

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant [REDACTED]

**in re Account of Marianne Siegmann-Altmann
and Robert Siegmann-Altmann**

Claim Number: 300308/SB

This Certified Denial is based on the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Marianne Siegmann-Altmann and Robert Siegmann-Altmann (“M. Siegmann-Altmann” and “R. Siegmann-Altmann”) (together the “Account Owners”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).¹

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 aunt, Marianne Siegmann-Altmann, and uncle, Robert Siegmann-Altmann, who were Jewish, owned a Swiss bank account. According to the Claimant, his relatives, who were siblings, resided in Poland and their family owned a drinks factory in Drohobycz, Poland. The Claimant stated that he has no knowledge of his relatives’ fate during the Second World War. The Claimant further stated that he was born on 2 March 1934 in Brno, Czechoslovakia.

Information Available in the Bank’s Records

The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted a claim to an account belonging to his relatives, Marianne Siegmann-Altmann and Robert Siegmann-Altmann. 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 one account whose owners’ names match those provided by the Claimant. Upon review of the Bank’s documents, the CRT also located one additional account that was not reported by the auditors. 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.

¹ In this claim, the Claimant also claimed the account of Mathias Siegmann. The CRT will treat the claim to this account in a separate determination.

Accounts 5030272 and 5030272.1

The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owners were Marianne Siegmann-Altmann and Robert Siegmann-Altmann, and that the power of attorney holders were Herta Freund and Laci Freund. The Bank's records also indicate M. Siegmann-Altmann's maiden name, R. Siegmann-Altmann's title, and power of attorney holder Laci Freund's profession. Finally, the Bank's records contain the Account Owners' and the power of attorney holders' signatures.

Information Available from State Archive

By decree on 26 April 1938, the Nazi Regime required all Jews who resided within the Reich, or who were nationals of the Reich, and who held assets above a specified level to register all their assets as of 27 April 1938 (the "1938 Census"). In the records of the Austrian State Archive (Archive of the Republic, Finance), there are documents concerning the assets of Robert Siegmann. The 1938 Census records indicate Robert Siegmann's date of birth, title, profession, street address, city and country of residence, the name of his spouse, including her maiden name, and the location of his business. These records also contain Robert Siegmann's signature.

Based upon the information contained in the 1938 Census records and the Bank's records, the CRT concludes that the individual named Robert Siegmann in the 1938 Census records is R. Siegmann-Altmann and that his spouse is M. Siegmann-Altmann.

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 Owners

The CRT concludes that the Claimant has not identified the Account Owners as his relatives. Although the name of his aunt and uncle matches the published names of the Account Owners, the information provided by the Claimant differs materially from the unpublished information about the Account Owners available in the Bank's records and the 1938 Census records. Specifically, the Claimant stated that his relatives were siblings and resided in Poland. In contrast, the 1938 Census records show that the Account Owners had a different familial relationship and resided in a different country, which the Claimant did not identify. Consequently, the CRT is unable to conclude that the Account Owners and the Claimant's relatives are the same person. Moreover, it should be noted that the CRT has awarded the accounts to another claimant, who plausibly identified the Account Owners as his relatives. All decisions are published upon release on the CRT's website at www.crt-ii.org.

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 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
23 January 2006