

April 4, 1946

My dear Mr. Paul:

In their memorandum of March 29, 1946, the Allied Delegations stated that a minimum amount of \$200,000,000 worth of gold looted by Germany was transferred to Switzerland in the course of the war.

At our request for further facts and documents you were good enough to send us an additional memorandum on March 31. As the information contained in both these communications is on many points contrary to our own, we hope that you will see your way to furnishing us with still further and more concrete data which alone would allow us to understand fully your claims and their bases. You will, of course, readily appreciate that all facts and figures about which no questions are raised in this paper are not for that reason to be taken to be accepted as convincing and indisputable by the Swiss Delegation.

We venture, in particular, to request you to be good enough to enlighten us on the following points:

1. Under "1" you mention the total amount of non-looted gold available to the Germans during the war and also the amount of non-looted gold available to the German Reichsbank on June 30, 1940. Furthermore, you give some figures concerning the total amount of gold, looted and other, available to the Germans on June 30, 1940. We should appreciate it if you could supply us with a detailed analysis of these funds, in order to allow us to understand how these totals were reached, and with a critical synopsis of the documentary evidence on which your estimates are based.

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The Honorable

Randolph Paul

Special Assistant to the President

Department of State

Washington, D. C.

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It would be of some interest also to know the total amount available to the Germans and to the Reichsbank at the outbreak of the war. We noted your statement to the effect that "the only significant source of legitimate gold still available to the Germans after June 30, 1940, was Russia". Would you be good enough to tell us why you do not consider countries such as Hungary, Italy, Japan, Portugal, Rumania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

2. Under "2" of your memorandum you give some information concerning the amounts of gold looted by Germany in occupied countries.

- a. Who in your estimation is to be considered in the various categories to be the dispossessed legal owners: the state, the bank of issue, corporations, private individuals, etc., and for what amounts?
- b. To what extent have these injured parties already been indemnified out of the gold discovered by the occupying powers in Germany or elsewhere?
- c. How are the actual circumstances to be established under which these predatory operations took place? Is it known when, where, by whom and in what way these different amounts of gold came into the possession of the Germans? And whether and to what amount direct or indirect compensation was made to the previous holders or to the original legal owners? Is there any documentary evidence available concerning these transactions? In cases in which looted gold has been identified, it would be very helpful to receive a description of it, including unit marks, bar numbers, and weights, and corresponding indications concerning possibly looted gold coins.

3. Under "3" the Allied Delegations furnish two figures concerning gold found in Germany.

- a. Do these amounts include gold which might have been found in the Russian zone of occupation? Is it possible that there are further

amounts

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amounts which might have been found outside of Germany?

- b. How was this gold identified, for instance, that found in the salt mines of Merckers, and what use has been made of it thus far?

4. Under "4" you indicate certain transfers of gold from the German Reichsbank to Sweden.

- a. Did this gold, which was first accepted by Sweden and then later returned to Germany, consist of bullion which was identified? Are the amounts which were thus accepted and subsequently returned identical not only in value but also in substance?
- b. What reason were given by Sweden for these restitutions? Did any economic operations correspond to this movement of gold? What counter value did Sweden receive for the restitution of these amounts to the German Reichsbank?
- c. Is it known where this gold is located today and is it alleged that this gold is identical with the so-called Belgian gold?

5. In the memorandum communicated to us by the French Delegation and dated March 15, 1946, certain data were furnished concerning this so-called Belgian gold. We would much appreciate it if this information could be supplemented on the following points:

- a. We should like to receive full details concerning the history of the gold from the time of its transfer from the Bank of Belgium to the Bank of France until the time when it was taken over on deposit by the Germans.
- b. Would it be possible to inform us why the Belgian request for restitution of this gold by France, formulated shortly before the Franco-German armistice, was not complied with?
- c. It would be appreciated if, in accordance with the previous offer, photostatic copies of the documents of the Reichsbank and the German Mint could be furnished with regard to the melting of this gold and the recording of the whole transaction in the books of the Reichsbank.
- d. When were the Allies apprised of:

(1)

- (1) the transfer of Belgian gold to Germany,
- (2) the final appropriation of Belgian gold by the German Reichsbank?

6. During the years 1941-1943, the Bank of France transferred an amount of 280 million Swiss francs to the Swiss National Bank. We would be grateful to be informed of the origin of this gold.

7. What measures did the Bank of France take for the safekeeping of its own gold reserves and when were these measures taken?

The Swiss Delegation would welcome a definition of looted property as understood by the Allies and a clear statement as to the relations existing in their eyes between their attitude in this matter and the laws of war recognized by the nations and codified in the Hague Convention concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land, to which the belligerents constantly referred during the last war.

Are the Allied Delegations in a position to make any binding declarations on behalf of all possible public and private claimants against Switzerland in the matter of gold received by her from Germany?

Thanking you in advance for the supplementary information we venture to ask for, and which alone would allow us to understand and interpret that previously supplied, I have the honor to be, my dear Mr. Paul,

Very truly yours,

(Sig.) WILLIAM E. RAPPARD