

CLAIMS RESOLUTION TRIBUNAL

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

Certified Award

to Claimant [REDACTED]

in re Account of David Strom

Claim Number: 215776/AH

Award Amount: 47,400.00 Swiss Francs

This Certified Award is based upon the claim of [REDACTED], née [REDACTED] (the “Claimant”) to the account of David Strom (the “Account Owner”) at the [REDACTED] (the “Bank”).

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

Information Provided by the Claimant

The Claimant submitted a Claim Form identifying the Account Owner as her father, David Robert Strom, who was born on 4 October 1904 in Leopoli, Poland, was married to [REDACTED], in 1932. David and [REDACTED] Strom had two children, the Claimant and her sister [REDACTED], who was born on 31 July 1936 in Rome, Italy. The Claimant identified her father as a medical doctor who had a clinic at Via Cola di Rienzo 152, Rome. The Claimant stated that her father traveled frequently to Switzerland, particularly to Zurich, and she believes he owned accounts in Swiss banks. The Claimant stated that during the Second World War, her father, who was Jewish, had to hide in a garret in Rome for some time, and she and her sister were sent to a Catholic school under false names. The Claimant submitted several addresses where her father resided in Rome, and also in Padova and Auronzo, Italy. The Claimant indicated that her mother died on 5 November 1946. Her father married [REDACTED] on 4 April 1948, and he and his second wife had one child named [REDACTED], who was born on 10 February 1949. The Claimant submitted various documents including her birth certificate, her father’s identity card, his educational records and doctor certifications, and documents indicating she was the heir of her father. The documents denote her father’s name, his connection to Zurich, and the fact that he emigrated to Palestine after the Second World War. The Claimant stated that her father died on 13 July 1973 in Rome, that her sister [REDACTED] died on 14 February 1981 in Rome, and that [REDACTED] died in 1991. The Claimant indicated that she was born on 25 February 1938 in Rome.

Information Available in the Bank Records

The bank records consist of printouts from the Bank's database and two lists, dated 14 November 1942 and 9 November 1945, of accounts that had been dormant for at least five years prior to 31 December 1941. According to these records, the Account Owner was Dr. David Strom. The bank records indicate that the Account Owner held an account of unknown type, which was opened at an unknown date. The records further indicate that on an unknown date the Bank was instructed to hold all mail regarding the account. The account was transferred on or before 14 November 1942 to a suspense account. The amount in the account on 14 November 1942 was 176.00 Swiss Francs. The account remains open and dormant.

The CRT's Analysis

Identification of the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly identified the Account Owner. Her father's name matches the published name of the Account Owner. The Claimant also identified her father as a doctor, which matches the unpublished information about the Account Owner's doctor title contained in the bank records.

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, that he had to hide in Rome, and that his daughters went into hiding in a Catholic school under false names during the Second World War.

The Claimant's Relationship to the Account Owner

The Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that she is related to the Account Owner by submitting documents demonstrating that the Account Owner was her father. There is no information to indicate that the Account Owner has other surviving heirs.

The Issue of Who Received the Proceeds

The bank records indicate the account was transferred to a suspense account and remains open and dormant.

Basis for the Award

The CRT has determined that an Award may be made in favor of the Claimant. First, the claim is admissible in accordance with the criteria contained in Article 23 of the Rules. Second, the Claimant has plausibly demonstrated that the Account Owner was her father, and that

relationship justifies an Award. Finally, the CRT has determined that neither the Account Owner nor his heirs received the proceeds of the claimed account.

Amount of the Award

The bank records indicate that the value of the account as of 14 November 1942 was 176.00 Swiss Francs. According to Article 35 of the Rules Governing the Claims Resolution Process (the “Rules”), if the amount in an account of unknown type was less than 3,950.00 Swiss Francs, and in the absence of plausible evidence to the contrary, the amount in the account shall be determined to be 3,950.00 Swiss Francs. The present value of the amount of the award is determined by multiplying the balance as determined by Article 35 by a factor of 12, in accordance with Article 37(1) of the Rules. Consequently, the total award amount in this case is 47,400.00 Swiss Francs.

Initial Payment

Article 37(3)(a) of the Rules provides that where the value of an award is calculated using the value presumptions provided in Article 35 of the Rules, the initial payment to the claimant shall be 65% of the Certified Award, and the claimant may receive a second payment of up to 35% of the Certified Award when so determined by the Court. In this case, the CRT has used the value presumptions of Article 35 of the Rules to calculate the account value, and 65% of the total award amount is 30,810.00 Swiss Francs.

Scope of the Award

The Claimant should be aware that, pursuant to Article 25 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 Award

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

Claims Resolution Tribunal

November 26, 2002