

PHOTOCOPY
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8 November 1955

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Wien, den 10. Jänner 1939.

B e r i c h t für Herrn S.S. Obersturmführer E i c h m a n n :

Es wäre möglich, die Auswanderung aus der Ostmark zu beschleunigen, wenn die Genehmigung zur Ueberweisung von Staatspensionen, Sozialversicherungs- und Privatversicherungsrenten und sonstigen Bezügen ins Ausland, insbesondere aber nach Palästina erteilt werden würde.

Die Kultusgemeinde schlägt vor, dass solche Bezüge bis zu einem Betrage von RM 100.- pro Monat zum vollen Kurswert, darüber hinaus jedoch mit einem Kursabschlag gemäss nachfolgender Tabelle Ueberwiesen werden.

Die Ueberweisung dieser Pensionen und Rentenbezüge würde nicht nur die Auswanderung der unmittelbar Bezugsberechtigten ermöglichen, sondern auch in vielen Fällen jüngeren Personen, die im Inlande nur mit Rücksicht auf ihre alten Eltern verbleiben, zur Auswanderung verhelfen.

Es sei abschliessend darauf verwiesen, dass bei jüdischen Auswanderern sicherlich der durch die §§ 61 und 62 der Richtlinien für die Devisenbewirtschaftung vom 22. Dezember 1938 angeführte Fall der Unmöglichkeit der Rückkehr ins Inland vorliegt.

T a b e l l e :

| | RM | RM | Kursabschlag |
|-----------------------------------|----------|-------|--------------|
| Monatlicher Pensionsbetrag bis zu | | 100.- | keiner |
| " " von | 101- bis | 200.- | 10% |
| " " " | 201- " | 300.- | 25% |
| " " " | 301- " | 400.- | 40% |
| " " " | 401- " | 500.- | 50% |

Höchsttransferebetrag : Devisen im Kurswert von RM 250.- pro Monat.

Der Kursabschlag hat derart zu erfolgen, dass von dem Pensionsbezug einer höheren Stufe unter Berücksichtigung des Kursabschlages nicht weniger erübrigen soll als von dem höchsten Pensionsbezug der nächst niedrigeren Stufe nach Abzug des auf diese Stufe entfallenden Kursabschlages.

Frank W. Hevesi

8 November 1955

Dr. Nehemiah Robinson
c/o Dr. Herbert Schoenfeldt
J.R.S.O.
Roentgenstrasse 19
Hochhaus
Bad Godesberg, Germany

Dear Nehemiah:

This is briefly in reply to a number of questions which you have raised in recent correspondence.

1) Return Legislation of German Assets in the United States:

As you have seen from copies of my letters to Hevesi and Hyman, the hearings have been set for the 29th of November and Hyman is expected to testify for the Congress along the lines of his proposal. The American Jewish Committee will request Mr. Stroock, the new Chairman of their Foreign Affairs Committee and a prominent New York lawyer, to testify in support of your and Sy's proposals. I am quite sure that Sy is prepared to go along with the suggestions that you have made. I will be in Washington on Thursday (November 10) and will discuss the nuances with Sy in order to assure that Mr. Stroock is fully and properly briefed on the proposals which you have jointly developed.

2) New York State Heirless Property Bill: The reactions which

Monroe Goldwater obtained from a number of important personalities in the New York State Government are rather discouraging both as to the principle underlying our proposals and the possibilities of practical implementation. You know me well enough by now to know that I do not intend to let the matter rest at this point. I am arranging for an approach to Jacob Javits and will discuss with Sy on Thursday a direct approach from Sy to Harriman whose Deputy Sy was during the E.C.A. days. We may have to tackle the matter, so to say, outside of the New York State Democratic machinery. I am sure if we can persuade Javits and Harriman to support such a measure the politicians will fall in line. There are, of course, the usual issues of non-Jewish property, Catholic interests, etc.

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- 3) Publicity on Articles 25 and 26 of Austrian State Treaty: The State Department press release which I hope by now you have received (if not, copy is herewith attached) is being published in the AUFBAU and STAATZZEITUNG. I will furthermore see to it that a statement appears in the AUFBAU along the lines suggested in your last letter on the subject, either as an editorial note for which neither the U.R.O. nor our Austrian Committee could be "blamed". Sy is also arranging a meeting for Thursday at the State Department at which point I will attempt to develop ^{in discussion} in discussion, thus making the Department conscious of the ^{implementation} of Articles 25 and 26 as we see them. It is clear from your letters that no initiative can be expected from the Embassy people in Vienna. I will attempt to persuade the people in the Department to urge the Austrians to extend the filing deadline on Article 26 for individuals until July, 1956 in order to create one deadline for Articles 25 and 26 claims. My justification will be the possibility of overlap in eligibility for claiming by residents of the United States and that the uniformity in this respect will avoid a lot of confusion and misunderstanding. I believe it is the most practical way to gain the time we need in order to complete our arrangements for the establishment of the Fund in Vienna and to prepare a proper information campaign for individuals eligible to assert claims under the Treaty.
- 4) BEG: You cannot imagine how disturbed Ben and I were to learn of the latest decision of the German Supreme Court which may practically wipe out the claims of Jews from the satellite countries. This on top of the position of the DPs certainly requires very drastic action. We will request Nahum today to address a letter to Schaeffer, which will be sent on in the original to Herb for turnover to Schaeffer immediately after you and he read it. I believe it contains the safeguards which you consider necessary and at the same time will serve to alert Wolff prior to his discussions with you, how strongly we feel about it. In this connection I cannot help to express my disgust over the manner in which Breslauer saw fit to endorse the request for improvements of benefits to DPs. I frankly wish that this letter would never had been written. The opening part of that letter together with the kind of praises which van Dam has been singing in the "Allgemein" certainly do not strengthen our efforts to preserve the rights which non-Jews have under the BEG as well as to obtain certain improvements for them. I know that Kurt May and Herb Schoenfeldt are equally disgusted.

I hope that you will find an appropriate moment during your internal meetings to point out what we think of this type of cooperation. I would like to see how the Council of German Jews would react to a statement by the Claims Conference in connection with the Reich Claims Law, which is really only a measure for benefitting German Jews, when we would send a letter saying that the Council has requested the Conference to support some improvements and that "maybe the Germans will give this matter some consideration".

I trust that you will ~~again~~ have opportunities to discuss our views on the BEG with Wolff, Grewe, Boehm and impress upon them the crucial points of concern to us. Whether this is done in formal meetings or on a less formal basis certainly is not very important to my mind. Nahum's trip to Europe has been postponed for the time being so that his personal intercession in Bonn at this time is, of course, not feasible. I expect, however, that there will be opportunities within the next month for Nahum to see Schaeffer if we consider this necessary.

5) Austrian Negotiations: I am hoping against hope that by the time you left Vienna the Cabinet has forwarded the Finanzgesetz to Parliament and also approved the Statutes.

As you predicted, Israeli sources (Foreign Ministry and Pinhas Rosen) speak very highly of Osterer and urge his candidacy.

I am assuming that there was no need to firm up a name roster but it was possible for you to secure a commitment from Raab or Kamitz that we will be authorized to designate five or six members to the Kuratorium. I imagine if worse comes to worse you will have to stop over in Vienna for a couple of days after the completion of your Bonn meetings prior to your return to New York. I know that the Vienna experience is, as usual, frustrating. Nonetheless, I am sure that you will agree with me that your presence there was essential and that a number of important issues in addition to the setting up of the Fund have been clarified or even have begun to be implemented.

I trust that you are keeping well. Best wishes from Ben and myself.

SK:h

Cordially yours,

Saul Kagan

Cable Address: JOINTDISCO

LExington 2-5200

Jewish Restitution Successor Organization

270 MADISON AVENUE

New York 16, N. Y.

W. Neiger
October 5, 1955
Engel

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

In connection with "notices of names of persons appearing as owners of certain unclaimed property held by New York banks", I had an opportunity, on September 29, 1955, to make inquiries with the Manufacturers Trust Company. The picture would appear to be as follows:

Under the law, the banks are required to publish such notices 15 years after the last transaction has taken place on an account. If there is no response within a short period of time, the account in question is turned over to the Secretary of State of the State of New York. The State Government apparently does not receive copies of all such lists published, but has, of course, lists of all accounts being turned over to it in this manner.

W. Neiger

Antonie Neiger

AN/djh

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE • AGUDAS ISRAEL WORLD ORGANIZATION • WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS • COUNCIL FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF JEWS FROM GERMANY • BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS • CONSEIL REPRESENTATIF DES JUIFS DE FRANCE • CENTRAL BRITISH FUND • JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE • AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC. • JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC. • INTERESSENVERTRETUNG ISRAELITISCHER KULTUSGEMEINDEN IN THE U. S. ZONE OF GERMANY • ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION

OPERATING AGENTS

JEWISH AGENCY FOR PALESTINE • AMERICAN JEWISH JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE, INC. • JEWISH CULTURAL RECONSTRUCTION, INC.

יידישער וועלט-קאנגרעס

הקונגרס היהודי העולמי

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

15 EAST 84TH STREET
NEW YORK 28, N. Y.

SEP 2 1955

CABLES: WORLDGROSS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: TRAFALGAR 9-4500

ALGIERS
1 rue Mahon

BUENOS AIRES
Corrientes 1979

GENEVA
37 Quai Wilson

JERUSALEM
1 Ben Yehuda Street

LONDON W1
55 New Cavendish St.

MELBOURNE
325 Collins Street

MEXICO CITY
Calle de Cuba 81

MONTEVIDEO
Calle Florida 1418

MONTREAL
493 Sherbrooke St., W.

PARIS VIII
78 Av. des Ch. Elysees

RIO DE JANEIRO
Caixa Postal 2344

ROME
Lungotevere Sanzio 9

SANTIAGO
Tarapaca 8.68

STOCKHOLM
Grev Magnigatan 11

TEL AVIV
Montefiore Street 24

Tour
P/s follow up August 31, 1955
Let me know
what's available; check with
our bank.

Mr. Saul Kagan
Conference on Claims
270 Madison Avenue
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Saul,

I don't always see the Notices of Names of Persons Appearing as Owners of Certain Unclaimed Property held by New York banks. One such notice (Bankers Trust Company) appeared in the Aug. 26th issue of the N.Y. Herald Tribune. This is, so far as I could see, the first notice which refers i.a. to deposits held by persons residing abroad. There are a number of amounts held for the payment of negotiable instruments whose addresses are unknown. Some of the names sound Jewish, others not.

If we could obtain all lists which have been published we could check the names and see how urgent the proposed N.Y. State Law has already become.

Best regards,

N. Robins.

Nehemiah Robinson

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State Dept. of Banks
Albany, N.Y.

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