

HEIRLESS

HEIRLESS ASSETS

XII-11

For 638

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Authority MND 760050
By BJS NARA Date 12/28/98

box 4213

June 29, 1946

JCR

The Acting Secretary of State presents his compliments to the Honorable the Minister of Switzerland and has the honor to bring the following matter to the attention of the Legation of Switzerland.

In the Accord recently concluded among the three Allied Governments and the Government of Switzerland, Mr. Stucki addressed a letter to the chiefs of the Allied Delegations in which he stated that he confirmed that the Swiss Government will "examine sympathetically the question of seeking means whereby they might put at the disposal of the three Allied Governments, for the purposes of relief and rehabilitation, the proceeds of property found in Switzerland which belongs to victims who, by reason of violations by the late German Government, had died without heirs." In this connection, reference is made to Article VIII of the Paris Reparations Agreement, whereby certain sums are set aside for the rehabilitation

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and resettlement of non-repatriable victims of German action. Under Paragraph C of Article VIII, it is agreed that "governments of neutral countries shall be requested to make available for this purpose....assets in such countries of victims of Nazi action who have since died and left no heirs."

The Government of the United States, pursuant to its obligations under the Paris Reparations Agreement, desires to request that the Government of Switzerland take the necessary action to make available such amounts as may be included in the assets in Switzerland of victims of Nazi action who have died and left no heirs, to the committee established under Article VIII of the Paris Reparations Agreement, which committee will act in consultation with the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. As was pointed out during the course of the Allied-Swiss negotiations, an entirely unprecedented situation has arisen by reason of the complete extermination by the Nazis of whole families, some of whom have held assets in foreign countries. It is believed that a considerable

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proportion of such foreign holdings by persons of such category were located in Switzerland. The Government of Switzerland will recognize the urgent and immediate necessity of non-repatriable victims of German action and the equitable claims of such persons upon heirless properties in all lands.

The Government of the United States appreciates Mr. Stucki's statement that the Swiss Government will examine this question sympathetically. In the light of this statement, it is hoped that the matter will be considered by the Swiss Government in the immediate future and that the procedures for implementing this program will be formulated.

A copy of this communication is being transmitted to the Governments of the United Kingdom and France.

Department of State,

Washington,

June 24, 1946

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ESP
Read with
Mr. Ruben

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