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AMERICAN LEGATION,

Bern, Switzerland.

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Ref: SH Report No. 481

Dated: March 10, 1947

CG-2274  
Rec'd DC/L  
Mar. 24, 1947

SAFEHAVEN REPORT

DISTRIBUTION: Subject: (1) Richard Greiling, Werrgasse 9,  
Heidelberg.  
(2) Sunda Holding A.G., Zug.  
(3) Mahalla Cigaretten-Fabrik, A.G.,  
Richterswil.

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According to information submitted to the Legation and the Consulate General at Zurich, Richard Greiling of Heidelberg, who is alleged to have been an SS official and to have profited from the Nazi "Aryanization" decrees, is the beneficial owner of substantial property in Switzerland. His properties are further alleged neither to have been declared by Greiling to the Allied Military Government authorities in Germany nor to the Swiss Compensation Office. The latter has been requested by this Legation, through the medium of the Joint Commission, to conduct appropriate investigations. In the interim, the Legation would be grateful to obtain independent reports on this subject through the medium of the Office of the United States Political Adviser for Germany.

In December 1946, pursuant to the suggestion of an officer of the Consulate General at Zurich, George Manasse, a former German national deprived of his citizenship under the terms of the Nurnberg decrees with respect to persons of Jewish faith, who resides at 110 Rosehill Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, called at the Legation to report the substance of his claim approximating 64,000 Swiss francs against Richard Greiling of Heidelberg. The origin and nature of this claim, as set forth by Mr. Manasse, is described in a letter addressed to the Legation by the Consulate General at Zurich on December 19, 1946, copy of which is submitted as Enclosure No. 1. In the said enclosure it may be observed that Mr. Manasse, while still in Germany, made an agreement on December 19, 1934 with Greiling under the terms of which Mr. Manasse undertook to reorganize and manage the business of Goerlitzer Wareneinkaufsverein A.G., of Dresden, and other enterprises directly or indirectly owned by Greiling, in return for which Mr. Manasse was to be paid four percent of the net profits of such enterprises. These payments were to be made available to Mr. Manasse in Swiss francs and the guarantor therefor was Greiling's personal holding company, Sunda Holding A.G. of Zug. The latter corporation

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illegally

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Illegally was dissolved in February 1938 prior to satisfaction of the claims which Mr. Manasse held against it and its owner, Mr. Greiling. According to Mr. Manasse, the proceeds from the liquidation of Sunda, amounting to approximately 500,000 Swiss francs, were remitted to Mr. Greiling at Heidelberg. Since that date Mr. Greiling has denied the existence of any assets belonging to him located in Switzerland. Accordingly, Mr. Manasse, personally and through the medium of his Swiss attorney, has been conducting investigations in the effort to locate Swiss assets of Mr. Greiling in order that he may lay claim to these. In this connection attention is invited to the communication addressed on July 5, 1946 to the Cantonal Court of Zug by Dr. C. Ruettimann, former president and liquidator of Sunda, which reads in part as follows: "Greiling even today still owns considerable assets in Switzerland. There is only the difficulty of locating these assets in Switzerland as long as Greiling is not in Switzerland."

As indicated in Enclosure No. 1 Mr. Manasse is of the belief that the Mahalla Cigaretten-Fabrik A.G. of Richterswil, Switzerland, which was the property of Sunda prior to 1936, may still in part, directly or indirectly, be owned by Mr. Greiling. In this connection attention is invited to the circumstance that Mahalla Cigaretten-Fabrik A.G. was retained on the Proclaimed List until the latter's termination. Original listing of the company was prompted by reports from the British Consulate General at Zurich and other sources, including the Swiss Control Office of Importations and Exportations, which indicated that this company during 1943 had exported ten million cigarettes to Germany, a large portion of which were destined for the German army. The latter shipments contained individual package inserts reading as follows: "Zigarettenspende für deutsche Soldaten durchgeführt von der Ausland-Organisation der NSDAP Landesgruppe in der Schweiz." The reports further indicated that the Swiss Nazi Party organization had chosen Mahalla because its two "partners" were said to be members of the organization. These two "partners" were Werner Spring and Martin Ott. As further reported in the Legation's ORW Note 1064 of February 19, 1944, these two "partners" were reliably reported to have endeavored to force Swiss suppliers of Mahalla to Aryanize their firms.

It is suggested that Greiling be interrogated with respect to the alleged sale of his interests in Mahalla Cigaretten-Fabrik in 1936 and with respect to the present location of such stock certificates of that company as would appear, from Enclosure No. 1, not to have been fully paid for by Ott and Spring. Attention is invited to the

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statement that such unpaid-for certificates were sent to Germany, presumably for safekeeping by Mr. Greiling.

On the occasion of Mr. Manasse's visit to the Legation, he exhibited two current reports on the subject of Richard Greiling. The first of these, a photostatic copy of which is being retained in the Legation's files, was prepared at Mannheim, August 23, 1946, on the stationery of the "Office of Military Government, Stadtkreis and Landkreis, Mannheim, Det F-16, 1st Mil Govt Bn (Sep), Special Branch, and concludes with the phrase, "W.S invest." This report, in German, indicates that Richard Greiling presently resides at Werrgasse 9, Heidelberg and is still the owner of the following firms which are held in trusteeship: Fa. Greiling & Co. Felina-Miederfabrik, Mannheim, Lange Rötterstrasse 11; Fa. Greiling & Co. Schuhfabrik Corona, Greiling-Wer K.G., Schuhfabrik, Mannheim, Seckenheimerlundstr. 249, Schuhfabrik Dorndorf in Niederauerbach b. Pirmasens, Rheinische Feldbahnen, Handelsunternehmen, Mannheim. The report adds that Felina presently employs 400 persons and that "the percentage of politically undesirables is small." The report concludes with the remarks:

"The trustee of Felina has been in the company for 45 years. He most probably receives his instructions from Greiling. According to the testimony of the chairman of the board of managers, the trustee would hardly be capable of directing the firm without instructions from Greiling.

"He was in prison for the following reasons: in 1939 or 1940 Greiling had a private affair with his secretary (details not known). He was imprisoned for 6 weeks during the investigations.

"In 1932 he was forbidden to manage his industry for three years and was fined 10,000 RM for tax evasion. (Cigarette factory, Dresden). Greiling went to Switzerland after having sold his factory in Dresden. After the Nazi victory in 1933 he came back. Greiling is also said to have been an FM of the SS. He was not a member of the Nazi Party.

"The chairman of the board of managers of the firm Greiling, Jakob Löser, Lange-Rötterstr. 1, made these statements."

With respect to the alleged arrest of Greiling in 1939 or 1940 referred to above, Mr. Manasse informed an officer of the Legation that, according to his understanding, Mr. Greiling had been arrested by the Nazi

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Government during that period for non-political reasons. According to Mr. Manasse, Mr. Greiling had refused to make a gift of the heating system for the residence of a local SS Obergruppenfuhrer and had, in consequence, been arrested but was released when the "gift" was made.

Mr. Manasse also presented to the Legation a report dated at Mannheim August 26, 1946 concerning Greiling which he stated he had obtained by correspondence with German friends in the Stadtkreis and Landkreis, Mannheim. A translation of this report, the original of which is in German, is submitted herewith as Enclosure No. 2. Attention is invited to the conclusion of the report to the effect that Greiling profited considerably during the Nazi regime from the Aryanization of Jewish firms. No mention, however, is made of possible external assets belonging to Mr. Greiling.

Please refer copy of this Report to Pangerm.

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Hectograph to the Department  
Two copies to USPOLAD, Berlin  
One copy to American Embassy, London

#### Enclosures:

- (1) Copy of letter from the American Consulate General at Zurich, dated December 19, 1946
- (2) Copy of report dated at Mannheim August 26, 1946 re Richard Greiling.

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American Consulate General  
Zürich, December 19, 1946.

## Secret

The Honorable  
Leland Harrison,  
American Minister,  
Bern.

Sir:

Re: Sunda Holding A.G., Zug

I have the honor to refer to the various calls made by George MANASSE, 110 Rosehill Avenue, New Rochelle, New York, at the Legation and the Consulate General in connection with his claim against SUNDA HOLDING A.G. of Zug and Richard GREILING, German citizen now residing at Heidelberg, and to provide the Legation with a summary of his statements to this office.

Manasse first called at this office on November 30, 1946, and gave the following account: On December 19, 1934, he signed a contract with GREILING's holding company Sunda to manage the business of GOERLITZER WARENBEINKAUFVEREIN A.G., Dresden, and other corporations belonging directly or indirectly to Greiling. For his services Manasse was to be paid 4 percent of the net profits. Greiling, who was then living in Switzerland, personally signed the contract and guaranteed payment by Sunda.

About 1938, Manasse was obliged to leave Germany on account of his Jewish origin. Greiling in the meantime had been liquidating his Swiss assets and had returned to Germany; Sunda itself was dissolved illegally in February 1938 upon a false statement of obligations which did not disclose its liability to Manasse. Greiling refused to honor his agreement with Manasse, and rejected his demand for payment made May 27, 1938. Manasse thereupon began suit against him in Zürich in September 1938, which was terminated on Greiling's showing that his Swiss assets amounted to only 3,000 francs, already attached. Manasse then obtained in November 1938 an annulment of Sunda's illegal dissolution and sued it. He won a judgment in the Zug Kantonsgericht in October 1943, which was confirmed by the Obergericht of the Canton of Zug in October 1945, and confirmed again by the Bundesgericht

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on April 24, 1946, in the amount of 44,074.85 francs, plus interest on that sum at 5 percent from June 1938, plus fees and costs amounting to 2,465 francs; in all, approximately 65,000 francs.

Manasse was represented throughout the period by Dr. George de PUOZ, St. Peterstrasse 16, Zürich, whom he has authorized to give full information to the Consulate General; Greiling's attorney was Dr. Hans WIDMER of the HENGGELEER law office, Zürich; according to Manasse, Widmer made use of some remarkable arguments in his effort to defeat him, e.g., that Manasse could not testify since as a Jew he could not take a Christian oath; and that since Manasse's contract could not be enforced in Germany under the Nuremberg laws Manasse should not be permitted to claim under it in Switzerland.

The result of the Bundesgericht decision is that Manasse can enforce his judgment not only against Sunda and Greiling, but also against Dr. C. RUETTIMANN of Zug, President of Sunda, for permitting the liquidation of Sunda without provision for Manasse's claim, and against the Canton of Zug itself for authorizing the liquidation without observance of all the requirements regarding time and notice to claimants. On July 5, 1946, Dr. Rüttimann wrote to the Zug Kantonsgerichtspräsidium as follows (in German):

"Furthermore, I want to point out, that Greiling as the only shareholder of Sunda AG., has received in 1938 the total proceeds of the liquidation of this company, amounting to more than half a million Swiss francs. It is certain that Greiling has preserved his assets in Germany for the most part. Besides that, Greiling, even today, still owns considerable assets in Switzerland. There is only the difficulty of locating these assets in Switzerland as long as Greiling is not in Switzerland."

Manasse came close to effecting a compromise with Dr. Rüttimann personally a few days ago at 20,000 francs, but the suggestion has been made to him that in so doing he may run the risk of sacrificing all rights against the Canton of Zug. He left for Sweden on December 17, 1946 without having bound himself in any way.

Manasse's own investigations disclose few possible assets of Greiling in Switzerland, as follows:

1. MAHALLA-CIGARETTEN-FABRIK A.G., Richterswil. The entire 200,000 franc capital of this company, organized in 1934, formerly belonged to Sunda; in 1936, the

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latter contracted to sell its holdings to Mahalla's Verwaltungsrat Martin OTT (Kloten/Zürich) and Director Werner SPRING (Zürich) for 300,000 francs. A copy of this contract is said to be available. Under its terms the purchasers were to pay 5,000 francs monthly in instalments; in the meantime the certificates were confided to Dr. Paul HERZOG, Zürich lawyer having offices at Limmatquai 1, fiduciary for Sunda and Greiling. In all, 25,000 francs were paid under this contract, and in 1938 it was canceled in favor of a new agreement reducing the purchase price to 150,000 francs, against which was credited the 25,000 francs already paid. Ott and Herzog have told Manasse that the last instalment on the balance of 125,000 francs was paid in July 1942, but they have shown him only one receipt, for 2,500 francs. They also promised to exhibit the contract to him, but have not done so. Ott has stated that the Mahalla certificates were sent to Germany and were surrendered to him only as paid for, which seems probable only as part of a scheme to prevent the enforcement of any judgment upon Manasse's suit then pending in Zug.

2. REAL ESTATE: Greiling's residence in Zürich was a large dwelling at Krähbühlsteig 4; this was sold on April 12, 1938 to Dr. Hans FROEHLICH for cash, who has since resold.

Greiling further owned a parcel of land fronting on Richard Kisslingweg, Zürich, on which he erected the houses now known as Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10. Greiling's architect and house-agent was Dr. Erhard GULL of Ascona, a lecturer at the Federal Institute of Technology, who sold the dwellings between 1934 and 1938, chiefly to German emigrants; the payments were made primarily in marks through the Bank WERZWEILER of Mannheim. A Dr. Kurt FONDHEIM (now in the United States) bought three such houses; he was later involved in a law suit with Gull and resold his houses, one of which passed to Dr. Widmer who told Manasse on December 16 that he was able to buy it at a low price from Fondheim "because of the real estate depression". Although Manasse, as a creditor of Greiling, can compel the opening of the Zürich real estate transfer books of record, it appears that such right does not extend to resales. He intends to interview Dr. Fondheim in the United States if he can find him.

SUNDA HOLDING A.G.: Although Sunda was supposed to have been fully liquidated in 1938, it was discovered that for several years thereafter it remained the nominal owner of a "Grundstückbrief" or bearer mortgage on property in Germany belonging to HYPOTHEKEN AUF HAUS UND GRUNDSTUECK

G.m.b.H.,

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G.m.b.H., believed to be a Dresden firm. Dr. Rüttimann attempted to withhold formal transfer until Manasse's claim had been disposed of, but in 1942 he was induced to surrender Sunda's rights to this item as well. This item is presumably of more interest to Manasse than to the Mixed Commission.

Greiling himself was an extremely rich man who left Germany for Switzerland about 1930, according to Manasse, bringing with him at least 10,000,000 marks. Sunda was founded March 2, 1931; its records show assets at one time of 6,000,000 marks; and Greiling's income from investments exceeded 500,000 francs annually. Sunda's original stockholders were Dr. F. EHRHENSBERGER, director of the BANK GUYERZELLER A.G., Zürich, who died in 1944; Dr. Rüttimann, Dr. Hermann SIGRIST, Zollikon businessman; and Eugen ETTER, a businessman in Zug; but all held their stock as trustee for Greiling. After the National Socialist seizure of power Greiling returned to Germany and according to Manasse greatly augmented his fortune by buying Jewish commercial properties at advantageous prices; his address at this time was Berlin, Nürnbergerstrasse 53/55. In a letter exhibited to an officer of the Consulate General, Dr. Gull replies to Greiling's reproaches that in the Fondheim financial dispute Dr. Gull seemed to take better care of a Jew's interest than of his employer's; and R. Gull stoutly asserts that his attitude towards Jews should be well known to Greiling. Greiling's letterhead describes him as "General Consul"; Manasse stated that this refers to an office once purchased by him from some Balkan government. Greiling's tax advisers in Zürich were Dr. Werner HAUSHEER, Bahnhofstrasse 20, and Willy WALLER, Bleicherweg 11. It is Manasse's belief that Drs. Herzog, Gull, and Hausheer as well as Dr. Rüttimann have information regarding assets of Greiling in Switzerland.

Respectfully yours,

Sam H. Woods  
American Consul General

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(Enclosure No. 2 to SH Report No. 481, March 10, 1947  
from the American Legation, Bern, Switzerland).

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RE: Richard GREILING, Consul General, retired  
Mannheim, at present residing in Heidelberg,  
Werrgasse 9.

Richard Greiling, born 1882, is known as the former owner and main partner of the well known cigarette factory Richard Greiling in Dresden. When he sold his share in the Dresden factory about 10 years ago he received about 6 to 8 million marks in cash. Elisabeth Greiling is his wife. They have two children, Manfred and Lothar Greiling, both residing at Werrgasse 9, Heidelberg.

It is not fully known why Greiling went to Switzerland in 1930. He states that he gained his title of Consul General at the time he concluded a contract with the Bulgarian state for the exclusive use of Bulgarian tobacco by the cigarette factory in Dresden. After returning to Germany from Switzerland in 1933/34, Greiling is said to have been arrested and imprisoned by Gauleiter Mutschmann in Dresden. Greiling naturally mentions all these things now in order to free himself of political objections.

After giving up his cigarette factory in the Third Reich, Greiling occupied himself with buying up Jewish firms. As far as is known there is not one of his firms which was not formerly in Jewish hands.

The following aryanized firms are in Mannheim, all working under a director of the Military Government in accordance with Law No. 5:

- 1) Greiling & Co. - Felina-Miederfabriken, Manager proxy Boppel
- 2) Greiling & Co. - Corona Schuhfabriken, Manager proxy Kropp
- 3) Greiling & Co. - Rheinische Feßdbahnen, Manager proxy Kraft

Factory premises, office, storage house in Mannheim, Lange-Rötterstrasse 11/19 for numbers 1 and 2 above.

The premises of Number 3 above are located in Mannheim-Industriehafen, Franzosenstrasse 8.

The three factories mentioned above employ about 600 or 700 people alone for its clerks and employees.

Besides

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Besides the above concerns in Mannheim, Greiling also took over and aryanized the world renowned shoe factory "Dorndorf" in Zweibrücken in 1938/1939. It is said that this factory which cost 2 million marks is under the direction of the French military government. Objections have been raised several times about missing machines and other furnishings which Greiling probably removed to Mannheim in the last days of the war.

In the Soviet Zone Greiling owned the Einkauf-& Regulierungs-Kontor with 95% of the shares and the Goerlitzer Waren-Einkaufs AG. "Goerlitzer" had nearly 80 branches in Dresden and was a large retail and wholesale food undertaking worth many millions of marks. At present, of course, there is no possibility of communicating with Dresden.

Formerly Greiling participated in many other undertakings but he was clever enough to get rid of them during the war and devote himself entirely to the above-mentioned firms.

During the Third Reich, i.e. during the period of aryanized businesses, Greiling placed the leadership in trusted hands of Party Members or favorites.

As business manager of the Mannheim Felina, Corona and Rheinische Feldbahnen figured Dr. Fritz GABER, Mannheim, an economic leader, leader of the economic group, official in the SS with influence in the offices of the Party, the police, the SS, the SA and connections with other important personalities. The management in Dresden was represented by Director General Herbert ECKLÖH who himself managed over food products enterprises on the side. Furthermore, he is said to have been a personal friend of Reichsminister Funk and State Secretary Heyler. Ecklöh built the largest food products house in the East (as far as is remembered in Gracow) for the German population. In the Dorndorf firm in Zweibrücken other middle men maintained contact between Greiling and Gauleiter Bürkel.

Greiling made his decisions rapidly after the collapse of March 1945. In the summer of 1945 he founded the Greiling-Werke in Mannheim-Seckenheim, Seckenheimer Landstrasse which should manufacture shoes and later underclothing etc. in his name and with its own capital. He thus tried to disassociate himself from the other industries which would be taken over by the Allies in accordance with Law No. 52. But the military government also placed this company under the management of proxy Kropp.

In conclusion

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In conclusion it might be said:

- a) the financial condition of Greiling has not grown worse.
- b) the enterprises are active and no enterprise except the one in the Russian Zone may be described as unproductive.
- c) all enterprises have a large bank account.
- d) Greiling himself has much money and is not hindered in his activities as he was not an official Party Member but only profited from the aryанизation of the Jewish firms.
- e) he has large real estate investments.

As for his character, it is only known that he,

a) was unpopular among his workers before, during and after the war because of his strict attitude and his arguments with his personnel, even during air attacks etc.

b) as owner of all his enterprises, is completely responsible for all business transactions. Greiling, however, tries to prove in his defense that the business managers were more or less forced upon him by the Nazis and that he could only do what his business managers told him to do. On the other hand, during the last years of the war he called himself the "chief business manager" so that he was at the head of his business managers.

c) employed people in the Ghetto of Lodz, formerly Litzmannstad, to make brassieres and corsets. However, in the year 1945 when the documents of the business manager Dr. Gaber were investigated, there was, curiously enough, no proof of these business transactions with the ghetto inhabitants of Lodz.

d) had enough food for his whole family during the war as a result of his participation in the "Goerlitzer" food undertaking with its 80 branches in Dresden. Not one of his family ever had a bad day. For his clerks and workers he was merely the unapproachable Consul General who was bent upon earning more and more money each day.

e) The questionnaires from Greiling must be in Heidelberg. In 1945 he prepared a defense document in German and English. It is not known whether this document was ever handed in but inquiries can be made.

f) Further information may be obtained if so desired.

Mannheim, August 26, 1946

Translation: HHLothrop

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