

*Laura*

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Authority: NND 917312  
By: TO NARA Date: 5/2/00

RG 59  
Entry RECS OF IRO  
File IRO Subject Files  
Box Misc. Pubs.  
7

50c PER COPY

# **PUBLIC AUCTION SALE**

**Without Restriction or Reserve**  
**By Order of**  
**Merchandising Advisory Committee to the**  
**Preparatory Commission for the**  
**International Refugee Organization of the United Nations**

Antique and Modern Gold Jewelry; Antique and Continental Silverware; Meissen, Dresden, Rosenthal, Old Vienna, Herrend, and English Porcelains, Figurines and Chinaware; Clocks; Bronzes; Opera Glasses; Compasses; Bohemian Glassware; Costume Jewelry; Paintings, Etc.

To be sold at  
**SOFIA BROTHERS WAREHOUSE**  
45 Columbus Avenue, Cor. 61st Street, N. Y. C.

**EXHIBITION: July 19th and 20th**  
9:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**SALE: July 21st and 22nd**  
Beginning at 10:30 A.M. each day

Goods will not be displayed on days of sale  
and will be sold from Catalog only

Sale conducted by  
**LOREE - GREEN CORPORATION**  
345 MADISON AVENUE, N. Y. C.

Warehouse Phone: CI 7-6711

Office Phone: LE 2-1170

225719

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By TJ NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 59  
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Box MISC. PUBS.  
7

# JEWELRY *and* PRECIOUS STONES

*To Be Sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Victims of Nazi Action by the*

PREPARATORY COMMISSION  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Public Auction Sale  
June 21 and 22 at 2 p. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC  
30 East 57th Street · NEW YORK · 1948

225720

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By TO NARA Date 5/2/00

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# PRECIOUS-STONE AND GOLD JEWELRY

*To Be Sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Victims of Nazi Action by the*

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



PART THREE

Public Auction Sale  
September 14 and 15 at 1:45 p. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC  
30 East 57th Street · NEW YORK · 1948

225721

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Authority NND 917312  
By TO NARA Date 5/8/00

RG 59  
Entry Recs of IRO  
File IRO Subject Files  
Box Misc. Pubs.  
7

# CONTINENTAL SILVER PORCELAIN AND GLASS GOLD & ENAMEL WATCHES ORIENTAL RUGS

*To Be Sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Victims of Nazi Action by the*

PREPARATORY COMMISSION  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



PART FOUR  
Public Auction Sale  
September 16, 17, 18 at 2 p. m. and  
September 17 at 10:30 a. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC  
30 East 57 Street · NEW YORK · 1948

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Authority NND 917312  
By TO NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 59  
Entry RECS OF IRO  
File IRO Subject Files  
Box Misc. Pubs.  
7

# CONTINENTAL SILVER PORCELAIN AND GLASS BIBELOTS / TEXTILES ORIENTAL RUGS

*To Be Sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Victims of Nazi Action by the*

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



PART FIVE

Public Auction Sale  
October 28, 29, 30 at 2 p. m. and  
October 29 at 10:30 a. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC  
30 East 57 Street · NEW YORK · 1948

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By TO NARA Date 5/2/00

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# CONTINENTAL SILVER GOLD JEWELRY AND ORNAMENTS ORIENTAL RUGS

*To Be Sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Victims of Nazi Action by the*

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ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



PART SIX

Public Auction Sale

December 17 at 10:30 a. m. and 2 p. m. and  
December 18 at 2 p. m.

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES · INC

30 East 57 Street · NEW YORK 1948

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By TJ NARA Date 5/2/00

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DIAMOND AND OTHER JEWELRY  
Bibelots • Ornaments • Silver Filigree  
CONTINENTAL SILVER  
Oriental Rugs

To be sold for the  
Resettlement and Rehabilitation  
of Nazi Victims by the

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



*Exhibition*  
*from Saturday, January 8th*  
*to time of sale*

*Public Auction Sale*  
*Thursday, Friday, Saturday*  
*January 13, 14 and 15 at 2 P.M.*

KENDE GALLERIES INC.  
119-121 WEST 57TH STREET NEW YORK 19  
1949

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By TD NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 59  
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File IRO Subject Files  
Box Misc. Pubs.  
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# ORIENTAL & MACHINE-WOVEN RUGS AND CARPETS

*To be Sold for the Resettlement and  
Rehabilitation of Victims of Nazi Atrocities*

BY THE  
MERCHANDISING ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS



FINAL

Public Auction Sale

December 9 at 1:30 p. m.

AND

Exhibition December 7 and 8

AT

SOPHA BROTHERS WAREHOUSE  
61st Street and Columbus Avenue  
New York

*Under Management of*

PARKE-BERNET GALLERIES, INC.  
NEW YORK 22 • 1948

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Box Misc. Pubs.  
7

*H. R. Harmer, Inc.*  
presents

# THE I. R. O. STOCK

Offered by order of the Merchandising Advisory Committee  
to Preparatory Commission for the International Refugee Organization

Comprising a stock of postage stamps being unidentifiable loot found in Europe  
and sold to aid in the rehabilitation and resettlement  
of non-repatriable victims of German action.

To be offered for unreserved sale by auction on

Tuesday and Wednesday

**MAY 11, 12, 1948**

at 2 p.m. each day

at the Galleries of

*H. R. Harmer, Inc.*

International Stamp Auctioneers

32 East 57th Street, New York 22, N. Y.

Bernard D. Harmer, Fred J. Buck, Licensed Auctioneers

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

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Authority *NND 968106*

By *WDP* NARA D3: *5/1/00*

RG

*59*

Entry

*Oct 7 62 1115*

File

*I.V. [unclear] [unclear]*

Box

*25*

*I - AA Mint Records re 968106 Smedley Patton*

225728

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 968106  
By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

BOX  
RG 59  
Entry Lot 7 Feb 1945  
File 1-1-1000000000  
Box 25

Proposed cable to Ambassador, Brussels, for Darr:

1. OIGUS upon learning from you that distribution to be made from Frankfurt raised number of considerations as to their part in handling of distribution. Following procedure is suggested for consideration you and OIGUS.

A. Preliminary distribution to be made in following order

- (1) gold delivery bars at Frankfurt
- (2) gold held at FRB NY
- (3) gold coin at Frankfurt suitable for distribution
- (4) doubtful ? bars at Frankfurt in accordance with alternative procedures suggested in <sup>waiver</sup> immediate following cable.

B. Commission will determine shares to be paid from Frankfurt gold on basis Howard report and notify OIGUS for preparation of shares for delivery.

~~Mint report is sent, may be of assistance in both operations~~  
~~for Commission reporting to Darr as Chairman.~~

C. Commission will prepare schedule of deliveries from Frankfurt, <sup>possibly</sup> one delivery a day, until completed, obtain waiver from each recipient country and in return give order on OIGUS for delivery of share of gold on designated day. Commission will also obtain photograph, signature, and possibly fingerprints of person or persons authorized to receive gold for recipient country and forward same to OIGUS. Also send to OIGUS specimen signatures of Commissioners and copies of all orders for delivery.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Re paragraph 3)  
Brussels 152 Oct 1  
Cable, further  
US would welcome

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By *WDP* NARA Date *5/11/00*

RG *59*  
Entry *20 Feb 1915*  
File *D.V. ...*

D. On receipt of advice Dept and Army will authorize OMGUS to deliver gold in accordance with Commission's order.

E. On day of delivery OMGUS, after satisfying itself as to identity of representative of recipient country and authenticity of order for delivery, will deliver gold against simple receipt identifying by description and total weight gold delivered. If desired, delivery may be preceded by joint inventory.

*insert here  
receipt  
here*

F. Upon delivery at Frankfurt, recipient country will assume full responsibility for gold. Recipient will arrange for transport of gold although if requested, OMGUS may assist in transport of gold to border provided recipient agrees to accept all risks of loss.

2. Please work out detailed procedure with OMGUS and advise.

3. Dept. disturbed your 1520, para. 1, <sup>out 3.</sup> Strongly of opinion that final responsibility for preliminary distribution rests equally with ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~all 3~~ <sup>the</sup> Gold Commission. Under procedure suggested above Commission has responsibility for determination to make distribution on basis Howard report allocating shares to each country, obtaining waivers from and delivering orders to representatives of recipient countries, and communicating adequate identification, information to OMGUS. OMGUS responsibility to segregate shares of gold, identify representative of recipient and make delivery against receipt. Recipient country has responsibility for transport and safety of gold from time of delivery at Frankfurt.

925730

*If necessary to deliver doubtful bars receipt may be ~~for such bars~~ <sup>for such bars</sup> ~~to show description of such bars~~ <sup>show description of such bars</sup> ~~and to contain x ounce fine~~ <sup>and to contain x ounce fine</sup>*





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Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date: *5/11/00*

BOX

RG *59*Entry *L. F. G. M. S.*File *I. V. G. M. S.*Box *25*

-2-

be helpful since dollar valuations of some of the gold coins listed are not easily available in Washington. It would also be helpful to have a statement of which parts of the items, if not all of them, were received directly or indirectly from Reichsbank.

The Department is interested to have close estimates of the dollar value of gold recovered in Germany, particularly such gold which was received from the German Reichsbank and its branches, depositories, and hideouts. Such figures will assist in getting a true picture of the gold holdings of the Reichsbank before the invasion of Austria and the large scale gold transactions which the Reichsbank executed before and during the war (looting and forced purchases of gold in Germany and in occupied countries, and sales of gold to the neutrals).

ES:OFFletcher:dc

225733

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Authority *NND 968106*  
By *WDP* NARA Date *5/1/00*

BOX  
RG *59*  
Entry *Lot # 62115*  
File *I-V. Boston area -*  
*Monmouth 6/19*  
Box *25*

*I-V. Boston area - Monmouth 6/19*

225734

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date: *5/11/00*

BOX

RG

Entry

File

Box

*59**Lot # 62 NIS**I.V. Foreign**Monetary**25*

## Bank of International Settlements

Basle, September 25, 1945

Monsieur Emmanuel Monick,  
Governor of the Bank of France,  
1, Rue de la Vrilliere,  
Paris 1er.

Mr. Governor,

During our last conversation, you were kind enough to inform me that a search was being made actually by the Bank of France and the National Bank of Belgium for the purpose of locating the gold of the National Bank of Belgium held during the war by the Reichsbank.

As you know, the B.I.S. received from the Reichsbank since 1939 different amounts of gold as payment for its credits in Germany and it received at the time assurances that it was gold belonging to the Reichsbank before the war.

If, however, it was not possible to locate in Germany the totality of the gold which came from the National Bank of Belgium, and you believe it to be useful to extend your search to the gold exported by the Reichsbank during the war, the B.I.S. would be quite disposed to facilitate this investigation to the extent that it has power so to do.

Accept, Mr. Governor, the assurance of my high esteem

(Signed) T. H. McKittrick

President

225735

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Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date *5/1/00*

RG

*59*Entry *20.5.46/MS*File *J.V. 1000000000*Box *25*

- 3 -

225736

V.

As regards the 7,029,44565 kgs. of fine gold, an examination of the documents produced by the two parties proved that the following bars, received by the B.I.S. came from the gold stock of the National Bank of Belgium:

The 129 bars of 1,607,38516 kgs. identified above came from the deposit of the Reichsbank at Bern and were delivered to the B.I.S. by the Swiss National Bank by order and for the account of the Reichsbank.

VI.

The Bank of France and the B.I.S. sought to determine what had become of these 129 bars. The search proved that:

a) 17 bars weighing Kgs. 205,19445 are still the property of the B.I.S. and are on deposit "earmarked" for its account at the National Bank of Switzerland;

b) 112 bars weighing Kgs. 1,402,19071 were ceded to the National Bank of Roumania on March 22, 1944, and by a debit to its sight gold account were delivered, on order and for the account of the National Bank of Roumania, to the Union des Banques Suisses, Zurich.

VII.

It was also noted that only the 129 bars aforementioned corresponded to the markings of the gold coming from the National Bank of Belgium requisitioned by the German Authorities and consequently the balance of the gold acquired from the Reichsbank by the B.I.S. during the war, including the 2,162,44695 kgs. still on deposit in Bern and the 1,525,6203 kgs. deposited in the subsidiary of the Reichsbank at Constance, does not come from the Belgian gold.

Done and signed at Basle June 14, 1946, in two original copies, one copy of which is for the Bank of France and the second for the B.I.S.

BANK OF FRANCE

BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

P. Raffegau Pillieux

G. Royot H. Guisan K. Thierch

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Authority NND 968106  
By WDP/NARA Date 5/11/00

RG 59  
Entry Lot # 62/115  
File I-V: German gold -  
Monetary Gold  
Box 25

- 3 -

V.

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The 129 bars of 1,607,38516 kgs. identified above came from the deposit of the Reichsbank at Bern and were delivered to the B.I.S. by the Swiss National Bank by order

The Bank of France of these 129 bars. Th

a) 17 bars weighing and are on deposit "ea  
Switzerland;

*German looted gold held for account of N.B. of Roumania in Union des Banques Zurich*

b) 112 bars weighing Kgs. 1.402,19071 were ceded to the National Bank of Roumania on March 22, 1944, and by a debit to its sight gold account were delivered, on order and for the account of the National Bank of Roumania, to the Union des Banques Suisses, Zurich.

VII.

It was also noted that only the 129 bars aforementioned corresponded to the markings of the gold bars mentioned by the German authorities acquired from the Reichsbank 2,162,44695 kgs. still in the subsidiary of the B.I.S. gold.

*German looted gold B.I.S. deposits (Belgian gold looted from France)*

Done and signed at Basle June 14, 1946, in two original copies, one copy of which is for the Bank of France and the second for the B.I.S.

BANK OF FRANCE  
P. Raffegau  
Fillieux

BANK OF INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS  
G. Royot  
H. Guisan  
K. Thierch

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Authority NND 968106  
By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

RG 59  
Entry LOT #62 D115  
File I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
Box 25

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

*(v) own file - gold office*  
DIVISION OF CENTRAL SERVICES TELEGRAPH SECTION

ES  
This telegram is to be paraphrased before being communicated to anyone other than a Government Agency.

May 28, 1940

1 p.m.

*Fletcher*

US - URGENT

AMSTERDAM

ZERN

1917

(msg. From telegraphs H. (P.R.) 1791, V/X, April 4 and H. (P.R.) 1792, V/X, April 9, (CONFIDENTIAL. FROM SWISS TREASURY AND FLESHING KRA. SAFENAVEN) we learned Banque National Suisse branch in Bern released and earmarked account of Yokosuka Specie Bank, Tokyo, 87 gold bars containing 1017.6455 kilos fine gold by order of Kitamura.

Two. This transaction, namely, purchase of gold in Switzerland by Japanese, is rather unusual and no legitimate purpose can be seen in Washington, since Japanese requirements for kroner and escudos for upkeep of diplomatic missions and for payment to Russia are being filled by Swiss National Bank to Japanese against Swiss francs of which Japanese have large amounts to their credit deposited with Swiss banks.

Three. Please investigate and report your comments immediately on receipt of this deal.

225738

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Authority *NND 968106*

By *WDP* NARA Date *5/11/00*

RG

*59*

Entry

*LOT #62 D115*

File

*I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS*

Box

*25*

1947, May 21 2 p.m., to Berlin.

sent to Berlin, repeated to London.

GR W  
(Acting)  
(RLI)

CODE ROOM:  
REPEAT TO: AMEX ASST, LONDON 4240

DC/...

...

...

...

...

JF Fleming  
Liaison:  
BA-1580-OFFleischer: JH  
5/10/45

225739

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Authority NND 968106By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

RG

Entry

File

Box

59

LOT #62 D115

I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

25

## PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATED: May 3, 1944  
 NUMBER: 2804

SECRET

Reference is made herein to the Legation's 2054, of April 3 and 2587, of April 22.

(1) In regard to the Italian gold delivered for Swiss account in Switzerland on April 20 against credit under clearing account, an official of the Federal Political Department has given me details, as follows: 891 bars gross weight 10,803 kilos or 10,784 kilos of fine gold valued in francs at 52,515,744.

In connection with economic negotiations conducted from 1940 to 1943 between the Italian Government and Swiss delegates this gold constituted partial security for a credit accorded by a group of Swiss banks; the credit not having been reimbursed at date due (December 31, 1943), creditors demanded delivery in Switzerland and the security became the definitive property of Swiss creditors.

It is stated by a Swiss official that surplus of approximately 2.5 millions represents interest and other charges connected with the loan as the credit advanced and payable in gold December 31 only 50,000,000 francs.

The

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Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date: *5/11/00*

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Entry

File

Box

*59**LOT #62 D115**I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS**25*

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The Italian Legation has advised me that balance of above credit accorded by the Swiss banks approximates 75,000,000 francs and on December 31, 1943 also expired; against the Swiss banks now hold Italian Treasury bonds due on that date which are not guaranteed by gold, but payable in Switzerland in Swiss francs.

(2) In strict confidence I am advised by a competent official that BIS Italian gold amounted to 12.5 tons (equivalent to approximately 60,872,000 Swiss francs) was delivered to the bank on the twentieth of April.

HARRISON

225741

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Authority NND 968106By WDP NARA Date: 5/11/00

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Entry

LOT #62 DIIS

File

I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

Box

25*file in Gold  
under  
Cables - Swiss*

## PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATED: April 22, 1944  
 NUMBER: 2587

SECRET

1. Reports received by me that on April 20 two lots of gold from Bank of Italy were delivered in Switzerland, one to BIS and one to Swiss National Bank, were confirmed to the Commercial Attache by a competent official of the Swiss National Bank.

It is stated by the official that as yet check has not been completed on this sum which his bank received against the Italian debit in Swiss-Italian clearing (see paragraph B. 1 and 2 of the Legation's cable of April 3 No. 2054) but it is indicated by preliminary check that this delivery amounts to about 10 to 11 tons which is equivalent to about 50 to 55 (?) Swiss francs, at official rate of 4,869.80 francs per kilo. It was stated by him that this delivery was effected through cooperation of Reichs Bank and recent strong cooperation Azzolini Governor Bank of Italy. The officials of the bank were not able to determine the locality in Italy the shipment was made from but Fortezza (Franzenfest) near Bolzano was probably the origin (it is also believed by another well informed source that Italian Bank Italy's gold stocks had been transferred to this locality on Brenner by the Germans). It

is

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Authority NND 968106  
By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

RG

Entry

File

Box

59

LOT #62 D115

I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

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-2-

is stated by the official that since the Germans who accompanied the shipment from Italy were refused entry into Switzerland because of lack of visas, the delivery was made by Italians from the Bank of Italy. Also the official stated that he has little hopes of obtaining in gold the balance of Italian indebtedness in clearing (about 70 million francs) since the juridical position theoretically blocked balance of gold in Italy is not defined clearly. It was volunteered by the official that the lot delivered BIS approximates 13 to 14 tons in his estimate. This official also stated that all bars inspected so far bear the mark of Milan Bank which the British Banks would normally not accept.

2. Receipt of gold from Bank of Italy on April 20 for account BIS was confidentially confirmed to me by an official of BIS. This official expected the Swiss value of this gold to be about 80 million francs but the check has not been completed as yet. It is estimated by this official that gold taken by the Germans from the Bank of Italy and removed to Franzensfeste (Fortezza) amounted roughly to about 100 million dollars. The balance which is presumably held by the Germans approximates 70 million dollars after the delivery of these two lots to Switzerland.

HARRISON

DCR:IDB:FB

4-25-44

225743

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RG

*59*

Entry

*LOT #62 D115*

File

*I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS*

Box

*25*

## PARAPHRASE OF TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM: American Legation, Bern  
 TO: Secretary of State, Washington  
 DATED: April 3, 1944  
 NUMBER: 2054

SECRET

In accordance with the Department's circular telegram of January 19, the Legation has so far obtained information with respect to the foreign exchange position of Italy vis-a-vis Switzerland, as follows:

(A) 1. It is stated by the Italian Legation that it does not know the amount of any Swiss franc balances, either in gold or other assets in Switzerland held for the account of the Italian Government, including the Bank of Italy and Istcambi, but believes they must be small. It is stated by a competent Swiss banking official that the total of these holdings in Switzerland does not exceed two million Swiss francs as to his knowledge all except possibly a very small amount of Italian Government gold in Switzerland was sold several months ago to obtain francs to pay part of Italian indebtedness for transit services to the Swiss railways.

2. The Italian Legation lays stress upon the Swiss Federal Decree of October 1, 1943 (see Legation's 6156, October 2 and 6289, October 7, 1943) which blocks payments to be made to Italian

citizens

225744

*file  
 in  
 225744  
 Cable, Italy*

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Authority NND 968106 RGBy WDP NARA Date 5/11/00Entry 59  
LOT #62 D115File I-U GERM GOLD  
HOLDINGSBox 25

- 8 -

CONFIDENTIAL

Included in this amount, however, were \$10.5 million of Yugoslav gold and the Albanian reserve of \$2.5 million. It is understood that the allocation of further amounts of gold is under discussion. This allocation of \$4 million is in addition to the return to Italian control in September of this year of the \$26 million recovered at Fortezza (Italy) in May 1945.

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SIAM

John Exter

Siam is a country of approximately 18 million people. There is relatively little industry; the great majority of the people are employed in agriculture, mining, and forestry. Lacking industry, Siam is dependent upon imports for a wide variety of consumers' goods. It pays for these goods with four principal exports: rice, teak, rubber, and tin. Of these four, rice alone ordinarily accounts for between 45 and 65 per cent of total exports. Before the war the financial policy of the country was strictly orthodox. The Government's budget was normally in balance. The monetary system<sup>1/</sup> was a 100 per cent sterling and gold reserve system with monetary authority vested in the Ministry of Finance. The note circulation fluctuated automatically with fluctuations in the balance of payments. There was no central bank. The banking system was rather primitive and was dominated by branches of foreign banks, principally British, which were engaged primarily in financing foreign trade. There were only two Siamese commercial banks. Internationally Siam was a creditor country. Its external long-term debt amounted to approximately 5 million pounds sterling. Its international assets greatly exceeded this figure. Short-term official sterling assets alone equaled approximately £14 million. In addition, there were official holdings of sterling securities of about £2 million, as well as gold and dollar holdings totaling more than \$40 million.

Wartime Developments

There was a marked change in the typical pattern of the Siamese economy when Siam entered World War II. Trade with countries other than those controlled by Japan was cut off and at the same time Siam was obliged to play host to the Japanese military. By its pact of Alliance with Japan, Siam agreed to devalue the baht<sup>2/</sup> by about 35 per cent in April 1942, thus placing it on a par with the yen, and, in return for yen credits with the Bank of Japan, to provide practically unlimited supplies of baht for Japanese military expenditures in Siam. The Bank of Thailand, now called the Bank of Siam, was created in 1942 and took over the note issue function from the Ministry of Finance. The Bank quickly became the instrument for greatly expanding the money supply. This expansion took place in three principal ways.

First, the Bank sold baht for yen to finance the Japanese military. From December 1941 to September 1945, when the relation with Japan was finally severed, the Bank financed expenditures of more than 1.5 billion baht.

1/ The legal currency unit in Siam is the baht; however, the term "tical", the legal term until 1928, is still in more common usage.

2/ Until the war the baht was pegged at 11 to the pound sterling; its approximate value in December 1941 was 36 U.S. cents.

225745

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Authority NND 968106  
By WDP NARA Date 5/1/00RG 59  
Entry LOT #62 DIIS  
File I-V GERM GOLD  
HOLDINGS  
Box 25

- 7 -

CONFIDENTIALDISTRIBUTION OF THE "GOLD POT"

M.M.

On October 17, the Tripartite Commission for the Restitution of Monetary Gold announced the distribution of \$145 million in gold to certain of the countries which, during World War II, had been despoiled of monetary gold by Germany. The distribution consisted of \$102 million to Belgium; \$40 million to Netherlands; and \$2 million to Luxembourg. In addition there was set aside \$29 million for Austria and \$4 million for Italy.

Before the above distribution and allocation, the Commission had at its disposal \$321 million in gold. Of this, \$263 million represented the gold recovered in Germany in the Merkers salt mine in 1945. The remaining \$58 million was received from Switzerland in settlement for looted gold which Germany had sold to that country. Negotiations have been proceeding with other countries for the return of gold stolen by Germany and sold to them. Sweden has agreed to return \$8 million and Rumania \$20 million of such gold.

After the distribution and allocation on October 17, the Commission held \$144 million in gold against which there are undetermined claims by Albania, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Poland, and Yugoslavia. The fact that these unvalidated claims exist makes it impossible to forecast how much more may be allocated to the countries whose claims have already been established.

Special interest attaches to this gold now because of the fact that resources of some European Recovery Program countries will be bolstered as the distribution proceeds and claims are finally decided. Gold reserve estimates currently in use heretofore have accounted for this gold under "Germany".

The large payment made to Belgium (\$102 million) as well as that to Luxembourg (\$2 million) will go to France, since France had already compensated these countries in full for their gold (Belgium \$223 million, Luxembourg \$5 million), which had been deposited with the Bank of France for safekeeping and was taken from that institution to Germany during the occupation. Because a substantial amount is still owing on this account, French reserves stand to gain from any further distribution to Belgium and Luxembourg. The estimates of French needs during the interim period which have been submitted to the Congress, are based on the assumption that the gold already received by France from Belgium and Luxembourg will be available for current expenditures during this period.

The \$40 million granted the Netherlands compares with a reported decline of 95.9 tons (\$108 million) during the German occupation in the Netherlands Bank reserve.

The \$29 million set aside for Austria compares with our estimate of \$56 million of gold held by the Austrian National Bank when occupied by Germany in 1938.

Four million dollars was set aside for Italy. The Italian claim was much higher since in 1944 the Neo-Fascist Government transferred to Berlin approximately \$80 million out of gold reserves of about \$108 million.

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Entry

LOT #62 D115

File

I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
25DRAFT CABLE TO GENERAL CLAY FOR STATEMENT ON GERMAN REICHSBANK  
GOLD TRANSACTIONS

It is understood that the complete accounting books and records of Reichsbank were found intact in Germany including books recording gold movements of Reichsbank. Efforts should be made by an accounting specialist on such central bank transactions to compile all major gold transactions of Reichsbank since January first, 1933.

The table should contain:

- (a) total gold holdings as of January 1, 1933
- (b) all major acquisitions of gold from abroad
  - (1) from foreign governments and central banks
  - (2) from foreign private sources
    - ✓ In (1) and (2) indications should be countrywise. Indicate in both cases possible means of payment and under which label it was entered in the books. ✓
  - (3) from domestic owners (e.g., totals resulting from compulsory deliveries, collections, and the like
- (c) all major sales to foreign countries
  - (1) to foreign governments and central banks (countrywise)
  - (2) to private banks (countrywise)

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Box 25

(d) total gold holdings (by accounts) as of the date when all (?) gold was shipped to hiding places.

*(This gold was hidden otherwise)*

Neither "Table II, Precious Metals Prepared for Shipment to Merkers Mine, by Accounts" nor the four reports on this subject transmitted to Washington in your memorandum of August 22, *or the ... the Nixon report* suffice to reconstruct the history of major German gold operations without all the other information requested in the foregoing so as to ascertain how much gold was taken from each conquered country and how much of it was sold to some foreign nations.

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File I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
Box 25

*Germany  
Gold  
Holdings*

In reply refer to  
ES

*October 5, 1945*

My dear Colonel Chanler:

It would be greatly appreciated if the attached draft cable could be transmitted to General Clay for the attention of the Finance Division, Office of Military Government, Frankfurt.

The purpose of the telegram is to find out how much gold was taken from the various conquered countries, how much of it was sold to some foreign countries (e.g., neutrals), and how much was recovered in Germany; furthermore, if possible, what was Germany's own gold when she started her conquest (the published figure is held incorrect), and, finally whether all gold possibly left in Germany when we entered was recovered by the United States forces.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Reber  
Special Assistant to the Director,  
Office of European Affairs.

Enclosure:

Draft cable for  
General Clay

Colonel W. C. Chanler,  
Acting Director,  
Civil Affairs Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

225749

ES:OFFletcher:ef

10/2/45

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*59**LOT #62-D115**I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS**25**See Gold Holdings II*

## SECRET TELEGRAM

AMLEGATION,

BERN.

Reports from the US Group CC in Germany confirm that:

- a) The German Reichsbank maintained a depot of gold in the SNB throughout the war.
- b) The major part of all German gold shipments abroad during the war were destined for the SNB.
- c) More than half of the gold of Banque Nationale de Belgique taken by the Germans in France was sent, after re-melting, to the SNB.
- d) Part of the gold looted by Germany during the war was sent to the BIS.

You are requested, after consultation with your Brit and French colleagues and possibly jointly with them, to approach the Swiss Govt <sup>with</sup> ~~under~~ reference to the United Nations Declaration of Jan 5, 1943 with respect to looted property, the US Gold Declaration of Feb 22, 1944, <sup>with reference to</sup> and the acceptance of the principles expressed in those declarations by the Swiss Govt. You will bring to their knowledge the aforementioned findings of US Group CC with a request for their assistance in facilitating an investigation of all gold transactions of the German Reichsbank with the SNB and BIS during the war. Any refusal by the Swiss Govt

of such

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59LOT #62 D115I-V Germ Gold Holdings25

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of such assistance should be met by reminding them of the affirmation of their decision to assist in the recovery of loot as expressed in the letter of March 8, 1945, signed by Prof Rappard on the occasion of the Currie Mission. Considering the strong evidence of US Group CC statements, we expect the Swiss Govt to live up to its promise. The following procedure is suggested. A team of experts composed by Am, Brit, French, and Swiss govt officials and/or central bank officials should make an investigation of the books and records of the two Swiss banks involved in friendly cooperation with such officials as the banks may designate for that purpose. The findings of this commission should be made available simultaneously to US, UK, French, and Swiss Govts as well as to the two banks involved.

The Swiss might contest our demand also by referring you to Section III, QUOTE Agreement on Financial Matters UNQUOTE (letter of March 8 signed by Prof Rappard) whereby we acknowledged their continuing gold purchases in restricted amounts for diplomatic and RED Cross purposes. Such acknowledgment did not imply a waiver of our position re loot.

You

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By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

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Entry LOT #62-D115  
File I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
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You might also expect that the Swiss will refuse investigation of the BIS by referring you to The Hague Convention of Jan 20, 1930, Article X, providing for exemption of BIS from any measure which would prohibit gold exports and imports. Such objection can be met by stating that the provision under reference certainly did not include looted gold.

Sent to Bern, repeated to London and Paris with the request to take up the matter with the govt you are accredited to in order that the UK and French Mission respectively be instructed to join us in the approach to the Swiss Govt.

CODE ROOM: Repeat to London as \_\_\_\_\_ and Paris for Angell as \_\_\_\_\_.

DRAFT  
OFFletcher: jh  
11-7-45

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By: WDP NARA Date: 5/11/00

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Entry LOT #62-D115  
File I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
Box 25

*Call  
Sturmy*

11/14/45

SECRET

Mr. Rubin

This is the draft that Treasury is holding back until we get ready the cable to Bern regarding investigation of Swiss National Bank and BIS (which is on your desk). I think ~~the~~ <sup>the attached</sup> draft should have been cleared with us before it was sent to Treasury. Fortunately, the most important part of the instructions were sent, as you will recall, to Angell in a letter signed by you eight days ago and should be in his possession by now.

Angell No. 20) aly reached at gell) but Brit nited Nation ept prepared taly and satel- l return of ries should be ogram of resti- ell developed. ungary concomi-

O. F. Fletcher

Attachment

*cleared by Messing (according to Rubin Fagen) 11/10 - Kridlebofer not clear to send on the cable. O.F.*

tant or such policy.

Dept agrees that Austria should participate fully in gold pot and that Albanian claim against pot should be fully admitted. Dept approves proposal that Italian, Hungarian and Austrian shares in pot be set aside for time being probably until final peace settlements are made with these countries.

Potsdam arrangements which provide that USSR will take care of Poland's reparation claims not (re-peat not) regarded as pertinent to question of whether Poland is to participate in gold pot. Dept regards

gold

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59LOT #62 D115I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS25COPYDRAFTSECRET

No. 18 for Angell.

As indicated in deptel \_\_\_\_\_ (For Angell No. 20) no understanding on restitution for Italy reached at CFM (URTEL 6351, Nov 1, no. 10 from Angell) but Brit held that Italy should be treated as United Nation in this and other similar respects. Dept prepared to support policy of restitution for Italy and satellite countries with proviso that actual return of identifiable properties to these countries should be effected by the military only after program of restitution to liberated Allied countries well developed. Full share in gold pot for Italy and Hungary concomitant of such policy.

Dept agrees that Austria should participate fully in gold pot and that Albanian claim against pot should be fully admitted. Dept approves proposal that Italian, Hungarian and Austrian shares in pot be set aside for time being probably until final peace settlements are made with these countries.

Potsdam arrangements which provide that USSR will take care of Poland's reparation claims not (repeat not) regarded as pertinent to question of whether Poland is to participate in gold pot. Dept regards

gold

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LOT #62-0115

I-V GERM GOLD  
Holdings

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gold pot as operating on principle of restitution and that Danzig and Poland fully entitled to share therein. Dept's view is that Potsdam waiver by USSR of claim to gold in Germany does not (repeat not) affect rights of Poland and Danzig in this regard.

You are authorized to agree to inclusion in gold pot of all gold coins found in Germany (urtel 6418, Nov 5, no. 23 from Angell) except for coins of numismatic value which should be restituted directly if possible.

Gold pot now completely cleared in this Govt as Treas has given final concurrence. Distribution of gold now in pot should proceed immediately after agreement is reached on such distribution. Department prefers not (repeat not) to await recovery of looted gold from Switzerland and other countries before proceeding with distribution. Please ascertain Brit and French views on this point. Although it might be argued that recovery of Belgian gold is more important than immediate distribution, Dept prefers not (repeat not) to delay for such reason.

You will wish further to consider possible procedures in implementing gold pot. Dept's view is that allocation of shares in pot is for determination by U.S. Brit and French Govts, not (repeat not)

by

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*59**LOT #62 D115**I-U GERM GOLD**HOLDINGS**25*

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by military authorities. Determination of shares will require presentation of claims by Govts of countries from which Germans looted gold together with proof of such looting. Nature of invitation to submit such claims and method of processing claims should be referred to Dept after being worked out with Brit and French. You may also wish to consider presenting gold pot proposal to IARA meetings with view to obtaining reaction of interested Govts.

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59LOT #62 D115I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS25

## DRAFT CABLE TO GENERAL CLAY FOR INVESTIGATION OF REICHSBANK GOLD TRANSACTIONS

State Department and Treasury have agreed on a procedure of investigation of German Reichsbank gold holdings and gold transactions during the period from March 1938 until German surrender. Purpose of the investigation is to find out exactly how much gold was looted or otherwise taken from various conquered and satellite countries, how much of it was sold to foreign countries, e.g., neutrals, what was Germany's own gold when she started her conquest (the published figure is held incorrect) and finally, if possible, whether all gold left in Germany when we entered was recovered by U.S. forces.

It is understood that some of the accounting books and records of the Reichsbank were found intact in Germany including books recording above mentioned gold movements. Since it is felt that so complicated an investigation can not be carried out by limited personnel available in Germany, compilation of all relevant transactions and figures from available books and records in combination with an administrative questioning of the responsible and informed officials of the German Reichsbank will be initiated here in Washington.

You

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Authority NND 968106By WDP NARA Date 5/1/00

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IV GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

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You are therefore requested to:

a) Secure those accounting books and records of the German Reichsbank which have a bearing on the aforementioned transactions, statements, and figures.

b) Take into custody the following officials of the German Reichsbank insofar as such persons are not already in custody:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Puhl, Vice-President of Reichsbank.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Reinel, Reichsbank Director.
3. Bodo von Wedel, Reichsbank Director.
4. Albert Thoms, Reichsbank Rat.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Schmidt, Reichsbank Inspector (Supervisor of Accounting Department).
6. Witzel, Chief Reichsbank Inspector.

If, in your knowledge, additional officials can be made available by you to contribute toward obtaining the desired full information, you are free to add such persons to the above list.

As soon as the aforementioned sources of information are secured to the fullest possible extent, they, both books and individuals, should be brought simultaneously to Washington accompanied by one of the men who worked under Colonel Bernstein on the gold investigation, either former Private Dunkel or former Private

Curtis,

225758

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By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

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Entry LOT #62 D115

File I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
25

Curtis, both of whom are now continuing their work as civilians. To avoid possible collusion, Reichsbank officials should not be informed about the purpose of their detention.

OFFletcher:jh  
11-6-45

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Authority NND 968106By WDP NARA Date: 5/11/00

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59LOT #62 D115I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS25

In reply refer to  
ES

My dear General Hilldring:

It would be greatly appreciated if the attached draft cable which has been cleared by Orvis Schmidt, Director, Foreign Funds Control, Treasury, could be transmitted to General Clay for the attention of the Finance Division, Office of Military Government, Frankfurt.

Our request of October 2, 1945 to send a cable attached to that letter of October 2 is hereby cancelled. After consultation with representatives of the Treasury who know the situation in Germany from their own experience, it was found preferable to make this intricate and highly technical investigation on gold movements of the German Reichsbank here in Washington.

The purpose of this investigation was explained to you in our letter of October 2.

Sincerely yours,

John D. Hickerson  
Deputy Director  
Office of European Affairs

Enclosure:

Draft of cable.

Major General John H. Hilldring,  
Director, Civil Affairs Division,  
War Department,  
Washington, D. C.

225760

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11-6-45

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Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date *5/11/00*

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PREPARING OFFICE  
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## TELEGRAM SENT

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MESSAGE:~~SECRET - O~~

## Department of State

Washington

Charge Department: X

Charge to

AMEMBASSY

LONDON

SKEDEK FOR REINSTEIN

Previous view in Dept (Re DELSEC 88) was to delay restitution of gold until some agreement reached on first charge principle. Now that Control Council has agreed to require payment for German exports Dept anxious to put gold pot plan into effect. Dept strongly opposes British view that restitution should be confined to identifiable gold and that balance be used for reparation.

All monetary gold now in Germany should be distributed pro rata in accordance with established losses of all claimant countries including Hungary, Austria and Italy. If French unwilling to accede, point out that: (1) Hungarian gold was not (repeat not) looted by Germans, but was taken across frontier into Austria by Hungarians themselves; (2) If Austria is eliminated as recognized claimant, virtually entire cost of supplying imports essential to Austrian relief and rehabilitation will have to be borne by occupying powers, including France; (3) Cost of Italian relief and rehabilitation imports is now being borne almost wholly by U.S. owing to lack Italian foreign exchange; and (4) It is to interest of United Nations, including France, to alienate Italy and Austria wholly from Germany and treat them as liberated areas.

If French prove unyielding, Dept is prepared to concede that  
only

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HAS BEEN DETACHED BY THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR

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Authority NND 968106  
By WDP NARA Date: 5/11/00

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Entry LOT #62 D115  
File I-V Germ Gold Holdings  
Box 25

PREPARING OFFICE WILL INDICATE WHETHER

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PREPARING OFFICE WILL TYPE HERE CLEARLY THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MESSAGE

Department of State

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Charge Department:

Washington

Charge to:

- 2 -

only half of established losses of Austria, Italy and Hungary should be recognized in pro rata distribution of gold pot.

Italy should include in its claim gold looted by Italians from Yugoslavia and Albania and subsequently removed to Germany. If it becomes necessary to reduce recognized Italian gold loss in pro rata distribution of gold pot that portion of Italian claim covering Albanian and Yugoslav gold should not be so reduced.

Dept is giving consideration to possible changes in draft gold provisions of Italian treaty which now call for full gold restitution by Italy to Yugoslavia and Albania.

Dept is considering plan whereby non-monetary gold, as well as portion of overall reparation receipts from Germany would be set aside in reparation agreement for an international refugee board which would use funds for benefit of refugees who suffered from Nazi racial, religious or political persecution.

A-C: JGdeWilde: gw  
FN: AMRosenon  
10/8/45 AMR

SE  
Cleared by  
telephone with  
Mr. Campbell and  
Miss Hollingshead

CE  
Cleared by  
telephone  
with Mr.  
Chapin

EUR OFD

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TREASURY

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Entry

LOT #62 D115

File

I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

Box

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AMEMBASSY

LONDON

FOR REINSTEIN

1. Department and Treasury have received from U.S. Group Control Council information indicating:

(a) that the German Reichsbank maintained an important depot of gold in the Swiss National Bank throughout the war;

(b) that two-thirds of all German gold shipments abroad during the war were destined for the Swiss National Bank;

(c) that more than half of the Belgian gold stolen by the Germans in France was, after remelting, sent to the Swiss National Bank; and

(d) that part of the gold looted by Germany during the war was sent to the Bank for International Settlements.

2. On the basis of the foregoing, plus other specific facts obtained from investigations in Germany, Department is preparing to submit to the Swiss National Bank and the Bank for International Settlements a request that a team of experts be permitted to examine the gold acquired by these two institutions from Germany during the war and the records relative thereto in order to check the foregoing facts obtained in Germany.

3. In view of the possibility of obtaining from Switzerland the return of the looted gold acquired by the Swiss, it is felt that determination of basis for distribution of gold presently held in Frankfurt should not be made until the possibility of obtaining the gold purchased by Switzerland has been definitely settled. The following are among the more important reasons for taking this position:

(a) Should we be able to obtain the return of the gold purchased by the neutrals from Germany, it might be possible to restore all gold looted by the Germans and possibly even have some left over for reparations. If so, it would not be necessary to resolve the questions that would arise if we try to allocate an amount of gold not sufficient to meet the gold claims of all nations.

(b) If we distribute the gold now in our possession before approaching the Swiss, our case for obtaining the return of the gold purchased by them from Germany would be weakened. This is

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Authority NND 968106

By WDP-NARA Date 5/11/00

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Entry

LOT #62 D115

File

I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

Box

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- 2 -

particularly true if the distribution would not appear to be based upon identification as to previous ownership of the gold distributed. Moreover, if we should announce our intention to recognize the claims of Italy, Hungary, and Austria before approaching the Swiss, the Swiss might take the position that they, as creditor of these former enemy countries, would have the right to a possessory lien against such portion of the gold as might be allocated to such countries.

4. In the light of these considerations, it is suggested that you point out to Rueff that investigations conducted by Americans in Germany appear to indicate:

(a) that the gold deposited by the Belgians with the Bank of France was moved to Germany between December 24, 1940, and May 29, 1942;

(b) that a large portion of such gold (particularly the bars) was resmelted by the Germans and poured into Prussian mint bars;

(c) that approximately \$122,000,000 of such Belgian gold (bars and coin) was shipped to the Swiss National Bank and that perhaps additional amounts were shipped to the Bank for International Settlements; and

(d) that it is the intention of the United States Government to ask permission of the Swiss National Bank and the Bank for International Settlements to examine the gold acquired by them from Germany during the period of hostilities and to demand the return of gold possessed by them which can be identified as gold looted by the Germans from occupied countries.

5. You should make such reference to the arguments given above as you consider necessary to emphasize the undesirability of allocating or making restitution of that portion of the gold presently held in Frankfurt prior to obtaining the return from the Swiss of the looted gold acquired by them from Germany.

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By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

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LOT #62-D115

I-U Germ. Gold Holdings

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SECRET

TOP

PRIORITY

CRYPTOGRAPHIC SECURITY DOES NOT APPLY. HANDLE AS SECRET CORRESPONDENCE PER PARAS 44g and 52a, AR 390-5.

LONDON

From : US Group Control Council, Berlin, Germany  
FOR REINSTEIN

TO : War Department

1. Department and Treasury have received from U.S. Group Control Council information indicating: 27 September 1945

Nr 00-17871

(a) that the German Reichsbank maintained an important depot of gold in the Swiss National Bank throughout the war.

Clay.

(b) that two-thirds of all German gold shipments abroad during the war were destined for the Swiss National Bank;

A. That some of the gold looted by the Germans during the war was after resmelting sent to the Bank for International Settlements and

B. That the principal source of the 62m German debts to various European countries was at a time when such countries were occupied by the Germans, repaid through the Bank for International Settlements in gold or foreign exchange which was subsequently looted or confiscated from such countries by the Germans.

2. In order to obtain the information necessary for formulating policy concerning the disposition of gold found in Germany, it is important that an immediate demand be made that the Bank for International Settlements permit a team of experts representing United States Group Control Council and Treasury to inspect all gold owned by or in the possession of the Bank for International Settlements and all relevant books, files and records.

3. On sources cited above also show gold presently held in Frankfurt should not be made available the possibility of obtaining the gold purchased by Swiss A. That the German Reichsbank maintained an important depot of gold in the Swiss National Bank throughout the war.

B. That 2/3rds of all German gold shipments abroad during the war were destined for the Swiss National Bank but be possible to restore all gold looted by the Germans and possibly even have more than half of the confiscated Belgian gold was after resmelting sent to the Swiss National Bank and arise if we try to allocate an amount of gold now sufficient to meet the gold available is therefore important that the above team of experts also be permitted to examine all gold owned by or in possession of the Swiss National Bank and relevant books, files and records now in our possession before approaching the Swiss, our case for obtaining the return of the gold purchased by them from Germany would be weakened. This is

cc: Mrs. Shwartz, Messrs. Richards, J. Friedman, Moskowitz, Glasser, Coe, and B. Bernatein

225765

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File I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
Box 25

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3. The taking of further action will be considered in the event that your request is refused. Please keep Department informed of progress.

225766

cc:

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority UND 968106  
By WDP/NARA DTS 5/11/00RG 59  
Entry LOT #62-D115  
File I-V GERM GOLD  
HOLDINGS  
Box 25CABLE TO THE AMERICAN LEGATION, BERN, FROM  
DEPARTMENT AND TREASURY

1. A report from the U. S. Group Control Council in Germany states that the following has been uncovered: (a) the German Reichsbank maintained an important depot of gold in the Swiss National Bank throughout the war; (b) two thirds of all German gold shipments abroad during the war were destined for the Swiss National Bank; (c) more than half of the Belgian gold stolen by the Germans in France was, after remelting, sent to the Swiss National Bank; and (d) part of the gold looted by Germany during the war was sent to the Bank for International Settlements. The U. S. Group Control Council, for the purpose of obtaining information necessary for formulating policy concerning the disposition of gold found by the Allies in Germany, has recommended that experts be sent to Switzerland to examine the gold in the possession of the Swiss National Bank and the Bank for International Settlements and all relevant books, files and records.

2. Department and Treasury agree with the recommendation of the U. S. Group Control Council. Accordingly, you should immediately approach the Swiss National Bank and the Bank for International Settlements and (a) inform them that information uncovered in Germany indicates that a substantial amount of the gold looted by the Germans was transferred to those institutions and (b) in order to ascertain the true facts it is requested that a team of technical experts be permitted to examine the gold in the possession of those institutions and all relevant books, files and records.

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Authority: NND 968106By: WDP NARA DATE: 5/11/00

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Entry

LOT #62 D115

File

I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

Box

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CABLE TO U. S. GROUP CONTROL COUNCIL, BERLIN, GERMANY FROM  
WAR DEPARTMENT

Subject: Examination of Gold and Silver Records of Bank for  
International Settlements and Swiss National Bank

Reference No. CC-17671

State and Treasury Departments agree with your recommendation.

A cable has been despatched to the American Legation in Bern instructing them to approach the Swiss National Bank and the Bank for International Settlements and to request that a team of experts be permitted to examine the gold in the possession of those institutions and all relevant books, files and records. You will be kept further advised.

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File I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
Box 25

*Label*

GERMANY FROM

Records of Bank for  
International Bank

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
O. A. SCHMIDT

agree with your recommendation.  
American Legation in Bern in-  
ternational Bank and the Bank for  
International Settlements. It is  
requested that a team of experts  
be appointed to examine the  
possession of these insti-  
tutions and records. You will be

kept further advised.

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Authority NND 968106

By WDR/NARA Date 5/11/00

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Entry

LOT #62 DIIS

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I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS

Box

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CONFIDENTIAL

EMBASSY,

MADRID.

The following information has recently come to the attention of the Department:

"We have recently received the following report, dated 10 November, 1946, from a reliable source in Madrid. Unfortunately, the reliability of the sub-source is unknown to us and we are unable to evaluate the truth of the information.

"Three or four days before the total surrender of Germany, twenty-four lead boxes, containing lead-lined mail sacks in which were 13,000,000 Swiss francs, were concealed in a palace in Madrid.

"This treasure, which was in gold coins, belonged to the German Embassy in Spain.

"Only two others, (presumably means besides sub-source), the Germans who carried out the operation, know where the treasure is hidden.

"The accredited Embassies in Madrid have no knowledge of this concealed German Embassy gold.

"The palace in which these boxes are hidden is going to be put up for sale. It is feared that the Germans familiar with the secret will promote an advantageous deal through Spanish capitalists."

"We are querying our source in an attempt to obtain specific information regarding this German asset."

It will be appreciated if the Embassy will inform the Department of any information it may have or can obtain concerning the above-quoted report.

WJ:J Dennis:jd  
12/18/46

BYRNES

WE

225770

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 968106

By WDR NARA Date 5/11/00

RG

Entry

File

Box

59  
LOT #62 D115  
I-U GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
25

*file*

The hoard, if it can be found, will have to be transferred to the Gold Commission, Brussels, and Dorr will have to be notified accordingly.

CONFIDENTIAL

EMBASSY

O.F.F.

MADRID.

The following is attention of the Dept

the

"We have recently dated 10 November, 1946. Unfortunately, the source knows to us and we are the information.

Madrid.  
un-  
of

"Three or four, after the surrender of Germany, twenty-four lead boxes, containing lead-lined mail sacks in which were 13,000,000 Swiss francs, were concealed in a palace in Madrid.

"This treasure, which was in gold coins, belonged to the German Embassy in Spain.

"Only two others, (presumably means besides sub-source), the Germans who carried out the operation, know where the treasure is hidden.

"The accredited Ambassadors in Madrid have no knowledge of this concealed German Embassy gold.

"The palace in which these boxes are hidden is going to be put up for sale. It is feared that the Germans familiar with the secret will promote an advantageous deal through Spanish capitalists."

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It will be appreciated if the Embassy will inform the Department of any information it may have or can obtain concerning the above-quoted report.

WJ:J Dennis:jd  
12/18/46

BYRNES

225771

DECLASSIFIED

Authority *NND 968106*By *WDP* NARA Date *5/11/00*

RG

Entry

File

Box

*59**LOT #62 D115**I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS**25*

- 4 -

In addition he stated that if such an attempt were to be made the Swiss Government would not permit such transfers at least pending the settlement of Swiss claims against Italy and specifically the settlement of the Italian indebtedness under the clearing. (If this statement reflects the Swiss official attitude, as the Legation believes to be the case, there would appear to be no danger of the Swiss Government releasing the reportedly small balance which may be held in Switzerland by the Italian Government or its institutions). A tentative estimate has been made by the Italian Legation that the total Italian indebtedness to Switzerland, including the clearing indebtedness, is approximately 600,000,000 francs; it has been asked by this Legation to endeavor to verify this total and to give an itemized account therefor which will be reported to the Department when it is received by us.

(D) 1. It is stated by the Italian Legation that it has no precise data as to the amounts of private funds or investments in Switzerland owned or controlled by persons or firms in Italy. It is added by the Legation that in this field also "the situation of Italy towards Switzerland has always been one of indebtedness."

2. Although he is without exact information with regard to the present amount of private funds and investments in Switzerland owned or controlled by persons or firms in Italy, the Swiss bank official stated that these holdings have fluctuated widely in

recent

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 968106By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

RG

Entry

File

Box

59LOT #62 D115I-V GERM GOLDHoldings25

- 5 -

recent years between a probably maximum of 500,000,000 and a minimum of 200,000,000 Swiss francs, but that he would estimate the present amount below the maximum and possibly well below.

3. Another source which has consulted several of the leading Swiss bankers, gives their estimates for these holdings at 500,000,000 -600,000,000 Swiss francs to which they add between 50,000,000 and 100,000,000 Swiss francs of gold and an important but unestimable amount of jewelry. The Legation is of the belief that in view of the source of information in paragraph 2 above the estimate in that paragraph for assets exclusive of jewelry is more accurate.

It is requested that the foregoing message be repeated to London by airgram for the information of the Embassy there.

HARRISON

DCR:MAS:EA

4-5-44

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DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 968106  
 By WDP NARA Date 5/11/00

RG 59  
 Entry LOT #62 D115  
 File I-V GERM GOLD HOLDINGS  
 Box 25

REFERENCE SERVICE SLIP						DATE	NO.
NAME OF REQUESTOR				AGENCY OR ADDRESS			
UNITS OF SERVICE						SOURCE OF REQUEST (Check)	
INFORMATION SERVICE (Number of replies)		RECORDS FURNISHED (Number of items)	TEXTUAL, STILL PICTURES, ETC. (Number of pages)	MOTION PICTURES (Number of feet)	SOUND RECORDINGS (Number of feet)	NA Administrative Use	
WRITTEN	ORAL					Agency of Origin	
						Other Government	
						Nongovernment	
						REQUEST HANDLED BY	
RG NO.	STACK AREA	ROW	COMPARTMENT	SHELF	OUTCARD NO.		
<u>59</u>	<u>250</u>		<u>COMPARTMENT 18</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>26</u>		
RECORD IDENTIFICATION							
<p><u>TGC</u>  <u>GERM GOLD HOLDING</u>  <u>GERM GOLD HOLDINGS, NA NAT</u>  <u>BOX 25</u>  <u>OFF FIN OPS</u>  <u>LOT FILE # 62 D115</u></p>							
RECEIVED BY		DATE		RETURNED TO		DATE	

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057  
By WDP NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 260  
Entry OMG-US  
File 940.32 Liaisons  
Box 424

**1-Box**

**REFERENCE SERVICESLIP**

NAME OF REQUESTOR: Miscorovsky / OFFER

AGENCY OR ADDRESS: REHSA

DATE: 2/11/00

NO.:

INFORMATION SERVICE (Number of replies)

RECORDS FURNISHED (Number of items)

TEXTUAL: STILL PICTURES, ETC (Number of pages)

MOTION PICTURES (Number of feet)

SOUND RECORDINGS (Number of feet)

UNITS OF SERVICE

SOURCE OF REQUEST (check)

NA Administrative Use

Agency of Origin

Other Government

Nongovernment

REQUEST HANDLED BY: [Signature]

RECORD IDENTIFICATION:

REQ NO: 260

STACK AREA: 390

ROW: 46

COMPARTMENT: 09

SHELF: 02

OUTCARD NO:

RECEIVED BY:

DATE:

RETURNED TO:

DATE:

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

DO NOT REMOVE FROM RECORDS

NA FORM 1400 (4-1-85)

*OMG US*  
*REDS FOR LXC DPHY GROUP*  
*REDS FOR LXC DEPOSITORY (REU)*  
*CENTRAL FILES 1945-50*  
*Box 424*

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057

By WDP NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 260

Entry QMG-US

File 940.38 PCIRO, General

Box 424

940.38 PCIRO, General

11/3829

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775059  
By WDP NARA Date 7/2/00RG 260  
Entry OMG-US  
File 940.38 PCIRO, General  
Box 424

940.38

Tentative Statement covering Delivery NMG to IGCR - IRO

The Paris Conference on Reparation concluded in December 1945 by the eighteen Allied Powers whose reparation claims were to be satisfied by the western occupation zones of Germany, included under Article 8, the allocation of certain assets for the rehabilitation and resettlement of stateless victims of Nazi persecution, charging the five powers (United States, England, France, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia) to develop by mutual agreement in consultation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees a plan for the accomplishment of this humanitarian objective.

The specific assets made available were \$ 25,000,000 to be secured from the liquidation of German assets in neutral countries; all the "non-monetary Gold" found by the Allies in Germany; and all the assets in neutral countries of victims of German action who died without heirs. The United States played a leading role in securing reparations for non-repatriables. The United States Delegation to the Paris Conference on Reparation first advanced the proposal in November 1945 and secured its adoption by the other powers. The United States took the lead in making the \$ 25,000,000 sum a priority charge on the liquidation of German assets in neutral countries. The United States pressed for an early meeting of the Five-Power Conference and the United States representative prepared the draft agreement submitted to the Conference.

The Foreign Exchange Depository in Frankfurt a. Main whose Chief is Colonel William G. Brey, is a branch of the Finance Division directed by Mr. T.H. Ball. It has been the resting place for substantial quantities of assets falling in the "Non-Monetary Gold" category consisting for the most part of unidentifiable articles of intrinsic value removed by the Nazis from

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Authority NND 775057By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00RG 260Entry DMG-USFile 940.38 P. IRO, GeneralBox 424

- 2 -

victims of Auschwitz, Lublin, Buchenwald and other similarly notorious institutions. When these areas were overrun by the U.S. Army the loot found at the camps and in hiding places such as salt mines, was transported to the Depository, housed in an impressive and substantial structure formerly occupied by the Reichsbank. Months passed during which the material was inventoried, identifiable articles segregated, and the remainder evaluated and recorded. On 4th June 1947 the Depository began turning the unidentifiable portion over to representatives of the IGCR (now the IRO) which operation has continued daily, but is now nearing completion.

The assets include jewelry, precious stones, dental gold, silver ware, fountain pens, alarm clocks, metal ware etc. The customary German thoroughness was evident in the manner in which a large portion of the material had been sorted by categories. This processing destroyed identifiability but facilitated the inventorying and evaluation by the diamond and precious metal experts of both the Depository and the IRO. On the basis of conservative appraisals the aggregate value of material turned over to IRO representatives will be approximately \$

In the midst of operations (1 July 1947) the IGCR legally went out of existence. Its functions and responsibilities under the five power conference however were immediately assumed by the International Refugee Organization (IRO) and operations at the Depository are continuing with the same personnel. With respect to all assets every effort will be exerted to realize the greatest possible liquidation value to augment the fund that will render it possible for many thousands of homeless and stateless destitute human beings

225776

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775059By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00

RG

260Entry OMG-USFile 940.58 PCIRO, GENERALBox 424

- 3 -

to start a new life.

Displaced persons, as such, are not eligible for benefit under the terms of the five power agreement. Eligible persons have been specifically defined as those Jewish and non-Jewish nationals of Germany and Austria who do not desire to be repatriated, or who are still in Germany and Austria and should be assisted to emigrate because of the persecution which they suffered at the hands of the Nazis. Also eligible are Jews who were nationals or former nationals of previously occupied countries and who were victims of Nazi concentration camps or concentration camps established by regimes under Nazi influence. The total number of eligibles is estimated to be in excess of 200,000, the vast majority of whom are Jews.

The IGCR - IRO reparations unit now at the Depository is headed by Mr. Abba Schwartz, with Mr. Hyman Smollar in charge of actual operations.

*Quoted in part:*

*From an article by Eli Ginzberg, U. S. Rep.  
to 5-Power Conf. (Reprint from Dept. of State Bulletin,  
Vol. XV, No. 367, 14 July, 1946)*

*W. Schwartz*

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057  
By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00

RG 260  
Entry OMG-US  
File 940.38 P. IRO, General  
Box 424

File Nr. 940.38

**IGOR • IRO Turnover**

**16 July 1947**

1. Chief Dir. 16  
For. Fin. July  
Exch. Div. 1947  
Dep. OMGUS  
OMGUS APO  
Rear 742  
APO  
757

1. The attached proposal from IGOR, submitted after a discussion of the matter, is referred for decision.

2. FED now has available adequate separate vault space to accommodate the IRO operation under Para 3c without interference with FED operations. Other than property now on hand, no additional property is to be brought into FED by IGOR for processing.

3. Recommend favorable consideration and approval.

**WILLIAM G. BREY**  
Colonel, GSO  
Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

WGB  
Tel. Frankfurt 24583

Incl: Proposal from IGOR

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Authority NND 775057  
By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00RG 260  
Entry DMG-US  
File 94038 PCIRO, General  
Box 424PREPARATORY COMMISSION  
INTERNATIONAL REFUGEES ORGANIZATION

757

16 July 1947  
HS/RMQ

FROM : H. SMOLLAR - PCIRO Chief, Reparations Staff for Germany.  
TO : Chief, Foreign Exchange Depository

1. Since it is indicated that the bulk of personal property has now been made available to IGCR - IRO pursuant to War Department Directive and that the necessary receipts are in preparation by the Foreign Exchange Depository in order to effect a complete transfer of the foregoing property, we wish to advise you of our problem with respect to the removal of the property from the vaults of the Depository.

2. In keeping with the letter and the spirit of Article 8, of the Paris Reparations Agreement and the directive issued thereunder, we have a clear and compelling obligation to promptly realize the maximum cash results in the liquidation of that property. Therefore, any movement of property that is not directly connected with the sale or liquidation of this property would add to the costs of the operation unnecessarily and would subtract from the ultimate beneficiaries.

3. In the light of the above, we offer for your consideration the following proposal pertaining to continued operations of IGCR - IRO:

- a) The IGCR - IRO to now execute a final joint inventory for all property which has been jointly inventoried to date.
- b) The property to remain on the premises of the FED after receipt.
- c) Adequate space on FED premises to be made available to IGCR - IRO, for storage and the necessary liquidation operation by IRO, of both property received from FED and other sources during the ~~90 day~~ period. *property now on hand within the FED*
- d) The facilities referred to in paragraph 3 to be made available for a period of approximately 90 days from the date of receipt.

4. It is anticipated that our operation in the 90 day period will fall into 2 categories, i.e.:

(A) Sorting and separating metals for smelting or for sale in their present form.

(B) Sorting and separating precious stones which would include the "breaking-out" of diamonds from settings.

225779

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Authority NND 775057By WDP NARA Date 5/2/00RG 260Entry DMG-USFile 940.38 PCIRO, GeneralBox 424

a. Under category (A) the following procedure is anticipated:

1. Separation of the metals in the space or vault to be assigned.
2. Delivery of metals for smelting from the vault, and receipt of finished bars into the vault. (It is now estimated that there will be three shipments for smelting purposes and about six separate deliveries of bars.)
3. Grating of objects and material in the vault, for shipment.

b. Under category (B) the following procedure is anticipated:

1. The "breaking-out" of diamonds and stones from their settings.
2. Cleaning of diamonds.
3. Sorting and grading of diamonds in preparation for the market.

5. In the undertaking described it is estimated that for category (B) it will be necessary to employ two additional people to assist in the "breaking-out" process. There will be no additional help required for the program outlined in category (A). For your further information our personnel will not be increased numerically since there are to be at least two departures from our present staff.

6. Our projection of needs is subject to an unavoidable margin of error. We will take every possible step to keep our operation from disturbing the work of the FED, and should any conflict arise, the interests and operation of the FED will prevail. We understand that the temporary assignment of working space on FED premises is subject to cancellation at any time by FED. We further understand that all responsibility of FED and Finance Division, for the valuables in our possession and custody, ceases upon execution of the Joint Inventory and receipt.

7. Your sincere consideration of our problem and proposal is requested and it is hoped that a mutually satisfactory solution can be agreed.

*H. Smollar*  
 H. SMOLLAR  
 Chief, Reparations Staff  
 for Germany.

225780

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Authority NND 775059

By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00

RG 260

Entry OMG-US

File 94-10.36 Asset Held

Box 424

94036 ASSETS, HELD BY BRITISH AUTH.

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Authority NND 775057  
 By WDP NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 260  
 Entry OMG-US  
 File 94036 Asset Held  
 Box 424

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Appendix D to 21 Army Group  
 Finance Report No. 8  
 for Jun 45.

HAMBURG - Foreign Exchange delivered to  
 Reichsbank at 8 Jun 45

Serial	Country (a)		Notes (b)	Gold (c)	Silver (d)
1	EGYPT	£	41.---.---		
2	BELGIUM	Belga	62,520.---	bfrs 1,560.---	
3	BOHEMIA AND MORAVIA	Kc	519,794.---		
4	DENMARK	kr	40,866.---		
5	ENGLAND	£	14,084.---	£ 25.10.---	
6	FRANCE	ffrs	1,771,225.---	ffrs 3,840.---	ffrs 62,20
7	THE NETHERLANDS	hfl	450,832,50		hfl 96,10
8	ITALY	Lire	29,067.---	Lire 800.---	Lire 59.---
9	CROATIA	Cuna	6,474.---		
10	NORWAY	nkrs	19,934.---		
11	POLAND	Zloty	642,240.---		
12	PORTUGAL	Esc	246,820.---		
13	RUMANIA	Lei	20,600.---		
14	SWEDEN	kr	63,742.---		
15	SWITZERLAND	fr	313,420.---		
16	SERBIA	Dinar	197,500.---		
17	SLOVAKIA	Ks	10,235.---		
18	SPAIN	Ptas	106,062.---		
19	USSR	Rbl	6,327.---		
20	UKRAINE	Kar	9,403.---		
21	HUNGARY	Pengo	58,465.---		
22	USA	\$	5,922.---	\$ 220.---	
23	VENEZUELA			Bol 200.---	
24	GERMANY			Mk 925.---	Mk 6,340.---

Gold weight 89,886,43 gr.  
 Silver " 84,799,127 "  
 Platina " 194,5 "

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DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 775057  
By WDP NARA Date 5/2/00RG 260  
Entry DMG-US  
File 44036 Asset Held  
Box 424

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60. Russian and Polish horses

- (a) Numbers of Russian horses have been found in the Provinces of WESTPHALIA and SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. In the former Province, the horses were from the UKRAINE. Many of the horses were sold to German farmers for cash, and it would, therefore, appear that the farmers had a good title to them. Russian officers were, however, collecting horses from the farmers preparatory to moving them to the USSR. The movement of these horses has been stopped in both Provinces, as it raises important questions of principle on the subject of restitution. The matter is now in abeyance pending directions from higher authority.
- (b) Various lots of Polish horses have also been found and these are being cared for by Polish officers and men, under the supervision of the Service concerned.

61. Confiscations by Gestapo in HAMBURG

- (a) Interrogations and some good sleuthing work have resulted in a considerable amount of information on unofficial looting of cash and valuables by the Gestapo in HAMBURG from their prisoners. The Gestapo was also concerned in official sales of Jewish Property.
- (b) These official sales produced total receipts of RM 25,348,000.- of which RM 4,397,000 still remain in a bank account of the Oberfinanzkasse which has been blocked. Two other items, together RM 237,000, which originated from the sales receipts and had been placed in a personal account, have also been blocked. The remainder of the sales proceeds were remitted to BERLIN, presumably for use as state revenue. Records showing detailed origin are available for only a very small part of this money.
- (c) Unofficial loot amounting to some RM 49,000 in cash, RM 418,000 in blocked bank balances and roughly £ 2,000 of currency of eleven different countries, as well as a collection of small personal valuables has been recovered. The records of the owners' names appear complete.

62. Hamburger Grundstücksverwaltung GmbH

- (a) This was formed in 1938 chiefly to administer Jewish real property in HAMBURG confiscated by the Reich. It was controlled by ardent Party members.
- (b) Profits were derived from charging 5% commission on the gross income, and these now amount to some RM 80,600. They were at the disposal of the Reichsstatthalter for charity, but nothing has been distributed.
- (c) The total net income of the various properties now amounts to RM 459,000; a separate account has been kept for each property.
- (d) The records of this concern are valuable, as all official records of the treatment of Jews and their properties, which were kept at the office of the Oberfinanzpräsident, were destroyed prior to the occupation.
- (e) The concern is being taken into Property Control.

63. Miscellaneous items of looted Property

- (a) Antiques, tapestries, curios and furniture which were warehoused in the barracks at PADERBORN in Provinz WESTPHALIA. An inventory is not yet available.

/(b)

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Entry OMO-US

File 94036 Asset Held

Box 424

Authority NND 775059

By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00

- 11 -

- (b) Two boxes of silver - 49 items - trays, cups, candlestick holders and similar articles. These have French and Polish markings. They were deposited by soldiers at the Kreissparkasse in RECKLINGHAUSEN in WESTPHALIA shortly before occupation.
- (c) 27 ingots of tin each approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt marked "Product of Banka Nederland India", in OSNABRÜCK.
- (d) Jewellery at HANNOVER, probably of NETHERLANDS origin; no inventory yet available.
- (e) 20 tons of Belgian Nickel Coins (probably mutilated) in HAMBURG.
- (f) Dock equipment at DIESTEL dock, HAMBURG, from the NETHERLANDS.
- (g) Property in HAMBURG which was originally acquired in 1916 by the Jewish Congregation and used by them as Welfare Offices. Now entered in the Grundbuch as Reich property, and until recently a Gestapo office. As the property is vacant and there is urgent need of a Jewish Welfare Centre, the Jewish congregation is being allowed to reoccupy the property, without any undertaking to restore the title.
- (h) Polish machinery in the Hermann GÖRLING werke and at the firm of LILPOP, RAU and LÖWENSTEIN, both near BRAUNSCHWEIG.

ABANDONED PROPERTY

- 64. (a) Gold coins of a probable value of some \$ 2,000,000 have been unearthed in SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN. Information on the subject received from SHAEF indicates that only a small part of the cache has been discovered.
- (b) Seven pictures, thought to be of some value, some tapestries and furniture were found in the same area and have been taken into control. The pictures are believed to have hung in the private office of RIBBENTROP at the Foreign Office in BERLIN.
- (c) Gold coin and Gold and Silver bullion of an estimated value of RM 1,500,000 are in a mine at GOSLAR in Land BRAUNSCHWEIG. Considerable work will be necessary to get this out owing to damage to the mine.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPERTY

- 65. "FAIRPLAY STIFTUNG." See Appendix G attached.
- 66. Westbank NV. The books, records and management of the above Bank are now in HAMBURG. Originally it had offices in BRUSSELS and ANTIWERP, and is owned by the Bank der Deutschen Arbeit. SHAEF Mission to BELGIUM has been informed.
- 67. Files belonging to the German Military Government for BELGIUM and Northern FRANCE have been found at COTTINGEN in Province of HANNOVER.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 68. Various instructions have been issued during the month based on experience gained and the more interesting are listed below.

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Authority NND 775057By WDP NARA Date 6/2/00

RG

260Entry OMG-USFile 410.36 Asset Held

Box

424

- 8 -

which they are primarily responsible. No major changes have been reported and the only black market of importance is in food, liquor, and cigarettes in HAMBURG.

## PART II - PROPERTY CONTROL

### GENERAL

49. There has been a material increase in the volume of Property Control work during the month. The most widespread problem appears to be that of property which has been looted, or confiscated, or the subject of duress. In the case of real estate alone, the lists of properties which have been confiscated from Jews run into hundreds of names, and the work of collecting information has hardly yet been started.

### PROPERTIES TAKEN INTO FORMAL CONTROL

50. Properties taken into formal property control and for which property records have been forwarded to this Headquarters now number 92, compared with 15 last month. These are made up as under:-

United Nations Nationals' Property	7
German State Property	1
Nazi Party Property	77
Looted Property	5
Abandoned Property	2
	92

This may seem a very small number for the whole of the British area of occupation, even bearing in mind that many party properties are occupied by troops. But it is evident from reports received that many more properties have actually been taken into control, there is however a considerable time lag in the receipt of Property records at this Headquarters. This is partly due to slow communications, but far more to the fact that Property Control officers are faced with so much work that, provided properties are satisfactorily safeguarded and custodians appointed, the transmission of records often has to be postponed.

### PROPERTIES OF UNITED NATIONS NATIONALS

51. A list of properties, mainly business enterprises, on which reports have been forwarded to SHAEF during the month, is given at Appendix F.

### GERMAN STATE PROPERTY

52. The records of the HAUPTREUHANDSTELLE OST have been taken into control at BÜCKEBURG, Land SCHAUMBURG-LIPPE. This was a Branch of the Office of the Commissioner for the Four Years Plan (beauftragter für den Vierjahresplan) and was set up in 1939 to deal with the administration of Polish properties confiscated by the Reich.

53. Considerable sums of money were found in KIEL, as under:-

Pay for German Agents

Gold Coin	Napoleons	19,920
	Turkish pounds	4,070

Notes of twelve different countries, approximately		\$ 200,000
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Wehrmacht Funds		RM 900,000
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225785

DECLASSIFIED  
 Authority NND 775057  
 By WOP NARA Date 5/2/00

RG 260  
 Entry DMG-US  
 File 94036 Asset Held  
 Box 424

54. Various studs and remount depots have been found. The responsibility for these has been passed to the appropriate Service, after appointing suitable Custodians where necessary.

PROPERTY OF NAZI PARTY

55. NAZI Properties taken into formal control include buildings, newspaper plants, film projectors and similar items.

56. Until Labour Section of Mil. Gov is able to assume its full responsibility for DAF organisations (excluding financial institutions), Property Control officers have been taking "first aid" measures. The types of organisations include housing estates, food processing plants, a publishing business, shops, offices and the Co-operative Movement.

57. Co-operative Movement

(a) In 1941 all co-operative organisations in GERMANY and AUSTRIA were handed over to the DAF. A holding company was created to hold the capital of all the subsidiaries, and the organisation consisted briefly of:-

Holding Company Wholesale Business Factory undertakings Transport undertakings Coal Business Retail Shops	Gemeinschaftswerk der DAF GmbH Deutsche Grosseinkaufs GmbH Gemeinschaftswerk Industriebetriebe GmbH Deutsche Transport GmbH Gemeinschaftswerk Kohlenhandel GmbH Gemeinschaftswerk Versorgungsring ..... GmbH (some 135 of these, each with the name of a different town).
--	---

(b) It is understood that no distribution of profits has taken place except for an annual birthday present to HITLER of RM 1,000,000.-

(c) First aid measures have been taken in HAMBURG, which is the seat of the Head Office, and Heinrich EVERLING, a former President of the old co-operative movement, has been appointed manager.

PROPERTY OF BLACK LISTED PERSON

58. A request was received to permit payment of funeral expenses for an SS man and his family from a blocked account. Authority was given for payment of reasonable expenses on production of the undertaker's bills, the balance of the account remaining blocked under General Order No.1, paragraph 27.

LOOTED PROPERTY

59. Church Bells

(a) It appears that most of the valuable Church bells in EUROPE are in HAMBURG. There are four dumps of bells, one of which includes bells from the NETHERLANDS and BELGIUM, which have been identified by the representatives of the two countries. Available records indicate that 1,853 metric tons of the less valuable NETHERLANDS bells were melted down between June 1943 and January 1944. All bells including those of German origin are being taken into Property Control.

(b) Some 1,800 Church bells are at a copper foundry at LUNEN, Provinz WESTPHALIA. These are mostly German bells, but include some Polish and Italian bells. The German bells were in process of being handed back to German Churches on authority given by Ninth US Army. This has been stopped, and all these bells are now being taken into Property Control.

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BANKING.

5. There has been general progress in extending banking facilities throughout the British Zone during the month and a reasonable number of banks are open in the majority of towns. The extension of the giro clearing areas should follow on the improvements in courier and postal services. In many parts of the zone local clearing arrangements have made good progress. Banking staffs are proving to be very cooperative; indeed, excess of zeal in carrying out Mil Gov instructions has often been observed.

6. The Banks in KIEL have formed a Bankers Association under the chairmanship of MEYER, Director of KIELER SPARKASSE. The association, in conformity with the banks in HAMBURG, has agreed to stop paying interest on sight deposits. The rate of interest on term deposit accounts remains unchanged. A large number of Reich bills is held by the banks both as investments and as security for loans. As no decision has yet been made on the service of Reich debt, the subject is causing great concern in banking circles.

7. Cash reserves and ratios. In the British zone as a whole the currency situation has improved, with three important exceptions. Reichsmark resources of the 21 A Gp area were insufficient to cover the requirements of Wehrmacht payments and the Ruhr coal industry, and the following advances of Allied Military Marks have been made:-

- (a) KIEL 150,000,000 for Wehrmacht pay,
- (b) OLDENBURG 15,000,000 for Wehrmacht pay, Canadian area,
- (c) MUNSTER 100,000,000 for the Ruhr.

8. In 30 Corps Area cash holdings of the Reichsbank Offices at the end of May were about RM 400,000,000. The liquidation of the Wehrmacht, municipal and industrial pay rolls increased materially the demands for currency and there is at present a steady drain on the reserves of this area.

9. It is considered that the Reichsbank's currency holdings in HAMBURG are adequate for the town's present requirements. The Bankbezirk in which RB STADE was formerly situated was truncated by the formation of the BREMEN enclave, but it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulty in arranging for drawings on, and remittances to, BREMEN and WESERMUNDE as formerly. A full statement of the cash position in HAMBURG as at 8 Jun is at Appx A. Similar statements for MUNSTER and OLDENBURG are at Appendices B and C respectively.

10. Deposits and Withdrawals. Now that (P) Detachments have been established under static conditions, it is hoped that various statistics which lack of communications have made it impossible to obtain, will come along more easily. Various general reports indicate that in most areas, deposits are exceeding withdrawals. This tendency is nearly always accentuated when local restrictions are lifted. There are still one or two exceptions where withdrawals continue to outstrip deposits as in Stadt HANNOVER where local officials are still very diffident about raising the local restrictions on withdrawals.

11. Banks in WILHELMSHAVEN have placed the following restrictions on withdrawals from unblocked accounts:-

- (a) Current Accounts RM 500 monthly
- (b) Savings Accounts RM 300 monthly

These restrictions are not stringently applied, and no requests have been refused for the withdrawal of larger amounts. No restrictions have been placed on unblocked commercial accounts. The Reichsbank at KIEL holds the opinion that restrictions on withdrawals should not yet be completely raised.

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12. There is a tendency for borrowers to repay loans and establish their full title to real property. There is correspondingly little demand for credit by private customers of the banks.

13. Limited giro systems by means of courier are now operating in the rural districts of HANNOVER. A clearing is provided through either HANNOVER or HAMELN. Censored packets are carried by the Mil Gov courier between various kreis centres. No considerable increase in cashless transfers can, however, be expected until a sufficient postal system is restored.

#### CURRENCY

14. Legal Tender. Cases of discrimination in favour of the Allied Military Mark are still being reported in spite of the provisions of Law 51 in this respect. Most examples can be traced to the unauthorized refusal of canteens and messes to accept Reichsmarks of denominations of 50 and below, when tendered by troops. This factor was mentioned in last month's report but further cases have again been reported. The psychological reaction of the British troops to this situation is spreading to the Germans. The conclusion that the Reichsmark is worth less than the Allied Military Mark is, for the uninformed, very difficult to resist. It is unfortunate that this impression should be gained as a result of ill-considered action, not by the Germans, but by the managers of certain canteens.

15. In RB AURECH Civilians were reported to be demanding the exchange of Reichsmarks for Allied Marks at Banks and Post Offices.

16. In the Province of HANNOVER there were persistent and widespread rumours that the new RM 20 note bearing the swastika on the face would be repudiated. In view of the currency stringency, the considerable stocks of this denomination were necessary for the BARLEYCORN release scheme, and Bank Managers were instructed that there should be no discrimination against these notes pending their withdrawal even though they were politically objectionable.

17. Non-regular currency. At the beginning of June the following return was made of non-regular currencies, issued, presented and outstanding in EMDEN and NORDERN:-

	<u>EMDEN</u>	<u>NORDERN</u>
(a) Total originally issued	RM 120,000	RM 1,220,000
(b) Amounts returned to the Reichsbank or other bank.	<u>111,400</u>	<u>649,523</u>
(c) Amounts still in circulation	<u>8,600</u>	<u>570,477</u>

These and similar issues are being gradually withdrawn in accordance with the policy for non-regular currencies.

18. In the MAGDEBURG area the only issues of non-regular currency were at KLAGENFURT and REICHENBERG. Notes were also printed at EGELN but never issued.

19. A certain number of notes for RM20 issued as NOTGELD by the SACHSISCHE STAATSBANK, DRESDEN have filtered through to the Province of WESTPHALIA and a specimen has been received from GELSENKIRCHEN. This issue was made as recently as the 26th April under the instructions of the Reichstatthalter for SAXONY.

20. Non-regular currency, supposedly counterfeit, in denominations of RM 10, 50 and 100, and numbered respectively, D 2776733, E 06647727, and T 7396475 made its appearance in the British Zone, causing considerable concern to Finance Officers and to Bank managers. It subsequently transpired that these notes were NOTGELD, reported to have been issued by the Reichsbank, SALZBURG, under authority from BERLIN. They are clumsy photographic reproductions of the originals which were numbered as quoted above. As each denomination

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CONFIDENTIALHEADQUARTERS, 21 ARMY GROUPFINANCIAL REPORT NO. 8 ON GERMANYFOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 1945PART I - GENERAL FINANCEGENERAL

1. The technical Military Government Chain of Command is now established throughout the British Zone, from 21 Army Group Headquarters down through Province and Land/Regierungsbezirk detachments to the man on the ground. This establishment, combined with the improvements in communications which have taken place, has enabled a more general assessment of the financial position to be made than has hitherto been possible.

2. Denazification has not in all cases been completed. Other immediate and localised problems of Finance Officers during the operational period when economic life was at a standstill are now merged with major problems of financing the re-birth of German economic activities essential to Mil Gov. Some of these are:-

- (a) Work in German dockyards for the Royal Navy
- (b) Procurement of supplies for disarmed Wehrmacht personnel awaiting discharge
- (c) Payment of food subsidies
- (d) Production of coal and salt urgently required for Military Government and Allied Countries
- (e) Clearing of docks and waterways
- (f) Production of text books for schools
- (g) Payment of requisitions

3. The present general interim arrangement to meet these problems, is that the Reichsbank makes advances on new accounts to the appropriate German authority to cover expenditure approved by the controlling branch of the British Armed Forces, involving occasionally the transfer of currency from one Branch of the Reichsbank to another, and in the case of Wehrmacht and Ruhr Coal Mine requirements, the supply of Allied Military Marks. Clearly this is a situation which cannot continue and it is desirable to transfer the burden at present being borne by the Reichsbank, to a central German public financial authority at the earliest possible date. Further, no permanent arrangements for the payment of requisitions as a whole can be made until such an authority has been established.

4. It is not yet possible to assess the extent to which the efficiency of operations will be impaired by the release of Finance Officers from the Forces. Emergency Military Government Officers are found to be handicapped by lack of training and experience in Military Government work. As de-Nazification is completed, so we can resort to more extensive measures of indirect administration and fewer Finance Officers will be required on the ground. It is obvious however that in those Kreise where it has been possible to allot a permanent Finance Officer, the Military Government financial programme has made far greater progress than elsewhere.

BANKING

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HEADQUARTERS 21 ARMY GROUP  
 CIVIL AFFAIRS/MILITARY GOVERNMENT BRANCH  
FINANCE SECTION

Report No. 8 for GERMANY for month of Jun 45

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LIAISON VISITS

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REVIEWED BY THE HQ EUCCOM SCREENING TEAM.

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The following information concerning SPACIL was obtained from the files of CIC on August 12, 1946

SPACIL, SS Oberfuehrer, was Head of Amt II of the Reichs-Sicherheits-Hauptamt in Berlin. As of 30 January 1946 he was detained in camp 79.

Establishment of the Alpine redoubt was still being actively considered during the middle of April 1945, and KALTENBRUNNER ordered the foreign exchange assets to be hidden within that area but did not designate any specific locations. (On the 22 April 1945 SPACIL flew from Berlin to Salzburg as per orders from KALTENBRUNNER.) He had the last remaining funds of foreign securities belonging to the Reichsbank in Berlin removed at the point of a gun on his order. 23 million gold marks worth of jewels and securities were involved.

SPACIL planned to set up a main cache (Hauptstelle) and a paying depot (Nebenstelle) no more than 5 km apart and the 2 locations to have communication by motorcycle. In this way the bulk of the money would be safe even if the paying station were captured. PFELLER brought the assets from Bad Sulza to Salzburg where on the 24 April SPACIL ordered him to establish the two stations in the vicinity of Zell am See. PFELLER took the hoard to Breitwies but, lacking specific instructions, delayed execution of the orders for several days. As a result he was relieved of his assignment and the truck with the money was turned over to Untersturmfuehrer MENZEL at Burgwies, Austria. The Allies was so close at that time that funds had to be hastily buried. Obersturmbannfuehrer SCHUSTER and Hauptsturmfuehrer APFELBECK (Apfelbeck had located in the town of Taxenbach), has located 2 reliable agents, WIMMER (Volkssturm official at Zell am See) and REISINGER (forester, he was Ortsgruppenleiter of Taxenbach). MENZEL took his truck to Taxenbach, where he and the 2 agents possibly aided by others buried the hoard during the nights of 2, 3, and 4 May (other reports say by 6 and 7 May). SPACIL was not present, but he asked APFELBECK to report the location of the cache. As a result of interrogation of all these men except PFELLER and MENZEL, 2 CACHES were uncovered. (shipment 31)

According to a statement by APFELBECK, he had the assignment of hiding a Mercedes passenger car full of treasures with the help of WIMMER and REISINGER. REISINGER picked him up at 10:00 o'clock in the evening with another car and they went up on the hill near Rauris. WIMMER and another man, a forester, went into the woods with pick and shovel to dig a hole. Then they returned and began to carry away valuables. These valuables were contained

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in 3 or 4 heavy jute sacks, 1 heavy iron chest, 2 small sacks and a ticking.

The above valuables when secured by CIC were turned over to Military Government Detachment F1 HE5, Augsburg. They were sent in to the Foreign Exchange Depository as shipment 31.

Additional ~~sags~~ concerns concerning the activities of SPACIL after he flew down from Berlin on 21 April 1945 as follows:

- 26 April 1945: SPACIL spoke to Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHULER regarding the disposition of 5,000 carats of diamonds and foreign securities held by SCHULER.
- 27 April 1945: SPACIL spoke to Hauptsturmfuehrer RADL of Skorzeny's staff and turned over large sums of gold and securities to him.
- 1 May 1945: Conference at Wald im Pongau with Hauptsturmfuehrer FICHTNER regarding the hiding of valuables, food supplies and uniforms.
- 2 May 1945: Travelled to Taxenbach to arrange for burial of treasure. Work was already in progress.

During the time that SCHLEMMER and SPACIL were in the Oklahoma PW cage, SCHLEMMER showed SPACIL a clipping concerning the finding of 18 million marks in foreign securities in a barn near Bad Gastein, Austria. - supposed to have been placed there by Himmler's order. SPACIL showed nervousness on hearing this and stated he was afraid that the Americans would unearth his whole network of agents.

Spacil stated he was worried about a truck containing 300 million marks of English foreign exchange notes in chests, which truck had been left in charge of a capable SS Untersturmfuehrer.

seems to be  
shipment 27  
(page 5, Tolson)

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The information below was taken from CIC file on SS Obersturmfuehrer Wilhelm SPACIL and seems to cover the story of the discovery of shipment 31.

1. On 5 June 1945 SS Hauptsturmfuehrer SCHLEMMER who was a prisoner at the Oklahoma PW Cage, Fuerstenfeldbruck approached T/3 John E. ALTER a member of MII team 466/G. SCHLEMMER told ALTER that SPACIL had asked him several days before the German capitulation to take him into his company as a corporal in order to conceal his identity. In return for that service SPACIL stated he would reward SCHLEMMER out of a hidden treasure. SCHLEMMER was to contact an American officer and buy a discharge for SPACIL, himself, and SCHLEMMER's lieutenant named HIRSCHFELD.

2. SCHLEMMER decided to inform on SPACIL because he resented the fact that SPACIL who was an important Nazi was getting off so easily. The MII authorities devised a plan to deal with SPACIL. SPACIL was picked up, taken to the Oklahoma PW Cage, and was led by SCHLEMMER to believe he could buy the discharge. SPACIL furnished a letter and the password to enable an American, Lt. NACKE, to contact persons who knew where the treasure was hidden.

3. On 9 June 1945 Lt. NACKE, ALTER and SS Lt. HIRSCHFELD went to TAXENBACH to contact SPACIL's liaison man who knew where the money was hidden. Two of the liaison men - WIMMER who was to be reached at FULZEL's sawmill, 13 km south of ZELL am See, and APPELBECK, supposed to be hiding in the vicinity - could not be located. However, REISINGER, a forester, was located and convinced by means of the password and letter that he should show the location of the treasure. The gold coins and foreign currency were found first in RAURIS. The gold was hidden in a barn under the floor and the foreign currency was hidden behind a bricked-in enclosure in the attic, all in the home of a certain URSCHEUNGER. The other valuables were later found along the RAURIS-TAXENBACH highway about 100 yds from the highway on a steep slope under some trees. The sacks were wet, showing they had been hastily or carelessly buried.

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The following information concerning Hermann FEGELEIN was obtained from the files of CIC on August 12, 1946

SS Obersturmfuehrer Hermann FEGELEIN was considered to be a favour of the big Nazi bosses. He was Hitler's principal adjutant and served as a liaison man between Hitler and Himmler. He was considered one of the best German horsemen. He was last known to be in Berlin. His wife is the sister of Eva Braun; she may have been at the horse farm near Zell am See about 1 May 45. Standartenfuehrer FEGELEIN is the brother of this individual.

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The following information concerning Gottlob BERGER was obtained from the files of CIC on August 12, 1946

---

General BERGER, Waffen SS-Obergruppenfuehrer in charge of German prisoner of war Administration received the command for south Germany from Himmler about 20 April 1945. He arrived in Munich 23 April 1945. Later he moved his headquarters to Bad Toelz.

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The following information concerning Ernst KALTENBRUNNER was obtained from the files of CIC on August 10, 1946.

---

Ernst KALTENBRUNNER, Nazi-Security-Police-Chief is now in Nuernberg on trial. He was apprehended by the 80 CIC Detachment Alt Aussee, Austria, on 12 May 1945.

During the closing days of German resistance KALTENBRUNNER travelled around a lot in southern Germany and Austria. During February and March 1945 he made a trip to Feldkirch near the Swiss border. He returned to Berlin, then left Berlin again between the 10 and 15 April 1945 travelling to Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Alt Aussee. After returning to Berlin for a few days he proceeded to Linz by way of Dresden and Prag.

Another report in KALTENBRUNNER's CIC file states that on the 21 April 1945 he was in Alt Aussee, from there he travelled to Strobel, Salzburg, Innsbruck, Berontesgaden, Salzburg, Strobel, Alt Aussee via Steyr to Enns, Linz, Bergwald, Strobel and Alt Aussee. He then went to Koenigsee, then by way of Bergwald to Strobel and Alt Aussee.

According to a cable dated 8 June 1945 there was a report about the 5 of May regarding a loaded truck and trailer containing SS people and baggage belonging to KALTENBRUNNER. The baggage consisted of chests and trunks from Salzburg believed to be contented for storage at "Skorceny quarters" near Admond, exact location unknown.

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Box 424LLAISON VISIT TO G-2

*File* →

On Friday 7 March 1947 I went to visit Captain Scott's office (CIC Records Section) for the purpose of gathering information from G-2 files on certain German individuals connected with various shipments of valuables received in the Foreign Exchange Depository. Captain Scott had the names looked up which I gave him:

Spacil, Josef (Head of Amt II of the R.S.H.A.)  
 Rosenberg-Lipinski, (Reichsbank-Director)  
 Rauch, Fritz (Lt.Col. in the Schutzpolizei, Berlin)  
 Funk, Walter (Reichsbank-Director)  
 Neuhauser, Hans (Captain)  
 Thite (Sturmfuhrer)

Dossiers or cards were found on all the above except Thite. However, the dossier on Neuhauser seems to pertain to a different individual than the one mentioned in the shipment folder. Pertinent details revealed by a study of these dossiers are as follows:

F u n k :

Information in Funk's dossier is of a rather general nature concerning the war time activities of the Reichsbank. He did not seem very well acquainted with details of the various financial transactions of the Reichsbank.

Funk said that about 500 million marks in gold were kept in the Berlin Reichsbank vaults under the supervision of Wilhelm. In January 1945 the Reichsbank held 450 million Reichsmarks in gold. When asked about gold taken from other countries he said, he had heard of gold being carried away from Holland by the S.S. but never learned details about it. When the Italian gold reserve was brought to Germany, Ribbentrop kept 20 million gold Reichsmarks for the use of the Foreign Office. Most of the gold was removed to Merkers Mine but smaller items were kept in various Reichsbank branches. 10 tons of gold were given to a Wehrmacht unit of mountain troops. This gold was first hidden in a mine in Bavaria, but then taken up into the mountains. Lists of the gold are according to Funk, preserved in the Reichsbank Munich. (It is believed that this gold is identical with the gold bars recovered as shipment No. 27-G). Funk estimated that 400 million marks in gold were sent to Merkers and about 50 million were located in other places. He said that at Lindau on Lake Konstanz in the Reichsbank there were certain small items in circulation.

He stated that the S.D. made at "Verschlossenes Depot" a deposit, the contents

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of which were unknown to the Reichsbank.

Funk estimated that at the end of the war the Reichsbank had about 7 or 8 million marks of foreign funds. Later he said he thought it must be 7 million dollars worth. He stated he had a hard time getting Hitler to agree to the evacuation of Reichsbank funds from Berlin and that he finally removed funds to Thuringia on its own initiative. He returned to Berlin several times later to arrange the transfer of another billion Reichsmarks in bank notes to Southern Germany.

R a u c h :

His permanent address is Bad Wiessee, Wallbergstrasse 38. He was arrested by CIC 403 at Tegernsee on 27 November 1945 and was received at the Internment Camp 15 on 6 January 1946. He was charged with being an Obersturmbannfuhrer in Allgemeine S.S.

S p a c i l :

As of 30 January 1946 Spacil was detained at Camp 79.

Spacil who was the former Head of Amt II of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt gave the following information about the financial set-up of the R.S.H.A.

The monthly cash budget of the Reichssicherheitshauptamt and its subordinate agencies consisted of approximately 35 million Reichsmarks and the equivalent of 12 - 15 million Reichsmarks in foreign currencies. Part of the national budget was allotted to the SS-WVH, which later turned over to Amt II the amount earmarked for the R.S.H.A. Expenditures were not restricted to these basic sums nor were all recorded in Amt II books. For instance, S.D., a party organization did not appear in the budget of the Reichs Finance Ministry. Military Amt also had its own funds, drawn largely from the Wehrmacht. There were also other financial channels, whose sources never became known to Spacil.

Foreign currency assets of the R.S.H.A. and its branches were controlled by the Devisen Referat of Amt II. Spacil estimates, that 75 % of all foreign assets were put at Schellenberg's disposal as soon as received. (Schellenberg was a Brigadefuhrer in charge of Amt VI of the R.S.H.A. espionage and counter intelligence). Most of the remainder, perhaps 20 % was spent by Amt II for purchase of weapons, jewelry, vehicles and gold for agents and for similar purposes. Amt IV received only a little foreign exchange and Amt III only occasional small sums. Foreign exchange was obtained from the S.S. Wirtschafts-Verwaltungs-Hauptamt. There were other amounts including counterfeit money which came from special amounts and never passed through the channels of Amt II.

In October 1944 the Devisen Referat was moved to Bad Sulza, while the Head, who was Hauptsturmfuhrer Pfeiler, remained in Berlin. At this time the foreign exchange assets were in the vaults of the Reichsbank Berlin. Finally, because of bombing attacks, the non-working assets were transferred to Bad Sulza. Only a small running account remained at the Reichsbank, and the majority of the funds packed in small steel safes was stored in a special air raid shelter for R.S.H.A. employees.

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at the edge of Bad Sulza in February 1945.

On 24 April the assets were brought from Bad Sulza to Salzburg by Pfeiler. Spacil ordered him to set up 2 stations near Zell am See. Pfeiler took the hoard to Breitwies but delayed execution of the orders. As result the truck with the money was turned over to Untersturmfuehrer Menzel. The Allies were so close then, that the funds had to be hastily buried. They were reportedly buried during the nights of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th May at Taxenbach. According to another report, the valuables were buried in the nights of the 5th, 6th and 7th of May. (These assets believed recovered as shipment No. 31).

After burying the money at Taxenbach there was still the problem of the disposal of 35 - 38 million Reichsmarks remaining in the truck and 100 boxes of counterfeit Pound Sterling in a trailer, which Oberstleutnant Boening of Amt VI-F had turned over to Pfeiler at Salzburg. According to Spacil the truck also contained Italian lire, Lithuanian currency, Russian rubles, German printed Ukrainian karbowanetz and francs. The German money was in 1,000 Reichsmark notes, the British in various denominations.

Graz seems to be the last area in German hands, so Spacil sent Menzel there at 5 May with the money. He doubted whether Menzel got through and had not heard from him when questioned.

Untersturmfuehrer Ertel, whom Spacil sent to withdraw R.S.H.A. funds still with the Reichsbank Berlin came back on the 21 April 1945 with gold, Pound Sterling, which was not counterfeit, dollars, Swiss francs, Danish crowns etc., totalling approximately 1 million RM. He reported that the Reichsbank was giving up all its foreign assets and that he had received more than was in the R.S.H.A. account.

Of this money, 3 sacks of gold francs and a large amount of mixed funds, totalling approximately 350,000.-- RM were given to Ohlendorf for use by Fuehrungsstab Nord. 3 more sacks of gold and assets were taken to Salzburg by Schiebel. Spacil took the remaining 1/3 to Salzburg on the 26 April. Schiebel's and Spacil's assets were divided among Skorzeny (2 - 3 sacks of gold), Obergruppenfuehrer Frank (1 sack of gold and miscellaneous funds), Dr. Hueber (some gold) and the Befehlshaber Oberdonau and Niederdonau.

Hauptsturmfuehrer Schuler kept considerable funds of the Amt VI at his office in Innsbruck. These funds were probably given to Skorzeny and consisted of approximately 2 million Reichsmarks and a considerable quantity of dollars.

Spacil said, that the heads of various Referate turned over their liquid assets to him at Salzburg, and that he in turn, distributed them to persons urgently requesting funds. Intendant Karius of Himmler's personal staff received 500,000.-- RM. Various sums went to the commander of the Salzburg garrison and the last of the gold and foreign exchange went to Scheidler.

Hauptsturmfuehrer Albert Apfelbeck of Spacil's staff had left 100,000.-- RM in the custody of Herr Pulzel of Pulzel's saw mill, Taxenbach, Austria, for later use of R.S.H.A. agents. Pulzel was questioned by CIC. He had only 46,000.-- RM.

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left but he made up the shortage from his bank account and handed over 100,000.-- RM to the CIC at Zell am See. Pulzel said that Apfelbeck had originally left with him a large manila envelope containing jewelry and perhaps foreign securities, but that on the 9 or 10 May 1945 Apfelbeck came back and got the envelope.

Before leaving Berlin, Spacil had received the order from Kaltenbrunner to make caches of valuables for use of resistance groups. He secured from the Berlin Reichsbank and from R.S.H.A. sources large sums in gold, jewelry, watches, rings, Reichsmarks and foreign securities.

A resume of Spacil's activities from his departure from Berlin is as follows:

- 22 April: Spacil flew from Berlin to Salzburg. He went to Bad Aussee to see Kaltenbrunner.
- 23 April: He returned to Salzburg.
- 24 April: He went to Schliersee. He spoke to Fichtner, Schuster, Hartmann and Mueller about evacuating goods from Schliersee and Markt Schwaben depots to Taxenbach and Wald.
- 25 April: He returned to Salzburg. He supplied foreign exchange to the R.S.H.A. leaders of Upper Danube and Lower Danube and to Obersturmbannfuhrer Hueber.
- 26 April: He ordered Schuler to turn over some diamonds and foreign securities to him and to report to Skorzeny with the balance he had on hand.
- 27 April: He spoke to Hauptsturmfuehrer Radl of Skorzeny's staff and turned over large sums in gold and securities to him. (2 sacks of gold coins, 5,000 gold francs)
- 2 May: He went from Salzburg to Taxenbach to expedite the burial of the treasure. He found the work in progress.

Spacil was arrested the 12 June 1945 at the 7th Army PW Camp at Fuerstenfeldbruck, Germany. He was disguised as a Wehrmacht Sergeant at the 352 Volksgrenadier-Division. He tried to buy his freedom by promising, he would pay over a million Reichsmarks in American currency and gold out of the much larger treasure. Through Spacil the valuables hidden at Taxenbach were recovered and form shipment No. 31.

Miss Biesecker, Secretary to Spacil, said that she believed that further caches had been made in the vicinity of Wald in Pongau, Austria.

Many valuables had allegedly been hidden in a soap factory in the town of Markt Schwaben a few days before the fall of Munich. The SS guard had thrown upon the doors and the people had helped themselves.

Roma Geib

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Finance Div. Meeting 4 Nov 1946, Berlin. (Mr. T. Ball presided).

At Mr. Gabell's suggestion I spoke as follows:

C I D visit

Representatives of the CID visited the Depository last Friday for the purpose, as stated, of reviewing our files in connection with an investigation of persons and organizations involved in the finding and delivery of valuables. It is understood Mr. Ball is familiar with this matter;

Depository Personnel being  
Billeted under one Roof

The arrival of more and more dependents in the Frankfurt area has at one time or another forced almost all members to move to less desirable billets. The requisitioning of a separate building large enough to house the entire staff seemed the only solution and has now been accomplished, including a B mess.

Jewel Experts

During most of the last three months we have had the services of two jewel experts from France. One of them recently informed us that his private business interests will force him to terminate his services with the Depository after Dec 20th. In the meantime Col. Brey has engaged four additional experts who are expected to arrive on the scene shortly. Efforts are now under way to obtain qualified German assistants to work with the increased number of experts.

Inventory Accounting

Following the preparation of inventory forms they must of course be posted to the accounting records. This latter operation is now well started. It was first contemplated that an addition to the T.O. would be necessary for this purpose but a method was devised whereby the detailed posting could be entrusted to a German bookkeeper. All entries are subsequently verified by American personnel.

T.O. Replacement

The Staff of the Depository is still short one member who is urgently needed as an assistant to Mr. Keller. The lack of this replacement is delaying the processing of inventory forms, a condition which will become acute with the arrival of more jewel experts.

Authority to Release Assets

The question was raised some time ago as to what authorizations were required to effect releases of valuables. A suggested procedure to be followed in such cases was submitted by the Depository and we are awaiting approval or further comment on this important matter.

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At conclusion Mr. Ball requested me to take up T.O. Replacement matter with Mr. Robertson. Latter subsequently stated he was hopeful of filling position during coming week.

Some of the matters mentioned by others were:

Mr. Freeman (Gen Ex & Blocking Control)

A trade agreement had been concluded with Austria along the lines of the one previously signed with Czechoslovakia. He will now visit Netherlands for the same purpose.

Mr. Lichtenstein (Fin. Institutions Branch)

A banking system for Germany has finally been approved and accepted by German authorities. This matter has been pending for an entire year.

Mr. Theodore Ball

He stressed that strenuous efforts are being made by all branches of Military Government to let German authorities handle their own affairs and that more and more functions are being turned back to the German administration.

Requested all divisions to make a brief report on their current activities; This report to be submitted by Wednesday so that it could be delivered promptly to General Clay. The latter is leaving shortly for the States in connection with peace treaty negotiations

Other Matters

Lt. Col. Staker handed me mail on train, for Foreign Exchange Depository representing accumulation of Saturday and Sunday, which he has made a practice of picking up at the Message Center in Berlin.

Mr. Rose of External Assets Branch inquired whether the Depository has any files or records pertaining to Foreign Exchange Assets. Mentioned the possibility of finding some such material in as yet uninventoried shipments but greater possibility that something of interest may be among files in basement behind the Supply Div. He is considering sending someone down to examine latter material.

Mr. Robertson stated Military Government Manpower Board has approved in writing the hiring of six jewel experts and subsequently gave me a copy of the approval.

Had a discussion with Mr. Ben Brown in reference to our still unanswered questions on currency, non-monetary gold, etc. and also stated we were interested in the return of our cable file on Currency policy. He said he had been very busy recently but expected to comply with all our requests early this week.

Left a typewritten list of thirty odd cable references with the Berlin Message Center. They agreed to prepare copies and forward them to us. This

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will make our cable file complete as to matters of Depository interest.



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15 August 1947

SUBJECT: Report concerning Berlin Inquiries of the Claims Section.

The following report refers to the result of various investigations made in Berlin.

1. Friedrichshall Mine, Wolfen, discovery.

A conference with Mr. Brauer, Director of the "Degussa" plant, Berlin, revealed no new viewpoints with respect to origin and ownership of those valuables which had been found in the Friedrichshall Mine. He explained that nearly all records of the "Degussa" had been destroyed by war events so that he only could confirm from memory the correctness of the known statement of Mr. Furler, Director of the Metal Dept. of "Degussa", Frankfurt-on-Main. A visit in connection with the same questions to the "Abwicklungsstelle der Reichsstelle fuer Edelmetalle", Berlin, Kurfuerstendamm 64, (Mr. Klöss and lawyer Mr. Stellbogen) was inasmuch successful as it was possible to get the address of the "Abwicklungsstelle der Roges", Berlin, Tirpitz Ufer 20. In the course of a following discussion, Mr. Klameth, Head of this office, handed over the annexed copy of an inventory of those valuables, held for account of the "Roges" at various places in Germany on 30 April 1945. Mr. Klameth could not give any information regarding precious metals found in the Friedrichshall Mine. However, he argued for the assumption that these metals probably originate from deposits specified in the inventory as being deposited at other places. The attached inventory therefore may give helpful indications in this respect.

*Degussa  
Roges  
also  
with diamonds  
found at  
Friedrichshall*

2. Merkers Mine - Inquiry re exact amounts of currency being on hand at the moment of the occupation by American troops.

Three visits to the Berlin Stadtkontor and detailed discussions with the 2nd director Mr. Loebbe and the former head of Currency Dept., Mr. Reekow, resulted in getting the annexed additional lists and letters which refer to the transfer of currency from Merkers Mine to other places. However, Mr. Loebbe explained that these records still were incomplete and would not allow to prepare an exact statement of those amounts of currency discovered by the American troops at Merkers Mine.

Currency

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The conference in the Berlin Stadtkontor furnished also some information re "Asservat Gerbaulet". Up to-day the 1,550,000. Swiss Francs belonging to this Asservat were believed to be included in the amount of currency discovered at Merkers Mine. Records, now delivered from the Berlin Stadtkontor, reveal that the whole "Asservat Gerbaulet" had been brought back from Merkers Mine to Berlin in March 1945 and that 250,000. Swiss Francs therefrom were transferred to South Germany in April 1945. Mr. Loebbe pointed out that to his knowledge this amount was deposited at the Reichsbank Lindau. The whereabouts of the remaining 1,300,000. Swiss Francs could not be cleared up. Furthermore Mr. Loebbe mentioned that "Gerbaulet" was the real name of a German, who had close connections to the German Oberkommando Wehrmacht and acted as an agent for the purchase of wares. It is unknown whether this man is still living or where he may stay.

3. Devisen Schutzkommando - Inquiry re functions in the western territories.

In the west the German conquering troops were followed among others by a working committee for the calling up of all gold, silver and foreign exchange in accordance with the relative German laws. This institution - named Devisen-Schutzkommando - was established by the German Ministry of Economics and the key-positions were in hand of officials of this ministry.

All secured material of the "Devisen-Schutzkommando Belgium" is administered by the Finance Division - Reports and Statistics Branch - (Mr. Fischbein). This branch is highly interested in getting information of new details concerning the sphere of activity of German institutions of Finance, Economics and Commerce and begs for the transmission of appropriate material. Three annexed reports in German, prepared in the Reports and Statistics Branch, give an idea of the activity of the Devisen-Schutzkommando Belgien. Following addresses, learned from the Reports and Statistics Branch, may interest:

- a. "Abwicklungsstelle des Devisen-Schutzkommandos Frankreich" - Potsdam - Oberrechnungskammer - Mammon-Str. 5, room 217.
- b. "Abwicklungsstelle des Devisen-Schutzkommandos Niederlande" - probable in the British Zone (Reichsbank Cleve?)

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Saw Mr. Stern of FE & BC and inquired as to what had become of securities holdings of Reichsbank, Berlin. Stern stated that whatever securities were held by the Reichsbank at time of capitulation were now in the hands of the Russians and that in his opinion the Polish claim for securities should be returned to them with the suggestion they take the matter of restitution up with their allies the Russians.

Discussed the matter of Wuerzburg silver coins with Mr. Jones (FE & BC). It developed that Stern had forwarded the original inquiry. Jones called Stern in but latter stated he had not yet received our reply. Stern departing Sunday night on a trip involving setting up of organization to disburse PW payments.

Stopped in to say hellow to Mr. Robertson. Told me he had 17 or 19,500 greenback dollars which he wanted me to bring back to Frankfurt as courier. It was also decided to hold Capt. Irlenborn over as an armed guard.

Ball at Harnach House for Messrs. Bennett and Ball

quite a swanky affair that was held in the main lounge. Messrs Bennett and Ball with their wives (Ball married two weeks ago) greeted each arriving guest with Robertson making the introductions. Women all in evening gowns and corsages. About twelve men wore tuxedos. Free drinks, Hors d'oeuvres, and punch. About 11 p.m. the musicians called for an announcement and Mr. Brown gave a short speech calling attention to the purpose of the party - Bennett's leaving to what might be termed the Heavenly region, and Ball taking over in Bennett's place, and also stating that he had been wondering why he (Brown) had been asked to make the speech of presentation and that now he knew why since he had to admit being embarrassed by the fact that the item to be presented was not yet available. At any rate it would be a scroll bearing the signatures of all members of the Finance Division.

Mr. Bennett spoke pleasantly thanking everybody for their splendid cooperation and hoping that the same help would be extended to Ball.

Mr. Ball then spoke to the effect that since Mr. Bennett had gone to the Heavenly region there was only one other place left for him to go to. Stated he did not hope to achieve the same degree of accomplishment credited to Mr. Bennett but that he would do his best. He got a good round of applause.

The FED contingent was present in full strength and looked very presentable.

Saturday, 22 March 1947

Saw Mr. Rose and obtained files covering Pahl interrogation. Did not sign receipt. Promised to return same after perusal.

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Saw Mr. Kagan in reference to getting transcript of SS Eoot testimony developed at Nuernberg trial. Fortunately his unit had made preliminary surveys of this matter for use of prosecutors at the trial and he had this report together with transcript of actual cross-examination at trial of Puhl and Pohl. He turned over all these files to me and I signed receipt therefore. Also informed me that further interrogations are pending and in event we have any more points requiring clarification to send him a memo which he will forward for inclusion with other matters on which principals will be questioned. Claimed he enjoyed close personal contacts with investigators preparing cases coming up for trial in six weeks.

Spoke to Brown re Freeman non-concurrence Law 53 matter. Told him we were merely trying to be helpful and that a writing on this subject may soon be expected from F.E.D. Brown stated he felt our proposal was a good one and that he felt Freeman also appreciated our efforts but that latter's jet-propelled nature left little time for tactful considerations.

Brown will come to Frankfurt on Wednesday to pick up his new Ford car and would appreciate being met at station by F.E.D.

Monday 24 March 1947

Saw Mr. Adler (on Brown's instructions) re matter of numismatic coin and Reichsbank securities. He has close contacts with Reichsbank and expects to have a meeting with Gerlich of Berliner Stadtkontor today. Gave him my phone number in Frankfurt.

Robertson informed me Capt. Irlenborn left by plane with \$ 19,000.-- this a.m.

Meeting (Ball)

The forty hour week arrangement has finally been definitely settled on previous basis, i.e. half off Wednesday Afternoon, half off Saturday a.m. No all day closing Saturdays.

Gen. Keating states some Branch Chiefs were in <sup>habit</sup> ~~habit~~ of writing or cabling to Washington re policy matters without letting their Branch Directors know. Constitutes an embarrassing situation which must cease. General Keating also suggested change in hours from 9 - 6 to 8 - 5. Will be put to vote. Ball laughingly urged everybody to vote for 9 - 6 as he liked to sleep mornings. Prevailing belief however that vote would be favourable to change to 8 - 5.

Ball stated he has decided to discontinue coming to office to work on Sundays but will always be available for any emergency at his home. Said he tried that out yesterday for first time and found he felt much better for it.

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Brown was seated ahead of me at meeting and beat me to the Hungarian silver restitution topic. He later informed me that F.E.D. would be solely responsible for all matters in connection with this restitution and all questions, suggestions and arrangements will be cleared through Colonel Brey, so that F.E.D. will be fully aware at all times of developments.

All Branch Chiefs should keep Mr. Ball informed of developments of any nature so that he will have some familiarity with subject in event of telephone calls.

Mr. Rose informed me two Frenchmen would arrive in Frankfurt on Wednesday, 26 March, for purpose of examining our records in reference to Belgian gold and that Mr. Ball had given his consent hereto. Asked Rose to provide Frenchmen with a letter addressed to us for identification purposes.

FRANK J. ROBERTS

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