

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Denial**

to Claimant [REDACTED]

**Claimed Account Owner: Leo Stern<sup>1</sup>**

Claim Number: 500360/RT

This Certified Denial is to the claim of [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relative, Leo (Karl) Stern (the “Claimed Account Owner”).

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 stating that Leo Stern, who was Jewish, resided in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic) between 1914 and 1939, when he was deported. The Claimant further stated that Leo Stern could escape from the transport and fled to Lwow, (formerly Poland, later Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, now Lviv, Ukraine) where he later perished. The Claimant further stated that his relative was the owner of a forest in Austria and a lumber mill in Jablunkov, Czechoslovakia. The Claimant also stated that his relative rented an additional lumber mill in Kaschau (Kosice), Czechoslovakia (now Kosice, Slovakia). The CRT notes that the Claimant provided documents which show that his relative resided in Ostrava, that he had a lumber mill in Jablunkov and was the owner of a forest in Austria. The Claimant did not provide any documents which would establish a connection between his relative and Kosice.

### **The CRT’s Investigation**

The CRT matched the name of Leo (Karl) Stern to the names of all account owners in the Account History Database and identified accounts belonging to individuals whose names match, or are substantially similar to, the name of the Claimed Account Owner. 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

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<sup>1</sup> The Claimant should note that this determination relates only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owner stated above, and that the CRT is aware that the Claimant may have submitted other claims.

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 Owner. Accordingly, the CRT was unable to conclude that any of these accounts belonged to the Claimed Account Owner.

## **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: Leo Stern (Kosice, Czechoslovakia)*

*Account Identification Number: 5026491*

*Specifically, the Claimant stated that his relative, Leo Stern, resided in Ostrava. The Claimant further stated that Leo Stern had a lumber mill in Jablunkov and was the owner of a forest in Austria. The Claimant also stated that his relative rented an additional lumber mill in Kosice. In contrast, the records show that the account owner resided in Kosice, which is over 350 kilometers from Ostrava and over 300 kilometers from Jablunkov. The CRT further notes that the records do not indicate that the account owner's address was a business address. The CRT also notes that while the Claimant provided documents which show that his relative resided in Ostrava, was the owner of a lumber mill in Jablunkov and the owner of a forest in Austria, he did not provide any documents which establish a connection between his relative and Kosice.*

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 Leo Stern closed. Please note that this decision applies only to the Claim Number and Claimed Account Owner 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