

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Denial**

to Claimant George Pal

**Claimed Account Owners: Victor Pal, Ernst Steffen and Susanne Steffen<sup>1</sup>**

Claim Number: 215402/SB

This determination is based on the claim of George Pal (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by Victor Pal, Ernst Steffen and Susanne Steffen. The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Victor Pal 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 the Swiss bank account of Susanne Steffen as published on the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”) to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the “ICEP List”) and potentially owned by the Claimant’s relative, Victor (Gyozo) Pal (Gruenfeld) (the “Claimed Account Owner”).

All denials are published. Where a claimant has not requested confidentiality, as in this case, only the name of the bank has been redacted.

## **Information Provided by the Claimant**

The Claimant submitted a claim stating that his father, Victor Pal who was Jewish, agreed that his work colleague, Ernst Steffen, would open an account on his father’s behalf, using the pseudonym Susanne Steffen. In his claim the Claimant stated that prior to 1939, his father worked and resided in Czechoslovakia.

## **The CRT’s Investigation**

The CRT matched the names of Ernst Steffen and Susanne Steffen to the names of all account owners in the Account History Database and identified accounts belonging to individuals whose

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

names match, or are substantially similar to, the name of the Claimed Account Owners. 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 Owners. Accordingly, the CRT was unable to conclude that any of these accounts belonged to the Claimed Account Owners.

## **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: Susanne Steffen (Vienna, Austria) Ernst Steffen (power of attorney holder)*

*Account Identification Number: 5029727*

*Specifically, the Claimant stated that Ernst Steffen opened an account on behalf of the Claimant's father, Victor Pal, using the pseudonym Susanne Steffen. In contrast, the records do not show that the account was opened under a false or assumed name, or that the account was opened by, or on behalf of, any third party. Further, the CRT notes that the Claimant stated that prior to 1939 his father worked and resided in Czechoslovakia, whereas the records show that in the early 1930s the account owner resided in Austria.*

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](http://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 Victor Pal, Ernst Steffen and Susanne Steffen closed. Please note that this decision applies only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owners 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  
29 September 2008