

DOCUMENT 20

March 21, 1947 Telegram from Dean Acheson, Acting Secretary of State states: "U.S. has also decided apply non-mon gold directive to Amzone Austria, ***although language Paris Act apparently provides no legal basis therefore.***"

DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS TELEGRAPH BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFORMATION COPY

OUTGOING TELEGRAM

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4896

March 21, 1947

7 p.m.

US URGENT

ORIGIN:ESP AMEMBASSY

INFO: S/S UE A-H BUR LE OCD CIG PC/L P OFD PC

MOSCOW

616

SECDEL 1363

FOR WEINSTEIN AND KINDLERBERGER

Ref is SECDEL 1268 Jan 28, repta to Paris as 362.

request you discuss with Brit and Fr whole question disposition non-mon gold. As you know Dept has communicated to both govts decisions it has made re implementation by US occupation authorities Art 8 Paris Act. We have repeatedly both here and in London and Paris attempted learn what Brit and Fr are doing to fulfill their obligations under this Art. Neither govt has supplied info.

You will recall that in absence definition non-mon gold in Paris Act US in directive to occupation commanders has taken position that it includes all valuable personal property victims Nazi action which can not be returned owners or heirs because impossible determine nationality (for restitution purposes) or no surviving claimants. US has also decided apply non-mon gold directive to Amzone Austria, although language Paris Act apparently provides no legal basis therefor. US has taken position however that although Art 8 refers non-mon gold "in Germany", parties knew at time this wld include concentration camp loot which had already been transferred

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From

DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 760052 By SA NARA Date 6/27

RG 59 Entry 10762115 File 1-1 10762115-10 Box 25

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REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(H) on file: non-monetary gold, (definition of definition)

Survey
Blade

X

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-2- #616 to Moscow, March 21, 1947

from Austria to Germany proper. US feels not unreasonable extend Art 8 to cover non-mon gold which happened not to have been already removed from Austria at time of Paris agreement.

Brit have failed so far indicate their reaction US decisions. Fr have specifically refused accept principles followed by US under Art 8 and now suggest that definition non-mon gold and applicability Art 8 Austria should be decided by IARA. Some time ago Fr delegate IARA circulated memo there proposing reopening discussion non-mon gold with view to allocating certain amounts to citizens of countries other than those specified at Five-Power Conference Paris last June. US firmly opposes IARA discussion Art 8 because circumstances indicate this wld only lead to criticism US interpretation Art 8 and provide basis protracted delay delivery assets IGCR-TRG.

Re so-called Hungarian gold train Austria. As you know US has made portion of train in its zone available IGCR and has requested Fr take similar action re portion train their zone. While US can not insist such action or even legally press Fr for info re their plans this loot, US does feel that France shld not retain loot for itself. If France

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unwilling

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-3- #616 to Moscow, March 21, 1947

unwilling surrender loot IGCH believes it shld be returned
Hungary. ^{letter} Expression this view which will be pressed in
Paris next week by Hungarian Financier Nyaradi, may help
persuade Fr deliver to IGCH.

US feels its own prompt and extensive action under
Paris Act entitles it inquire what other govts are doing,
at least in Germany, and suggest expeditious action. As
you may be aware, ^{Brit} at least snaxkax have uncovered substantial
hoards non-mon gold (under US definition) their zone Germany.
Request therefore you press Brit and Fr for info these
matters and attempt once more obtain their cooperation in
effective expeditious program. Text of US directive being
forwarded air pouch.

Reptd to Brussels for Dorr as 381 to Paris as 1055
to London as 1274.

ACHESON
Acting

GA:AFK:efar:mig
3/21/47

BC WE A-II

CODE BOOK: Els rept to Brussels for Dorr as _____ to Paris as _____
to London as _____

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Authority NND 760652	Entry Lot # 62115
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