop will be 25 per cent less than last year due to a shortage of seed. The need for creation of a workable financial policy for farmers is urgent. Farm subsidies from BERLIN totalled RM 55 million annually in WESTPHALIA. Cessation of the subsidies will result in reduced production or a black market problem. Crop prospects in LIPPE and SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE provinces are good, with cultivation well advanced, though transportation for delivery of fertilizer is uncertain.

In those provinces seed can be planted as late as 15 June: 160 tons have been shipped to HALTERN and HERNE and 300 tons of eating potatoes have been shipped to GOSLAR for rationing. The Wehrmacht training grounds in NAUMBURG-SAALE have been plowed and are being planted with potatoes. In Landkreis BONN and neighbouring sections 54 carloads of seed potatoes and 80 "centenal" of red clover were delivered. The Hofkarten of Kreis MERZIG, taken by the Nazis, have been found at KAISERSLAUTERN.

Livestock Statistics

The following statistics of German livestock are part of the official census which has been taken more frequently during the war than before, and was printed for official use only. Hog census were taken four times a year as previously, but cattle and sheep have lately been counted twice a year.

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By JO NARA Date 01/28

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Entry 34

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SHAEF

STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL

INCOMING MESSAGE

UAGP

SHAEF 7/24
TOC 240035 APRIL
eeq, 240125 APRIL

TOO 232230B APRIL

SECRET

EMERGENCY

FROM : EXFOR MAIN

TO: FOR ACTION : SHAEF MAIN G-5

FROM INFO : TWELFTH ARMY GROUP G-5, REAR EXFOR CA

RUF NO : MG 372 23 APRIL 1945

CA MIL GOV SITREP 15

1. 905 moving to 8 Corps as det from MUNSTER
 862, 106 for ROTENBURG. 6 BRC relief teams despatched
 BULLEN, Disbandment Control Unit No.25 allotted to 206
 R Det. 27 Special Feeding Team ARNHEM. 801 C Det KOOI-
 WIJTELBROEK E5697. 813 Det-relieving 221. 818 moving
 to HAREN. Boy Scouts Relief Sec moving to 201 Det at GR
 BISCHOPPE. 6 FAU moving from B21 Det to 818 Det at HAREN.
 630 Det at WERLITE V97. French girls relief team att 818
 Det. Boy scouts att 201 Det DALUM V64. 6 Relief Sec FAU
 att 818 Det at 4 camp WALCHUM V68. 713, 715, 719, 72, 723,
 725, 730 moved MILLEREN E8763 with 1 BRC relief team. 3
 BBC med feeding units, 1 VMK sec for refugee work HI area
 under comd 1 Can Corps. 324 Det and 2 BRC relief teams
 deployed ARNHEM for refugee work under comd 1 Can Corps.
 Following due CA transit area GRAVE B65 No. 1 and 2 BBC Kitchen
 Secs and 1 and 2 Canteen Secs. 613 relieving 804 Det at
 TIL APEL V57.

2. Legal offr att 817 R Det on way to APEL-
 DOORN appreahended 2 German offrs near ZUTPHEN.

3. Auxiliary police appointed MOLSEN X99, 3.
 KALDORF X9885, 1. RIESTERT X9698, 2. TORSTET X9122, 4.
 JUNGBURG 43. SCHUPO & KRIPO. Prison in good condition, 63
 males and 13 females. 1 arrest for concealment of arms
 SCHAU X 49. LUNTEREN E5589 1 policeman, 30 auxiliary police.
 100 collaborators arrested. ARNHEM some civs crossing from
 island.

21 86

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SHAEF
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
INCOMING MESSAGE

REF NO: MG 372

SHAEF 7/24

138 PWX at THERAPEL V572. 0563 now in static installation of which 4544 are PWX and 69 PW waiting to be removed by (A) and 450 DP. Approx breakdown Italians 4012, Russian 843, Germans 69, Polish 50, miscellaneous 89. Camp No 4 at WALCHUM V63 being rapidly put in shape to house 1200. Burgmeisters food sups coming in satisfactorily. Accn stores urgently required and every possible effort being made to obtain locally. 138 PWX gradually being removed.

9. Informers disclosed large store jewels watches etc hidden BREISBEN. Being taken into custody property control Second Army. NEDERLANDSCHE Bank XGRIONINGEN reported to hold 170,000,000 guilders in cotes. DAHMER Director Reichsbank under arrest. Finance offr investigating 21 Apr.

10. Second Army report morale generally good. 604 Det report 55 Nazis, incl 2 Gestapo organising Werewolf. Hoped to arrest all 22 Apr. EDM E58, civ adm functioning. MEPPEN UG, German civ arrested for intimidation committed suicide in prison. APRILDOORN approx 100 members PRINCE BERNHARDTS NETHERLANDS Forces of the Interior arriving to set up HQ in QUEENS PALACE 22 Apr.

11. Phantom report concentration camp of 2000 uncovered 22 Apr ALTGARDE to 424 on R ELBE. No details. PW camp liberated STALAG XB S3618 incl 8 Russians, 24 Poles DP.

ACTION : G-5
 INFORMATION : G-4
 PWD
 POL OFFICERS
 AG RECORDS

SMC IN 7319 24 APR 45 0357B 3L/daw REF NO: MG 372

21 88

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STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL

INCOMING MESSAGE

UAGP

200 151845B APR

SHAEF 235/15
TOR 152055B APR
v1b 152122B APR

S E C R E T
P R I O R I T Y

FROM : EXFOR MAIN
 TO FOR ACTION : SHAEF MAIN G-5
 FOR INFO : TWELFTH US ARMY GROUP
 REF NO : MG 294 15 APRIL 1945

CA/MIL GOV SITREP 7.

1. No change.

2. 105 NIENBURG X0151. 224 left OSNABRUCK.
 502 LEMFORDE W4330. 517 COURT DIEPHOLZ W4245. 520 NEUSTADT
 X1735. 912 CELLE X55. 913 mov for ULZEN A82. Main 8 Corps
 MG ABBENSEN X275430.

Following dets moving CELLE 224, 520, 913
 527. 529 VILSEN W8671. AMTGERICHT NEUSTADT intact also
 juvenile prison (20 cells) intact. Ortsgruppenleiter of
 DORVERDEN X0073 arrested and handed over to FS. 5 policemen
 appointed by 202 Det in SYKE W7280. 2 policemen appointed
 by 529 Det in SCHAPEN V8723. 1 Russian murdered in DIEPHOLZ
 W44. Murderers admitted guilt investigation proceeding.
 Otherwise nothing to report except looting by DP.

21 108 4. No change.

5. Following reported by 825 Det and located
 LEMFORDE W4430, rye unmilled approx 40 tons, maize 6 tons,
 oats 2 tons, phosphates 20 tons, salt (partly damaged) 3 tons.
 6000 rations ordered daily for DP from SK BOCHOLT for 1 week.

6. 1 Corps expect be able accept regular 2000
 Westbound DP per day wef 15 Apr. 2000 DP and 2000 refugees

SMC IN 4734

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By JO NARA Date 01/28

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Entry 34

File 321 CA MG OPS '45

Box 126

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REF NO: MG-294

15 APRIL 1945

SMAFF 235/15

reported in NIENBURG. 1000 DP incl Dutch and Jugoslav and Italians soon in 2 camps. Estimated BEDEBURG clear by 21 Apr.

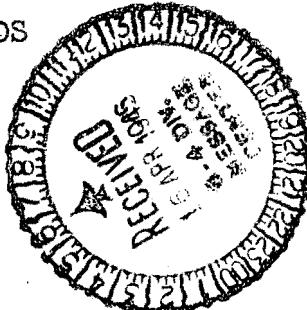
7. Public health generally good, no epidemics.

8. Air raid on DIEPHOLZ resulted in 5 mil 8 civ deaths, 25 mil wounded. Number of Rembrandt etchings believed originals uncovered in HOYA W9867 held at present by 53(W) Div for safe custody. 4 camps uncovered DORWERDEN capacities 2000, 1000, 150, 100. 2 latter will be closed as dirty and unsuitable. 2 former in excellent condition. 102 R Det moving into largest called STEINLAGER 13 Apr. Present holdings total 1268. All banks opened in KREIS STEINFURT, BURGSTEINFURT, BORCHORST, EMSDETTEL. Manager EMSDETTEL authorised obtain RM 200,000 from RHEINE.

ACTION : G-5

INFORMATION : G-4 ✓
POL OFF
PWD
AG RECORDS

21 109



COPIES	9-15
RECD	9
EXRC	
WAR ROOM	
COS	
LOG PLANS	
PER	10
MOV. TN.	11-12
MIL. CIVS	13
WAR. MATER.	14
P.R.E.	15

SMC IN 4734, 15 April 1945 - 2340B WL/jes, REF NO: MG 294

-2-

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Authority NNDT60238
By 10 NARA Date 01/28

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SHAEF
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING MESSAGE

S E C R E T
P R I O R I T Y

TO : AGWAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF
FOR COMBINED CIVIL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
INFORMATION TO HILLDRING

FOR INFO : AFHQ FOR ALEXANDER; AMSSO FOR BRITISH
CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM : SHAEF MAIN SIGNED EISENHOWER

REF NO : S-82428 TOO: 191700A

This is VOG 343.

1. Summary of Civil Affairs/Military Government operations for period ending 2400 hours 17 March 1945.
2. Detachments 252 localities. FRANCE 91, BELGIUM 69, LUXEMBOURG 22, NETHERLANDS 45, GERMANY 35.
3. FRANCE.

A. Finance. Civil expenses 1945 budget francs 214,439 millions, of which 61,316 millions result directly from hostilities.

B. Supply. 40 tons seed potatoes by rail from MINISTERE for LOIRE-INFERIEURE, with more expected this week.

C. Food and Agriculture. Food transportation improved. PARIS arrivals first week March 7051 tons daily, highest since liberation. Butter and meat still low. Favorable weather speeding spring cereal seeding.

D. Labor. On 3 March, US Forces were employing 129,918 civilians all types activities in COM ZONE Area.

SMC OUT 1814 21 122 E C R E T

-1-
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By 10 NARA Date 01/08

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SHAEF
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING MESSAGE

S E C R E T

REF NO: S-82428

-5-

TOO: 191700A

G. Public Health. Control measures typhus fever adequate; 119 cases reported. Civilian casualties combat area being hospitalized AACHEN.

H. Communications. In AACHEN official intra-city letters distributed open envelopes thrice weekly; labor office cards to civilians distributed daily. Records of German Postmaster show 4,411 letters, 428 cards delivered February; 4,410 copies weekly newspaper during first week in March.

I. Fine Arts. XI Century Pulpit AACHEN Cathedral unharmed; growing collection works of art recovered from battle areas in SEURMONDT Museum, AACHEN; 1,100 cases archives and rare books found in fortified cave across ROER River from JUELICH.

ORIGINATOR	:	G-5	AUTHENTICATION:	A. GOINGS, CWO
INFORMATION	:	AM EMBASSY PARIS BR EMBASSY PARIS G-4 PWD SGS SHAEF FWD AG RECORDS		

SMC OUT 1814 19 MAR 45 1843A EWL/daw REF NO: S-82428
TOO: 191700A

21 126

S E C R E T

-5-

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