

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Denial

to Claimant Suzanne Pinguet

in re Accounts of Paul Weiss

Claim Number: 219863/MBC¹

This Certified Denial is based upon the claim of Suzanne Renée Pinguet, née Reininger, (the “Claimant”) to the published account of Paul Weiss. This Denial is to the unpublished accounts of Paul Weiss (the “Account Owner”) at the Zurich branch of [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).²

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 maternal uncle, Paul Weiss, who was born on 6 January 1901 in Vienna, Austria, and was married to Hélène Louise Denise Weiss, née Boucheron, on 28 October 1935 in Yvry sur Seine, France. According to the Claimant, the couple had no children. The Claimant stated that from 1930, her uncle, who was Jewish, ran a wood import-export business in Paris, France. The Claimant further stated that both his residence and business were located at 122 rue de la Faisanderie in Paris XVI. According to the Claimant, her uncle fled from France to Spain in 1940, and subsequently traveled from Spain to South America. The Claimant stated that her uncle returned to Paris after the Second World War and resided at 122 rue de la Faisanderie until his death on 21 September 1976. The Claimant further stated that her aunt died on 16 February 1983 in Monaco.

In support of her claim, the Claimant submitted copies of: a notarized statement, which indicates that the Claimant’s mother, Gertrude Reininger, née Weiss, died on 5 August 1983; and a notarized certificate, which indicates that Paul Weiss died without issue. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 25 December 1937 in Vienna.

¹ The Claimant submitted an additional claim to the account of Gertrud Reininger, which is registered under the Claim Number 219864. The CRT will treat the claim to this account in a separate decision.

² The CRT notes that the name Paul Weiss appears on both the February 2001 published list of accounts determined by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP”) to be probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the “ICEP List”) and the List of Account Owners Published in 2005 (the “2005 List”). Upon careful review, the CRT has determined that these persons named Paul Weiss are not the same person addressed in the aforementioned decision and, consequently, the Claimant did not identify these other account owners as her relatives.

Information Available in the Bank's Records

The Bank's records consist of a signature sample card, a letter from the Bank to the Account Owner dated 26 March 1940, and a letter from the Bank to the Account Owner in an illegible date in early June 1940. According to these records, the Account Owner was *Monsieur* (Mr.) Paul Weiss, who resided at 122, Rue de la Faisanderie in Paris XVI, France. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held two demand deposit accounts. The Bank's records further indicate that the accounts were closed on 8 June 1940 by way of payment by check to the Account Owner at his Paris address, and that the accounts were closed pursuant to instructions given by the Account Owner in letters dated 30 and 31 May 1940. The amounts in the accounts on the dates of their closure were 124.20 and 23.20 United States Dollars, respectively.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. Her uncle's name matches the name of the Account Owner. The Claimant identified her uncle's street address in Paris, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. The CRT notes that the other claims to this account were disconfirmed because those claimants provided different countries of residence than the country of residence of 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 forced to flee from France to South America in 1940.

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 maternal uncle. The CRT notes that the Claimant identified unpublished information about the Account Owner as contained in the Bank's records. The CRT further notes that the Claimant submitted copies of a notarized certificate and notarized statement regarding the Account Owner and his wife. The CRT notes that it is plausible that these documents are documents which most likely only a family member would possess. 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 Owner held two demand deposit accounts, which were closed at the Account Owner's request on 8 June 1940 by way of payment by check to the Account Owner. Therefore, the CRT concludes that the Account Owner received the proceeds of the claimed accounts.

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.

Claims Resolution Tribunal
17 November 2006