

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Denial**

to Claimant Monika Zolko

**in re Account of Emil Stransky**

Claim Number: 400482/MBC

This Certified Denial is based upon the claim of Monika Zolko, née Stransky, (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Emil Stransky (the “Account Owner”), over which Regine Stransky (the “Power of Attorney Holder”) held power of attorney, at the Zurich branch of the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

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 Form identifying the Account Owner as her father’s cousin, Emil Stransky, who was born in Czechoslovakia. The Claimant indicated that her father’s cousin, who was Jewish, resided before the Second World War in Brno, Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic), until his deportation to a concentration camp, where he perished. In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted a copy of her passport, indicating that Monika Zolko was born to Jorge and Valerie Stransky in Czechoslovakia. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 9 November 1937 in Brno.

### **Information Available in the Bank’s Records**

The Bank’s records consist of a customer card and printouts from the Bank’s database. According to these records, the Account Owner was *Ing.* (engineer) Emil Stransky who resided at Kreuzgasse 65 in Brno, Czechoslovakia and the Power of Attorney Holder was Regine Stransky, also from Brno. The Bank’s records indicate that the Account Owner held one custody account, numbered 40827. The Bank’s records indicate that the account was opened no later than 17 June 1931 and was closed on 19 December 1938. The amount in the account on the date of its closure is unknown.

## **The CRT's Analysis**

### Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant's father's cousin's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The Claimant identified the Account Owner's city and country of residence, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. Additionally, the CRT notes that a database containing the names of victims of Nazi persecution includes a person named Emil Stransky, and indicates that he was an engineer, and that he was transported from Brno to Theresienstadt and later to a concentration camp in Poland, which matches the information about the Account Owner provided by the Claimant. The database is a compilation of names from various sources, including the Yad Vashem Memorial of Israel.

The CRT notes that there are no other claims to this account. Taking all of these factors into account, the CRT concludes that the Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner.

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

The Claimant has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. The Claimant stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, and that he was deported to a concentration camp, where he perished. As noted above, a person named Emil Stransky was included in the CRT's database of victims.

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

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific biographical information, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's father's cousin. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified unpublished information about the Account Owner as contained in the Bank's records and that the Claimant also identified information which matches information contained in the Yad Vashem records. The CRT further notes that the Claimant submitted a copy of her passport, which provides independent verification that the Claimant's relatives bore the same family name and resided in the same country as the Account Owner. Finally, the CRT notes that the foregoing information is of the type that family members would possess and indicates that the Account Owner was well known to the Claimant as a family member, and all of this information supports the plausibility that the Claimant is related to the Account Owner, as she has asserted in her Claim Form. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the account was closed on 19 December 1938. The CRT notes that this date is prior to 15 March 1939, which is the date on which Czechoslovakia was occupied by Nazi Germany. Therefore, the CRT concludes that the Account Owner closed the account and received the proceeds himself.

### Right of Appeal

Pursuant to Article 30 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (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. 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 and by the Special Masters.

Claims Resolution Tribunal  
17 November 2006