

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Denial**

to Claimant [REDACTED]  
represented by [REDACTED]

## **in re Accounts of Rebekka Goldman**

Claim Number: 204351/MW

This Certified Denial is based upon the claim of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], (the “Claimant”) to the account of [REDACTED].<sup>1</sup> This Denial is to the published accounts of Rebekka Goldman (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All awards 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 identifying the Account Owner as her mother-in-law, Rebecca Goldman, née Bierstein, who was born on 1 December 1895 and was married to [REDACTED], the Claimant’s father-in-law, in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Claimant stated that her parents-in-law, who were Jewish, had two children, [REDACTED], the Claimant’s late husband, who was born on 23 June 1909 in Sofia, and [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], who was born on 31 January 1902 in Sofia. The Claimant explained that her father-in-law resided at Serdika 19 in Sofia, and was a well-known, wealthy egg exporter, who was decorated by the king of Bulgaria, and who often traveled on business to western countries in Europe, including Switzerland, where he deposited money because he feared Nazi persecution. The Claimant stated that her father-in-law died on 28 May 1941 in Sofia, and her mother-in-law died on 5 April 1945, also in Sofia.

The Claimant stated that between the years 1941 and 1944, her husband, who worked together with her father-in-law in the egg export business, was forced to work in slave labor camps in Bulgaria. The Claimant stated that as she was also subjected to Nazi persecution in Sofia, because she was prevented from attending university, was forced to wear the Star of David, and was deprived of all belongings, including her gold and jewelry. The Claimant indicated that she was expelled from Sofia and sent to the province near the Bulgarian border. The Claimant stated that, after the Second World War, she and her husband remained in Sofia until 1948, when they

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<sup>1</sup> The CRT will treat the claim to this account in a separate decision.

fled Communist Bulgaria for Paris, France, where they stayed for two years as refugees, and then emigrated to the United States. The Claimant indicated that her husband died on 27 March 1995 in Glen Cove, New York.

The Claimant submitted various documents, including an officially translated marriage certificate, which indicates that the Claimant married [REDACTED] Goldman on 15 October 1944 in Sofia, and the names of her parents-in-law; and her husband's death certificate, which indicates the names of her parents-in-law, and that he was born in Sofia. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 6 February 1925 in Sofia.

### **Information Available in the Bank's Record**

The Bank's record consists of a customer card. According to this record, the Account Owner was *Frau* (Mrs.) Rebekka Goldman, who resided in Sofia, Bulgaria. The Bank's record indicates that the Account Owner held a custody account, numbered L1415, and a demand deposit account. The custody account was opened on 18 January 1938 and closed on 29 January 1939, and the demand deposit account was opened on 25 June 1935 and closed on 24 March 1939. The amounts in the accounts on the date of their closure are unknown. There is no evidence in the Bank's record that the Account Owner or her heirs closed the accounts and received the proceeds themselves.

### **The CRT's Analysis**

#### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. Her mother-in-law's name matches the published name of the Account Owner.<sup>2</sup> The Claimant identified her mother-in-law's city of residence as Sofia, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's record. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted documents, including her marriage certificate, which indicates the name of her mother-in-law; and her husband's death certificate, which indicates his mother's name, and that he was born in Sofia, thereby providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name and resided in the same city of residence as the name and city of residence of the Account Owner. The CRT notes that there are no other claims to these accounts.

#### Status of the Account Owner as a Target of Nazi Persecution

The Claimant has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Target of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, and that she resided in Bulgaria after its alignment with the German Nazi regime. The Claimant further stated that both she and her husband were subject to persecution by the pro-Nazi regime in Bulgaria.

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<sup>2</sup> The CRT notes that the Claimant spelled the Account Owner's first name, Rebecca, differently than the spelling in the Bank's record, Rebekka; however, the CRT further notes that Rebekka is the German spelling of Rebecca.

### The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's mother-in-law. These documents include her marriage certificate, which indicates the name of her mother-in-law; and her husband's death certificate, which indicates his mother's name. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

In this case, the Account Owner held a custody account, numbered L1415, and a demand deposit account. The custody account was opened on 18 January 1938 and closed on 29 January 1939, and the demand deposit account was opened on 25 June 1935 and closed on 24 March 1939. The CRT notes that these accounts were closed before the enactment of the first Bulgarian anti-Semitic laws on 7 October 1940. Therefore, the CRT determines that the Account Owner was able to access these accounts, and concludes that the Account Owner closed these accounts herself and received the proceeds.

### **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 the Special Master, c/o Claims Resolution Tribunal, P.O. Box 9564, 8036 Zurich, Switzerland.

The Claimant should send appeals in writing to the above address and should include all reasons for 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, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on her claim to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which she might be entitled, including research of the Total Accounts Database (consisting of records of 4.1 million Swiss bank accounts which existed between 1933 and 1945).

### **Certification of the Denial**

The CRT certifies this Denial for approval by the Court.

Claims Resolution Tribunal  
8 August 2004