940.603 GOLD, RUMANIA

11/400 (7)

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RG 260
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File 940603 Gold, Rum
Box 442

LIST OF PAPERS

FILE NO. 940.603 FILE TITLE Gold, Rumania

No.	Date	Subject	No.	Date	Subject

OMGUS
RECORD
FILE

THIS FILE IS THE PROPERTY
OF DEPT. OF THE ARMY ON
LOAN TO HICOG

REVIEWED BY HQ EUCOM
SCREENING TEAM
DATE 4/12/50
SIGNATURE

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Entry Finance Offices
File 940603 Gold, Currency
Box 442

Shipments of Gold from the Reichsbank to the Roumanian National Bank, Bukarest.

7.6.1940	kg fine	3,427.6088	bars	=	RM.	9,542,462.90	= $	3,857,002
31.1.1942	"	7,224.0104	"	=	RM.	20,111,644.95	= $	8,128,998
9.2.1942	"	7,123.6618	"	=	RM.	19,832,274.45	= $	8,016,079
15.2.1943	"	7,183.4844	"	=	RM.	19,998,820.57	= $	8,083,395
5.4.1943	"	7,204.5913	"	=	RM.	20,100,809.73	= $	8,107,146
18.4.1943	"	7,185.0363	"	=	RM.	20,046,251.28	= $	8,085,142
2.5.1943	"	7,183.1906	"	=	RM.	20,041,101.77	= $	8,083,065
12.5.1943	"	1,242.4119	"	=	RM.	3,466,329.20	= $	1,398,055
	kg fine	47,773.9955			RM.	133,139,694.85	$	53,758,882

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File 940603 Gold
Box 642

94062

CONFIDENTIAL 23 July 1946

SUBJECT: Gold Received by the National Bank of Rumania, Bucarest, From the Reichsbank, Berlin During the War.

TO : Director, Finance Div., OMGUS, APO 742, US Army

1. In compliance with your letter of 15 July 1946 we have reviewed the records of the Reichsbank at this office pertaining to the above subject. Enclosed is a columnar statement of our findings which is further explained as follows:

(a) The statement by the Governor of the National Bank of Rumania in his letter of 28 March 1946, as to the amount of gold shipped direct to Bucarest, from Germany, namely 47,774. FKg. agrees with Reichsbank records.

(b) Of this total (47,774. Fkg), the amount 29,998.7 Fkg was originally acquired by the Reichsbank from the Banque de France in Paris, which latter institution was holding this gold for the account of the Banque Nationale de Belgique. As regards the balance, or 17,775.3 Fkg, it is indicated from the bank number sequence of the Reichsbank and in the absence of contrary evidence, that this portion was the property of the Reichsbank.

(c) The records of the Reichsbank also reflect a delivery of 2 gold bars to the National Bank of Rumania, of which the Governor makes no mention. The records at the depository do not establish the identity of the agency that accepted delivery for the Rumanian Bank. This gold was originally received from the Banque de France where it appears to have been held on behalf of

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the Iron Gate Administration, Orsova-Rumania, and, when received by the Reichsbank, was taken up in the account of the National Bank of Rumania to whom it was subsequently delivered.

2. We were unable to identify as individual shipments the total of 10,395.7 Fkg claimed to have been deposited with the Union des Banques Suisses for the account of the Rumanian bank in accordance with the Protocol of February 9. 1944. The records indicate that the Reichsbank during the war period made substantial gold shipments to the Swissbank for its (Reichsbank's) own account. This suggests the possibility that the amount claimed by the Rumanian bank may have been acquired by it by a book entry transfer on the books of the Swiss bank. In any event the Governor states he has instituted steps to obtain further particulars direct from Switzerland and this additional information may enable us to effect identification.

3. On page 3, second paragraph, the Governor writes: "Upon receipt of each shipment of gold, the National Bank of Rumania checked the ingots received and found that they all bore the Mark of the Reichsbank." This is inconsistent with our records which indicate that all gold of Banque de Belgique origin was resmelted by the Prussian Mint after being received by the Reichsbank. In this connection reference is made to a report dated 15 August 1945 on the subject of Belgian gold and signed by Colonel Bernstein, which states (paragraph 11, page 2): "But at a later date, all the bars and some of the coin were sent to the Prussian Mint for resmelting. The obvious purpose seems to have been to destroy its identity as gold belonging to the Belgians, the new bars appearing of course, with new smelt numbers, no longer traceable - except in the Mint's or Reichsbank's own records - to their Belgian origin."

4. Returned herewith is the file which accompanied your letter of 15 July 1946.

William G. BREY,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief Foreign Exchange
Depository

WGB/CL - R
Tel: Frankf. 24583

1 Encl:
No. 1 Gold Movements from Reichsbank, Berlin, to National Bank of Rumania, Bucarest, since September 1939 to Date.

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GOLD RETRIEVED FROM REICH

NATIONAL BANK OF RUMANIA, BUCAREST, RUM

Shipment Date	Number of Bars	Type	Bank Numbers	Wo Pe
15 Feb. 43	584	Reichsmarkgold	38470/39053	7.
5 Apr. 43	580	do	39054/39633	7.
18 Apr. 43	346	do	39634/39979	7.
do	295	Standard	10823/11117	
2 May 43	590	do	11118/11707	7.
12 May 43	103	do	11708/11810	1.
	2438			
31 Jan. 42	1155	Reichsmarkgold	24269/25391	7.
9 Feb. 42			25393/25458	7.
7 June 40	179	Reichsmarkgold	23944/24068 25292/25392	3.
do	97	900/1000ths	19421/19517	

Total Gold shipped by Reichsbank direct to Rumania National Bank and acknowledged by letter in letter 28 March 1946

Delivery Date			
11 March 44	2	Standard	37107/8

TOTAL GOLD SHIPPED AND DELIVERED:

(A). (B). (C) See corresponding paragraphs in accompanying letter.

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RG 260
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File 940603 Gold, Rum
Box 442

...NK, BERLIN, TO

...SEPTEMBER 1939 TO DATE

Date: 22 July 1946
Encl. No. 1

...ght in Fine Kilograms Shipment	Totals	Remarks as to Origin
...3.4844		This gold was originally acquired by the Reichsbank from the Banque de France in Paris where it was being held for the account of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.
...4.5913		
...5.0369		
...3.1906		
...2.4119		
	29.998.7145 (B)	
24.0164		The sequence of bank numbers in the Control Book indicates that these bars were held by the Reichsbank as early as 1935.
23.6618		
27.6088		The bank numbers of the lot of 179 Schwertige gold bars being lower than for the lot of 1155 of similar fineness described above, it seems reasonable to conclude, in the absence of any contrary evidence, that these were also held by the Reichsbank in 1935 or earlier.
		The book control of bank numbers for bars of 900/1000ths fineness indicates that all bars numbered below 19575 were probably in the possession of the Reichsbank before the opening of hostilities.
	17.775.2810 (B)	
	47.773.9955 (A)	
	25.6182 (C)	This gold is part of a lot of 4 bars received by the Reichsbank in August 1943 from the Banque de France, Paris, for the account of the Iron Gate Administration, Orsova-Rumania. The two bars listed were subsequently turned over to the National Bank of Rumania presumably via the Rumanian Embassy in Berlin; the remaining two bars continued in the Reichsbank vault and were transferred subsequently to the Merkers Mine.
	47.799.6137	

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File 940603 Gold, [illegible]
Box 442

1940	Kopfi[illegible]	
7. VI	3,427,608.8	
1942		
31. I	7,224,010.4	
9. II	7,123,661.8	14,347,672.2
1943		
15. II	7,183,484.4	
5. IV	7,204,591.3	
18. IV	7,185,036.3	
2. V	7,183,190.6	
12. V	1,242,411.9	29,998,714.5 (BK Nat'l de Belgique)

220650

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RG 260
Entry Finance Offices
File 940603 Gold, Inv.
Box 442

Letter of June 14, 1946 page 2

The transfer of 29,9987 Refinery gold did not consist of
4 shipments between Feb 9, 1943 and March 10, 1943
but of 5 shipments between Feb 9, 1943 and Mar 12, 1943

Bar Nr 38470-39979 = 1570 Northwestern bars
" " 10883-11810 = 928 Standard "

220651

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According to the working-books of Precious-Metals-Department of the Reichsbank, the Bank of France, Paris, delivered in August 1943 to the German Reichsbank, Berlin, on account of the „Iron Gate Administration, Orsova-Roumania," a golddeposit, consisting of 4 goldbars ~~x~~ grough 55,905.3 ~~x~~ gfine 51,248.3.

2 goldbars grough ~~55,905.3~~ 27,959.1 gfine 25,630.1

were stored as a „deposit of the Iron Gate Administration, Orsova," and later shipped with other gold-deposits and -reserves to Merkers Mine.

The remaining 2 goldbars grough 27,946.2 gfine 25,618.2 first had been held in the Reichsbank as an „Asservat of the Roumanian Nationalbank, Bucarest," and then handed over in March 1944 - as far as I remember - to the Roumanian Embassy, Berlin, in order to be brought by courier to the Roumanian Nationalbank, Bucarest.

20/7.46. [signature]

220652

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Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Rum
Box 442

220653

Shipments to Rumanian N[illegible] Bucarest

a/ kgfine 14,347.7

Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte und Tresor-Arbeitsbuch

31. I. 42 } 1155 goldbars (Deutsche Barren)
& 9. II. 42 }
Nr. 24263–25291, kgr 14,379,281.0 kgfine 14,347,672.2
25333–25458,

In 1935 these bars belonged to the „Depot of the Treuhandgesellschaft von 1933 m.b.H. Konto „G.R."

On 20 Jan 1942 they were turned over to the „Goldankauf", on 23 Jan 42 from the „Goldankauf" to the Asservat „Der" and from here to the Depot Rumanian Natbk. (Gewichts-Kontrolle der Goldbarren des Goldankaufs). The shipments to Bucarest took place on 31 Jan, 1942 and on 9 Febr, 1942

b/ kgfine 3427,608.8

Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte und Tresor Arbeitsbuch

7/8, June 1940

179 Deutsche goldbars
23944–24081
25292–25332
97 900er goldbars
19421–19517
} kgr 3,557,264.6 kgfine 3,427,608.8

The bank-numbers of the 179 German goldbars belong to that series of numbers, which already in 1935 were property of the Reichsbank. On 8 Juni, 1940 they were turned over to Asservat „Der" from the „Goldankauf" (look Gewichtskontrolle für Goldbarren des Goldankaufs) and from the Asservat „Der" they had been taken on the same day for shipment to Bucarest.

By controlling the bank-numbers in the bar-book for 900/1000-bars fact can be confirmed that the bank-numbers below 19575

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File 940603 Gold, Rom
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220654

Shipments to Rumanian Nationalbank, Bucarest

a/ kgfine 14,347.7

Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte und Tresor-Arbeitsbuch

31. I. 42 } 1155 goldbars (Deutsche Barren)
9. II. 42 }

Nr. 24263-25291, kgr 14,379,281.0 kgfine 14,347,672.2
25333-25458,

In 1935 these bars belonged to the Depot of the "Treuhandgesellschaft von 1933 m.b.H. Konto G.R."
On 20 Jan 1942 they were turned over to the "Goldankauf", on 23 Jan 42 from the "Goldankauf" to the Asservat "Der" and from here to the Depot Rouman Natbk (Gewichts-Kontrolle der Goldbarren des Goldankaufs). The shipments to Bucarest took place on 31 Jan, 1942 and on 9 Febr, 1942

b/ kgfine 3427,608.8

Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte und Tresor Arbeitsbuch

7/8, June 1940

179 Deutsche goldbars
23944-24081
25292-25332
97 900er goldbars
19421-19517
} kgr 3,557,264.6 kgfine 3,427,608.8

The bank numbers of the 179 German goldbars belong to that series of numbers, which already in 1935 were property of the Reichsbank. On 8 Jun, 1940 they were turned over to Asservat "Der" from the "Goldankauf" (look Gewichtskontrolle für Goldbarren des Goldankaufs) and from the Asservat "Der" they had been taken on the same day for shipment to Bucarest.
By controlling the bank numbers in the bar-book for 900/1000-bars

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came to the Reichsbank before May 25, 1939. On the date of shipment these bars had been taken from Asservat Per.

In this case too the conclusion seems reasonable that the 97 bars were property of the Reichsbank

20/7.46 Thomas

220655

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File 940603 Gold, Fin
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220656

Shipments to Roumanian Nationalbank, Bucarest

kgfine 29,998.7

Tresor-Arbeitsbuch

15.II.43 –	584	goldbars (hochwertig)	Nr.	38470 – 39053 ✓
5.IV.43	580	" (")	"	39054 – 39633 ✓
17.IV.43	346	" (")	"	39634 – 39979 ✓
	1510			

Tresor-Arbeitsbuch

17.IV.43	235	goldbars (Standard)	Nr.	10883 – 11117 ✓
28.IV.43	590	" (")	"	11118 – 11707 ✓
12.V.43	103	" (")	"	11708 – 11810 ✓
	928			

Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte

15.II.43	584	hochwertige bars	kgr 7,203,187.0	kgf 7,183,484.4
5.IV.43	580	" "	" 7,223,404.5	7,204,591.3
17.IV.43	346	" "	" 4,309,829.5	4,303,849.8
			kgr 18,736,421.0	kgfine 18,691,925.5

Gewichtskontrolle Asservate & Depots

17.IV.43 – 12.V.43	928	standard bars	kgr 12,336,994.5	11,306,789.0
2438 Goldbars			kgr 31,073,415.5	29,998,714.5

This gold had been originally acquired by the Reichsbank from the Banque Nationale de Belgique through the intermediary of the Banque de France.

20/7.46 Thomas

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(orig + 3 copies)

Gold Movement
National Bank of Rumania, Buc
Weight in FKg

Shipment Date	Number of Bars	Type	Bank Numbers	Per Shipment
Feb 15, 43	584	Hochwertige	38470/39053	7 183.484.4
Apr 5	580	do	39054/39633	7 204.591.3
Apr 17	346	do	39634/39979	4 303.849.8
do	235	Standard	10883/11117	
Apr 28	590	do	11118/11707	11 306.789
May 12	103	do	11708/11810	
	2438			
Jan 31, 42 + Feb 9, 42	1155	Hochwertige	24263/25291 25333/25458	14 347.672.2
June 7, 40	179	Hochwertige	23944/24081 25292/25332	3 427.608.8
do	97	900/1000 do	19421/19517	

Total Gold shipped by Reichsbank direct to Rumanian National Bank and acknowledged by latter in letter March 28, 1946

Delivery Date			
March 11, 1944	2	Standard	37107/8

220657

Total Gold Shipped and Delivered

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File 940603 Gold, Rum
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(orig + 3 copies)

Gold Movement
National Bank of Rumania, Buc
Weight in FKg

Shipment Date	Number of Bars	Type	Bank Numbers	Per Shipment
Feb 15, 43	584	Hochwertige	38470/39053	7 183.484.4
Apr 5	580	do	39054/39633	7 204.591.3
Apr 17	346	do	39634/39979	4 303.849.8
do	235	Standard	10883/11117	
Apr 28	590	do	11118/11707	11 306.789
May 12	103	do	11708/11810	
	2438			
Jan 31, 42 + Feb 9, 42	1155	Hochwertige	24263/25291 25333/25458	14 347.672.2
June 7, 40	179	Hochwertige	23944/24081 25292/25332	3 427.608.8
do	97	900/1000 th	19421/19517	

Total Gold shipped by Reichsbank direct to Rumanian National Bank and acknowledged by letter in letter March 28, 1946

Delivery Date			
March 11, 1944	2	Standard	37107/8

220658

Total Gold Shipped and Delivered

①, ②, ③ see corresponding paragraphs in accompanying letter

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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, [illegible] 2 July, 1946
Box 442

220659

[illegible] from Reichsbank, [illegible]
[illegible]arest Since September 1939 to Date.

Totals

Remarks as to Origin

This gold was originally acquired by the Reichsbank from the Banque de France where it was being held for the account of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.

29.998.714.5 (2)

The sequence of bank numbers in the Control Book indicates that these bars were held by the Reichsbank as early as 1935.

The bank numbers of the lot of 179 Hochwertige gold bars being lower than for the lot of 1155 of similar fineness described above it seems reasonable to conclude in the absence of any contrary evidence that these were also held by the Reichsbank in 1935 or earlier.

The book control of bank numbers for bars of 900/1000 ths fineness indicates that all bars numbered below 19575 were probably in the possession of the Reichsbank before the opening of hostilities.

7.775.281 ← (2)

7.773.995.5 (1)

25.6182 (3)

This gold is part of a lot of 4 bars received by the Reichsbank in August 1943 from the Banque de France for the account of the Iron Gate Administration, Orsova-Rumania. The two bars listed were subsequently turned over to the National Bank of Rumania presumably via the Rumanian Embassy in Berlin; the remaining two bars continued in the Reichsbank vault and were transferred subsequently to the Merkers Mine.

20/7/46 Trouin-Roberts

17.799.613.7

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Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Rum

220660

...s from Reichsbank, Berlin to
...arest since September 1939 to Date.

Date: 22 July, 1946

Totals	Remarks as to Origin
	This gold was originally acquired by the Reichsbank from the Banque de France where it was being held for the account of the Banque Nationale de Belgique.
29.998.714.5 (2)	
	The sequence of bank numbers in the Control Book indicates that these bars were held by the Reichsbank as early as 1935.
17.775.281 ← (2)	The bank numbers of the lot of 179 Hochwertige gold bars being lower than for the lot of 1155 of similar fineness described above it seems reasonable to conclude in the absence of any contrary evidence that these were also held by the Reichsbank in 1935 or earlier.
17.773.995.5 (1)	The book control of bank numbers for bars of 900/1000 ths fineness indicates that all bars numbered below 19575 were probably in the possession of the Reichsbank before the opening of hostilities.
25.618.2 (3)	This gold is part of a lot of 4 bars received by the Reichsbank in August 1943 from the Banque de France for the account of the Iron Gate Administration, Orsova-Rumania. The two bars listed were subsequently turned over to the National Bank of Rumania presumably via the Rumanian Embassy in Berlin; the remaining two bars continued in the Reichsbank vault and were transferred subsequently to the [illegible]
17.799.613.7	

20/7/46 Thomas Roberts

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Box 442

Looted Art Objects

8 July 1946

1. Fin. Director 8
Div. Finance July
For. Division 1946
Exch. OMGUS
Dep. APO
OMGUS 742
(Rear)
APO
757

1. Among the items received on 21 June 1945 in a shipment of valuables sent in by the XXI Corps Artillery were the following:

a) five albums of old maps

b) five albums on botanical subjects (printed 18th century)

c) Norman helmet

This loot was reported to have been turned over to the Degenerhausen Estate for safekeeping by SS leader von Alvensleben.

2. Since the above articles seem to fall within the definition of "art objects" it is suggested that the information contained in this memorandum be made available to the Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the Restitution Branch of the Economics Division.

WGB/Cl
Tel. Frankfurt 31017

WILLIAM G. BREY
Colonel GSC
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

220661

220662

940.6D2 GOLD, TURKISH

11/400 (5)

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File 940603 Gold, Turk
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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Turkish
Box 442

LIST OF PAPERS

FILE NO. 940.6D2 FILE TITLE Gold, Turkish

No.	Date	Subject	No.	Date	Subject

OMGUS
RECORD
FILE

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REVIEWED BY HQ EUCOM SCREENING TEAM
14/2/56
DATE
SIGNATURE

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File 940603 Gold, Lum
Box 442

File 940.61 Turkish Gold

OFFICE MILITARY GOVERNMENT FOR GERMANY U.S.
AG CABLES
OUTGOING MESSAGE
SECRET
ROUTINE

FILE NO. 940.61

RECD 260919C May 1947

26 May 47

Belgian Gold

TO : AGWAR FOR WDSCA.

FROM : OMGUS SIGNED KEATING.

REF NO : CC-9304.

Re cable from State Department to USPOLAD dated 25 April 1947.

Subject is looted Belgian gold sold to Turkish Central Bank by Germans during war. Pages necessary establish smelt numbers, weights and fineness individual bars are missing from "Barrenbuecher" and "Kontrollbuecher" on hand Finance Division. However from available records Reichsbank and Prussian mint possible to obtain some additional data. It is certain that 249 bars in question were included in smelting of March 1943 consisting of total 1769 bars bearing smelt numbers 949 to 1012 inclusive with year 1937 stamped on each bar. From comparison assigned bank numbers with smelt numbers and knowledge customary accounting practices Reichsbank probably but not certain 249 bars in question bear smelt numbers 949 to 957 inclusive.

Supplementary report is being forwarded showing smelt numbers, number of bars each smelt, gross and fine weight and fineness each smelt from 949 to 1012 but not of individual bars.

Assume consideration being given possiblity Turkey received through Switzerland or other intermediaries other Belgian bars or bars looted from other countries.

USPOLAD is sending this information to Ankara as requested by State Department.

ORIGINATOR: FIN AUTH: B. H. BROWN

INFORMATION: INTELL, FIN AD EUCOM, POL AFF.

CC-9304 26 May 1947 NRA/11

SECRET

220664

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Authority NND 775059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Fin
Box 442

Gen File (Turkish Gold)

FILE NO. 940.61

April 29, 1947

SECRET

MEMORANDUM

TO : A. F. Bender, Jr., Chief
External Assets & Intelligence Branch
Finance Division

FROM: Office of Political Affairs

Following is quoted an excerpt from a telegram just received from the Department of State, concerning looted Belgian gold acquired from Germany during the war by the Central Bank of Turkey:

"Reference looted Belgian gold. During forthcoming tripartite Safehaven negotiations Ankara, Turks will be requested to return 3.5 million dollars worth looted gold acquired by their central bank from Germany during war. According to Col. Bernstein's report dated August 13, 1945, on Banque Nationale de Belgique gold acquired by Reichbank, schedule G, 249 bars Belgian gold were sold to Turkish Central Bank. Schedule G lists 39, 980 through 40 228 'Assigned bank or bag numbers'; also lists total weights and total dollar value.

"In order have more identifying marks as evidence in forthcoming negotiations, please inquire finance division-OMGUS whether in their sets of 'Barrenbuechen' and/or 'Kontrollbuecher' rough and fine weights of individual bars involved and individual smelt numbers can be established."

For the Director:

Wesley C. Haraldson
Acting Economic Counselor

Copy for Staff Secretary

Telephone 42526

220665

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Authority NND 775059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Lamm
Box 442

Belgian Gold transferred to Banque Centrale de la Republique de Turquie, Istanbul.

(Supplementary report our Cable _____, dated _____)

1754 Belgian gold bars were transferred from the Reichsbank to the Prussian State Mint between 11 and 29 March 1943. 1751 bars were smelted and 3 bars were returned.

The smelting of 1751 bars resulted in 1769 bars identified as 1766 hochwertige bars bank numbers 39980 through 41745, and 3 miscellaneous bars numbers 37005 through 37007. The year "1937" was stamped into each bar. A schedule prepared from the records of the Prussian State Mint, reflecting the 1769 bars in 64 smelts, numbered 949 - 1012, is attached.

Bars with bank numbers 39980 through 40228 (249 bars weighing 3,054,501.0 grough, 3,047,320.0 gfine) were shipped on 8 June 1943 to Banque Centrale de la Republique de Turquie, Istanbul. Bar bank numbers are not reflected in the attached schedule prepared from Prussian State Mint records as these were assigned later by Reichsbank and customarily in smelt number order. It is certain that the 249 bars shipped to Turkey form part of the 1769 bars in the schedule. The customary recording practices of the Reichsbank would indicate that the bars shipped were taken from the earliest smelt numbers.

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File 940603 Gold, Lim
Box 442

Schedule showing Smelts with pertinent Data resulting from 1751 Belgian gold bars per Records of Prussian State Mint.

Smelt No.	No. of Bars	Gross Weight in Grams	Fineness	Fine Weight in Grams
949	28	346,020	997.6	345,189.6
950	27	328,335	996.9	327,317.2
951	26	311,930	997.6	311,181.4
952	30	370,150	997.9	369,372.7
953	30	372,505	997.6	371,611.0
954	29	354,085	997.7	353,270.6
955	30	364,260	997.4	363,312.9
956	29	358,840	998.2	358,194.1
957	26	323,945	997.6	323,167.5
958	27	333,680	998.2	333,079.4
959	29	362,650	997.1	361,598.3
960	27	327,970	998.3	327,412.5
961	30	379,245	984.7	373,442.6
962	30	368,895	998.2	368,231.0
963	29	361,605	998.1	360,918.0
964	29	355,950	997.1	354,917.7
965	29	357,775	997.3	356,809.0
966	28	347,155	998.0	346,460.7
967	28	349,105	997.3	348,162.4
968	28	349,440	998.2	348,811.0
969	29	361,765	998.3	361,150.0
970	27	338,880	997.5	338,032.8
971	25	312,050	998.4	311,560.7
972	29	366,535	997.8	365,728.6
973	31	388,460	998.1	387,721.9
974	29	360,865	997.7	360,035.0
975	29	367,890	997.6	367,007.1
976	27	347,135	997.7	346,336.6
977	30	372,575	997.3	371,569.0
978	31	378,965	998.0	378,207.1
979	28	351,560	984.7	346,181.1
980	29	369,105	997.0	367,997.7
981	30	364,955	997.2	363,933.1
982	29	364,305	997.6	363,430.7
983	30	372,475	998.1	371,767.3
984	28	345,020	997.7	344,226.5
985	29	366,685	997.5	365,768.3
986	28	346,310	997.5	345,444.2
987	29	370,495	997.1	369,420.6
988	31	384,930	997.4	383,929.2
	1147	14,254,500		14,211,907.1

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RG 260
Entry Finance Offices
File 940603 Gold, Etc.
Box 442

Smelt No.	No. of Bars	Gross Weight in Grams	Fineness	Fine Weight in Grams
brought forward	1147	14.254.500		14.211.907.1
989	30	373.410	998.2	372.737.9
990	29	361.900	997.9	361.140.0
991	28	358.945	998.6	358.442.5
992	28	354.150	997.7	353.335.5
993	29	368.360	997.4	367.402.3
994	30	368.185	998.3	367.559.1
995	29	370.960	998.0	370.218.1
996	30	377.075	997.5	376.132.3
997	28	348.925	998.2	348.296.9
998	29	367.120	997.6	366.238.9
999	31	390.210	997.9	389.391.0
1000	30	378.565	997.9	377.770.0
1001	29	362.000	998.6	361.493.2
1002	27	338.725	997.9	338.013.7
1003	29	370.465	996.7	369.212.5
1004	27	341.615	997.8	340.869.4
1005	28	352.430	993.1	349.998.2
1006	31	381.610	980.8	374.283.1
1007	26	329.670	987.6	319.656.5
1008	27	338.010	997.0	336.996.0
1009	29	356.890	999.7	354.641.6
1010	15	186.685	997.0	186.124.9
1011	1	10.807	996.8	10.772.4
1012	2	13.520	983.6	13.298.3
	1769	22.048.732		21.975.955.4

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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Fin
Box 442

Belgian Gold transferred to Banque Centrale de la Republique de Turquie, Istanbul

14 May 1947

1. F.E.D. External 14 May
OMGUS Assets & 1947
Rear Intel.
APO Branch
757 FinDiv
US OMGUS
Army APO 742

1. Attached is a suggested reply to the telegram from the Department of State concerning looted Belgian gold sent from Germany during the war to the Central Bank of Turkey.

2. The detailed report referred to therein is also enclosed.

WGB/Cl-R/
Tel.: Frankfurt 24583

WILLIAM G. BREY,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

Encls.
3 as indicated above

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Authority NND 775059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Lum
Box 442

Suggested Cable

Reference request for info re looted Belgian gold sold by Germans to Turkish Central Bank (Reichsbank Nos.: 39980 thru 40228).

Since relevant pages missing in "Barrenbuecher" and "Kontrollbuecher" on hand Finance Division, OMGUS, impossible give rough and fine weights individual bars. Possible, however, to reconstruct from available Reichsbank and Prussian State Mint records probable smelt numbers (including numbers of bars in each smelt) and rough and fine weights of each smelt.

Report in detail follows.

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Spain
Box 442

11/400 (4)

940.6015 GOLD SPAIN

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Lim
Box 442

account "Goldankauf". In this case the exact sources of the gold could not be traced. However, entries in the account "Goldankauf" prove that considerable amounts must have been acquired in the western occupied territories.

To my thinking Mr Fahnke, former Director of the Reichsbank, Devisen-Abteilung, Berlin, and Mr Graupner, former Head of the section for gold-transactions in the "Devisen-Abteilung" now working at the Reichsbank Munich, must be acquainted with the details of an eventual Spain-business.

Albert Thomas

180
75
223
78

75
5
375

180
5
900

2968 - 3035

3111 - 3265

179

74

67

154
221
223
5
1115

220672

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Fin
Box 442

CONFIDENTIAL

File 940.6015
Spanish

Shipments of Gold to Spain

1 FD FED Claims & Restit Sec — FD — 12 Aug 47

Attn: Mr. Frank J. Roberts, Chief

1. Forwarded herewith is a copy of a report dated 6 August 1947, prepared by this Branch and addressed to the Office of Political Affairs, which concerns the following shipments of gold to Spain.

a. Shipment of gold in 1942 from the Reichsbank to Banco Aleman Transatlantico, a Spanish branch of the Deutsche Uberseeische Bank, through the Deutsche Uberseeische Bank (see page 2 of reference memorandum).

b. Shipment of 3,581.073 kg. fine gold from Reichsbank Berlin to Aschaffenburg Branch of Reichsbank and thence to SOFINDUS and the Instituto de Moneda Extranjera, Madrid, in June/August 1944 (pages 2-3 of reference memorandum).

2. Any information which you may be able to uncover relating to the origin and identification of the gold included in these shipments will be very useful in connection with negotiations with respect to looted gold which are now underway in Spain. It will, therefore, be appreciated if you will advise us whether records in your possession contain any identifying data.

1 Incl:
Rpt dtd 6 Aug 47
addressed to OPA

THEODORE H. BALL
Director

Rm. 317, FD Bldg.
Telephone: 43686

---

2 Director Finance Division OMGUS APO 742 — FED OMGUS Rear APO 757 — 16 Sept 1947

1. The records of the Precious Metals Department of the Reichsbank Berlin, held by this office, fail to reflect a shipment of gold in 1942 to Banco Aleman Transatlantico as described in 1.a. above.

2. As regards the shipment described in 1.b. the records reflect the following:

A gold shipment on the 30 June 1944 from the account "Goldankauf" to the Reichsbank Aschaffenburg consisting of $ 2,380,950 in gold

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00
RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold, Coin

dollars contained in 119 boxes. The coins were in 476 bags, each containing $ 20,000. with exception of one bag which contained $ 20,950. The bags bore Reichsbank numbers 31 - 210 incl. and 2968 - 3265 incl. which numbers represent 478 bags. It is impossible from the records however to ascertain the numbers of the two bags in the 2968 - 3265 series that were not included in the shipment.

3. Information as to the source of the gold coin shipment mentioned above follows:

$ 900,000. This amount was contained in 180 bags numbered 31 - 210 incl. and could be traced as originating from the Belgian Gold.

$ 375,000. This amount was contained in 75 bags numbered 3036 - 3110 incl. and could been traced as having been held since 20 November 1937 in the Depot of the Deutsche Golddiscount Bank from which they were transferred on 20 February 1943 to the account "Goldankauf".

$1105,950. This amount was contained in 221 bags bearing Reichsbank numbers within the series 2968 - 3035 incl. and 3111 - 3265 incl., (two numbers not included as previously explained). From the records at hand it is impossible to trace the origin of this coin.

Total $ 2,980,950.--

Enclosures
as submitted

WILLIAM G. BREY,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

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Authority NND 725059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold
Box 442

2	Director Finance Division OMGUS APO 742	FED OMGUS Rear APO 757	16 Sept 1947	1. The records of the Precious Metals Department of the Reichsbank Berlin, held by this office, fail to reflect a shipment of gold in 1942 to Banco Aleman Transatlantico as described in 1.a. above. 2. As regards the shipment described in 1.b. the records reflect the following: A gold shipment on the 30 June 1944 from the account "Goldankauf" to the Reichsbank Aschaffenburg consisting of $ 2,380,950 in gold

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Authority NND 775059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Lim
Box 442

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$1105,950. This amount was contained in 221 bags bearing Reichsbank numbers within the series 2968 - 3035 incl. and 3111 - 3265 incl., (two numbers not included as previously explained). From the records at hand it is impossible to trace the origin of this coin.

Total $ 2,380,950.--

Enclosures as submitted

WILLIAM G. BREY,
Colonel, GSC,
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

References
Tresor-Arbeitsbuch Page 156, 113, 101, 126
Liste der abgehenden Goldtransporte 30 June 1944
Bestandskontrolle Goldankauf Page 88, 1 July 1944
Gewichtskontrolle Asservate & Depots, Page 29, "der" dollars 30 June 44
Beutelbuch A Dollars #2968 - 3265
B " 31 - 210
Belgische Gold 2 Teilaufgabe vom 27 Jan 43

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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, [illegible]
Box 442

Subject: Shipments of gold to Spain

A). There are no indications in records of Precious Metals Dept with respect to gold shipped in 1942 to Spain (Banco Aleman Transatlantico - branch of Deutsche Überseeische Bank). Very probably this gold was taken from deposits held by the Reichsbank in Switzerland and transferred with assistance of a Swiss Bank.

B) The gold shipment of 30 June, 1944 to the Reichsbank Aschaffenburg consisted of

119 boxes each containing 2,000 GOLDDOLLARS = (4 bags @ 5,000) excepting 1 box containing 4 bags @ 5,000 and 1 rest bag @ 950 Dollars

The total amounted to 2,380,950 Dollars, 476 bags @ 5000 $ bore Reichsbank-numbers of number-series 31-210 and 2968 - 3265 which were not used are unknown. The specific numbers of two bags of number-serie 2968-3265

1) 900,000 Dollars (known weight 1,504.0520 rough kilograms 1,353.6468 fine kilograms) in bags numbered 31-210 could be traced in Reichsbank records as originating from the Belgian Gold.

2) 375,000 Dollars in bags numbered 3036-3110 having been part of the Depot of the Deutsche Golddiskontbank since 20 November, 1937 were transferred on 20 February, 1943 to the account "Goldankauf" and finally used for the shipment to Aschaffenburg.

3) 1,105,950 Dollars were also taken from the

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940.6025 GOLD YUGOSLAVIA

11 400 (6)

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File 940625 Gold
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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940625 Gold
Box 442

Encl 1
File 940.6025

T r a n s l a t i o n .

Wiesbaden, august, 18th 1949

To
Mr. T o p i c , Mate
Conseiller de la Mission
Militaire Yougoslave

B e r l i n .

Referring to the last passage of Nr. II of my report of 20 th.4.49 I add, as you wish it, after my recollection the approximate amount of the gold in question. I refer there to an order of the chief of military government, south-east, following which an amount of lingots of gold was handed over to the National Bank in exchange with the same amount of golden coins. This might refer to about 40- 50 bags, containing golden coins, each of which had a weight of about 4,9 Kg.

Under Nr. III of my report I estimated the amount of gold handed over to the Intendanturrat of the military governor of Serbia to be about one third are one half of the actual stock of the Serbian National Bank. Until now it was my firm belief that the amount in question didn 't represent more than the half of the whole stock. Meanwhile now, on second thoughts, I get the impression that for teonical reasons it might have been a bigger quantity. I get just the more convinced of this fact, as I communicated to you, that the amount of gold stolen by the Tschetnik-associations consisted in 120 kg. I don 't doubt that this amount be the right sum. Calculating thus, the amount of gold left, which afterwards was taken to Berlin might have consisted in about 185 kg.

signed : Jacobus Söngen .

Remark : Mr. Jacobus Söngen was from april 1941 till october 1944 the commissarial chief director of the Yugoslav National Bank. Today he is the chief director of the Hessische Landesbank in Wiesbaden .

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File 940625 Gold
Box 442

Enclosure II

Telegram Cont

Translation.

Helene Neuhausen
Munich

Munich, august 20th 1949
Hedwigstr. 12, II at Eder's

To Mr Mate Topic, counsellor to the ambassador
Frankfurt / Main
Oberlindau 108, III

Subject: Yugoslav property

Dear Sir,

I answer your letter of august 14 th 1949 as follows:

It corresponds to the facts that an amount of approximately 250 kg (twohundred and fifty kilo) of gold was confiscated and taken away by the below mentioned persons at the time when my husband, Franz Neuhausen, chief representative for economics in Serbia and finally chief of military government, Beograd was taken a prisoner on august 27th 1944 by the chief of the Gestapo Beograd SS-Obergruppenführer Schäfer
SS-Obergruppenführer, ambassador Dr. P. Neubacher
SS-Obersturmbannführer Sattler.

This amount of gold had been deposited by my husband on higher command for reasons of security outside of Beograd. I herewith state that the gold taken by the Gestapo originated from those deliveries which were given by the Yugoslav people when the occupying power ordered the delivery of gold and foreign bills by force.
The gold was kept in small plumbed original bags.
After my being taken a prisoner on 27.8.44 I was transported only on 29.8.44. from the prison Banjica to the Gestapo in Ratnicki dom in Beograd. There the Gestapo-members Schäfer and Sattler inquired me. During this inquisition I became witness of a telephone-call from the ambassador Dr. Neubacher to Schäfer. Schäfer obviously uneasy answered to Neubacher approximately like that: " we are soon ready. Everything is ready here. You can send your driver at once."
In the room of Schäfer, where I was inquired, I saw everything which the Gestapo had confiscated from my husband, his trunks, the confiscated gold, our privat stuff with about 2.576 english pounds, my privat jewelry a.s.o.
The transport of the gold and the documents a.s.o. was led by Neubacher himself to Berlin, as I could see myself.
With this deed of the Gestapo Beograd under the command of Himmler they had succeeded in getting the gold, RSR and the National Bank a.s.o. after the removal of Neuhausen. My husband's being taken a prisoner was based on the charge of connection with the july-rebellion, communication with the enemy, suspicion of flight to England, bringing of his possessions to England a.s.o.
The above given statement corresponds to the truth.

signed: Frau Helene Neuhausen

Remark : Mrs. Helene Neuhausen is the wife of Mr. Franz Neuhausen, then being chief representative for economics and chief of military government for Yugoslavia

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File 940625 Gold
Box 442

Enclosure III

File 940.60-5

T r a n s l a t i o n .

Georg Baur at the moment Munich 2, Hedwigstr. 12

May, 10th 1949.

R e p o r t for Mr. T o p i c .

Corresponding to our conversation in the yugoslav consulate I communicate to you the following facts :

On August 28th 1944 I was taken a prisoner in Bavaria in connection with the events of July 20th 1944. On september, first, 1944 I was brought by SS-Scharführer Alexander and Raude on the route of Vienna, Budapest to Beograd and on september 4th 1944 taken to the subterranean prison in Radnicki Dom. On september 7th 1944 I was brought to Berlin by 4 SS-men. These were : Untersturmführer Boden
Untersturmführer Koppe
Oberscharführer Hedrich
Oberscharführer I , whose name I didn't know.

In consequence of railway-bombardment, destruction of stations and various changes this transport took 4 days and 4 nights and passed Essegk, Prager Hof, Marburg, Vienna (southern and eastern station) and Fürstenwalde, from where we continued by "S-train" to Erkner and "Friedrichstrasse". There the SS-men took autocars and we were brought to the Reichssicherheitshauptamt in the Albrechtstr. In the court of the Sicherheits-Hauptamt the heavy baggage was unloaded on sunday, september 10th 1944 which consisted in 18 crates and trunks.

During this long transport I listened to many a word of the SS-men which was not ment for my ears, when they believed that I was fallen asleep in consequence of the various fatigues. Thus I got to know that this baggage was not only of privat origin from the chiefs of Gestapo in Beograd. In various havy crates which were only to be loaded with great difficulties was gold from BOR which the Gestapo had found and confiscated under the staircase in the house of the chief representative for economics in Serbia, Obergruppenführer Neuhausen. The SS-men grumbled aloud and low about " this sharper who has hidden the stolen gold there for peculating. He even had cautiously made coins from one part of th the lingots of gold. The thick pig wouldn't avoid his punishment."

Another part of the baggage was destined for the second chief of the Gestapo in Serbia, Obersturmbannführer Sattler, - they openly spoke about the transport to his house in Berlin. Untersturmführer Boden wished to pay a visit to his family, living in the country near Berlin because of the bombardment.

After the baggage had been dilivered in the court of the Reichssicherheits-Hauptamt I was brought to the prison in Lehrterstr.

signed: G. Baur.

Remark : Mr. Georg Baur was a major of the German Office for Military Informations .

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File 940625 Gold
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940625

17 August 1949

Tripartite Commission
for the Restitution of Monetary Gold
155 Rue de la Loi
Brussels, Belgium

ATTN: Mr. J. A. Watson

Ref: CC/Yug. 905
26 July 1949

Gentlemen:

In reference to the Yugoslavian gold claims and documents, forwarded you by this office under date 15 July 1949, we received a visit today from the following:

Mr. Mate Topic
Counselor to the Yugoslavian
Military Mission in Berlin

Mr. Topic's main purpose appeared to be to inquire into the present status of above claims, whereupon he was informed that they had been referred to the Tripartite Gold Commission for study and adjudication.

With specific reference to claim #170, he stated that the relative gold bars, because of their low gold contents and alloy with silver, could not be considered in the category of monetary gold; his meaning being that, if the claim were allowed, full recovery to Yugoslavia should be made to the extent these identical bars had been recovered.

Mr. Topic stated further, his investigations in reference to Yugoslavian gold were continuing and that he had already obtained additional documentary evidence. It was suggested to him that any new evidence in his possession, bearing on these claims, should be forwarded direct to the Tripartite Gold Commission as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository

Tel:
Frankfurt 7396

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00
RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940625 Gold
Box 442

File 940.60-25

17 August 1949

Tripartite Commission
for the Restitution of Monetary Gold
155 Rue de la Loi
Brussels, Belgium

ATTN: Mr. J. A. Watson

Ref: CC/Yug. 905
26 July 1949

Gentlemen:

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Mr. Mate Topic
Counselor to the Yugoslavian
Military Mission in Berlin

Mr. Topic's main purpose appeared to be to inquire into the present status of above claims, whereupon he was informed that they had been referred to the Tripartite Gold Commission for study and adjudication.

With specific reference to claim #1701, he stated that the relative gold bars, because of their low gold contents and alloy with silver, could not be considered in the category of monetary gold; his meaning being that, if the claim were allowed, full recovery to Yugoslavia should be made to the extent these identical bars had been recovered.

Mr. Topic stated further, his investigations in reference to Yugoslavian gold were continuing and that he had already obtained additional documentary evidence. It was suggested to him that any new evidence in his possession, bearing on these claims, should be forwarded direct to the Tripartite Gold Commission as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository

Tel:
Frankfurt 7396

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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940625 Gold
Box 442

File 940.6025

THE F[illegible]ERAL PEOPLE'S REPUPLIC [illegible]F YUGOSLAVIA

Claim No. I 7 0 4

APPLICATION

Date 30th 8. 1948

for the restitution of cultural, historical and art property from Germany to the Yugoslav Government

1. General description of goods applied for:

2 3 6 8 , 8 8 2 k g of g o l d

This amount of gold is calculated from the I20.87I t of various sorts of copper, mentioned in enclosure I . (This was the production of the mines of B O R from I94I - I944. See enclosure I)

According to the german law for foreign bills, the refineries for copper had to deliver this gold to the German Reichsbank. And so they did.

2. The former proprietor or custodian of the claimed property and the place where it was located before its removal to Germany:

B O R - mines in Yugoslavia

3. The facts and circumstances under which the property was removed from Yugoslavia to Germany (i. e. approximate date of the removal, by whom and the way it was removed):

During the german occupation from I94I - I944 the B O R - mines were exploited by a german society, B O R - A G . , specially founded for this purpose. The production of copper was continously sent to Germany from I94I - I944 .

4. The presumed place where the property may be located in Germany:

With the rest of the stock of the German Reichsbank this gold, too, was brought to M e r k e rs / Thuringia. In spring I945 at the entry of the American troups into Thuringia the American authorities took into custody this gold and transported it to the Reichsbank in F r a n k f u r t / M.

The Restitution Section of FPRY in the US Zone of Germany

No. .....

Karlsruhe

On behalf of the Government of FPR Yugoslavia

Mate Topić

Mate T o p i ć

220684

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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940625 Gold
Box 142

Enclosure ~~B~~ A

T r a n s l a t i o n .

B O R

Kupferbergwerke und Hütten A G.

Office in Goslar

To Mr. Dr. T o p i c
Frankfurt /Main
Oberlindau I08

Our Sign: Dr.K/Fl

Goslar, may I5th I949
Erzbergwerk Rammelsberg

Referring to our conversation yesterday we hand over to you an account of the lingots of gold given to the "Reichsbankhauptstelle Berlin" in september I944. The numbers of the lingots of gold, the gross-weight and the contents of fine gold and fine silver are mentioned in the account.

Besides this we make known to you as follows these amounts of metal and ore, which during the years I94I-I944 where shipped or sold from BOR to Germany according to the orders given us at that time :

I.) In I94I 4.000 t (tons) of copper were shipped from BOR, though in I94I there was neither a production of the so-called "Blister"-copper nor of "Elektrolyt"-copper. These 4.000 t represent the stock found in BOR. We cannot tell you how thme above mentioned amount was devided in electrolyt-copper and blister-copper.

2.) Blister-copper was shipped as follows:

I942	26.040 t	(sold to Bergmetall G.m.b.H., Oker)
I943	II.953 t	(sold to Montanges m.b.H. , Berlin W 35 ,Bissingzeile 35)
I944	592 t	(sold to Bergmetall G.m.b.H., Oker)

3.) Electrolyt-copper

I943	II.2I9 t	(sold to Montanges m.b.H., Berlin W 35, Bissingzeile 35)
I944	3.957 t	(sold to Bergmetall G.m.b.H. Oker)

4.) "Kupfer-Konzentrate":

I944	7.89I t	(sold to Norddeutsche Affinerie, Hamburg)

5.) "Pyrit"-copper

I942	438 t	(sold to Bergmetall G.m.b.H., Oker)
I943	35.550 t	(sold to Bergmetall G.m.b.H., Oker)
I944	34.407 t	(sold to Montanges m.b.H. , Berlin)

Besides these no other amounts of metal were shipped to germany in the above mentioned period.

Encl A (no German text returned)

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The numbers given for I944 include the shipments until the end of august. In the beginning of septemberx I944 however some waggons were still shipped but in consequence of the destruction of the railway-lines they didnt go further than Sajecar.

We hope that we have given you some help with these declarations.

One enclosure.

B o r
Kupferbergwerke und Hütten A G.
Office in Goslar

Konitzer
(signed)

Remark: Mr. Clemens Konitzer was from I94I- I944 the commercial director of the mines of B O R in Yugoslavia.

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Enclosure IV B

Translation.

I. Corresponding to your wish I answer your questions after my recollection as follows :

In the beginning or the middle of may 1941 I was told that objects of value from the royal castle Dedinje near Beograd or fwem the socalled white castle of the Prince Regent should be deposited at the national bank or in the treasury. I gave my consent because the safes of the national bank of Serbia granted the possibility of secure custody. I didn't see myself the items which were brought, but I remember from the report given me, that they consisted in well-sealed or leaded cases. Their number is unknown to me. They were brought by german officers, I don't remember of which formation. But they must have belonged to a troop ordered with the security of such values.
As far as I know this depot has been taken back after some time. The collection could only be done by men, authorized by the same formation, which had brought the depot. It could only be handed over, when the authorization of those who were sent to take it over was examined by the official in charge.
Later on I heard in Beograd, that they ate from golden plates and used gild spoons, forks and knives when important persons from Germany were guests of the chief of military government. I therefore believe that the valuable objects from the royal castle of Dedinje, which had been depesited at the national bank were brought back to the White Castle were the chief of military government was living.

II. I answer the question about the value of the waste-products (gold) of the former Compagnie Francaise des Mines de BOR as follows :
The quantity of the by-product gold depends on the quantity of the copper won. In piece-time one calculated for a production of 40 000 t of pure copper a by-product of 2 000 till 2 500 kg of gold. This was in piece-time in Germany a value of RM 5.580.000.- till RM 6.975.000.- As far as I know no copper at all was produced in 1941 as the mines were destroyed by war-damages. In the middle of 1942 the production started slowly. I believe the numbers which were shown to me to be right. I didn't copy them, else I could calculate the worth of the by-product from the corresponding numbers given above. As far as the products of BOR went to Germany as "Pyrit"-ores or other concentrated ores for further use, the contents of gold, too, went to Germany.
After the begin of the occupation in Serbia a law for the management of foreign bills was issued. This ordered, as it was the use in all countries, the delivery of gold. Correspondingly the Serbian National Bank wrote to the firm of BOR that they had to deliver the gold from Serbia. When the Serbian National Bank got a negative answer from the firm, I wrote to the firm as the Governer asked me to do . In verbal arrangements the corresponding offices of BOR were told that they had to deliver the gold to the Serbian National Bank. I was told as well from the firm as from the military government that the firm of BOR was free from the duty to deliver the gold, about which only Hermann Göring had to decide.
On command of the chief of military government for the south-eastern countries once a certain amount of lingots of gold was handed over to the National Bank, which gave the same weight of gold in coins, this means an exchange with of lingots of gold with golden coins. For this procedure the reason was given that the military government needed gold in shape of coins for buying wapons from the italian army. The reason given was without importance for the superintendence of the Serbian National Bank, who acted on command, because they got back the same amount of gold they had given. Besides this it is always reasonable for a bank to possess a part of their gold in shape of lingots. Sooner or later the Serbian National Bank would have melted a part of their golden coins in shape of lingots because these are easier to control.

III. The stock of gold of the Serbian National Bank, which principally consisted in the gold delivered by the population had, as to my recollection, a value of 800000 - 900 000 Mark. In the period of the italian capitulation an "Intendanturrat" (military adviser) came to see me and gave me the verbal command of the military governer to prepare the delivery of the whole stock of gold of the Serbian National Bank to the military governer. He asked inquiringly: How much gold is in your possession ? As I

Encl B

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suspected something bad I told him only a third or the half of the actual amount. Asking for what purpose they wanted to use the gold, I got the answer, that they would take it for buying wapons from the italian army. In presence of my assistant F r o h , I told the Intendanturrat, that I thought this action to be a nonsense. After further disputation the visitor left me, promising that he would bring me a written order. At once I told these facts to my chief Franz N e u h a u s e n , who shared my opinion that the gold shouldn't be delivered without a special written order. Some days afterwards the same Intendanturrat came again and, accompanied by two officials of his branch, he handed over to me an order signed by the then being chief of the general staff of the military governer. I demanded to make the military governer himself sign such an important order. The next day (possibly even the same day) the order, (which came as secret "Reichssache") was given me again, signed by the then being military governer. After another conference with my chief N e u h a u s e n we corresponded to the command.

I have given notice of this action at once to the superintendence of the Reichsbank in Berlin and called their attention to the fackt ,that even from the point of view of the policy of currency the employment of this gold for this purpose should be hindered. The gold should be given back to the Serbian National Bank.

After a certain period (perhaps some months) the same Intendanturrat communicated to us that the delivered gold of the Serbian National Bank would be given back ad the disposition of the German Reichsbank. In consideration of the fact, that the security in Belgrad did not seem to be sufficiant any longer this gold, returned from the military governer, was sent, following to orders, with a shipment of money to Berlin, Deutsche Reichsbank, Berlin C III. This shipment too was accomplished - following to orders - by the Reichskreditkasse Beograd together with a shipment of Reichskreditkassenscheinen. Besides my assistant F r o h the director of the Reichskreditkasse Beograd, director of a Reichsbanknebenstelle D e b e r t i n and his personal were witnesses of this transaction. Still while staying in Belgrad I was told that the shipment had reached Berlin. I can't give the exact number of the bags of gold. It may have been 30-40 bags of gold in the usual packing. Supposed that this was half of the stock of gold of the Serbian National Bank (on no account it was more) than 161 kg can be calculated on the following base.

> 900 000 goldmark devided in 2790 goldmark (which is the german first cost for 1 kg, fixed by the law) makes 322 kg.
> When one bag of gold had the weight of 5 kg,
> 322 devided in 5 makes 64 bags, the half of which is 32 bags.
> A lower weight than 5 kg for each bag supposed, the amount of bags would increase.

The second half (which had not been handed over to the military governer) remained in the stock of the Serbian National Bank. About the middle of september 1944 it was stolen at a sudden attack. The 3 officials of the Serbian National Bank who were charged with the keys, then disappeared.

IV. Subject: Discovery and remain of the golden treasure found near Nikschitsch.

The newspaper of may 1941, shown to me, which contained the report about the discovery of gold in Nikschitsch / Montenegro was known to me already at the period of its publication in Beograd. This golden treasure was said to have been discovered by Gestapo-officers. The spot where it was found belonged to the italian occupation-zone. Myself and my assistants, we were not competent for this matter. I don't know any of the persons appearing on this foto.

Beyond this I don't know that any gold of the Yugoslav National Bank was found in the Serbian part of the Yugoslav territory. As far as I know the foreign office in Berlin made an inquiry about the evacuation and the supposed discovery of a part of the gold of the Yugoslav National Bank. This inquiry has been answered by the liquidator of the Yugoslav National Bank.

Wiesbaden, april, 30th 1949
signed : Jakobus S ö n g e n .

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File 940603 Gold, Lim
Box 442

Translation of Copy

I. As per your request, I give in the following my replies from memory to the questions asked by you:

Early or about middle of May 1941 I was informed that valuable articles from the Royal Castle Dedinje near Belgrade or from the so-called White Castle of the Prince-Regent were to be stored with the National Bank or warehoused in safe-custody with that bank. I gave my approval to this request because the facilities of safe-custody with the Serbian National Bank provided the possibility of a secure warehousing. I have not seen personally the objects, but I recall from the report made to me that all articles were packed in boxes well sealed with wax or lead. I am unable to state the number of boxes. The messengers were German officers. I can no longer recall to which formation they bolonged. They must, however, have been under the command of that Office which was in charge of placing such valuables in safe-custody.

According to my knowledge, said safe-custody deposit was collected again after some time. The articles can only have been fetched by the same Office which had brought the articles to be kept in safe-custody. A delivery could take place only after the officials in charge of safe-custody deposits had examined the personal identification of those entitled to withdraw the articles.

Later on I heard in Belgrade that on the occasion of visits made by high-ranking persons from Germany to the Military Commander, meals were said to have been served on gilt plates; it was said that at such occasions also gilt cutlery was used. I infer herefrom that the valuables of the Royal Castle Dedinje, deposited with the National Bank had again been retransported to the White Castle where the Military Commander was residing.

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II. As regards the question as to my estimate of the value of the scrap products (gold) of the former Compagnie Française des Mines de Bor, my reply is as follows:

The quantity of the by-products (gold) is dependent on the quantity of copper produced. In peace-time the production of 40.000 tons of pure copper produced scrap in the weight of 2.000 to 2.500 kilograms of gold which according to the German peace-time price was valued from Goldmark 5,580,000.-- to Goldmark 6,975,000.--. To my knowledge in the year 1941 no copper was produced at all owing to the fact that the mines were destroyed through war events. In the middle of 1942 production gradually began to revive. I believe that the figures shown to me are correct. I have not copied them, otherwise I would be able to compute the value of the scrap product from the above-mentioned relation figures. Inasmuch as the products of Bor were transported to Germany in the form of Pyrite-ore or other concentrates for processing, also the gold quantity contained therein has gone to Germany.

After the occupation of Serbia, a foreign exchange control law was enacted. This law prescribed inter alia as was the custom in all countries that gold must be surrendered. In this connection, the Serbian National Bank wrote to the firm of Bor that they were bound to surrender the gold produced in Serbia. After the Serbian National Bank received a refusal from the firm, I wrote to the firm upon request of the Governor. The officials concerned in the firm of Bor were also verbally informed that the gold had to be surrendered to the Serbian National Bank. The firm and the Military Administration informed me that the firm of Bor was exempted from the duty of surrendering the gold and that the gold produced by the firm of Bor would be disposed of alone by Hermann Göring.

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By order of Chief of Military Administration for the South-East, the National Bank once received a number of gold ingots against supply of the same quantity in weight of gold coins, i.e. this was an exchange of gold ingots against coined gold. At the time this transaction was substantiated by the assertion that the Military Administration required coined gold for the purchase of arms from the Italian army. It did not matter much to the administration of the Serbian National Bank which acted upon order, what reason was given for this transaction, because the bank received in return for the gold supplied the same quantity. Besides, it has always been expedient for all issue banks to keep part of their gold holdings in the form of ingots. The Serbian National Bank would presumably sooner or later have given order to cast a quantity of the gold coin holdings into ingots owing to the fact that ingots are easier to control.

III. The gold holdings of the Serbian National Bank which accrued mainly from deliveries of the population had - as far as I can remember - an approximate value of 800-900,000 Marks. At the time of the Italian capitulation an Intendanturrat called on me with a verbal order of the Military Commander to start preparations for the delivery of the entire gold holdings of the Serbian National Bank to the Military Commander. He asked me in an inquisitive manner: How much are the gold holdings? Having a bad presentiment, I only mentioned about one third or one half of the actual holdings. In reply to my question for what purpose this gold was wanted, he said that it would be used for purchases of arms from the Italian army. In the presence of my deputy Fron I told the Intendanturrat bluntly that I considered this action to be nonsense. After a lengthy to and fro the visitor quit with the remark that he would bring along a written order. I informed my Chief Franz Neuhausen

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immediately of this matter who likewise was of the opinion that without explicit written order the delivery of the gold could not take place. After a few days, said Intendanturrat appeared again accompanied by two officials of his department. He submitted an order signed by the Chief of the General Staff of that time of the Military Commander. I requested to have such an important order signed personally by the Military Commander. On the next day (perhaps even on the same day) the order (which was designated as "Secret Reich Matter") was submitted to me with the signature of the Military Commander of that time. After discussing the matter with my superior, Herr Neuhausen, the order was carried out.

I reported this matter directly to the Reichsbank-Directorate, Berlin, and I called their attention to the necessity that the use of this gold for the indicated purpose should be prevented if not for other reasons, for currency policy reasons alone. The gold should be returned to the Serbian National Bank.

After some time had elapsed (perhaps a few months), the same Intendanturrat informed us that the surrendered gold would be returned to the Serbian National Bank and placed at the disposal of the Deutsche Reichsbank. In view of the fact that security conditions in Belgrade did no longer warrant the safe keeping, the gold returned by the Military Commander was then transported to Berlin to the Deutsche Reichsbank, Berlin C 11, together with a gold-transport in compliance with an order received. Likewise, in accordance with orders received, the transport was carried out by the Reichskreditkasse Belgrade together with a transport of Reichskreditkassenscheinen. As witnesses for these transactions in addition to my deputy Froh there are still the director of the Reichskreditkasse in Belgrade, Director of a Reichsbank sub-branch Dobertin and his staff.

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While still in Belgrade, I was informed that the transport arrived in Berlin. I am unable to quote the correct number of gold bags. Perhaps some 30-40 gold bags packed as customary were transported. If one takes for granted that this gold represents 50 % of the entire gold holdings of the Serbian National Bank (but by no means more) 161 kg may be computed on the basis of the following figures:

> 900,000 Goldmarks divided by 2,790 Goldmarks (which is the legally established price for 1 kg) would result in 322 kg. If one bag weighed 5 kg, 322 divided by 5 would result in 64 bags. One half of this quantity would be 32 bags. If it is assumed that the weight of one bag was less than 5 kg, the number of bags would be increased.

The other half (not surrendered to the Military Commander) remained with the Serbian National Bank. This gold was stolen during a raid made on the bank in about the middle of September 1944. During this raid, the 3 officials of the Serbian National Bank in charge of the keys disappeared.

Subject: Location and Whereabouts of the Gold Treasure found in the Vicinity of Nikschitsch.

The report in the newspaper of May 1941 submitted to me concerning the discovery of gold in Nikschitsch/ Montenegro was already known to me at the time when this paper was published in Belgrade. The gold treasure is said to have been found by Gestapo officers. The place of discovery belonged to the territory conquered by the Italians. Competencies for the district of activity conferred on me and my colleagues did not apply in this case. The persons shown on the picture are not known to me.

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With the exception of the above nothing became known to me that some of the gold belonging to the Yugoslavian National Bank was found on the Serbian sector of the Yugoslavian territory. As far as I know the Foreign Office Berlin made an inquiry as to the evacuation and alleged rediscovery of part of the gold belonging to the Yugoslavian National Bank. This inquiry was answered by the liquidator of the Yugoslavian National Bank.

Wiesbaden, 30 April 1949

signed: Söngen

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File 940625 Gold
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11

Frankfurt/M., 4 July 1949

Returned by TGC - letter 8 Oct 49

N o t e .

to Application of Yugoslav Government concerning Restitution of Yugoslav Property by Germany.

- -

Subject: Claim 1701. Photostats from Reichsbank files are attached:

a) Note for the files concerning a gold deposit of the Reichsminister für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion (Reich Minister for Armament and War Production), rough weight 355 kilo (file "Depotmappe"),

b) draft of a letter of the Reichsbankdirektorium to the Reichsminister für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion concerning the storing of 85 gold ingots kilo 355.9941 (file "Depotmappe"),

c) list of rough weights concerning 85 ingots (file "Depotmappe)

d) entry in deposit book "Gewichtskontrolle der Asservate und Depots"

e) entry in the "Quittungsbuch der Edelmetallkasse" which proves transfer to salt mine Wintershall, Merkers/Rhön.

The list of weights concerning 85 gold ingots of the Bor-copper mines presented by the Yugoslav government in the essentials agrees with the Reichsbank list. The difference in the total weight amounts to 22 1/2 grams. The average difference of 3/10 gram per ingot is due to differences in the weights and scales used, as practice has shown. Undoubtedly the gold ingots reclaimed by the Yugoslav government are identical with those found at Merkers.

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Subject: Claims 1702 and 1703.

Gold receipts from Yugoslavia and Serbia, respectively, in 1943 and September 1944 cannot be ascertained from the files available of the Reichsbank. However, on February 12, 1945, together with a transport of Reichsbank Vienna, larger lots of gold coins were received which might be of Yugoslav origin. As evidence photostats of the corresponding vouchers are attached:

a) Entry in "Asservate und Depots" ledger, pages 56, 58, 60

b) "Quittungsbuch der Edelmetallkasse", page 10,

which prove transfer to salt mine Wintershall, Merkers/Rhön. Further notes could not be found. -

Albert Thomas

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4

returned by
T.S.C. w/
letter 8 Oct 49

2 June 1949

Herrn Albert Thoma
c/o Bank Deutscher Laender
Frankfurt/Main

Subject: "Information on Gold Belonging to Balkan States."

Dear Sir:

This office has reviewed the writings submitted by you on 25 May 1949 pertaining to interviews of Herr Soengen and yourself with a Mr. Tobitsch, alleged representative of Yugoslavia, regarding subject matter.

The proper authorities having been consulted you are advised that US Military Government does not consider that the dissemination of such information to accredited individuals is in conflict with its policies, provided that it is confined to facts known solely through previous association with the Reichsbank or the German Army. No information gained through association with the Foreign Exchange Depository, or any other US Military Government Agency, should be divulged.

Very truly yours

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository

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Box 142

Albert T h o m a s

Frankfurt/Main, 25 May 1949

Strictly Confidential!

O M G U S
Foreign Exchange Depository 943/592
APO 757
Attn.: Mr. Frank J. R o b e r t s,
Acting Chief
F r a n k f u r t /Main

returned by T&C in letter 8 Oct 49

Subject: Information on Gold belonging to Balkan States.

Dear Sir:

1.) A few days ago Mr. T o b i t s c h , General Director of the Yugoslavian Museums, called here to obtain information on the whereabouts of gold of Yugoslavian origin which allegedly was surrendered to the Reichshauptbank in Berlin during the last years of the war. Mr. Tobitsch was not in possession of any documents authorising him to carry out this special instruction, he proved his identity, however, by presentation of his passport. He declared that I, in my capacity of former official of the Reichsbank-hauptkasse, Berlin, should be in a position to recall details of this matter. Thereupon I gave him the attached short report.

On the occasion of a second visit Mr. Tobitsch asked for details concerning transactions with gold of the Croatian National Bank; besides he was interested to learn what quantities of gold from Yugoslavian possession had passed into Italian hands. In this respect I was able to obtain some information during my activity as functional official with the Foreign Exchange Depository (OMGUS). I was unable to recall any more such details from my former sphere of activity with the Reichsbank. I therefore do not feel justified to give further information without instruction

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and I, therefore, kindly ask you for your comments in respect of this matter.

2.) Herr S ö n g e n , Director of the Landeszentralbank Wiesbaden, formerly Deputy Chief of the Military Commander South-East, and of the Deutsche Reichsbank with the Serbian National Bank, was asked by Mr. Tobitsch about disposals made in connection with the gold of the Serbian National Bank. He asked me to submit the attached copy of his report to American Military Government and remarked in this occasion that he, too, is expected to give information on further details. With due regard to the possibility of errors which might crop up in the description from memory of events which occurred quite a time ago, and owing to the possibility that the nature of these more private investigations might not be in line with the policy of American Military Government, also Herr Söngen would appreciate it if directives were given for the treatment of these questions. We are also not in a position to judge whether the task of the Tripartite Gold Commission concerning a clarification of property rights in respect of confiscated gold would be jeopardized by undesirable interferences and delays through investigations from a third side.

In the meantime Mr. Tobitsch has returned to Belgrade. He intends to call here again shortly. I shall be much obliged if you would give these questions your early attention.

Very respectfully yours,

signed: Thoms

Enclosures.

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5

Returned by T&C — letter 8 Oct 49

7 June 1949

SUBJECT: Yugoslavian Restitution Claims

TO : Foreign Exchange Depository Group
Finance Division, OMGUS
APO 757
US Army

Attn: Mr. F. J. Roberts

1. There are enclosed herewith copies of three claims submitted as applications for restitution by the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia as follows:

Our Number	Yugoslavian Number	Description
M 890-Y-H	1701	85 bars of gold
M 891-Y-H	1702	161 kg monetary gold in 32 bags
M 892-Y-H	1703	120 kg gold monetary and in bars

2. Each of these claims alleges that the American authorities took the gold into custody and transported it to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt/M.

3. Advice with respect to the processing of this claim is requested.

3 Incls: a/s

M. H. McCORD
Chief

Telephone FRANKFURT 21249

REPARATIONS AND RESTITUTION LIAISON OFFICE
Reparations and Restitution Branch
Property Division, OMGUS
APO 757, US Army

220700

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940625

FINANCE DIVISION
FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSITORY
APO 757

2 November 1949

Tripartite Commission
for the Restitution of
Monetary Gold
155, Rue de la Loi
Brussels

ATTN: Colonel J. A. Watson,
Secretary General.

Ref: Return of Original Documents
pertaining to Yugoslavian
Gold Claims 1701,1702,1703,1704.

Gentlemen:

Receipt is acknowledged of subject documents forwarded you in our letters of 15 July, 17 August, 7 and 9 September 1949 except as to the following:

Photostat exhibits attached to report dated 4 July 1949, signed Albert Thoms, referred to in paragraph 1 c, our letter of 15 July 1949, as follows:

Re claim #1701:

a. Note for the files concerning a gold deposit of the Reichsminister für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion (Reich Minister for Armament and War Production), rough weight 355 kilo (file "Depotmappe")

b. Draft of a letter of the Reichsbankdirektorium to the Reichsminister für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion concerning the storing of 85 gold ingots kilo 355.9941 (file "Depotmappe")

c. list of rough weights concerning 85 ingots (file "Depotmappe")

d. Entry in deposit book "Gewichtskontrolle der Asservate und Depots"

e. Entry in the "Quittungsbuch der Edelmetallkasse" which proves transfer to salt mine Wintershall, Merkers/Rhön.

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Entry Finance Offices
File 940625 Gold
Box 442

Tripartite Commission, dtd 2 Nov 49, cont'd.

Re claims #1702, 1703.

a. Entry in "Asservate und Depots" ledger, pages 56, 58, 60.

b. "Quittungsbuch der Edelmetallkasse", page 10.

The above mentioned claims and documents are being returned to the Reparations and Restitution Liaison Office of the Property Division together with a copy of your letter, 8 October 1949.

Very sincerely yours,

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository.

220702

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/

COMMISSION TRIPARTITE
POUR LA RESTITUTION DE L'OR MONETAIRE

TRIPARTITE COMMISSION
FOR THE RESTITUTION OF MONETARY GOLD

155, RUE DE LA LOI
BRUXELLES
TÉLÉPHONE 34.98.00

FLC 940.60

CC/YUG- 943

8th October, 1949.

Mr. Frank J. ROBERTS,
Acting Chief,
Foreign Exchange Depository Group,
Office of the Finance Adviser,
Office of the High Commissioner for Germany,
U.S. Army,
FRANKFURT, Germany.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sir,

1. On the 11th July, 1949, you were good enough to telephone from Frankfurt and inform me that you had received some claims from Yugoslavia for the restitution of gold and that you were in possession of a certain amount of information concerning the gold referred to.

2. It appeared to us to be in the interest of our respective organisations that the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold should be given an opportunity of perusing these documents and it was agreed that you would send them to me for this purpose.

3. I explained to you that I could not prejudge any decision which the Commission might take in this matter but that I would certainly lay the documents before it and communicate further with you on the subject in due course.

4. Since then, I have received your letters, dated respectively 15th July, 17th August, 7th and 9th September, 1949, together with the documents listed therein.

5. I have now been able to submit the above to the Commission which has directed me to thank you for affording it an opportunity of perusing the documents.

6. The Commission observes, however, that the four claims in question, Nos. 1701, 1702, 1703 and 1704 are applications for direct restitution submitted by the Yugoslav Military Mission in Berlin to the Military Government for Germany (U.S.) presumably under the Statutes and Regulations in force in the Zone and in the form prescribed therein.

2/.....

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7. Such applications, of course, do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission and I have, therefore, been directed to return the original documents, as listed in your above mentioned letters, to you.

8. These are enclosed herewith and it is presumed that you will inform the Yugoslav Military Mission, which must have been advised, pursuant to Minute 1 of your routing slip dated 10th June, 1949, that its applications had been passed to the Commission, that the papers have now been returned to you.

9. For your confidential information, I have been directed to state with reference to applications Nos. 1701 and 1704, that the whole of the Bor Mine gold, namely 445.5710 kgs of bar gold described as having been taken direct from Yugoslavia by Germany, and 1,649.0260 kgs of gold described as the estimated amount of gold extracted from blister copper removed to Germany, forms the subject of a claim for restitution of monetary gold which has been before the Commission since May 1947. The Yugoslav Ministry for Foreign Affairs' letter submitting this claim, inter alia, in response to the Commission's Questionnaire on Gold sent out to all claimant countries on March 13, 1947, is dated May 8, 1947, and its reference number is 47.206. In subsequent correspondence between the Commission and the Yugoslav Delegate, and in the course of a hearing of the Yugoslav Delegate before the Commission on the 11th March, 1949, the Yugoslav Representatives further elaborated arguments that the gold claimed was monetary gold.

10. The Commission is about to adjudicate upon this claim.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

John. A. Watson

J.A. WATSON,
Secretary General.

JAW/ JD

220704

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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold,
Box 442

220705

THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUPL OF YUGOSLAVIA

Claim No. 1706

APPLICATION

Date 29 september 1948 9

for the restitution of cultural, historical and art property and Gold from Germany to the Yugoslav Government

1. General description of goods applied for:

3 lingots of gold (22,83290 kg)

The lingots of gold originating from B O R

2. The former proprietor or custodian of the claimed property and the place where it was located before its removal to Germany:

M i n e s of B O R , Y u g o s l a v i a

3. The facts and circumstances under which the property was removed from Yugoslavia to Germany (i. e. approximate date of the removal, by whom and the way it was removed):

The then being chief of Economics and Military Government , Franz N e u h a u s e n , gave the above mentioned lingots of gold , together with 3 lingots of silver, as a birthdaypresent to Hermann G ö r i n g in the years 1942,1943,1944. From Karinhall they were brought in 1945 to Berchtesgaden or Veldenstein in the socalled "Hermann-Göring-train". (See statement of Mr. Schulz,who was in charge of the treasures of Göring). From there they sturely were brought together with the jewelry and other precious metals to F r a n k f u r t / M. Reichsbank, which was the only collecting point, where the American troops gethered such things.

4. The presumed place where the property may be located in Germany:

Frankfurt /Main, Bank der Deutschen Länder .

The Restitution Section of FPRY in the US Zone of Germany

On behalf of the Government of FPR Yugoslavia

No.

Karlsruhe

(major B. Brejc)

(Mate T o p i c)

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T r a n s l a t i o n .

Sworn Statement.

I make an affidavit that the information given below is correct to the best of my recollection.

I, Richard Schulz, living in Neuhaus/ Pegnitz Nr.II7, make the following statement about the history of the yugoslav lingots of gold and silver to the best of my recollection:

About three weeks before the end of the war I have packed 3 lingots of gold and 4 lingots of silver in grey packing-paper in Karinhall. I handed them over to the valet of G ö r i n g for further transportation in the special train to Veldenstein.

I don't know anything about their further whereabouts.

3 of the 4 lingots of silver were without any further envelopment. The fourth was crated in a small wooden case. The lingots of gold, too, were not packed besides the grey paper mentioned above.

Munich, I6 th march I949

signed: Richard Schulz

Signature of the witness: M. Topic

220706

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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold I
Box 442

Mate T o p i c
Advisor to the Yugoslav Government
Restitution Section

Frankfurt, 29th september, 1949.

To Mr. R O B E R T S
F r a n k f u r t / M.
Bank der deutschen Länder.

SUBJECT : Yugoslav Claim I706

Attached herewith I have the honour to hand over to you another claim for lingots of gold.

1. Franz H o h a u s e n , the then being chief of military government in Yugoslavia gave to Hermann G ö r i n g in three fellowing years a lingot of gold as a birthday present.
2. As you can see from the attached statement of Herr S c h u l z , those lingots were sent to Berchtesgaden with the socalled "Hermann-Göring-train.
3. I succeeded in identifying one lingot of silver, which had the same history in Munich, Central Art Collecting Point. It was the one which was crated.
4. As no traces of the lingots of gold (were of the rest of the lingots of silver) could be found, it must be supposed, that they , too, came to the Reichsbank Frankfurt with the rest of the jewelry and the precious metals from the former possession of Göring.

(Mate T o p i c)

220707

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RG 260
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File 946603 Gold, I...
Box 442

R & R Br., PD, OEA - Mr. Frederick D. Draper 30 March 1950

OEA, FD, FED - Mr. Frank J. Roberts

Yugoslavian Claim #1706, Pertaining to Three Lingots of Gold.

Enclosed is file comprising subject claim and supporting documents as received by this office.

You will note that, in order to substantiate certain allegations in the claim, this office on 19 October 1949 and 23 November 1949 addressed inquiries to Mr. Stefan P. Munsing, Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives for Bavaria, Restitution Branch, Property Division, OMGB, APO 407-A.

To date no reply has been forthcoming to the above mentioned and accordingly the claim is referred to your office for any action you deem appropriate.

Encls;: a/s

OEA,FD,FED/Mr.F.J.ROBERTS/sj/Tel: Frankfurt 7396.

220708

No. Karlsruhe
of FPR Yugoslavia
(major B. Brejc)
(Mate Topic)

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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold
Box 442

Dispense #1
File No. 940.6025

FINANCE DIVISION
FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSITORY
APO 757

19 October 1949

SUBJECT: "Hermann-Goering-Train".

TO : Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives for Bavaria Restitution Branch, Property Division, OMGB, APO 407-A.

ATTN: Mr. Stefan P. Munsing.

1. Attached is copy of Yugoslavian claim #1706 to three (3) "lingots" of gold together with other documents alleging that this gold together with four (4) "lingots" silver constituted "gifts" to Goering and that they were subsequently brought to Berchtesgaden or Veldenstein in this socalled "Hermann-Goering-Train".

2. It is further taken for granted in the claim that the above mentioned precious metals together with jewelry and other assets from the Hermann-Goering-Train were brought to the Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt/Main. No assets received by the FED, however, could be traced to this source.

3. Mr. Mate Topic, the Yugoslavian representative, who signed the above claim, stated to the undersigned that he had located and identified the silver lingot packed in a small wooden case (see sworn statement of Richard Schulz) as held by the Central Collecting Point in Munich. If this is true your records will no doubt reflect the source or manner of acquisition of this asset and thereby possibly shed some light on the disposition of other assets found on the Hermann-Goering-Train.

4. Any information you can furnish this office on subject matter will be appreciated in its effort to properly dispose of the Yugoslavian claim.

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository.

Incls: (3)
1 - Claim #1706, dtd 29 Sep 49.
2 -Translation sworn statement of Richard Schulz, dtd 16 Mar 49.
3 - Copy, ltr. Mr. Mate Topic, dtd 29 Sep 49.

Tel: Frankfurt 7396.

220709

US Zone of Germany
No.
Karlsruhe

of FPR Yugoslavia
Mate Topic
(major B. Brejc)
(Mate Topic)

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RG 260
Entry Finance-OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, I
Box 442

Suspense #1

File #: 940.6025

FINANCE DIVISION
FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPOSITORY
APO 757

23 November 1949

SUBJECT: "Hermann-Goering-Train".

TO : Chief, Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives for Bavaria
Restitution Branch, Property Division, OMGB, APO 407-A.

ATTN: Mr. Stefan P. Munsing.

1. Reference is made to our request for information dated 19 October 1949 (copy enclosed) on which no reply has been received to date.

2. The Yugoslavian representative has inquired about this matter several times recently and we are wondering whether an answer will be forthcoming shortly.

Incl: (1)

Tel: Frankfurt 7396,
7304.

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository.

220710

No.
Karlsruhe

of FPR Yugoslavia
Major Brejc
(Mato Topic)

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FED rec'd 5 may 50
File # 940.6025

Form HICOG-8
(15 Sept 49)

OFFICE OF THE U.S. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

Treasury Division

File 940.6025

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: OEA, FD, FED - Mr. Frank J. Roberts Date: 8 May 1950

From: OEA, Prop Div, Rep & Rest Br - Mr. E.F. McCollum, Chief

Subject: Yugoslavian Claim # 1706, Pertaining to three Lingots of Gold.

Reference your memorandum of 30 March 1950 concerning subject as above.

Attached hereto is copy of letter received from Mr. Rosario J. Lamoureux, our Liaison Officer in Munich. It will be noted that Mr. Munsing now states that there were never any gold bars at the Collecting Point.

OEA, PD, Rep & Rest Br.: EFM/er

FRANKFURT 7359 & 8292

220711

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold, Rum
Box 442

220712

Translation

Albert Thoms

Frankfurt/Main, 7 May 1949
Th./Wt.

Note

regarding gold holdings with the former Reichshauptbank, Berlin, originating from Balkan States.

As far as I recollect, a gold deposit was made during 1943/44 with the Reichshauptbank, Berlin, under the title "BOR KUPFERMINE". The designation of this deposit was subsequently changed into "Depot des Reichsministers für Rüstung und Kriegsproduktion" (Deposit of the Reich Minister for armaments and war production). To my knowledge this deposit consisted of 85 gold ingots with a total standard weight of approx. 300 kilos. The full weight of the individual ingots must on an average have amounted to 4 kilos.

Furthermore, I recollect that at the end of 1944 or at the beginning of 1945 several lots of gold coins were received by the Reichshauptbank, Berlin, via the Reichsbankhauptstelle Vienna. In the essentials the coins consisted of Sovereigns, Napoleon d'ors and Dollars. They were packed in bags. I cannot remember whether these bags at the time were checked as to their contents. To my knowledge the gold was remitted for account of Ambassador Dr. N e u b a c h e r and of the Chief-Intendant South-East and the Militärbefehlshaber Süd-Ost (Military Commander South-East), respectively. It is impossible for me to make an estimate of the total quantity of the individual kinds of coins, or of the total standard weight of gold.

It must be presumed that at the time the aforementioned quantities of gold, in the course of the transfer of Reichsbank gold holdings to Merkers, Thüringen, were also transported thereto. Nothing is known to me as regards subsequent dispositions.

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Entry Finance Office
File 940603 Gold, Furn
Box 442
220713

In respect of the whereabouts of gold ingots, ex-property of the Yugoslav National Bank, I happened to hear that an appreciable amount is reported to have come into Italian possession. Particulars regarding the numbers of coins and weights are unknown to me. I can only point out that a shipment of Italian gold to Germany during 1943 or 1944 contained quite a large quantity of ingots, whose fineness was below 800 to 1,000, and which might have shown weights between 5 to 9 kilos., deviating thus from the 400 ounces ingots used in international trade. Whether this shipment concerned gold which originally belonged to the Yugoslav National Bank, cannot be said. Most likely also these gold ingots were transferred to Merkers.

signed ALBERT THOMS

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RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold, I
Box 442

File No. 940.60x5

2 June 1949

Herrn Albert Thoms
c/o Bank Deutscher Laender
Frankfurt/Main

Subject: "Information on Gold Belonging to Balkan States."

Dear Sir:

This office has reviewed the writings submitted by you on 25 May 1949 pertaining to interviews of Herr Soengen and yourself with a Mr. Tobitsch, alleged representative of Yugoslavia, regarding subject matter.

The proper authorities having been consulted you are advised that US Military Government does not consider that the dissemination of such information to accredited individuals is in conflict with its policies, provided that it is confined to facts known solely through previous association with the Reichsbank or the German Army. No information gained through association with the Foreign Exchange Depository, or any other US Military Government Agency, should be divulged.

Very truly yours

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository

220714

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Entry Finance-OMGUS
File 940603 Gold
Box 142

REPARATIONS AND RESTITUTION LIAISON OFFICE
REPARATIONS AND RESTITUTION BRANCH
PROPERTY DIVISION, OMGUS
APO 757, U.S. ARMY

7 June 1949

SUBJECT: Yugoslavian Restitution Claims

TO : Foreign Exchange Depository Group
Finance Division, OMGUS
APO 757
US Army

Attn: Mr. F. J. Roberts

1. There are enclosed herewith copies of three claims submitted as applications for restitution by the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia as follows:

Our Number	Yugoslavian Number	Description
M 890-Y-H	1701	85 bars of gold
M 891-Y-H	1702	161 kg monetary gold in 32 bags
M 892-Y-H	1703	120 kg gold monetary and in bars

2. Each of these claims alleges that the American authorities took the gold into custody and transported it to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt/M.

3. Advice with respect to the processing of this claim is requested.

M. H. McCORD
Chief

3 Incls: a/s

Telephone FRANKFURT 21249

220715

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By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gdd
Box 442

THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Claim No. 17cl 20 May 1949

APPLICATION FOR THE RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY FROM GERMANY TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT

M890

1. General description of goods applied for:

85(eightyfive) bars of gold, brutto weight 356.016.6o gr according to the enclosed specification.

2. Details given in Appendix A, etc.:

3. Present location, giving details of exact address, name of the firm, etc., by whom the property is held: **In Spring 1945 at the entry of American troops into Thuringia, the above mentioned gold was stored in the salt-mines of Merkers in Thuringia. American Antheritie took into custody this gold and transported it to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt/M.**

4. Was the property in existence in the claimant country at the time of the German occupation? If not, state circumstances in which it came into existence, e. g. under contract with German Government, for home consumption, etc.:

At the time of German occupation the above mentioned gold was located at the National Bank in Pasevo and Vel.Beckerek in Yugoslavia.

5. Details concerning removal to Germany: date, by whom, type of transaction, i. e. looted, requisition or forced sale, etc.:

The above gold was looted by the "Organisation Todt" at the end of September 1944.

6. Address in claimant country to which property is to be sent, and suggestions as to transport thereto:

The National Bank of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia in Beograd.

MILITARY MISSION
of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia
to the Control Council for Germany
Rest. No.

CONSULAT GENERAL DE LA R. F. P. DE YOUGOSLAVIE MÜNCHEN

For and on behalf of the Government of F. P. R. of Yugoslavia

220716

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S p e c i f i c a t i o n

about gold-bars delivered in September 1944 by the "Organisation Todt" to the "Reichsbankhauptstelle" in Berlin.

Pieces	Bar-No.	Brutto weight gr	Contents of fine gold gr	Contents of fine silver gr
1	o58	1.435,9	o.952,318	3o9,o92
1	E 17	4.879,1	4.447,4	416,o
1	E 18	2.627,2	2.49o,6	131,o
1	E 19	2.963,3	2.618,6	332,6
1	E 2o	3.626,5	3.2o4,6	4o7,1
1	E 21	4.o3o,4	3.319,6	689,2
1	22	5.895,6	5.278,3	6oo,8
1	23	5.656,3	5.o64,1	576,4
1	24	5.o75,8	2.269,8	784,7
1	25	4.o63,8	3.418,5	628,3
1	26	3.623,6	3.435,5	179,o
1	27	3.o21,8	2.865,o	149,3
1	28	5.467,9	5.o76,4	381,7
1	29	5.665,1	5.259,5	395,4
1	3o	5.229,8	4.811,9	4o5,3
1	31	4.212,o5	3.875,5	326,4
1	32	4.879,2	4.42o,1	439,6
1	33	4.172,1	3.862,5	292,o
1	34	5.2oo,6	4.813,7	364,o
1	35	4.5o2,4	4.3o2,9	188,2
1	36	2.959,o	2.8o8,8	12o,7
1	37	5.243,55	4.6o5,1	6o8,3
1	38	4.113,6	3.612,8	477,2
1	39	2.9o9,95	2.678,9	215,1
1	4o	5.o71,7	4.669,o	374,8
1	41	5.446,2	4.959,9	356,2
1	42	3.818,8	3.364,o	43o,5
1	43	3.347,45	2.948,8	376,9
1	44	3.744,4	3.4oo,3	322,4
1	45	3.172,9	2.881,3	273,2
1	46	3.594,2	3.o57,9	515,8
1	47	3.945,25	3.354,9	565,9
1	48	5.467,9	4.666,3	769,9
1	49	4.8o6,8	4.ooo,7	753,o
1	5o	1.o29,9	857,2	161,3
1	51	2.859,3	2.7o5,6	133,2
1	52	3.413,15	3.229,7	159,1
1	53	4.885,9	3.7o4,7	1.138,4
1	54	5.469,5	4.148,9	1.274,9
1	55	4.855,2	3.666,2	1.126,6
1	58	4.119,65	3.293,2	7o6,9
1	59	5.o97,75	4.o75,1	874,8
42		175.554,5o	154.476,118	19.69o,692

M890

220717

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42		175.554,50	154.476,118	19.690,692
1	60	4.501,95	3.598,9	772,5
1	61	3.531,67	2.723,3	768,8
1	62	4.553,3	3.511,0	991,3
1	63	3.478,78	2.542,3	869,3
1	64	4.325,25	3.197,7	1.093,4
1	65	2.937,26	2.549,8	360,7
1	66	3.426,75	2.974,7	420,8
1	67	4.527,72	3.736,7	767,9
1	68	3.760,63	3.103,6	637,8
1	69	4.338,95	3.875,6	440,8
1	70	3.543,30	3.164,9	360,0
1	71	4.638,75	4.268,8	364,1
1	72	3.247,68	2.981,7	254,9
1	73	3.794,16	3.136,6	638,2
1	74	4.219,40	3.488,2	709,7
1	90	4.043,0	3.257,6	748,0
1	91	3.727,6	3.003,4	689,6
1	92	4.918,45	3.962,9	909,9
1	93	4.207,5	3.400,1	773,8
1	94	4.211,9	3.427,9	780,1
1	95	3.271,85	2.819,4	426,3
1	96	4.755,8	4.098,1	619,7
1	97	3.440,1	2.995,6	414,9
1	99	3.638,95	2.767,1	852,6
1	100	4.933,65	3.751,5	1.156,0
1	101	6.058,17	4.704,9	1.284,3
1	102	4.394,26	3.424,0	934,7
1	103	2.698,62	2.102,8	574,0
1	116	5.673,03	4.955,1	670,5
1	117	5.100,83	4.455,3	602,9
1	118	5.275,03	4.607,5	623,5
1	104	4.676,6	3.705,0	935,9
1	105	4.783,4	3.789,6	957,3
1	106	4.539,32	3.821,4	690,2
1	107	4.880,46	4.108,6	742,1
1	108	4.106,15	3.648,9	431,4
1	109	4.232,5	3.761,2	444,6
1	110	4.783,15	4.130,7	620,4
1	111	4.215,36	3.640,4	546,7
1	112	3.981,74	3.533,0	422,5
1	113	3.829,69	3.398,1	406,3
1	114	4.483,3	4.219,7	230,9
1	115	2.796,16	2.631,7	144,0
85		356.016,60	305.451,418	47.813,992

M890

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Authority NND 775059
By WDP NARA Date 3/10/00

RG 260
Entry Finance Omgus
File 940603 Gold
Box 442

THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Claim No. 17a2 — 20 May 1949

APPLICATION FOR THE RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY FROM GERMANY TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT

M891

1. General description of goods applied for:

   161 kg monetary gold in 32 bags

2. Details given in Appendix A, etc.:

3. Present location, giving details of exact address, name of the firm, etc., by whom the property is held: In Spring 1945 at the entry of American troops into Thuringia, the above mentioned gold was stored in the salt-mines of Merkers in Thuringia. American Authorities took this gold into custody and transported it to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt/M.

4. Was the property in existence in the claimant country at the time of the German occupation? If not, state circumstances in which it came into existence, e. g. under contract with German Government, for home consumption, etc.:

   At the time of German occupation the above mentioned gold was located at the National Bank in Beograd.

5. Details concerning removal to Germany: date, by whom, type of transaction, i. e. looted, requisition or forced sale, etc.:

   In 1943 at the capitulation of Italy this gold was removed from the National Bank in Beograd on orders of the "Militärbefehlshaber Süd-Ost" general Fahlber, and was brought to the Reichsbank C 111 Berlin.

6. Address in claimant country to which property is to be sent, and suggestions as to transport thereto:

   The National Bank of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia in Beograd.

MILITARY MISSION
of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia
to the Control Council for Germany
Rest. No.

CONSULAT GENERAL de la République Fédérative Populaire de Yougoslavie MÜNCHEN

For and on behalf of the Government of F. P. R. of Yugoslavia

Kratovac Franjo

220719

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RG 260
Entry Finance OMGUS
File 940603 Gold
Box 442

THE FEDERAL PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA

Claim No. 1703 20 May 1949

APPLICATION FOR THE RESTITUTION OF PROPERTY FROM GERMANY TO THE YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT

1. General description of goods applied for:

   120 kg gold monetary and in bars

   M89v

2. Details given in Appendix A, etc.:

3. Present location, giving details of exact address, name of the firm, etc., by whom the property is held: In Spring 1945 at the entry of American troups into Thuringia, the above mentioned gold was stored in the salt-mines of Merkers in Thuringia. American Authorities took into custody this gold and transported it to the Reichsbank in Frankfurt/M.

4. Was the property in existence in the claimant country at the time of the German occupation? If not, state circumstances in which it came into existence, e. g. under contract with German Government, for home consumption, etc.:
   This gold was looted by the "Generalbevollmächtigter für die Wirtschaft von Serbien, Obergruppenführer" Franz Neuhausen. Because of this gold Neuhausen was arrested by the "Gestapo", the gold was confiscated and, on 10 September 1944 this gold was brought to the Reichsbank in Berlin and deposited for the Minister for Serbia Dr. Neubacher.

5. Details concerning removal to Germany: date, by whom, type of transaction, i. e. looted, requisition or forced sale, etc.:

   The gold was looted by Franz Neuhausen from the "BOR"-mines and partly by confiscation of the people. The gold was brought to Germany as described under 4/

6. Address in claimant country to which property is to be sent, and suggestions as to transport thereto:

   The National Bank of the Federal Peoples' Republic of Yugoslavia in Beograd.

MILITARY MISSION
of the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia
to the Control Council for Germany
Rest. No.

CONSULAT GENERAL de la République Fédérative Populaire de Yougoslavie MÜNCHEN

For and on behalf of the Government of F. P. R. of Yugoslavia

[signature]

220720

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Yugoslavian Monetary Gold Claims, Your Nos., M890-Y-H, M 891-Y-H, M 892-Y-H, Yugoslavian Nos. 1701, 1702, 1703.

10 June 1949

1 Chief FED APO 757 US Army — Rep. & Rest. Liaison Office Rep & Rest.Br Property Division OMGUS APO 757 US Army ATTN: Mr.McCord Mr.McCollum — 10 June 1949

1. This is to advise that following aphone conversation with the Tripartite Gold Commission, Brussels, this office has been requested to forward subject claims, together with any relevent data in its possession, direct to the above mentioned Commission in Brussels for study and adjudication.

2. In advising the Yugoslav Mission of the foregoing it should be mentioned that the necessary preliminary investigation by this office may require a week or ten days.

FRANK J. ROBERTS
Acting Chief
Foreign Exchange Depository

Tel: Frankfurt 7396

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File 940606 Gold
Box 4142

940.606 Work Papers—
Italian Gold Report
Schedules, Text

220722

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220723

OFFICE OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT
FOR GERMANY (US)
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION OF
CARTELS AND EXTERNAL ASSETS

14 December 1945

SUBJECT: Report on Gold of the Banca d'Italia Taken to Germany and Subsequently Entered on the Books of the German Reichsbank.

TO : Lt. General L. D. Clay, Deputy Military Governor, Office of Military Government for Germany (US), APO 742.

A. SOURCES AND METHOD

1. This report, prepared by Nathan Volkman, is based upon the original records of the Precious Metals Department of the Berlin Reichsbank now in possession of the Division of Investigation of Cartels and External Assets, supplemented by questioning of the following Reichsbank officials:

a. Albert THOMS, former head of the Precious Metals Department of the Hauptkasse.

b. Karl GRAUPNER, former head of the Gold Affairs Branch of the Devisenabteilung.

c. Emil PUHL, former vice-president of the bank and member of the Direktorium.

2. This report has been limited to the gold of the Banca d'Italia taken from Fortezza to Germany in 1944 and subsequently entered on the books of the Berlin Reichsbank. It is not possible, from Reichsbank records, to trace the portion of this gold which was not taken to Germany or that which was brought to Berlin but delivered directly to the Foreign Office--except for the small amount from the latter delivery which was being held (informally) in the Reichsbank for the Foreign Office and was entered on the books of the Precious Metals Department before its evacuation to Merkers.

3. Because of the recent date of the acquisitions from Italy, the records available in this case include all the working ledgers of the Precious Metals Department bearing on their treatment of this gold from original entry to final disposition. But, because they were never able to finish the processing of this gold, many of the entries in these ledgers remained incomplete and have not been fully adequate for the purposes of this report.

4. Furthermore, in this as in previous cases, the origin and purpose and the exact conditions of both the transactions traced and the accounts involved must remain to some extent unknown because the "letters of instruction" authorizing the initiation of these transactions or the establishment of these accounts originated outside the Precious Metals Department and are not available among its records.

5. Fortunately, the records available were found to include a special file of the Precious Metals Department on the

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Italian gold containing many of the original work papers used during its processing and copies of some of the correspondence relating to its acquisition. These work papers have been invaluable in obtaining many weights and other essential details omitted from the ledger entries; and this correspondence--plus questioning of the officials mentioned above--has been the source for such background and explanatory information as it has been possible to give in this case.

B. GERMAN ACQUISITION OF THE ITALIAN GOLD

6. The gold traced in this report was acquired by the Germans from the so-called Government of Northern Italy in the spring of 1944, when its authority for such a transaction had become somewhat questionable and under circumstances which throw serious doubt on its exercise of any free will therein.

7. PUHL testifies that some time late in 1943 Ambassador Rahn of the German Foreign Office had negotiated with the Italian, Pellegrini, an "agreement" whereby the German Government was to take the gold of the Banca d'Italia as Italy's "contribution" to the war on the Eastern front.

8. In December, 1943--according to papers from the Italian-gold file of the Precious Metals Department and testimony of THOMS and GRAUPNER, who assisted--the gold of the Banca d'Italia then stored in Milan was removed under German supervision to the fortress of Fortezza (or Franzensfeste) near the Brenner Pass. Then in March, 1944 some 56 million dollars worth of this gold was taken to Berlin; and a second shipment, amounting to some 24 million dollars, followed in October of that year.

9. It appears that the Foreign Office not only arranged the whole transaction with the Italians but also took initial custody of both these shipments for the German Government. Reichsbank personnel had supervised the technical aspects of the removal to Fortezza and the shipments to Germany, but it was only after the arrival of these shipments in Berlin that the Reichsbank became formally responsible for any of the gold contained therein--and receipt was then given to the Foreign Office for the gold so delivered (see translations attached, Schedule A page 5 and Schedule B page 6).

C. DISPOSITION OF THE ITALIAN GOLD IN BERLIN

10. On March 3, 1944 the first shipment of this Italian gold arrived in Berlin and was delivered directly to the Reichsbank--except for 135 bags of coin, which the Foreign Office took for retention in their own vaults. The Reichsbank began the necessary processing of the gold thus received but made no entries whatever on the books until May 4, 1944, when some 62 bags of coin were segregated from the rest and established as a FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT.

11. These two lots of coin, incidentally, appear to constitute the entire amount which the Foreign Office desired to retain out of the shipments from Fortezza. GRAUPNER testifies, and papers in the Italian-gold file of the Precious Metals Department confirm (see Schedule A page 10, for example), that the Foreign Office wanted RM 20 million worth of assorted coin

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and RM 10 million worth of francs out of the Italian gold. The 135 bags retained by them were never fully sorted but were believed to contain approximately the desired value of assorted coin; and the bags established as a deposit for them were believed to contain 12,360,000 francs although sorting later showed a small amount of other types.

12. The remainder of the Italian gold delivered to the Reichsbank from this first shipment consisted of 175 barrels of bars and some 238 bags of coin. This gold was not entered on the books until July 29, 1944, and even then the entry made clearly represented a purely temporary segregation pending completion of its processing and final settlement of its disposition. Apparently in reference to the role of the Foreign Office in the initial acquisition of the entire shipment, the account established for segregation of this residual portion also bears their name (Asservat Auswärtiges Amt - Italienisches Gold I), but this is clearly the portion of the shipment not intended to be their property and the account is therefore best referred to as the FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT.

13. The second shipment of Italian gold, consisting of 135 barrels of bars and 53 cases of coin, arrived in Berlin on October 25, 1944. Its entire contents were delivered directly to the Reichsbank and were entered in an account which is similarly best translated somewhat freely as the SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT. This entry was made only two days after physical receipt of the gold and also represented a purely temporary segregation to await its processing--which had not even been started--and final settlement of its disposition.

14. The exact interpretation of these last two accounts and the determination of their ownership is admittedly difficult and somewhat uncertain--partly because much of the relevant correspondence is not among the records of the Precious Metals Department, but primarily because what were intended as only temporary arrangements pending processing of the gold were caught by the evacuation to Merkers before it became possible to regularize them.

15. However, there is strong evidence to support the view of PUHL that, although all the details of its disposition had not been officially settled, the gold contained in these two accounts is most properly considered Reichsbank gold. It appears from the testimony of all the officials questioned and from such of the correspondence as is available in the Italian-gold file kept by the Precious Metals Department that all--or very nearly all--of this gold was to be purchased for the Reichsbank's own reserves as soon as its processing was completed and its exact value determined. Moreover, it appears from a letter of November 16, 1944 (see translation in Schedule A) that partial payment to the Finance Ministry for this gold prior to completion of its processing or decision on all the details of the final settlement was contemplated by the Reichsbank; and GRAUPNER testifies that such partial payments were made--RM 80 million toward that in the first account, and RM 55 million toward that in the second.

16. Subsequent to the initial disposition of this gold in Berlin, as outlined above, 15 of the 135 bags of coin out of the first shipment, which the Foreign Office had initially retained in their own vaults, appeared on the Reichsbank's books as TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE. It appears that the

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Reichsbank had made some informal arrangement with the Foreign Office whereby the latter brought in their coin, a few bags at a time, to be sorted and weighed; and that these 15 bags, which had been processed under this arrangement but not picked up again by the Foreign Office, were formally entered on the Reichsbank's books--for account of the Foreign Office--shortly before the evacuation to Merkers.

D. THE SCHEDULES ATTACHED

17. Attached are ten schedules showing exactly and in detail the entire amount of the Italian gold brought from Fortezza and subsequently entered on the books of the Reichsbank in the four accounts already discussed, all later transactions in which any of these accounts were involved, and their closing balances at the time of evacuation to the Merkers mine; translations of the most important papers, from the special Italian-gold file of the Precious Metals Department, bearing on the origin and background of these accounts have also been included. These schedules constitute the substance of this report and should be complete and understandable without reference to any further explanatory material; the schedules for the individual accounts and the appropriate recapitulations thereof have been arranged in two parts, in accordance with the different ownership of the gold contained therein.

18. Part I shows the two accounts believed to contain Reichsbank gold. Schedules A and B, respectively, present the original inventories of the FIRST and SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNTS together with translations of several papers bearing on the acquisition and disposition of the shipments from which each arose; while Schedule C is a recapitulation of these two inventories. Schedule D is a ledger transcription of deliveries from the first of these accounts, and Schedule E is a recapitulation of the two accounts after completion of these deliveries, and the evacuation to Merkers.

19. Part II shows the two accounts containing Foreign Office gold. Schedules F and G respectively, are statements of the gold entered in the FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT and the TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE; while Schedule G also contains a translation of a letter bearing on the establishment of the latter account, and Schedule H is a recapitulation of the two statements. Schedule I is a ledger transcription of the deliveries out of the first of these accounts, and Schedule J is a recapitulation of the two accounts after completion of these deliveries and the evacuation to Merkers.

E. RECOVERY AT MERKERS

20. As indicated in Schedules E and J, the closing balances of all four accounts appear to have been evacuated to Merkers and recovered there by American troops. The gold bars so shown have all been individually identified by assigned bank numbers, (i.e., serial numbers assigned at the time of acquisition by the Reichsbank, printed on slips of paper pasted to the bars, and used

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consistently for identification purposes throughout the records of bank) on the worksheets of the recently completed inventory of gold recovered and now lying in the former Reichsbank vaults, Frankfurt am Main. The coin is shown by the Reichsbank records to have been similarly evacuated, and an overall matching of types and weights indicates that all coin recorded as so evacuated has been recovered; however, the inventory of the Frankfurt vaults was not made in such a manner as to make possible any specific and definitive identification of the coin from these accounts.

21. It is possible that all of the gold delivered out of these accounts remained within the Reichsbank and may have been recovered after the evacuation to Merkers. Two of the accounts show no deliveries; those from the other two were destined for either the Goldankauf or Asservat "Der", accounts of the Reichsbank. The bars so delivered are known to have remained in the "Der" and their recovery at Merkers has been substantiated. The coin might have been redelivered; but the bag numbers by which such redelivery could be traced are not known.

F. OTHER TRACING

22. The gold bars have been traced throughout this report and identified in the schedules attached by the assigned bank numbers.

23. Smelt numbers have not been necessary in this report and will not be needed for further tracing because none of the bars was ever delivered to another bank. If it is desired to check against Banca d'Italia records smelt numbers would be required and are available in the bar books or work papers, except in the case of the original smelt numbers of the 1607 bars resmelted. It is certain, however, that these bars were from the Fortezza shipments, and were allegedly resmelted because they were not acceptable in the international gold trade rather than to conceal their origin.

R. A. Nixon
R. A. NIXON
Acting Deputy Director

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LIST OF SCHEDULES ATTACHED - PART I

A. Original Inventory - FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT . . . . . Ten pages, A-1 - A-10

B. Original Inventory - SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT . . . . . Nine pages, B-1 - B-9

C. RECAPITULATION of Original Inventories FIRST AND SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN - GOLD ACCOUNTS . . . . . One page, C-1

D. Deliveries Out of FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN - GOLD ACCOUNT . . . . . One page, D-1

E. RECAPITULATION After Completion of Deliveries and Evacuation to Merkers - FIRST AND SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN- GOLD ACCOUNTS . . . . . Two pages, E-1 - E-2

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SCHEDULE A

Original Inventory--FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT

This schedule includes both the original inventory of the Reichsbank account Asservat Auswärtiges Amt (Italienisches Gold) I and translations of four papers from the files of the Precious Metals Department bearing on the shipment of Italian gold from Fortezza in March, 1944, from which this account arose. The items shown constitute the remainder of that shipment after removal of the approximate amounts to be retained by the Foreign Office (see Schedules F and G), and were entered in this temporary account on July 29, 1944 pending their further processing and final disposition. The account bears the name of the Foreign Office as holder of initial title to the entire shipment, but it appears that the Reichsbank intended to acquire for its own reserves the gold contained therein. The officials questioned allege that partial payment of RM 80 million toward its purchase had already been made; but there was no final settlement, and -- except for the so-called "Istcambi" gold -- all items shown remained in this temporary account at the time of their evacuation to Merkers.

Amount	Type	Assigned Bank or Bag Nos.	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per fine gram
			GOLD BARS		
834	Hochwert.	47758/48591	10,099,571.5	10,084,322.6	$11,347,636.
39	Standard	12584/12622	541,060.0	495,943.2	558,072.
19	900er	29214/29232	267,901.0	241,037.6	271,234.
(a)147	900er	29067/29213	1,962,139.5	1,766,308.2	1,987,582.
(b)330	Hochwert.	49001/49330	4,098,423.5	4,094,916.1	4,607,907.
(b) 38	Standard	12623/12660	514,389.5	471,292.1	530,333.
(b)462	900er	29233/29694	6,172,487.5	5,555,981.9	6,252,008.
(b)141	Alloy (gold)	37396/37536	1,550,290.0	1,049,352.4	1,180,810.
(c)	(silver)			197,267.1	2,854.
2,010			25,206,262.5	23,956,421.2	$26,738,436.

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Amount	Type	Assigned Bank or Bag Nos.	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per fine gram
		GOLD COINS (d)			
132,237.5	Dollars	1/25 & 2 not nbd.	220,762.5	198,686.3	$ 223,577.
12,523	Sovereigns	1/11 & 2 not nbd.	99,798.1	91,465.0	102,923.
36,366,695	Misc. Francs	1/215, 1001/2327, 3001/3109, 4001/4166, & others not nbd.	11,715,942.8	10,538,490.5	11,858,700.
(a) 37,580	do		12,083.8	10,869.4	12,231.
1,841,440	Austrian Kroner	1/91 & 2 not nbd.	622,638.5	560,312.4	630,506.
205,420	Roubles	1/2, 1/16 & 4 not nbd.	176,304.5	158,638.8	178,512.
29,625	Dutch Guilders	1/2 & 2 not nbd.	19,899.0	17,907.1	20,150.
20,558	Trade Ducats	1/18 & 3 not nbd.	71,556.8	70,465.6	79,293.
140,480	Swiss Francs	1/7 & 1 not nbd.	45,293.0	40,741.1	45,845.
273,380	Turkish Pounds	1/272 & 2 not nbd.	1,962,952.5	1,796,101.5	2,021,108.
17,520	Reichsmarks	2 not nbd.	6,921.7	6,229.5	7,010.
20,775	Austrian Shillings	1 not nbd.	4,886.5	4,397.4	4,948.
1.5	Peruvian Pounds	1 not nbd.	11.9	10.9	12.
5	Cuban Pesos	1 not nbd.	8.3	7.5	8.
600	New Chilean Pesos	1 not nbd.	122.0	109.7	123.
(e) 304	Misc. Coins	1/91, 273/278, 92/93, & others not nbd.	724,927.3	707,135.9	795,723.
(a) 1	Assay Rest	-	109.5	99.8	112.
(b) 1	Assay Rest	Bar-Bag 377 (with 3 alloy-bars)	2.3	1.9	2.
			15,684,221.0	14,201,670.3	$15,980,783.

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RECAPITULATION

Type	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value
Bars	25,206,262.5	23,956,421.2	$26,738,436.
Coin	15,684,221.0	14,201,670.3	15,980,783.
TOTAL	40,890,483.5	38,158,091.5	$42,719,219.

Note:

(a) These items constitute the so-called "Istcambi" gold and were delivered out of this account (see Schedule D) before their weights had been entered in the ledgers or in the work-papers where other items in this account were recorded. Weights shown for the bars and assay rest were taken from the ledger entries made on their receipt in the Asservat "Der" and the Goldankauf accounts, respectively, while that for the francs was taken from a work-paper where it had been separately recorded.

(b) These items were received from resmelting of the 1607 bars out of the original shipment which were considered non-deliverable because of non-standard size, uncertain fineness, or unrecognized melter. The coin item of 2.3 rough grams is believed to be an assay rest; the officials questioned allege that the Prussian State Mint retained the smelting rests, amounting to approximately 2,000 fine grams. The rough weight of the resmelted bars received is 3,468.7 grams less than that of those originally sent to the Mint; the difference in fine weights cannot be determined because some of the original bars were of uncertain fineness.

(c) Approximate value shown for silver was computed at $.01447 per fine gram.

(d) The weights and assigned bag numbers shown for this coin have been taken from work papers of the Precious Metals Department; neither had ever been entered in the ledgers although the processing of this coin was completed -- except for the smelt rests alleged to have been retained by the Mint.

(e) These 304 miscellaneous coins include one item, weighing 8,798.5 rough and 7,918.7 fine grams, originally entered in the ledgers of the Precious Metals Department as 100,000 new Italian lire but later changed to 1 bag of miscellaneous coin. This change was not made until February 20, 1945, after this coin was already packed and listed for evacuation to Merkers, and allegedly represents only a change of classification to conform with the practice of the Book-keeping Department, which had not established any account for new Italian lire.

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

S e c r e t

Franzensfeste, 29 February 1944

S t a t e m e n t

According to the German-Italian government agreement of the 5th of February 1944, fine gold 50,537.643 kg (fifty thousand five hundred thirty-seven kg and 643 gram = RM 141 millions or 1,410,000,000 lire converted into lire at the official rate) were delivered today by the deputies of the Banca d'Italia acting on order of the Italian government, to the authorized deputy of the German Reich's Plenipotentiary in Italy.

This gold lot is composed of 175 sealed barrels containing according to the Banca d'Italia gold bars and 435 sealed bags containing gold coins. The Banca d'Italia declares that the gold contained in the barrels and bags is its free property at the time of delivery.

The delivery is made subject to a joint examination in Berlin of the surrendered gold with respect to its weight and fine gold content. Any differences found will be settled.

For the Banca d'Italia as authorized representative of the Italian government:

Gigli Fortunato, director
Banca d'Italia, Bolzano

Dalla Torre Paolo Carlo

Buffa Augusto, cashier

For the Plenipotentiary of the German Reich in Italy for the German government, taking over the gold:

Dr. Bernhuber.

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220733

(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

3 March 1944

Receipt

Of the 175 sealed barrels and 435 sealed bags brought from Franzensfeste to Berlin according to the statement of 29 February 1944, Dr. Schmirl of the Foreign Office has handed over to us today 175 sealed barrels and 300 sealed bags for storing and further treatment.

Deutsche Reichsbank
Hauptkasse

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

7478 Rs/44

A.

Of the gold of the Banca d'Italia, 175 barrels alleged to contain gold bars and 435 bags alleged to contain gold coins have been brought from Franzensfeste to Berlin by the Foreign Office.

175 barrels and 300 bags of this gold were stored in the Main Vault A of the German Reichsbank and the remaining 135 bags were delivered directly to the Foreign Office.

By agreement with the Foreign Office and Mr. Dalla Torre, official of the Banca d'Italia, presently here, the preliminary examination of the contents of the shipment was confined to ascertaining only the rough weight of the gold bars and the amounts and types of gold coins noted on the labels attached to the bags.

The banking examination of the bars and coins is to be carried out by the German Reichsbank at a later date.

The part stored in the vault of the German Reichsbank has been found by us, together with the officials of the Banca d'Italia, Messrs. Dalla Torre, Buffa, Sigg and Minnitti, to contain the following:

A) 163 barrels containing gold bars:

(For number lists and list of contents of the barrels see Annex 1)

1) Internationally acknowledged gold bars:

St.	834	Gold bars (hochwertig)	kgr. 10,099,571.5	kgf	10,084,322.6
"	39	" " (Standard)	" 541,060.0	"	495,943.2
"	19	" " (900er)	" 267,901.0	"	241,037.6
St.	892	Gold bars	kgr 10,908,532.5	kgf	10,821,303.4

2) Gold bars not recognized internationally

(For list of weights see Annex 2)

St.	313	Gold Bars (Hochwertige, Italian origin)	kgr	3,788,666.5
"	540	" " (900er Italian origin)	"	6,512,404.5
"	754	" " (varying fineness and alloy bars and 1 lot of assay rests)	"	2,037,990.5
St.	1,607	Gold bars and St. 1 lot of Assay rests	"	12,339,061.5

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B) 12 Barrels containing gold bars (Istcambi-Gold)

(For lists of numbers and contents of the barrels as well as lists of weights of gold bars, see Annex 3)

St.	147 Gold bars (900er Bars of the Prussian State Mint)	kgr 1,962,139.5
"	1 lot of Assay Rests	" -,110.0
Frs	37,580 Miscellaneous gold francs	" 12,083.8
		kgr 1,974,333.3

The total rough weight of the 2,646 Gold Bars and of the 2 lots of Assay Rests amounts to kgr 25,209,843.5

C) 300 bags of gold coins

(For lists of numbers and contents of the bags, see Annex 4)

130,000	Gold dollars
11,857½	Sovereigns
49,300,000	Miscellaneous gold francs
1,875,640	Austrian kroner
33,060	Russian roubles
26,265	Dutch guilders
204,000	Ducats
280,000	Turkish pounds
16,640	Reichsmark
100,000	Italian gold lire (new coinage 1931)
6	Bags with coins of varying fineness probably kgr 48,260.18

The part of the shipment stored at the Foreign Office has been examined jointly with a representative of the Foreign Office, Consulate Secretary Koch, and the gentlemen of the Banca d'Italia and has been found to contain the following:

D) 135 bags containing gold coins:

(For lists of numbers and contents of bags, see Annex 5)

134,597½	Gold dollars
10,000	Sovereigns
20,600,000	Miscellaneous gold francs
800,000	Austrian kroner
60,000	Ducats
196,000	Turkish pounds
20,000	Reichsmarks
758,550	Italian gold lire (new coinage 1931)

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In connection with the foregoing, we would like you to decide;

1) under which designation the gold stored in the Reichsbank should be shown;

2) how the Istcambi-gold of the German Reichsbank is to be treated;

3) whether the bags containing gold coins which have so far only been superficially examined, i.e., according to the inscriptions on the attached labels, have to be re-examined according to the usual Reichsbank procedure; and

4) whether the resmelting should be started and, if necessary, the refining of the bars which are not acceptable on the international markets.

On the preliminary examination of the gold the attached record (in triplicate) has been made.

The draft of a letter addressed to the Foreign Office is attached hereto.

Hauptkasse

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Nr. 29379 Berlin, 16th November 1944

Processed Gold of the Banca d'Italia From the Shipment in March of This Year

a) Internationally acknowledged bars	kgr	kgf
St. 834 Bars, Hochw.B.Nr.47758-48591	10,099,571.5	10,084,322.6
" 39 " , Stand.B.Nr.12584-12622	541,060.0	495,943.2
" 19 " , 900er B.Nr.29214-29232	267,901.0	241,037.6
St. 892 Bars	10,908,532.5	10,821,303.4

b) Returned by Prussian State Mint as a result of resmelting bars not acknowledged internationally		
St. 330 Bars, Hochw.B.Nr.49001-49330	4,098,423.5	4,094,916.1
" 38 " , Stand.B.Nr.12623-12660	514,389.5	471,292.1
" 462 " , 900er B.Nr.29233-29694	6,172,487.5	5,555,981.9
St. 830 Bars	10,785,300.5	10,122,190.1

c) Alloy bars which were sent to "Degussa" for refining		
St. 141 Bars, Misc. B. Nr.37396-37536	1,550,290.0	1,049,352.4

Summary

a) St. 892 Bars	10,908,532.5	10,821,303.4
b) " 830 "	10,785,300.5	10,122,190.1
St. 1,722 Bars	21,693,833.0	20,943,493.5
c) " 141 "	1,550,290.0	1,049,352.4
St. 1,863 Bars	23,244,123.0	21,992,845.9

RM 2,784 per kilogram fine weight = RM 61,228,082.99

d) Processed gold coins

250,000 Turkish pounds	at 18,39	= RM	4,597,500
120,000 Gold dollars	" 4,195	= "	503,400
200,000 Austrian kroner	" 8,49	= "	169,800
100,000 Ducats	" 9,59	= "	959,000
10,000 Sovereigns	" 20,42	= "	204,200
20,000,000 Misc.gold francs	16,19	= "	16,190,000
		RM	22,623,900

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The gold to be taken over by the German Reichsbank amounting to about RM 80,000,000 may now be separated. It is, however, advisable to complete the processing of the whole shipment and then to fix exactly

1) the quantity, amounting to about RM 26,000,000 to be valued as Yugoslavian gold, and

2) the gold amounting to RM 20,000,000 to be reserved for the Foreign Office.

Then the remaining amount, which we estimate should exceed RM 80 million, could be settled with the Reich. There should be no objections to an advance payment of the RM 80 million since the amount of gold has already been checked.

Hauptkasse

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SCHEDULE B

Original Inventory--SECOND

TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT

This schedule includes both the original inventory of the Reichsbank account Asservat Auswartiges Amt (Italienisches Gold) II and translations of five papers from the files of the Precious Metals Department bearing on the shipment of Italian gold from Fortezza in October, 1944, from which this account arose. The items shown represent the alleged content of that entire shipment, and were entered in this temporary account on October 27, 1944 to await further processing and final disposition. The account bears the name of the Foreign Office as holder of initial title to the shipment, but it appears that the Reichsbank intended to purchase for its own reserves the gold contained therein. The officials questioned allege that partial payment of RM 55 million toward its purchase had already been made; but final settlement was not possible pending much additional processing, and all items shown remained in this temporary account at the time of their evacuation to Merkers.

GOLD BARS (a)

Amount	Type	Assigned Bank Nos. (b)	Actual Weight in Rough Grams (c)	Alleged Weight in Fine Grams (c)	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
1,620	900er	41001/ 42620	20,300,371.0	18,269,334.6	20,558,025.

GOLD COIN (d)

Alleged Amount (e)	Type	Pack-Bag Nos. (f)	Estimated Weight in Rough Grams (g)	Estimated Weight in Fine Grams (g)	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
50,000	Dollars	1/2	83,382.0	75,044.0	84,445.
6,000	Sovereigns	1	47,817.0	43,824.0	49,314.
7,800,000	Misc. Francs	1/78	2,511,236.0	2,258,857.0	2,541,835.
600,000	Austrian Kroner	1/6	202,767.0	182,470.0	205,329.
20,000	Trade Ducats	1/2	69,740.0	68,676.0	77,279.
84,000	Turkish Pounds	1/17	605,778.0	554,287.0	623,725.
			3,520,720.0	3,183,158.0	3,581,927.

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RECAPITULATION

Type	Actual or Estimated Weight in Rough Grams	Alleged or Estimated Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value
Bars	20,300,371.0	18,269,334.6	20,558,025.
Coin	3,520,720.0	3,183,158.0	3,581,927.
TOTAL	23,821,091.0	21,452,492.6	24,139,952.

Note:

(a) These bars were all considered non-deliverable--due to non-standard size, uncertain fineness, or non-recognized melter--but had not yet been resmelted; for that reason they were never entered in the bar books, and only the total number of bars was entered in the other books as a control figure when this account was established.

(b) For identification purposes pending their resmelting, these (900er) bars were temporarily assigned a block of bank numbers already in use for Hochwertige bars. The numbers so assigned were pasted on the bars but are recorded only in the work papers of the Precious Metals Department, where these bars were listed in lieu of entry in the bar books.

(c) No weights for these bars were entered in any of the books; but rough weight and alleged fine content were recorded in the work papers of the Precious Metals Department, where these bars were listed pending their resmelting and replacement by new bars of known fine content. The fine weight shown here has been calculated from the actual rough weight and alleged fine content listed there for each bar.

(d) This coin was repacked--in preparation for the evacuation to Merkers--but had never been sorted or weighed; for that reason only the alleged amounts of the several types of coin were entered in the books as control figures when this account was established.

(e) These amounts are the control figures used in the ledgers; they had been taken from the labels of the bags originally received from Italy and represent only the alleged content thereof.

(f) The records do not show the numbers, if any, which were assigned to the individual bags in which this coin was repacked; the numbers shown here are those assigned to the so-called pack-bags--each containing several individual bags--in which this coin

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was placed for the shipment to Merkers. These numbers were marked on the tags of the pack-bags, together with the compartment of the Berlin vault (A8c) in which this coin had been stored, and were entered in the subsidiary record of all the gold so evacuated.

(g) The fine weights shown for each type of coin have been estimated from the alleged amounts shown and unit calculations, representing mint weight minus .25% assumed loss through wear. The rough weights shown have been derived from these estimated fine weights and the fineness factors regularly used in the Reichsbank's books for all calculation of fine weights from known rough weights.

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Statement

SECRET Franzensfeste, 21 October 1944

In accordance with the German-Italian government agreement of the 5th February 1944, gold in bars and coins amounting to about 60 (sixty) million Reichsmarks--kilo fine gold figured at RM 2,784--was delivered today by the deputy of the Banca d'Italia, acting on the instructions of the Italian government, to the deputy of the plenipotentiary of the German Reich in Italy.

According to the statement of the Banca d'Italia, the gold consists of the following: 135 sealed barrels containing gold bars, and 53 sealed cases containing gold coins. The Banca d'Italia declares that the gold contained in the barrels and cases is its property at the time of delivery.

The delivery is made subject to a joint examination of the gold, to be carried out at Berlin with respect to weight and fine content; any difference arising will be settled.

For the Banca d'Italia as the party charged with the delivery by the Italian government:

signed: Gigli Fortunato

signed: Dalla Torre
Paolo Carlo

For the plenipotentiary of the German Reich in Italy for the German government:

signed: Dr. Bernhuber

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Franzensfeste, 21 October 1944

Declaration of Acceptance

The 135 sealed barrels and 53 sealed cases referred to in the statement of the 21st inst. and, according to the statement of the Banca d'Italia, containing gold bars and gold coins of a value of about 60 million Reichsmarks were today handed over to the undersigned for re-delivery to Berlin.

The delivery was made by Messrs. director Gigli Fortunato and Vice-director Dalla Torre Paolo Carlo for the Banca d'Italia, as authorized by the Italian government, to Reichsbankdirektor Dr. Bernhuber as deputy of the German Reich's plenipotentiary in Italy.

signed: Dr. Bernhuber signed: Beye

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220744

(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Berlin, 25th October 1944

We confirm that we have duly received today the 135 sealed barrels and 53 sealed cases mentioned in the declaration of acceptance of Franzensfeste, 21st inst.

German Reichsbank

Hauptkasse

signed: Reissner Thoms

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220745

(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Statement

Berlin, __ November 1944

According to an agreement between the Banca d'Italia and the plenipotentiary of the German Reich with the Italian government 135 barrels and 53 cases, containing gold bars and gold coins, brought from Franzensfeste to Berlin under the leadership of Legationsrat B e y e as deputy of the Foreign Office, and stored in the main vault of the German Reichsbank were opened and examined from the 26th of October till November. As in the case of the last gold transport the preliminary examination extended to determining

a) Number and rough-weight of the gold bars,

b) The amounts and kinds of gold coins as per the inscriptions on the labels.

The final banking examination of the gold bars and gold coins will be performed at a later date.

The following amounts have been ascertained:

a) 1,620 gold bars (of Italian origin - not for international delivery - with an average fine gold content 900/1000)

kgr 20,300,371.0 as per enclosed list,

b) 50,000 gold dollars
6,000 sovereigns
7,800,000 miscellaneous gold francs
600,000 Austrian gold kroner
20,000 ducats
84,000 Turkish pounds

This statement is prepared in triplicate in the German language. One copy each is in the possession of the Banca d'Italia, the Foreign Office and the German Reichsbank.

For the Banca d'Italia For the German Reichsbank
Hauptkasse:

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Berlin, 3rd of November 1944

Re: Gold Shipments of the
Banca d'Italia from
Franzensfeste to Berlin

A.

According to instructions of the Foreign Office a further portion of the gold stored in Franzensfeste by the Banca d'Italia, mounting to about RM. 60 million, was transported to Berlin about the 21st to the 25th of October this year. Transport leader was Legationsrat B e y e of the Foreign Office, who was accompanied by the Reichsbankrate G r a u p n e r and T h o m s of the German Reichsbank as gold experts; in order to increase the security two Reichsbanksekretäre likewise accompanied the transport.

After the arrival of the delegation in Franzensfeste on the 17th ult the preparatory measures were soon finished so that the loading could take place two days later, i.e., the 19th ult. Reichsbankdirector Dr. B e r n h u b e r had come from Fasano to sign the statement of acceptance between the Banca d'Italia and the plenipotentiary of the German Reich to the Italian government.

According to a special order given by the Foreign Minister to the German embassy at Fasano on the 18th ult. the transport of the gold had to be postponed; therefore the preparations made had to be immediately cancelled. When a new order for the transport came--24 hours later--it was possible in spite of the great difficulties, such as procuring wagons, trucks, men for loading, guarding and so on, to transport the gold by the 21st of October. The statement of acceptance, of which you will find a copy enclosed, was signed for Italy by the two directors of the branch of the Banca d'Italia in Bolzano: G i g l i and D a l l a T o r r e. The declaration of acceptance, copy of which is enclosed, was made by the Reichsbank director Dr. B e r n h u b e r as deputy of the German Reich in Italy and Legationsrat B e y e as deputy of the Foreign Office, Berlin, and confirmed by signing. Vice director D a l l a T o r r e and cashier C i n t e r were ordered by the Banca d'Italia to accompany this shipment.

Owing to the great number of trains and frequent shunting, the shipment could not always be carried out with the speed desired. The transport-leaders, however, were generally satisfactorily assisted by the railway authorities so that the shipment arrived at Berlin in good condition after four days, i.e., on Wednesday, the 25th ult. The unloading was done quickly and without difficulties. A receipt, copy of which you will find enclosed, was handed over by the Hauptkasse to the transport leader Legationsrat B e y e of the Foreign Office, and the gold was stored by the Hauptkasse as a deposit of the Foreign Office (Banca d'Italia) II in Vault A.

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According to the former procedure, a preliminary examination of the contents of the shipment was made with respect to the rough weight of the gold bars as well as to the amounts and types of coins per the inscriptions on the labels.

The final banking examination of the gold bars and gold coins will take place at a time still to be determined by the Reichsbankdirektorium.

According to the preliminary findings (made in presence of the officials of the Banca d'Italia) the following gold has been received:

A. Contents of the 135 barrels:

1,620 gold bars not acknowledged on international markets (bars of Italian origin)

kgr 20,300,371.0 fine content about 900/1000
i.e. fine weight = about 18,270.0 kg
value = about 50,863,000. -- RM.

B. Contents of the 53 cases:

50,000 gold dollars
6,000 sovereigns
77,800,000 misc. francs } value about RM. 8,892,000.--
600,000 Austrian kr.
20,000 ducats
84,000 Turk. pounds

We are awaiting your instructions for the further treatment of the gold and enclose the statement of the preliminary examination with a list of weights in duplicate.

German Reichsbank
Hauptkasse

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SCHEDULE C

RECAPITULATION of Original Inventories --

FIRST AND SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNTS

Account	Amount	Type	Actual or Estimated Weight in Rough Grams	Actual, Alleged, or Estimated Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
GOLD BARS					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account	1,164	Hoch.	14,197,995.0	14,179,238.7	$15,955,543.
	77	Stand.	1,055,449.5	967,235.3	1,088,405.
	628	900er	8,402,528.0	7,563,327.7	8,510,824.
	141	Alloy (gold)	1,550,290.0	1,049,352.4	1,180,810.
		(silver)		197,267.1	2,854.
Second Temporary Italian-Gold Account	1,620	900er	20,300,371.0	18,269,334.6	20,558,025.
TOTAL BARS	3,630		45,506,633.5	42,225,755.8	$47,296,461.
GOLD COIN					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account	Mixed - See Schedule A		15,684,221.0	14,201,670.3	$15,980,783.
Second Temporary Italian-Gold Account	Mixed - See Schedule B		3,520,720.0	3,183,158.0	3,581,927.
TOTAL COIN			19,204,941.0	17,384,828.3	19,562,710.
GRAND TOTAL - ORIGINAL INVENTORY			64,711,574.5	59,610,584.1	$66,859,171.

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SCHEDULE D

Deliveries Out of FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT

This schedule presents a ledger transcription of deliveries out of the FIRST TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNT. The items shown constitute the so-called "Istcambi" gold (see Schedule A); the officials questioned allege that this was considered already Reichsbank property and disposed of, as shown, without payment.

Date	Destination	Amount	Type	Assigned Bank or Bag Nos.	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value
1944							
14 Oct	Goldankauf	37,580	Misc. Francs		12,083.8	10,869.4	12,231.
	do	1	Assay Rest		109.5	99.8	112.
16 Oct	Asservat "Der"	147	900er	29067/ 29213	1,962,139.5	1,766,308.2	1,987,582.
				TOTAL	1,974,332.8	1,777,277.4	1,999,925.

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SCHEDULE E

RECAPITULATION After Completion of Deliveries and Evacuation to Merkers--FIRST AND SECOND TEMPORARY ITALIAN-GOLD ACCOUNTS

Account	Amount	Type	Actual or Estimated Weight in Rough Grams	Actual, Alleged, or Estimated Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
GOLD BARS					
Delivered to Asservat "Der", evacuated therefrom to Merkers and now former Reichsbank vaults Frankfurt am Main:					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account	147	900er	1,962,139.5	1,766,308.2	$ 1,987,582.
Evacuated to Merkers and now in former Reichsbank vaults, Frankfurt Am Main:					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account	1,164	Hochw.	14,197,995.0	14,179,238.7	15,955,543.
	77	Stand.	1,055,449.5	967,235.3	1,088,405.
	481	900er	6,440,388.5	5,797,019.5	6,523,242.
	141	Alloy	1,550,290.0	1,246,619.5	1,183,664.
Second Temporary Italian-Gold Account	1,620	900er	20,300,371.0	18,269,334.6	20,558,025.
	3,483		43,544,494.0	40,459,447.6	45,308,879.
TOTAL BARS:	3,630		45,506,633.5	42,225,755.8	$47,296,461.

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Account	Amount	Type	Actual or Estimated Weight in Rough Grams	Actual, Alleged, or Estimated Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
GOLD COIN					
Delivered to Goldankauf and not further traceable from the records now available:					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account	37,580	Misc. Francs	12,083.8	10,869.4	12,231.
	1	Assay Rest	109.5	99.8	112.
			12,193.3	10,969.2	$ 12,343.
Evacuated to Merkers and now in former Reichsbank vaults, Frankfurt am Main:					
First Temporary Italian-Gold Account		Mixed -(see Schedules A and D)	15,672,027.7	14,190,701.1	15,968,440.
Second Temporary Italian-Gold Account		Mixed -(see Schedule B)	3,520,720.0	3,183,158.0	3,581,927.
			19,192,747.7	17,373,859.1	19,550,367.
TOTAL COIN:			19,204,941.0	17,384,828.3	$19,562,710.

RECAPITULATION

Type	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value
BARS	45,506,633.5	42,225,755.8	$47,296,461.
COIN	19,204,941.0	17,384,828.3	19,562,710.
ORIGINAL INVENTORY:	64,711,574.5	59,610,584.1	$66,859,171.

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LIST OF SCHEDULES ATTACHED - PART II

F. Statement of the Italian Gold Retained by the Foreign Office, but Physically Held for Them by the Reichsbank as FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT . . . . . One page, F-1

G. Statement of the Italian Gold Initially Retained by the Foreign Office in Their Own Vaults, but Subsequently Sent to the Reichsbank and on February 12, 1945 Entered on its Books for Account of the Foreign Office as TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE . . . . . Two pages, G-1, G-2

H. RECAPITULATION of Statements - FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT and TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE . . . . . One page, H-1

I. Deliveries Out of FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT . . . . . Two pages, I-1, I-2

J. RECAPITULATION After Completion of Deliveries and Evacuation to Merkers - FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT and TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE . . . . . One page, J-1

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SCHEDULE F

Statement of the Italian Gold Retained by the Foreign Office but Physically Held for Them by the Reichsbank as the FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT

This schedule is a statement of the entire amount of gold coin originally held for the Foreign Office in the Reichsbank account Auswärtiges Amt Depot. This account represents the RM 10 million worth of gold francs which the Foreign Office desired to retain out of the first (March, 1944) shipment of Italian gold from Fortezza. Bags believed to contain 12,360,000 miscellaneous francs were removed from that shipment on May 4 1944 and deposited in this account in the Reichsbank for the Foreign Office; subsequently the coin was sorted and found to consist of the items shown.

Amount	Type	Assigned Bag Nos.	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1 125275 per Fine Gram
12,263,300	Misc. Francs	1/401 & others not nbd. or unknown	3,951,259.5	3,554,157.9	$3,999,404.
35,685	Roubles	1/3 and 1 not nbd.	30,650.0	27,578.9	31,034.
320	Austrian Kroner	1 not nbd.	108.0	97.2	110.
1,040	Swiss Francs	1 not nbd.	335.0	301.3	339.
8	Misc. Coins	1 not nbd.	47.5	43.0	48.
		TOTAL	3,982,400.0	3,582,178.3	$4,030,935.

Note:
The weights and assigned bag numbers shown have been taken from work papers of the Precious Metals Department; neither had ever been entered in the ledgers although the processing of this coin was completed. These work papers do not show the bag numbers, if any, of the 4,230,050 francs delivered out of this account from the time of its establishment through January 10, 1945 (See Schedule I), but do show their weights.

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SCHEDULE G

Statement of the Italian Gold Initially Retained by the Foreign Office in Their Own Vaults, but Subsequently Sent to the Reichsbank and on February 12, 1945 Entered in its Books for Account of the Foreign Office as TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE

This schedule includes both a statement of the gold coin entered on February 12, 1945 for account of the Foreign Office in the Reichsbank account Asservat Nr. 5 and a translation of a letter bearing on the background of that entry. The gold entered in this account was a part of that originally removed from the first (March, 1944) shipment of Italian gold from Fortezza and delivered directly to the Foreign Office for retention in their own vaults. This delivery had consisted of 135 bags believed to contain approximately the RM 20 million worth of assorted coin which they desired to retain out of that shipment. The coin in these bags had yet to be sorted and weighed, however, and the Reichsbank subsequently undertook this processing for the Foreign Office -- the latter sending them a few bags at a time for this purpose and then picking up each lot again after it was completed. When the evacuation to Merkers became imminent, the Reichsbank was holding 15 bags of this Foreign Office gold which had been processed but not yet returned; the items shown represent the actual content of these bags and were entered in their temporary account on February 12, 1945 for the account of the Foreign Office.

Amount	Type	Assigned Bag Nos.	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
1,977,640	Misc. Francs	271/368 & 1 not nbd.	637,425.5	573,364.2	$ 645,192.
50,000	Dollars	11/20	83,477.5	75,129.8	84,542.
9,995	Turkish Pounds	48/56 and 1 not nbd.	71,750.5	65,651.7	73,876.
6,551	Trade Ducats	1/6 and 1 not nbd.	22,801.0	22,453.3	25,266.
8,370	Roubles	1 not nbd.	7,186.0	6,466.0	7,276.
60	Austrian Kroner	1 not nbd.	20.0	18.0	20.
31	Misc. Coins	1/26 and 2 not nbd.	185,080.8	182,256.4	205,089.
	TOTAL		1,007,741.3	925,339.4	$1,041,261.

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(TRANSLATION OF COPY)

Precious Metals Department Schir

1) To the Foreign Office

B e r l i n W 8

Wilhelmstr. 76

Free!

February 13th, 1945

to No. 2126 g/44 - Tgb. No. 1267/44

The checking of 15 bags which the Foreign Office had delivered from its own custody to the Reichsbank and which were alleged to contain:

Frs	2,000,000	Miscell. Francs
St	60,000	Ducats
Ltq	10,000	Turk. Rounds
$	50,000	Gold dollars

resulted as follows:

Numbered Bags

Frs	1,960,000	Miscell. Francs	(Bag No. 271-368)	gr 631,744.5	
$	50,000	Golddollars	(" " 11- 20)	" 83,477.5	
Ltq	9,000	Turk. Pounds	(" " 48- 56)	" 64,610.0	
St.	6,000	Ducats	(" " 1- 6)	" 20,886.0	
Lots	26	Miscell. Coins	(" " 1- 26)	" 180,046.5	
(26 Bags at 2,000 damaged Ducats Ducats 52,000)				gr 177,300.8	

Not numbered Bags

Frs	17,640	Miscell. Francs	gr 5,681.0	(Frs 20 = 1 Ltq)
Ltq	9,955	Turk. Pounds /sic/	" 7,140.5	
Ro	8,370	Roubles	" 7,186.0	(= Frs 22,320)
Okr	60	Austrian Kroners	" 0,020.0	(= Frs 60)
St	551	Ducats	" 1,915.0	
Lot	1	Miscell. Coins	" 5,007.5	gf 4,931.1
		(St. (1,444 damaged ducats)		
	4	Miscell. Coins	gr 0,026.8	gf 0,024 5
		(Ltq 4 damaged)		
	5	Ducats missing amount according certificate		

We will take these gold coins in our custody (asservieren) until a further delivery of gold to be checked will arrive.

German Reichsbank
Hauptkasse

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SCHEDULE H

RECAPITULATION of Statements--FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE

Account	Amount and Type	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value
		GOLD COIN		
Foreign Office Deposit Temporary Account Nbr. Five	Mixed - (See Schedule F)	3,982,400.0	3,582,178.3	$4,030,935.
	Mixed - (See Schedule G)	1,007,741.3	925,339.4	1,041,261.
	GRAND TOTAL	4,990,141.3	4,507,517.7	$5,072,196.

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SCHEDULE I

Deliveries Out of FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT

This schedule presents a ledger transcription of deliveries out of the FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT. All deliveries shown were destined for the Reichsbank's own reserves, but the background and basis of these transactions is not known from the records available.

Date	Destination	Amount (a)	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
1944					
2 June	Goldankauf	627,360	202,009.9	181,707.9	$ 204,471.
	Asservat"Der"	307,110	98,937.5	88,994.3	100,143.
3 June	do	124,210	40,019.0	35,997.1	40,507.
15 June	do	5,700	1,835.3	1,650.9	1,858.
27 June	Goldankauf	494,130	159,182.0	143,184.2	161,122.
6 July	Asservat"Der"	3,510	1,131.0	1,017.3	1,145.
8 July	do	44,030	14,187.0	12,761.2	14,360.
18 July	do	458,150	147,582.5	132,750.5	149,381.
16 Aug.	Goldankauf	7,160	2,305.5	2,073.8	2,334.
31 Aug.	Asservat"Der"	11,450	3,689.5	3,318.7	3,734.
5 Sept.	Goldankauf	63,750	20,536.5	18,472.6	20,787.
14 Sept.	do	186,530	60,114.0	54,072.5	60,846.
19 Sept.	do	8,590	2,767.0	2,488.9	2,801.
25 Sept.	do	143,170	46,132.8	41,496.5	46,695.
28 Sept.	do	10,740	3,458.4	3,110.8	3,500.
3 Oct.	do	715,870	230,749.0	207,558.7	233,561.
7 Oct.	do	4,300	1,385.5	1,246.3	1,402.
11 Oct.	do	222,360	71,680.5	64,476.6	72,554.
18 Oct.	do	9,880	3,181.3	2,861.5	3,220.
4 Nov.	do	26,650	8,594.5	7,730.8	8,699.
22 Nov.	do	715,900	230,625.0	207,447.2	233,435.
23 Nov.	do	12,600	4,063.0	3,654.7	4,112.
30 Nov.	do	4,290	1,382.5	1,243.6	1,399.
11 Dec.	do	7,160	2,307.0	2,075.1	2,335.
29 Dec.	do	1,140	367.4	330.5	372.
1945					
10 Jan.	do	14,310	4,608.0	4,144.9	4,664.
23 Jan.	do	11,460 (b)	3,692.4 (b)	3,321.3	3,737.
24 Jan.	do	37,080 (b)	11,947.2 (b)	10,746.5	12,093.
29 Jan.	do	9,310 (b)	2,999.7 (b)	2,698.2	3,036.
		4,287,900	1,381,470.9	1,242,633.1	$1,398,303.

Note:
(a) All amounts shown are miscellaneous gold francs and the assigned bag numbers, if any, are unknown.

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(b) The weights shown for these three deliveries have been estimated on the basis of the average actual weight of the entire 12,263,300 miscellaneous gold francs originally contained in this account (see Schedule F) because their actual weights cannot be determined from the records available. These weights were not separately recorded in any of the ledgers or work papers bearing on this account, and they cannot be derived from the original inventory because the bag numbers needed for identification of the coin involved were likewise not recorded. The ledger entries made on receipt of this coin in the Goldankauf do not give its weight, because all coin in that account was customarily entered by amount only. Finally, it is not possible to reconstruct the weights of these three deliveries because there is also no record of the weight remaining in the account after their completion. The weights of the coin originally placed in this account had never been entered in the ledgers, and the work papers in which they were recorded represent only original inventory. The other deliveries from this account were made prior to this inventory and their actual weights, as shown, had been separately determined and recorded in these work papers. The weights shown in the Recapitulation (Schedule J) both for the deliveries to Goldankauf and for the closing balance remaining in this account also reflect, of course, this estimate as to the weight of francs delivered and not delivered.

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SCHEDULE J

RECAPITULATION After Completion of Deliveries and Evacuation to Merkers--FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT in the Reichsbank and TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NUMBER FIVE of the Reichsbank for Account of the Foreign Office

Account	Amount	Type	Weight in Rough Grams	Weight in Fine Grams	Approximate Dollar Value Computed at $1.125275 per Fine Gram
		GOLD COIN			
Delivered to Goldankauf and not further traceable from the records now available:					
FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT	3,333,740	Misc. Francs	1,074,089.1	966,143.1	$1,087,175.
Delivered to Asservat "Der" and not further traceable from the records now available:					
FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT	954,160	Misc. Francs	307,381.8	276,490.0	311,128.
Evacuated to Merkers and now in former Reichsbank vaults, Frankfurt am Main:					
FOREIGN OFFICE DEPOSIT		Mixed - (See Schedules F and I)	2,600,929.1	2,339,545.2	2,632,632.
TEMPORARY ACCOUNT NBR. FIVE		Mixed - (See Schedule G)	1,007,741.3	925,339.4	1,041,261.
			3,608,670.4	3,264,884.6	$3,673,893.
TOTAL SHOWN IN STATEMENTS:			4,990,141.3	4,507,517.7	$5,072,196.

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Frankfurt /Main, 15./16.August 1945

Interrogation of

Herr Karl G r a u p n e r,
Reichsbankrat, head of the Goldgeschäfte Branch in the Foreign Exchange Department of the Reichsbank, Berlin.

By: P.F.C. William V. D u n k e l,
P.F.C. Jack S u t t o n (Interpreter).

Q. What was your position in the Reichsbank?

A. Since September 1933 I was head of the branch for gold affairs in the Foreign Exchange Department of the Reichsbank, Berlin, in which the entire book-keeping of gold stocks of the Reichsbank i.e. gold owned by the Reichsbank and other deposits was taken care of. This branch also received the instructions from the Reichsbank directorium as to storage and use of the gold and forwarded it to the Main Cashiers Office (Hauptkasse).

Q. Who were your superiors?

A. My superiors, whose orders I had to take and upon whose instructions all transactions were carried out were:
the R e i c h s b a n k d i r e c t o r i u m :
Reichsbank director T r e u e
" " R e i n e l
" " W i l h e l m (member of the Reichsbank directorium)
vice-president P u h l
or their respective representatives.
First attorney-in-fact of the cashiers office:
Reichsbank director P i r r (died around 1940)
afterwards Reichsbank " F r o m m k n e c h t.

Q. Who were the persons in the Reichsbank directorium that you dealt with?

A. I had to deal with the following persons of the Reichsbank directorium:
up until 1942 Reichsbank director T r e u e
" " W i l h e l m
vice-president P u h l.
After July 1942 Reichsbank director R e i n e l
" " W i l h e l m
for signature with vice-president P u h l.

Q. Who gave the instructions for either deposits or withdrawals?

A. The orders were issued by the Reichsbank directorium represented by the above mentioned persons. It was decided upon at internal meetings of the directorium. I was required to forward these instructions to the cashiers office (Kasse).

Q. Did you have to submit reports to the Reichsbank directorium?

A. Only upon demand. When the directorium required informations as to the amount of gold available, in most cases once a month.

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Q. Was your information a general review only or was it a detailed report?

A. It was a regular gold balance with

Assets: containing all gold available including foreign deposits. A detailed statement what the gold stock of the Reichsbank was composed of.

Liabilities: deposits which were not owned by the Reichsbank or those reserved for special purposes (for example, an amount of 23,350,000 RM. for settling of gold value at some later date.)

Q. What books were maintained in your branch?

A. 1.) J o u r n a l, which contained all gold transactions from their beginning until their completion. The only exception were gold transactions listed as secret Reich's affairs.

2.) G o l d k o n t o (gold account). Here were booked all amounts of gold published in the newspapers in the weekly bank reports on the 7th, 15th, 23rd and the last day of each month.

3.) " T h e a c c o u n t o f g o l d a b r o a d ". Here were booked the amounts of gold deposited at foreign note banks. (Since about the middle of 1939 was no more gold deposited abroad. The only exception was the deposit of some 5 Mill.RM. at the Netherland' Nationalbank in Amsterdam. This gold was found later on by German troops which occupied Amsterdam.)

4.) A c c o u n t o f m i s c e l l a n e o u s a m o u n t s. All gold purchased by Reichsbank branches throughout Germany and at the counters of the Hauptkasse (gold chamber) in Berlin. It was called "Tafelgeschäft" - business over the counter.

5.) A s s e r v a t 'D e r. A reserve in foreign exchange which was converted into gold.

Asservat'Der was formed around 1937/38, and in this account were booked all gold amounts placed at the disposal of the Four Year' Plan (Hermann Goering). It consisted of gold, delivered according to the order to turn in all gold in Germany, further of gold from Danzig (1939), Sudetenland, and later of gold from territories occupied by German troops (for example in Beglium the entire amount of gold at the Belgian National Bank including some 12 Mill.RM. gold of the Bank of Luxemburg).

Q. Who issued the orders as to the disposition of this gold?

A. The orders came exclusively from the Four Year' Plan. All transactions were carried out only with the approval of the Four Year' Plan. Therefore the Reichsbank was merely an administrative agency.

Q. What were the sources, from which the gold in this account was aquired?

A. This account was used for all the gold secured in countries occupied by German troops, as Belgium, France, Netherlands (for example 180 Mill.RM. gold aquired in Netherlands). All gold turned in by the above mentioned countries was added to this special fund of the Four Year' Plan.

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Q. Was the country of origin of this gold earmarked in the account of the Four Year' Plan?

A. No. There were no special remarks and it was therefore impossible to state the country of origin.

Q. Did Herr Puhl or Herr Reinel issue any specific orders to withdraw any amounts from the Belgian gold?

A. No, it was impossible, because this gold lost its' identity and became a part of the remaining gold.

Q. Were any other books maintained in the branch for gold affairs in the Foreign Exchange Department?

A. a) D e p o s i t B o o k - here were booked the amounts of gold sent to foreign note banks according to the order of bar number. Each time after gold bars were sold they have been crossed off in the books. This way it contained deposits of the Reichsbank at foreign note banks.

b) D e p o s i t S t o r e - B o o k - deposits of foreign banks maintained at the Reichsbank in Berlin.

c) G o l d S i g h t A c c o u n t s - the gold, which foreign banks held in Berlin was booked here according to the fineness. For example
Deutsche Orientbank, Istanbul,
Deutsche Bank, Istanbul,
Banca Commerciala, Milan (the account was balanced).

In addition the following supplementary books were maintained:

S t a t i s t i c a l b o o k - which contained all gold transactions in a statistical way.

A b o o k concerning the e x p e n s e s of gold - all expenses connected with the gold transactions. For example railroad transportation, insurance premium, pro diem paid to the accompanying officials a.s.f. were entered in this book.

A b o o k which appeared all eventual profits or losses due to gold transactions.

Q. Did the E d e l m e t a l l (precious metals) department maintain any separate books?

A. As far as I know the Edelmetall department did not maintain any of these books. It only maintained books of arrival of gold, purchased by the departments. The entire gold which it received was checked and processed by the department, and turned over to the foreign exchange department for booking. I am not able to give any further information since the Edelmetall department, Gold Chamber of the Hauptkasse (main cashiers office) was headed by Reichsbankrat Thoms.

Q. Were secret transactions entered in the books and if so were they handled in a special manner?

A. As to their amounts they appear in all books, but without any exact explanation. Merely the number of the secret order or the respective number of the Reichsbank directorium were noted.

Q. What department was it that handled secret affairs?

A. Department V.S. (Verschlußsachen) Registratur.
(closed matters) (registry).

Q. Who were the persons who administered and had the key to secret affairs?

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A. The head of the V.S. registry Reichsbankoberinspektor B e h r e n d s
and his assistant " " S c h u l z.
The latter is at the present time in Munich. I do not think he will be able to furnish any information since his work was a purely technical one.

Q. Did the foreign exchange department handle the general correspondence?

A. In the Registry of the foreign exchange department was only kept the correspondence concerning the department, and accounting-documents.
Correspondence sent to the Reichsbank directorium had to go through the main Registry IIa and was sent from there to the respective officials in the Reichsbank directorium for signature. Later on it was forwarded to the respective experts.

Q. Where are all the books you know of?

A. In Berlin, I left Berlin on 13 April 1945.

Q. Did higher authorities issue any orders to destroy the books?

A. No.

Q. Have any of the documents of the division been evacuated?

A. No, a large part of the stock burned during the heavy air raid on Berlin on 3 February 1945. The books were found singed in iron safes.

Q. What is the account "Goldankauf"?

A. This was an account of various "Booking demands" - Buchforderungen. - Gold which was not published - hidden accounts).
In this account were entered all "over counter" transactions i.e. all gold coins and gold bars purchased at the counter of the Hauptkasse of the gold chamber and at Reichsbank' branches.

Q. Was this account under the jurisdiction of the Four Year' Plan?

A. No.

Q. Did any special regulations exist concerning the handling of gold of the Four Year' Plan; did you need special permission from the Four Year' Plan on any transactions concerning the gold of the Four Year' Plan?

A. Yes, it was possible only with the approval of the Four Year' Plan or upon their special instructions. The duties of the Reichsbank in connection with the gold of the Four Year' Plan were purely administrative.

Q. According to German law no person was allowed to hold gold. Were there any persons who inspite of this law dealt with gold?

A. To be able to buy gold a person needed a permission to do it. Transactions were made only with the approval of the Reichsbank directorium.

Q. Did the entire directorium have to give the permission for this purpose?

A. At least 2 signatures were required. In cases of more important transactions (for example larger transactions with foreign countries) it was presented to vice-president Puhl, when the problem was of even greater importance a meeting of the Reichsbank directorium was called and the decision was finally presented to Herr Funk.

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Q. Are you acquainted with Herr Helmuth MAURER and do you know that he dealt with gold?

A. Yes, Herr Maurer was introduced to the Reichsbank by Reichsbankrat G ö r l i c h (head of the Capital demands branch of the Foreign Exchange Division). In case Herr Maurer wanted to purchase gold, Herr Jahnke, director at the Reichsbank conducted the preliminary negotiations. Reichsbank directors Wilhelm and Reinel gave the final approval.

Q. Did you ever hear the name Forthmann in connection with Herr Maurer?

A. While accepting the gold Maurer signed a receipt
Forthmann
Maurer.

Q. Were there any other persons who had the same right as Herr Maurer to buy gold?

A. Yes, Dr. N e u b a c h e r - the German economic deputy for Greece in Athens,
Dresdner Bank, Berlin,
Bankgeschäft H. F e t s c h e w & Co., Berlin,
Bankgeschäft S p o n h o l z & Co.
Firma W o l f f, Cologne - Berlin.

Q. Did any more gold accounts exist at the Reichsbank?

A. Yes, the list is enclosed.

Q. What do you know about the B e l g i a n g o l d ?

A. My own opinion:--
The negotiations took place in October/November 1941. The Belgian gold with the toatal amount of some 560 Mill. RM. including some 12 Mill. RM. gold from Luxemburg was previously stored in Dakar and was transferred from Dakar to Cajes. From there it was brought by air to Marseilles. A liason man from the Reichsbank, Reichsbankrat L e n b a c h was stationed in Marseilles, and he was the first one to take over the consignments of gold which arrived from Africa. Every time a sufficient amount of gold was stored in Marseilles officials of the Reichsbanks' Hauptkasse in Berlin went by order of the Reichsbank directorium to Marseilles via Paris and transported the gold by rail to Berlin.

A total of 24 transports from Marseilles to Berlin was effected, the first transport in May 1942. This gold was taken into custody for the Belgian National Bank in Brussels by the Reichsbank Hauptkasse in Berlin. Officials of the Belgian National Bank came often to Berlin and in their presence were the boxes unpacked, the gold bars were repacked in boxes and marked with the stamp of the Belgian National Bank and the Reichsbank. In the year 1944 this gold was placed at the disposal of the Four Year' Plan according to the so called Reichs efficiency law. The Four Year' Plan authorized the Reichsbank to take this gold into its custody, and when processing was completed to add it to the Aeservat'Der. After the gold was transferred to the Four Year'Plan according to the Reichs efficiency law and after the Four Year' Plan sold this gold to the Reichsbank, the equivalent of this gold some 552 Mill.RM. minus transportation expenses was supposed to be placed at the disposal of the Belgian National Bank. (The calculation was made on the basis of RM.2784 for 1 kg fine gold). Since the Belgian National Bank refused to accept the Reichsmark equivalent for the gold, the amount of some 549 Mill.RM. was deposited in the court Amtsgericht Mitte, Berlin, on 7 June 1944 for the account of the Belgian National Bank.

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Q. What do you know about the resmelting of the Belgian gold?

A. As far as the coins of the Belgian gold are concerned they were used in their original form.
As far as the gold bars are concerned they have been resmelted regardless of their origin by the Prussian State Mint into gold bars for international trade.
Remark: resmelting of gold bars of foreign origin fit for international trade in German gold bars occured only once during the time I was in office.

Q. Who gave the order to resmelt the gold?

A. The Reichsbank directorium in contact with the Four Year' Plan
Reichsbank directors Wilhelm,
Reinel,
Fromknecht
vice-president Puhl.
(Fromknecht as attorney-in-fact of the Hauptkasse signed the order.)

Q. What was the reason for resmelting?

A. The reason for resmelting the Belgian gold bars in Germam bars must have been that these bars should not be identified as Belgian gold bars while utilizing them abroad.

Q. Were those orders given in writing?

A. Yes, from the above mentioned persons.

Q. Did Herr Puhl sign these orders?

As far as I know, yes, but they were signed at least by Reichsbank directors Wilhelm and Reinel. Since it was a decision of utmost impottance probably it was also signed by president and Reichs' economic minister Funk.

Q. Were there any special agreements made with Dr. M o s e r from the Prussian State Mint?

A. I heard unofficially that Herr Thoms, the chief of the gold chamber, was supposed to reach an agreement with Dr.Moser as to the resmelting of the Belgian gold bars.

Q. Who were the persons from the Reichsbank directorium who ordered the resmelting at the Prussian State Mint?

A. Reichsbank director W i l h e l m
" " R e i n e l
vice president P u h l.

Q. What years were cut into the bars after resmelting them?

A. I heard that the years cut into the resmelted bars were of an earlier date.

Q. On whose order?

A. On the order of the Reichsbank directorium.

Q. Were there any discussions concerning these dates with members of the bank?

A. The order of the Reichsbank to cut earlier dates into the resmelted Belgian gold bars was given to Herr Thoms orally. Upon receipt of this order Herr Thoms, authorized by the Reichsbank directorium carried on the necessary negotiations with Dr. Moser from the Prussian State Mint.

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Q. But Herr Thoms did not have the right to conduct such important negotiations?

A. No, Herr Thoms was able to carry on negotiations with the Prussian State Mint only with the authorization of the Reichsbank directorium

Reichsbank director W i l h e l m
" " Reinel
vice-president P u h l

Q. Can you say that those three persons knew exactly that earlier dates were cut into the bars?

A. Yes, it was done on their order. Eventually president Funk took part in it, in connection with the Four Year' Plan.

Q. Did people in the Reichbank who knew about it, discuss this question?

A. No, it was a secret Reichs'affair. The lower officials of the Hauptkasse in the gold chamber who transported the gold from the Reichsbank to the State Mint and back, probably did not knowmbout the measures decided upon in internal meetings, as to the earlier dates to be cut into the bars.

Q. Apparently the resmelting was done with the purpose of eliminating the identity?

A. Yes, as I already mentioned before.

Q. Do you remember what deliveries of gold were made to foreign countries?

A. Gold was sold abroad very frequently. Since the material is a very large one I am enclosing a list of these transactions - as many as I can remember.

Q. If you do not remember the amounts perhaps you do remember the countries?

A. Sweden 105 Mill. Swedish Crowns.

The main contingent to the Swiss National Bank, Zurich,

The National Bank of Portugal,

there was no direct transport to Portugal from Berlin. The Swiss National Bank in Zurich was authorised either by phone or by cable to turn over a certain amount of gold from our deposits maintained at this bank in Bern to the Bank gold of Portugal. The Swiss National Bank transported the gold from this deposit to Lisbon at every oportunity through Swiss transport enterprises by trucks. According to instructions of the Reichsbank directorium the Swiss National Bank took care of insuring these transports in Swiss insurance agencies. Insurance and transportation expenses were charged to the Reichsbank through the account of the Reichsbank directorium at the Swiss National Bank.

There were more transactions of this kind (see annex).

Q. Are there any other countries which participated in this kind of transactions?

A. German economic deputy for Greece Dr. N e u b a c h e r
33 Mill. RM.

Considerable gold sales to the Romanian National Bank
some 150 - 200 Mill. RM. in gold
and foreign currency, mostly Swiss Francs.

Turkish Central Bank, Ankara, - purchased gold once, in the amount of some 9 Mill.RM.

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Bulgaria received a rather unimportant amount of gold some 1 Mill. RM.
Bank of Japan, Tokyo, approx. 9 Mill. RM. gold,
Slovakian National Bank, Bratislava " 5 Mill. RM. gold,
Schweizer Handelsbank, Zurich,
Bankhaus Leu & Co., Zurich, - 1 kg bars, only from the old stock of the bank.
Schweizerische Kreditanstalt, Zurich,
Schweizerischer Bankverein, Zurich,
(also see annex).
In the year 1943 approx. 200 Mill. RM. gold were sold to the Swiss National Bank.

Q. Did these countries ask about the origin of the gold?

A. Yes, Switzerland did it each time.

Q. In what way did they ask it?

A. Mr. H i r s, General director of the Swiss National Bank asked Herr Puhl about it at the latters visits in Zurich.

Q. How could Herr Puhl give the assurance that the gold sold by the Reichsbank to the Swiss National Bank was not Belgian gold?

A. Herr Puhl was able to give this assurance since the total amount of the Belgian gold was upto a certain time fully covered by the Reichsbank' own gold reserves, deposits of the German Discount Bank - branch of the Reichsbank, the gold of the Four Year' Plan, the gold stored at the Board of Trustees and by the gold stored in "Goldankauf".

Q. Did the Swiss Agencies know that Herr Puhl was able to give the assurance this way?

A. No.

Q. Was any assurance given in writing that the gold was of German origin?

A. As far as I know - no. I think that Herr Puhl gave all the assurance orally.

Q. Did the Bank of International Settlements in Basle know about it?

A. They always asked about the origin of the gold and requested to receive gold with stamps of earlier years.

Q. Did the officials of the Swiss National Bank ever ask you personally about this?

A. No, I was too small for it. They always asked vice president Puhl.

Q. Did you have any control over the accounts of the Swiss National Bank at the Reichsbank?

A. No, this field did not belong to me. The minute the gold left the Reichsbank i.e. when the receipt for the gold was credited to the account of the Reichsbank directorium, as far as I was concerned, the transaction was completed. It is beyond my knowledge how the Reichsbank directorium disposed of the foreign exchange aquired this way - whether it used it for direct payments in the aquired currency or converted it into other foreign currencies.

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Q. Who was the personin the Reichsbank in charge of the Reichsbank account at the Swiss National Bank?

A. Reichsbankrat H o l t z in the Exchange of Foreign Currency (Devisenbörse). He himself was not able to make any decisions as to the accounts. Once again, all instructions were only issued by order of the Reichsbank directorium.

Q. Who were those persons?

A. Reichsbank director R e i n e l,
" " W i l h e l m,
vice-president P u h l.

Q. What do you know about the gold of the National Bank for B o h e m i a and M o r a v i a ?

A. The total amount of gold of the National Bank for Bohemia and Moravia which was stored in the Reichsbank in Berlin in three separate deposits was approx. 70,763,000 RM.
Deposit Regulare " 17,750,000 RM.
Separate Deposit " 24,826,000 RM.
and a special deposit of a claim to fine gold approx. 28,187,000 RM.

Claim to fine gold i.e. a right to gold in value of RM.28,187,000. The Czechoslovak National Bank never asked that this gold be returned to them, but it was deposited in the Reichsbank in form of 846 gold bars with the weight of 10318,3351 kg fine gold. The National Bank for Bohemia and Moravia placed at the disposal of the Bank for International Settlements in Basle approx. 1845 gold bars which it held in the Bank of England in London. Now the Bank for International Settlements placed these 1845 gold bars at the disposal of the Bank of England for its own account, and instead turned the Bank of England an approx. even amount of gold in Amsterdam at the Netherland's Bank and in Paris at the Banque de France to the disposition of the Bank for International Settlements. Thereof ordered the Bank for International Settlements to transport the gold from Paris and Amsterdam to the Reichsbank in Berlin. Because due to these exchange operations the original bars which belonged to the Bank of Bohemia and Moravia and were in London - got lost, the Reichsbank in Berlin placed at the disposal of the Bank for Bohemia and Moravia fine gold in the amount mentioned above.

Q. Were any transaction made with the Swiss National Bank through the account of the National Bank for Bohemia and Moravia?

A. No.

Q. Has also the above mentioned gold been resmelted?

A. No, the gold transferred from Prague to and placed in the Berlin Deposit Regulare and in the special Deposit remained untouched.

Q. What do you know about the I t a l i a n g o l d ?

A. The gold of the Banca d'Italia which has been transferred from Rome to Milan, was brought in December 1943 to Franzensfeste and placed in caves. The amount of this gold was approx. 350 Mill. RM. By order of the Foreign Office Berlin, approx. 140 Mill. RM. out of this gold were in March 1944 transferred to Berlin. Immediately after the arrival of the gold in Berlin approx. 20 Mill.RM. were taken directly from the station to the Foreign Office. The remaining 120 Mill.RM. were placed in vaults of the Reichsbank. This gold was on its transfer to Berlin accompanied by Mr. D a l l a T o r r e, vice-president of the Banca d'Italia in Bolzano.

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By order of the Foreign Office Berlin, further 10 Mill.RM. (exclusively miscellaneous gold francs) were taken from the 120 Mill.RM. and put in a deposit at the Reichsbank earmarked for the Foreign Office.
Out of the remaining gold, 26,000,000 RM. were supposed to be put aside for the Jugoslav National Bank.
Further 5 Mill. RM. were taken over by the Reichsbank. This gold was left in a previous year at the Banca d'Italia in Form of a loan. After processing, this gold was added to the Asservat'Der. After checking and processing was completed the remaining approx. 80 Mill.RM. were supposed to be turned over to the Asservat'Der and placed at the disposal of the Four Year' Plan. The processing of this gold was not yet completed at the time of transferring the gold to Thuringia in February 1945.
A further transfer of approx. 60 Mill.RM. of gold from Franzensfeste to Berlin took place in September 1944, according to an agreement between the government of Nothern Italy and Germany. Also this gold was supposed to be turned over to the Asservat'Der for the Four Year' Plan after processing. Since the processing did not take place neither the 80 Mill.RM. nor the 60 Mill.RM. were added to the above mentioned account.
80 Mill.RM. for the first transport and 60 Mill.RM.for the second were paid to the Finance Ministry Berlin as an advance for the account with the government of Northern Italy. I do not know whether the Finance Ministry settled this gold account with the government of Northern Italy or not.
I would like to remark that the transport of 80 Mill.RM. and 60 Mill.RM. was according to an agreement between the governments of Nothern Italy and Germany. This amount was supposed to be a contibution to the drive in the East.

Q. Did the 80 Mill.RM. and 60 Mill.RM. remain in the Reichsbank?

A. Yes, they remained in the Reichsbank and were transferred to Thuringia on 9th February 1945.

Q. To what place in Thuringia and who is in charge of it?

A. To M e r k e r s (near Eisenach). Reichsbank director Dr. W i t t e was put in charge.

Q. Were the 26 Mill.RM. of gold, which were supposed to be turned over to the Jugoslav National Bank transferred to Merkers / Thuringia?

A. Yes.

Q. What account were they entered in?

A. This gold which amounted to some 26 Mill.RM. was contained in the total amount of 105 Mill.RM. Therefore it was not carried on any special account. This was supposed to happen, only after processing was completed.

Q. Did the Foreign Office have the right to take the 20 Mill.RM.?

A. This gold was taken over according to an agreement with the government of Nothern Italy. It is possible that also part of the 20 Mill.RM. went during the processing to Thuringia. These 20 Mill.RM. were composed entirely of gold coins.

Q. Was any gold transferred directly from Milan to Switzerland?

A. No, the 350 Mill.RM. gold stored in Milan were transferred entirely to Franzensfeste.
Only once were some 80 Mill.RM. transferred from there via Milan, Como, Chiasso to Switzerland,
the larger part went to the Swiss National Bank,
the smaller part went to the Bank for International Settlements.
This gold was the property of the Swiss Banks.

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Q. How much gold is still stored in Franzensfeste?

A. According to an estimate some 63 Mill.RM. of gold should still be there to-day (exclusively gold bars).

Q. Do you know any names of the Italian officials who carried on negotiations with the German government as to the transfer of the gold to Germany?

A. The German representatives were from the Embassy in Rome resp. later on in Fasano
Dr. R a h n, Ambassador,
Dr. B e r n h u b e r (Reichsbank director, attached to the Embassy, as Financial adviser).

The Italian representatives:
with the approval of M u s s o l i n i,
the Italian Minister of Finance P e l l e g r i n i
and the Governor of the Banca d'Italia A z z o l i n i
(for this action he was already sentenced to 30 years prison).

Q. Did Italian authorities ever withdraw money from this account?

A. This I do not know, and I never heard about it.

Q. Has this gold been resmelted?

A. Yes, but only in so far, as bars not fit for international trade are concerned.

First consignment: Bars not fit for international trade have been sorted out and according to instructions of the Reichsbank directorium were supposed to be resmelted by the Prussian State Mint in "good delivery" bars. I do not know whether the resmelting took place or not. (The Prussian State Mint was also limited in its capacity due to air raids and shortage of manpower).
The resmelting of these bars which was planned cannot be compared with the resmelting of the Belgian gold bars. The Belgian gold bars were fit for international trade, but parts of the Italian gold bars were not fit.

Second consignment: Was stored in the Reichsbank in its original form. The processing was not even started.

Q. Here is the list of Italian accounts at the Reichsbank. Could you give us the purpose of these accounts?

A. 1.) Asservat of the Foreign Office (Italian Gold I) = first consignment of March 1944 (see above).

2.) Asservat of the Foreign Office (Italian Gold II) = second consignment of September 1944 (see above).

3.) Deposit Foreign Office = RM.10 Mill, of which 3 1/2 Mill. were disposed of in order to obtain foreign exchange. This was done according to instructions from the Foreign Office. The remaining, approx. 6 1/2 Mill.RM. were probably transferred to Thuringia.

4.) Asservat of the Foreign Office V, - gold which consisted of coins. It was checked and processed for the Foreign Office. It is part of the 20 Mill. RM. (Italian gold) which was taken by the Foreign Office.

5.) Deposit Foreign Office for Mihai Popovici, Bucarest - approx. 48,000 gold dollars.
(Former Foreign Secretary in times of the Iron Guard).
As far as I know this gold was given to the Reichsbank by order of the Foreign office with the purpose of holding it in Deposit for the disposition of the Foreign Office.

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Q. We know that certain gold transactions took place between the German and the J a p a n e s e governments. What do you know about it?

A. The Japanese government sent twice gold to Berlin each time apprex. 5 1/2 Mill.RM.

Q. What happened to this gold?

A. This gold was exclusively in Japanese gold-bars. They have also been resmelted, since they were not fit for international trade.

Q. Then, where did this gold go to?

A. It was placed at the disposal of the Four Year' Plan and added to the Asservat'Der (apprex. in 1944).

Q. Were these bars later on delivered to Switzerland?

A. After the resmelting they were mixed with all the other gold. It was impossible to determine what origin this gold was of (as mentioned before).

Q. Why were the Japanese gold-bars not fit for international trade?

A. Because they had only the Japanese stamp on. According to regulations of the gold market in London they were "not good delivery". In this respect i.e. in purchasing gold, the Swiss National Bank acted according to regulations of the gold market in London.

Q. In your conversation with Reichsbank officials did you ever hear that the Swiss banks refused to accept Japanese gold because of any other reasons?

A. No.

Q. What kind of account was the Depot T r e u h a n d g e - s e l l s c h a f t ?

A. For the first time, around 1935/36 some 177 Mill.RM. were taken from the gold of the Reichsbank which was not published in the weekly announcements and transferred to the Board of Trustees (Treuhandgesellschaft). This gold was stored in the Hauptkasse of the Reichsbank and marked G.R.
The first time were 60 Mill.RM. in German gold coins and
117 Mill.RM. in German gold bars.
Around 1942 the 117 Mill.RM., consisting of gold bars were exchanged for gold coins as gold dollars, Sovereigns, Dutch gold guilders and miscellaneous gold francs.

Q. What was the purpose of this account?

A. It was more or less the last reserve of the Reich.

Q. Later on, what was it used for?

A. The amount of this gold is now apprex. 107 Mill.RM.
During the years 70 Mill.RM. were used for special purposes (gold deliveries to foreign countries, for example Romania, around 60 Mill.RM.)

Q. Did the officials of the Four Year'Plan know about the existence of such an account at the Reichsbank?

A. Yes, for example in case of the gold transaction with Romania, whereby a part of the gold which was to be placed at the disposal of Romania was supplied by the Four Year' Plan. The Four Year' Plan gave the order that a smaller part of this gold be taken from the Treuhand Deposit.

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A. After the preliminary examination our report was submitted to the Reichsbankdirektorium which in turn requested the Foreign Office to advise it as to the disposition of the gold. The Foreign Office replied that those gold barrels considered as so called not good delivery should be resmelted. Later on the Reichsfinance Ministry requested payment for the gold and a partial payment of RM 55 million was made until a complete sorting and evaluation of the gold could take place.

Q. Were any of these gold barrels resmelted?

A. No, there was no time and the barrels were removed to the Merkers Mine in the same condition in which they were brought from Fortezza (Franzensfeste).

Q. Was any further resorting done and was there a final counting and evaluation of the gold brought up in the second shipment?

A. No.

Q. What is the value of the gold left at Fortezza?

A. There remained 153 barrels and 55 bags in cases. From these barrels there are 116 barrels property of the Banca d'Italia, 23 barrels the restamount of the B.I.S.-deposit, 1 barrel property of the Ministro Scambi, 13 barrels property of the Zecca. The value of gold in these barrels might be: 58 3/4 million RM., and the bags in cases containing gold coins are property of the Banca d'Italia with a value of 8 3/4 millions RM.

Q. Was there any other gold brought into Germany?

A. There was no further gold.

Q. At what dates were the gold shipments made to the Merkers Mine?

A. The first shipment was made on the 9 February 1945, the second: ca. in the first days of March 1945.

Q. Did you and Mr.Graupner accompany the shipments to Merkers?

A. Mr.Graupner accompanied only the first shipment till Erfurt and I accompanied both shipments to Merkers.

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Q. What do you know about the deposit "Iron Gate Administration" in Orsava (Romania)?

A. This Administration had 4 gold-bars stored at the Banque de Paris et de Pays Bas. According to instructions of the Economic Ministry Berlin and with the help of the commissioner at the Banque de France Paris, these 4 gold bars were sent to Berlin.
2 gold bars were held at the Reichsbank Berlin, as a deposit of the Iron Gate Administrations in Orsava.
2 gold bars were placed at the disposal of the Romanian National Bank, Bucarest for the Iron Gate Administration. (They were handed to the Representative of the Romanian Government in Berlin).

Q. Was there any change in shares of stocks in this connection?

A. No, the Reichsbank only received a letter from the Economic Ministry to act as I stated above.

Q. Were any payments made in connection with this account?

A. No. As far as I know, the transfer of the 4 gold bars took place for reasons of prestige only.

Q. What do you know about the account: Kupfer-Bergwerk Mines de Bor?

A. It is a very small deposit, - previously the name was: Reich's Minister of Armament and War Production. It contained gold of an amount of RM.894,000.--.

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Interrogation of Mr. Thoms and Mr. Graupner
21 October 1945
14:14 - 16:00

(Mr.Thoms was at the same time interpreter for Mr.Graupner)

Present and questioning Mr. Volkman.

Q. What was your position in the Reichsbank, Mr. Thoms?

A. I was leader of the precious metal office and my official character in the bank was Reichsbankrat - Hauptkassier.

Q. Who were your immediate supervisors?

A. The fifth substitute of the director of the Hauptkasse; in the last time it was director Reissner.

Q. Mr.Graupner, what was your position in the Reichsbank?

A. I was Reichsbankrat in the Devisen department and leader of the office "Goldgeschäfte".

Q. Mr.Thoms, what did you have to do with respect to gold transactions?

A. I had the custody of all the gold which was stored in Berlin and had to make all technical preparations for the gold movements as well as in the interior of Germany as well as those movements of gold which had to be sent abroad. I had also to take care to supervise the amounts of gold which were given for industrial purposes.

Q. In other words then, your job also had to do with all gold coming in to Germany and so in your position you would know all gold coming in?

A. I could only know of that gold which directly come to Berlin and was only stored in Berlin in the Reichsbank.

Q. If gold entered Germany and was delivered to a branch you would know about it? - A branch of the Reichsbank, I mean other than Berlin?

A. No, I only would know those shipments which came to Berlin.

Q. How long have you been employed in the Reichsbank?

A. 35 years.

Q. How long have you been in the position you described?

A. 22 years.

Q. Mr.Graupner, what was your connection with gold shipments into or out of Germany?

A. I had to book all amounts of gold which came in or were lying in Germany and also of that gold which was deposited in a corresponding bank of the Reichsbank for the Reichsbank-direktorium.

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Q. And how about the branches, you have had also the control of them?

A. In my office were controlled each amount of gold which was deposited either interior of Germany or abroad.

Q. In other words, you maintain the control for all German gold holdings?

A. I had the gold control over all German holdings in gold as far as they were property of the Reichsbank.

Q. How long have you been employed by the Reichsbank?

A. 26 years.

Q. And how long in this present position?

A. Since 12 years.

Q. Mr.Thoma, what was your official relations with Mr. Graupner in the Reichsbank?

A. All statements of the precious metal office of that gold which had been come in had to be sent to the Devisen department office "Goldgeschäfte", because there was the booking control and a second copy was sent to the central book keeping.

Q. In other words, it was your duty to notify Mr.Graupners department of the receipt of all gold or other precious metal shipments?

A. Yes.

Q. In your position, Mr.Thoma, were you ever required to go outside of Germany to take physically custody of gold and return with that gold to the Reich. Were you ever required to do so?

A. Yes, I was required.

Q. Will you specify, when and where?

A. Six times. On two occasions I brought one of the shipments of the Belgian gold from Marseilles via Paris to Berlin, and afterwards I must also assist the shipment of the Italian gold amounts from Milan respectively Fortezza (Franzensfeste.).

Q. This was the only times when you were going to bring gold to Germany?

A. Yes.

Q. From whom did you receive the instructions to go out and bring in this gold?

A. That was ordered from the Reichsbank Direktorium.

Q. Who signed these orders?

A. They were not always given written, but some times oral. These orders were given by with consent of the Devisen- and Kassendezernenten and one of the members of the Reichsbank-direktorium.

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Q. With respect to the Reichsbankdirektorium who issued the orders?

A. The names were proposed by the Devisen- respectively the Kassendezernent and consented by one member of the Reichsbankdirektorium.

Q. To bring the gold into Germany was that a decision of the Reichsbankdirektorium?

A. Yes, that was an only affair of the Reichsbankdirektorium

Q. Mr.Graupner, on what occasion did you go outside of Germany to bring back gold?

A. I accompanied only the Italian shipments.

Q. In so far as you know, why was this the only time that you were asked to go out?

A. Because only on occasion of the Italian shipment, which was an transaction of the foreign office there was requested men who had special experiances in gold business. That was the only case.

Q. What was the reason for that special request by the first shipment of Italian gold.

A. It was a wish of the Banca d'Italia that 2 gold experts from the German Reichsbank should be present during the shipment of the gold.

Q. Mr. Graupner, how did you know that the Banca d'Italia was requested for the service of 2 gold experts ?

A. On account of a letter of the Banca d'Italia to Mr.Bernhuber that by mediation of the German Embassy possibly was sent to the Reichsbankdirektion.

Q. Did you ever see such a letter?

A. Yes.

Q. In other words you say that you known letter from the Banca d'Italia requesting the Reichsbank to send 2 gold-experts to handle this shipment?

A. Yes. But I think only in the question with the shipment which took place from Italy to Switzerland.

Q. Where did you see this letter?

A. In Berlin.

Q. in what office?

A. Probably as far as I remember in the Reichsbankdirektion in the room of Mr.Reinel and Dr.Worbs. There was also a direct phone by Mr.Bernhuber with Mr.Worbs in which Mr. Worbs told that the two officials Mr.Graupner and I should be sent to Italy. Mr. Thoms

Q. Did this letter say anything about why this gold was being shipped to Germany?

A. No.

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* Mr. Thoms stated that this [illegible] was a decision of the Foreign Office

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A. No.

Q. From whom would you say you received your instructions to go to Italy?

A. The first time the one instruction of Mr.Dr. Worbs and from Mr.Reinel, the second time: an information about Mr.Thoms, who was ordered to Mr.Puhl, and in the other cases only Reinel and Worbs.

Q. Who is Dr.Worbs?

A. In the time when Mr.Reinel was absent from Berlin Mr.Worbs had to take care for the devisen department.

Q. Mr. Thoms, will you please give me the details respecting your first trip to Italy in connection with the Banca d'Italia gold?

A. By order of the Reichsbankdirektorium Mr.Graupner and I left Berlin by airplane the 22 November 1943 to Verona. In Verona we had to visit the Reichskreditkasse where we met Oberregierungsrat Dr.Rust who had come instead of Reichsbankdirektor Dr.Bernhuber, the special representative of the Reichsbank at the German Embassy in Italy. During our first conference Mr.Rust told us in the name of Mr.Bernhuber the real reason for the journey we had made. It was necessary to find out a secure place for the Italian gold which some time ago had already been shipped from Rome to Milan.

Q. What was the trouble with Milan?

A. In Milan there were often unrests under the population and a revolution was feared. So Mr.Rust proposed us to visit Fortezza (Franzensfeste), an old fortress lying about 50 Km southern Brenner pass. Mr.Graupner and I started for Fortezza and we found out that within the fortress there was a half rounded cave which was nearly 45 m long, 4 m high and 3 m wide.

Q. What happened then? Were you accompanied on the trip to Fortezza by any official of the Banca d'Italia?

A. No.

Q. Was the place you found recommended by the officials of the Banca d'Italia?

A. I never heard it.

Q. Were you sent to Fortezza?

A. Yes, by Mr. Bernhuber.

Q. Who did you accompany to Fortezza?

A. We were alone there.

Q. What happened then?

A. After having found out this favourable location we returned to Verona and received there from Mr.Bernhuber the order to divide our work, to take care for the necessary preparations for receiving the gold. Mr.Graupner started for Fortezza to make the preparations to see that the cave was provided with electric light and that one entrance was closed with a 7 1/2 m wall. I (Mr.Thoms) had to go with Mr. Bernhuber to Milan and here a short visit of the vaults of the Banca d'Italia where the gold had been stored took place. Two keys of the vaults were in the hands of the directors of the Banca d'Italia and the third key in the hands of the German Military Commander Colonel Seger and Major Mayer.

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Q. That was at the time under Mussolini's regime ?

A. Yes.

Q. Why then did a German officer have the third key?

A. I don't know.

Q. What happened then?

A. During this visit the cashier of the Banca d'Italia showed Mr. Bernhuber a list after which
626 barrels and
543 bags
were lying in the vaults.

Q. What was the approx. value of the gold and coins in this vault?

A. After the weight of the barrels and the bags, the value of gold will be stated by us approximately to 350 millions RM.

Q. What was there in the vaults besides the gold with barrels and coins.

A. There were a number of cases contens of which was told to be property of the princess Mafalda and the others could contain pictures and also others printing plates for currency.

Q. Did you report to the Reichsbank regarding the entire contents in the vault?

A. Generally yes, not specifically.

Q. Then what happened?

A. Then were made the preparations for the security and the shipment took place short time afterwards. The securing of the valuables were made by the German security police and the transport was also secured by the Wehrmacht Military transport office. First, there were some difficulties for the shipment because it was necessary that there would be given a special order by the Duce, the Minister of Finance Pelligrini and the govenor of the Banca d'Italia Azzolini. But some days later the permissions by the 3 persons were given to the director Sforza of the Banca d'Italia, Milan.

Q. What was the delay?

A. That director Sforza did not get till now the direct order that the gold should be moved. After the agreement between the Mussolini government and the German government was made director Sforza consented to the shipment of the gold to Fortezza.

Q. How did you know that this shipment was based on an agreement of the two governments?

A. Dr. Bernhuber told us that this was the case.

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In the meantime Mr.Graupner had returned to Milan so that in the morning of the 16th of December the shipment could begin. This shipment stand in first line under the supervision of 3 officials of the Banca d'Italia, Milan:

I o r i o, Mario,
B u d r o v i c h, Dr., Romeo,
S i g g, rag. Alfredo,

and were accompanied by Mr. Graupner, Mr. Thoma and two Reichsbank secretaries and a military detachment of 18 German soldiers.

Q. Was anything taken into the vault besides the barrels and the coins?

A. No.

Q. What happened then?

A. When the gold had been stored in Fortezza (Franzensfeste) there were made an examination that all barrels and bags were brought there and this was stated by 2 representatives of the general directorium of the Banca d'Italia, Rome,

Comm. Q u a t t r o n e,
Dr. M u n a r i.

There was made a written statement which was undersigned by director Quattrone, Mr.Engelbert and Mr.Graupner and myself.

Q. Who had the keys to this cave at Fortezza (Franzensfeste)?

A. 2 officials of the Banca d'Italia, branch Bozen, were stationed in Fortezza, where they had a house which was situated very near the entrance of the cave. Each of these officials received a key, the third key was left in my hands and I brought it together with Mr.Graupner to Fazano to Mr.Bernhuber. After this Mr.Graupner and I returned to Berlin and made report (on the 20 of December 1943) of the whole enterprise. It was transmitted to Mr.Bernhuber who transmitted to the Reichsbank.

Q. When did you and Mr.Graupner came back to Berlin?

A. 24th of December 1943.

Q. What happened with respect to the second shipment and who gave the directions?

A. We got the order in Berlin of Mr.Puhl. There had apparently been conferences between officials of the Reichsbank in Berlin and the foreign office with respect to the gold at Fortezza. The details of the discussions were not known by us. Mr.Puhl of the Reichsbank notified us personally that we were had to accompany Dr.Schmirl of the foreign office to Fortezza in connection with the shipment of gold to be brought from that place to Berlin. He explained that we have to go again because we were the only experienced. So we left Berlin on 25th of February 1944.

Q. Who was in the party?

A. There were Dr.Schmirl and Mr.Hochstein of the foreign office, and we two, and 2 Reichsbank-secretaries: Mr.Gebert and Mr.Unruh.

Q. What was the duty of these Reichsbank-secretaries?

A. It was their duty to help appraise the shipment and later in Berlin count and sort the gold coins.

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Q. What happened then in Fortezza?

A. When we arrived at Fortezza we were received there by Mr.Bernhuber who had informed the 2 directors of the agency of the Banca d'Italia, Bozen:
Mr. Gigli Fortunado,
Mr. Dalla Torre, Paolo Carlo and the
Cashier Buffa, Augusto,
who also were present. The vault was opened in presence of all these officials by Mr.Bernhuber and the 2 representatives of the Banca d'Italia who were stationed for the whole time in Fortezza. Mr.Graupner and I and the other German govern. officials supervised the loading of approximately 141 million RM worth of gold in cars drawn up at a siding near the vault. The barrels of gold bars and bags of coins were checked as they were loaded by the Italian people. The barrels and bags was not inventened by us at Fortezza.

Q. Who went back to Berlin with this shipment?

A. This shipment took place under the leading of Mr. Schmirl and of representatives of the Banca d'Italia: Mr. Dalla Torre, Buffa, Sigg, Minnitti and by the four officials of the German Reichsbank.

22 October 1945
9:15

Q. When did this first shipment of gold arrive at Berlin? And to whom was it delivered upon arrival?

A. It arrived on the 3 March 1944.
When the shipment arrived in Berlin it consisted of 175 barrels and 435 bags. Apart of this gold-an amount of 135 bags, containing coins, were directly brought to the foreign office.

Q. What was the approximate value of this gold?

A. About 20 millions marks.

Q. To whom was this gold turned over?

A. When we arrived at the Berlin station we were met by a groups of officials from the foreign office and the amount mentioned was turned over to them. Mr.Reinel and I drove over to the forreign office to make sure that the gold intended for the foreign office was delivered safely.

Q. Did any of the Italian officials accompany you to the Foreign Office?

A. I can't remember.

A. Mr.Reinel thereafter returned to the Reichsbank and I (Mr.Thoms) went back to the station to handle the details for transporting the remainder of the gold to the Reichsbank.

Q. Did yhu get a receipt from the foreign office for the gold delivered to it?

A. No, on the contrary, we gave a receipt to the Foreign Office to Mr.Schmirl for 175 barrels of gold bars and 300 bags of gold coins.

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Q. Then what happened?

A. The 300 bags and 175 barrels were brought to the bank and stored into the vault of the bank.

Q. How was this gold entered into your books?

A. The entry was made at first in the Tagebuch, noting merely the numbers of barrels of gold bars and the numbers of bags of the gold coins brought to the Reichsbank. The entry of the gold bars as to the weight, the quality and value was done at a later date.

Q. To what extent did the officials of the Banca d'Italia participate the inventory of the gold?

A. That is that: Mr. Dalla Torre of the Banca d'Italia participated in checking only the rough weights of the barrels and the gold coins in the bags insofar as the tapes on the bags was concerned. After the work had been finished there was made a statement which was undersigned by the officials of the Banca d'Italia and of the Hauptkasse of the Reichsbank.

Mr. Dalla Torre then returned to Italy.

Q. Did any other of the Italian officials remain at the Reichsbank?

A. No.

Q. What happened then as far as you ar concerned with the gold?

A. After we had finished the preliminary examination of the gold in presence of the officials of the Banca d'Italia a short report to the Reichsbankdirektorium was made by us and asked it for orders in what manner we had to handle now with the gold. We asked it under what account the gold had to be entered. Then we could begin with the sorting of coins and the bags which had still been stated after the tapes. Then, if we could give an order to the Prussian State Mint to begin with smelting of those bars which could not be considered as good delivery. To this report we added the statement which was made after finishing the work in the Hauptkasse with the Italian officials.

Q. What was the date of the letter asking the Reichsbankdirektorium for instructions?

A. say, late in March 1944.

Q. When did you receive your instructions from the Reichsbankdirektorium.

A. The Reichsbankdirektorium passed on the request for instructions to the foreign office, and it was not until August that the foreign office replied.

Q. Did you see instructions from the foreign office to the Reichsbank?

A. Yes, Mr.Graupner and I saw these instructions, but we do not have a copy because they were treated as highly confidential papers of the Reichsbankdirektorium.

Q. What were these instructions?

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A. That an amount of 80 millions Reichsmark had to be taken over by the Reichsbank, then 26 millions Reichsmark were to be laid aside for Jugoslavia, ca. 10 millions Reichsmark had to be deposited for the foreign office, 5 millions Reichsmark had to be recovered as property of the Reichsbank.

Q. What was the details with reference to the 80 millions RM transactions?

A. The gold in a amount of 80 millions RM had to be considered as a contribution from Italy to the Eastern Campaign (Ostfeldzug). The sum of 80 millions RM was paid to the Finance Ministry by the Reichsbank so that the equivalant amount of gold became the property of the Reichsbank. This amount has to be later credited to the Asservat "DGR", the disposition of which were depending from the Four Year' Plan.

Q. Mr. Graupner, did you see anything in writing to the fact that this amount of gold was to be considered a contribution by the Italian government to the Eastern campaign?

A. No, I only heard that this was being done, I presume pursuant to an agreement of the Mussolini government and the German government.

Q. What was the approximate date of this agreement?

A. Some time in February 1944.

Q. What were the details with reference to the 26 millions RM?

A. In regard to the gold which was to be put aside with a value of RM. 26.000.000.- for Jugoslavia the following are the facts: The representative of the German Reichsbank in Belgrad, director Zabel, ascertained through interrogation and through papers, found in the Jugoslavian Nationalbank, that the Italians had confiscated about 9.6 tons of Jugoslavian gold. Reichsbankdirektor Dr.Bernhuber, special representative of the German Reichsbank with the German Embassy in Italy, ascertained that the Italian Finance Ministry had then sold the gold in the amount of 9.6 tons, which had been confiscated in Jugoslavia to the Banca d'Italia. This Jugoslavian gold was mixed in with the other gold of the Banca d'Italia.

Q. How was this treated in your books?

A. Up to this date we had not taken notice of this because all the gold was deposited in the vaults after checking as it came in.

Q. What were the details with reference to the 10 millions RM. to the foreign office?

A. There was only laid an amount of ca. 12.360.000 miscell.gold francs according the tapes on the bags. This is the only gold which were deposited according the instructions of the Foreign Office.

Q. What is the story with reference to the 5 millions RM or the so called Istoambi-Gold?

(Mr.Graupner)
A. As far as I can remember the matter of the Istoambi-Gold was caused by an agreement between the Reichsbankdirektorium and the Banca d'Italia (director Masi in Rome and Dr.Giuino in Berlin) which goes back to 1941. about

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According to this agreement 2.000.000 Dollar notes were put at the disposal of the Reichsbank by the Banca d'Italia in America, which the Reichsbank tried should try to realize. As contervalue the Banca d'Italia was credited with a corresponding fine gold claim in the books of the Reichsbank, Berlin.

This transactions which in my opinion could be considered as a favour, could not be carried through because of the sharp blocking of all enemy property in America. In spite of these circumstances the credited gold amounts were sent to the Banca d'Italia in Rome on February 1943. Reasons for this are unknown to me.
As far as I know in the following time the Banca d'Italia was asked three times directly by the member of the Reichsbankdirektorium, Reichsbankdirektor Wilhelm, and also through the representative of the Banca d'Italia in Berlin, Dr.Cimino, to return the gold. The return of the gold was delayed every time by the Banca d'Italia.

Q. You say that this transaction could not be carried out because of the blocking of all enemy properties in America. Is there any foundation for this statement?

A. No, it is merely in my opinion.

Q. Where did you get these facts of this story?

A. by Reichsbankrat Mehlan.

Q. In other words, according to your statement 2 millions dollar notes were put at the disposal of the Reichsbank or its agents by agents of the Banca d'Italia in the U.S.? And for this amount of dollar notes the Banca d'Italia was credited, there was given a gold credit of ca. 5 millions RM in the books fo the Reichsbank Berlin?

A. Mr.Graupner said: yes.

Q. Actually, you do not know whether the dollar notes were delivered or not?

A. I do not know.

Q. Do you know the approx.date of this transactions?

A. Some time in 1941.

Q. Since the freezing of Italian and German assets did not take place till June 1941 this transaction could probably have been completed before that date?

A. Yes, it would be possible.

Q. Who probably became the 5 millions of gold in question here?

A. They are considered to be property of the Reichsbank.
Mr.Thoms,
Q. How much of this gold were brought from Fortezza (Pramzengeste) and retained by the Reichsbank was resmelted?

A. There were resmelted 1607 bars and one lot of assay rests.

Q. And the reason?

A. This gold did not consist of good delivered bars.

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Q. What disposition was made of the entire gold amount by the Reichsbank.

A. With exception of deliveries which were made for the deposit of 10 millions RM for the Foreign Office the whole amount of the first Italian shipment was brought to Merkers.

Q. Are there any other details with regard of the first shipment of gold from Italy to the Reichsbank that you carried to an end? care to add?

A. No, there were no more.

Q. And then the circumstances of your next trip to Fortezza. Give me the date and reason for this trip?

A. There was a conversation by phone between Mr.Bernhuber and Dr.Torbe and Mr.Reinel that it was again necessary to send officials from the bank, especial Mr.Thoms and Mr.Graupner, to prepare a new shipment from Fortezza (Franzensfeste) to Switzerland with respect gold which belonged to the B.I.S. and the Swiss National Bank.
We left Berlin in the middle of April 1944.

Q. Why was it necessary that you and Mr.Graupner had to go to make this shipment to Switzerland.

A. In order to assist Dr.Bernhuber in the technical preparations of the shipment.

Q. Why could not the shipment be made by the Banca d'Italia officials to the Swiss National Bank and the B.I.S.?

A. Because the shipment had to be made under the protection of the German army.

Q. What happened when you and Mr. Graupner arrived at Fortezza?

A. We met in Fortezza Mr. Bernhuber and the two representatives of the Banca d'Italia Bozen and we had to take care there for a special train which was guarded by German military and started on the 19th April 1944 from Fortezza (Franzensfeste) to Como.

Q. How much gold was involved?

A. 163 barrels, containing 1959 bars of an approxim.value of about 65,250 ~~millions~~ RM.

Q. What is the authority for this shipment of gold to the Swiss National Bank and B.I.S.?

A. I don't know. But I presume that it was based on an agreement between the Banca d'Italia and B.I.S. and Swiss National Bank.

Q. In other words you don't know whose gold this was and the purpose of the shipment?

A. No.

Q. What were the amounts and approxim. value of this shipment for each two banks?

A. After a list which Mr. Dalla Torre, vice director of the Banca d'Italia Bozen, had prepared 89 barrels which were said to contain 1068 bars with a fine weight of 12.604.727.930 grams had to be delivered to the B.I.S. Basel.

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After a second list of the Banca d'Italia 74 closed and sealed barrels which were said to contain 891 bars with fine weight of 10,784,032.295 grams were property of the Swiss National Bank.

Q. To whom did you deliver this gold?

A. The train with this gold was accompanied by the officials of the Banca d'Italia and by us from Fortezza to Como. In Como 2 directors of the Direktorium of the Banca d'Italia were waiting for this shipment and we found also there Mr.Bernhuber. Without other formalities we had to leave the train and also the officials of the Banca d'Italia, Bozen. And now the gold was brought to Switzerland under the supervision of the 2 directors of the Banca d'Italia, Como and we had nothing more to do with it.

Q. You stated you have left Como to return to Berlin?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the date and the circumstances with respect to the next trip to Fortezza?

A. The next and last shipment of the Banca d'Italia was made in the time from the 21/25 of October 1944. This shipment was made again by the order of the Foreign Office and the leader of this transport was Legationsrat Beye. The preparations for the shipment in Fortezza (Franzensfeste) were made in the same manner as at the occasion of the preceding shipments and there were present in Franzensfeste: Dr.Bernhuber and also the director of the Reichskreditkasse Bozen Mr. Rumpf, and from the Banca d'Italia: the two directors of Bozen Cigli and Dalla Torre and the cashier Zinter.

Q. How much gold was involved in this shipment?

A. In this shipment were brought to Berlin: 60 millions in gold value. This was the contents of 135 barrels and of 53 cases. The reason for the cases was that a number of the bags in the vault had disintegrated during the storing in the vault and therefore the contents of the bags had been put into cases.

Q. Do you know if the contents of each case were exactly the same as the contents of the bags?

A. No. I can't say it

Q. How do you know the approximate value of 60 millions RM?

A. After a list, but we have not this list.

Q. What was the reason for this shipment of gold to Berlin?
A. We got an order from the foreign office. I consider it was a further contribution for the Eastern Campaign.

Q. When did you and Mr. Graupner return with the gold to Berlin?

A. We arrived in Berlin with the shipment on the 25 October 1944 and took the gold to the vault of the Reichsbank. The preliminary inspection of the gold was then made in presence of Mr. Dalla Torre, ~~first~~ director of the Banca d'Italia and Mr.Cinto, cashier of the Banca d'Italia, Bozen.

Q. Who has the title of the gold?

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Interrogation of Emil Puhl — 8 November 1945
10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Present: Mr. Dunkel
Mr. Volkman

Q. We would like to review this morning a topic that was brought up before regarding the Italian loan to Switzerland and the amount of the loan, the method of payment, the time of payment, the portion that was unmatured and matured, and the collateral behind it, so if you would bear that in mind and give us a summary.

A. To start with, the Swiss National Bank President, Weber, had asked the Reichsbank to help to repatriate gold held by the Banque de Italia which was given in as collateral security for a loan given by Switzerland to Italy. It was the time when Germany arranged, or made arrangements for, transportation of gold from Italy to Germany in January 1944. At this occasion, Weber told me when I was in Switzerland that the Swiss government had given through the Swiss banks a loan to Italy as a corresponding action to the credit given to Germany for commercial purposes through the German-Swiss clearing account. From the credit given from Switzerland to Italy an amount had come to maturity at the end of 1943 and for this amount the Italians had not yet made reimbursement so the Swiss claim was due. The total amount of the credit was approximately 150 million Swiss francs and I was told that the largest amount (2/3) of this credit was secured by Italian government papers and the balance by gold. In the Reichsbank we had promised to help in the transportation of the gold. When I was some weeks later in Italy, the fact that Italy had to pay back a certain part of the credit was confirmed to me by the Governor of the Banque de Italia, Azzolini; he too was of opinion that the Swiss claim to have the gold repatriated to Switzerland was justified and he was glad that, with the help of the Reichsbank, this could be done. Otherwise, so he said, the credit of Italy in Switzerland would have been broken down and he was sure that, in the future, Italy would want credit facilities in Swiss francs. This took place at the end of January and the beginning of February 1944. The German and Italian military authorities gave their consent and then the transportation of the gold was arranged to the Swiss border and Weber had asked me to speak about the government papers too, but I had told Weber that this would be, to my opinion, a matter between the Swiss and the Italian governments to which he agreed; the Reichsbank could offer only its good services in the transportation of the gold.

Q. Let's clarify this now by stating the people who were involved in this transaction -- all those from the Swiss side, Italian side, and German side.

A. On the Swiss side were involved President Weber and Vice-President Rossi and Director Hiers. These three had spoken to me but they confirmed that they, for their part, had submitted the question to the Swiss government. On the Italian side, I spoke about this question only to Azzolini, who was assisted by Mr. Cimeno, and Azzolini told me that he had clarified the question with the Italian Minister of Finance, Pellegrini. On the German side, the German Ambassador, Rahn, and his financial advisor, Bernhuber, were concerned with the matter. When I was in Italy I had informed Rahn about the problem.

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Q. Was consent obtained from governmental officials in Berlin inasmuch as this was a diplomatic question?

A. The Foreign Office in Berlin had to give its consent and this was done as a report of Ambassador Rahn to the Foreign Office.

Q. Was that official request submitted through Rahn from the Swiss government or did they also have a representative in Berlin to negotiate this transaction?

A. I never heard about negotiations in Berlin between the representative of the Swiss government with the German authorities.

Q. Now as to the nature of this loan, I think we can give a more complete analysis of the loan. I would like to know first whether it was an entirely governmental loan between the two governments, second, whether any commercial or private banks in Switzerland held a portion of this loan and, third, whether the B.I.S. held any part of this loan.

A. The National Bank had informed me that this loan was not given in the form of a governmental loan but as an advance of the Swiss banks to Italy and that the National Bank acted as trustee for the security given on the Italian side.

Q. In other words, that loan was split up in participations and the National Bank of Switzerland acted as trustee for participants?

A. Yes. The B.I. S. in Berne was not interested in this business as it was not in a similar credit given to Switzerland from Germany.

Q. Approximately how many banking institutions participated in this loan?

A. All the important Swiss banks participated in this loan.

Q. Did they include private banks as well?

A. I don't know.

Q. Approximately how much of this loan was retained by Weber's bank, the Swiss National Bank?

A. According to importance, they were: Swiss Kreditanstalt, Swiss Bankvervaltung, Swiss Bankgesellschaft, Basler Handelschelt, Eidgenossische Bank, and other banks of minor importance.

Q. First give us your estimate of the total amount of the loan. What portion of the collateral was matured and what portion was unmatured?

A. For the total amount that was sent in gold from Italy to Switzerland and a similar amount was due on the loan.

Q. Are you quite certain that it didn't cover any part of the unmatured loan?

A. The Swiss, as the Italians, had told me that this gold claim was based only on the part of the loan that had already come to maturity.

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Q. What arrangements, if any, were made for the unmatured portion of the loan?

A. The Swiss' wish was to have the security for the unmatured paid to Switzerland -- to be sent to Switzerland too -- and I had the impression that the Swiss government did take up the matter with the Italian government.

Q. Was this program ever carried out to your knowledge?

A. No. I never heard of it.

Q. Was a similar arrangement made with Germany on the payment of credits around this same period?

A. No, for the loan to Germany by Switzerland was not based on securities and it had no expressive dates of maturity because it was a sort of overdraft of the clearing account.

Q. Did you see the instrument on the credit to be able to ascertain what portion was secured by gold, what portion had matured, and all the other documents involved in this loan?

A. No. I saw no documents at all. I heard only a verbal report of Governor Azzolini.

Q. This is a rather important phase of this transaction and I should imagine that if you played such an important part in it, you would require these documents and that you wouldn't just take Azzolini's word.

A. The Reichsbank took in their own matter the standpoint that they could offer their good services only for the transportation of gold. Their decision, if this gold had to be sent to Switzerland, had to be made by the Italian Finance Minister in accordance with the government military authorities.

Q. You told me that the only part the German government and the Reichsbank actually played in this negotiation was physical transportation of the gold. Now it seems so unreasonable to me to think that the Italian authorities could not have arranged that same transportation. It just doesn't seem probable to me that the Reichsbank would have entered into this arrangement.

A. The supervision of the Italian finance and banking system was done by the German representative in Italy and so no gold could be sent without the authorization and the help of the German side.

Q. To be more specific, let's say this -- that the Banque de Italia had a so-called "independence," actually the German authorities had the power to say yes or no so that in reality this transaction was arranged with full German consent.

A. Without a certain initiative on the German side from the side of the German authorities in Italy, the whole thing could not have been done. There was a tendency in the background to use the total amount of the Italian gold reserves later for German purposes. It was very essential that before this was done and became acute, the Swiss share on the gold reserves was paid back.

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Q. Now apparently, Mr. Puhl, there must have been some real high pressure on the part of the Swiss government when we take into account the period when it was paid. I would like to know exactly what sort of pressure was brought against the German government by the Swiss.

A. The expression "pressure" is perhaps too strong, but the German interest in helping the Swiss to get back their gold was to maintain the willingness of the Swiss government to continue with the advances in the German clearing and to keep up trade and credit relations with Germany.

Q. Do you feel, Mr. Puhl, that if this loan was not paid that it would have presented a minor crisis in Swiss financial circles?

A. No, because the financial capacity of Switzerland was so great during the war that even the big loan in the Swiss-German credit of one billion Swiss francs was financed with the help of the National Bank.

Q. Did the Bank for International Settlements at any time make requests for payment on Italian obligations apart from this?

A. I think yes, for the general policy of the B.I.S. was to try to be paid back for all their credits they had given to foreign countries.

Q. But my question was, did they request your aid in the method of payment?

A. No. They did not.

Q. Was that same thing carried out in other occupied countries?

A. No. I don't think so.

Q. When you people helped transport gold for the Swiss National Bank, did they also help transport gold from the B.I.S.?

A. Yes.

Q. You recall that Mr. McKittrick participated in this negotiation. Do you recall whether Mr. Weber participated in this negotiation?

A. No, but he knew about it. The negotiation took place in Basel -- he knew about it.

Q. Who on the German side knew about it or participated in these talks?

A. Hechler.

Q. Was the consent of the German governmental authorities also given in this case?

A. Yes.

Q. And that would have been from the Foreign Office?

A. Yes.

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Q. The transportation then was arranged in a similar fashion as to the Swiss loan?

A. Yes.

Q. What type of pressure was brought by the B.I.S. as in the case of the other Swiss loan?

A. In the case of the B.I.S. it was a part of the general policy of the Reichsbank to help the B.I.S. wherever we could to maintain its organization during the war. This standpoint of the Reichsbank was respected by the Foreign Office in the same way as the general practice of the Reichsbank to pay interest to the B.I.S. in foreign exchange.

Q. Wasn't the Foreign Office a bit reluctant to surrender the amount of gold that they could have easily converted into foreign exchange?

A. The Foreign Office gave its consent after having heard the reasons of the Reichsbank.

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220791

Interrogation of Emil Puhl — November 8, 1945

Q. We would like to review this morning a topic that was brought up before regarding the Italian loan to Switzerland and the amount of the loan, the method of payment, the time of payment, the portion that was unmature and mature, and the collateral behind it, so if you would bear that in mind and give us a summary.

A. To start with, the Swiss National Bank President, Weber, had asked the Reichsbank to help to repatriate gold held by the Banque de Italia which was given in as collateral security for a loan given by Switzerland to Italy. It was the time when Germany arranged, or made arrangements for, transportation of gold from Italy to Germany in January 1944. At this occasion, Weber told me when I was in Switzerland that the Swiss government had given through the Swiss banks a loan to Italy as a corresponding action to the credit given to Germany for commercial purposes through the German-Swiss clearing account. From the credit given from Switzerland to Italy an amount had come to maturity at the end of 1943 and for this amount the Italians had not yet made reimbursement so the Swiss claim was due. The total amount of the credit was approximately 150 million Swiss francs and I was told that the largest amount (2/3) of this credit was secured by Italian government papers and the balance by gold. In the Reichsbank we had promised to help in the transportation of the gold. When I was some weeks later in Italy, the fact that Italy had to pay back a certain part of the credit was confirmed to me by the Governor of the Banque de Italia, Azzolini; he too was of opinion that the Swiss claim to have the gold repatriated to Switzerland was justified and he was glad that, with the help of the Reichsbank, this could be done. Otherwise, so he said, the credit of Italy in Switzerland would have been broken down and he was sure that in the future Italy would want credit facilities in Swiss francs. This took place at the end of January and the beginning of February 1944. The German and Italian military authorities gave their consent and then the transportation of the gold was arranged to the Swiss border and

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Weber had asked me to speak about the government papers too, but I had told Weber that this would be, to my opinion, a matter between the Swiss and the Italian governments to which he agreed; the Reichsbank could offer only its good services in the transportation of the gold.

Q. Let's clarify this now by stating the people who were involved in this transaction -- all those from the Swiss side, Italian side, and German side?

A. On the Swiss side were involved President Weber and Vice-President Rossi and Director Hiers. These three had spoken to me but they confirmed that they, for their part, had submitted the question to the Swiss government. On the Italian side, I spoke about this question only to Azzolini, who was assisted by Mr. Cimeno, and Azzolini told me that he had clarified the question with the Italian Minister of Finance, Pellegrini. On the German side, the German Ambassador, Rahn, and his financial advisor, Bernhuber, were concerned with the matter. When I was in Italy I had informed Rahn about the problem.

Q. Was consent obtained from governmental officials in Berlin inasmuch as this was a diplomatic question?

A. The foreign office in Berlin had to give its consent and this was done after a report of Ambassador Rahn to the foreign office.

Q. Was that official request submitted through Rahn from the Swiss government or did they also have a representative in Berlin to negotiate this transaction?

A. I never heard about negotiations in Berlin between the representative of the Swiss government with the German authorities.

Q. Now as to the nature of this loan, I think we can give a more complete analysis of the loan. I would like to know first whether it was an entirely governmental loan between the two governments, second, whether any commercial or private banks in Switzerland held a portion of this loan and, third, whether the B.I.S. held any part of this loan.

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A. The National Bank had informed me that this loan was not given in the form of a governmental loan but as an advance of the Swiss banks to Italy and that the National Bank ~~xxxxxx~~ acted as trustee for the security given on the Italian side.

Q. In other words, that loan was split up in participations and the National Bank of Switzerland acted as trustee for participants?

A. The B.I.S. in Berne was not interested in this business as it was not in a similar credit given to Switzerland from Germany.

Q. Approximately how many banking institutions participated in this loan?

A. All the important Swiss banks participated in this loan.

Q. Did they include private banks as well?

A. I don't know.

Q. Approximately how much of this loan was retained by Weber's bank, the Swiss National Bank.

A. According to importance, they were: Swiss Kreditanstalt, Swiss Bankverwaltung, Swiss Bankgesellschaft, Basler Hendelschelt, Eidgenossische Bank, and other banks of minor importance.

Q. First give us your estimate of the total amount of the loan. What portion of the collateral was matured and what portion was unmatured?

A. For the total amount that was sent in gold from Italy to Switzerland and a similar amount was due on the loan.

Q. Are you quite certain that it didn't cover any part of the unmatured loan?

A. The Swiss, as the Italians, had told me that this gold claim was based only on the part of the loan that had already come to maturity.

Q. What arrangements, if any, were made for the unmatured portion of the loan?

A. The Swiss' wish was to have the security for the unmatured paid to to Switzerland -- to be sent to Switzerland too -- and I had the impression that the Swiss government did take up the matter with the Italian government.

Q. Was this program ever carried out to your knowledge?

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A. No, I never heard of it.

Q. Was a similar arrangement made with Germany on the payment of credits around this same period?

A. No, for the loan to Germany by Switzerland was not based on securities and it had no expressive dates of maturity because it was a sort of overdraft of the clearing account.

Q. Did you see the instrument on the credit to be able to ascertain what portion was secured by gold, what portion had matured, and all the other documents involved in this loan?

A. No, I saw no documents at all. I heard only a verbal report of Governor Azzolini.

Q. This is a rather important phase of this transaction and I should imagine that if you played such an important part in it, you would require these documents and ym that you wouldn't just take Azzolini's word.

A. The Reichsbank took in their own matter the standpoint that they could offer their good services only for the transportation of gold. Their decision, if this gold had to be sent to Switzerland, had to be made by the Italian Finance Minister in accordance with the government military authorities.

Q. You told me that the only part actually that the German government and the Reichsbank played in this negotiation was physical transportation of the gold. Now it seems so unreasonable to me to think that the Italian authorities could not have arranged that that same transportation. It just doesn't seem probable to me that the Reichsbank would have entered into this arrangement.

A. The supervision of the Italian finance and banking system was done by the German representative in Italy and so no gold could be sent without the authorization and the help of the German side.

Q. To be more specific, let's say this -- that the Banque de Italia had a so-called "independence," actually the German authorities had the power to say yes or no so that in reality this transaction was arranged with full German consent.

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A. Without a certain initiative on the German side from the side of the German authorities in Italy, the whole thing could not have been done. There was a tendency in the background to use the total amount of the Italian gold reserves later for German purposes. It was very essential that before this was done and became acute, the Swiss share on the gold reserves was paid back.

Q. Now apparently, Mr. Puhl, there must have been some real high pressure on the part of the Swiss government when we take into account the period when it was paid. I would like to know exactly what sort of pressure was brought against the German government by the Swiss.

A. The expression "pressure" is perhaps too strong, but the German interest in helping the Swiss to get back their gold was to maintain the willingness of the Swiss government to continue with the advances in the German clearing and to keep up trade and credit relations with Germany.

Q. Do you feel, Mr. Puhl, that if this loan was not paid that it would have presented a minor crisis in Swiss financial circles?

A. No, because the financial capacity of Switzerland was so great during the war that even the big loan in the Swiss-German credit of one billion Swiss francs was financed with the help of the National Bank.

Q. Did the Bank for International Settlements at any time make requests for payment on Italian obligations apart from this?

A. I think yes, for the general policy of the B.I.S. was to try to be paid back for all their credits they had given to foreign countries.

Q. But my question was, did they request your aid in the method of payment?

A. No, they did not.

Q. Was that same thing carried out in other occupied countries?

A. No, I don't think so.

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Q. When you people helped transport gold for the Swiss National Bank, did they also help transport gold from the B.I.S.?

A. Yes.

Q. You recall that Mr. McKittrick participated in this negotiation. Do you recall whether Mr. Weber participated in this negotiation?

A. No, but he knew about it. The negotiation took place in Basel -- he knew about it.

Q. Who on the German side knew about it or participated in these talks?

A. Hechler.

Q. Was the consent of the German governmental authorities also given in this case?

A. Yes.

Q. And that would have been from the foreigh office?

A. Yes.

Q. The transportation then was arranged in a similar fashion as to the Swiss loan?

A. Yes.

Q. What type of pressure was brought by the B.I.S. in the case of the other Swiss loan?

A. In the case of the B.I.S. it was a part of the general policy of the Reichsbank to help the B.I.S. wherever we could to maintain its organization during the war. This standpoint of the Reichsbank was respected by the Foreign Office in the same way as the general practice of the Reichsbank to pay interest to the B.I.S. in foreign exchange.

Q. Wasn't the Foreign Office a bit reluctant to surrender the amount of gold that they could have easily converted into foreign exchange?

A. The Foreign Office gave its consent after having heard the reasons of the Reichsbank.

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Interrogation of Emil PUhl
Present: Mr. Volkman November 8, 1945

Q. I am interested in the negotiations leading to the ~~bringing~~ importation of gold from Italy to Germany and, if you can remember them, the personalities involved in the diplomatic discussions, the reasons, etc.

A. The answer is this; the German government was interested in bringing in as much gold as possible and they made the same policy towards Italy; they claimed this gold as a sort of war contribution. Several negotiations took place about these things and, to help the German representative, the Reichsbank was asked to send a man down as an expert. This man was Dr. Bernhuber.

Q. Who in Berlin handled the negotiations for the respective governments?

A. The negotiations took place in Italy. The German authorities in Berlin who were interested in this business were the Foreign Office and the Four Year Plan.

Q. ~~You can't~~ Can you mention specific names ~~in regard to~~ who handled the negotiations?

A. No.

Q. Who handled the diplomatic negotiations?

A. Ambassador Rahn. It was done under his control.

Q. Who in the Foreign Office sent the requests or instructions to the Reichsbank?

A. The responsible official in the Foreign Office was the head of the economic section of the office, Director Wiehl. He spoke about these things with Mr. Wilhelm of the Reichsbank directorium who was the head of the foreign exchange department. Wilhelm reported about these negotiations to the Reichsbank directorium and to the Reichsbank President Funk.

Q. The Italian government at this time was practically non-existent - or fiction, was it not?

A. Yes, but I heard by Rahn when I once met him that Mussolini had been asked for his consent and had given it.

Q. Were Azzolini and Pellegrini also concerned with the gold shipments at this time?

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A. I never saw Pellegrini. Azzolini, yes. Of course he knew about these shipments being the Governor of the Banque de Italia.

Q. You told us before that you were in Italy on a trip. Was your trip concerned with the question of the gold shipments to be made to Germany from the Banque de Italia?

A. No, solely. I went from Switzerland to Italy and there the Governor of the Banque de Italia, the German Ambassador, Rahn, and I had to speak about a lot of financial questions (clearing account, rate of exchange, questions of Reichskreditkasse). At this occasion we spoke about the gold question too.

Q. Do you remember what was said with reference to the gold?

A. The Italian gold question was mentioned to the extent that from the total amount of gold had to be deducted the amount to be shipped to Switzerland.

Q. Was anything said at this time with reference to taking the gold to Germany?

A. Yes, I was told that there was the intention to ship a part of the rest of the Italian gold occasionally to Germany.

Q. What do you mean by the "rest of the Italian gold"?

A. That amount that remained at the disposal after deducting the shipments to Switzerland and it had been decided that that gold that had to be shipped to Germany should be in the future of war contributions.

Q. What was the date of this visit of yours?

A. The end of January 1944.

Q. And where did this meeting take place?

A. At Fasano, the place of residence of the German ambassador.

Q. Was there any protest on the part of the Italians to this levy for war contributions?

A. Not in my presence. I heard by Bernhuber that there had taken place discussions about this levy but that the Italian side, after having heard the decision of Mussolini, had eventually agreed to it.

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Q. What do you know about the portion of the Italian gold often referred to as "Jugoslavian gold?"

A. Azzolini told me that the Banque de Italia kept a certain amount of gold for Jugoslovia and that this gold had been taken by Italian troops when they occupied Jugoslavian territory. When I was in Italy this question was not further discussed. I heard by our official who had to liquidate the Jugoslavian National Bank that they had the idea to invite Italy to have this gold paid in and used for their share in the liquidation of the bank.

Q. Who was handling the liquidation of the Jugoslavian National Bank?

A. Officials of the Reichsbank attached for this purpose to the military government of Belgrade.

Q. What was the approximate value of the so-called Jugoslavian gold?

A. I don't remember the exact amount, but as far as I remember it was not very high. With reservations, I state ten to twenty millions. Reichsmark

Q. Who would have been the principle beneficiaries of the liquidation of the Jugoslavian National Bank?

A. Approximately six or seven of the German occupied countries.

Q. Now with respect to the gold brought from Italy to Germany, what were the arrangements between the Foreign Office and the Reichsbank?

A. The principal amount had to go to the Reichsbank as had been ordered by the government, but the Foreign Office came to Wilhelm and asked him to have a certain amount split up for their own purposes. There were several shipments and as far as I remember the amount claimed by the Foreign Office went directly to their vaults, but there were negotiations between Wilhelm and the representative of the Foreign Office about shipping a certain amount of this gold against gold coins that they were more interested in.

Q. Do you mean by that they didn't want gold bars?

A. Not all gold bars.

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Q. You say that a portion of the gold of the first shipment was taken directly to the Foreign Office vaults. Was this an unusual procedure?

A. This transaction was unusual, but on the other side it was tacitly known that the Foreign Office had the authorization to keep a certain limited amount of foreign exchange and gold at their disposal; the total amount of this holding never came to the Reichsbank's knowledge, but it can be assumed that the Four Years Plan had knowledge of these things.

Q. Do you remember the amount of gold that went to the Foreign Office directly?

A. Several millions of reichsmarks.

Q. What do you mean by several millions?

A. About ten or fifteen million reichsmarks.

Q. When the remainder of this gold was taken to the Reichsbank, how was it handled with respect to disposition; to whom did you turn for instructions as to what to do with this gold?

A. We got the instructions from the Foreign Office -- the Four Years Plan.

Q. From your knowledge, did the Reichsbank purchase this gold from the Ministry of Finance (in the first Italian ~~gold~~ shipment?)

A. The idea was, as far as I know, that this gold was for the purposes of the Ministry of Finance so that we had to pay out for ~~the~~ to account in reichsmarks, as the gold shipment was a form of war contribution.

Q. Mr. Puhl, in the first shipment to Berlin from Italy there was an amount of gold referred to as "Istcambio gold." Can you tell me the background of that gold?

A. It Italy, there was for the clearing account established a special institution called "Institute Natzionale del Cambio con l'Estero." To this institution a credit was given by the Reichsbank secured by gold, approximately five million reichsmarks; this gold was destined for the repayment of this credit.

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What is the background of this transaction?

Q. ~~Whose gold was this originally~~?

A. As a starting point of this transaction was the fact that dollar notes of the Italian government could no longer by used in the United States; these notes were deposited with the German Consul General or later with the German Embassy in Washington.

Q. When was this?

A. I don't remember the date exactly. In any case, Not so far before the outbreak of the war between the United States and Italy.

Q. Then what happened?

A. Then the Italians came and asked to have at their disposal the counter-value of dollars notes they had in the United States ~~in the form of notes in~~ America in the form of gold. ~~The dollar notes were lying in the Embassy in Washington when the Swiss took over~~.

Q. Who were the personalities responsible for this deal?

A. On the German side, Mr. Wilhelm of the Reichsbank and on the Italian side, Mr. Cimino.

Q. Do you know the approximate date when the gold counter-value of the dollars was shipped to Italy.

A. No. I don't remember. ....~~So they got the counter-value in gold in Italy~~. The meaning of the transaction was to have the counter-value of the dollar notes in Italy.

Q. The gold in the two shipments from Italy -- to your knowledge was the Ministry of Finance paid for the gold, for the counter-value?

A. ~~Yes~~. I remember that Wilhelm made a verbal report at a meeting of the board that when the Swiss took over the Embassy the notes were in the safe.

Q. What was the value of the dollar notes.

A. I believe 2,000,000 dollars.

Q. Do you know to what extent the notes were disposed of ~~[illegible]~~ extent, by the German Embassy?

A. I do not believe they were disposed of. I remember etc.

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STATEMENT OF MR. EMIL PUHL, VICE PRESIDENT OF REICHSBANK,
(based on interrogation of Mr.Volkman, on Monday,
19 Nov 45)

1. Discussions regarding the Italian gold took place between the Foreign Office and the Italian Government in the latter part of 1943, and led to an agreement. The Reichsbank was not a party to these discussions.

2. On my visit to Italy in January 1944 I discussed the Italian gold with Rahn, the German Ambassador. He told me that he had "persuaded" the Italians to make a contribution in gold for the common war effort.

3. My conference with Azzolini was solely with respect to the problem of transporting the gold from Italy to Germany. Azzolini told me that he was opposed to the shipment, but that the decision was a political one and therefore he would have to abide by it. He requested my assistance in arranging the shipment.

4. When I returned to Berlin I reported to Funk. He knew of the gold to be brought to Germany from Italy. It was agreed that Dr.Bernhuber, a Reichsbank Director and first manager of the Chemnitz branch, would take care of the details. He was at the time on Ambassador's Rahn's staff, in charge of financial and banking matters relating to Italy.

5. The negotiations with the Foreign Office were handled for the Reichsbank by Mr.Wilhelm of the Foreign Exchange Department.

6. A letter from the Foreign Office to the Reichsbank specified how the gold in the first shipment was to be handled. This letter was shown me by Wilhelm. It was indicated that the bulk of the gold was considered by the Government as its property, and that this gold was to be purchased by the Reichsbank.

7. I do not remember whether any payments were made by the Reichsbank to the Finance Ministry for the gold, or, if they were, in what amounts. I do know that it was to be purchased.

8. With reference to the Yugoslav gold, the Yugoslav National Bank was being liquidated. The man in charge of the liquidation, Dr.Zabel, spoke to me about wanting the gold, which had been captured by the Italians, for the liquidation. As far as I know, it was never delivered.

9. I do not remember any Depot account being set up for the Foreign Office out of the Italian Gold.

10. The fact that a second shipment took place was not because it had been planned that way. Rather, this was due to the lack of sufficient transportation the first time.

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Statement of Mr Pohl re "Isteanti" Gold
(Nov 29, 1945)

Loan of the Reichsbank
to the Instituto Nazionale del Cambio con l'Estero Rom

When the situation of the Italian finances and of foreign exchange had become more and more difficult the Italians asked the Reichsbank for help to make available American banknotes owned and held by them in U.S.A. I believe this was sometime in 1941. The result of the long lasting negociations was that the Reichsbank declared itself in principle ready to grant a credit in gold for an amount of approximately Rk 5 000 000 — But the Banca d'Italia refused to become the debtor of such a credit, declaring that a business like that was not in conformity with its statutes. Therefore the credit was given to the Instituto. But the Banca d'Italia has — as far as I know — given a sort of guarantee. As security the dollar notes were deposited with the German consulate in New York and later sent to the German ambassy in Washington. According to the last news having become known to me the notes were still in the ambassy at the outbreak of the war and have been taken with other valuables into custody by the Swiss. Originally the credit had been given for a short period, but the Italians made no repayment at maturity.

220803

940606 Monetary Gold -
220804 Italy

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940.606

Monetary Gold

Italy

Set Aside No. II

original

72 boxes
411 bus

1 of 7

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Grand Summary - Italy

Prussian Mint Bars	
Weight	
Fine Kilograms	Fine Ounces
5,093.4666	163,758.731
(S I)	

- S II -

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ITALY

PRUSSIAN MINT BARS

SUMMARY OF PAGE TOTALS

PAGE NO.	WEIGHT FINE OUNCES
71	10817.617
72	10890.658
73	10754.394
74	12098.299
75	11112.689
76	11560.238
77	10601.857
78	11575.114
79	10462.778
80	12472.116
81	11863.017
82	12262.525
83	11245.718
84	11324.878
85	4716.833
Total:	163758.731

at 32.150742 ounces per fine Kilogram
equivalent to 5093.4666 fine Kilograms.

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ITALIAN GOLD REPORT

(FOLDER II)

MISCELLANEOUS BACKGROUND PAPERS USED AND UN-USED IN PREPARATION OF REPORT.

OMGUS
RECORD
FILE

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Extract

No.: IIa 10702/41

Alfred Zabel

Director of the Reichsbank
Feldpost No.: 08633 (RKK)

Belgrad, 24 June 1941

TO:

Reichsbankdirektorium

Berlin C 111

3rd report re liquidation
of the Yugoslavian Nationalbank

Since my 2nd report of the 4th of this month I have ascertained that from the approx 9,600 kilograms gold alleged to have been broight on 8 April of this year to Mostar, 1000 kilogram had been taken by the fugitive former Yugoslavian minister of Finance Dr. Juraj Sutej and more 1000 kilograms are said to have been carried away by the fugitive king in his second plane. Furthermore 24 boxes containing 96 bars of 1,065.6777 kg rough weight were shipped to Zagreb. This fact was verified by the plenipotentiaries of the Croatian Statebank. There was no possibility to clear up the question whether the remaining rest of 6,600 kg had been partly hidden or buried. Explanations in this direction can be only obtained by the Director of the Branch of the Yugoslavian National Bank at Mostar Milorad Krstic who accompanied the gold shipment until the last moment. He is said to have contracted the fracture of one leg on occasion of this shipment and now keeps hidden fearing mistreatments from the Croatian because of his Serbian descent.

Further records will follow as occasion serves.

signed: Zabel
Director at the Reichsbank

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TRANSLATION (translated by I.Dogs)

(Believed to be extract of a letter from Reichsbankdirektorium to Mr.Bernhuber)

About October 1943

COPY

"At beginning of war the gold stock of the former Jugoslavian National Bank was about 10,600 kg. About 1,054 kg of these are now in the stock of the National Bank of Kroatien.

On the 8.4.41 about 9,600 kg were ordered by the Jugoslavian National Bank and in convenience with the government to be brought into the cave "Trebjesa" near Mostar. Short time afterwards it was decided to take the gold abroad by airplane. For this purpose 204 cases gold were brought from Mostar to the aerodrome Niksic. The transportation by air into foreign country could not be executed. Of the 204 cases brought to Niksic 50 cases were transported to Cetinje and 44 cases to Hercegnovi. However, 90 cases remained in Niksic, while on the aerodrome of Niksic 20 cases were transferred to the Jugoslavian government. According to statements which are here the cases, supposedly in this lot, i.e. 184 cases, - fell at this place into the hands of the Italian troops respectively of the Italian authorities.

On account of the statement of the liquidation of the former Jugoslavian National Bank the German government aspired to the delivery of the effectiv gold. Whilst the Italian representatives originally pretended to know nothing of the existence of the gold. Later on the Italians confessed to the gold being in their hands. It was impossible to make agreements with respect to the delivery of the gold".

We beg to ask the Banca d'Italia where the Jugoslavian gold, - fallen into the hands of the Italians -, was brought. The following information is required:

1. number of cases;
2. number of each bar and fine weight;
3. coin - specified.

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File Italian Gold
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In a special letter to the Reichsbankdirektorium it was ordered by the Foreign Office that the gold of the Banca d'Italia in an amount of about RM 141.000.000.-which had been shipped from Franzensfeste(Fortezza)to Berlin on the 3rd March 1944 should be checked in the usual banking manner and then split up as follows:

1) RM 80.000.000.- for the German government as a contribution to the Eastern campaign(Ostfeldzug)

2) " 26.000.000.- were to be put aside for Yugoslavia

3) " 20.000.000.- given to the Foreign Office for safe-keeping,

4) " 10.000.000.- for the Foreign Office ,to be deposited in the Reichsbank,

5) " 5.000.000.- Istcambi-Gold to be transferred into the holdings of the Reichsbank.

The Istcambi-Gold containing:

147 Goldbars(900er Bars)	gfine	1,766,308.2
1 lot assay rests	"	99.8
Frs.37.580 Miscell.Goldfrancs	gfine	10,959.8
	gfine	1,777,367.8

was property of the German Reichsbank.

A

As far as I can remember the matter of the Istcambi-Gold was caused by an agreement between the Reichsbankdirektorium and the Banca d'Italia(Director Masi in Rome and Dr.Cimino in Berlin) which goes back to 1941.

According to this agreement 2.000.000 Dollar notes were put at the disposal of the Reichsbank by the Banca d'Italia in America, which the Reichsbank should try to realize. As contervalue the Banca d'Italia was credited with a corresponding fine gold claim in the books of the Reichsbank,Berlin.

This transaction which in my opinion could be considered as a favor,could not be carried through because of the sharp blocking of all enemy property in America.In spite of these circumstances the credited gold amounts were sent to the Banca d'Italia in Rome on February 1943. Reasons for this are unknown to me.

As far as I know in the following time the Banca d'Italia was asked threetimes directly by the member of the Reichsbankdirektorium, Reichsbankdirektor Wilhelm, and also through the representative of the Banca d'Italia in Berlin, Dr.Cimino, to return the gold.

The return of the gold was delayed every time by the Banca d'Italia

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Opportunity was given by the first part shipment of gold from the Banca d'Italia to Berlin on 3rd March 1944 which was carried out by order of the Foreign Office.

I have no knowledge of the further dispositions of these Dollar-notes in America.

In regard to the gold which was to be put aside with a value of Rm 26.000.000.- for Yugoslavia ~~I say~~ the following: are the facts:

The representative of the German Reichsbank in Belgrad, Director Zabel, ascertained through interrogation and through papers, found in the Yugoslavian Nationalbank, that the Italians had confiscated about 9.6 tons of Yugoslavian gold.

Reichsbankdirector Dr. Bernhuber, special representative of the German Reichsbank with the German ambassy in Italy, ascertained that the Italian Finance Ministry had then sold the gold in the amount of 9.6 tons, which had been confiscated in Yugoslavia to the Banca d'Italia. The Yugoslavian gold was mixed in with the other gold of the Banca d'Italia.

Karl Graimmer

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940.604 GOLD FOUND IN AUSTRIA

11/400 (8)

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