

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]
also acting on behalf of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

in re Accounts of Alfred Blum

Claim Number: 501562/AV

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the published accounts of Alfred Blum (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

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 Form asserting that his father, Alfred Blum, who was born on 19 April 1901 in Cernay, France, and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], on 20 March 1930 in Strasbourg, France, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant stated that his father, who was Jewish, resided in Rue Des Brois, Mulhouse, France from 1930 to 1932, when he moved to Cernay, and that from 1939 to 1940 he resided at 10, Rue Des Bonnes Gens, Mulhouse. According to the Claimant, although his parents were married in Strasbourg, they did not reside there until after the end of the Second World War. The Claimant also provided the names of his paternal uncles and grandfather. The Claimant further stated that his father died on 20 December 1962 in Strasbourg. The Claimant indicated that he was born on 2 March 1931 in Mulhouse.

The Claimant submitted documents in support of his claim, including his father’s military reservist papers, dated 18 January 1940, indicating his street address in Mulhouse.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to his relative, Alfred Blum. The auditors who carried out the investigation to identify accounts of Victims of Nazi Persecution pursuant to instructions of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or the “ICEP Investigation”) reported two accounts whose owner’s name matches that provided by the Claimant. Each account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Accounts 5026551 and 5034605

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner was Alfred Blum. The Bank's records also indicate the Account Owner's street address and city of residence.¹ Furthermore, the Bank's records indicate the names of two individuals who jointly owned the accounts at issue and their street address, city and country of residence. The Bank's records further indicate that these two joint account owners are closely related to the Account Owner.

The CRT's Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claim is admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules").

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as his relative. Although the name of his father matches the published name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs from the unpublished information about the Account Owner available in the Bank's records. Specifically, the Claimant did not identify the two joint account owners, even though they appear to be very closely related to the Account Owner. Furthermore, the Claimant stated that his father resided at Rue Des Brois, Mulhouse, France from 1930 to 1932, when he moved to Cernay, and from 1939 to 1940 he resided at 10, Rue Des Bonnes Gens, Mulhouse. In contrast the Bank's records show that the Account Owner resided in a different city, which is approximately 100 kilometers from Mulhouse and Cernay. The CRT notes that Mulhouse, Cernay and the Account Owner's city of residence are similarly sized French cities, rendering it unlikely that a resident of one of these cities would indicate as his or her city of residence the other city, including for purposes of maintaining a bank account. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owner and the Claimant's father are the same person.

Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules, the Claimant may appeal this Denial to the Court through the Special Masters within ninety (90) days of the date of the letter accompanying this decision. Appeals should be delivered to the following address: Office of Special Master Michael Bradfield, 51 Louisiana Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001 USA.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for the appeal. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant

¹ The CRT notes that on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP") to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the "ICEP List"), the Account Owner is indicated as a resident of Mulhouse, France. Upon careful review, the CRT has determined that the Account Owner actually resided elsewhere.

should identify the Account Identification Number which forms the basis of the appeal. Appeals submitted without either a plausible suggestion of error or relevant new evidence may be summarily denied.

Scope of the Denial

The Claimant should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on his claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by the Claimant or upon information from other sources.

Certification of the Denial

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
6 May 2006