

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

R

DOCUMENT_ID: 179064426
DOCNO: 004795
PRODUCER: PARIS
AGENCY: STATE
DOCTYPE: IN
DOR: 19980303
TOR: 072925
DOCPREC: P
ORIGDATE: 199803031216
MHFNO: 98 0709529
DOCCLASS: C

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2007

CDS

/ /

CONFIDENTIAL

FRP: , , 3, , , , ,

ACTION: NONE INFO: CIRAS, DONOVA, EUR/NGRR, EUR/RIG, EUR/RR,
EUR/SG, EUR/SGF, EUR/SGRR, F/FRANCE, F/INTECDEV, IRL, MDSX, NHTC/EUR,
NPCEDC, ODPD, ODPS, OPCTR/EURA, ORMS/EUR, STATDICT, FILE (O/W)

98 0709529 SCP

PAGE 001
TOR: 031227Z MAR 98

NC 0709529
PARIS 04795

HEADER
PP RUEAIIB
DE RUEHFR #4795 0621216
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
MSI9516
PP RUEHC RUEHXQ
DE RUEHFR #4795 0621216
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 031216Z MAR 98
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3869
INFO RUEHXQ/ALL EUROPEAN UNION POST COLLECTIVE
RUEATRS/DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY WASHDC
BT

CONTROLS
CONFIDENTIAL PARIS 004795

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/08

TEXT
TAGS: ECON, EFIN, FR
SUBJECT: U/S EIZENSTAT MEETINGS WITH GOF ON HOLOCAUST ASSETS

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR FELIX ROHATYN FOR REASON 1.5 (B) AN

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1. (C) SUMMARY: U/S EIZENSTAT DISCUSSED HOLOCAUST ASSETS WITH FRENCH MFA U/S FOR EUROPEAN AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CLAUDE MARTIN FEBRUARY 16 AND ELYSEE NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR JEAN-DAVID LEVITTE ON FEBRUARY 18. THE FRENCH TOOK ON BOARD EIZENSTAT'S APPEAL FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE PERSECUTEE FUND, BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT, SAYING THE ISSUE WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. LEVITTE WAS FAVORABLE TO FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE JUNE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM CONFERENCE ON HOLOCAUST ASSETS. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) U/S EIZENSTAT MET WITH MFA U/S EQUIVALENT FOR EUROPEAN AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CLAUDE MARTIN ON 2/16 TO DISCUSS HOLOCAUST ASSETS AND OTHER ISSUES (SEPTELS). MARTIN WAS JOINED BY MESSRS VIMONT (A/S EQUIVALENT FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS), MATHOU (DESK OFFICER FOR EU/WTO AFFAIRS), TALLARD-FLEURY (DESK OFFICER FOR MAI) AND MME. DE VILLENEUVE (SPECIAL ASSISTANT). U.S. SIDE INCLUDED DCM ROBERT PEARSON, SPECIAL ASSISTANT HOLLY MOORE AND NOTETAKER STUART DWYER. ON FEBRUARY 18, U/S EIZENSTAT DISCUSSED HOLOCAUST ASSETS WITH FRENCH NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR JEAN-DAVID LEVITTE. LEVITTE WAS JOINED BY JEAN-FRANCOIS CIRELLI, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY, AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT JEROME BONNAFONT. AMBASSADOR ROHATYN, E SPECIAL ASSISTANT HOLLY MOORE AND ECONOFFICER RICHARD ALBRIGHT (NOTETAKER) ACCOMPANIED U/S EIZENSTAT.

3. (C) THE INTERIM MATTEOLI MISSION REPORT WAS A COMMENDABLE AND HISTORIC UNDERTAKING, EIZENSTAT TOLD MARTIN AND LEVITTE. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE REPORT SPECIFIES THAT THE GOF NEED NOT WAIT FOR THE COMMISSION TO COMPLETE ITS WORK TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, THE U.S. HOPED THAT FRANCE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE NAZI PERSECUTEE RELIEF FUND. VIRTUALLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION (TGC) IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUND. THE FUND HAD BEEN DESIGNED WITH FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO CONTROL THE USE OF ANY CONTRIBUTION IN MIND AND EIZENSTAT SAID THAT FRANCE WOULD BE ABLE TO DIRECT ANY FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD FRENCH BENEFICIARIES. MOREOVER, IT WAS IMPORTANT SYMBOLICALLY THAT FRANCE PARTICIPATE. THE U.S. HOPED THAT A COMMON APPROACH ON THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION COULD BE ADOPTED BY MID-MARCH, WHICH WOULD SET THE PATH FOR TGC CLOSURE. EIZENSTAT ALSO URGED GOF PARTICIPATION IN A CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORED BY THE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND THE USG, LIKELY TO BE HELD THE THIRD WEEK OF JUNE IN WASHINGTON, THAT WOULD FOCUS ON ASSETS OTHER THAN GOLD. HE SAID THAT FRANCE, WHICH HAD ALREADY SET IN PROGRESS THE RETURN OF ART WORK AND OTHER PROPERTY, COULD SERVE AS A MODEL. THE CONFERENCE COULD BE THE RIGHT VENUE TO ANNOUNCE THE CLOSURE OF THE WORK OF THE TGC, EIZENSTAT ADDED.

4. (C) MARTIN SAID THE GOF ENVISAGED A CONTRIBUTION TO THE NAZI PERSECUTEE FUND. SAYING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD EIZENSTAT'S PERSPECTIVE, LEVITTE SAID THAT THE GOF WAS STUDYING THE MATTER AND WOULD PROVIDE AN ANSWER SOON. THE MATTER WOULD HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED INTERNALLY WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. ON THE TGC, THEY AGREED THAT THE FOCUS SHOULD BE ON ITS CLOSURE AND THE SUBSEQUENT OPENING OF ITS ARCHIVES. NOTING THAT THE GOF HAD RECENTLY RETURNED A CONFISCATED WORK OF ART TO ITS RIGHTFUL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OWNER, MARTIN SAID THE ISSUE WAS "VERY SENSITIVE" IN FRANCE AND THAT THERE WAS ON-GOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE GOF AND JEWISH GROUPS. THE LONDON CONFERENCE HAD BEEN A BITTER EXPERIENCE FOR THE GOF, MARTIN SAID. THE GOF HAD GONE "INNOCENTLY" WITH THE EXPECTATION OF PARTICIPATING IN AN HISTORIC EVENT, AND INSTEAD HAD BEEN SANDBAGGED BY THE "DEMAGOGIC PRONOUNCEMENTS" OF INTERESTED NGOS. WHILE MARTIN TOOK THE INFORMATION ON THE JUNE CONFERENCE ON BOARD WITHOUT COMMITMENT, LEVITTE INDICATED THAT FRANCE WOULD WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

5. (U) UNDERSECRETARY EIZENSTAT DID NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CLEAR THIS CABLE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS REVIEWED BY E STAFF.
ROHATYN

ADMIN
END OF MESSAGE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~