

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

In re Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation
Case No. CV96-4849

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]

Claimed Account Owner: Frances Bernstein and Sara Bernstein¹

Claim Number: 221557/RT

This determination is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to Swiss bank accounts potentially owned by Frances Bernstein and Sarah Bernstein. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Frances (Fran, Franie) Bernstein (Burnstein) in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”).

This Certified Denial is to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relative, Sarah Bernstein (Burnstein, Tobias) (the “Claimed Account Owner”).

All denials are published, but where a claimant has requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimant, any relatives of the claimant other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a claim stating that Sarah Bernstein, who was Jewish, was her great-aunt’s mother. In several telephone conversations with the CRT, the Claimant further stated that Sarah Bernstein resided in Stuttgart, where she owned a jewelry store, and that she perished in

¹ The Claimant should note that this determination relates only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners stated above, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have submitted other claims. The CRT notes that the Claimant apparently claimed the account published as “*Frau S. Bernstein*,” but misread the publication to read “*Fran S. Bernstein*.” The Claimant thus stated that “Fran” was short for Frances, the name of her relative, Frances S. Bernstein. The Claimant did not indicate what the “S.” in her relative’s name stood for. The Claimant did state, however, that Frances Bernstein’s mother was Sarah Bernstein. In an attempt to conduct as comprehensive search as possible for any account possibly belonging to one of the Claimant’s relatives, the CRT has matched information provided by the Claimant about Sarah Bernstein, which is in part contradictory, to the information in the bank’s records about the Account Owner named S. Bernstein, to determine that the two are not the same individual.

the Holocaust in 1944 at the age of 72, which would mean that she was born in 1872. The Claimant also stated that her relative had a daughter who was born in Stuttgart on 7 July 1887.

The CRT's Investigation

The CRT matched the name of Sarah Bernstein (Burnstein) to the names of all account owners in the Account History Database and identified accounts belonging to individuals whose names match, or are substantially similar to, the name of the Claimed Account Owner. In doing so, the CRT used advanced name matching systems and computer programs, and considered variations of names, including name variations provided by Yad Vashem, The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, in Jerusalem, Israel, to ensure that all possible name matches were identified. However, a close review of the relevant bank records indicated that the information contained therein was inconsistent with the information the Claimant provided regarding the Claimed Account Owner. Accordingly, the CRT was unable to conclude that any of these accounts belonged to the Claimed Account Owner.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The list below contains names of account owners that match the name of the Claimed Account Owner and the reasons why the CRT has concluded that the Claimed Account Owner and an account owner are not the same person. If an account owner's place of residence was published, that place of residence is also listed.

Name: Frau S. Bernstein (Stuttgart, Germany)

Account Identification Number: 5029793; 5033168

Specifically, the Claimant stated that her relative, Sarah Bernstein, resided in Stuttgart, where her daughter was born in 1887 and where she owned a jewelry store. In contrast, the records show that the account owner had a different first name and resided in a different city, which is approximately 100 kilometers from Stuttgart, when the account was opened.

The Claimant should note that all accounts awarded by the CRT are published upon release on the CRT's website at www.crt-ii.org.

Right of Appeal and Request for Reconsideration

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules"), the Claimant may appeal this decision or submit a request for reconsideration within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision.

An appeal must be based upon a plausible suggestion of error regarding the CRT's conclusions set out in this decision. Any appeals which are submitted without a plausible suggestion of error shall be summarily denied. A request for reconsideration must be based on new documentary

evidence not previously presented to the CRT that, if considered, would have led to a different outcome of the claim. Claimants should briefly explain the relevance of the newly submitted documents in view of the conclusions stated in the certified decision.

The Claimant should send appeals and/or requests for reconsideration in writing to the following address: Oren Wiener, Claims Resolution Tribunal, Attention: Appeals / Request for Reconsideration, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland. If more than one account has been treated in this decision, the Claimant should identify the account, including, where available, the Account Identification Number, that forms the basis of the appeal and/or request for reconsideration.

Scope of the Denial

The CRT now considers the Claimant's claim to the accounts of Frances Bernstein and Sarah Bernstein closed. Please note that this decision applies only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owner identified herein, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have claimed accounts held by other persons or entities both in the Claim Number specified above and in other claims submitted to the CRT.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
18 March 2008