

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of W. A. Kaufmann¹

Claim Number: 203920/MG²

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the account of Willi (William) Kaufmann and Charlotte Kaufmann, née Mölders. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Willi (William) Kaufmann and Charlotte Kaufmann, née Mölders, 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 Denial is to the published account of W. A. Kaufmann (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 her father, Willi (William) Kaufmann, who was born on 22 June 1898 in Eberstat, Germany, and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], on 1 October 1934 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, owned a Swiss bank account. The Claimant stated that her father, who was Jewish, was a banker and a stockbroker and that he owned a newspaper publishing company, which was seized by the Nazis after his partner reported him as both a Jew and a communist. The Claimant stated that her father resided in Düsseldorf, Germany until 1934, when he fled to Amsterdam, where he stayed until 1940, and later fled to London, England. The Claimant indicated that her father died in the 1970s in Chicago, Illinois, the United States. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 17 November 1939 in Amsterdam.

¹ In an effort to locate any and all accounts that might have belonged to the Claimant’s relative, the CRT has reviewed and analyzed all accounts whose owners’ names are substantially similar to that of the Claimant’s relative, even if the Claimant did not specifically claim that particular account.

² The Claimant submitted an Initial Questionnaire with the Court in 1999 and a Claim Form to the CRT. The CRT is treating the Initial Questionnaire and the Claim Form under the consolidated Claim Number 203920.

The Claimant previously submitted an Initial Questionnaire with the Court in 1999, asserting her entitlement to a Swiss bank account owned by her parents, Willi Kaufmann and Charlotte Kaufmann, née Mölders.

The Claimant submitted documents in support of her application, including her birth certificate, which indicates that her father's name was Willi Kaufmann.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to her relative, Willi (William) Kaufmann. The auditors who carried out the ICEP Investigation reported one account whose owner's name is substantially similar to that provided by the Claimant. The account is identified below by its Account Identification Number, which is a number assigned to the account by the ICEP auditors for tracking purposes.

Account 2016380

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner was W. A. Kaufmann, who resided in Berlin, Germany. The Bank's records also indicate the Account Owner's street address. Furthermore, the Bank's records indicate the date of closing of the account at issue.

The CRT's Analysis

Admissibility of the Claim

The CRT has determined that the claim is admissible according to Article 18 of the Rules.

Identification of the Account Owner

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owner as her relative. Although the name of her father is substantially similar to the published name of the Account Owner, the information provided by the Claimant differs from the published information about the Account Owner available in the Bank's records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that her father resided in Düsseldorf, Germany until 1934, when he fled to Amsterdam, Holland, where he stayed until 1940, and later fled to London, England. In contrast, the Bank's records show that the Account Owner resided in Berlin, Germany, which is over 400 kilometers away from Düsseldorf and to which the Claimant did not establish any connection. Furthermore, the Bank's records indicate the Account Owner's middle initial, "A," which was not identified by the Claimant as the middle initial of her father. 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 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. If more than one account has been denied in this Certified Denial, the Claimant should identify the Account Identification Number that 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 her 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
30 September 2004