

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant Joachim Strauss

Claimed Account Owner: Max Strauss¹

Claim Number: 205007/RT

This Certified Denial is to the claim of Joachim Strauss (the “Claimant”) to a Swiss bank account potentially owned by the Claimant’s relative, Max (Markus) Strauss (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, Max Strauss, who was Jewish, was married to Louise Jakobine Strauss, née Voigt, and resided in Hanau, Germany. The Claimant further stated that Max Strauss worked in Frankfurt am Main, and that he (the Claimant) was his father’s only child. The CRT notes that the Claimant submitted his father’s birth, marriage, and death certificates, all of which refer to his father as “Markus Strauss.” The documents submitted by the Claimant do not refer to the Claimant’s father as “Max Strauss.”

The CRT’s Investigation

The CRT matched the name of Max (Markus) Strauss 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 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.

¹ 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.

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: Max Strauss (Mannheim, Germany)

Account Identification Numbers: 4019933; 4019934

Specifically, the Claimant stated that his father, Max Strauss, resided in Hanau and worked in Frankfurt am Main. In contrast, the records show that the account owner resided in Mannheim, which is approximately 100 kilometers from Hanau and over 50 kilometers from Frankfurt am Main. The CRT notes that both Frankfurt am Main and Mannheim are major urban centers and that Hanau is a smaller city, and that there are several major cities significantly closer to Hanau than Mannheim, thus rendering it unlikely that a resident of Hanau or Frankfurt would indicate Mannheim as his/her place of residence, even for the purposes of maintaining a Swiss bank account. Furthermore, the CRT notes that the Claimant submitted his father's birth, marriage, and death certificates, all of which refer to his father as "Markus Strauss." The documents submitted by the Claimant do not refer to the Claimant's father as "Max Strauss."

Name: Max Strauss (Frankfurt am Main, Germany); Lilly Stern-Strauss, Betty Strauss-Haas (power of attorney holder)

Account Identification Number: 5030242

Specifically, the Claimant stated that his father, Max Strauss, was married to Louise Jakobine Strauss, née Voigt, and that he was their only child. In contrast, the records show that the account owner was married to a different person and had more than one child.

Name: M. Strauss

Account Identification Number: 5035830

Specifically, the Claimant stated that his father, Max Strauss, resided in Hanau and worked in Frankfurt am Main. In contrast, the records show that the account owner resided in a different city which is over 150 kilometers from Hanau and over 100 kilometers from Frankfurt am Main. The CRT notes that both Frankfurt am Main and the account owner's place of residence are major urban centers, and that Hanau is a smaller city and that there are several major cities significantly closer to Hanau than the account owner's place of residence, thus rendering it unlikely that a resident of Frankfurt or Hanau would indicate the account owner's distant city of residence as his/her place of residence, even for the purposes of maintaining a Swiss bank account. Furthermore, the CRT notes that the Claimant submitted his father's birth, marriage, and death certificates, all of which refer to his father as "Markus Strauss." The documents submitted by the Claimant do not refer to the Claimant's father as "Max Strauss."

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.

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 Max Strauss 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
19 July 2007