

## **DOCUMENT 12**

February 22, 1946 Document from Prime Minister Nagy requesting the return and protection of Hungarian property within the U.S. zone of occupied Austria.

RG 260  
USFA/USACA  
Secretary  
Reparation & Restitution  
Branch  
Hung - claims  
B 98

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Authority NND 785010  
By JTW NARA Date 12-78

MISSION FOR HUNGARY

Dear General,

I have the honor of submitting to you the copy of the letter written by the Prime Minister of the Hungarian Government on 22nd February 1946, under No. 1824, and request you to be kind to put this question to the Government of the United States of America and to the military authorities of the American zone of occupation in Austria and Germany.

I take this opportunity to express my esteem

(signed)

K. VOMOSHILOV

Major-General WILLIAM S. KEY

Chief  
United States Military Representation  
on the Allied Control Commission for Hungary  
Budapest

Translated by: AH  
Russian Liaison Section AGO  
1 March 1946

EDWARD J. SZERNIUK  
Major, P.A.  
Chief of Section

C O P Y

RG 260  
USFA/USACA  
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Foreign Office  
Foreign Office

No. 1824/1946.

Budapest, 22 February 1946

Dear Marshal,

The Hungarian Government received the alarming information that a part of Hungarian property which was carried off to Germany by the Germans and Fascists before Hungary was liberated, and which is now in the American zone of occupation, will be, in the near future, handed over by the allied forces to Austrian authorities and persons.

For the economic reconstruction of Hungary which has suffered so much from the war, this property has an inestimable value. Although this property, owing to the long time that has elapsed since it was taken away, has already considerably diminished, (partly owing to unsatisfactory storing, partly owing to other circumstances), it still represents such a value that it would greatly increase the production power of Hungary if it were returned to Hungary, and would make our present difficult economic situation easier.

We need not tell you, dear Marshal, that the return of the above-mentioned property might also greatly facilitate the fulfillment of our reparation obligations. Means of transport, machine equipment, raw material and half-finished products would at once increase the output of Hungarian industry. Cattle, horses, and agricultural equipment would raise the level of agricultural production; the objects of property directly or indirectly useful for civilian use, would, on one hand, free Hungarian industry from the burden of producing them, and on the other hand, would improve the situation of the workers.

My predecessors have for a long time striven to insure the return of Hungarian property carried off, but up to now their efforts have been of no avail, since the point of view of the Allied Powers with regard to the future fate of this property is not known yet.

However, the Hungarian Government hopes that the right of Hungary to this property will be recognized and that the circumstances preventing the return of this property will be removed as soon as possible. But until this question is definitely settled, the Hungarian Government herewith requests the authorities of occupation to safeguard the above-mentioned property in full safety. That is why I have the honor of requesting the Allied Control Commission to support our appeal with the Allied Powers to safeguard effectively the Hungarian property which is now in Austria and Germany, in order to prevent their being damaged in the future.

The Hungarian Government is compelled to draw attention to the fact how unfair it would be to use Hungarian property, taken away from Hungary under pressure of the Germans, to strengthen materially Austria, which escaped being devastated by the war chiefly because the German Military Command sacrificed Hungary and the Hungarian capital in the last hopeless struggle. It would not be fair if the

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people profited from the result of this, the nation which supported the  
operations of Fascist Germany in no lesser degree than the Hungarian people  
majority of which was of anti-German inclination.

Considering the great importance of the question, I request you, dear  
Marshal, to submit the above-mentioned appeal of the Hungarian Government to the  
proper governments within the shortest possible time, and to inform me of your  
measures taken in this matter.

Having informed you of the above matter, I request you, dear Marshal, to  
accept my high esteem.

Prime Minister  
(NAGY FERENCZ)

Mr. Klement Efremovich VOROSHILOV  
Marshal of the Soviet Union  
Chairman of the Allied Control Commission for Hungary

Encl. (2)

Translated by: AH  
Russian Liaison Section AGO  
1st March 1946

EDWARD J. CERNIUK  
Major, F.A.  
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