

# CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

## **Certified Denial**

to Claimants [REDACTED 1]

and [REDACTED 2]

## **in re Account of Laszlo Rozsa**

Claim Numbers: 204582/MBC, 224468/MBC and 732447/MBC<sup>1</sup>

This Certified Denial is based upon the claims of [REDACTED 1], née [REDACTED], (“Claimant [REDACTED 1]”) to the unpublished accounts of Zsuzsanna Gretszy<sup>2</sup> and the claim of [REDACTED 2] (“Claimant [REDACTED 2]”) (together the “Claimants”) to the published account of Laszlo Rozsa. This Denial is to the published account of Laszlo Rozsa (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

All denials are published, but where the claimants have requested confidentiality, as in this case, the names of the claimants, any relatives of the claimants other than the account owner, and the bank have been redacted.

## **Information Provided by the Claimants**

### Claimant [REDACTED 1]

Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her father, Laszlo Rozsa (also known as Rosenfeld), who was born on 8 December 1899 in Győr, Hungary. In a telephone conversation with the CRT on 19 February 2003, Claimant [REDACTED 1] stated that her father was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], in Keszthely, Hungary, in 1925. Claimant [REDACTED 1] stated that the family moved from Keszthely to Budapest, Hungary in 1930. Claimant [REDACTED 1] further stated that her father, who was Jewish, was

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<sup>1</sup> [REDACTED 1] did not submit a Claim Form to the CRT. However, in 1999 she submitted an Initial Questionnaire (“IQ”), numbered HUN 0125 139, to the Court in the United States. Although this IQ was not a Claim Form, the Court, in an Order signed on 30 July 2001, ordered that those Initial Questionnaires which can be processed as claim forms be treated as timely claims. Order Concerning Use of Initial Questionnaire Responses as Claim Forms in the Claims Resolution Process for Deposited Assets (July 30, 2001). The IQ was forwarded to the CRT and has been assigned claim number 732447.

<sup>2</sup> The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Claimant [REDACTED 1] in the Account History Database prepared pursuant to the investigation of the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (“ICEP” or “ICEP Investigation”), which identified accounts probably or possibly belonging to Victims of Nazi Persecution, as defined in the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the “Rules”). Claimant [REDACTED 1] should be aware that the CRT will carry out further research on her claim to determine whether an award may be made based upon the information provided by Claimant [REDACTED 1] or upon information from other sources.

a businessman who owned a textile shop, as well as a textile company which employed at least 50 seamstresses. Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that her family lived at 102 Kiraly u. in Budapest, Hungary. Finally, Claimant [REDACTED 1] stated that her father was deported to a slave labor camp in 1944, but survived the Holocaust and died in Budapest on 29 May 1971.

Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted documents including the official public announcement of her parents' engagement, which indicates that her father, Laszlo Rozsa, lived in Budapest, Hungary; Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s birth certificate, which indicates that her father's name was Laszlo Rozsa; a deportation document which indicates that Laszlo Rozsa lived in Budapest and was deported to a slave labor camp in October 1944; and the death certificate of Laszlo Rozsa, indicating that he was born on 8 December 1899 and died on 29 May 1971. Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that she was born on 30 September 1929 in Keszthely. Claimant [REDACTED 1] previously submitted an Initial Questionnaire ("IQ") with the Court in 1999, asserting her entitlement to a Swiss bank account owned by herself.<sup>3</sup>

#### Claimant [REDACTED 2]

Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as his father, Laszlo Rozsa (also known as Rosenzweig), who was born on 28 December 1903 in Igal, Hungary, and was married to [REDACTED], née [REDACTED], on 28 December 1946 in Budapest, Hungary. Claimant [REDACTED 2] stated that he was the only child of his father, who was Jewish and was a trader of agricultural goods, vehicles, and motorcycles in Igal-Kaposvár, Hungary. Claimant [REDACTED 2] further stated that, following the enactment of the first anti-Jewish legislation in Hungary in 1938, his father sold his business, opened a Swiss bank account and moved to Budapest. Claimant [REDACTED 2] stated that his father was captured and pressed into forced labor by the Hungarian army. In a telephone conversation with the CRT on 10 August 2004, Claimant [REDACTED 2] further stated that, he believed his father may have been transferred to a Hungarian ghetto in 1944 or thereabouts, after which he was transported to the Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria, where he was later liberated by the United States army. Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that after the war, his father returned to Budapest, and remained there until his death on 10 July 1986.

Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted documents including his passport, which indicated that his name was [REDACTED]; and his father's provisional identification card for civilian internees of Mauthausen, which indicates that Laszlo Rozsa lived in Budapest and was interned in Mauthausen between 8 April 1945 and 5 May 1945. Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that he was born on 10 September 1947. Claimant [REDACTED 2] previously submitted an IQ with the Court in 1999 asserting his entitlement to a Swiss bank account owned by Laszlo Rozsa.

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<sup>3</sup> The CRT did not locate an account belonging to Claimant [REDACTED 1] in the Account History Database. See *supra*, note 2.

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

The Bank's records consist of a customer card and a safe deposit box registry card. According to these records, the Account Owner was Laszlo Rozsa who resided in Budapest, Hungary. The Bank's records indicate that the Account Owner held a safe deposit box account numbered 1469, which was opened on 5 November 1938. The Bank's records indicate that the safe deposit box was closed on 18 November 1939. The contents of the safe deposit box on the date of its closure are unknown.

## **The CRT's Analysis**

### Joinder of Claims

According to Article 37(1) of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process, as amended (the "Rules"), claims to the same or related accounts may be joined in one proceeding at the CRT's discretion. In this case, the CRT determines it appropriate to join the two claims of the Claimants in one proceeding.

### Identification of the Account Owners

Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s father's name and country of residence match the published name and city and country of residence of the Account Owner. Claimant [REDACTED 1] indicated that her father lived in Budapest, Hungary, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. In support of her claim, Claimant [REDACTED 1] submitted documents, including the official engagement announcement of her parents, which indicates that her father, Laszlo Rozsa, lived in Budapest, Hungary, and a deportation document, which indicates that Laszlo Rozsa lived in Budapest, providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name and resided in the same city recorded in the Bank's records as the name and city of residence of the Account Owner.

Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s father's name and country of residence match the published name and country of residence of the Account Owner. Claimant [REDACTED 2] indicated that his father lived in Budapest, which matches unpublished information about the Account Owner contained in the Bank's records. In support of his claim, Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted documents, including his father's provisional identification card for civilian internees of Mauthausen, Austria, which indicates that his father, Laszlo Rozsa, lived in Budapest, providing independent verification that the person who is claimed to be the Account Owner had the same name and resided in the same city recorded in the Bank's records as the name and city of residence of the Account Owner. Claimant [REDACTED 2] also indicated that his father opened the account in 1938, which matches unpublished information about the account opening date contained in the bank records.

The CRT notes that Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s relative and Claimant [REDACTED 2]'s relative are not the same person. However, given that the Claimants have identified all published

and unpublished information about the Account Owner that is available in the Bank's records; that the information provided by each Claimant supports and in no way contradicts any information available in the Bank's records; that there is no additional information available in the Bank's records; that there is no additional information in the Bank's records which would provide a basis for the CRT to make any further determinations as to the identity of the Account Owner; and that the other claim to this account was disconfirmed because that claimant provided a different country of residence than the country of residence of the Account Owner, the CRT concludes that the Claimants have plausibly identified the Account Owner.

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

Claimant [REDACTED 1] has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 1] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, and that he was deported to a slave labor camp in 1944. Claimant [REDACTED 1] also submitted a deportation document which indicates that Laszlo Rozsa lived in Budapest and was deported to a slave labor camp in October 1944.

Claimant [REDACTED 2] has made a plausible showing that the Account Owner was a Victim of Nazi Persecution. Claimant [REDACTED 2] stated that the Account Owner was Jewish, and was deported to a ghetto in 1944 or thereabouts, after which he was transported to Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted a provisional identification card for civilian internees of Mauthausen, Austria, which indicates that Laszlo Rozsa lived in Budapest and was interned in Mauthausen between 8 April 1945 and 5 May 1945.

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

Claimant [REDACTED 1] has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s father. These documents include Claimant [REDACTED 1]'s birth certificate, which indicates that her father's name was Laszlo Rozsa.

Claimant [REDACTED 2] has plausibly demonstrated that he is related to the Account Owner by submitting specific information and documents, demonstrating that the Account Owner was the Claimant's father. The CRT notes that Claimant [REDACTED 2] filed an IQ with the Court in 1999, identifying the relationship between the Account Owner and Claimant [REDACTED 2], prior to the publication in February 2001 of accounts identified by the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons ("ICEP" or the "ICEP Investigation") as probably or possibly those of Victims of Nazi Persecution (the "ICEP List"). The CRT further notes that Claimant [REDACTED 2] submitted a copy of his passport, which provides independent verification that he bears the same last name 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 Claimant [REDACTED 2] as a family member, and all this information supports the plausibility that Claimant [REDACTED 2] is related to the Account Owner, as he has asserted in his Claim Form.

### The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The Bank's records indicate that the safe deposit box, numbered 1469, was closed on 18 November 1939. The CRT notes that this closure occurred prior to Hungary joining the Axis alliance on 20 November 1940, and therefore the CRT determines that the Account Owner was able to access this account, and concludes that the Account Owner closed his safe deposit box and received the proceeds.

### **Scope of the Award**

The Claimants should be aware that, pursuant to Article 20 of the Rules, the CRT will carry out further research on their claims to determine whether there are additional Swiss bank accounts to which they 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 Award**

The CRT certifies this Award for approval by the Court and payment by the Special Masters.

Claims Resolution Tribunal  
18 November 2004